

Sleeping With The Television On

"Pilot"

by

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COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

EXT. MUNICIPAL PARK - MONROE, GEORGIA -- LATE EVENING

Under a big oak tree next to a park bench stand two working class women, face to face - DIANE (22), statuesque and athletic, she sports a no-nonsense haircut and tennis shoes - and LENORA (26), short and thick and wearing a pleather jacket; she looks like the years have worn her down, but she still has some awesome cleavage to show off.

From Diane's POV we see Lenora close up - she's got crazy eyes and is gesturing wildly with a lock blade knife and is mouthing off about something -- but we can't hear anything she's saying -- only the sounds of Diane's inner monologue.

DIANE (V.O.)

Oh dear Lord how did I get here?
This girl is crazy and I'm scared.
... What would momma have told me
to do? Momma would have told me to
not come to meet this nut job here
in the first place.

(a full beat)

Why do I get myself in these
situations? I mean, this isn't even
my scrap - there's nothing in it
for me anyways.

Lenora continues her tirade in a very excited and animated fashion and is now crying as she waves the knife around. Her heavy makeup is running down her face.

DIANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

C'mon Diane just stay cool and keep
a little distance from her. She's
not mad at you, she just needs to
vent a little -- okay, a lot. ... I
really need to get some new friends
... I need to get a new everything.
Momma would be so angry with me
right now. ... I've got to get out
of here somehow.

ACT ONE

INT. GRANNY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MORNING

SUPER: "EARLIER IN THE WEEK"

Diane rouses out of sleep on the couch as the 'Today' show plays on the television across from her. Watching the show from her chair is GRANNY (65), who catches Diane's eye with a look of disapproval.

GRANNY

I told you about watching that boob tube late at night - that's why you can't sleep good. You need to just get up and go to bed. ... And now you're about to be late for work.

DIANE

(Groggy)
What time is it?

GRANNY

It's almost eight o'clock. There's coffee made in the kitchen.

Diane drags herself up off the couch and slowly walks to the

INT. GRANNY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Seated at the kitchen table are Diane's aunt KELLY (39) - pretty, but dresses like a teenager - and her boyfriend SANDY (28) - his perfectly coiffed hair and manicured pencil thin beard don't quite match his t-shirt and sweat pants combination - it doesn't look as if he has a job to go to.

DIANE

(to Granny, OS)
I don't have to be at work until ten today. So I slept in.

KELLY

(filling her travel mug)
Lucky you. I am so late - gotta run.

(to Sandy)

The bathroom needs to be cleaned today, okay?

SANDY

Yeah, yeah. I'll get to it.

Kelly gives him a kiss on the cheek and tousles his hair.

KELLY

I'll be home at five-thirty sweetie
- love you.

SANDY

(fixing his hair)
Okay, love you too.

Kelly heads out the door as Granny walks into the kitchen and gets a cup of coffee.

GRANNY

You know Diane, it's coming up on
one year since your mom passed.

DIANE

And?

GRANNY

Kelly and I thought we should do
something - maybe a little get
together?

DIANE

You mean a party?

GRANNY

No, not that. Just something.

DIANE

I don't wanna talk about it.

GRANNY

(taking her coffee back
into the living room)
Well, it's something to think
about.

Sandy, clearly uncomfortable, stands up to go top off his cup of coffee. The back end of his sweat pants reads "Juicy".

DIANE

You do know that your butt has a
description on it, right?

SANDY

I know, I know ... but all of my
sweats were dirty.
(grins)
Besides - you know ... truth in
advertising and all.

INT. KROGER GROCERY, CHECKOUT AREA - LATER THAT MORNING

The front end checkout area of Kroger is rather dead, but the workers busy themselves with cleaning and other duties during the lull. Diane cleans around her cash register as her cousin JIMMY (21), short and prematurely losing hair, sweeps the front of the store.

JIMMY

Okay, here's one for you - who is the best grounds keeper in movies and TV - Carl Spackler from 'Caddyshack' or Groundskeeper Willie from 'The Simpsons'?

DIANE

(laughing a little)
That's a tough one. But I'd have to go with Carl - I like his stance on killing all the gophers.

JIMMY

(doing Bill Murray impression)
Check me if I'm wrong Diane, but if we kill all the golfers, they're gonna lock us up and throw away the key...

DIANE

(bad Scottish accent)
Not golfers you dimwit! Gophers!
The little brown furry rodents!

They have a short laugh together and are approached by another cashier, PATRICK (47), who walks with a stilted grandpa cadence. He undoubtedly owns many cats and cardigan sweaters.

PATRICK

Hello Diane ... Jimmy. What's all the commotion?

DIANE

Oh, we're just joking about movies and stuff.

PATRICK

Oh, yes. Movies are fun. And I like jokes too. ... You know, since Johnny was arrested last week they're looking to promote someone to front end manager.

JIMMY

Yeah. I guess they can't have a front end manager with too many DUIs.

PATRICK

Yes, I imagine so. I've never gotten a DUI, you know - since I don't drink. ... I might apply for it - the position, I mean. ... What do you think about that Diane?

DIANE

Oh, um, I, uh ...

