

BEST KID EVER

Pitch Deck

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Best Kid Ever

Logline

When the mom of a misguided, "third culture" teenager is deployed on a dangerous assignment overseas, he is sent to live with his uncle, a workaholic physics teacher, where they clash about life, school, and everything in between, while struggling to bond as a family.

Format/Genre

1/2 hour, single cam comedy/drama

Synopsis

Best Kid Ever is a heart-warming, clever, culture clash comedy, a light-hearted tug of war between teenager Jacob Whitmore and his uncle Noah Whitmore. Jacob tries to get Noah to relax. Noah tries to get Jacob to take things more seriously. Each episode opens with Noah and Jacob at breakfast before school. Maybe Jacob's trying to win tickets to a Drake concert and ends up dragging Noah to karaoke night at the local bistro. Each episode closes with Noah and Jacob ending their day on the front porch of Noah's house in Topanga.

Jacob finds a way to get into - and out of - trouble. while Noah struggles to be a good parent. Every week, Jacob and Noah stretch a little, sometimes out of their comfort zone, sometimes in a new directions, and, eventually, they reset to a new equilibrium, with a little more patience and a little more understanding for one another.



Celebrating the ordinary moments in life.

World

Malibu Academy

An elite private school. \$50,000 a year so that privileged children can do what they want, when they want. Students focus on building their resumes with advanced classes or a multitude of clubs dedicated to changing the world.

Where the language is *Malibu Speak*. Affirm a student's abilities and effort without judgment. Assignments aren't late; students "do not adhere to assignment deadline."

