

RICHES IN RAGS I

**EXT. GRANT FARMYARD - AFTERNOON**

SUPERIMPOSE - 1964

A light breeze blows powdery snow from a drift against the post of a rural mailbox labeled "GRANT". Tall slender **GRANDPA GRANT, 50s**, emerges from the barn, totes a shiny pail of milk. He playfully KICKS at the shallow snow.

Grandpa passes two back-to-back chicken coops, the rear walls lined with early 1900s kitchen appliances. He passes a more distant outhouse.

Grandpa makes his way to the enclosed back porch of the large two-story house. He STOMPS snow from his boots on the concrete entry stoop.

**EXT. GRANT FARM ROADWAY - AFTERNOON**

Down the hill, school bus brakes SQUEAL to a stop. **SEVEN CHILDREN** of diverse elementary school ages disembark. Their feet kick the shallow undisturbed snow. Dressed in an oversized hooded coat, the smallest child SQUATS to tie a scuffed boys dress shoe.

The hooded child gets up, follows a few steps behind the other children, stops and turns the toward Grant's house.

The child glimpses Grandpa enter the enclosed porch, runs to the outer porch door, STOMPS snow from the scuffed shoes and enters the enclosed porch.

**INT. GRANT FARM PORCH - AFTERNOON**

The child sheds the hooded coat, reveals mismatched clothes and **DAYLE, 7**, a girl with long straight sand-colored hair.

Her hair stands up and out from static. She TOSSES the coat on a chair and opens the porch door to the kitchen.

**INT. GRANT FARM KITCHEN - AFTERNOON**

**GRANDMA GRANT, 50s**, a kind-faced tall elegant lady arranges cookies on a plate between a couple of tea cups and saucers.

DAYLE

Hi, Best Grandma!

With the milk bucket on the counter near the sink, Grandpa retrieves a cheesecloth and another bucket from a cabinet.

GRANDMA GRANT  
 (to Dayle)  
 Watching for the big pipe truck?

Grandma SMOOTHS Dayle's hair down with her hands.

DAYLE  
 Thought Daddy was coming today.

Grandpa places the empty bucket in the sink, spreads the cheesecloth inside the bucket and drapes it over the rim.

GRANDMA GRANT  
 Hmm ...the snow will probably take  
 him another day.

Grandpa glances out the window, down the hill.

GRANDPA GRANT  
 Your mother will be looking for  
 you, Dayle.

Dayle nears Grandpa and WRAPS her arm around his long leg.  
 Grandpa POURS the milk through the cheesecloth into the  
 bucket and STRAINS out cow hair.

DAYLE  
 No, she won't. Too many other kids  
 around to miss me.

Puzzled, Dayle watches Grandma CLINK teaspoons in the two  
 cups. Grandma notices Dayle's expression.

GRANDMA GRANT  
 I do that to absorb the heat ...so  
 the cups won't break from the shock  
 of the hot water.

DAYLE  
 (skeptical)  
 Like my brother's science class,  
 boring.

GRANDPA GRANT  
 You want some milk and cookies?

Dayle hangs on his leg with one hand, suspends herself  
 sideways to PEER up at him.

DAYLE  
 Milk's not cold yet. I'll go play  
 in MY kitchen.

**EXT. GRANT FARMYARD - AFTERNOON**

Dayle emerges from the back porch door. She SHUFFLES through the snow to the rows of appliances. She retrieves a pan from below a stove and scoots a crate over in front.

Dayle unlatches an ancient refrigerator door and reaches in for a box of "RICE-A-RONI" filled with sand.

Dayle climbs to her stove, POURS the 'rice' into the pan, turns on a dead burner and adds a spatula resting on the stove top.

DAYLE

Need chicken broth.

Dayle JUMPS down from the crate and searches under the appliances through various cans and bottles. She finds a CLEAR GLASS SYRUP DISPENSER in the snow.

Dayle spies a water spigot and sets the dispenser in the snow. She STRUGGLES to lift the handle. It's frozen closed. She sees another spigot across the yard. It's open. An icicle clings to the spout.

Dayle picks up the syrup dispenser, feels an urge and briefly crosses her legs. She passes through the walkway to the far end of her kitchen and recalls the outhouse to the left.

**FLASHBACK - OUTHOUSE RECOLLECTION**

On a sunny day, a **FARM HAND** parks a tractor on the driveway. He leaves the ENGINE to IDLE, disembarks and STRIDES apace to the outhouse.

Farm Hand reaches for a stick leaned against the outside wall by the door. He partially enters and RATTLES the hole with the stick.

Beneath the outhouse, a snake WRIGGLES out and down the hill. Farm Hand replaces the stick and enters the outhouse. The door spring SLAMS it shut.

**END FLASHBACK**

Dayle feels another urge and clutches the dispenser. Her gaze reverts back through the kitchen. She eyes a teaspoon resting on a stove, looks at the dispenser and back toward the outhouse.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

(shudders)

Yuck.

Dayle secures the syrup dispenser upright in the snow, squats in the big coat and PEES in the frozen syrup dispenser. CLINK! It breaks and leaves her with a WIDE-EYED STARE!

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
 (gasps)  
 Grandma's right!

The clear broken glass SPARKLES like DIAMONDS in the snow, enhanced by the yellow background.

**EXT. FIBBS MANSION - FRONT AND BACK - DAY**

A bug-eyed gargoyle stands atop a gated stone wall with an embedded plaque of "FIBBS" in bronze. With a light breeze, sunshine beams across the undisturbed lawn of snow.

Snow lays in a pile to the far side to reveal the driveway to the rear. In the back yard, the covered swimming pool lies idle for the winter.

Next to the double entry doors, through a picture window, a row of seven large candles GLOW along an ornate table.

**INT. FIBBS MANSION - GREAT ROOM - DAY**

On the table sets a three-tiered cake of chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, decorated with colored frosting to distinguish the flavored tiers.

Nearby on the same table, sets an oblong cake with seven small extinguished candles.

A MAID cuts different layers from the tiered cake. She holds up a plate and TAPS it with the cake server.

MAID  
 Minny, the first piece is for the birthday girl.

**MINNY FIBBS, 7**, a girl with curly dark-hair, turns from a table displaying a huge doll house. She goes for the cake. **SEVERAL GIRLS** stand agog at the table. **BESS, 7**, runs her finger over the carpet in the miniature dining room.

GIRL ONE  
 Looks, Bess. There's even real silverware.

BESS  
 Wow. Wish I was Minny.

**LANA FIBBS, late 20s**, a fashion model's envy, comes from behind the girls with a tray of cake pieces on small plates.

BESS (CONT'D)

The doll house is a dream, Mrs. Fibbs.

GIRL TWO

Unbelievable.

The girls each take a plate of cake.

LANA

Please, call me Lana. 'Mrs.' ...  
(beat)  
...Makes me feel so ...old.

GIRL ONE

Thank you, ma'am.

Behind them, a table filled with opened gifts of miniature dolls for the doll house, a frilly blouse, velvet dress, pink ballet outfit, shiny dress shoes, a set of story books and board games.

Lana turns toward **TYRONE, late 20s**, a tower of a man.

LANA

Tyrone, it's your turn.

TYRONE

One big surprise ...from Daddy.

Tyrone disappears through a doorway. Minny keeps watch, takes a bite of cake and anticipates her daddy's return. Tyrone rolls out a pink T-Bird pedal car.

MINNY

Oh. That looks fun.

LANA

What do you say, Minny?

Minny ignores Lana and **SPRINTS** across the room to Tyrone.

BESS

Whoa!

GIRL TWO

It must be nice.

Minny **LEAPS** into his arms.

MINNY

I'll bet I'm the only girl in town  
with one of these.

TYRONE

Nothing but the best for my Baby  
Doll.

Lana's smile fades. At the table, she POURS hot water into a tea cup and STEAMS a tea bag.

**EXT. GRANT FARMYARD - AFTERNOON**

With STEAMY breath under a cold grey sky, Dayle runs into the driveway. She PANTS and tires more with each step toward the house. Tears stream her face.

**INT. GRANT FARM - AFTERNOON**

IN THE ENCLOSED BACK PORCH

Seated on a low stool with a large basket of eggs, Grandma POLISHES one and places it in a wholesale "EGGS" crate.

Before she grasps another one, Dayle enters, FLINGS her arms around Grandma and buries her face at Grandma's shoulder.

Grandma GRASPS the side of her apron, dries tears of her own, rocks Dayle slowly and FLINGS the door shut with her foot.

GRANDMA GRANT

(whispers)

There, there ...it'll be alright.

DAYLE

(muffled)

It'll never be alright ...never the same.

From a screened window, Grandma watches adults and the older siblings pack a semi-trailer with household items. After a moment, Dayle calms down a little, turns, SHAKES and PEERS down the hill.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

I don't wanna leave Daddy ...or you  
...or Best Grandpa ...or anybody!

Grandma SMOOTHS Dayle's hair.

GRANDMA GRANT  
Wish I could do something about it,  
child.

IN AN UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

Grandma seats Dayle on a high SQUEAKY bed in a room filled with antique furniture. Grandma PULLS a box down from a closet shelf and sets it on the bed next to Dayle.

DAYLE  
(sniffle)  
What's that?

GRANDMA GRANT  
Some things I want you to have.

Grandma retrieves a smaller flat wooden box, opens it and reveals a SILVER CARVING SET nestled in a bright red felt liner. She lays it on the bed. Dayle SNIFFLES, feels the felt.

DAYLE  
That's pretty.

Grandma reveals an old "STUDY BIBLE" and lays it on the bed.

GRANDMA GRANT  
This was your Daddy's ...when he  
was a boy.

Dayle picks up the book and cuddles it to her front side.

DAYLE  
I'll take good care of it ...keep  
it forever, Best Grandma.

Grandma puts her hand on Dayle's head and GAZES up to the ceiling.

GRANDMA GRANT  
May God bless and keep this child  
...wherever she may go ...whatever  
she may do.

**EXT. FIBBS MANSION - FRONT ENTRY - DAY**

With a WHITE limousine parked in the circle driveway, a **LIMO DRIVER** packs the trunk with luggage.

Tyrone and Lana emerge from the double doors and descend the front steps to the car. The Maid follows them. She holds Minny who sulks. Tyrone turns and STROKES her cheek.



TYRONE

Ah! Poor Baby Doll. It's for  
Daddy's job ...we need to take this  
trip.

Lana SMOOTHS Minny's hair.

LANA

We'll bring back lots of souvenirs  
...different things we've never  
seen before.

Minny ignores Lana. She STARES intently at Tyrone and POUTS.

TYRONE

And how about a real doll house  
...one you can play IN? Maybe in  
the tree out back ...a tree house?

Minny PERKS up a little and KICKS her leg.

MINNY

(sniffle)  
With real water to the sink ...and  
everything?

TYRONE

Of course, Baby Doll!  
(much to Lana's dismay)  
Anything you want.

Minny GLOATS at Lana's chagrin.

**INT. DAYLE'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

In the company of siblings and their friends, Dayle plays  
alone in the corner on the floor. She SNIPS pictures from a  
"SEARS" catalogue, some pasted to a box with rough holes cut  
out for windows and flaps cut for doors.

JACK

I've got something better.

**JACK, 11**, a tall blond dimpled cutie spills a box of "LINCOLN  
LOGS" near her. Dayle turns her attention to him.

DAYLE

Didn't think your mom would let you  
come over here, Jack.

Dayle GRABS a wet rag and WIPES glue from her fingers.

JACK  
Ah, she'll get used to your mom.

Sadly, Dayle SHAKES her head NO slightly.

JACK (CONT'D)  
What do you wanna build?

Dayle GAZES at the pile of diverse pieces and brightens a little.

DAYLE  
A farm yard ...Best Grandpa and  
Grandma's farm.

Dayle clears space with a SWIPE of her leg and chooses some 'LOGS'.

**EXT. FIBBS MANSION - BACKYARD - DAY**

OUTSIDE THE TREE HOUSE

A flight of steps leads up to the deck of the tree house.

INSIDE THE TREE HOUSE

Bess SPLASHES a nude doll in a sink full of bubbles, the clothes on the counter of the diminutive kitchen. Minny straightens the attire of another doll.

MINNY  
I know exactly how I'll dress my  
little girl. I'll pierce her ears,  
give her lots of jewelry ...just  
like me!

BESS  
You don't have any jewelry.

MINNY  
Oh, I will. My husband will give  
me lots of gold and diamonds---

TYRONE (O.S.)  
YEE-HAW!

Minny and Bess stop, share a STARE and abandon the dolls.

OUTSIDE THE TREE HOUSE

The girls SCRAMBLE down the steps and around the swimming pool to the house rear double doors.

**INT. FIBBS MANSION - DAY**

IN THE GREAT ROOM

Tyrone picks up Lana, SWINGS her around and PLANTS her back on her feet.

TYRONE  
 Make us a celebration drink,  
 darling. I just got the promotion  
 of a lifetime.

Tyrone KISSES her cheek. The phone RINGS. Tyrone playfully SLAPS Lana's behind on her way to the kitchen. He answers the phone.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
 (pants)  
 Hello ...  
 (beat)  
 ...Thought it might be you.

Minnie and Bess enter, stop directly inside the doors and listen in on Tyrone's conversation.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
 Man's gotta do what a man's gotta  
 do. Ha! They never saw it coming.

IN THE KITCHEN

Lana finds a tenderizer mallet in a drawer.

TYRONE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Sometimes you have to step on other  
 people to make it in this world.  
 (beat)  
 Honesty only takes you so far.

IN THE GREAT ROOM

Minnie smiles and tilts her head in wonder. Bess lifts her brows.

IN THE KITCHEN

Lana tilts her head and SIGHS. With the side of the mallet, she CRUSHES ice in a bag.

**EXT. HILLY TWO LANE ROADWAY - DAY**

Semi-truck wheels ROAR on a curvy scenic highway cut through steep hills. The truck pulls a trailer of long pipes, two feet in diameter.

The rig ROARS down a steep hill toward another curve.

## INSIDE THE SEMI-CAB

The **SEMI DRIVER (DADDY)** rounds the bend and comes upon an overturned school bus. The bus' top faces him, lays partially in his lane.

Semi Driver quickly applies AIR BRAKES.

## OUTSIDE THE SEMI

His tires SQUEAL right to miss the bus. The truck veers onto the shoulder into the ditch and creates a cloud of dust. The rig MOANS from bending.

Semi Driver manages to miss the bus. He gets back on the road. The load SHIFTS left, pulls the rig to the left, SLAMS into the cut-out hillside rock and CRUSHES the cab.

Sun SPARKLES on a dangling exterior mirror.

**EXT. CEMETERY - DAY**

## GRAVE SIDE

The bright SUN beats down on a grave directly below a huge tree, a somber day for seven tearful children. Amongst them the youngest, Dayle, dons blue cat-eye glasses.

**A HUNDRED MOURNERS** surround the grave site. The **MINISTER, 60s**, places himself behind the closed coffin.

Dayle moves behind a few folks to squeeze between Grandpa and Grandma Grant and wraps an arm around each one of their legs.

## MINISTER

...He leaves behind his loving parents, Will and Karen Grant, seven children, four sons and three daughters, five brothers and one sister...

## NEAR A TREE IN THE BACKGROUND

Dayle's short rotund **MOTHER, 30s**, SCOWLS impatiently in the background with her new tall slender husband, Dayle's **STEPFATHER, 30s**.

MOTHER

I'd like to know who wrote that eulogy. He was a worthless bum.

STEPFATHER

(aghast)  
Shhhhh, that's their daddy!

RETURN TO GRAVE SIDE

MINISTER

...Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

Mourners make a line to pass by the immediate family. One **SHORT FAT LADY** cradles Dayle's tearful face in her hands. She plants a KISS of ruby red lipstick on the entire surface of one lens of Dayle's glasses.

DAYLE'S P.O.V. - She awkwardly peers out of one lens.

Stepfather sees the kiss and the RED BLOB. He rushes forward, SMILES and NODS to the Grants, picks up Dayle and carries her to his van.

**INT. FIBBS MANSION - MASTER BEDROOM - AFTERNOON**

SUPERIMPOSE - 1969

Seated at her vanity in a bathrobe, Lana applies RED LIPSTICK. She styles her hair into an up-do. A blue evening dress hangs on a door nearby.