Two cash registers down stands SHERRIE (30) - with her large costume earrings and arsenal of cashier vest buttons displaying self-affirming slogans, it's clear that she leaves a large wake. Her interest in the conversation is now piqued. She casts an incredulous "is he serious?" look at Diane and Jimmy.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Well, you've been here for twenty-something years ... and, um, you're a fine cashier. So .. why not?

PATRICK

Well, thank you Diane. I agree - why not?

Patrick shuffles back to his register as Sherrie rolls her eyes and shakes her head.

As Diane gets back to cleaning her register Jimmy is approached by GRAY(24) - about six foot with chiseled features and hair too styled for a small town guy - he seems kind of like a frat boy who forgot to go to college.

GRAY

Hey, half-pint, we need you to go bring in some buggies from the parking lot.

DIANE

His name is Jimmy.

GRAY

Whatever.
(to Jimmy)
Well? ... Go!

JIMMY

It's starting to rain ... and we have plenty of buggies inside already.

GRAY

Do you want to get written up?

DIANE

You don't have the authority to write him up.

GRAY

I can tell CRAIG that he's being insubordinate to the assistant supervisor.

DIANE

Really? The assistant super--

JIMMY

(interrupting and upset)
Screw it! I'll get you some damned buggies! Are you happy?

Jimmy storms off and walks out the front door - and is soon drenched. Gray gives Diane a self-satisfied look but she stares him down with steely eyes. They remain in a standoff stare until Sherrie notices the situation and walks over - she stands shoulder to shoulder with Diane.

SHERRIE

What the hell are you looking at Backstreet Boy?

GRAY

Nuthin.

He turns and walks away as Diane never breaks her stare.

SHERRIE

(to Diane)
That boy's like a cabbage - all head and no butt. He aint got nothin to say to us.

DIANE

He needs an attitude adjustment - that's for sure.

SHERRIE

Backstreet thinks that he's gonna be the new front end manager.

(MORE)

SHERRIE (CONT'D)

But I'm applying for it too. You're in my corner on this right?

DIANE

Well, sure, but it's not like I have a say in it or anything.

SHERRIE

No, you do - they're calling it a three-sixty review, whatever that means.

DIANE

That means it involves multiple vantage ... uh, it doesn't matter - if they ask me about you I'll give you a really good recommendation - of course.

SHERRIE

But you're not gonna give cabbage head boy a good rec though, right?

DIANE

Of course not!

SHERRIE

What about the freak show?

DIANE

Who?

SHERRIE

Freak show; you know, Patrick.

DIANE

Oh he's nice, I can't say bad things about him - even if he is weird.

SHERRIE

I thought you were gonna be on my side on this thing.

DIANE

I am but ... I tell you what - I'll say more nice things about you than about him. How's that?

SHERRIE

(still a bit miffed)
Well, I guess it'll have to do.

INT. TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLASSROOM - NIGHT

The class INSTRUCTOR, is winding down her lecture as Diane and her friend CATHY begin shuffling their books.

INSTRUCTOR

Okay folks that's it for today.
Please remember that we have a test
next class over the last four
chapters.

Cathy puts on some lip gloss while still in her seat. She's a petite version of Katy Perry, but blonde and without the subtlety. Diane gets up and begins loading her bookbag.

DIANE

So, you're still meeting me and
Kelly at Applebee's tonight?

CATHY

Of course. Who else is coming?

DIANE

Just Kelly and Sandy ... Jimmy
might drop by too.

CATHY

Seriously?

DIANE

What?

CATHY

He can be kind of creepy.

DIANE

He is my favorite cousin and he's
been nothing but nice to you - and,
might I add, he was nice to you
back in high school - before all of
this

(motioning toward Cathy's
rather ample bosom)

Was acquired. ...

CATHY

Fair enough. But if he starts
staring I'm gonna pour a beer in
his lap.

(finishes her lip gloss)

Oh yeah, um, Gray might drop by.

DIANE
You know I don't like him.

CATHY
Well, we're kind of ... you know
...

DIANE
What? I thought that was a one time
thing.

CATHY
It was ... and then it became a two
time thing and then three ...

DIANE
(interrupting)
He has a girlfriend.

CATHY
That's why were meeting during her
shift at Chili's. Working with her
and knowing her shifts is awesome.

DIANE
No, it is not awesome. This is
going nowhere good. Mark my words.

INT. APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Diane and Jimmy join Kelly and Sandy at a large table full of
appetizers and drinks.

KELLY
(to Diane)
So, Granny asked you about the
anniversary get together, right?

DIANE
I don't wanna talk about it.

KELLY
Diane, it's Granny so it's gonna
happen.

DIANE
Fine.

KELLY
Just so you know, it was not my
idea. But ... it might be nice ...
and helpful ...

DIANE

(moving on)

I wonder where Cathy is ... she
said she be here at nine.

SANDY

Who cares? She's usually just stays
on her phone texting all the time
anyway.

JIMMY

Hey, she's popular - she's a very
busy girl.

KELLY

Aw, that's sweet - Jimmy's sticking
up for his crush.

