# The Bringing It All Together Series Bible



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### **Synopsis**

Bringing It All Together presents the story of a uniquely constructed, yet dysfunctional, family living on a posh and luxurious Dallas estate in a city which is as vast and untamed as the people who live there, led by Drew Sheard (the head of the household) and Hillary Sheard (the stay-athome mom). Both Mr. and Mrs. Sheard are seeking respect from their new stepchildren in his/her own way. Drew and Hillary, along with their seven children Jason, Liza, D.J., Drake, Kevin, Sahara, and Chase, varying in age are each trying to find their place within the context of this unique family unit. Everyone seems to be having a difficult time adjusting, which helps to create conflict, resulting in comedic tension. The eccentricity and unique dynamic between each of the characters, both in the form of dialogue and action, help to provide an interesting premise for this pilot.

### **The Concept**

Bringing It All Together presents the story of wealthy African-American architect/business man/real estate mogul Drew Sheard Sr. and his new Caucasian wife Hillary Rhodes-Sheard. Drew is the father of three teenagers, D.J. (19), Drake (18), and Sahara (16). Hillary is the mother of three sons, Jason (21), Kevin (17), Chase (15), and a daughter-in-law, Liza (20). After both going through some traumatic divorces and experiences, Drew and Hillary decided to try to love once again. Over the course of time, they found each other. Nine months later, Drew finally proposed to Hillary. Seven months later, they were married. After getting married, it was time for Drew and Hillary to officially merge their families together as one. From the beginning Drew knew that it wasn't going to be easy merging two very different families together.

Drew built a very large and beautiful mansion in the posh, upscale, affluent gated community of Wyndham Hills in the city of Southlake (Dallas), TX. The Sheard mansion is known for being the largest, most beautiful, and most expensive estate in Wyndham Hills and in all of Southlake. Drew felt that his current family and new family deserved nothing less than the best. The three oldest children attend the private Texas Christian University. Drake attends the private and very exclusive Southlake Preparatory Academy. The others attend Southlake High School, which is a TEA exemplary rated school. The Sheard/Rhodes family lives the very upscale and high profile lifestyle that most of the modern world only dreams about and never lives to see it become a reality. They eat at the nicest restaurants, they drive the latest vehicles, and their ever-increasing popularity always lands them in the local newspapers, on television, and even causes paparazzi to follow them around. Being in the Sheard/Rhodes family automatically makes you royalty.

Drew Sheard Sr., the head of the family, is the one whom everyone looks to whenever they are in need of something. He is the newly promoted president of Addison & Associates LLC., a billion-dollar architecture firm that is known worldwide for its staff and past projects. Aside from his job as an architect, Drew owns many other small businesses such as laundry mats, convenient stores, car dealerships, a real estate agency, and even a small scale record company. All of these side businesses along with his various stockholdings allow him to gross over \$6 million a year. He is a firm believer in having multiple sources of income. Hillary, a former paralegal and single mother of three, has now left her job in order to care for and nurture a total of seven children during such a critical time during their development. Being a stay-at-home mother has left her in a state of disappointment. She's come to realize that it is not all that it is made out to be. She doesn't like to be bored, so she fills her free time with philanthropic work and charity events in order to stay busy. She feels that being Mrs. Drew Sheard holds her to an even higher standard than most women of prominently known families.

One of the main reasons for the popularity of the family is because of the seven children that claim Drew and Hillary to be their parents. Jason, the oldest, is the aspiring corporation attorney and an intern at one of Dallas's most prestigious law firms and a known womanizer. Liza, his wife, is the popular model/actress. D.J. is the star quarterback for Texas Christian University.

Drake is the future scholar and heir to his father's empire. Kevin is the high school dropout and known for constantly being in trouble. Sahara is the most popular cheerleader at Southlake High School, and Chase is known for being an overall good kid. The popularity of each individual child adds up to make the family's popularity as a whole to be very large. They are one of the most prominent families in North Texas. The saga of this family includes a lot of drama, comedy, money, sex, scandal, and sheer entertainment for a very wide range of audiences.

## **Overview/Backstory**

Bringing It All Together takes place in the posh, upscale gated community of Wyndham Hills in the city of Southlake, Texas on a massive gated estate in a multi-million dollar mansion that stands strong and tall. Life in this town is desired by many and actually lived by few. People in Southlake have the latest cars, clothes, electronics, etc. It is a very materialistic community and the people there have a tendency to be superficial and airheaded. Being from Southlake automatically gives away your social status, tax bracket, and income range.

The Sheard estate is surrounded many other sprawling estates each with a luxury mansion, lush vegetation, and the latest vehicles in the driveways. Golf courses, country clubs, and lavish shopping centers are nothing but common and taken for granted. The adults of Southlake work very hard for their assets. The men are typically the sole providers for the family and have their gym and country club memberships for their leisure. The women only have to work by choice. Besides taking care of the household and the children, they have as much leisure time as they want. The children are typically overly spoiled and get anything that they want.

The neighborhood of Wyndham Hills is comprised of massive estates owned by very elite people. The town of Southlake has many stores that sell very expensive products. Parking lots are filled with the latest and nicest vehicles. This is the place to live. There are beautiful properties, luxury everywhere you go, and there is nothing less than a top notch quality of life.

The Sheard Estate is a massive gated estate in the maximum security gated community of Wyndham Hills. The Sheard/Rhodes family lounges around in the various rooms of the mansion or outside by the pool. The landscape is always maintained. When you step foot onto the estate, you automatically feel a sense of dignity and class. Elegance is the only word to describe the life that this family lives.

### **Character Biographies**

<u>Drew Sheard Sr.</u>- Drew Sheard, 42 years old, is an African-American accomplished architect/business man/entrepreneur. He is the father of four teenagers, Drew Jr. (D.J.), Drake, Sahara, and Carnell. Drew was left to raise his three oldest children after his wife abandoned their family to pursue her singing career. He has since then taken care of his family and taught them love, respect, and humility. He is deeply religious as a Christian and tries to teach his children those same values and traits and also acknowledges God in their household. Even though he was raised by wealthy parents, he tries to accredit his wealth all to himself, which is not true. He and his new oldest stepson, Jason, don't get along, and he slightly disagrees with the way Hillary has raised her children prior to their marriage, but he is still dedicated to making things work with his new family.

Drew was born in Dallas and raised in the affluent upscale neighborhood of Highland Park, Texas. He is the son of Dallas business mogul Glenn Sheard and homemaker Geneva Sheard. Glenn and Geneva Sheard are what is considered to be "old money" and are a very established couple in the DFW Metroplex. Besides Drew, Glenn and Geneva (also known as Mom & Dad Sheard) have four other children: Blair, Claudine, Derek, and Dirk. Drew is the youngest out of all of the Sheard children in his generation. He has always shown himself to be way above average. Growing up it was unsaid, but he was definitely Glenn and Geneva's favorite child.

Standing around six feet two inches tall, Drew has the tall and lean physique desired by every woman in the world and is considered to be very sexy. He has a milk-chocolate skin tone and a bright white smile. Drew talks with the average American accent and has the deep and mature voice a 40- year old man. Like his father, Drew believes that a good name should have a good reputation. He always stresses that to his children and makes sure that the Sheard family has a perfect image. Glenn also instilled in Drew the art of subtlety and how to handle major scandal. Drew does the same with his children.

He is a very upper class black man that shows nothing but class and dignity. His weekday attire is suits for his job. On nights and weekends he dresses down for his leisure. He is the president of the multi-billion dollar architecture firm of Addison & Associates LLC and owns many other various businesses along with being a major shareholder of stocks in many other companies. All this allows him to gross almost \$6 million dollars a year. He is very humble with his wealth and not ashamed to be successful. Drew is a family oriented man. He understands that he really needs to work to support his wife, seven kids, and pay the butler along with many other expenses.

