

Cast. Jimmy Baio (Billy), Billy Crystal (Jodie), Cathryn Damon (Mary), Katherine Helmond (Jessica), Jay Johnson (Chuck & Bob), Lynne Moody (Polly), Richard Mulligan (Burt), Marla Pennington (Leslie Walker), Ted Wass (Danny), Rod Roddy (Announcer), Kurtwood Smith (Guy in Laundromat)

Highlights. The complicated way Danny and Polly work out how to dry their clothes at the Laundromat, and Danny always thinking everybody's staring at them because they're a biracial couple when it turns out there are actually good reasons for them to be staring; Billy's sex-with-Leslie epiphany, followed by his flat out "you're wrong" when she says that sex isn't everything; Chuck & Bob rollerskating with Jodie, and Jodie shoving a standing Bob right out the kitchen door; and Jessica's left-field Superman reference when consoling Mary about the possibility that her child might be Alien Burt's.

Confused? You Won't Be. *'It's just not that simple.'*

▶ Harris and Silver have taken an interesting approach to the whole Danny-Polly biracial relationship here, making Danny's perceived persecution the problem, at least initially.

▶ Once again, the uber-competitive Gatling sisters (2.3) square off, this time over Mary's baby news. We learn that Jessica always knew what Mary was getting for her birthday, and even knew that Mary was getting engaged before she knew herself. (But Mary knew some things about Jessica's relationship with Chester in the beginning that Jessica didn't as we will learn in 4.14.)

▶ We get the first mention of baby Timmy in several episodes when Jessica suggests Mary's baby can have his hand-me-downs.

▶ Though Jessica telling Mary that Chester's been going to the minister's counseling sessions morning, noon and night makes us suspect he's still fooling around, we'll discover just how wrong we were next episode.

▶ The seeds for the forthcoming "flying baby" gag are planted here with Jessica's Superman talk. However, since when does Jessica accept Mary's story about Alien Burt?

Martha Black. The married neighbor down the block Mary thinks Danny is in love with at first.

The Relationship That Wasn't

Those who already had a bone to pick with *Soap's* unusual approach to televised morality probably dropped their evening cocoa during this episode: What greater sign of the coming apocalypse than a teacher bedding her student?

The actors and producers were worldly enough to treat it as just another bit of televisual make believe, but they were also honest enough creatively to admit when something just wasn't working. However much they tried to make Billy and Leslie Walker work as a couple—Jimmy Baio was just 17, and Marla Pennington about 27—you just couldn't fake a chemistry between them.

"[Baio] wasn't all that comfortable," Pennington admits. "We did one scene that never was shown about us being in the apartment and we were kind of 'together', and it had some funny things in it, but it just didn't click. We worked all week on it, but we just couldn't make it believable that we were a couple.

"The first night together, that scene was great, but it was the scene after that when we're supposed to be comfortable and glowing so we could maybe go further—we hardly got any laughs in the



After a believable romance failed to materialize between these two characters, producers decided to take a different, funnier route.