**MINNY, 12**, lifts an old bejeweled necklace from a jewelry box on the vanity.

MINNY

This is heavy ...but pretty. Where did you get this?

LANA

That belonged to your daddy's mom. It's very old, what people call an heirloom piece ...something to pass down over the years. I've never worn it ...kind of afraid to. I wouldn't ever want to lose it.

Minny puts it back and picks up a ring with a single large blue gemstone.

MINNY

You can wear this tonight. It  
would go good with that dress.

Lana GLANCES over at the ring.

LANA

I might do that.

Mিনny EYES Lana's humble wedding band.

MINNY

You always wear THAT ring. There's  
no diamonds or anything on it.

LANA

It's my wedding band. When I  
married your daddy, we couldn't  
afford a fancy one ...and I'd never  
want it replaced. It will always  
be my wedding band.

MINNY

I don't understand you. Daddy  
would buy you anything you want  
...big rings for every finger.

Lana EXAMINES the band and SPINS it with her thumb a few  
times.

LANA

I know that. But this one means  
the most ...to me anyway.

Mিনny FROWNS dubiously at Lana and SHAKES HER HEAD in  
disbelief. Minny picks up another piece of jewelry.

Tyrone enters and crosses the room to the master closet. He  
returns with a hanging suitcase and a medium size piece of  
luggage.

MINNY

Where you going, Daddy?

Tyrone FLOPS the luggage on the bed, UNZIPS and FLINGS the  
luggage lid open.

TYRONE

Leaving on a business trip  
tomorrow...

Tyrone turns back toward the closet.

Minnie returns the jewelry to the box and leaves the vanity. She LEAPS onto the bed opposite of Tyrone's luggage and BOUNCES herself a few times.

Tyrone returns with a few dress suits and a pair of shoes. He lays the suits next to the hanging suitcase and PLOPS the shoes on the floor.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
...But I need to pack today.

Tyrone goes back into the closet.

LANA  
He won't have time in the morning  
...and we need to attend a business  
dinner tonight.

Tyrone returns with a big pistol and a box of ammunition. He places them inside the suitcase. Lana watches from the mirror. Minny moves closer, lays on her stomach and GAZES into the suitcase.

MINNY  
What's that for?

Tyrone SLIDES open a dresser drawer and removes underwear and socks.

TYRONE  
I take it for protection  
...whenever I'm not sleeping at  
home anyway.

Tyrone returns to the bag, cushions underclothes under and around the gun.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
Never know who I may meet up with.

Minnie GAZES up at Tyrone. Lana notices Minny's reflection in the mirror.

LANA  
I don't like her being next to  
that, Tyrone. It's dangerous.

Tyrone returns to the dresser, CLOSES the drawer and disappears into the closet again. Minny flops on her back.

TYRONE (O.S.)  
She won't bother it. She knows  
she's got me for protection.

Tyrone comes back with pajamas and a thick robe, returns to the suitcase and adds more cushion.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
Baby Doll won't ever need to bother  
her pretty self about that.

Tyrone picks up the shoes, places them upside down on the robe and ZIPS the bag shut.

**EXT. DAYLE'S MOTHER'S GARAGE - DAY**

At the open overhead door, **Jack, 16**, FLINGS his arms to one side. HE NODS his head to long-haired **Dayle, 12**, in faded clothes and her sleeved report card in hand.

JACK  
After you, madam.

DAYLE  
What an acorn.

Jack straightens back up, puzzled.

JACK  
What?

DAYLE  
A nut only a squirrel could love.

They smile. She enters the door. He follows and taps her rear side with his foot.

**INT. DAYLE'S MOTHER'S GARAGE - DAY**

Stepfather cuts the last two-by-sixes to scale for the model on the table, a one-room building with erected studs and ceiling joists.

At the work bench, Dayle blows away sawdust, lays down her report card and speaks over her shoulder to Stepfather.

DAYLE  
You've cut the rafters.  
(to Jack)  
We should be able to finish gluing  
the shell today, Jack.

Jack reaches for a glue bottle. Dayle exits the man door. Stepfather lays the 'rafters' on the workbench and picks up the report card. Dayle returns with a wet rag.



STEPFATHER

I don't even need to look at this.

DAYLE

Just my luck. The only person that cares and he doesn't even want to look.

Jack smiles. Stepfather removes the card from the sleeve, opens it, smiles, signs it and returns it to the sleeve.

**INT. FIBBS MANSION - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY**

SUPERIMPOSE - 1973

Seated at Lana's vanity, **Minnie** and **Bess, 16**, don pieces of jewelry. Minny pulls a small envelope from the jewelry box and reveals a ring with a large gemstone. She SLIDES it onto her finger.

MINNY

You think she'd shop, you know.  
Look at all the different necklaces  
and rings she could have.

Bess lifts her arm.

BESS

And bracelets.

MINNY

You see the stuff they show on TV.  
She could have it all.

BESS

Yeah, I know. But she---

MINNY

(annoyed)  
But nothing. I find her incredibly  
stupid.

Bess GLANCES at a mantle clock.

BESS

Yew! I got to go.

Bess quickly removes the jewelry and returns it to the box.

BESS (CONT'D)

I'll see you tomorrow ...after  
tennis.

MINNY

Why do you want to learn that  
...get all sweaty and stuff?

BESS

You ever look at the guys that  
play?

MINNY

Psh! See you later.

Bess departs. Minny lifts another necklace to her chest and tilts her head. She RISES and puts it in her pants pocket. She takes off the ring, pauses and pockets it. She returns the empty envelope and runs her fingers through the box.

**EXT. GAS STATION - DAY**

Near the road, a sign boasts "OIL KAN HARRY'S - FULL SERVICE - LIVE BAIT". A long luxury car with the windows rolled down arrives and parks with the driver's side near the fuel pumps.

**Dayle, 16**, EMERGES from the "LUBE JOB" service bay, hair rolled into a big bun and stained clothing. She wipes grease from her fingers. Tyrone emerges from the car, SCANS around and looks past Dayle.

DAYLE

What'll it be?

TYRONE

(taken aback)

Uh ...premium. Fill her up.

Dayle engages the dispenser to the fuel tank and locks it open. She FLINGS excess water from the squeegee sponge and moves to the windshield on the passenger side.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

(looks around)

Why they got a girl doing this?

Dayle SCRUBS his windshield and smiles at Lana. Lana smiles and WIGGLES her fingers to wave back.

DAYLE

Guess they took me serious when I  
said I needed work.

TYRONE

My uncle was a grease monkey.  
Never thought about a girl doing  
that, though.

IN THE BACK SEAT

Mিনny and Bess GIGGLE. Dayle circles around to the driver side.

MINNY

Did you hear that?

Dayle dips the squeegee, FLINGS water and washes the windshield.

BESS

A grease monkey!

Dayle works close to the car windows. She hears the SNICKERS and works unmoved.

TYRONE

Maybe in this little town, but it probably wouldn't happen in the city ...Madison, where I'm from.

DAYLE

I need to save for a car ...only way I know to get one.

Dayle SPLASHES the squeegee into the wash water.

**INT. FIBBS MANSION - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY**

Lana HUMS, seats herself at the vanity and brushes her hair. She eyes the jewelry box, smiles and gently JINGLES through it.

She SEARCHES for a piece without success, FROWNS and searches another place. She lifts out the empty envelope and SHAKES it. Her frown turns to anger.

**EXT. FIBBS MANSION - BACKYARD - DAY**

Mিনny and Bess lounge on the tree house deck with half-full rock glasses and a wicker-covered wine bottle between them.

The girls PEER across the pool down at the house rear. A "PDQ HOME SECURITY" truck sets visible from around the front. A hammer BANGS inside the house. They watch Lana PACE the stoop near the rear entry double doors.

BESS

Wonder what she's scared of?  
Someone threaten her?

Minnie SHRUGS. They hear a car RUMBLE into the driveway, come into view past the security truck and SCREECH to a halt.

Tyrone exits the car. Lana runs from the rear entry around the house to meet him on the side lawn. They have an INAUDIBLE EXCHANGE, FLING their arms. Tyrone becomes loud and audible.

TYRONE

(yells)

How could you be so careless?  
Especially Mother's things!

Tyrone JAUNTS back to the car, jumps in and PEELS out of the driveway. Minnie empties the wine glass with a SLURP, reaches for a wicker-covered wine bottle and refills the glasses.

**EXT. GRANT FARM - DAY**

IN AN ALFALFA FIELD

Grandma Grant strolls a tractor path with a WICKER lunch basket in hand. She stops at the fence posts near the entry of the field. She SCANS the grass where the mower has made several passes around. She sees no tractor.

GRANDMA GRANT

Will?

Grandma SCANS surrounding fields.

GRANDMA GRANT (CONT'D)

Will! Where are you?

Grandma quickly skirts around the standing alfalfa. She spots tire tracks lead from the field to an embankment.

AT THE CREEK BED

Grandma SPRINTS over to look down and finds the tractor on its side, almost upside down in the creek.

GRANDMA GRANT (CONT'D)

Oh, my God!

Grandma SIDLES closer.

GRANDMA GRANT (CONT'D)

No! No! No! My God!

Grandma FLINGS the basket aside and SLIDES down the embankment to the tractor.

GRANDMA GRANT (CONT'D)  
Will! Will! Oh no, dear God!

Grandma SPLASHES into the creek and GROANS as she struggles to lift the tractor.

GRANDMA GRANT (CONT'D)  
(screams)  
No ...no ...no!

Grandma GRASPS the tractor in a different place. The tractor ROCKS upright a little from her effort.

GRANDMA GRANT (CONT'D)  
Please, somebody, help ...please!

The tractor slowly ROCKS back to where it was. Grandma tries to brace against it. It doesn't stop its roll. Eyes wide, it ROLLS over onto Grandma and PUSHES her under water.

**EXT. CEMETERY - DAY**

Under the familiar oak tree, Hundreds of Mourners and the Minister surround two coffins, parallel to Daddy's grave.

At the back of the crowd, **JACK, 20**, comes from behind and lays his hand on Dayle's shoulder. Dayle STARES ahead in a daze and angry.

SERIES OF SHOTS - INAUDIBLE SERVICE

MIRRORED IN DAYLE'S HAZY EYES

- Dayle watches Grandma gather eggs
- Dayle seated high on hay bales while Grandpa milks a cow
- Dayle lounges on a car windshield with Daddy on  
a starry moonlit night
- Grandma with teaspoons and tea cups
- Dayle's kitchen by the chicken coops
- Dayle rides on the tractor with Grandpa
- A snake wiggles downhill from the outhouse
- Grandma lays the silver carving set on the bed
- A big pipe truck passes and her DADDY waves

END SERIES OF SHOTS

A single tear ROLLS down Dayle's cheek.

**EXT. FIBBS MANSION - FRONT YARD - DAY**

Mিনny smiles, BLINDFOLDED with a kerchief. Tyrone leads her down the entry steps to the driveway. Lana FROWNS, arms folded at the entry door.

MINNY  
(laughs)  
Daddy, what is it?

TYRONE  
One more step ...  
(grabs her shoulders)  
...Turn this way. Okay!

Tyrone moves behind her.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
Ready?

Mিনny STOMPS a foot.

MINNY  
Ready, already!

Tyrone lifts off the blindfold. Parked on the driveway, a new sports-car GLEAMS in the sun and a "1973" tag on the front bumper.

MINNY (CONT'D)  
Oh, Daddy.

Mিনny JUMPS up and throws her arms around his neck.

MINNY (CONT'D)  
It's beautiful!

Mিনny releases him and GLANCES at Lana.

TYRONE  
The keys are in it.

Mিনny paces quickly to the driver door. Tyrone moves to the passenger side.

LANA  
Tyrone, you totally spoil her. She needs to earn some things for herself.

Tyrone stops and faces her.

TYRONE

(snide)

She did. She earned her driver's  
license.

**INT. DAYLE'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - DAYLE'S BEDROOM - EVENING**

With laundry laid across her bed, Dayle hangs faded clothes. Mother comes in, SNIFFLES and sinks into the end of the bed side view to Dayle. Dayle GLANCES her direction.

DAYLE

What's the matter?

MOTHER

(head down)

I need money for legal expenses and  
I don't know what to do. You have  
a job---

Dayle takes clothes to the closet and returns with more hangers.

DAYLE

Yeah, well, it's kind of necessary  
to have one ...if I ever intend to  
have a car.

MOTHER

(sniffle)

Do you have any money?

DAYLE

You know I do. Our savings  
passbooks are common knowledge  
...us minor kids anyway.

Dayle hangs a few shirts and lays them on the bed one by one.

MOTHER

I need to borrow a couple hundred.

DAYLE

Borrow?

MOTHER

(sniffle)

Yeah. I'll return it as soon as I  
get some things settled.

DAYLE  
 (reluctantly)  
 Okay, two hundred.

With her head still down, Mother GRINS.

MOTHER  
 Thanks.

Mother RISES and exits the room.

**INT. DAYLE'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - DAY**

IN THE KITCHEN

Mother coats chicken in bowls of flour and milk.

DAYLE (O.S.)  
 (calls out)  
 Leave me alone.

MOTHER  
 What's going on in there, Stacy?

**STACY, 17**, one of Dayle's sisters STOMPS into the kitchen.

STACY  
 I'm in a pinch. I need a poem for  
 school and Dayle won't give me one  
 of hers.

MOTHER  
 Dayle, you selfish bitch. Help  
 your sister.

Dayle enters with a pile of hand-written papers.

DAYLE  
 When a person writes, it belongs to  
 them ...their heart and soul is in  
 it ...no one else's.

Mother glares, SHIFTS to move around the table toward Dayle  
 and halts. With her hands preoccupied, she SCREAMS.

MOTHER  
 Give her one, damned you.

DAYLE  
 So when I turn in my work, teachers  
 call me a liar because it's already  
 been submitted by someone else?



DAYLE (CONT'D)

It's my work, but it makes me the  
liar? A cheater?

MOTHER

Stacy, I can't help how hateful she  
is. Just like at the Grant's  
funeral. Ha. She didn't even cry.

Mother GLARES at Dayle. Dayle's eyes well up.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

And she used to act like she really  
loved them.

Papers still in hand, Dayle STORMS out.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

With the papers, Dayle seizes her purse and TROMPS out of the  
house.

MOTHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Get back here, you damned little  
miser!

**INT. FIRST STATE BANK - DAY**

With the pile of papers near her arm, Dayle fills out a  
withdrawal slip and slides it across the counter to the **BANK  
TELLER.**

DAYLE

I know I can't close the account.  
If I remember right, I have to  
leave thirty dollars in it?

The Bank Teller opens a ledger, examines it and turns back to  
Dayle.

BANK TELLER

Yes, that's right.  
(waves the slip)  
But you don't have this much in the  
account.

DAYLE

(in disbelief)  
What do you mean?

BANK TELLER

There was a large withdrawal  
yesterday.

## BANK TELLER (CONT'D)

So with the thirty that must  
 remain, you can withdraw  
 ...nineteen dollars and sixty-seven  
 cents.

Dayle FREEZES.

**INT. DAYLE'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - DAYLE'S BEDROOM NIGHT**

An open curtain allows moonlight to shine across Dayle's bed with a large duffle bag at the foot. She TOSSES a writing tablet on top of the silver carving set. She fits the Bible on the top, ZIPS the bag shut, heaves a long strap over her shoulder.

**EXT. TWO LANE PAVED HIGHWAY - NIGHT**

On the edge of a moonlit road, Dayle TRAMPS along with the bag. Headlights appear from a distance.

Dayle hastens to the ditch and lies prone. She lays the bag on its side to flatten it. The vehicle SWISHES the air as it passes.

SUPERIMPOSE - 1975

**EXT. CITY OF MADISON - DAY**

The city blossoms with the onset of spring. Dayle observes the downtown skyline in the background. She passes a road sign that reads "CITY OF MADISON - POP. 759,077".

**INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT**

A large banner labeled "MADISON HIGH SCHOOL - CLASS OF 1975" decorates the stage. The **PRINCIPAL** summons **GRADUATES** to accept their diplomas.

PRINCIPAL

Kevin Falk.

A student approaches, SHAKES hands, accepts a diploma and moves his tassel to the opposite side.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Samantha Ferrell.

Another student approaches, SHAKES hands, accepts a diploma and moves her tassel to the opposite side.

## PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Mineola Fibbs.

Mিনny approaches, pregnant, SHAKES hands and accepts the diploma. A wave of WHISPERS sweeps the crowd with a few HOOTS. At the disturbance, Minny forgets to move her tassel.

Bess waits in line on the steps up to the stage. She GLANCES toward Lana and Tyrone. They STARE straight ahead.

**INT. EAT AT MA'S CAFE - DAY**

IN THE KITCHEN

Dayle opens the dishwasher, releases a huge steam cloud and rolls out the dish rack. Near the grill, **COOKIE, 40s**, a round fellow puts an order up and RINGS his bell.

Cookie steps back from the grill, removes a towel tucked in his back pocket and wipes his forehead. A **WAITRESS** removes the order.

COOKIE

I get so tired of the heat. Don't see how you stand that hot steam.

DAYLE

Got to work somewhere, Cookie. And I need the extra check.

Dayle CLATTERS plates into a pile and places them on a shelf next to Cookie's grill.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

Besides, the steam is supposed be good for our skin ...I think.

Dayle stops for a beat at the sight of a SYRUP DISPENSER at the server window and turns back to Cookie.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

Didn't take much interest in science class.

COOKIE

What was your favorite subject?

DAYLE

Wood shop ...all the different tools.

(beat)

DAYLE (CONT'D)

And I always found the innards of buildings interesting, the way they're erected.

The owner **CAL, 50s**, a large balding man, **YELLS** from the back.

CAL (O.S.)

(gruff tone)

Hey, Dayle. Come back here.

Dayle wrinkles her brow, grabs a towel.

COOKIE

Don't let Cal upset you. He always sounds like he's barking ...even when he's happy.

Wide-eyed, Dayle turns to the back office. Cookie **POPS** her rear with his towel. She ignores it.

IN THE KITCHEN PREPARATION AREA

Dayle dries her hands, passes large ovens, a sink, mixer, meat cutter and other large kitchen equipment.

IN CAL'S OFFICE

Dayle enters.

DAYLE

Anything wrong?

CAL

Wrong? No, no. I wanted to tell you ...well, I know this is only your second paycheck ...

(hands it across the desk)

...But I put in a ten cent raise.

Dayle's hand **SHAKES** a little as she accepts the check.

CAL (CONT'D)

Never had anybody really care about their job ...help the cooks when they're running their butts off.

Dayle **SCANS** the check.

DAYLE

I really appreciate it ...thanks.

Cal **ASSESES** her up and down.

CAL

You know, you could put on a little apron and wait tables. Make a lot more money ...in tips, that is.

DAYLE

I don't know if I could do that. Dealing with the people and all. I think I'd rather stay in the kitchen with Cookie.

Cal NODS approving.

CAL

Okay.

**INT. DAYLE'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN- MORNING**

At the kitchen table, Mother PLOPS DOWN a coffee mug and reads a newspaper. She turns the page and sees pictures of the "TOP TEN GRADUATES IN THE STATE". She takes a drink of coffee and recognizes "DAYLE GRANT" amongst them. She CHOKES on the coffee.

**INT. EAT AT MA'S CAFE - CAL'S OFFICE - DAY**

Dayle enters the office, smiles and dries her hands on a towel.

DAYLE

(like Lurch)  
You rang?

CAL

You received a package here.

Dayle FURROWS her brow and STARES at the slender box.

DAYLE

Who from?

CAL

Just says 'Congratulations, Dayle' and 'Love, Mother'. It was laying here on my desk.

Dayle's face FLUSHES red. She continues to WIPE her hands and STARE at the box.

CAL (CONT'D)

Aren't you going to open it?

Cal bends forward to catch her attention.

CAL (CONT'D)  
You want me to?

Dayle NODS. Cal takes a knife from the desk, CUTS open one end and removes a black leather case. He UNSNAPS it and reveals a mechanical drawing set nestled in red felt.

CAL (CONT'D)  
Wow. That's nice.  
(puzzled)  
Thought you said your mother was dead.

DAYLE  
She is ...has been for a long time.

Cal appears puzzled and SHAKES his head.

**INT. MINNY'S UPSCALE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

On a posh couch, Bess entertains a **SIX-MONTH-OLD BABY BOY** with a RATTLE. Minny PACES the floor and adjusts a small wedding ring set on her finger.

MINNY  
I feel so stuck. I can't go out  
...do anything I want. And Bull  
...it's like he's always gone.

BESS  
Somebody's gotta pay the bills  
...and you DO have expensive  
tastes.

Minny picks up a couch pillow, THROWS it at Bess and barely misses the Baby.

MINNY  
You're a lot of help. I want to go  
clubbing ...dancing.

BESS  
Maybe YOU should get a job.

MINNY  
What? Me ...work?

BESS  
Just something part-time, maybe  
...to get you out of the house.

Bess WIGGLES herself up a little straighter.

BESS (CONT'D)

I know your dad would give you a position at the bank ...and you could ride to work with me. I could even train you.

Mিনny stops PACING and points to the Baby.

MINNYY

And who would take care of that?

Bess SNORTS and tries not to laugh.

BESS

Mিনny, what an awful thing to say.

Mিনny TOSSES her head, spins around and STORMS into the kitchen.

**EXT. EAT AT MA'S CAFE - NIGHT**

Dayle exits the front door. Through the glass she watches Cookie turn off most of the interior lights.

Dayle AMBLES alongside an old building and crosses a dark alley. A **THUG, 20s**, grabs her arm, jerks her into the alley up against a brick wall and lays a hand over her mouth. With Dayle's eyes wide, she PANTS hard through her nose.

THUG

Been watching you awhile, Missy. You got a cute walk. Think I'll take you home with me and play some games. Or maybe---

A cop car CRUISES past the alleyway. The Thug FLEES into the alley. The **COP** reverses the car, rolls down his window and calls to Dayle.

COP

What's going on here? You okay?

Dayle takes a DEEP BREATH, steps close enough to talk and keeps her face to the dark.

DAYLE

Just some guy that thought he knew me.

COP

Where did he go?

Dayle WAVES her arm behind her toward the alley.

DAYLE  
That way ...said he was going home.

COP  
You sure you're okay?

DAYLE  
Yeah, just gotta get myself home  
...long day at work.

COP  
Okay. Take care now.

Cop ROLLS up the window and MOTORS on.

**EXT. DAYLE'S CAMPER TRAILER - NIGHT**

Under a street light in an RV lot, Dayle UNLOCKS her door.

**INT. DAYLE'S CAMPER TRAILER - NIGHT**

At the dining booth table, Dayle STARES at the silver carving set from Grandma Grant. She removes the knife, examines it.

DAYLE  
Not much for self-defense.

Dayle replaces the knife to the carving set, TAPS it, CLOSES the box and stores it in a cabinet above the dining table, next to the mechanical drawing set and the Bible.

**INT. INDOOR GUN RANGE - DAY**

Spread out along the stalls, among **THREE** other **SHOOTERS**, with pistol in both hands, Dayle FIRES OFF six consecutive rounds.

While Dayle RELOADS, a hand gently touches her elbow. She looks up at Jack and a broad smile fills her face.

DAYLE  
Oh, my God.

Dayle lays down the pistol and THROWS her arms around his neck. Jack wraps his arms around her waist and rocks back and forth a few times.

JACK  
It is sooooo good to see you, girl.



They step back, GAZE at each other.

JACK (CONT'D)  
What are you doing here?

DAYLE  
Same as you, I suppose. Got to  
take care of myself.

**INT. MINNY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MORNING**

In her bathrobe, Minny SIPS coffee at a luxurious table. She dons a bejeweled necklace. Nearby a **ONE-YEAR-OLD BOY** plays in a playpen full of toys.

With a checkbook at hand, Minny picks up a bill from a stack.

Minny scans it, puts it under the pile and examines another one. She TEARS this one in half, GROANS and throws it to the table center. She picks up another one and scans it.

She picks up a pen and writes out a check.

MINNY  
American ...Casualty ...and Life.

**I/E. WOODY'S CABINET SHOP - DAY**

Dayle approaches the entry with a "HELP WANTED" sign in the window. Dayle enters the open door, KNOCKS on the jamb and NODS her head to **WOODY, 60s**, at his desk. He looks up from paperwork and PEEKS over his glasses.

DAYLE  
Are you Woody?

Woody lays a pen down on a ledger.

WOODY  
Yes. May I help you?

DAYLE  
I'm hoping to help you. I want to  
work for you ...be a cabinetmaker.

An arrogant GRIN spreads across his face. He LEANS back in his chair and rests the back of his head in his hands.

WOODY  
And what makes you think I'd hire  
you?

DAYLE  
 I know the tools ...and I have a  
 little background in cabinet making  
 ...from wood shop in school.

Woody LAUGHS.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
 (urgent)  
 I'll work for a week ...FREE  
 ...show you what I can do.

WOODY  
 (still laughing)  
 No way. I don't care. A girl?  
 I'd be the laughing stock ...ha!

Red-faced and embarrassed, Dayle leaves.

SERIES OF SHOTS - DAYLE TAKES DIRTY JOBS

- Dayle ROLLS OUT from under a utility truck with a used oil filter and disposes of it. On a hung clipboard, she checks off another truck in a fleet of forty.

- Dayle laminates slabs of cypress, buckeye and redwood. After she changes clothes, she leans her dripped-on hardened "plastic" clothes in the shop corner.

- On a freezing night, Dayle DRAINS a radiator and REFILLS another one with antifreeze. An angry male co-worker SHIVERS, throws up his hands and leaves. Dayle checks another truck off the list.

**INT. MINNY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MORNING**

In her bathrobe, Minny sips coffee at the table and dons her jewelry. Her Toddler sidles along the rail of the playpen nearby.

Minny picks up the receiver to a Princess phone and calls Lana.

INTERCUT - LANA AT HOME

LANA  
 Hello.

MINNY  
 Hey, Mom. What are you up to today?

LANA

I have a dentist appointment at one. I thought I'd wait until the maid leaves ...

Lana GLANCES at a clock.

LANA (CONT'D)

...But it looks like I'm going to have to leave before that happens.

MINNY

Okay. We'll come by later this afternoon so you can see the baby. Bye.

Minny RISES to her feet, STRIDES over to the bedroom and sheds her robe on the way.

**EXT. FIBBS MANSION - AFTERNOON**

DOWN THE STREET

Parked in her sports-car with her Toddler in a car seat, Minny watches the Maid emerge from the driveway. She CRANKS the engine and SHIFTS into gear. Minny smiles and exchanges a WAVE as they pass each other.

IN THE FRONT YARD

Minny enters the property and parks. She gets out, goes around, UNBUCKLES and removes the Toddler.

Minny SCANS the empty driveway and takes the hand of her clumsy Toddler. The Toddler STRUGGLES to keep up with her across the driveway.

Minny picks the Toddler up, crosses the lawn on the side of the house and passes the swimming pool toward the tree house.

IN THE BACK YARD

As they reach the stairway, Minny STOMPS up and PROPS the Toddler on the deck.

Minny HUMS a tune and goes inside.

INSIDE THE TREE HOUSE

At the miniature sink, from a cubbyhole in the cabinet beneath, Minny retrieves a kerchief and reveals the jewelry stolen from Lana.

MINNY  
I sure can't wear it.

OUTSIDE THE TREE HOUSE

Mিনny REWRAPS the jewelry. The Toddler rises to his feet. She leaves him on the deck and DESCENDS the steps.

BACK AND FRONT YARD

Mিনny STRIDES back to the car, STUFFS the kerchief under the front seat and pulls out a newspaper.

Mিনny turns back toward the tree house. She notices the clumsy Toddler take a few STEPS along the wooden railing.

Mিনny stops, takes a GANDER around the yard and proceeds. She pretends to read the paper and takes her time across the lawn back to the tree house.

The Toddler slides his hand on the rail and picks up some splinters. He CRIES, YANKS his hand away, falls backward through the railing and off the deck. Down below, THUD! His head hits an exposed tree root.

Mিনny feigns a SCREAM.

MINNY (CONT'D)  
(yells)  
Somebody help!

A **NEIGHBOR LADY** appears at the hedgerow between the properties. Minny RUNS to the Toddler.

MINNY (CONT'D)  
(yells)  
Call an ambulance, please.

NEIGHBOR LADY  
(turns toward her house)  
I am. Right now.

Mিনny KNEELS, picks up the boy, CRADLES him and watches the neighbor SCRAMBLE across her lawn toward her house.

**INT. DAYLE'S CAMPER TRAILER - NIGHT**

Seated at the dining booth with her back to the door, Dayle reaches for an envelope from a pocket in a jacket slung over the bench.

From "FIRST CLASS ACT, INC", mailed to "EAT AT MA'S" with "ATTN: DAYLE" typed in the corner.

With the silver carving set open on the table, Dayle removes the knife, SLITS open the envelope and removes the paper.

INSERT - THE INVOICE READS:

"FIRST CLASS ACT, INC" - "1 MECHANICAL DRAWING SET" - "DUE UPON RECEIPT", complete with her forged signature.

DAYLE

My loving mother.

With a loud KNOCK on her door, Dayle stuffs the invoice back into the envelope.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

Entre'.

Dayle returns the envelope to the jacket pocket. Jack DUCKS his head to enter the camper.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

It's a little cozy, I suppose.

Jack bends, KISSES Dayle's forehead and makes her smile. He passes to the other bench.

JACK

You've done better for yourself than most...

Jack seats himself sideways in the dining booth, his legs stick out into the aisle. Dayle RISES.

JACK (CONT'D)

...Graduated top of your class, for one.

Dayle steps over his legs.

DAYLE

It was a close call.

Dayle retrieves a bottle of wine from the refrigerator and a corkscrew from the counter top.

JACK

Tops in the state.

DAYLE

I had to work.

Dayle sets the wine on the table. Jack SLIDES the bottle over and works to uncork it.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
I cut classes ...did the least I  
could to get by ...

Dayle steps back over his legs.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
...Got only the credits necessary.

Dayle reaches for two goblets hung above the table.

JACK  
Sounds like me, but I still passed  
the BAR.

Dayle seats herself.

DAYLE  
If I'd been one-quarter credit shy,  
no matter how good my grades were,  
I would not have graduated.

Jack POPS the cork.

JACK  
(incredulous)  
You're kidding.

Dayle SLIDES the goblets to the table center.

DAYLE  
Vowed never again to do just enough  
get by. Give it all or give it  
nothing.

Jack POURS the wine.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
So what's up?

JACK  
I've got an offer ...a piece of  
land with water and electric. I'll  
sell it to you ...finance it, too.

Jack WAVES his finger in a circle.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Put your little house there.

DAYLE  
Sounds too good to be true.

They CLINK goblets together and drink.

**INT. MINNY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY**

Seated at the table, with a letter opener Minny SLITS open an envelope, peeks inside and adds it to the bottom of a stack of bills.

Minny SLITS open another one and reveals a check from "AMERICAN LIFE AND CASUALTY". A big SMILE invades her countenance.

MINNY

Wow. Twenty-five big ones.

Minny STARES at the stacks of bills and NODS.

**EXT. DAYLE'S CABIN - DUSK**

**FIRST BUYER** shakes hands with Dayle.

DAYLE

Hope it serves you as well as it has me.

FIRST BUYER

It's perfect for what I need.

First Buyer gets in his truck, waves and MOTORS off with the camper trailer. He reveals a small rustic cabin in the background.

Dayle and Jack saunter to a campfire. A large spool table holds home-made skewers with rubber coated handles, wieners, mustard and a loaf of bread.

DAYLE

The cabin was a good find. I needed more room.

Jack takes a gander toward the cabin and SMILES.

JACK

It nestled right in.

Dayle nears the table. Jack follows.

DAYLE

I don't have the extras. You know, relish, onions, special buns.

Jack inspects her back side and SMACKS her there.

JACK

They're not special buns?

Jack circles around to face Dayle with a smile on her blushing face.

JACK (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah. We're roughing it.

They IMPALE wieners on the skewers.

DAYLE

Reminds me of a boss I had. We were all talking about camping and he said his idea of roughing it was a 'Motel 6'.

They SEAR the wieners over the fire.

JACK

The 'Six' has its advantages ...like a shower...  
(rubs his chin)  
...A shave.

Dayle acknowledges his gesture and GRINS.