Drew has had his own experiences that have shaped him into what he is today. He, along with his siblings were raised in a two parent home with God-fearing parents. Drew, being the youngest child, had the attention of everyone in the family and was basically spoiled rotten. His father owned many businesses and his mother was a homemaker. Drew was born into money and has never had to go without. After graduating high school, he was put through school and went off to

college at Harvard University. During the four years he was there, he obtained his degree in Business Management and Architecture Design. He was the star quarterback for the football team and also the star basketball player. He was the most popular guy on campus. Drew had his share of girlfriends and even had multiple girlfriends at one time. He would get caught up from time to time and have sexual escapades with different women, but he cleaned up his act in order to retain a perfect image and keep a good reputation. During his junior year at Harvard Drew met the woman he would soon marry, Valencia McAllister. When Drew and Valencia graduated college, they were married and moved to Dallas, where Drew was born and raised. A few years later, they had D.J.. Drew worked while Valencia stayed home and took care of D.J. A year later, they had Drake. Valencia always had her dream of being a singer. She had put it on hold so she and Drew could start their family. For the next two years, she really worked on her career, and then she had Sahara. As time went by, natural events occurred and Carnell, the youngest of the Sheard children was born. Valencia wanted to be a full time mom and work on her career at the same time, but Drew wanted to be the full time provider and wanted Valencia to stay home and tend to the family. At the time, Drew didn't realize how selfish that was and how angry he had made his wife. From there, Drew and Valencia's marriage would start going downhill. Valencia had signed on with a Dallas record company and had fallen out of love with Drew and in love with her record producer. She was having on and off affairs with him and didn't respect the sanctity of her marriage. Her record producer/lover convinced her to pursue her music career full time. Through two years of struggle and anger, she abandoned her family, divorced Drew, and took Carnell with her (because she didn't want to leave her newborn baby) and went out to California, leaving 26- year old Drew to raise their three oldest children alone.

Since Valencia abandoned the family, Drew has raised his three oldest children by himself for the past fifteen years. With the help of God and his family, he's become a good father and most would consider him the "ideal parent". He's lenient, but he's not a pushover. Drew balances between the friend and the parent and will always let you know who is in charge. He is supportive, but he also keeps his children in their places. He loves his kids and will do anything for them, but if they get out of line, he'll turn them over his knee and correct their behavior with good old corporal punishment. Drew has had on and off love lives over the years, but he really wanted to get serious and settle down. Since he married Hillary, he's assumed the role of "father" for Hillary's three sons and for her daughter-in-law.

Drew wants the best for his new family. He moved them into the gated community of Wyndham Hills in Southlake (Dallas), Texas where his family will get nothing less than the best. Despite the wealth of his family, Drew instills old fashioned values into his children and doesn't let money raise his children. Though his life hasn't been perfect, Drew stands strong and tall and doesn't let anything get him down. Drew has been named one of Dallas's top ten most eligible bachelors for three years running. He's been featured in GQ Magazine, Black Enterprise Magazine, and is all over the media either dealing with architecture projects, press conferences, D.J.'s college football career, and just being a very popular celebrity. He's considered to be the

king of Southlake. Being a Sheard means you live a very high maintenance and comfortable life that many people envy. Drew leads a high maintenance lifestyle; he drives a Cadillac Escalade as his personal car and has a Mercedes-Benz as a company car and is a collector of many fine automobiles. He often disregards everything Kevin says because nobody takes him seriously. Drew's favorite color is red and he likes basketball, football, baseball, and golf. When he is lying, his left ear itches. Drew constantly gets hit on by other women and knows he is very attractive. Drew plays golf with his business associates very often. He is also very attracted to aggressive women.

When it comes to business, Drew believes in doing the right thing all the time no matter what. He does business the right way. Crossing Drew Sheard in a business deal is practically signing your career death certificate. He's a professional man, but the suit comes off. He has allies, associates, and connections all over the world who have his back. Drew Sheard is off limits when it comes to people to mess with. He's a good guy, but he's still got the power to make your world come crashing down in scandal.

Hillary Richardson-Rhodes- Sheard- Hillary Sheard, 39 years old, is a Caucasian homemaker and former businesswoman. She is the mother of Jason, Kevin, and Chase Rhodes. Hillary has also assumed the role of "mother" to Jason's wife, Liza. Since her marriage to Drew, she has taken on the role of "mother" to Drew's three children. Hillary is a good mother. She is caring, nurturing, and strong. She's a little naïve, and sometimes too soft on her children, but she means well. As a wife, mother, stepmother, mother-in-law, and philanthropist, she juggles a lot and is constantly changing the hats that she wears. Hillary is dedicated to make things work out with her new family and is willing to stick with them through thick and thin. She was the only breadwinner in her household, and since her marriage to Drew, she has taken a hiatus from her career as a paralegal to care for her family and do some philanthropic work.

Hillary is a wealthy woman and doesn't have to really work for a living. She has really stepped up from being the single, middle class, working mom. She's really loving being Mrs. Drew Sheard. She gets so much favor and recognition because of who her husband is. It's almost like being the first lady of Southlake. After getting married Hillary realized that the very upper class lifestyle wasn't all it was cracked up to be. She actually found herself to be very bored. She doesn't want the typical "stay-at-home mom/housewife" label. She gets out of the house and does things. She takes the time to be a wife and a mother, but gives a lot of herself to the community. Hillary is a member of the Southlake Wives Club, which is a philanthropic club for all of the wives that live in the gated community of Wyndham Hills.

Hillary has had various experiences that have shaped her into who she is today. She was a spoiled "Daddy's girl" and still is to this day. She got everything she wanted, which made her slightly superficial. She was very popular in high school and had a thing for jocks and "bad boys". She met the first man she would soon marry, Ray Rhodes, in high school when she was seventeen. Ray and Hillary were very careless in their relationship and Hillary ended up getting

pregnant at age 18. She then had Jason. When Hillary graduated high school, Ray asked her to marry him. Ray, Hillary, and Jason moved into Hillary's parents' house. The next four years would become very chaotic. Because Ray didn't graduate high school, he could never find a good job. He knew Hillary's parents frowned upon him, so he decided to move his wife and child into their own home. He built them a house and started his own construction company. Four years had gone by since Ray and Hillary got married and had Jason. Ray's construction company got off the ground and was a success, but the stress of being a very busy construction worker and a family man got to be too much which caused him to drink and occasionally do drugs. Alcohol and drugs made him very violent and he would abuse Hillary. When Hillary had Kevin, Ray sobered up and then eventually returned to alcohol, drugs, and being abusive towards her. The abuse started happening more frequently and his construction company was starting to fail. Ray was having many infidelities behind Hillary's back. Two years after Kevin was born, Hillary had Chase. The abuse, alcohol, and drugs had gotten too out of hand along with the fail of Ray's construction company. Everything bad that could happen did happen. Hillary, finally packed her bags, took her children, and left when she had to use her house as a bail bond for Ray and he didn't show up for his court date. She then moved back in with her parents and went back to school to become a paralegal. When she obtained her degree, she was able to provide a home for her and her three boys, so they moved out of her parents' house again. Hillary didn't allow herself to be in a serious relationship because of her marriage to Ray. It took a long time for her to get past that, and then she finally met Drew. She really wanted a companion in life and a father figure for her children. She dated Drew for a while, and then he finally proposed. She and Drew were married, and their two families became one. Hillary has always been dedicated to raising her children. She's put her career on hold to care for and nurture seven kids and help manage a household.

Hillary is a beautiful Caucasian woman that is considered to be very attractive by all men. She is around five feet seven inches tall. Hillary is a very classy woman. She wears dresses, skirts, pants, and occasionally business attire. She always wears high heels. She speaks with the average American accent and can be sarcastic at times. Along with her high maintenance lifestyle, she works out all the time to stay in shape and doesn't look like she's ever had a child. Hillary drives a BMW and never really takes Kevin seriously. Hillary's favorite color is green and she loves interior design along with football and romance novels. When she is lying, she scratches her scalp. Hillary has two sisters, Jacky and Mallory. Her best friend is Sandra.

Hillary really loves Drew. Even though they raise their children in different ways, they both are willing to look past that and make things work out with their new families in their new home. Hillary's parents love Drew like he's their child. They support him and thank him for being a good man to their daughter.

#### The Children (from oldest to youngest)

Jason Rhodes- 21 years old, is the oldest son of Hillary Sheard and husband of Liza Lizana-Rhodes. He is a junior in college and attends Texas Christian University. He is a major in law and has aspirations to become an attorney for major corporations. Jason is at a difficult time in his life right now dealing with his new stepfather, new family, new house, and his wife. Jason has always had a good life. He had to become the man of the house at a very early age when his parents divorced. He has hurt and anger that he's never really confronted and occasionally takes it out on those around him. He is frequently verbally and physically abusive towards Liza and always comes up with a bad excuse to justify his actions. Jason has always been considered as attractive. He has always had girlfriends and has been a heavy partier/drinker. Jason began a life of partying, drinking, and promiscuity at age 14 (when he lost his virginity to an 18 year old). He has since then been a womanizer.

Jason is considered to be a good guy when he wants to be, and then he can be really mean. He is a complex person and it isn't easy to figure why he is the way he is. He can be cordial sometimes and then he can be very rude other times. Jason loves his mother, his wife, and tries to be an example for his two younger brothers (even though he is not a good example). Jason has problems and issues that he feels he shouldn't admit because he feels that it would make him less of a man. He knows the difference between right and wrong and seems to always make the rather stupid of the two decisions.