More than a typical
private school

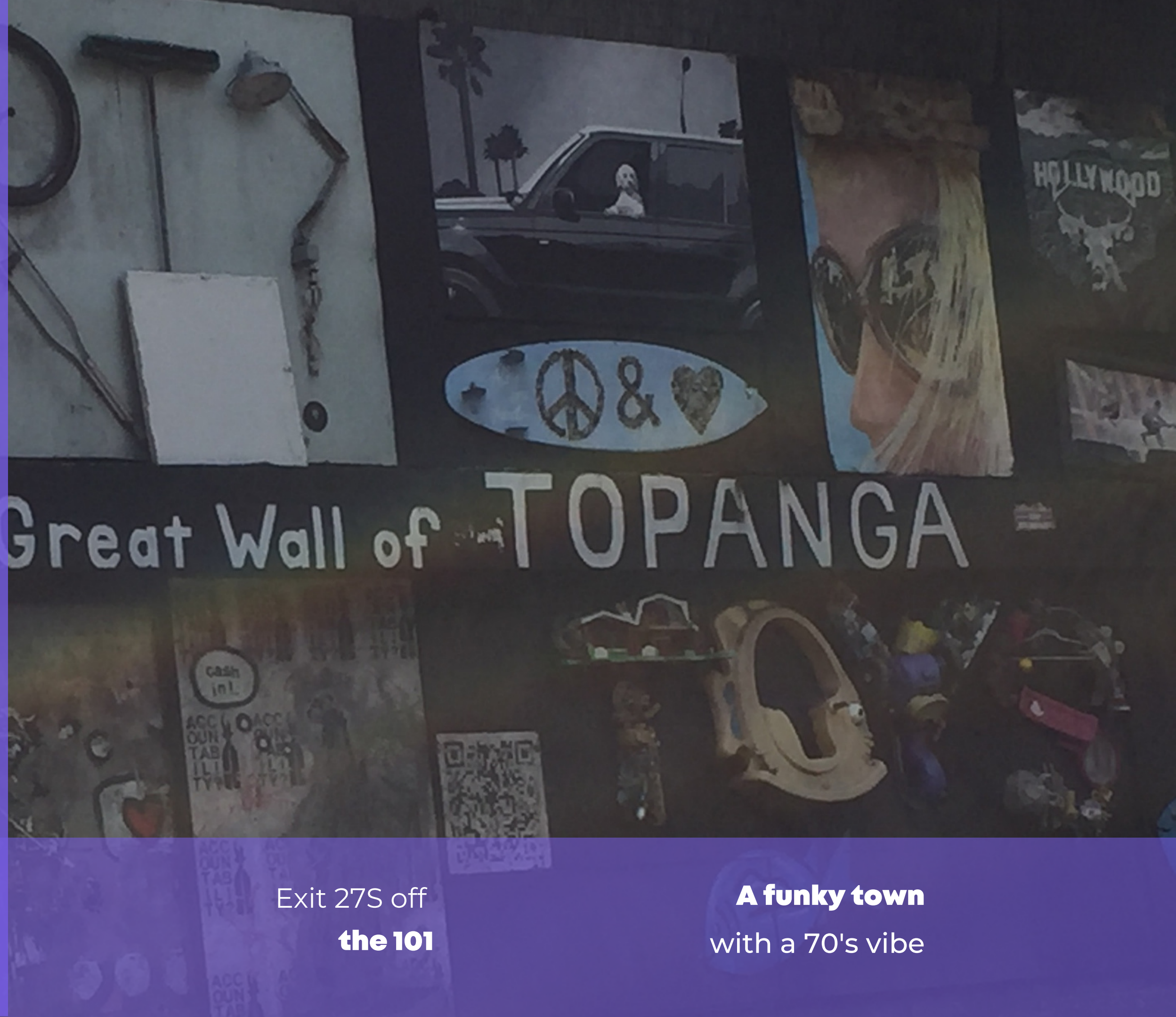
Community
of learners



World

Topanga, CA

Well-to-do census-designated town in Los Angeles County. A modern-day progressive sensibility. Teenage boys with long hair wear bell bottoms, flannel shirts, and an armload of mismatched bracelets. The Topanga Pig and the Great Wall of Topanga welcome visitors and residents to a world of vintage clothing stores, handmade candle shops, and farm-to-table specialty food stores.



Exit 27S off
the 101

A funky town
with a 70's vibe

World

Whitmore House

Well-worn, mid-century modern house in the Santa Monica Mountains. Could definitely use a coat of paint - or two - or three. But it's a home ready for love.

Everything has a place and there's a place for everything.

There's a wall of Teacher of the Month plaques, a pinball machine, a golf putter, and a bucket of golf balls.

A house filled with
love

Charming, classic
inviting, peaceful

Tone

The heart of Young Sheldon. The feel of Boy Meets World. A splash of Saved by the Bell. A light-hearted look at a modern family. A subtle tribute to the family sitcoms of the 80s and 90s. TGIF. A peek into the lives of Noah Whitmore, high school physics teacher, and his mischievous teenage nephew and "third culture kid," Jacob.



How did this new family come to be?



Themes

Ten years ago, I opened my doors to my quick-witted, Converse wearing teenage cousin Will. He needed a father figure. He need a chemistry tutor. I was hoping for Young Sheldon. I got Zack Morris. Will was hoping for Mr. Belding. He got Mr. Feeny.

Will and I have the story of a ten-year friendship to tell. That led me to write a series of books "based on stories that sorta, kinda, mighta happened to us," called *My Life with Lukas (on Topanga Canyon Boulevard)*.

1 + 1 = 2

Will and I get mistaken for father and son. It's funny how society defines fatherhood today.
Will and I get mistaken for boyfriends. It's funny how society defines relationships today.
Will and I have formed our own family. It's funny how society defines family today.
Will and I both cherish experiences, not material things. It's funny what society values.

There's an iconic image that shows a green goldfish swimming away from a school of gold goldfish. Who are you? How does the world define you and how do you define yourself?

An exploration of these themes through the lens of a new nuclear family. That's *Best Kid Ever*.

Noah Whitmore

Noah (35) is a physics teacher extraordinaire at Malibu Academy. He's single and his work defines him.

He's Mr. Chips trying to be Mr. Mom. He's a creature of habit. He orders the same Midnight Mocha Cold Brew. He food shops at 7 AM every Saturday. Not 7:30 AM. 7 AM.

Noah's very private with his feelings. He's got a big heart he'd love to share with someone. Anyone. He just never knows how to do it. He's getting older and the opportunity to start a family is slowly slipping away. He's "not getting any younger!" He's the guy at the faculty lunch table with no kid stories!

Noah's not lonely. He's just committed to the cause of teaching and he's determined to be a master teacher like his late mother. He's super creative. Unleash him at the beach, an amusement park or the mall and Noah can design a physics experiment around any scenario.

