
Series summary: Family comedy with a serious undertone set in the contemporary U.S. After divorcing her abusive, alcoholic husband and recovering from her own alcoholism, Grace (Butler) tries to rebuild her life and protect her children from making the same mistakes. Wade Swaboda (Sander), her next-door neighbor is a Vietnam vet and a political conservative.

Fire in the hole (1/20/1998)

Credits: director, Phil Ramuno; writer, Paul J. Raley.
Cast: Brett Butler, Casey Sander, Ed Marinaro, Caitlin Cullum
Summary: Wade (Sander) shows up with Dan Gabriel (Marinaro), his old commanding officer in Vietnam, who's now a covert operations/demolition expert. Dan and Grace begin a verbal sparring match almost immediately. He's a warrior and a hard-core conservative, and Grace hates everything he stands for. Later, Dan has no trouble winning over Jean, and he talks to Grace's daughter Libby (Cullum) about how to use psychological intimidation to defend herself against a bully who put gum in her hair. An angry Grace tells Dan to keep himself and his violent approach to life away from her kids, but their conversation ends in a passionate kiss. Grace is horrified that she's madly attracted to a guy she hates, and it's obvious that Dan is equally attracted. But Dan dives into the river to do some demolition work for D.C. and doesn't come back out. Everyone assumes he's dead, but later, Dan, very much alive, appears at Grace's and tells her he faked his death because he needs to disappear for awhile, but he'll be back to see her.

Up on the roof (10/6/1993)

Credits: director, Michael Lessac; writers, Chuck Lorre, Bob Dolan Smith.
Cast: Brett Butler, Casey Sander, Jon Paul Steuer, Dave Thomas.
Summary: Grace's son Quentin (Steuer) is showing mood swings which are puzzling to Grace. Perhaps he needs a male role model. Wade (Sander) tries to provide some help based on his Vietnam experience. Grace tells Russell (Thomas) that she is not ready to have a new relationship. These serious discussions take place up on the roof.

Boedeker, Hal. “ABC scores with new Grace under fire” Miami herald (Sep 29, 1993), p. 1E.
Cerone, Daniel. “Most likely to succeed (or wilt) in the heat” Los Angeles times (Sep 29, 1993), Calendar, p. 1.
Holston, Noé. “Grace’ doesn’t rely on choice time slot” Star tribune (Sep 29, 1993), p. 13E.
Stewart, Susan. “‘Grace’ throws some mean verbal jabs” *Detroit free press* (Sep 29, 1993), p. 1D.