Jason is having some regrets about getting married while in college because he can't remain faithful to Liza. He never could get over his promiscuous lifestyle and felt that he could just hide it from his wife and get away with it. He has been successful thus far, but he doesn't know that what is done in the dark comes to the light. Jason is currently an intern at the prestigious law firm of Grayson, Dixon, & Towson Attorneys at Law in Dallas. He is on the cusp of becoming the fourth partner in the firm and will do any and everything to ensure his success. Jason is a conniving individual. He will lie, cheat, steal, rig, backstab, and womanize to get whatever he wants. If he's crossed in any way, he will see to it that whoever crossed him will pay as long as they live. Jason married Liza his sophomore year of college. He's come to terms with the fact that their marriage is based only on sex and nothing else. He really wants out of this marriage, but Liza's wealthy family is the only thing holding him back. He only likes Liza for her body and her money.

Jason leads a simple lifestyle. He works out, goes to class, has his daily extramarital affairs, hangs out with his friends, and comes home for dinner with his family. He drives a Ford truck and wears modern day teenage attire. He stands around six feet tall and is attractive to all women. He has numerous affairs and is successful at hiding them from Liza. A few illegitimate children have popped up claiming Jason is the father, but he always manages to make these types of situations go away. Jason doesn't really get along with Drew or any other of his siblings/stepsiblings. He has a hard time showing emotions, but he can really open up his heart and show love if he really wants to.

**Liza Lizana-Rhodes**- Liza, 20 years old, is the wife of Jason Rhodes. She is a college sophomore at Texas Christian University. She majored in performing arts and has aspirations of being an actress/model. Liza was born in Los Angeles and raised in Bel Air. She lived a very upscale lifestyle and had everything handed to her. Her parents are Greg and Suzanna Lizana, owners of the worldwide Hotel Lizana luxury hotel chain. Liza's life is almost parallel to that of Paris Hilton's. The Lizana's have always been in serious competition with the Hilton's and it continues to get even more competitive as time goes on. She attended Pepperdine University until she met Jason at a party while he was in Malibu. They talked and shared drinks and ended up having a one night stand. After Jason left, Liza felt that Jason was the man she really loved and continued to have a long distance relationship with him. The only reason Liza continued to pursue a relationship with Jason was because she thought she was pregnant. When she told Jason, he immediately proposed and they eloped in Las Vegas. Liza's parents were very displeased when they found out what happened. Hillary was displeased as well. As it turns out, Liza wasn't pregnant and she had married Jason for practically nothing. Jason didn't want to leave Texas, so he made Liza come live with him in Dallas. They moved in with Hillary and both started attending Texas Christian University.

Liza is a beautiful young lady who is extremely dumb. She doesn't know left from right, believes anything, and is an extremely shallow, superficial, naïve person. Liza is a shop-a-holic and spends outrageous amounts of money like she doesn't have a care in the world (which she really doesn't). Besides performing arts, she plays volleyball and models for magazines.

She is very clueless when it comes to her marital problems. Liza and Jason tolerate each other and are trying to learn to love each other. The signs of Jason's extramarital affairs are evident, but she's basically too stupid to realize it. Being a spoiled child from Bel Air, she really has no cares in the world and she really focuses on herself. She is considered to be snobby and stuck up and has a tendency to use valspeak when she talks.

Liza lives an extremely high maintenance lifestyle and easily shows it. She drives a Chevrolet Suburban for her daily shopping sprees, volleyball outings, and performing arts events. She goes to the spa to get pampered very often, and she works out to stay in shape.

Liza really loves Jason and she doesn't mind living with him in his mother and stepfather's house along with six other people. She does whatever he says and shows her loyalty by always being at his beck and call. Even though Jason is sometimes abusive towards her, she loves him through thick and thin. Liza also has a huge secret crush on her stepbrother-in-law, D.J. She gets caught from time to time putting the moves on him.

<u>Drew Sheard Jr. (D.J.)</u>-D.J., 19 years old, is a college freshman at Texas Christian University. D.J. is major in Sports Marketing and a minor in business. He is the oldest son of Drew Sheard. D.J. is the cool guy that everybody knows and loves. He is very popular throughout the DFW Metroplex and is widely known for being the star quarterback for the T.C.U. football team.

Being the oldest of the Sheard children, D.J. witnessed the births of his two brothers and his sister, the divorce of his parents, and the aftermath of their divorce. D.J. became one of the men of the house at an early age when his mother abandoned the family. He never really took too much consideration into it and just let it roll off of his shoulders. He tries to be an example for Drake, Sahara, and Carnell. Now he's also trying to be an example for his new younger stepsiblings.

D.J. lives an outgoing lifestyle. He's popular, has all of the girls after him, goes to parties all the time, and still makes time to spend with his family. He has and shows nothing but love and respect for his father. He has an urban personality that is very well perceived by most people. D.J. is used to being the oldest child in the household and is now trying to get used to having four additional kids in the house along with two of them being older than him. D.J. adjusted really well to Hillary and her family and still butts heads with Jason frequently.

D.J. has fun in life and believes in enjoying it to the fullest. He has many girlfriends and often gets caught up between them, school, football, and partying. When he loses his balance in life, he always has family and friends to fall back on. He is known for being quite the ladies' man and an underage drinker (which he manages to hide from Drew). D.J. is a jock and isn't exactly smart, which allows him to perfectly fit the role of a jock. He tends to screw it up and make Drew lose faith in him, but nonetheless he is Drew's mini-me and first born.

D.J. is a simple person. He wears the typical dress for the current times; jeans, a shirt, and the latest shoes. He eats, sleeps, and breathes football. He drives a Lincoln Navigator and occasionally has it full of the TCU cheerleaders.

<u>Drake Sheard</u>-18 years old, is the second oldest son of Drew. He is the smart one that everyone looks to so they can solve their problems. Drake is money hungry and a business man to the bone who is practically a genius. He is considered to be arrogant and cocky. Drew seems to have more faith and show more favoritism to Drake than D.J. because he has never really messed up or gotten in trouble and has an image that portrays him to be overly perfect.

Drake desires nothing more to be like his father. He is going to attend Drew's alma mater, go through the same collegiate programs as Drew did, and eventually go into the architecture field just like Drew. Drake feels that he will be his father's sole heir and most likely will inherit everything in his father's estate. He's always proven himself to be smarter, more responsible, and generally better than his siblings. He tends to suck up to Drew, but all he wants is his father's continuous approval. Drake really loves and admires his father and doesn't take him for granted. He still has harsh feelings towards his mother and still never gets why she abandoned them.

Drake attends the Southlake Preparatory Academy and is preparing to graduate and go to college. Because of D.J.'s ever increasing popularity, he is known as "D.J. Sheard's little brother". Drake is the star of the Southlake Prep basketball team and becoming a legend in his own right. He loves his life as a spoiled rich kid, but doesn't take it for granted.

Drake drives a Porsche and wears preppy clothing to support it. He works out and tries to remain healthy and fit for basketball. He often uses his wits to outsmart people so he can get his way. He has a deep mature voice and speaks perfect English. Drake is considered to be attractive by the opposite sex and seems to follow in D.J.'s footsteps when it comes to women. Drake loves his new family and has a strong dislike for Jason and Kevin.

<u>Kevin Rhodes</u>- 17 years old, is the middle child of Hillary. He is considered to be the oddball of the group and doesn't seem to fit in with the rest of the family. He seems to get in trouble all the time and always makes bad choices in life. He does drugs frequently and he drinks. He's been in behavioral disorder classes and has been sent to alternative school, but nothing seems to fix his behavior. Hillary has tried to show sympathy and reach out to him, but her approach about him is too soft and her chastisement doesn't faze him.

Kevin is actually smart and manages to get away with just about anything. He was recently expelled from his school, Southlake High, and has been successful at hiding it from Drew and Hillary. He has forged signatures on documents, answered phone calls posing as his mother's assistant, and hacked into his mother's email account and deleting the emails. He has also managed to cover up his drug addiction and other bad habits. Kevin has no goals or aspirations in life and just plans on living until he dies.

Kevin is considered to be good looking and wears modern day urban attire. He wants to be like Eminem (even though he can't rap) and he talks with urban diction and has a tendency to think he's black. Kevin is very fond of Drew because he never really had a great father figure and refers to him as "Dad".