Noah thinks parenting will be breeze. After all, in school, he almost always makes the right "teacher decisions." He's in his element.



Over time, Noah realizes the greatest gift he's ever received. Jacob.

Jacob Whitmore

Jacob (15) is a third culture kid and Converse wearing teenager. He's lived everywhere but been nowhere. His location defines him.

He's Phineas. People want him to be Ferb. He just goes with the flow and finds he enjoys wherever the flow takes him.

Jacob's very private with his feelings. He's got a big heart he'd love to share with someone. Anyone. He just never has a chance to do it. He's the kid at the family event at school with no parents present.

Jacob is very artful. He gets out of trouble with the most creative explanations. He likes to stir the pot, grab a bag of popcorn and watch the fun unfold. He's also very smart. He likes reading Kierkegaard and he loves photography. Just don't ask him to join a school club.

Being a member of a real family is a new experience for Jacob. He may not admit it, but he needs the structure and guidance Noah's world can provide.



Over time, Jacob realizes the greatest gift he's ever received. Noah.



Matt Whitmore

Matt Whitmore

Matt (65) is a retired LAPD Commissioner. Think Ed Asner as Lou Grant as a cop. He's gruff with a zest for life!

Matt suffered a mild heart attack that forced his retirement. Playing cards at the senior center wasn't for him. He works security detail at the Staples Center. Criminal Minds calls Matt when they need an advisor.

Matt's free to putter around Noah's to fix things that don't need to be fixed or should have been fixed ages ago. He's also free to offer spontaneous parenting advice. This drives Noah crazy!

Susan Kennedy

If Jamie Lee Curtis needed a scene double, Susan would be it. Susan is the newly-appointed Dean of Students at Malibu Academy. She models the Malibu Mantra: everyone deserves a second (or third or fourth) chance.

Susan's got a full life. She teaches an elective at UCLA (her alma mater), she loves to bake, and she sells delicious homemade pies at the Topanga Creek general store.

Her husband of thirty years left her to become a priest. So she took a chance on love with Matt. She's happy she did! Sex at 65 is great!



Susan Kennedy



Emery Cooper

Emery Cooper

Emery (15) is a star student, school ambassador, captain of the Quidditch team, sophomore class president. And he's Black. His peers respect him but some incorrectly believe Emery's at Malibu Academy as part of an affirmative action plan, he's on a minority scholarship, or because his mom works there.

Emery's on a mission to prove he belongs at Malibu. He knows what it's like to be a member of a marginalized group. Just like Jacob.



Katie Cooper

Katie Cooper

Katie's a forty-year old chemistry teacher, Emery's mom, and object of Noah's unrequited affection.

Katie worked in pharmaceuticals and eventually quit when she accidentally discovered a way to synthesize cocaine. She want to use he knowledge for good. For her, Chem is try!

Katie's a staunch feminist who spends the weekend planning the next LA Women's March or kayaking off the Channel Islands.

Pilot: Best Chalamet Ever?

It's a Saturday night and Noah's home cleaning (how fun!) and ready to grade papers (even more fun) while his father Matt is ready to head out on a date with significant other Susan. Noah's surprised when his nephew Jacob arrives. His mom's been deployed to a dangerous new assignment a week early and Jacob's hopped a plane from Portugal to live with his Uncle Noah "for the time being."

Jacob can handle life in Topanga. He'll just cruise through. Noah thinks parenting will be a breeze. It's just like being a teacher. He'll be the "cool dad." He's already joined the PTA! What's up with that, Jacob asks. School's where I go to get away from parents.

Jacob works to maintain his individuality. He sneaks out to an all-night party. He convinces Noah to buy him a \$295 Hugo Boss shirt for school. He ditches his required dress shoes for his favorite Converse sneakers. And he forges Noah's signature on a medical form to get away with it. Being cool dad earns Noah an F in parenting!

Jacob's first day as a Seawolf is a rough one. He's got no patience for the rules. No signed lab form, illegal use of phone, slugging a trustee's son while defending a bullied student. Deep down Jacob cares. But he also knows how to operate. He manipulates the Welcome to Malibu Academy meeting into an apology tour. Noah turns into Tough Father Knows Best. Jacob skates at school Noah grounds him at home.