JIMMY

Hey, somebody's got to - Diane
ain't saying nothing.

DIANE

(looking up from her
phone)

What? Oh, she's sent me a text that
she'll be here in a minute.

KELLY

I remember when y'all were in high
school she was just a skinny little
thing who couldn't even get a date -
that's all changed now that she's
she got herself a makeover.

SANDY

More like a 'boobover'.

JIMMY

God bless that plastic surgeon and
her momma's Visa card.

They all have a little LAUGH as Cathy finds her way to the
table through the crowd of diners.

DIANE

Well, speak of the devil ...

CATHY

You'd better mean 'sexy devil'.

She sits down as Diane places a glass of beer in front of
her. She takes a sip and notices Jimmy staring at her.

CATHY (CONT'D)
 (deliberately)
 Hello Jimmy. How are you?

JIMMY
 Oh, I'm fine ... just chillin with
 my people, ya know.

Jimmy leans on the table with his elbow to look super casual
 and knocks over his own beer - it spills on Diane's lap.

DIANE
 Crap! Granny's gonna smell beer on
 my jeans.

SANDY
That is the most heinous form of
 alcohol abuse.

KELLY
 (to Diane)
 We can wash them at my place. ...
 But I think Jimmy should buy the
 next round.

JIMMY
 Fair enough.

Seemingly out of nowhere Gray appears and covers Cathy's eyes
 from behind.

GRAY
 Guess who?

CATHY
 Is it an assistant supervisor?

GRAY
 (uncovering her eyes)
 Soon to be front end manager. Did I
 hear Jimmy was buying drinks?

JIMMY
 (very much under his
 breath)
 Not for you ...

GRAY
 Huh? What's that?

DIANE
 Cathy, you know that we don't even
 have a supervisor at Kroger, right?

GRAY & CATHY

So?

DIANE

So, don't you find the title of
'assistant supervisor' a little odd
in that situation?

GRAY

Whatever.

There's an awkward silence.

CATHY

(to Gray)

Hey, you were gonna show me that
thing in your truck ... you know
that we talked about ...

GRAY

Oh ... oh yeah, that.

CATHY

(grabbing her purse)

We gotta run.

(to Diane)

See you tomorrow.

GRAY

(to Jimmy on his way out)

Hey, you owe me a beer, little man.

Everyone is a bit stunned at their sudden departure and Jimmy
is just stewing - staring down into his beer.

KELLY

Well, that was weird.

A palpable silence. Jimmy is still stewing.

SANDY

Hey, how about next round is on me?

Diane and Kelly look at him quizzically.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Okay, it's on Kelly's card, I know,
but I declared it, all right?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. KROGER GROCERY, STORE MANAGER'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Diane sits across from the store manager, CRAIG (46) who wears a tie with a short sleeved dress shirt. They overlook the entire store with a large one-way bay window.

CRAIG

Thanks for meeting with me Diane.
As you know were talking with everyone about this new promotion.
(looks down at a manual)
First, do you have any questions about this process?

DIANE

Um, no, I don't think so.

CRAIG

(checks the manual again)
I'm going to ask you about some of your co-workers but everything discussed here is confidential - that means that I won't tell anyone about what we discuss.

DIANE

I'm, uh, I'm familiar with the term.

CRAIG

Yes, of course. Now, the first candidate I'd like to discuss is Patrick. What do you think of him as a possible front end manager?

DIANE

Well ...

CUT TO:

INT. CHILI'S RESTAURANT, FRONT VESTIBULE - SAME TIME

Gray canoodles with Lenora just inside the front door. Standing beside the hostess desk stands Cathy, looking a bit put out. But over Lenora's shoulder (while they're hugging) Gray gives a wink to Cathy and her face lights up.

While she can't see exactly what's happened, Lenora appears to detect that something's off - Gray's attention is not on her. She looks over toward the hostess desk and Cathy looks away, quickly, and engages the hostess in conversation.

Gray gives Lenora a kiss goodbye and heads out to the parking lot. About the same time Cathy makes a dash to the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. KROGER GROCERY, STORE MANAGER'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

CRAIG

That's good input on Patrick, thank you. You know, not a lot of people know this, but he and I went to high school together.

DIANE

Oh. He seems ... older.

CRAIG

Well thank you. I do try to take care of myself. Now, what are your thoughts on Gray as a manager?

DIANE

None of my thoughts on Gray are positive.

CRAIG

Really? Okay, okay, well ... moving forward ... what about Sherrie?

DIANE

I think she'd be a very good front end manager. She's very ... she has a strong, uh, presence ... and ...

CUT TO:

INT. CHILI'S RESTAURANT, FRONT VESTIBULE - SAME TIME

Lenora wanders toward the partially obscured front window and, hiding behind a window advertisement, peers out onto the parking lot.

From her POV we see, at the far end of the parking lot, Cathy, running up to Gray's driver's side window. The two appear to talk and then Cathy quickly pokes her head into the truck - perhaps kissing, but it's hard to tell.

Nevertheless, Lenora is beside herself. She starts welling up with tears and runs toward the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. KROGER GROCERY, STORE MANAGER'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

CRAIG

Thanks Diane, this has all been very helpful. Now, I'd like talk with you a little about your views on how the front end should be run.