<u>Sahara Sheard</u>- 16 years old, is the only daughter of Drew. She is smart, quick witted, and extremely sassy. She can be mean and ruthless and doesn't take crap from anyone. She has always loved and admired her father and brothers and still has trouble getting used to having an actual mother figure in the house. Sahara is still too young to understand what happened between her mother and father and really misses her mother.

Sahara is very easy to get along with if you stay on her good side. She is a spoiled "daddy's girl" and shows it. She is the captain of the cheerleading squad at Southlake High School and is very popular around the DFW Metroplex for taking the Southlake High cheerleaders to state competitions and winning them. She is very tough (having been the only girl in the house) and is not afraid to stand up to anybody. Even though she and Drake live in the shadows of D.J., she is becoming a legend in her own right.

Sahara is widely known for her free, no-nonsense, and generally tough spirit. She keeps a gun for "protection" despite living in a maximum security gated community. She obtained the gun as a gift from one of her former boyfriends. There's a lot to Sahara that her own family still doesn't even know about. Sahara is willing and ready to fight at anytime, any day, anyone, at any place.

Sahara can be sweet sometimes and very mean when you make her mad. No one messes with Drew Sheard's daughter.

Sahara is considered to be ghetto and classy. She always manages to balance between the two. She is a spoiled child; she wears the latest style clothing, doesn't have to work for anything, and drives a Land Rover Range Rover. She has a catch phrase that she says all the time; "How you doin" and is trademarked by it. She is very close to her step-brother, Chase, and really doesn't care for anyone else in her new family.

<u>Chase Rhodes</u>- 15 years old, is the youngest son of Hillary Rhodes. He is the baby of his original family and is now the youngest out of all of his siblings/step-siblings. He is very fond of Drew and refers to him as "Dad" because he never had a good father figure. He loves his new family and enjoys life living in Southlake. Chase is showed favoritism by Drew and Hillary. He was adjusted well to his new family, a new house, and a new life.

Chase attends Southlake High School with Sahara. He plays baseball and is very athletic. He is spoiled and is very humble about it. He is currently in Driver's Education and has attained his permit and has a habit of taking his parents' cars to go driving around the neighborhood. He is at that stage where he begins to have his teenage relationships and tries new things. He rarely gets in trouble and sometimes blames some of his wrongdoings on Kevin. Chase wears typical teenage attire and is a very good kid.

<u>Carlos Berreraz</u>- 34 years old, is the family butler. He is an immigrant from Mexico and has become another family member. Everyone feels they can confide in him. Carlos has a knack for not being able to keep a secret and telling everyone's business. He shows loyalty to Drew and Hillary and tries to deal with being subject to seven spoiled brats. He loves all of them except Jason, Liza, and Kevin. He is very sarcastic and cynical and is not afraid to talk back, refuse orders, or speak his mind.

### **Recurring Characters**

<u>Valencia "Val" McAllister-Sheard-McLemore</u>- 41 years old, is Drew's ex-wife and mother of all four of his children. Valencia was born and raised in Savanna, Illinois. Her father owned a tube fabrication company and her mother was a homemaker. Valencia was well off as a child and was easily afforded all the opportunities she wanted to attend an Ivy League college. After she graduated high school, Val went off to school at Harvard University. During her junior year in college, she met Drew. When she and Drew moved to Dallas, they began their family. After having four children and managing a household, Val became very bored and wanted to pursue a singing career. She signed on with a Dallas record company and fell out of love with Drew and fell in love with her record producer.

After her affairs with him, he convinced her that Drew was doing nothing but holding her back and forcing her to live in his shadows. One day she packed her bags and her newborn baby, Carnell, and left for California to further her singing career. Drew was devastated and had a very hard time explaining this situation to D.J., Drake, and Sahara. Val went out to California and her singing career fell apart. She reaped what she sowed. She was a single mother and working in Corporate America for about 13 years. She eventually married big-time Hollywood producer Flex McLemore. They built a mansion in the affluent neighborhood of Brentwood, CA and began their life together as a family; Flex, Val, and Carnell. Carnell adjusted well to his new stepfather, but no one will ever replace Drew in Carnell's heart.

Val began to learn the trade of "the business" (show business) and became a writer/director/producer/talent manager, etc. She took over as V.P. of Flex's production company, McLemore Entertainment. She enjoys running a studio and producing television shows and movies. She even introduced Carnell to "the business" and has even franchised him with clothing endorsements and advertisements and even lands him roles on all of the hottest television shows and movies. She is the mom who doubles as the career manager. Flex and Val are like the African-American Aaron and Candy Spelling. Carnell has all of the same spoiling as Tori and Randy.

Val has many regrets about her past life and how her first marriage ended. She feels terrible about what she did to Drew and her three oldest children. She really wishes she would've done things differently. Val really thanks Drew for always being a man, stepping up, and taking care of business. She feels that he is the perfect father for her children, but is still very skeptical about his marriage to Hillary. She flies back to Dallas to visit her three oldest children, but she really wants all of them to be in California with her.

<u>Carnell Sheard</u>- 16 years old, is the youngest of the Sheard children. He is only eleven months younger than Sahara. He currently lives with his mother, Valencia Sheard- McLemore, in Los Angeles. When Drew and Valencia divorced, he was less than six months old. Valencia didn't want to leave her newborn baby with a working single father and three other kids, so she took

Carnell with her. Carnell comes back to visit his father and siblings occasionally. He likes his new stepmother and her children and gets along well with all of them. Carnell is loyal to his family and really loves them. He is the type of person that can get along with just about any and everybody. Carnell is close to all of his siblings and has always maintained a relationship with Drew. Carnell is an aspiring writer/director/producer/actor/radio personality/media mogul. His mother and stepfather own their own production company and studio in Hollywood. They also have the proper network connections. He can easily get on a primetime syndicated network spot if he wanted to. Val is his manager and gets him all the hottest gigs. Carnell is indeed a truly spoiled child on his mother's side and his father's side.

Carnell is very crazy and never thinks before he speaks. He is considered to be slightly insane and has a knack for making a lot of dirty jokes and being perverted. He aspires to be like his father and wants to come live with him in Southlake.

<u>Professor Cindy Raymond</u>- 45 years old, is Jason's law professor at Texas Christian University. Cindy is well known for her teaching style, her professionalism, and for being a tough teacher. Her husband is a known philanderer and the stress from her crumbling marriage is evident amongst her students. She always favored Jason because he's always proved himself to be the best in his class and he always wins every mock trial. Her close bond with Jason has led them to begin an affair. Cindy knows that Jason is sly and conniving, but she's much older than him and a lot smarter. She will always be five steps ahead of him and his schemes.

Kendra McNamara - 44 years old, is the wife Chancellor George McNamara of Texas Christian University. She also lives in Wyndham Hills and is a member of the Southlake Wives Club with Hillary. She is a very scandalous woman. She only married George for his money. She is a user, manipulator, and a liar. She has been diagnosed with the bipolar disorder. Kendra is also a sports manager and voluntarily took on D.J. as a client because of her attraction to him. They eventually began to have an ongoing affair. D.J. pleasures her in exchange for her career management services. She has all of the power and connections to make D.J. become a major football superstar and she holds it over his head every time he tries to end their affair. Kendra will try to bring D.J. to the top, but if he screws her over, she will end his career and ruin his life in every way she can.

<u>Ivan Thomas</u>- 17 years old, Sahara's boyfriend is an honestly good kid. He does some mannish things here and there, but he keeps a clean nose. He's buff, athletic, everything Sahara could ask for in a man. He respects the fact that Sahara feels that waiting until marriage to have sex is a very important principle. The Thomas family is known for being good people and being high ranking city government officials. Ivan is the captain of the Southlake High School football team and one of the most popular guys in school.

<u>Richard Addison</u>- is the founder and C.E.O. of Addison & Associates LLC. He is Drew's boss and has plans to make Drew his successor when he retires. His wife is Deb Addison.

<u>Jim O' Brey</u>- is the vice president of Addison & Associates LLC. He's the next step under Drew in the Addison executive staff. His wife is Cheryl O' Brey.

**John Burch**- is the C.O.O. of Addison & Associates. He is in his late thirties and single. Drew took him under his wing and they've been close friends ever since. He considers himself as Drew's little brother.

<u>Blake Towson</u>- is a partner at the law firm of Grayson, Dixon, and Towson Attorneys at Law. He is also a long time friend of Hillary and the rest of the Rhodes family. He and Jason have a special bond. He will rig, lie, and backstab for Jason.

<u>Alana Mendez</u>- 22 years old, is Drew's secretary at Addison & Associates. She is a young college graduate who is struggling to find her niche in the world. She has a lustful eye for Drew. She has subtly put the moves on him and tries to show her affection for him, but he doesn't seem to notice them. Alana feels that she should be Mrs. Drew Sheard and that Hillary doesn't deserve a man like him. She is very jealous of Hillary and Valencia.