DAYLE

He often alluded to his house in a super high-end subdivision on the north side of Madison. 'Willow Acres'? Guess he wanted to make sure we knew where it was.

JACK

Yeah. I know where that is.

DAYLE

He'd say, you know, Benton Boulevard ....behind Red Lobster. So one day I acknowledged his finery, told him he had really good taste.

JACK

How's that?

DAYLE

I'm sure the Red Lobster dumpster has better pickings than the one behind McDonald's.

They share a good LAUGH.



**INT. MINNY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - EVENING**

Seated at the table with goblets in hand, Minny and Bess share a second bottle of wine.

MINNY

You've been my bessss buddy all my life.

Minny GIGGLES, and Bess joins in.

BESS

Alright. Stop it. My side hurts.

MINNY

I have something for you.

Minny SLIDES an envelope toward Bess. She UNFOLDS the flap, peeks in and espies a lot of cash. Her eyes OPEN WIDE.

BESS

Wow. What's this for?

Minny sobers a little.

MINNY

Being my friend all these years. Want you to know I appreciate you.

Bess THUMBS through the stack of bills.

BESS

My God, I can pay off my car.

Minny TOPS off their goblets.

MINNY

Good. I want you to be happy. You have to work all the time. You deserve to have it easy sometime.

BESS

It does get old. I look at other people ...seems like everything comes so easy to them.

Bess takes a drink and SWIRLS the wine in the goblet.

MINNY

We can help each other ...make it easier.

BESS  
 (snorts)  
 Ha! How's that? Rob a bank?

MINNYY  
 Yeah.

Stunned, Bess sets the goblet down, her fingers wrapped around the stem. She half-smiles, STARES at Minny. Minny CLINKS her goblet against Bess'.

**EXT. BIGBY'S PAWN SHOP - MORNING**

Minny PEERS up at the sign, "BIGBY'S PAWN & LOAN/WE BUY GOLD". She enters with the kerchief.

**INT. EAT AT MA'S CAFE - DINING AREA - DAY**

In a booth, Dayle and Jack SIP coffee with Cal.

DAYLE  
 Bought the first house from my "I BUY HOUSES" ad. It feels great. And the guy is super grateful.

CAL  
 Why would someone call on an ad like that? Why don't they just list it?

JACK  
 Sometimes there's no time to wait. Say they get an offer, then the financing falls through and they have to start over.

DAYLE  
 Tell me an agent that will front a seller the money before closing, so they can move on.

CAL  
 Guess you're right.

DAYLE  
 This guy needs to relocate to his new job now.

JACK  
 And he won't need to come back to close.

CAL

Ah. Your mother would be proud.

DAYLE

Really? Remember that mechanical drawing set?

Cal smiles and NODS.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

My loving mother forged my signature on the order.

Cal FROWNS and Jack GASPS.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

They sent the bill here. When I got it, I sent it back to them with MY signature. Let them deal with HER for payment.

**INT. FIRST NATIONAL BANK - DAY**

Minnie dons a wig and plain dull clothes. She enters the glass door to the bank with no other customers around and Bess the sole teller. Bess notices Minny and GLANCES over her shoulder to the rear offices.

Minnie crosses over to Bess' teller station, produces a bank bag from her jacket and SLIDES it across the counter. Minny GLANCES to the side offices for "LOANS".

BESS

(whispers)

Your Dad's not here.

Bess removes all the bills from the drawer and fills the bag.

MINNY

Like you said. The place IS empty.

Bess slides the bag to Minny and she quietly moves to the door. When Minny reaches to push the handle, a Cop on the beat passes the door.

Minnie FREEZES for a beat, exits and HASTENS her way in the opposite direction.

Bess waits a minute, INHALES a deep breath, SHUFFLES to the back and STARES to feign shock. **BANK MANAGER** notices the peculiar behavior and FURROWS her brows.

BANK MANAGER

Bess, what's the matter with you?

Bess PLOPS down on a chair. Bank Manager RISES from her desk and approaches Bess.

BANK MANAGER (CONT'D)

Bess, what's wrong?

BESS

(stares ahead)

I ...I've just been robbed.

Bank Manager RUSHES to the office door and SURVEYS the lobby.

BANK MANAGER

Where is he?

BESS

Has a really big gun.

Bank Manager returns to Bess' chair.

BANK MANAGER

Where did he go?

BESS

I don't know.

Bank Manager STOOPS close to Bess' face.

BANK MANAGER

Bess, which way did he go?

Bess remains with a blank STARE. Bank Manger SLAPS her cheek a few times.

BANK MANAGER (CONT'D)

(yells)

Where did he go?

BESS

(shakes her head slightly)

Just walked out the door.

Bank Manager grabs a phone receiver.

**INT. FIRST OWNER FINANCE HOUSE - DAY**

Dayle with **HOME BUYER** on the front porch.

HOME BUYER

Never dreamed I'd have my own  
place. If it weren't for you, it---

Home Buyer CHOKES up and SHAKES Dayle's hand.

DAYLE

Someone gave me a chance. I'm glad  
to be in the position to pass on  
the favor.

**INT. MINNY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON**

Mিনny counts a handful of stolen cash, removes a stack and  
returns the remainder to the bag. She STASHES the loose  
stack under clothes in a dresser drawer.

**INT. MINNY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON**

With Bess at the table, Minny SCOOTs back a chair and places  
her knee on it. She turns the bank bag upside-down and DUMPS  
the bills onto the table.

BESS

Wow ...I never thought something  
like this could be so easy.

Bess SCOOTs back a chair, sits.

MINNY

Yeah, it was easy.

BESS

Just never crossed my mind before,  
that's all.

They SHUFFLE through and straighten the pile.

**EXT. MINNY'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY**

Angry, dark, toned **BULL, 20s**, dons casual dress clothes and  
carries a briefcase. With eye brows knit together, he  
circles a medium-sized truck with lots of accessories.

Mিনny EMERGES from the front entrance in high-heeled shoes,  
SMILES and proudly folds her arms. She notices her ring  
catch the sun and admires it.

Bull turns and GLARES at Minny.

BULL

What on earth are you thinking? We can't afford another note.

MINNY

Daddy gave me a big down payment ...and co-signed for the note for me. If we don't make the payments, he will.

Bull TRUDGES slowly toward the front entrance.

BULL

No, no ...I don't want his charity. How do YOU intend to pay for it?

MINNY

I'm your wife ...I figure you'll pay for it.

Bull GRABS her by the shoulders, SHAKES her and SHOVES her onto the lawn.

BULL

You go bust your ass for it. You see what it's like to try to keep up with all your crap!

Minnie STRUGGLES to get up and CHARGES at him. Bull FLINGS his arm up, CATCHES her under the chin and causes her to BITE her tongue. Blood GUSHES forth and she falls again.

BULL (CONT'D)

Just LET your daddy pay for it then. You should have married him. Hell, you didn't even take my name!

Bull turns toward the house and GLARES back at Minny.

BULL (CONT'D)

What's more ...

(voice cracks)

I haven't seen any grief from you over my son.

MINNY

(crying)

He was OUR son.

BULL

Really.

Bull SLAMS the door.

**EXT. MINNY'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Bull waits inside the back seat of a police car with hands cuffed behind.

TYRONE  
 (yells at Bull)  
 I'll teach you to lay your hands on  
 MY Baby Doll!

Tyrone WRAPS his arm around Minny. She HOLDS a bloody cloth at her mouth.

POLICEMAN  
 (to Tyrone)  
 Neighbors called it in. We'll  
 charge him with domestic violence  
 ...and we can also hold him on an  
 old outstanding warrant.

Minny GLOATS. Bull SHAKES his head in anger, disbelief.

BULL  
 You pay her way, Da-a-addy. I'm  
 done!

**INT. MINNY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MORNING**

Seated at the table, Minny SCANS a newspaper and sees an "I BUY HOUSES" ad. She picks up the receiver to a Princess phone and DIALS.

INTERCUT - DAYLE AT HOME

DAYLE  
 Hello.

MINNY  
 I have a house I need to sell ...as  
 quickly as possible. It's right  
 here in Madison.

DAYLE  
 Fine. Do you have time to meet  
 with me this morning?

MINNY  
 The sooner, the better. Ten  
 o'clock too soon?

DAYLE  
 No, that's perfect. What's the  
 address?

CONTINUOUS

At the table, Dayle rises to her feet and straightens papers. Solemn faced, Minny remains seated and SIGNS the last page.

MINNY

I want to thank you for coming.

DAYLE

I'm sorry for your loss. It must be really hard.

Minny SLIDES the page across the table to Dayle. Dayle places it under her paper stack and into a folder.

MINNY

I never dreamed I'd be a widow  
...especially this soon in life.  
He was so young ...so alive.

DAYLE

It is a shame.

Minny EXAMINES her wedding ring.

MINNY

He always promised me lots of ice,  
diamonds, you know.  
(beat)  
That's what I really love ...ice.

Dayle TAPS a check laying on the table and SMILES.

DAYLE

This should get you by ...until we  
can close. At least with a few  
less worries anyway.

Dayle PICKS up her purse and the folder.

MINNY

This is a great help.

DAYLE

Glad to do it. You have enough to  
think about, I'm sure.

Minny RISES to her feet.

MINNY

Thank you so much.

Dayle turns to leave and notices an open wooden box with a SET OF SILVERWARE on the buffet.



DAYLE

How beautiful. It matches a  
carving set given to me long ago  
...from someone very dear to me.

Minnie appears unmoved.

MINNY

I-I can't even remember where that  
came from.

DAYLE

Well ...I'll be in touch. If you  
need anything at all, give me a  
call.

Dayle EXITS the house. From the window, Minny watches Dayle  
and GRABS a set of keys from the table.

MINNY

Hurry up, Bess.

Bess EMERGES from a closet. Minny THROWS her the set of  
keys.

MINNY (CONT'D)

Follow her. Big black truck.

Bess SCURRIES out the back door. Minny watches Dayle place  
the papers and her purse in the passenger seat, circle around  
and climb into a big black truck with bright red seats.

**INT. EAT AT MA'S CAFE - DINING AREA - NOON**

Jack SEATS himself in a booth next to Dayle. She SIPS coffee  
and FLIPS the page of a magazine.

JACK

What you got?

Dayle LAYS the magazine open on the table between them.

DAYLE

Looking at the latest structures  
...you know, buildings, bridges. I  
would be proud to have designed any  
of these.

Jack PORES over the photos.

JACK

Just remember who helped you build  
your first projects.

DAYLE

Alright, you. But these need to be a little more secure than 'Lincoln Logs'. I've been working on a degree in architecture.

Jack raises his brows, NODS and SMILES. Cal appears from the kitchen with an unlit cigarette in hand.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

I thought you quit smoking long before I met you.

CAL

I did ...don't know why I want one.

DAYLE

I smoked for a while ...in high school.

JACK

(turns, surprised)  
Really. You?

DAYLE

I quit when they got to a dollar-fifty a pack.

Cal SLIDES into the booth across from Dayle and Jack. He lays the cigarette in a clean ash tray.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

I got one good laugh when I did smoke. A lot of the boys in school always made smart remarks about my long hair ...wearing a pony tail.

Jack STROKES down the back of her hair.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

One day at lunch time, a group of high school jocks were walking toward me. One of them stopped, started stomping his foot, snorting like a horse ...called me 'Horse's Ass'.

JACK

Can't imagine that!

Jack STROKES her hair again.

DAYLE

It was nothing new. I humored them for years ...ignored their stupidity. But now we were Seniors ...time to grow up.

CAL

So what did you do?

DAYLE

It was magic. I never could do like boys ...aim a spit ball and hit a target ...or even a paper wad, but that day with my middle finger ...

Dayle imitates the motion she made.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

...I flicked my cigarette butt right at this jerk. It hit his chest, went down inside his shirt, got stuck in his overalls.

Cal and Jack LAUGH.

CAL

You burnt the jerk's jock!

JACK

Or the jock's jock.

DAYLE

He was dancing all over Main Street trying to get it out. His buddies sure didn't know what to do.

Cal and Jack LAUGH again.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

I never heard so much swearing since I left home.

Cal's smile slowly fades.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

I didn't do it on purpose, but he never spoke AT me again. Guess it was time he grew up, huh?

**EXT. EAT AT MA'S CAFE - NOON**

In Minny's truck, Bess watches Dayle KISS Jack's cheek and climb into her truck. Bess follows Dayle.

**EXT. DAYLE'S HOME - DAY**

From the front, the rock home appears to be a one-story. Dayle drives around the side, down the hill and turns one hundred eighty degrees to the rear. The house descends down three stories, the back with rows of numerous windows, a balcony and the lowest level a three-car garage.

Bess passes the house, pulls into a nearby driveway, SCANS the property and turns around.

SUPERIMPOSE - ONE MONTH LATER

**INT. DAYLE'S HOME - DAY**

The silver carving set lies open, displayed on an antique buffet, along with the "STUDY BIBLE". With textbooks and drawings spread across the dining room table, Dayle DIALS the phone.

INTERCUT - JACK'S OFFICE

JACK  
Landers Law Office. This is Jack.

DAYLE  
Hey.

JACK  
What's up, Dayle?

DAYLE  
I've got some trouble. A woman I helped some time back refuses to close on the property she sold to me.

JACK  
Want me to come by?

DAYLE  
I got a better idea ...I'll come by and get you. If you write a demand letter for me, I'll make it worth the ride ...show you something different, something I'm sure you've never seen before.

JACK  
Sounds as interesting as you are.

**INT. BIGBY'S PAWN SHOP - DAY**

Tyrone enters and approaches the jewelry counter. **PAWN SHOP OWNER, 60s**, a man about half the size of Tyrone, emerges from the rear of the store.

PAWN SHOP OWNER  
May I help you?

Tyrone smiles and GAZES through the bright lit glass cases.

TYRONE  
Looking for a heavy gold chain.

Tyrone BROWSES for a moment. His smile turns to disbelief. In the case, he sees Lana's heirloom necklace. Tyrone points to it.

TYRONE (CONT'D)  
Where did you get that necklace?

PAWN SHOP OWNER  
Oh, that.

Pawn Shop Owner reaches into his pocket for his keys and UNLOCKS the display case.

PAWN SHOP OWNER (CONT'D)  
It's been here a while. I may not have it priced right.

Pawn Shop Owner removes it from the case.

PAWN SHOP OWNER (CONT'D)  
I've never seen anything like it before.

Pawn Shop Owner lays the necklace on a velvet pad and SLIDES it to Tyrone. He notices Tyrone's FROWN.

PAWN SHOP OWNER (CONT'D)  
It looks old ...but I don't know how old. Care to make me an offer?

Tyrone turns over the pendant and EXAMINES it.

TYRONE  
It's a piece of jewelry that was stolen from my wife.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

I know this piece. It belonged to my mother for years.

Pawn Shop Owner grows nervous.

PAWN SHOP OWNER

Now ...I-I had no idea.

TYRONE

Who pawned it?

PAWN SHOP OWNER

I don't know right off hand.

Tyrone LEANS over the counter into Pawn Shop Owners face.

TYRONE

I demand to know who brought this in. Go find out now!

Tyrone EASES back. Pawn Shop Owner SCURRIES to the rear of the store, FUMBLES through a card file nervously and pulls out a card.

PAWN SHOP OWNER

Ah, yes. She brought in several beautiful pieces.

Pawn Shop Owner approaches the counter with the card.

PAWN SHOP OWNER (CONT'D)

I bought the other pieces. I had her pawn this one, because I couldn't place a market value on it ...nothing to compare to.

Pawn Shop Owner lays it on the counter. Tyrone examines it.

INSERT - PAWN CARD

It lists several pieces of Lana's missing jewelry below a phone number and at the top of the card, "MINNY FIBBS".

**EXT. DAYLE'S HOME - NIGHT**

With a small child's bat and a five gallon bucket, Minny, dressed in black, approaches the house from a grove of trees. She SCANS around the yard and spies a window on the front with timbers below for a raised flower bed.

Minny steps on the timber frame and RAPS hard a few times near the lower center of the upper window pane. The glass BREAKS.

Minnie BASHES at the glass shards to make a hole big enough to get her hand inside to unlock the window. Distant headlights from the road shine through the trees.

Minnie THRUSTS herself down prone on the ground. The car passes and continues down the road.