DIANE

Why?

CRAIG

Well, let's just say I'm curious. So, for instance, how would you handle allocating the shifts and schedules for the cashiers?

DIANE

Um, okay, I suppose I'd mainly think about seniority and how good of a worker they are. I mean there are other things you'd have to consider beyond that like kids and class schedules, but those are the main things.

CRAIG

Very interesting; very thoughtful. What about disciplining people for being late?

DIANE

Well, I think you'd first have to have to put together a set of rules and penalties on it and then ...

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL/PUBLIC TRACK - NIGHT

A good number of walkers and a few runners round the track that encircles the local high school football field. Diane and Cathy are in their sweats and running shoes doing an alternating run and walk routine, but mainly walking.

As they walk they are overtaken on the inside lane by two very primped and polished women in matching track suits, ASHLEY (21) and JESSICA (21).

ASHLEY

(as they pass)
Hey y'all!

CATHY

(a little flat)
Hey - how are y'all?

JESSICA
 (past them now)
 Great. Nice night, huh?

DIANE
 Yeah. See ya.

CATHY
 (slightly lowered voice)
 ... I mean, how long did it take to
 coordinate the matching outfits and
 pony tail ribbons?

DIANE
 When their power walk synchronizes
 their pony tails bob back and forth
 together perfectly - like golden
 retriever tails.

CATHY
 Why can't they just do like the
 other cheerleaders and go off to
 college?

DIANE
 Well ... I mean, you could say the
 same thing about us ...

CATHY
 (interrupting)
 But their families have money!

DIANE
 Yeah ... I suppose.
 (a full beat)
 Speaking of family - I don't think
 I'm gonna get out of this
 anniversary for momma thing Granny
 wants to do ... You'll come, right?

CATHY
 Yeah, of course ... assuming I'm
 still alive.
 (a little nervous laugh)

DIANE
 What?

Diane stops in her tracks and so does Cathy.

CATHY
 I think that Lenora might know that
 there's something going on.

DIANE
Why do ya think that?

CATHY
Well, she's been acting a little weird toward me at work and yesterday Gray said that he caught her looking at his phone.

DIANE
Do you text or call him on it?

CATHY
Well, yeah, of course. But I assume that he deletes it all.

DIANE
That is a bad assumption! I'm pretty sure she knows.

CATHY
We don't know that, absolutely. So, I talked with Gray - not on the phone - and ...

DIANE
(interrupting)
You're ending it, right?

CATHY
Well, no, but we're going to be more careful about things. ... He's gonna break up with her soon and then we'll wait a while and then start dating ... in public.

DIANE
You think he's gonna break up with her? ... Really?

CATHY
Really.

There's an awkward pause - Cathy is clearly stressed out. Diane leans in and gives her a quick hug.

DIANE
Come on let's run a little bit.
(smiles)
We gotta get you in shape for your fight with Lenora.

CATHY
(as they both start
jogging)
Don't even say that - she's scary.

INT. GRANNY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN

Granny, Diane, and Kelly stand in the midst of an elaborate peach canning assembly area that takes up most of the kitchen.

Diane halves, pits, and peels the peaches as Kelly assembles the mason jars and lids and Granny prepares the light syrup on the stove.

DIANE
I just don't see why we can't do
this thing a little later - maybe
on momma's birthday or something.

GRANNY
No, this weekend is best - your
great aunt Jean is in town and
she'd like to come.

KELLY
Not that many people will be here -
maybe fifteen or twenty at most.

Diane puts some peaches in a mason jar and Granny pours some hot syrup on them. Kelly goes to put the top on but Granny stops her, waving her off.

GRANNY
(to Kelly)
Let them cool a little while before
you do that.

DIANE
You know not everyone grieves the
same way. Not everyone wants to
have a party - some of us just want
to deal with it on our own.

GRANNY
Oh honey, it's not a party ...

KELLY
(interrupting)
It's a celebration of your mom's
life.

GRANNY

And those people will be there to support you.

Diane places peaches into another mason jar and Granny fills it with hot syrup.

GRANNY (CONT'D)

(to Kelly)

Okay, you can cap that first one now.

DIANE

Well I don't need people to support me. I want to be left alone. I don't see why the default response to grieving is that you to have to host a social event.

Granny acknowledges her statement with a slight nod and motions toward another jar to be filled.

GRANNY

Honey, I know that you miss your momma and it hurts. But there's more to it than that. I lost a daughter and Kelly lost her sister. There's a lot of pain to go around.

Diane's expression reveals that she does not like the direction of the discussion and she grudgingly drops some peaches in the empty jar.

GRANNY (CONT'D)

... Besides, there's something else...

Granny looks plaintively to Kelly.

KELLY

(touching Diane's hand)

Something's happened that may make this ... what's happened ... a little easier to, you know ...

DIANE

What on earth are you two talking about?

KELLY

I'm ...

(smiles broadly)

I'm pregnant!

DIANE

What? Are you serious?

GRANNY

Of course she's serious. ... Kelly,
cap that last jar.