<u>Dr. Selina Miles</u>- 38 years old, is Drake's history teacher at Southlake Preparatory Academy. She has her share of issues, especially when it comes to her marriage. She really favors Drake because he is the smartest student she has. Selina has an attraction to him, but she can't express herself because she's a teacher and Drake is a student. She has her PhD in history and enjoys teaching at a very upscale private school.

<u>Alexis Kirkland</u>- 22 years old, is another intern at the prestigious law firm of Grayson, Dixon, and Towson. She and Jason have a lot in common and have the same goals in life. She is in love with Jason and Jason is in love with her. She feels that she can be a better wife for him than Liza ever was. She is jealous of Liza because she's Mrs. Jason Rhodes. She is a future family law attorney and she's just as tenacious as Jason.

<u>Glenn Sheard</u>- 67 years old, is Drew's father. He is a business man and a loving husband/father. He's the sole reason Drew is such a good man. He is a wealthy man and just as prominent in Dallas-Ft. Worth as Drew.

<u>Geneva Sheard</u>- 66 years old, is Drew's mother. She was the loving, nurturing, yet strict mother. She and Glenn gave Drew old fashioned values and didn't let wealth go to his head.

### **Season 1 Episode Guide**

- 1. <u>Pilot</u>- Wealthy architect Drew Sheard and his new wife Hillary Rhodes-Sheard have the task of bringing their families together and raising a total of seven kids.
- 2. <u>Party Time!</u> The Sheard/Rhodes family is hosting a dinner party with Drew's colleagues. Can they maintain control of themselves?
- 3. <u>What's Up With Kevin?</u> Kevin has been receiving a lot of threatening phone calls and suspicious packages. His alarmed family decides to confront him about it.
- 4. Outside Of The House- Every member of the Sheard/Rhodes family leads a different lifestyle, especially when they think no one's watching.
- 5. The Family Meeting Part 1- After Drew has had enough of the rising tensions in the household he calls for a family meeting.
- 6. <u>The Family Meeting Part 2</u>- Tension has escalated, truths have been revealed, anger has been unleashed, and feelings have been hurt. Will the Sheard/Rhodes family ever be the same?
- 7. <u>A House Dividing</u>- The aftermath of the family meeting has driven a wedge between everyone. Drew seems to be paying attention to everyone except Drake.
- 8. <u>Drake's Love Affair</u>- Drake feels neglected by his father and finds love in the arms of his history teacher.
- 9. A Child With A Broken Heart- After Drake feels neglected by Drew and deals with having his heart broken by his teacher, he leaves the Sheard Estate.
- 10. **A House Divided** Drake is MIA and no one except Drew and Hillary is taking the time to look for him. Everyone else is too busy with their own lives.
- 11. The Original Mrs. Sheard Part 1- Drake is still missing. Drew's ex-wife, Valencia, and youngest son, Carnell, fly in from Los Angeles to see what is going on.
- 12. <u>The Original Mrs. Sheard Part 2</u>- Drake finally returns home. Valencia becomes very critical of Drew because of how he handled this situation and Hillary becomes very defensive.
- 13. <u>The Sheard Family Scandal</u>- Drew has been accused of cheating many smaller companies out of all their profits, equities, etc. After a failed murder attempt against Drew, Jason and Liza are both kidnapped and held for ransom. Meanwhile, Hillary struggles to maintain her sanity.

### **Season 1 Treatment**

Title: Bringing It All Together

Format Of Show: Hour-long drama

Author(s): Carnell Grayson & Pamela Grayson

Logline: The life and times of a wealthy, multiracial, yet dysfunctional modern-day family living in Dallas with family and a lot of eccentric friends.

Bringing It All Together is a show about an African-American, wealthy architect, Drew Sheard, and his three teenage children and a Caucasian, spoiled, homemaker/former businesswoman, Hillary Rhodes and her three sons plus her daughter-in-law. Drew Sheard and Hillary Rhodes are a wealthy interracial couple who live in the very wealthy neighborhood of Wyndham Hills in the town Southlake, Texas; right outside of Dallas. They live in a very large mansion with their seven kids, Drew Jr. (D.J.), Drake, Sahara, Jason, Liza, Kevin, and Chase. They have some famous neighbors such as, President George W. Bush and Laura Bush, Deion Sanders, and Chuck Norris. That, along with a lot of very eccentric friends is part of the reason why the story of this family is interesting.

#### **Episode 1 (Pilot)**

In the pilot episode the Sheard/Rhodes family is introduced in their normal habitat: their home. They are in the place where they feel the most comfortable and where they completely act normal. Drew should be introduced as the tall, masculine, fearsome, alpha male of the household. Hillary should be introduced as the "New Mrs. Drew Sheard" and she should be portrayed to be enjoying having a wealthy lifestyle and trying to act like it is no big deal, when it really is. The four oldest children have parts of their lives that are going to be revealed and that will carry on for an entire season. Jason, the sex crazed, power hungry, conniving, law student is juggling his life hiding an affair with his law professor, hiding a paternity suit with six different women for a total of seven kids. He is also dealing with an unhappy marriage. Liza is trying to be a good wife and make her marriage work, but nothing ever seems to be good enough for Jason. D.J. is having an affair with his sports career manager who is also the wife of the Chancellor of Texas Christian University. He keeps trying to end it, but she comes back with blackmail that could ruin his life and cause it to come crashing down in scandal. Drake is about to start attending a private school and then has to deal with graduation plans and then make final arrangements before he leaves home to attend college at Harvard University. Kevin is into drugs and gangbanging and it trying to hide that from his family. Sahara and Chase are living the normal teenage lifestyle and staying out of trouble for the most part.

Because this is the pilot episode, it is very critical that each and every character be introduced to the fullest potential. These characters have to be real and portrayed as if they were actually living

people that you'd run into in public. They should all be relatable to at least one type of audience. The character of Drew should relate to self made and/or aspiring minority professionals who've attained a great amount of wealth. The character of Hillary should relate to the stay-at-home mother or the single woman who seeking the right rich man. Jason should relate to womanizers and attorneys who are ruthless and seek nothing but success at any cost. Liza is relatable to the college girl who parities and who is nothing but a social butterfly. D.J. relates to the high school/collegiate sports jock who doesn't really know anything outside of sports, money, and girls. Drake relates to the very mature teenager who has their head on straight and does just about everything right. This character is successful and perceived to be overly perfect. Kevin relates to the overly lethargic and slothful child who doesn't give a crap about the future or anything around them. They just want to party, have fun, and not do any work. Sahara relates to the teenage girl who has respect for herself and is going places in life. Chase relates to the normal, well behaved teenager. Each of these characters was designed to target a specific genre of audience in order to create a very large collective audience.

In the pilot episode, quite a few elements have to be established in order for the series to go on from episode to episode throughout the season. The main elements of the characters to be established help to create the storylines that will be carried out throughout the season are:

- 1. Drew's success and good old fashioned American values.
- 2. Hillary's love for Drew.
- 3. Hillary's love for having money. Something she's not used to.
- 4. Jason's dislike for Drew.
- 5. Jason's oversized sexual appetite and conniving ways.
- 6. Liza's desperation to be a good wife and please Jason.
- 7. D.J.'s secret life. He's a good athlete and a good guy, but his affair with his manager is slowly but surely eating away at him.
- 8. Drake's nervousness about leaving home after graduation.
- 9. Kevin's life as a drug addict, gangbanger, and high school dropout.
- 10. Sahara and Chase's lives as the most popular kids in school because of whose children they are.
- 11. The Sheard/Rhodes family dealing with being so popular that they've attained celebrity status and are even followed around by paparazzi.
- 12. Women that are jealous of Hillary coming on to Drew.
- 13. The standard that his family is held to because of who the patriarch is and how much money he has.

The pilot episode is the hook that is supposed to grab and captivate the audience and keep them interested in finding out what is going to happen in the next episode. There are some other elements that the audience can realize without them having to be mentioned.

Throughout the pilot, exterior views of the mansion and certain places of dialogue will show the audience exactly how much wealth we're talking about. Drew has a seven figure yearly income and he lives large. The children will act like spoiled brats, but try to remain humble. They enjoy life as practical royalty. The types of cars are mentioned, certain actions are shown, and much more minor detail gives the audience a glimpse into how the wealthy live especially when new money mixes with old money. The possibility of chaos is unlimited.