Minnie rises to her feet, returns to the window and unlatches it. She knocks the glass shards off the window sill with the bat. She removes her jacket, lays it across the sill, opens the window, steps on the bucket and crawls into the house.

**EXT. THE HOUSE - NIGHT**

Dayle drives the narrow gravel road through the large tract of land covered in high weeds and trees overgrown with vines.

INSIDE THE TRUCK

The dashboard lights reveal Jack, wide-eyed as he PEERS through the windshield.

JACK

Where are we?

The truck creeps forward. The headlights reveal an old two-story house with a greyed-wood, shuttered windows and the front door boarded up. Dayle drives around to the back.

Dead-looking trees fill the unkept yard. Broken branches lay about the place. Jack STARES at Dayle.

JACK (CONT'D)

Have you lost your mind?

Dayle GRINS, parks the truck, GRABS her purse and a pad of paper.

DAYLE

Come on.

On the back porch, Dayle slowly PUSHES open the web-covered door with a long annoying SQUEAK.

**INT. THE HOUSE - NIGHT**

Jack and Dayle enter the hallway. SOFT MUSIC comes from the dimly lit room at the end of the hall.

Jack and Dayle enter the room. They fill two stools at the bar. A sign above the bar reads "THE HOUSE".

An extraordinarily tall **BARTENDER** with a distinguished air dons a black tuxedo and tie.

BARTENDER  
(deep creepy voice)  
Good evening. What's your  
pleasure?

DAYLE  
(to Jack)  
Whiskey sours ...up?

Jack SURVEYS the strange environment. The **BAR PATRONS** converse quietly at their tables. Dayle NODS to Bartender.

JACK  
It's something different alright.

Dayle SLIDES the tablet onto the bar between them.

DAYLE  
So is the mess I got into. I've  
helped people before, multiple  
times ...just never ran into an  
ungrateful flake.

Jack returns his attention to the bar.

JACK  
We'll straighten it out.

Dayle reaches for two cocktail napkins and lays them out for the drinks. Bartender SHAKES their whiskey sours and sets two chilled goblets on the bar.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Oh ...I found out something you  
might want to know.

DAYLE  
(smiles)  
What's that?

Bartender STRAINS their drinks.

JACK  
The money taken from your savings  
account ...'to settle some things'  
I know what it was used for.

DAYLE  
(loses the smile)  
What?



JACK  
 After you left home, your mother  
 divorced your step-dad.

**INT. DAYLE'S HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

Dayle enters from the lower story stairs. Textbooks and drawings litter the table and floor. She immediately turns toward the buffet. She discovers an empty spot instead of the silver carving set and the Bible untouched.

Dayle SHAKES, picks up the phone receiver and DIALS the number for "POLICE" from the "EMERGENCY LIST" sticker on the phone.

Dayle takes her pistol from her purse and lays it on the buffet.

DAYLE  
 My house has been burglarized.

Dayle searches around the buffet area inside and underneath.

DESK OFFICER (O.S.)  
 The address?

CONTINUOUS

Dayle notices red flashes from the front window and puts her pistol away in a buffet door. She OPENS the front door before the **TWO OFFICERS** knock.

DAYLE  
 Thanks for coming so soon. I found  
 where they came in.

Dayle points to a bedroom off to one side.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
 A window in that bedroom has been  
 broken and unlocked.

Officer One goes into the bedroom and flicks on a light.

OFFICER TWO  
 Anything missing?

Dayle AMBLES over to the buffet.

DAYLE  
 So far, the only thing I know of is  
 the silver carving set I keep on  
 this buffet.

Officer Two takes notes. Officer One returns from the bedroom and turns off the light.

OFFICER ONE  
The bedroom is empty.

DAYLE  
That bedroom and the second story  
ARE empty.

Officer One crosses over to the kitchen and peers in.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
Drawers have been gone through in  
the master and the kitchen, but I  
don't have any valuables to speak  
of ...just the missing silver set.

OFFICER ONE  
What about the other levels?

DAYLE  
I entered from the third floor down  
...the garage. Nothing out of  
place except right here. You're  
welcome to look if you need to.

OFFICER TWO  
Alright. Just keep track of  
anything else you may find missing.

Officer One moves to the back wall.

OFFICER ONE  
Don't all these dark bare windows  
get to you at night?

DAYLE  
No. I don't know of anyone short  
of Spiderman that can scale the  
wall up here. And if HE does, I'll  
let him in.

The Officers SMILE.

**INT. MINNY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY**

Bull enters with the mail and SHUFFLES through a few envelopes.

BULL  
Bill ...bill ...bill ...I should  
know.

Bull stops, RIPS one open and scans it.

Mিনny and Bess LAUGH. They enter with arms full of shopping bags. Bull turns and GLARES at Minny.

MINNYY  
(surprised)  
What's the matter?

She GLANCES down at the bags.

MINNYY (CONT'D)  
Oh, these? I paid cash for it all.

Bess steps back toward the door.

BESS  
I'm going to get on home, Minny.  
Later, huh?

Mিনny NODS. Bess departs and FLINGS the door SHUT. Minny returns her attention to Bull.

MINNYY  
So, what's the matter?

Bull WAVES the letter.

BULL  
This is a lawyer's demand letter representing someone named Dayle Grant? It says you need to pay back some money ...a lot of money.

Bull returns his GAZE to the letter.

BULL (CONT'D)  
That or she'll sue for the house ...or three times the amount of funds she paid to you.

Mিনny lays the bags on the couch.

MINNYY  
To us!

BULL  
What do you mean us? What money?

MINNYY  
I had to do something to pay your fines ...spring you out of jail ...so you could come back home.

BULL

So I could go back to work ...isn't  
that what you really mean?

MINNY

I had to find a way to pay for the  
truck ...the house ...FOOD.

Bull brushes past her and SHOVES her onto the shopping bags.  
They CRINKLE, SLIDE off the couch onto the floor and take  
Minnie with them.

**INT. FIBBS MANSION - FRONT ENTRY - NIGHT**

The door bell BONGS. Lana RISES from the couch, leaves  
Tyrone in the great room. She PEEKS through the peep hole  
and opens the door. Minny BOLTS inside.

MINNY

(smiles)

Hey! My key didn't work.

Minnie WAVES to sullen Tyrone. She turns back to Lana by the  
open door.

MINNY (CONT'D)

Why couldn't I get in?

Tyrone RISES, STARES at Minny and approaches them.

LANA

(stern)

The locks have been changed.

MINNY

(laughs)

Why? Surely no one would try to  
break in with that fancy alarm  
system you bought.

Tyrone leans on the entryway to the great room.

TYRONE

We know about the jewelry. I found  
the last piece of it. The heirloom  
necklace ...the one that was  
pawned?

Minnie FEIGNS surprise and dons an incredulous smile.

MINNY

What do you mean?

TYRONE

Knock off the act. You're not welcome here ...especially when we're not home.

Minnie's smile turns to anger.

MINNY

You're my parents ...my own flesh and blood!

LANA

And you ours, but it doesn't seem to make any difference to you.

TYRONE

Why should it make a difference to us?

Minnie fumes, STORMS out and turns back to them.

MINNY

You'll be sorry for this. I'm telling you now. You'll be sorry.

Lana STARES blankly at Tyrone and FLINGS the door SHUT.

**INT. DAYLE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY**

Dayle studies her books and drawings at the table. The phone RINGS. Dayle RISES and STRETCHES to reach the phone.

INTERCUT - BULL AT MINNY'S HOUSE

DAYLE

Hello.

BULL

Hey, uh ...I'm Minny's husband, Bull. So what's the deal with the house?

DAYLE

Very simple. Go to the title company and close the sale.

BULL

(annoyed)

I don't know anything about a sale.

DAYLE

Doesn't matter. Take your pick.  
Your wife owes me a house or the  
return of the money.

BULL

What money?

DAYLE

The money I fronted Minny when you  
died!

BULL

What?

DAYLE

Of course, you can also do nothing  
...then you'll owe me THREE times  
the amount loaned.

BULL

(angry)  
Look, bitch---

DAYLE

I'm not going to argue with you,  
ass-hole. If you don't want to  
hire your own attorney, call mine.

CLICK! Dayle hangs up. Bull THROWS the receiver.

**EXT. THE HOUSE - NIGHT**

Jack drives Dayle's truck into the long driveway.

DAYLE

Been looking forward to a night  
out. I need a break.

JACK

Whatever brought you to The House  
to begin with? How did you know it  
was here?

DAYLE

A client that sold me a house had  
to leave town. He gave me a  
business card with a fifty dollar  
credit to 'The House'. He said he  
could never find it, so he left the  
card with me as a 'Thank You'.

JACK  
 (nods)  
 And you were determined to find it.

DAYLE  
 That's right. That card was worth  
 fifty bucks and I was going to  
 spend it ...one way or another.

They arrive at the rear of The House.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
 Go on around that bend and park.  
 Newcomers won't see the other  
 vehicles ...like your first time  
 here.

JACK  
 And your first time, I suppose?

DAYLE  
 Oh, yeah. And I was alone, so my  
 first time through that door was  
 super creepy!

Jack SMILES, drives on around the bend down a hill on the  
 side of "The House" and parks amongst ten or twelve other  
 vehicles.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
 When we leave, we'll keep going  
 that way ...use the moonlight to  
 circle around until we get back to  
 the driveway.

JACK  
 (grins)  
 This is too much. YOU are too  
 much.

**INT. THE HOUSE - NIGHT**

Dayle and Jack seat themselves at the bar.

BARTENDER  
 Good evening. What's your  
 pleasure?

Dayle points to a sign behind the bar with a picture of a  
 bottle with lime-green liquid, labeled "WINE GHOUler".

DAYLE  
 I'll try one of those.

JACK  
I'll 'ghoul' the same.

Bartender sets up two bottles and UNCAPS the 'wine ghoulers'.  
Dayle reaches for cocktail napkins.

DAYLE  
So, her dead husband has decided to  
pay it all back, huh?

JACK  
Unbelievable, but he signed an  
agreement. Here's a copy.

Jack produces an envelope from his jacket pocket and lays it  
between them. Bartender places chilled goblets and the  
bottles on the napkins.

JACK (CONT'D)  
One thousand a month until it's  
paid in full.

Dayle places the envelope in her purse.

DAYLE  
I knew he would ...or his hole  
would just keep getting deeper  
...and deeper.

Dayle and Jack POUR drinks into their goblets.

JACK  
Still, I don't see where he'll get  
that kind of money.

DAYLE  
I don't care where he gets it. Let  
him sell the house. If he doesn't,  
I'll take that. It's the law.

Dayle takes a big swallow.

JACK  
Whoa. Remind me not to cross you.

Jack takes a belt.

DAYLE  
People should be nice. They're NOT  
nice.

The SONG on the jukebox ends. An EERIE TUNE softly plays.  
Dayle SPINS on the stool to the dark empty bandstand.



A blacklight shines on white chalk written on a blackboard. It spells out "BURIED ALIVE".

Dayle TAPS Jack on the leg. He turns and reads it. The patrons in the room become silent. Jack and Dayle turn back around to the bar and listen with the Bartender nowhere in sight.

POETRY NARRATOR (V.O.)  
(deep slow male voice)

Hour by hour my body runs dry  
Awaiting for freedom or death.  
I don't really care if I live on or  
die.  
Suspense is the gas of each breath.

Sunup and sundown, I live in a  
trance  
And suffer not knowing the end.  
Try to relax in a roomful of ants  
That have not a morsel to lend.

I'm hungry and bitten, fatigued  
beyond sleep.  
Wish neither to live nor to die.  
Just relieve my mind of the misery  
so deep;  
Live in peace or rest when I die.

To suffer suspense is to go through  
all hell.  
You realize you don't really care.  
Predicting the end makes the misery  
swell  
And suspense the ungodly to bear.

The patrons APPLAUD. Jack NODS a few times to Dayle.

JACK  
Now, that's creepy.

**INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY**

The letters on the opaque window in the courtroom door defines the room, "JUDGE KOPPS - DISTRICT COURT IV". The door opens.

Inside, Jack approaches before the bench of "JUDGE KOPPS", Dayle sits at a table behind Jack.

Bess locates a seat on the opposite side behind Minny and her **PUBLIC DEFENDER**. **BAILIFF** stands against the wall near the bench.

JUDGE KOPPS  
 (to Jack)  
 I've read the charges ...all about  
 this case.  
 (looks over his glasses)  
 Mineola Fibbs ...front and center.

Dressed like a librarian, Minny timidly approaches the bench with the Public Defender beside her.

JUDGE KOPPS (CONT'D)  
 This court finds you guilty of  
 fraud. Have you anything to say  
 for yourself?

MINNY  
 (demure)  
 What ...what about my husband?  
 Doesn't he take any blame?

JUDGE KOPPS  
 (leans forward)  
 Don't insult my intelligence, young  
 lady! He didn't sign these papers.  
 He was in jail.

PUBLIC DEFENDER  
 Your Honor. Her husband has made a  
 payment ...and he intends to pay in  
 full.

Judge Kopps ROLLS his chair back and RISES.

JUDGE KOPPS  
 I've never seen such arrogance in  
 my life. I invoke a sentence of  
 six months ...AND the full  
 restitution of all funds received  
 from the victim.

Judge Kopps BANGS his gavel. Minny GASPS, FEIGNS weak knees and grabs the Public Defender's arm.

JUDGE KOPPS (CONT'D)  
 Take your act somewhere else.

Judge Kopps turns to depart and GLARES back at Minny.

JUDGE KOPPS (CONT'D)

If the funds are not repaid, you  
will hand over ownership of the  
real estate to your fraud victim  
...or pay three times the amount  
owed. That's according to the law.  
(to the Bailiff)  
Sir, get her out of my courtroom!

**EXT. HOPE MISSION - DAY**

Dayle parks near the front entry of "HOPE MISSION" with a load of cardboard boxes in her truck-bed. She JUMPS out, leaves the door open and ambles to the truck tailgate.

Dayle opens it, climbs inside the bed, SLIDES a few of the boxes onto the tailgate and JUMPS down. A **GROUP OF WOMEN** of diverse ethnic backgrounds surround her, most of them taller and bigger than Dayle. Dayle SMILES at them and opens a box.

DAYLE

I brought some nice clothes here.  
And some warm coats and blankets  
...before winter sets in.

WOMAN ONE

Little Miss Goodie Two Shoes.

WOMAN TWO

Another one of those spoiled brats  
...always had everything handed to  
her.

Dayle steps backward toward the truck cab.

WOMAN THREE

Yeah. Look at that truck. Ever  
think you'd have a truck like that,  
Peg?

Dayle stops by the open door near the driver seat.

INSIDE THE TRUCK

Dayle's pistol lays under the seat not far from her hand.

OUTSIDE THE TRUCK

PEG

Yeah. Maybe if I'd whored around.  
That make you feel better ...coming  
around here, patronizing us?

Dayle's hand moves slowly toward the gun. The **MISSION MANAGER** emerges from the building.

MISSION MANAGER  
What's going on here?

The Manager's presence breaks up the circle of women. He approaches the truck tailgate.

MISSION MANAGER (CONT'D)  
(to Dayle)  
May I help you?

DAYLE  
(solemn)  
I came to help you.

Dayle NODS to the boxes on the tailgate. Manager raises a flap on the open box.

MISSION MANAGER  
How nice.  
(waves to the women)  
Well, come on ladies. Let's get this unloaded.

The Manager reverts his attention back at Dayle. A few women step forward to unload it.

MISSION MANAGER (CONT'D)  
Are you alright?

DAYLE  
Yeah. But I can promise you I'll never be back. I'm sorry for you. How ungrateful can people be?

MISSION MANAGER  
What do you mean?

DAYLE  
Ask them.

Some women stand idle and GLARE at Dayle.

**INT. THE HOUSE - NIGHT**

Dayle and Jack lounge at the bar with whiskey sours.

DAYLE  
I don't get people. Who are those women to judge me? They don't know anything about me at all.

JACK

They only know what they've seen.

DAYLE

Then they haven't seen anything. I wonder how many of them learned to tie their laces wearing boys dress shoes.

JACK

(eyebrows up)

Probably none.

DAYLE

People don't make any sense to me. It's not always what successful people spend their money on. It's mostly what they DON'T spend it on.

JACK

Meaning?