Kelly goes to cap the jar but Diane grabs her and hugs her closely - she's started crying and Kelly starts a little too. Diane pulls away slowly and wipes her eyes.

DIANE

(to Kelly)

Oh, I don't even know what to say.
I'm so happy. I'm gonna have a new
cousin!

(to both of them)

And of course we can have some
people over for momma's anniversary
... especially now that we have
something like this to talk about.

Sandy enters the kitchen door to the sight of three women brimming with tears.

SANDY

What ... what's going on?

KELLY

You tell him Granny.

GRANNY

Are you sure?

KELLY

Sure - why not?

GRANNY

Okay then.

(to Sandy)

Well son, it looks like you've gone
and gotten someone pregnant.

SANDY

(ashen)

What? No ...

(to Kelly)

Baby, whatever someone has told
you, it's a lie. I have been
nothing but faithful to you ... I
swear to God!

KELLY

No, you stupid wonderful idiot. I'm pregnant.

SANDY

Oh. ... Oh shit!

(to Kelly)

But I mean shit in a good way!

(to Granny)

And you're gonna be a grandmother!

GRANNY

(flatly)

I'm already a grandmother.

Granny rolls her eyes and Diane chuckles as Kelly hugs Sandy and they kiss.

INT. CHILI'S RESTAURANT, DINING ROOM - LUNCH TIME

Jimmy sits patiently at his table - in Cathy's section of course. Cathy approaches the table with a subtle eye roll but is all smiles when she gets there.

CATHY

Hello Jimmy. How are you?

JIMMY

Oh ... Cathy, imagine seeing you here.

CATHY

Right. Will you be having your usual double stack with cheese fries?

JIMMY

No. I've been getting fit and staying in shape.

CATHY

(fake interest)

Really?

JIMMY

In fact, I now belong to a fairly exclusive group of men who can bench press nearly one-half of their body weight.

CATHY

Well ... okay then. A salad?

JIMMY

The fried chicken salad, please,
with extra ranch dressing ... and a
coke. Diet coke.

CATHY

Got ya.

Cathy turns around and right in her face stands Lenora - and she has a wild look in her eyes. She's just a little taller than Cathy, but is stouter and looks as though she could open a beer bottle on her forearm. She is smiling but speaking through gritted teeth.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Geez, you scared the crap out me!

LENORA

Maybe that's good. Maybe that's
what you need.

CATHY

What ... what's wrong with your
mouth? Why are you talking through
your smile?

LENORA

Because I'm not going to get fired
for causing a scene - at least not
today. You and I need meet to
address this situation with Gray.

CATHY

(weakly)

I ... I don't know what you're
talking about.

LENORA

(even more angry, but
still with gritted smile)

You will meet me at the park at six
o'clock or I'll handle this at work
tomorrow - and then I'll be double
pissed because that means I'll be
getting fired. Your choice, bitch.

Lenora turns on her heel and heads to the kitchen. Cathy looks like she's seen a ghost and Jimmy isn't much better.

JIMMY

She ... that girl did not blink her
eyes - not once. She has no soul.

Cathy covers her face in her hands and runs to the bathroom.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What about my fried chicken salad?

INT. KROGER GROCERY, CHECKOUT AREA - LATER

Sherrie and Diane work on side-by-side cash registers as Diane turns off her light and begins to shut down her resister. The store is pretty dead - very few customers.

SHERRIE

You closing out?

DIANE

Yeah, I had a short shift today -
how about you?

SHERRIE

I'm here til seven. ... So, did you
have your talk with Craig about the
front end manager position.

DIANE

Yeah.

SHERRIE

So? How did it go? Did he talk
about me?

DIANE

He just went through everyone who
had applied - he didn't really say
much. ... I gave you a glowing
recommendation, of course.

SHERRIE

Well, it better not go to Patrick.
Let me tell you that man is weird
with a capital 'W'. Did you know
that he eats applesauce from a
Tupperware bowl for lunch? - every
damned day - applesauce for lunch.

DIANE

I was not aware of that.

SHERRIE

Still, I'd rather he get it than
that son of a bitch Gray. He
doesn't even work on the front end.
I'd have to quit if he got it.

Diane takes out her tray and starts toward the office.

DIANE

Well, that's it for me - hang in there.

SHERRIE

See ya.

INT. DIANE'S CAR, PARKED AT SONIC DRIVE-IN - LATER

Diane enjoys a snack of Sonic tater-tots and a vanilla ice cream Blast with crushed Oreos as the radio plays a classic rock tune. She dips each tot into the Blast before putting it in her mouth. Some tots just lay on top of the Blast.

DIANE

(mouth full)

Mmmm ...

She goes to dip another tot as a car pulls up entirely too fast right next to her. The door opens up - it's Cathy - she frantically tries Diane's door, but it's locked.

Startled from her private music/fast food buffet, Diane unlocks the door and Cathy jumps into the passenger seat.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Cathy?! What the hell?! What are you doing?

CATHY

(seeing the tots on top of her Blast)

What are you doing?

DIANE

Don't judge me. ... What's the deal?

CATHY

You've got your phone off. I've been trying to reach you for thirty minutes. I finally just started driving through town and saw your car here.