Each of the characters has a back story that can be revealed later on in the series. The premise of this pilot starts off with a brand new chapter in everyone's life: the marriage of Drew Sheard Sr. and Hillary Rhodes. Throughout this pilot episode, tensions, family dynamics, relationships, and feeling toward certain relatives must be explained to show where everyone fits in the family and how they are received by others in the household.

The bottom line is that the pilot should set the tone for the series and hook the audience in order to create a loyal fan base. It should be fun, energetic, and memorable. If these few tasks are achieved, the audience that will tune in and view the second episode as well as the rest of the series should be steady and have a good response to what they see on their televisions screens.

#### Episode 2

Episode two basically continues the storylines from the pilot and continues to explain more about the Sheard/Rhodes family. This episode takes place the very next day. In the pilot the audience sees how they all interact within the family, but now it's time to see how the family interacts with other people outside of the family. Drew is hosting a dinner party with some of his associates from his job and their families. The family has to keep it together and look good to impress their guests, but the chances of them being successful at doing that is low due to the fact that there are seven kids and just about any and everything can and will go wrong. Jason brings home a hooker. Kevin continues to gets suspicious and threatening phone calls. Sahara finally brings home her boyfriend for Drew to meet. Drew has so much to deal with managing a crazy household, hosting a party, and still trying to maintain a perfect image for his family. Later that night, Kevin has a private rendezvous with his drug supplier so he can deal more marijuana. Drake overhears this conversation and feels that it is time to take action. If this blows up, the Sheards could be sent to social exile because of their association with Kevin.

#### Episode 3

In the third episode, the family gets fed up and decides to confront Kevin about the mysterious phone calls and his questionable behavior. Drake finds marijuana growing in the backyard in Hillary's garden. D.J., Drake, and Sahara know that if Drew finds out about some illegal substances on the estate, everyone will have to pay a mighty high price until someone comes clean. They fear him that much. Knowing that Kevin will most likely refuse to confess to the possession of marijuana, D.J., Drake, Sahara, and Chase decide to go ahead and make him come clean because they know Jason and Liza wouldn't have done this and they don't want to have to

pay the piper for somebody else's actions. Drake's plan to blackmail Kevin into confessing backfires. It is revealed that Kevin was expelled from school for dealing cocaine on school grounds and stealing a computer from the library. When Kevin does confess, he says that he dropped out, covering the fact that he was really expelled. Drew and Hillary are so disappointed after they hear this that D.J., Drake, Sahara, and Chase are punished for blackmailing Kevin and don't even get to finish telling the truth about what they know. Jason and Kevin have an altercation because Jason already knew about Kevin's secret life. He just never said anything. He helped Kevin hide his expulsion, drug charges, and even used some connections at the law firm of Grayson, Dixon, and Towson to get these infractions expunged off of his record. All hell breaks loose in less than a day. To most of Hillary's knowledge, all of the kids behave and stay out of trouble. What she doesn't know is that Drew has hidden security cameras all over the estate and inside of the mansion. He knows exactly what each child does and is always two steps ahead of them.

#### Episode 4

Drew is very alarmed after the events from the previous day (last episode). Ever since he and Hillary got married, there's been nothing but tension and evident hatred between the siblings. Drew and Hillary decide to call a family meeting. Hillary is shocked to find out what the kids really do and she agrees with Drew that it is time to nip all of this stupidity in the bud. Kevin has anger and resentment toward all of his siblings. He refuses to talk to any of them. Drew and Kevin have a man-to-man talk and decide to do lunch later that day to do some more bonding. Jason runs into Professor Cindy Raymond on the T.C.U. campus and they have a scandalous confrontation. Drake is enjoying Southlake Preparatory Academy and has feelings for his history teacher. He is also confronted for being a Sheard. D.J. meets Kendra in the football locker room on the T.C.U. campus so they can have their encounter for the day. Sahara and Chase are photographed by paparazzi at school for being Drew's kids. Jason later meets up with attorney Blake Towson to discuss his multiple paternity suit cases. Drew lands a new million dollar land development/construction deal. Liza gets caught trying to seduce D.J.. More proof that Drew constantly gets hit on by other women is shown when we meet Alana Mendez, Drew's secretary. She is constantly trying to get a pay raise and into Drew's pants. Hillary becomes suspicious after she finds an empty condom wrapper on the backyard patio where Drew was standing earlier that morning. It just happens that the condom is the right size for Drew. She was bragging to her friends earlier that day about how good of a man he was. She doesn't remember him ever using one with her. Because she's been lied to and cheated on so much before, she decides to hire a private investigator to see what is really going on. The family meeting was supposed to be scheduled for tonight, but something came up and Drew won't be home until very late. When Drew tells her this on the phone, a random female voice tells Drew to come on. Hillary is now suspicious; it's late, Drew's alone at the office, and there's a woman there. The last thing Hillary does before she goes to bed is hire the private investigator. This is a good cliffhanger for this episode. As the audience will see, the drama and secrets from the first four episodes will

eventually be exposed and then explode. In order for the family to be healed, all tensions must be released. The family meeting could spark a chain reaction of dramatic and traumatic events for the rest of the season.

#### Episode 5

Today is the day that will set the tone for the rest of the season. Episode five will in fact spark a chain reaction. This episode opens up the next morning with Hillary nervous after calling that private investigator. Drew finds out about it and never says anything to Hillary. He's saving that conversation for a later date. Sahara and Chase will be shown at school dealing with the dramas of high school life mixed with a high social profile. When Drake gets out of school he and his history teacher, Dr. Selina Miles have an in-depth conversation and end up going out for coffee afterwards, sparking the start of an inappropriate student-teacher relationship. D.J., Drew, and Kendra are scheduled to have a meeting downtown at the Sheard family condo. Drew notices Kendra's attraction to D.J., but isn't sure if there's anything going on or not. Sahara and Chase come home and find Kevin smoking a joint in the garage. Kevin gets defensive and an altercation breaks out, which Carlos has to step in and solve. Drew sees this through his mobile security camera feed and rushes home. He leaves D.J. and Kendra back at the condo and has no clue as to what they are really up to. While all of this is going on, Hillary is out shopping and driving around because she feels that she shouldn't have doubted Drew's trust. While Drake is out with Dr. Miles, he runs into Jason and Liza. Jason becomes suspicious. A short while afterwards, Jason and Liza are leaving to go home and see Drake kissing Dr. Miles. Jason snaps a picture and now has something to use for blackmail. Drew and Hillary return home at the same time and see about what happened with the three youngest kids while they weren't home. Within the hour, the four oldest children return home. Now it's time for the family meeting. Drew is going to allow everyone to say any and everything they want. Each child will express their grievances with certain members of the family and tell how they really feel. In this episode all hell will break loose on the Sheard Estate. Because this even is so significant in the season, it will take up two episodes, hence a cliffhanger will be used and this episode will be left off openended.

#### Episode 6

This episode is a continuation of the previous episode. It will open up right at the scene of the family meeting and continue on for the next two days. Drew has asked questions and sparked discussion as to why there is so much hostility between the siblings. Kids from both parents have expressed their feelings toward their stepparents and now they have expressed feelings toward each other. The secrets/feelings that have been revealed are:

- 1. Jason's affairs
- 2. D.J. missing curfew & having various girls over alone
- 3. Drake being a suck-up to Drew

- 4. Sahara's hostility toward Hillary
- 5. Kevin's drug issues
- 6. Liza putting the moves on D.J.
- 7. Chase & Kevin's fear of Jason
- 8. Jason's hostility towards Drew
- 9. Drew's grievances with all of the kids
- 10. Hillary's disappointment with Jason
- 11. Drew reveals that he knows and sees everything because there are security cameras throughout the mansion

After all of this has been revealed, the following consequences occur:

- 1. Jason and Liza have a huge falling out and Liza kicks Jason out of their bedroom
- 2. Jason contemplates divorcing Liza
- 3. D.J. is reprimanded heavily for his "mannish" behavior by Drew
- 4. Kevin is dealt with and chastised by Drew and Hillary. He will be sent to a drug detoxification center (rehab) in Houston.
- 5. Insulted, Kevin sits outside the mansion to contemplate his thoughts and he Liza have a conversation. Kevin pulls out a bag of cocaine and convinces Liza to try some. They leave the Sheard Estate because they know that there are cameras. They go to an empty parking lot and snort the cocaine in Liza's car. This sparks a possibly lifelong downward spiral for Liza. Kevin feels that there's nothing else to do except drugs.
- 6. Drew focuses on straightening out D.J., Kevin, Sahara, and Chase. He's paying attention to everyone except Drake (because Drake doesn't have any issues worth addressing).
- 7. Drake feels neglected and tries to get some father-son time with Drew, but can't seem to get his attention
- 8. Jason and Liza continue to fight. Liza's addiction to cocaine is officially sparked and continues to slowly but surely increase steadily
- 9. D.J. and Kendra nearly get caught coming out of a hotel room by paparazzi
- 10. Drew and Hillary have a very serious argument about how they raised their kids prior to their marriage. It gets ugly.