Jacob's ready to hitchhike out of town. He doesn't need this family. Noah's ready to give up. He doesn't need this family either. An impromptu backyard soccer game brings both to a new understanding of how they will define this new family. Jacob's going to be a handful. Challenge accepted!

B

Matt and Pat struggle to find some personal time.

C

Emery's school spirit annoys Jacob.



Act 1

Noah is going to discover himself as a parent. Jacob is going to discover himself.

Act 2

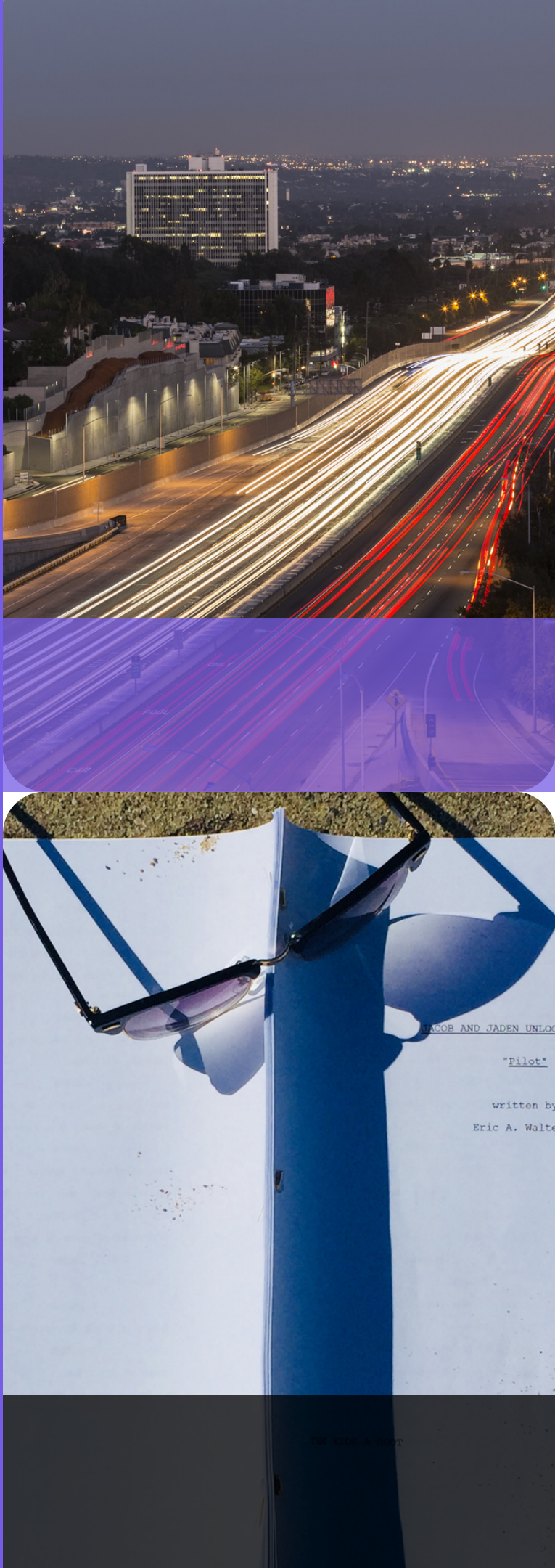
It's a bad first day at Malibu Academy for Jacob.

Act 3

Noah and Jacob come to an understanding about life in Topanga.