DIANE

Oh ... yeah. Sorry about that.

Diane turns her phone on as Cathy starts welling up with tears.

DIANE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

CATHY

(rapid fire delivery)

I'm pretty sure that Lenora knows all about me and Gray because she said we need to address the 'Gray' situation. And she says I have to meet her at the park at six to handle it and if I don't she'll kick my ass at work and it'll be a double bad ass whipping 'cause it'll get her fired and...

DIANE

(interrupting)

Whoa! Just whoa. Are you sure she doesn't just want to talk?

CATHY

She did not look like a woman who wants to talk. I am freakin out!

DIANE

Settle down. Does she mean six o'clock today.

CATHY

Yes! In like thirty minutes. Will you go with me?

DIANE

Wait. First, I ain't scared of that sawed-off, big-boobied, bridge troll. She's all talk - always has been. Second, you aren't going. I'm not gonna pull you two chihuahuas off each other - that's how people get hurt. She'll listen to me ...

(gently grabbing Cathy's jaw and staring her in the eye)

When I tell her that you will never see him again.

CATHY

(full on crying)

Yes! Of course! This is crazy. He's not worth it. I don't need this. Just do this for me and I will never see him again!

DIANE

(giving her hug)

It's okay; it'll all work out. She just wants you to back off.

(MORE)

DIANE (CONT'D)

I'll go and she'll cool down pretty quick. ... It'll be like that scene from "Tombstone" where Val Kilmer shows up for the fight instead of Kurt Russell.

CATHY

(through sniffles)
What are you talking about?

DIANE

(small eye roll)
I guess that's more of a 'me and Jimmy' type discussion. Don't worry about it. ... Here, have a Blast covered tot - they're great.

Cathy tentatively takes a tot and dips it into the Blast and pops it in her mouth - the expression on her face reveals that, in fact, they are great.

INT. DIANE'S CAR, ON THE ROAD - LATER

Diane drives toward the park as her cell phone PLAYS ITS RING TONE and she checks the caller ID [INSERT of phone reveals it reads 'Jimmy'] and answers.

DIANE

Hey, what's up? I'm kind of in a hurry.

(inaudible phone voice)

I have to meet Lenora in the park to handle this Gray situation.

(inaudible phone voice)

Yeah, I know she's crazy. But Cathy's not gonna see Gray anymore so it's all over.

(excited inaudible phone voice)

No! Now is not the time Jimmy.

(inaudible phone voice)

Well, I don't know what the right time is, but it's not today, okay? Besides it's not like you've hidden your feelings. ... All right?

(inaudible phone voice)

No, I don't need you to come, but I appreciate it. ... Wait, if I don't call you in twenty minutes, you come down to the park to check things out, okay?

(inaudible phone voice)

I'll call you in a bit.

She gets off the phone and pulls into Memorial Park. It's a small park and as she drives into the main parking lot we see from her POV a lone figure sitting on a picnic bench under a large oak tree - it's Lenora.

EXT. MEMORIAL PARK, UNDER THE BIG OAK TREE - A BIT LATER

Lenora sits on the picnic bench under the oak - she's visibly agitated and a bit nervous - after all, even a fight with the petite Cathy is still a fight.

In the distance a lone female figure makes her way down the path through the trees toward the picnic area. It's getting dark and the low hanging branches obscure her identity.

But as the woman gets closer Lenora appears to realize it's not Cathy but Diane who she will meet with under the oak.

Lenora looks a bit confused as she stands up from her spot on the picnic bench. If she was a bit agitated and nervous before, she is now on edge tenfold. Diane stands almost a head taller and her athletic physique becomes increasingly clear the closer she gets.

LENORA

What ... what's going on? Where's Cathy?

DIANE

(moving forward)
It looks like I'm your huckleberry, Lenora.

LENORA

(confused and scared)
What? That doesn't make any sense.
... My beef isn't with you, Diane.
This isn't your business!

DIANE

(moving forward)
I beg to differ. When you threaten my friend it's very much my business.

They now stand face to face - with Diane peering down at Lenora in a manner indicating that she's all business. Lenora's chin is quivering and she bobs her front knee to and fro nervously, tapping the ground with her heel.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Why Lenora, you look like somebody's walked across ...

LENORA
 (interrupting)
 Stop it! Hold it right there!

Lenora takes a couple steps back and reaches inside her purse, which lays on the picnic bench. She frantically searches around, never taking her eyes off Diane, and finally pulls out a lock blade.

With trembling hands she gets the blade open and takes a step toward Diane, holding the knife up in front of her in a menacing manner, waving it back and forth in the air.

LENORA (CONT'D)
 If you take one fucking step
 forward I will cut you like ...
 like ... I don't know what!

DIANE
 Holy shit! What the hell are you
 doing Lenora? You're being crazy!

LENORA
 (rapid fire and excited)
 That's right I am crazy! And I will
 cut you and that little whore
 friend of yours up into pieces!

Diane takes a very cautious step backward and puts her hands over her head - otherwise she is frozen in fear.