This episode has made the series become very serious and everything has gotten out of hand. Drew will bring it all back together though. With each child going through a trial of their own, multiple storylines can branch off from the events that have taken place over the past two episodes.

#### Episode 7

A serious wedge is still being driven between each member of the family. It seems to be doing nothing but falling completely apart. Drew is under total stress mode due to the mess that is going on with all seven of the kids and his argument with Hillary. While at work,

Drew is changing clothes in his office and his secretary, Alana Mendez, walks in on him. Hillary comes to the office to surprise him and take him out to lunch. She sees Alana walking out of Drew's office. Hillary gets suspicious when she sees her husband in his office practically naked and his young secretary walking out of the office. Hillary immediately questions him. Drew gets angry and brings up the fact that she hired a private investigator to spy on him. So much for their lunch date. Jason has meeting with his family's attorney, Blake Towson, to deal with his paternity suit with six women claiming he is the father of a total of seven kids. Kevin knows he is getting sent to the detox center in Houston and decides to live it up while he's still in Dallas. He introduces Liza to his cocaine dealer and has introduced her to a way of life that she could possibly die from. Sahara and Ivan see each other even though she's been grounded. They run into Hillary. Hillary goes to Southlake High School to formally withdraw Kevin and the truth is exposed about him being expelled. Hillary is livid and is going to go crazy after she finds out why he was expelled and how he managed to cover it up. Drake and Dr. Miles are having a rendezvous after school again. Some of Drake's classmates see them and snap pictures. They end up going viral. Chase is home alone after school and takes the Volvo. He only has his learner's permit and gets stopped by the police a few houses down for speeding. The police search the car and find marijuana and cocaine in the trunk. He is then taken into custody. D.J. comes home and finds Liza crying. They have a heart to heart conversation and Liza openly tries to seduce him. Hillary gets a phone call from the police department and finds out about Chase taking the Volvo and getting arrested. She calls Drew and he has to take off of work to come to the police station and straighten everything out. Every child is going through hell right about now. Drew and Hillary are going through an entire range of emotions because they don't know what to do with all seven of their children. Too much is going on and they both question whether the family will make it or not.

#### Episode 8

After all of the events that have happened from the previous episode, Drake has been the one that has no real issues. He wants to talk to Drew about some of his personal issues and Drew seems to be ignoring him because he's too busy trying to deal with the remaining six children. Drew and Hillary have Chase bailed out of jail. They know that Kevin is the main one that drives the Volvo and know that the narcotics are his. Drew and Hillary schedule a flight that will take Kevin to Houston where he will be admitted to a vigorous drug detoxification facility. They are tricking him and saying that they're sending him on a vacation. After finding out about his entire expulsion ordeal and that Jason helped him cover it up, Hillary packs all of his clothes and gets him ready to be flown down to Houston. Drew has scheduled a nine month rehabilitation session. They are going to fly down there with him and get him checked in. Drew and Hillary confront Jason about his part in Kevin's ordeal and is behavior toward Liza and put him out of the house. They allow Liza to stay until she can get up on her feet. Drew and Hillary, unsure of leaving the rest of the kids home alone, take

Kevin to the airport and get on the plane with him. He knew he was being sent to Houston, but he didn't know when. Now is the time. While Drew and Hillary are gone, Carlos, D.J., and Liza are in charge. Sahara and Chase continue to go to school and live normal teenage lives. Jason finds refuge and stays with a new intern at Grayson, Dixon, and Towson, Alexis Kirkland. She is way more compatible with Jason than Liza ever was. Alexis allows Jason to stay at her apartment until he and Liza get reconciled and Drew lets him move back to the estate. They begin their love affair. While D.J. and Liza are home alone one day, they have a heart to heart conversation. Liza once again tries to seduce D.J. This time she's successful. While all this is going on in Southlake, Drew and Hillary deal with leaving Kevin in Houston. It's for his own good, but Hillary still can't believe it would ever come to this. She and Drew quickly reconcile and put their differences aside in order to make it through this tough situation. Drew didn't even tell Drake that he was leaving. He tries to reach out to D.J., who is his best friend, but D.J.'s too busy dealing with his own situations. Drake has been left feeling hurt and alone. He calls up Dr. Miles, packs some of his things, and meets up with her. They go to the Omni Hotel in Dallas to have a little weekend getaway vacation. From there, their relationship escalates to a whole new level, including intimacy. Drake really falls in love with Dr. Miles, but she is hiding the fact that she is married. She's fallen for Drake too, but doesn't want to break his heart, even though she knows that it's bound to happen sooner or later.

#### Episode 9

Drake has been with Dr. Miles and has fallen madly in love. Out of nowhere, her husband shows up at the hotel. They manage to sneak past him, but Drake ends up getting his heart broken. Drew and Hillary return to Southlake. D.J. and Liza continue to have their affair and nearly get caught by Hillary. Liza continues to reveal to D.J. everything wrong with her marriage and why she's so unhappy. Jason and Alexis get closer in their relationship. Jason really considers divorcing Liza, but her family's wealth is what gives him pause on that decision. Kendra lands D.J. a multi-million dollar endorsement deal with Nike. Kendra somehow manages to find out about D.J. and Liza and demands an end to it. Alana shows up at the Sheard Estate to deliver some drawings to Drew. When Drew briefly steps out, she and Hillary have an aggressive conversation. Jason meets with a DNA specialist regarding his paternity suit. It turns out that he is the father of five of the seven children. He pays the specialist to switch his DNA with that of another man's so that it looks like he's not the father. Afterwards, he goes to court and wins his case. He and Alexis celebrate. Drew has to handle some business and wants to take Drake to a special event with him. The only problem is that Drake is nowhere to be found and no one has seen him. Drake is apparently gone and no one can contact him in any way. Drew and Hillary begin to go into panic mode behind this. It just so happens that Southlake Preparatory Academy has to take a two week recess due to some serious structural damage to the school.

#### Episode 10

Drew is seriously worried because he can't find Drake. He and Hillary call everyone they know and try to track him down. Eventually Drew gets the police involved and sends out a search party. Drake has driven to a friend's house in San Antonio. He's left no trace of his path and as far as Drew knows, he's left the state of Texas. D.J. has a big game today and Drew promised to be there. Drew's focused all of his concern on Drake and misses the game. D.J. is disappointed and ticked off. He and Liza go back to the Sheard condo and spend the night with each other. Sahara and Chase go to a party where alcohol is served. Ivan goes with them. Sahara gets a little buzzed. Chase gets into a physical altercation because people heard that he was arrested after he was pulled over. Sahara (who's not totally drunk) decides to drive anyway. Ivan breaks up the fight with Chase and gets one of his friends to take his car while he drives Sahara and Chase home. Drew is driving around trying to find Drake. He calls D.J. and asks him to help, but D.J. is too disappointed with Drew to even answer his calls. Ivan brings Sahara home. She's buzzed and Chase is bruised. Carlos helps sneak them in and get them to their rooms before Hillary notices. Jason and Alexis meet up with someone she knows from the Texas Bar Association. They are getting all of the answers to the bar exam now so they'll pass after graduation. Drew goes all over Dallas-Ft. Worth to find Drake. The next day, D.J. and Liza return to the estate. Kendra is waiting for them inside. She's not happy to see D.J. fraternizing with Liza at all. Drew, D.J., and Kendra are scheduled to have a little meeting to prepare D.J for the official signing on ceremony with Nike and then a press conference for T.C.U. football. Hillary decides to take over since Drew has to deal with finding Drake alone. Drew refuses to call his ex-wife, Valencia, about this because he knows she'll behave badly. The family is concerned, but they don't know how to handle this situation. After Drew gets everyone on the phone (except Jason and Kevin), he really lays into them and tells them that the family needs to stick together in times of struggle. He then forces them to go out and look for him. He sends body guards with each of them. Carlos even voluntarily goes out and looks for Drake. Sahara calls her mother behind her father's back and tells her what's going on. Valencia and Carnell fly out the next morning and come to see about this entire situation.