DAYLE

Say a person buys a big stereo or TV, but they don't even have a place of their own to keep it. Then they lose it one way or another ...and it's everybody else's fault?

Dayle finishes her drink and SLIDES it toward Bartender as he nears them.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

Where are their priorities? I'd rather have the necessities, ...those doodads are luxuries.

Bartender removes the goblet, SHAKES another sour and POURS it for Dayle.

JACK

Obviously, they had bad role models.

DAYLE

My mother was a horrific role model ...but I learned the difference between hot and cold ...and how they clash ...break each other.

With his hands down behind the bar, Bartender places himself front and center to Jack and Dayle.

BARTENDER  
A couple of red eyes?

Jack appears bewildered.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)  
They're on The House.

Dayle NODS. Bartender RAISES a tray holding a skeleton head with huge shiny red eyes, along with two plastic swords.

JACK  
What the ...?

With a sword, Dayle stabs an eye.

DAYLE  
Cherries ...

Dayle plucks it from the socket.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
...Soaked in 'EVER CLEAR'.

Dayle eats it. Jack grins, SHAKES his head and follows suit.

SUPERIMPOSE - SIX MONTHS LATER

**I/E. BULL'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Minnie's posh furniture barely fits in the tiny room, the walls yellowed, dirty wear marks on the doors and trim.

With her hair and complexion in shambles, plus an extra twenty pounds, Minny stands by the coffee table opposite the couch and SCANS the room. On the couch shoved against a wall, Bull lounges and FLIPS through a girly magazine.

MINNY  
(annoyed)  
When did you start looking at that trash? Ain't I enough any more?

Bull FLOPS the magazine on his chest.

BULL  
There ain't much else to do. Don't have a big fancy place to take care of any more.

MINNY  
Why did you have to move us HERE?  
It's way too small.

Mিনny SLIDES her foot on the floor and WAVES her arm.

MINNYY (CONT'D)

The carpet is ancient.

Mিনny eyes the ceiling and walls, HUFFS and places her hands on her hips.

MINNYY (CONT'D)

The whole house stinks like old food. Everything needs paint, it---

Bull JUMPS to his feet, FUMES, his nostrils FLARE.

BULL

Shut up, you stupid broad. It's because of your damned lies. Where were YOU going to move to, huh?

MINNYY

I had no intention of selling the house ...or moving. I had bills to pay.

Mিনny slowly steps back away from him.

MINNYY (CONT'D)

It's all your fault, any way. Hitting me ...going to jail and all. If you hadn't started that fight and---

Bull inches toward Mিনny and she CLUNKS back against a wall.

BULL

ME! You're the one ...come home with a fancy new truck you can't pay for.

Bull's voice CRACKS.

BULL (CONT'D)

The only reason we have THIS place is because my Momma died. Being stuck in jail, I couldn't even go to her funeral.

Bull turns away from Mিনny. A tear slides down his cheek.

BULL (CONT'D)

This place is paid for ...free and clear. Only thing there is to pay is the property taxes.

Bull WIPES the tear with the back of his hand and turns back around to Minny.

BULL (CONT'D)

I HAD to sell our house ...to pay  
back your real estate bitch.

Minny THROWS herself down on the couch face first and SOBS.

MINNY

I always wanted to be dripping in  
diamonds ...wear lots of ice  
...it's been my lifelong dream.  
Now living in this dump---

BULL

Dump? What makes you think  
everything is all about you? My  
Momma died! Didn't you hear me?  
My Momma died!

Bull GRABS some keys from the coffee table.

BULL (CONT'D)

Now I've got a crap job. I can't  
earn near what I did before ...all  
because of you!

Bull RAISES his arm to hit her in the head with the keys.  
Instead he GROANS and STORMS out. He SLAMS the door so hard  
the knob comes off and CRASHES to the floor.

**EXT. EAT AT MA'S CAFE - NOON**

Minny drives her truck while Bess POINTS ahead to the  
restaurant.

BESS

That's where she went for lunch.

MINNY

And there's her truck.

Minny passes the restaurant, turns around and parks down the  
street. They face the rear of Dayle's truck.

BESS

She's probably in there with her  
lawyer buddy.

MINNY

How do you know him?



BESS  
I remember him from the courthouse  
...when ...well ...your fraud case.

MINNY  
Ah, shut up!

BESS  
(haughty)  
Excuse me.

Mিনny reverts back at the restaurant.

MINNY  
Look!

Mিনny and Bess watch Dayle emerge from the cafe, climb into the cab and take off in her truck.

Mিনny CRANKS her truck and slowly moves along behind. After a right turn onto a four-lane street, Minny gets into the right lane beside Dayle.

Mিনny passes, gets almost in front of Dayle to the right and JERKS into the lane in front of Dayle.

Dayle hits the back driver's side corner of Minny's truck and SPINS the truck sideways. The impact bends Dayle's bumper a little and makes a dented-up mess on the entire driver's side of Minny's smaller truck.

Mিনny PUSHES Bess out the passenger door. They quickly exit the passenger side.

MINNY (CONT'D)  
Look what you did to my truck.

Mিনny DASHES around the truck and approaches Dayle's truck. Dayle remains seated.

DAYLE  
I don't know who you are, but you'd better back off.

Mিনny stops and PEERS at Dayle incredulously.

MINNY  
Get out, damn it.

Dayle MOVES the gear shifter into reverse.

DAYLE  
Don't even touch this truck.

Mিনny STARTS toward her and SHAKES her fist.

MINNYY  
I'll bust your face, bitch.

DAYLE  
You don't want to fight with me.

Dayle LURCHES backward and drives away. Minny turns back to her truck.

BESS  
Hey, we can report her for leaving the scene of an accident.

MINNYY  
I can't report this!

Mিনny SCOWLS and SLIDES across the seat to the driver's side.

**INT. POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON**

Dayle enters apace across the lobby to the **DESK OFFICER**.

DAYLE  
I need to report an accident ...not really an accident. It was absolutely intentional. Trouble is, I had to leave the scene to avoid more trouble. The stupid woman was rational as a rabid dog.

DESK OFFICER motions to Dayle with his hand.

DESK OFFICER  
Come on around here. I'll get someone to make out a report.

DAYLE  
In the meantime, may I call my attorney, please? It's a local call.

CONTINUOUS

Jack and Dayle face the Desk Officer at the lobby desk.

DESK OFFICER  
We'll let you know when the other driver comes forward to make a report.

JACK

Probably done this before ...to  
collect insurance, I would guess.

DAYLE

I don't believe she will. She was  
a wild one.

DESK OFFICER

Why not?

DAYLE

She seemed to want to pick a fight.  
Maybe she planned to rob me.

DESK OFFICER

Did your truck handle properly on  
the way here?

DAYLE

Yeah. I'm not concerned about my  
truck. The damage is minimal. But  
she's madder than a hornet. Her  
truck is a dented-up wreck ...down  
the entire drivers' side.

**INT. BULL'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON**

Minnie PACES the floor. Bess seats herself on the couch.

BESS

You shouldn't have tried to make  
her wreck.

MINNY

I've got to get her back for  
ruining my life.

BESS

In all honesty, Minny, she tried to  
help you ...and you lied to her.

Minnie STOPS and GLARES at Bess.

MINNY

Whose side are you on, anyway?

Minnie STRIDES over to the window, PUSHES a sheer curtain  
aside and FROWNS at the dented-up truck.

MINNY (CONT'D)

I can't believe it turned sideways  
the way it did.

BESS  
It IS a catastrophe.

Minny sees Bull arrive in a "HOME PRIDE APPLIANCES" delivery truck. The tires SQUEAL to a halt.

MINNY  
Bull's here ...finally.

BESS  
Actually, that was pretty quick.

Minny watches Bull EXAMINE the truck and STOMP toward the house. She releases the curtain when the door opens.

Bull SLAMS the door.

BULL  
(to Minny)  
Who's fault was it?

Minny remains silent. Bull turns toward Bess.

BULL (CONT'D)  
Where's the police report?

Bull nears Minny and SHAKES her by the shoulders.

BULL (CONT'D)  
Answer me, damn it.

Minny TWISTS loose.

MINNY  
There isn't one. I didn't want the cops there. Just thought we could exchange information for insurance ...then she drove off.

BULL  
She who? We don't know who to make a claim against?

Bull POINTS toward the front yard.

BULL (CONT'D)  
And we have to pay notes on a messed-up wreck?

Minny and Bess GLANCE at each other.

MINNY  
It was the real estate bitch. It was her fault.

**I/E. DAYLE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON**

## OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

A "HOME PRIDE APPLIANCES" delivery truck pulls up to the front. The tires SQUEAL to a stop.

## INSIDE THE HOUSE

Dayle PEERS toward the window, RISES from textbooks and drawings at the dining room table and PEERS through the sheer curtain at the window.

The suspicious looking Driver saunters up the walk. With each step, he casually waves a single wrinkled yellow paper in his hand.

Dayle removes the pistol from her purse on the buffet. She moves to the foyer and faces the front door. She can see the Driver through a long narrow window parallel to the door. Driver RINGS the doorbell.

DAYLE

You have the wrong address. I haven't ordered anything.

DRIVER (O.S.)

Got a delivery slip here ...for Dayle Grant.

Dayle PLACES both hands on the gun and aims it toward the floor in front of her.

DAYLE

I haven't ordered anything ...from anyone.

DRIVER (O.S.)

Maybe it's a gift.

Dayle RAISES the gun a little toward the door.

DAYLE

I haven't ordered anything. Good bye.

## OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

Driver reverts down the sidewalk about ten feet, turns and CHARGES toward the door. He KICKS next to the door knob. The door flies open and BANGS against the wall. Driver regains his balance.

## INSIDE THE HOUSE

Driver CHARGES through the door into the foyer. Wide-eyed, he faces Dayle, armed with her pistol. She SHOTS once and hits him directly in the heart.

The impact STUNS him, THRUSTS him backward a bit. With a terrorized STARE on his face, Driver CRUMPLES to the floor face down, CONVULSES a few times and lies still.

Dayle STARES at the body and takes a few slow steps backward.

#### OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

A "POLK COUNTY AMBULANCE" arrives. **TWO EMT PERSONNEL** jump out. One EMT opens the ambulance rear and unloads a gurney. The other retrieves an equipment bag and approaches Officer One at the entry.

OFFICER ONE

(calls to EMTs)

No hurry. We'll have to wait for  
the County Coroner ...possible  
homicide.

#### INSIDE THE HOUSE

In the dining room next to the foyer, Dayle listens on the phone at the table amongst her books. She STARES at the pistol on the buffet near the "STUDY BIBLE".

GRANDMA GRANT (V.O.)

May God bless and keep this child  
...wherever she may go ...whatever  
she may do.

Officer Two enters the foyer, KNEELS and removes a wallet and the yellow paper from Driver's back pockets.

With a clipboard in hand, Officer One stays in the foyer next to the dining room with the entry door still open. Officer Two lays his finds on the buffet, examines the paper and removes the license from the wallet.

DAYLE

Soon as you can, Jack.

Dayle HANGS up the phone. Officer One approaches Dayle.

OFFICER ONE

Do you know this guy?

DAYLE

A liar from hell is all I know.  
Told him three times I didn't order  
anything.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

I watched him turn to go ...then he charged through the door.

Officer One FROWNS at her and writes on his pad. With the yellow paper, license and a pen in hand, Officer Two crosses over to the kitchen. Still in view he makes a phone call.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

(angry)

I wouldn't have opened the door if I HAD ordered anything ...just by the way he approached.

Dayle moves to the buffet for her purse. Officer One GAZES up.

OFFICER ONE

What do you mean?

DAYLE

I've accepted deliveries, but I've never seen a delivery man without some sort of tablet or clipboard ...for signatures.

From her purse, Dayle produces an I. D. She approaches Officer One.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

He was waving that sweaty yellow wrinkled up paper, acting so nonchalant ...extremely unprofessional ...way too much of an act.

OFFICER ONE

Very observant.

Officer One takes the I. D., clips it to his board and makes more notations. Officer Two returns to the buffet near the wallet.

DAYLE

It WAS self-defense. I didn't break my own door.

Dayle POINTS over to the buffet.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

Just look at that yellow paper. I didn't order anything. He had no business here.

Officer Two approaches Officer One with the yellow paper and the Driver's license in hand.

OFFICER TWO

The address on this receipt is bogus. I called the appliance dealer. There was no sale to a Dayle Grant ...or this address.

DAYLE

Who is this guy?

Officer Two turns his attention toward Dayle.

OFFICER TWO

Name on his license reads Raymond Bullard. You know him?

Dayle shrugs and SHAKES her head NO.

DAYLE

Nope. Not a clue.

**INT. BULL'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Seated on the couch, Bess and Minny hold wine goblets with an empty bottle on the coffee table.

Minnie TOSSES a newspaper on the table. It displays several photos. Amongst them, Dayle's photo with "DAYLE GRANT" printed below, with the headline "LOCALS EARN DEGREES".

MINNIE

(spits saying the 'P')  
Damn her ...Miss Perfect!

Bess LAUGHS.

BESS

You spittered.  
(giggles)  
I mean, spattered.

Minnie SPITS on the announcement.

BESS (CONT'D)

Yu-u-u-ck. You just won't grow up, Minny! What the hell is wrong with you?

Minnie GLARES at Bess.



MINNY  
 (slurs)  
 She killed my husband, damn it.

**INT. BIGBY'S PAWN SHOP - DAY**

Mিনny SAUNTERS in with a big smile. Her shirt droops off one shoulder. Pawn Shop Owner PEERS at her suspiciously.

MINNY  
 I need to look at some guns.

PAWN SHOP OWNER  
 I'll have to see some  
 identification.

MINNY  
 No problem.

Mিনny RETRIEVES a card from her purse. Pawn Shop Owner examines it front and back.

PAWN SHOP OWNER  
 I've seen these before. This is  
 not a legitimate I. D.

MINNY  
 What do you mean? You trying to  
 accuse me of having a fake I. D.?

PAWN SHOP OWNER  
 I'm telling you I can't sell you a  
 gun in this state without the  
 proper I. D. ...

Pawn Shop Owner FLICKS the card with his finger.

PAWN SHOP OWNER (CONT'D)  
 ...And this is not acceptable.

Mিনny SLAPS his hand when she grabs the card. She STRUTS out and SLAMS the door.

**INT. BULL'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Mিনny and Bess sit slouched forward on the couch with goblets in hand. An empty wine bottle sets on the coffee table along with a half-full bottle.

MINNY

Bess, I got to get my hands on a piece. You can go to the pawn shop for me ...bring me a gun.

Minny FLOPS her head back to get the last drink from the goblet.

BESS

I can't get mixed up in something like that. You're talking murder. You want to kill her, don't you?

Minny PUSHES the empty glass aside and takes a big drink directly from the bottle. She licks her lips and BURPS.

MINNY

I'll pay you.

BESS

Right. With what?

Minny silently STARES for a beat. A tear TRICKLES slowly down her cheek.

MINNY

(slow speech)  
I'm not Daddy's little Baby Doll anymore.  
(sniffle)  
And Daddy won't pay for anything ...and I can't get any more money for the Baby---

Bess SOBERS and awkwardly RISES to her feet. Minny's mouth GAPES and she GAZES up at Bess. Bess takes several slow steps backward.

BESS

I've always wondered where you got that bunch of cash. How I paid off my car?

MINNY

(sobers a little)  
I ...I didn't mean that.

BESS

I can see it now. You let him fall, didn't you? Or maybe you helped him ...pushed him out of the tree house?

Bess gathers her purse and jacket.

BESS (CONT'D)  
 Minny, I am done with you!

Minny SOBS LOUDLY.

MINNY  
 Please, Bess, don't leave me.  
 You're all I have, don't leave me,  
 please!

Bess exits, SLAMS the door and leaves the house eerily silent.

**EXT. FIBBS MANSION - AFTERNOON**

IN THE BACK YARD

On this breezy partly-sunny day, Tyrone and Lana relax on chaise lounges by the pool and peruse magazines. Between them on a table sets a small margarita pitcher almost empty and two salt-rimmed glasses, with a stack of more magazines under Lana's lounge.

The double doors to the great room stand wide open.

LANA  
 It's a perfect day to run some  
 fresh air through the house.

TYRONE  
 Breath of fresh air for ourselves.