LENORA (CONT'D)
 I just knew she'd be too chicken
 shit to meet me. What kind of
 friend sends someone else to do
 their dirty work anyways?

Diane has no response but nervously takes another half step backward - very cautiously.

LENORA (CONT'D)
 She is not stealing Gray away from
 me with her fake titties and skinny
 little ass!

Diane has absolutely nothing to say and stands perfectly still as a thousand thoughts race through her mind. Lenora's rant continues as her tears run down her cheeks and ruin her heavy makeup.

LENORA (CONT'D)
 She thinks this is fucking game but
 it's not.

(MORE)

LENORA (CONT'D)

I have that man's baby inside of me
and I would rather die or go to
prison than give him up to that
little slut!

DIANE

(snapping back to her
senses)

Wait - you're pregnant?!

LENORA

(wiping tears with her non-
knife hand)

Yes. ... Yes I am.

There's a pause and then Diane begins hitting herself on both sides of her head with her hands in frustration.

DIANE

(yelling)

Fuuuuuuuuuccckkkkk!!!!

Diane turns around quickly and sprints toward her car. Lenora is rather taken aback by her scream and begins locking the blade - but still with trembling hands.

Lenora now stands alone as we hear the sound of Diane's car PEELING OUT. She puts the knife in her coat pocket - still a bit shaky.

LENORA

(softly to herself)

Well ... I guess I showed her who
the huckleberry is ... whatever the
hell that means.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. KROGER GROCERY, STORE MANAGER'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

Craig sits at his desk in the manager's office and there's a KNOCK on the partially open door as Diane sticks her head in tentatively.

DIANE

You wanted to see me Craig?

CRAIG

Yes, please, have a seat.

She sits down as he rearranges some papers - searching for the best words to use.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Diane, we've deliberated over the front end manager thing and were hoping that we might be able to explore a new option.

DIANE

Do you have more questions about the people who applied?

CRAIG

No Diane. We wanted to know if you might be interested in the position.

DIANE

I don't understand. I didn't even apply. And I've only been here three years.

CRAIG

How long you've been here isn't the only consideration. In fact, in some cases, it's not even a favorable consideration. Uh ... this is between us but the interviews with the applicants, well, they didn't go as favorably as we'd hoped.

DIANE

Oh.

CRAIG

Yes. ... On the other hand, your answers to some of my questions were quite good - very thoughtful and mature.

DIANE

I'm just not sure if I'm ready for that sort of thing.

CRAIG

Given our limited options, you are the most ready person we have. ... You should know what it entails. It will mean a three dollar an hour raise and, for the most part, a better schedule. Obviously, there will be additional duties beyond what you have now.

DIANE

Can I ... can I ask what would happen if I didn't take the job? I mean, who would be front end manager then?

CRAIG

That's ... well, that's an unusual question. I don't know if I can ... Does it affect your decision?

DIANE

Yes. I know it sounds a little odd, but it does.

CRAIG

Well, again, this is unorthodox ... and would have to be between you and me ... absolutely ...

DIANE

I understand completely.

CRAIG

The next person in line for the position is Gray. He's our next choice if you turn it down.

INT. KROGER GROCERY, CHECKOUT AREA - A BIT LATER

Craig walks into the checkout area from the offices and is followed by Diane.

The area is pretty dead with very few customers during the morning hours - just a couple of people in Sherrie's line. Craig gives a little WHISTLE to get everyone's attention.

CRAIG

Folks, I have a brief announcement. I know that not everyone is here right now and there will be a formal posting later. But, we've decided on the new front end manager position.

He motions to Diane to stand next to him and she does.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

After a lot of careful consideration we have decided that Diane will be the new front end manager, starting next week.

Diane is frozen and searches for a friendly face. She finds it in Jimmy who is all smiles and gives her eye contact and a little nod.

Gray tosses his head back in disgust and storms off to the produce section while Sherrie just shakes her head dismissively and goes back to ringing up the customer's items.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

That's all - thanks. Back to work!

He pats Diane on the back and she stands there with no expression for a bit and then slowly meanders toward her cash register.

INT. MALL OF GEORGIA, FOOD COURT - EVENING

Jimmy takes a long draw from the straw of his soft drink as he leaves the Wendy's counter with his tray of food. He then stops dead in his tracks - he sees something. From Jimmy's POV we see it too - at the far end of the food court sits Cathy, dining alone. She looks a little sad and lonely.

Jimmy instantly puts down his tray on the nearest table and makes a mad dash to a kiosk in the adjacent middle corridor of the mall. He hurriedly purchases a small stuffed animal and, regaining his composure, walks toward the end of the food court where Cathy sits.

As he approaches though, he sees something else - Gray walks out of the nearby men's room and takes the seat next to her - and they kiss.

Jimmy is surprised, crushed, and numb - a myriad of emotions crosses his face as he stands there alone with a little stuffed bear and a diet Coke.

INT. GRANNY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Granny's living room and adjacent kitchen are filled with folks attending the anniversary for Diane's mom. A centerpiece framed photo reads "Caroline Wilson, 1971-2013 - Beloved Mother, Sister and Daughter." Several other photo displays of Caroline at various stages of life fill the room.