#### Episode 11

Drew has taken the past few days off of work. His boss, Richard Addison (who shows a lot of favor towards Drew) allows him to take as much time off as he needs to find his MIA son. Drew has a lot of business to tend to, the kids have school, and there's a lot that has to be handled in the meantime. Everyone continues to go on with their daily lives. Drew goes to work during the day to handle some business on the job and at night he's focused on finding Drake. Hillary goes to the Southlake Preparatory Academy faculty and asks if they know anything. D.J. and Sahara go to the airport to pick up Valencia and Carnell. Drew knows nothing about this. They bring her back to the Sheard Estate and Valencia finally gets to meet Hillary. Liza goes to class and goes out with some friends to a café. While there, she

overhears some law students talking about Jason being with another woman. She then runs into Jason on the campus. She is still upset and hurt and walks away. She runs over to the athletic department on campus and takes D.J. out to lunch. This raises eyebrows. When Drew gets home later that evening, Hillary, D.J., Sahara, Valencia, and Carnell are waiting for him. Drew is completely caught off guard to see his ex-wife and his youngest son. Drew and Valencia have a private conversation and Hillary becomes offended because Drew doesn't want her to hear it. Drew calls in a detective who has connections in every major city. Drew, Valencia, and Hillary discuss strategies in order to find Drake with the detective. Hillary and Valencia become a little hostile when different viewpoints of the situation are expressed. This episode will have to be divided into two parts. The first part will end with a cliffhanger.

#### Episode 12

This episode opens up with Drew and Valencia having a conversation and getting ready to meet with the press in order to put out a reward for anybody who finds him. Hillary and Valencia don't seem to see eye to eye and Drew knows that it could get very chaotic. D.J., Liza, Sahara, and Chase attend this news release. Jason and Alexis continue to secure answers to the bar exam. Jason really enjoys Alexis's company and she enjoys his. They continue to go further into their relationship. After the press conference, D.J. and Liza return to the estate and become intimate once again. Sahara, Chase, and Carnell go out to lunch and return to the estate an hour later. Drew, Hillary, and Valencia still try calling around to everyone who knows Drake and try to locate him. He hasn't used his credit/debit cards or his cellphone. While D.J. and Liza are in bed, Drake calls D.J and reveals where he's at. He also tells him that he's coming home. When Sahara, Chase, and Carnell get home, they go upstairs and hear D.J. and Liza going at it (they think Jason's back home). They are shocked to find out about this and feel that Jason's finally got a taste of his own medicine. Later that evening, everyone is back home (except Jason and Kevin). Drake returns to the estate. D.J. brings him in and he has to deal with his parents face to face. Of course Drew and Valencia are livid, but they work to get to the bottom of this. Afterwards Valencia criticizes Drew heavily about how he handled this situation and Hillary steps in to defend Drew. Meanwhile, Drake and his siblings spend time together. They are happy to have him home.

#### Episode 13

- \*This is the season finale. It has to go out with a bang and leave the audience wondering what will happen in the next season. After all of the fiascos from this season, something else has to spark that will carry on into the next season in order to retain a loyal fan base. The following finale events that should be written are as follows:
- 1. Drew and Hillary have a major learning experience in their marriage
- 2. Jason moves back to the Sheard Estate and reconciles with Liza, but they continue to have problems because of his constant infidelities.

- 3. Kendra reveals to D.J. that she is pregnant with his child
- 4. D.J. and Liza continue to have an affair
- 5. Kevin remains in the drug detox facility in Houston
- 6. Drake deals with the scandal of his affair with his history teacher
- 7. Drew gets caught up in a corruption scandal with the many small companies that he owns and has to deal with being a target for death
- 8. A valet attendant is shot and killed delivering Drew's car. Someone is out to kill Drew and now they've murdered the wrong person.
- 9. Alarmed, Drew and Hillary send D.J., Drake, Sahara, and Chase, back to Los Angeles with Valencia and Carnell. They don't know if the person who attempted to kill Drew will come to the estate to try to do it again.
- 10. Jason and Liza go out for a date night and are kidnapped. Everyone automatically assumes this is an attempt to get at Drew. They are held for ransom.
- 11. Hillary is dealing with too much. She just sent Kevin away, she had kicked Jason out of the house and now has to be the third hand in their marriage, she had an unpleasant altercation with Valencia, someone is trying to murder her husband, and now everybody has to leave the estate to escape possible harm. She is internally going insane and doesn't really seem to have the mental strength to deal with all of this at once.

With all of the events listed above, the audience will be left in awe and wonder with the finale and now they will wonder what's to come in the next season.

### **Season 1 Character Arcs**

### **Drew**

Drew will quickly learn that no matter how much you keep your kids under your thumb, they will still rebel and do crazy things. He will basically remain the strong arm in the family and keep everything together to the best of his ability. He never really considered himself to be a celebrity, but now he's enlightened on how popular he really is. He knew he was well known, but he never thought that it would lead to a murder attempt against him. Through it all, he will still stay strong and tall.

## **Hillary**

Hillary will quickly learn how much of a standard she is held to because of the man she married. She will also find out that being Mrs. Drew Sheard has its benefits and its problems. She's not used to being an extremely wealthy woman, but she will find out the hard way that more money equals more problems.

## **Jason**

Jason will realize along with Hillary that having money isn't all it's cracked up to be. He will also learn that his mother isn't the pushover that she's been all of his life. He will grow to learn that Drew demands respect and will not tolerate stupidity. Jason also has to deal with actually having Liza find out about one of his affairs. He was to put on a façade for the public to look like he's a good and faithful husband and a good attorney, but he is truly just a conniving snake and won't change.

### Liza

Liza has to learn that Jason is a man and that he will do mannish things. Her whole world changes when she finds out that he's cheated on her. She still loves him and wants to stay married, but her feelings for D.J. have grown and she's finally connected with him in a way that she's never connected with Jason. Now she has to choose to stay married to Jason or leave him for D.J.

### <u>D.J.</u>

D.J. has to deal with trying to keep his life together. He's dealing with school, football, women, family, partying, endorsement deals, and trying to keep a good reputation and not embarrass his father. He learns that he was very stupid to begin an affair with Kendra and now he's got to deal with becoming a father. He's also dug another hole because of his affair with Liza. He's having some major regrets and will have to rely on family to make it through life.

### **Drake**

Drake was content with his life and enjoying his senior year of high school and attending a private academy. He had always pleased his father and been Drew's right hand man. He feels that he's let Drew down and has dragged the Sheard name through the mud. Now he has to deal with the scandal of the pictures of him and Dr. Miles going viral. He's reached a new low and doesn't know if people will ever look at him the same.

### **Kevin**

Kevin was complacent with his lifestyle of being slothful and on drugs. He really loves Drew and Hillary, but now he feels resentment toward them for sending him away. He thought he was loved by his siblings, but he quickly found out how much of an outcast he was in his own family. This stint in rehab will change him in many ways.

### **Sahara**

Sahara comes to terms that her father is remarried and that there is another woman in his life. She's always rejected Hillary because she's not Valencia, but Drew will force her to deal with it. She will continue to grow as a young lady and deal with life as a teenager, but she's got to remain mature and responsible in the process.

### **Chase**

Chase loved his new family. He enjoys having Drew as a stepfather. He's the only consistent father figure that he's ever had. He has to deal with entering the world of practical adulthood. He will be faced with many opportunities that will allow him to make choices. He enjoys being a rich kid and he will have to learn to grow maturely because his family seems to be falling apart and there's nothing he can do about it.

## **Carlos**

Carlos enjoys witnessing firsthand the drama that the wealthy go through. He really doesn't go through much change being that he is just the butler and his life seems to revolve around taking care of everyone who lives on the Sheard Estate.

## **Creator/Writer's Notes**

### To My Fellow Writers:

Bringing It All Together is first and foremost a <u>drama</u>. It is about people who are completely untamed and live life to the extreme. These characters should always be the most important element of every episode. We should try breaking the traditional rule of the drama genre and sacrifice plot at every turn in favor of character.

Do not be afraid to expose the characters' faults. Let the characters at least be true to themselves. Each child knows that have to keep a nice façade in order to prevent embarrassing Drew and Hillary. They are some of the richest of the rich and the main goal of the characters in this saga is to keep a good reputation and make it through life without any major drama.

These characters are deeply flawed, but they are deeply human characters. They are not, by nature, innately heroic or noble creatures. They are held to that standard, but they will never reach that level because they are nothing but ordinary people. They just have an extraordinary amount of wealth. They are simply ordinary people who find themselves in extraordinary circumstances. They do not always make the right decisions and they do not always do the right thing. They make mistakes, act out of pettiness and spite, and occasionally do things that are reprehensible. However, they are also very capable of growth, change, and learning to overcome their many flaws and rising to the challenges laid before them and performing great and mighty tasks. Remember, they are only human.

-Carnell R. Grayson

Creator/Writer