IN THE FRONT YARD

Minny approaches the entry and PEEKS through a window. She spies the rear-entry doors open.

MINNY  
 (whispers)  
 Alright!

Minny disappears around the side of the house.

IN THE BACK YARD

Tyrone gets up and tosses his magazine on the lounge. He steps toward Lana's lounge, leans over her and gives her a passionate kiss. He straightens himself. Lana GAZES up at him and EXTENDS her hand. He SQUEEZES it gently.

LANA  
 I've missed my husband. I DO love  
 him.

Tyrone WINKS at her.

Minnie CROUCHES down to hide between the house and shrubbery. She discovers her parents by the pool.

TYRONE

Think I'll test the water.

Tyrone STRIDES over to the pool edge and DIVES in. He swims a full lap, comes back to the edge where he dove in and SPLASHES Lana with both hands.

Lana SQUEALS.

LANA

Aye, aye. It's still too cold.

Lana SHAKES water from the magazine cover.

TYRONE

No, it's not. It's great.

Minnie inches her way over to the doors. Lana reaches under her lounge and swaps magazines. Tyrone swims to the opposite pool end. Minny sneaks into the house.

IN THE GREAT ROOM

Minnie SHUFFLES across the floor and TREADS up the wide open stairway.

IN THE MASTER BEDROOM

At the night table on one side, Minny opens the drawer. She searches through, finds pill bottles and a "KLEENEX" box.

Minnie CLOSES it, goes around to the other night table and opens the drawer. She searches through, finds nasal spray and more "KLEENEX".

Minnie crosses the floor to the master closet.

IN THE MASTER CLOSET

Like a long hallway, Minny passes shelves of shoes, coats stored in clear bags, a full variety of hung up clothes down both sides. A row of hat boxes line the top shelf on one side. Luggage lines the top shelf on the opposite side.

In the back, high on the wall, she PEERS at scuff marks in the paint. A step stool leans against the rear wall. She unfolds it, steps up, retrieves a hat box next to the scuffs. It's much heavier on one side and falls clumsily into her hands.

Mিনny places the box on the floor, removes the lid and finds a large blue barreled pistol, along with a box of ammunition.

Mিনny snatches a toiletries bag from a shelf, shoves the gun and ammo into it. She replaces the hat box, climbs down and replaces the step stool.

IN THE GREAT ROOM

Bag in hand, Mিনny descends four or five steps. She hears LAUGHTER. Mিনny SCRAMBLES back up the steps.

Lana comes through the back door with the pitcher and stops suddenly. She GLANCES up the stairway. A wall picture nearby FLUTTERS from the breeze. She smiles, continues on her way to the kitchen.

Wide-eyed, Mিনny leans her back against the wall around the corner from the stairway, SLOWS HER BREATH.

Mিনny PEEKS down the stairway. Lana returns from the kitchen with a full pitcher, crosses the floor and out the back doors.

Mিনny hastily makes her way down the stairs and around to the front entry. She sees the alarm control for the doors. A red light blinks. She HITS her fist on the door jamb.

MINNY

(whispers)

Damn.

Mিনny PADS back through the great room near the rear entry. She PEEKS out the sheer window curtains. Tyrone DRIES himself, POURS another drink and reclines on the lounge with his magazine. Lana rests in her lounge chair.

IN THE BACK YARD

Mিনny SLINKS out the doors to the shrubbery and rests a beat. She inches her way around to the front.

IN THE FRONT YARD

With no one in sight, Mিনny EMERGES from the shrubbery to the front porch steps and strides down the sidewalk with the bag.

**EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY**

A banner reads "CONGRATULATIONS HONOREES". It looms over the **CROWD** at an outdoor graduation ceremony. Jack and Dayle mingle among the crowd. A few people SHAKE Dayle's hand.

She CLUTCHES her diploma in the other. Jack dons a proud smile.

INSIDE MINNY'S TRUCK

Mিনny SCOWLS with the pistol nearby on the seat. She watches the crowd disperse, observes Jack and Dayle separate from the crowd and saunter toward Dayle's truck.

OUTSIDE DAYLE'S TRUCK

Jack OPENS the passenger door for Dayle and CIRCLES the front to the driver side. Dayle REMOVES her purse from under the seat and PLACES her diploma there.

Dayle RAISES her foot to enter her truck. Jack opens the driver door.

MINNY

Hey!

Dayle TURNS with her back to the inside passenger door. Minny STOPS just beyond the truck's tail-end with her arms folded.

MINNY (CONT'D)

Suppose you got all kinds of stuff  
to be happy about, bitch.

Oblivious to Jack, Minny straightens her arm and AIMS the pistol at Dayle. Minny's arm SHAKES. She RAISES her other hand and PLANTS her feet farther apart.

MINNY (CONT'D)

You killed my husband.

Jack FUMBLES for Dayle's pistol under the driver's seat.

MINNY (CONT'D)

Now, it's your turn.

DAYLE

So ...you really loved him.

Armed, Jack CROUCHES below the height of the truck, SLINKS to the tail-end.

MINNY

Yes, I loved him. He loved me  
...took care of me ...best he could  
till you came along.

Jack PEEKS around and CATCHES the side view of Minny.

DAYLE

He was out of the picture when I  
came along. Dead, remember?

With a SCOWL, Minny TILTS her head and FIRES the pistol. The huge gun KICKS hard. The slug WHIRS past Dayle's head and SHATTERS the passenger door window. Bewildered bystanders from the crowd take cover behind other vehicles.

JACK

Hey!

Minny SPINS, aims at Jack. He FIRES first. The bullet HITS Minny in the upper left shoulder above the heart.

Minny GASPS, STUMBLES toward Dayle and SWINGS her hand to her injured shoulder. The upward motion casts the pistol forward toward Dayle and CRASHES to the pavement.

Minny MOANS and SLUMPS the ground. Jack bypasses Minny, gets between her and Dayle. Minny crawls toward Jack and picks up the pistol. She FIRES a round straight up through Jack's back.

Wide-eyed, Jack drops Dayle's gun and SLUMPS forward onto Dayle. She attempts to catch his torso, break his fall to the ground, and goes down to her knees beside him.

DAYLE

(desperate)

My God! Someone call for help!

Minny RAISES the pistol and aims at Dayle. A **BYSTANDER** KICKS the pistol from her hand. It SLIDES under Dayle's truck. The Bystander STANDS on Minny's hand. She WAILS with pain.

Dayle SCREAMS and CLINGS to lifeless Jack, her arms around his torso, partially on her lap. Dayle SCANS the growing crowd of witnesses.

DAYLE (CONT'D)

Somebody help me!

**INT. COURTHOUSE - JUDGE KOPPS COURTROOM - DAY**

Dayle waits in a pew behind the **PROSECUTOR's** table. The Bailiff and several Police Officers line the side walls.

With her shoulder bandaged and her arm in a sling, Minny rests at the defendant's table with the same Public Defender. Minny turns to see behind her, finds a few unfamiliar people, preoccupied with their paperwork and lawyers. None take notice of her.

Minnie GLANCES over behind Dayle. Lana and Tyrone STARE straight ahead. Tyrone wraps his arm around Lana's shoulders.

PROSECUTOR  
It's cut and dry, your Honor. The  
DA's office recommends a life  
sentence.

Judge Kopps SCANS the people seated behind the Prosecutor.

JUDGE KOPPS  
(to Prosecutor)  
Are there any Victim's Impact  
Statements?

PROSECUTOR  
Yes, your Honor. One.

Prosecutor turns to Dayle. She RISES to her feet. Lana reaches forward over the pew with a kerchief and WAVES it. Dayle faintly smiles at Lana and accepts it.

Dayle passes between the attorney's tables and seats herself in the witness stand.

JUDGE KOPPS  
State your name. And spell it for  
the court reporter, please, ma'am.

DAYLE  
Dayle Grant. D-A-Y-L-E- G-R-A-N-T.

JUDGE KOPPS  
Thank you, ma'am. You may proceed.

DAYLE  
(to Judge Kopps)  
Minnie is a person I tried to help  
...through what I thought was a  
very hard time of her life. But it  
was all lies.

Judge Kopps PEERS over his glasses, SCOWLS at Minny and returns his attention back to Dayle.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
It's because of people like her  
that folks quit helping each other  
...become callous and quit caring  
altogether.

With her brows knit together, Minny BANGS her heel on the floor, leans forward and SHIFTS in her seat.



Dayle STARES Minny straight in the eyes.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
I know because it almost happened  
to me. I've been pushed to the  
brink anyway.

Dayle pauses and turns her attention back to Judge Kopps.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
Your Honor. There are those who  
work their way up from nothing  
...find riches in rags.  
(beat)  
...And those who have been given  
everything ...yet become riches in  
rags.

Stone-faced, Dayle lets the tears roll. She dries her cheeks  
with the kerchief.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
She killed my friend ...the best  
friend a person could ever have ...  
(beat)  
...And she tried to kill me.

Dayle PEERS down at her hands.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Your Honor ...and please  
excuse me.

Dayle reverts her GAZE back to Judge Kopps.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
(swallows hard)  
I thought I ran out of tears as a  
child.  
(beat)  
I was wrong.

Dayle RISES from the witness stand and returns to the pew.  
Judge Kopps PEERS over his glasses at Minny.

JUDGE KOPPS  
The defendant will rise.

Public Defender RISES and MOTIONS to Minny. She HUFFS. She  
STRUGGLES to erect herself. Public Defender takes her right  
arm and helps her up.

JUDGE KOPPS (CONT'D)  
 Before sentence, Mineola Fibbs, do  
 you have anything to say for  
 yourself?

PUBLIC DEFENDER  
 The defendant declines to comment,  
 Your Honor.

Minnie WEEPS. Judge Kopps GLARES at her.

JUDGE KOPPS  
 Your tears mean as much to me as  
 anyone else's tears ever meant to  
 you. I was sure I had my mind made  
 up before we came in here today.

Judge Kopps turns and LOCKS eyes with Dayle.

JUDGE KOPPS (CONT'D)  
 Now it's confirmed.

JUDGE KOPPS (CONT'D)  
 (to Minny)  
 Mineola Fibbs, in light of your  
 prior record, I sentence you to  
 life in prison ...without any  
 possibility of parole ...ever.

Minnie's tears transform to anger. Judge Kopps RISES, WAVES  
 his hand to the Bailiff.

JUDGE KOPPS (CONT'D)  
 Get her out of here ...for good!

Judge Kopps TROMPS out his chamber door. Minny SPINS around  
 to Dayle. The Bailiff approaches Minny from behind. Dayle  
 STARES toward Minny.

MINNY  
 (mouths to Dayle)  
 I'll kill you.

With handcuffs, Bailiff REACHES for Minny's wrist. Minny  
 KICKS behind her and GAFFS the Bailiff. Several Officers  
 RUSH to the Bailiff's aid. They GRASP Minny's legs and arms,  
 and haul her to the side door.

MINNY (CONT'D)  
 (screams)  
 My arm.

She KICKS and SCREAMS. Another Officer opens the door.  
 Minny STRUGGLES to capture Dayle's attention.

MINNY (CONT'D)  
Damn you, bitch. I'll kill you!  
I'll kill you!

The group exits. The Officer quietly closes the door. Tears STREAM down Lana's cheeks.

**INT. FIBBS MANSION - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY**

Lana moves a sheer curtain, stares down from the window at the sparkling swimming pool. Her gaze moves over to the tree house.

LANA  
(whispers)  
Spoiled ...everything spoiled.

Lana SHAKES her head.

**EXT. FIBBS MANSION - FRONT ENTRY - DAY**

Dayle pushes the doorbell. BONG! She SCANS out over the lush lawn.

Lana OPENS the front door.

LANA  
Thanks for coming.

Lana smiles faintly and MOTIONS for Dayle to come in.

**INT. FIBBS MANSION - GREAT ROOM - DAY**

Dayle follows Lana to a tea table with a vase of fresh cut flowers.

DAYLE  
You have me really curious ...about  
what you want to tell me.

Lana SCOOTs a chair out and PATS the back of it.

LANA  
I don't know how to explain this.

Near the chair, Dayle smells the flowers. Lana SCOOTs out another chair and remains behind it. She WAVES her arm.

LANA (CONT'D)  
We have an alarm system installed  
here. It covers every entrance  
...every window.

Dayle SEATS herself.

DAYLE  
(intrigued)  
Yes?

Lana turns from the table and over to a buffet.

LANA  
Tyrone goes on business trips  
sometimes. Leery of sleeping in  
strange places without some sort of  
self-defense, he keeps a gun.

Still with her back to Dayle, Lana opens a drawer of the  
buffet and reaches in.

LANA (CONT'D)  
Somehow, that gun came up missing  
from our bedroom ...  
(motions with her hand)  
...Upstairs.

Lana retrieves a large envelope and lays it on the buffet.

LANA (CONT'D)  
We reported it stolen, and the  
police recovered it.

Lana REMOVES the contents.

DAYLE  
Why are you telling ME this?

Lana turns around to Dayle and exposes a pistol with pavement  
scratches on the side. With a slight movement, Dayle presses  
back into the chair.

LANA  
Before police returned it to us,  
they identified this as the weapon  
used to kill your friend.

DAYLE  
(gasps, whispers)  
Jack!

**EXT. HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS - DAY**

Sun shines through the trees. On an easel, a poster reads "MADISON HIGH WOOD SHOP DEDICATION" with an arrow to direct interested parties to the dedication site.

A sign reads "WOOD SHOP" above the stoop at the inset entry of a large high-ceiling one-story building. A piece of white linen covers a bronze plaque embedded into the brick entry wall. A huge pair of scissors rests beneath it on the concrete stoop.

About **TWO DOZEN PEOPLE** circle about, amongst them Dayle, Tyrone and Lana, along with a local **TV STATION CREW**. They surround the entry with a broad ribbon spread across wall to wall.

The **PRINCIPAL**, a tall stately man, emerges from the entry doors. The crowd quiets as his appearance captures each one's attention.

PRINCIPAL

As you are aware, we've gathered here today to dedicate our new Wood Shop.

A small round of APPLAUSE.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

It has been furnished with state-of-the-art equipment. Over the years, we have produced some very successful people from our wood and metal shops. These improvements should serve to raise the standards we've held.

Another round of APPLAUSE.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

The funds for this enterprise were hastened greatly by a hometown businessman ...one who worked hard to raise the bankroll ...and to assure it will be the best high school wood shop in the state.

Principal bends over to the side to pick up the scissors.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

So without further delay ...Tyrone Fibbs.

Tyrone steps forward to a ROUND OF APPLAUSE. The Principal hands the scissors to him. Tyrone RAISES his empty hand and shakes his head NO.

TYRONE

This wouldn't have happened ...I  
couldn't take credit for a thing,  
except for the support of my  
beautiful bride, Lana.

(waves his hand)

Come on.

Another ROUND OF APPLAUSE breaks out. Taken aback, Lana puts her hand on her chest and hesitates. A few folks NUDGE her forward.

Lana steps over to the ribbon. Tyrone SMILES at Dayle and hands the scissors to Lana. Lana turns and STARES Dayle straight in the eye.

LANA

For Jack.

Lana SNIPS the ribbon, followed by another ROUND OF APPLAUSE. Tears well up in Dayle's eyes.

PRINCIPAL

Alright. Now for the unveiling.

Principal REMOVES the white linen from the plaque.

INSERT - THE PLAQUE Reads:

"IN MEMORY OF JACK LANDERS"

A list several engineering company names and at the bottom,  
"DAYLE GRANT, ARCHITECT".

Dayle GASPS, a tear rolls down her cheek.

DAYLE

For real ...for Jack!

Tyrone and Lana approach Dayle. Lana gives her a big hug.

**INT. PRISON - DAY**

IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

Prisoners don shirts with their names screen printed into them. Minny OPERATES an enormous steam press.

(O.S.) A bell RINGS and a door SLAMS shut.

Minny GLANCES at the short hall with a wide opening to the break room. Minny's cell mate **MAUDE**, late 20s, with a chunky build, EMERGES to take her place.

Minny RAISES the press and releases a cloud of steam. It exposes a pressed pant leg. She WIPES sweat from her brow with her forearm.

MINNY

This sucks, Maude. It's so hot.

Maude LAUGHS at Minny.

MAUDE

You don't know how lucky you are.