Granny stands at the center of a crowd of older folks, holding court. Jimmy, Kelly and Sandy entertain the younger people near a table that is brimming over with great food.

Diane stands away from the crowds with Cathy at her side.

CATHY

(supportive sarcastic)

So, is this everything you'd hoped it would be and more?

DIANE

Well, it's definitely more of something - that's for sure.

(quietly)

Geez, I thought we were gonna announce Kelly's pregnancy, but apparently it's too early - so that's out ... now it's just a bunch of old people talking about dying and crap.

CATHY

It's like they draw energy from talking about dying. ... I'm guessing you weren't supposed to tell me about Kelly being pregnant.

DIANE

I reckon not - so act surprised when she tells you. ... Speaking of pregnant, you sure got out that Gray situation in the nick of time.

CATHY

Yeah ... uh, I know....

A friend of Granny's, CLAUDIA (66), approaches them and Diane stiffens a bit, but they both force smiles for her.

DIANE

Hello Claudia, how are you?

CLAUDIA

Oh, I can't complain. And how are you dear?

DIANE

Oh, I've been better.

CLAUDIA

Of course dear, I understand. You know I remember when Caroline was ... well, toward the end, and I saw her in the hospital. You could see her little chest just straining and her heart beating so fast. ... Oh, it was just so pitiful

DIANE

(getting upset)

Uh huh...

Two older ladies walk by and Claudia motions for them to join the conversation. It's threatening to turn into a morbid reception line pretty quickly.

Cathy subtly positions herself between the older ladies and Diane. She puts her arm around Claudia and directs the ladies' attention to the table holding the photo albums across the room.

CATHY

(to all of them)

I think Kelly just put out another photo book of Caroline when she was a little girl. I think this one has some pictures of you all with her in there. Ya'll looked so good in bell bottoms!

She gently leads them away as she catches Diane's eye. Diane mouths "thank you" and Cathy just gives her a little nod.

Diane starts checking her phone to look busy. From across the room Jimmy notices that she's alone and wanders over to keep her company.

JIMMY

Hey ... how are you holding up?

DIANE

I'm better now.

JIMMY

Yeah. Cathy's got a way with old people. ...

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

By the way, that was awesome at work yesterday. I'd like to say it was all about me being happy for you but part of it was just seeing Gray's reaction.

They both laugh a little.

DIANE

Hey, what happened to you after work yesterday? I thought we were gonna see a movie.

JIMMY

Oh yeah, sorry. I just spazzed and forgot. I got a wild hair and drove over to the mall in Buford directly from work.

DIANE

(teasing)

Well, did you at least buy me something?

JIMMY

No, sorry. Actually, I didn't buy anything. Well, not really - I bought something but I threw it away.

Diane is puzzled by his last point and it shows.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I, uh, yeah, I didn't want to tell you about that - something I saw at the mall - 'cause I didn't want to, you know, stir the turd. But, I think now ... I figure I probably need to give you a heads up about something ...

EXT. MONROE CEMETERY - NEXT DAY

Diane's car works its way up a cemetery hill to a grassy parking area and comes to a halt. She grabs a small bouquet of flowers from the passenger seat and makes her way over to her mother's grave site.

She stands over the grave for a moment and then kneels down and looks it over. No one else is around.

DIANE

I meant to come by yesterday, I really did.

(MORE)

DIANE (CONT'D)

But after Granny's marathon get together I just couldn't do it, Momma. I didn't have it left in me.

She carefully brushes some dirt off the base stone.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Some good stuff's happened. Kelly's having a baby; so you're gonna be an aunt. ... And I got a promotion at work.

(a full beat)

Momma, I know you wanted me to leave Monroe - to go away to college. But picking up and going off to some new place where I don't know anyone ... it's ... it's just hard.

VOICE OVER MONTAGE SEQUENCE - CONTINUOUS

-- Kelly and Sandy excitedly look at baby clothes and accessories in a department store.

DIANE (V.O.)

Sometimes change is scary in a good way - like when your starting off on a new part of your life with someone you love.

-- Lenora looks at pre-natal vitamins in the drug store; she looks anxious and vulnerable.

DIANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But some kinds of change just make you feel more uncertain and alone.

-- Gray pulls up in his truck to pick up Cathy, who waits for him outside a store. She hops in and they kiss.

DIANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Having family and friends close by is comforting -- we look out for each other and try to protect the ones we love from doing stupid and dangerous things.

-- Jimmy sits alone at home with a beer, playing on his laptop computer. An INSERT reveals that he's on the 'OK Cupid' dating web site.

DIANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But even with family and friends
all around us we can still get
lonely sometimes.

-- Granny sits in her living room alone, looking at the
anniversary photo of Caroline and crying.

DIANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And they can't always keep us from
having our hearts broken.

BACK TO SCENE

Diane gently touches the lettering of her mother's name on
the headstone.

DIANE
Momma, the reason I want to stay
here for a while is because it all
still reminds me so much of you.
... And I'm not really ready to let
that go ... not just yet.

Diane places the bouquet next to the headstone. She stands
for a moment to take it all in and then walks back toward her
car.

FADE OUT.