Season 1 Episodes

- Best Integral Ever? Jacob's been skipping his algebra class. He's bored and he should be in a much more challenging class. But he's got a learning issue to deal with.
- Best Assist Ever? Katie gets Jacob to volunteer as an assistant soccer coach. Jacob learns responsibility when he loses one of his charges.
- Best April Fools Ever? Jacob dares Emery to pull a prank. They get Saturday detention. Time to explore what it means to be an outsider at an insider institution. Meanwhile, Noah attends a female empowerment lecture with Katie.
- Best Dance Fever Ever? While away at a conference, Noah panics when he calls home and no one answers. Meanwhile, Matt and Pat try to spend a quiet weekend at the Malibu Inn.
- Best Shark Ever? Jacob is enamored when Noah's childhood friend, now a billionaire entrepreneur, visits Malibu Academy. Meanwhile, Emery tries to rally his peers to support a local food bank.
- Best Shakespeare Ever? Jacob's failure to complete an English paper puts the new Sunday Funday at the Santa Monica Pier in jeopardy.
- Best Full House Ever? Jacob's attempt to turn the Whitmore house into an AirBnB to pay for a scratch on Noah's beloved Audi turns into a disaster.
- Best Carnivale Ever? Noah volunteers to work on the school Carnival with Jacob but Jacob soon finds Noah's work ethic drives him crazy.
- Best Jacobgate Ever? Jacob is nominated for Class President, putting him in direct competition with Emery. It's a battle between good intentions and a good platform.
- Best Pilot Ever? Noah and Jacob visit Paramount. Jacob disrupts the taping of a TV sitcom pilot. But he discovers he likes acting.
- Best Dream Ever? After a long day, Jacob dreams he's Bud from Father Knows Best, Mike Seaver from Growing Pains, and Ricky Stratton from Silver Spoons.
- Best Family Ties Ever? Jacob is paired with trustee kid Pearce's girlfriend for a marriage exercise and learns being a dad is more challenging than he imagined.
- Best SigAlert Ever? Noah and Jacob are stuck in Carmageddon. A deep, honest conversation highlights their emotional needs.
- Best Boy Meets World Ever? Noah is nominated for the prestigious Malibu Academy Teacher of the Year Award but news that Jacob's mother has been killed in action devastating the Whitmore family.



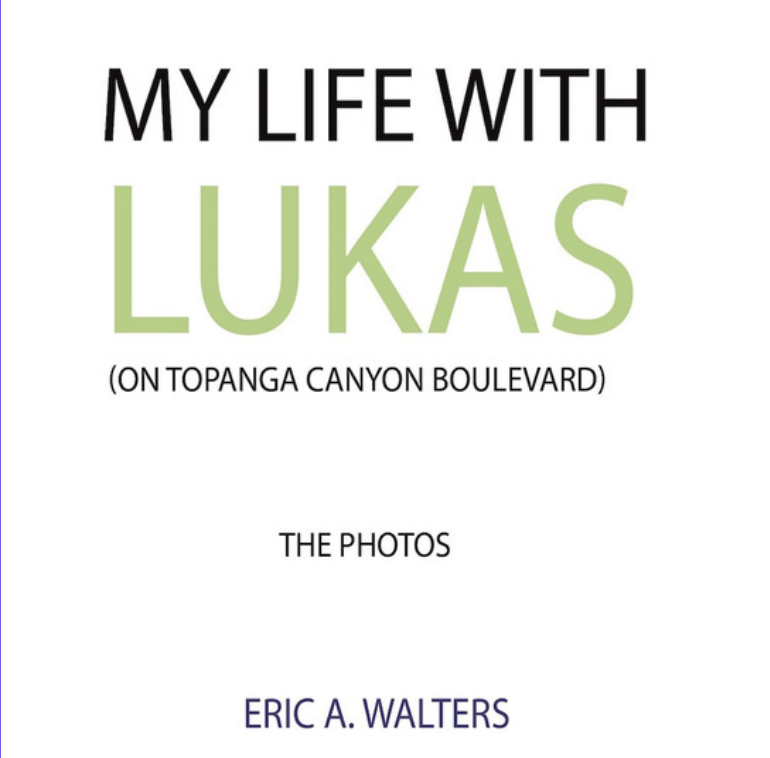
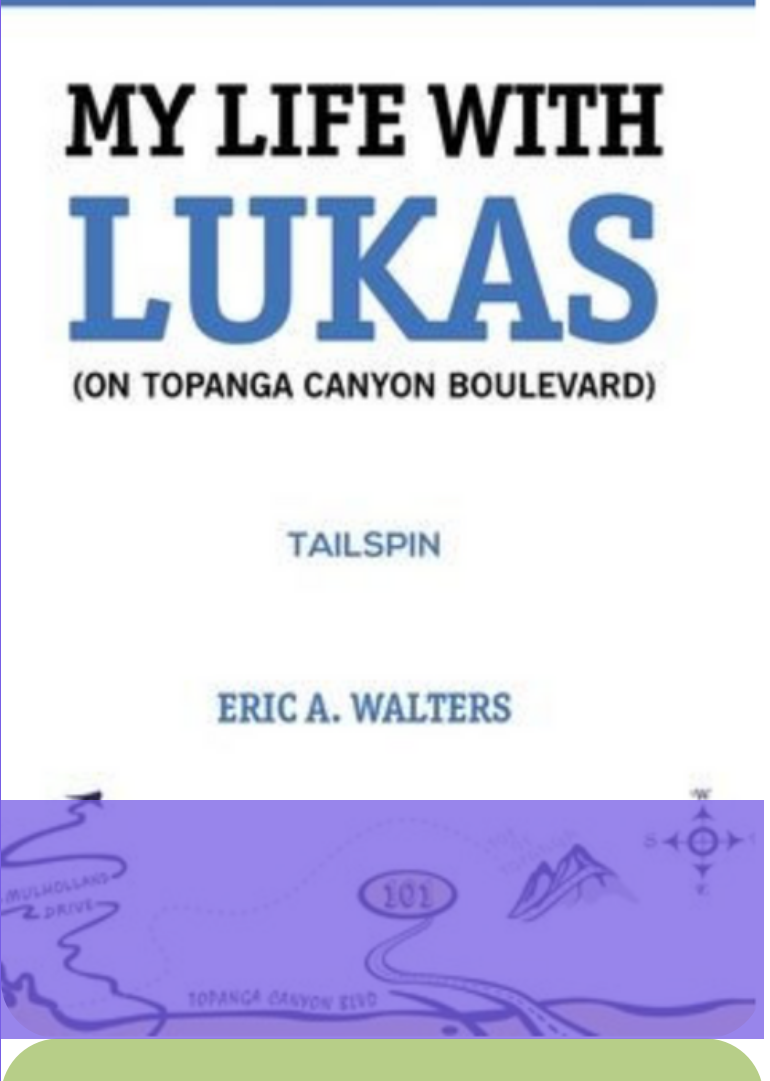
Season 2

Jacob and Noah figure out life together and individually.

After the sudden death of Jacob's mother (and Noah's sister) at the end of season one, Jacob soon realizes his stay in Topanga will be permanent. Jacob endures several character tests during the season - from a cheating scandal that sweeps through the school to standing up for Emery when a racial message is scrawled in the bathroom. Jacob's biggest test - his father is released from prison and shows up in Malibu, ready to reclaim Jacob. Jacob feels he's being pulled in different directions, leading to Jacob and Emery getting drunk and then arrested. These are all parenting challenges for Noah. But he knows what he has to do. He steps up to become Jacob's legal guardian.

Season 3

Jacob's fully settled in Topanga and he appreciates Noah's commitment to being the best dad possible. Jacob's fully committed to being the best kid ever. As their relationship continues to mature, Jacob explores his interest in acting while Noah finally explores his interest in writing. This gives both Jacob and Noah the confidence to explore new relationships. Jacob also realizes that college is getting closer and his years of wasting his academic talents might negatively impact his future. Noah's unbending belief in Jacob's abilities prompts Jacob's new positive attitude towards his studies. The season ends with an identity-defining moment for Jacob.



My Life with Lukas

The world is filled with thousands of stories. We write to tell our stories and the stories of others.

Back in 2018, a conversation with another teacher at the Jewish Heritage Museum in New York City set me on the path to story-telling and self-publishing. I wanted to tell them story of my experiences with my teenage cousin. I wanted to tell the story of a physics teacher whose life changed when his teenage cousin entered his life. As a result, *My Life with Lukas (on Topanga Canyon Boulevard)* born.

I wrote these stories for myself. The next step in this writing journey was sharing these stories. with others. To date, I have self-published four books in the series: The Photos, Junior Year, Best Kid Ever, and Tailspin. The fifth book in the series will be published in Fall 2022. The books are available on Amazon, Apple Books, and Barnes and Noble.

Have I sold a million copies? No. Have I sold one thousand copies? No. I've sold copies to friends and family. And that is just fine with me. I love the stories I have told and the stories I have shred.

My Life with Lukas (on Topanga Canyon Boulevard) is the basis for my sitcom, Best Kid Ever.

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