MINNY

Lucky? This sweat-hole?

MAUDE

Easiest job in the Yoke.

Minny steps to the side. Maude lays the pressed pant leg in gentle folds, FLIPS them over.

MINNY

Yeah, right.

MAUDE

Hey! Just think ...if we had to do all the sheets and towels in this place ...besides these nasty bitches' clothes.

Maude SMOOTHS the other leg onto the press.

MINNY

(curious)

They send them out?

MAUDE

Yeah. We'd run these old machines into the ground if they didn't.

Maude LOWERS the press.

MAUDE (CONT'D)

And we've got the best guard ...as guards go. He's a real chump.

Maude WIGGLES her whole body.

MAUDE (CONT'D)  
 Let him have a little feel here and  
 there ...uh huh.

Minnie STARES at her aghast.

MINNY  
 (suspicious)  
 You're messing with me.

MAUDE  
 No! Ha! And don't push him away.  
 He'll just laugh ...and screw with  
 you that much more.

Dazed, Minny SHUFFLES to the break room. She hears a  
 television and stops short at the ajar office door. She  
 peeks through.

The **GUARD, 60s**, an ugly obese man watches television with his  
 back to the door. Minny observes the TV.

INSERT - T. V. NEWS BROADCAST

Lana steps to the ribbon. Tyrone smiles at Dayle (O.C.),  
 hands the scissors to Lana. Lana turns toward Dayle (O.C.)

LANA  
 For Jack.

Lana SNIPS the ribbon, followed by another round of APPLAUSE.

PRINCIPAL  
 Alright. Now for the unveiling.

Principal removes the white linen from the plaque.

INSERT - THE PLAQUE Reads:

"IN MEMORY OF JACK LANDERS"

A list several engineering company names, at the bottom,  
 "DAYLE GRANT, ARCHITECT".

Tyrone and Lana approach Dayle. Lana gives her a big hug.

BACK TO THE LAUNDRY ROOM

Minnie's jaw DROPS at the sight of Dayle with her parents.  
 She INHALES and pinches her mouth closed to keep from  
 blowing.

IN THE BREAK ROOM



Mিনny TROMPS into the room furnished with metal folding chairs at long folding tables and a bell installed on the spring-closure door.

Mিনny pushes a table and SLAMS it against a wall. She KICKS the table leg, GRABS her foot and WINCES with pain.

The Guard appears around the doorway and SCANS the room. Mিনny LEANS her rear on the table she kicked, with her foot propped on a chair.

GUARD

What's the problem here?

MINNY

(startled)

Oh. I ...I went to sit down and hit my sore toe on the table leg.

The Guard SMILES and approaches her.

GUARD

(sympathetic)

Ah. Can you stand on it?

MINNY

I can try.

The Guard comes to her side and puts a hand on her waist.

GUARD

Here ...let me help you.

Mিনny feigns a smile up at him. He takes her hand and wraps her arm around his neck. Mিনny HOPS to favor the one foot. The Guard's hand slips up her side, a little closer to her breast.

GUARD (CONT'D)

I have a couch in here where you can rest for a while.

IN THE GUARD'S OFFICE

The Guard steps in sideways. Mিনny HOPS in beside him as his hand SLIDES all the way down to her bottom. He KICKS the door shut.

**INT. PRISON - LOCKED CELL - NIGHT**

Mিনny PACES and hugs a pillow. On her cot, Maude lounges on her stomach with a magazine. She PEERS up at Mিনny.

MAUDE  
Thought you had a sore toe.

MINNY  
(defiant)  
I did. It's better now.

MAUDE  
Yeah. That old guard knows right  
where to rub sometimes.

Minnie THROWS the pillow at Maude. She BLOCKS it with her  
arm.

MINNY  
I can't take this. I'd rather die  
than stay in here.

Maude SMIRKS, ROLLS onto her side with her hand on her hip.

MAUDE  
When you figure out how to unhitch  
the Yoke ...besides a ride in pine  
crate, you let me know. Okay?

Maude ROLLS back over onto her stomach. Minny PLOPS down on  
her SQUEAKY cot.

MINNY  
I've got to get out of here ...and  
I'd die trying. I can guarantee  
you that.

Maude slowly uprights herself.

MAUDE  
I've never heard anyone in here  
that desperate.

MINNY  
I've got something I need to take  
care of ...someone. And the sooner  
the better.

Maude REACHES for the magazine at the head of the cot and  
SLIDES it toward her.

MAUDE  
Well, I've got a whole lifetime  
...with nothing to lose. Count me  
in.

MINNY  
Yeah, sure. Like how can you help?

Maude ROLLS up the magazine.

MAUDE  
When the laundry area was remodeled  
...I watched ...picked up a few  
things.

MINNY  
(snide)  
Like what? How to hammer a screw?

MAUDE  
Ha. I don't mean carpentry tips.

Maude SLAPS the magazine in the palm of her hand.

MAUDE (CONT'D)  
Let's just say I became a member of  
the two-by-four club.

Minnie produces a faint smile.

**EXT. FIBBS MANSION - BACKYARD - DAY**

Bright and sunny, Dayle joins Tyrone seated at a shaded patio table. Lana circles the table, POURS glasses of lemonade.

DAYLE  
It's not over ...I just know it.

TYRONE  
But she's serving a life sentence.

Lana seats herself.

DAYLE  
That doesn't matter. I don't know  
if it's the dreams ...really  
nightmares I have, or what, but  
it's not over.

Tyrone LIFTS his eyebrows.

Dayle examines her hands. Lana gently CLASPS Dayle's forearm.

LANA  
(softly)  
I don't know what else she could  
possibly do.

Lana LEANS over to catch Dayle's gaze.

LANA (CONT'D)  
She's locked up.

DAYLE  
(looks at Lana)  
Maybe because this has gone on so long ...it's hard to believe it's over.

**INT. PRISON - DAY**

IN THE BREAK ROOM

The Guard checks the break room, finds it empty and GRINS at the sight of a bell attached to the door.

IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

The Guard approaches Minny from behind. Minny, noticeably slimmer, OPENS the steam press. The Guard bends, runs his hand slowly up her thigh and stops at her butt cheek.

GUARD  
(in the nape of her neck)  
Hello, Princess.

Minny turns toward him. Her shirt dons a "TRUSTEE" patch. She SMILES up at him.

GUARD (CONT'D)  
I had good dreams last night. What about you? What do you dream about, Princess?

The Guard fits his other fingers in her front waistband.

MINNY  
My dreams are far away from here.

GUARD  
Home?

The Guard slowly runs his other open hand from her butt cheek up to below her breast, supports it with his thumb and index finger.

MINNY  
Oh, no. If I ever got out of here, I would get as far from Madison as I could.

GUARD  
Like where, Princess.

The Guard pulls her waistband and puts her against his groin.

MINNY

I always wanted to go to the  
mountains. Maybe learn to ski.

The Guard runs his hand back down to her thigh.

GUARD

Might break one of your pretty  
little legs, Princess.

(O.S.) The bell RINGS and the door SLAMS shut.

The Guard smiles, GRUNTS and turns toward his office.

SUPERIMPOSE - SIX MONTHS LATER

**EXT. PRISON YARD - DUSK**

Golden sun descends, glistens across undisturbed snow that covers rolling hills, dormant crop fields, sparse bare trees.

**INT. PRISON - GUARD'S OFFICE - DUSK**

The Guard retrieves several rings of keys from his desk, pockets them, shifts his baton at his hip and puts on a coat. Near the entry, he grabs his lunch box and closes the door.

**I/E. PRISON - LAUNDRY WAREHOUSE - DUSK**

A low loading dock allows the back doors of the step vans used for laundry trucks to swing open. An unmarked white step van approaches from the distance, BREAKS through a fresh shallow snowfall.

About ten feet apart amid several laundry carts, Maude and Minny with slim frames, GLANCE at each other, ready to load the truck with linen carts, "MINNY" and "MAUDE" screen printed into their jackets.

Minny cups her hand to savor the steam from her breath. Maude GLANCES at Minny and poses a faint smile.

With his lunch box, the Guard strolls over to Minny, brushes close between a laundry cart and her torso and stops for a few seconds with his face close to hers.

GUARD

(whispers)  
See you tomorrow, Princess.

As the Guard turns his back, Minny SHUDDERS with disgust. Maude SNORTS back a laugh.

MAUDE  
(whispers)  
Princess Minny.

The Guard descends the few steps, strolls out to the cyclone fence. He sets down his lunch box, unlocks and opens the gate for the laundry truck to enter and retrieves his lunch box.

The laundry truck enters, turns around and backs up to the dock. The Guard ambles along to his white Jeep with a canvass colored ragtop outside the fence. He opens the driver's door, TOSSES his lunch box onto the passenger seat and leaves the door ajar.

The **LAUNDRY DRIVER**, a small wimpy guy, gets out, climbs the steps and opens the rear double doors. Minny and Maude inch their carts toward the opening. The Guard ambles his way back to the fence gate and waits.

Before the Laundry Driver can turn around, Maude pulls a piece of two-by-four from her cart and CRACKS it over his head. Minny removes the sheets from her cart.

LAUNDRY DRIVER  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAK!

The Driver SLUMPS. The women easily catch him, DUMP him into the empty cart and return the sheets to cover him.

GUARD  
(alarmed)  
Hey! What's going on in there?

Minny and Maude SHOVE the cart with the driver inside into the truck.

The Guard makes haste, SWINGS the gate shut and SHUFFLES toward the steps. Maude SHOVES the two-by-four back into the second cart and covers it.

GUARD (CONT'D)  
(pants, annoyed)  
What happened?

Maude points to the rear truck doors. With a flirtatious advance, Minny inches her way close to the Guard.

MINNY  
Looked like he slipped and fell  
...trying to stop the cart.

The Guard PEERS into the rear truck doors. Maude CRACKS him in the head and drops the two-by-four.

GUARD  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAK!

The Guard SLUMPS face down on the floor. Maude UNCLASPS a set of handcuffs from his belt, TOSSES the cuffs to Minny and TOSSES the baton into the truck rear doors.

Minny CUFFS the Guard's hands and removes all his keys from his pockets onto the floor. Maude SPREADS out a sheet and CASTS the two-by-four on it.

They ROLL the Guard into the sheet and use two other sheets to tie around his covered head and feet. They each grab the tied ends, drag him into the rear truck doors and up against the first cart.

Maude SHOVES the other cart into the truck. Minny SPREADS out the keys, searches and holds up the Jeep keys.

MINNY  
Gold.

Maude CLOSES the doors.

MAUDE  
Let's get. Slow ...like we've seen  
them do.

MINNY  
(air kiss)  
Bye, Maude.

Maude climbs into the laundry truck and FUMBLES for a few seconds to operate it. Minny BOLTS for the gate, FLINGS it open and runs to the Jeep with keys in hand. She easily CRANKS it up and backs out.

The gate slowly swings to close. It BANGS against the truck cab. Maude FORCES it open with the truck front, pulls out behind Minny and follows the Jeep at a casual pace.

The gate slowly swings and CLANKS closed.

**EXT. ROADWAY - DUSK**

Minny and Maude GLANCE all about their open environment.

INSIDE THE LAUNDRY TRUCK

MAUDE  
 (exuberant)  
 The Yoke is broke!

OUTSIDE THE TRUCKS

The road comes to a tee and they stop. Road sign arrows point, "<---MADISON" to the left, "HAMILTON--->" to the right.

INSIDE THE JEEP

Minnie PEERS into the rear view mirror at Maude. They each NOD, SHAKE A FIST.

OUTSIDE THE TRUCKS

Minnie turns toward Madison and Maude toward Hamilton.

**EXT. ROADWAY EMBANKMENT - DUSK**

The laundry van sets perpendicular to the road at the top of a steep embankment with sparse bare trees. With the engine in idle, Maude opens the truck rear doors, drapes a blanket over her arm, grabs the Guard's baton and leaves the doors open.

Maude TREADS shallow snow to the open driver's side door. She SHIFTS the transmission and the truck ROLLS slowly toward the breach.

Maude SCAMPERS across the road, breaks fresh snow over the shoulder and across a field.

The front wheels leave the embankment. The truck hangs on the under-carriage, SLIDES and proceeds onto the inevitable fall. It TUMBLES and ROLLS, spews its contents from the back doors and comes to rest in the valley below.

Maude reaches a break through the brush into the trees and disappears.

**EXT. DAYLE'S HOME - MORNING**

Snow provides camouflage for the white Jeep, easily hidden in a grove of trees. Light snow falls.

INSIDE THE JEEP

Covered with an over-sized Prison Guard's coat, Minny awakes, YAWNS and SHIVERS.



She erects herself from a slouch and SHIFTS to straighten up. She tosses the coat into the seat behind her.

Mিনny EYES the side of the rock house.

FROM THE TREES

One garage door OPENS. Dayle's truck backs out. The door closes and the truck ascends the hill around the house to the road.

IN THE JEEP

MINNYY  
(mumbles)  
Here, kitty-kitty.

Mিনny CRANKS UP the engine and moves forward at a crawl pace.

**EXT. ROADWAY - MORNING**

INSIDE THE BLACK TRUCK

Dayle turns on the radio to a News **BROADCASTER**.

BROADCASTER  
...Have a weather report, a warning of unseasonable snow. Ice has been the cause of a few minor accidents around the area already so drive safe.

(beat)  
One tragic accident off the highway south of Hamilton. A step van was found over an embankment. Emergency personnel haven't been able to reach the wreckage yet, but reports so far indicate there were two bodies thrown from the wreckage...

Dayle FURROWS her brows, TURNS the radio off and adjusts herself up a little straighter. In the rear view mirror, Dayle notices the white Jeep close to the rear of her truck.

OUTSIDE THE TRUCKS

Dayle comes to a downhill curve and TAPS the brakes. The driver SLIDES and corrects enough to avoid sliding into the ditch.

INSIDE THE BLACK TRUCK

Dayle GLANCES in the rear view mirror.

DAYLE  
Now maybe you'll screw off.

OUTSIDE THE TRUCKS

The road flattens out.

INSIDE THE BLACK TRUCK

Dayle GLANCES in the mirror again and sees the Jeep right on her truck tail.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
That little Jeep's no match for  
this monster, numb nuts.

OUTSIDE THE TRUCKS

The Jeep RAMS the back of Dayle's truck. Dayle SLIDES, SWERVES a little. The Jeep RAMS again and JAMS under her bumper.

INSIDE THE BLACK TRUCK

Dayle attempts to see the driver in the rear view mirror over her taller truck.

OUTSIDE THE TRUCKS

Dayle tops a hill. The Jeep separates from the truck's rear and decelerates.

Dayle descends another long hill on a curve. The Jeep speeds up, struggles to stay on the road and RAMS Dayle's truck hard.

Dayle's truck SPINS sideways. The passenger side CRASHES into the piling at the end of a long bridge with the truck frame bent "V" shaped.

INSIDE THE JEEP

Minnie LAUGHS and backs up.

OUTSIDE THE TRUCKS

Minnie adjusts the Jeep on the road, aims at Dayle's driver's side. She races toward the truck.

The speeding Jeep hits a patch of black ice, SLIDES onto the bridge and SPINS out of control.

The Jeep FLIPS and CRASHES onto its passenger side. The FORCE EJECTS Minny through the plastic Jeep window and over the bridge rail.

Minnie SCREAMS one long scream and free-falls in mid-air toward the frozen lake far below.

The Jeep SPINS to a stop and rests in the bridge center.

Minnie CRASHES onto the ice. The impact RUPTURES a hole and Minny disappears beneath.

Dayle STUMBLES out of her truck. She SHUFFLES carefully across the icy road to the bridge rail.

Dayle STARES over the rail down on the lake ice with the gaping hole. Broken ice resurfaces and SPARKLES.

FLASHBACK - DAYLE'S KITCHEN IN THE SNOW

CLINK! Dayle, 7, with a WIDE-EYED STARE!

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
(gasps)  
Grandma's right!

The clear broken glass SPARKLES like DIAMONDS in the snow.

END FLASHBACK

Dayle beholds an outline of Minny appear under the thin ice.

DAYLE (CONT'D)  
Hot and cold.

Dayle STARES out over the icy lake.

MINNY (V.O.)  
He always promised me lots of ice,  
diamonds, you know.  
(beat)  
That's what I really love ...ice.

FADE OUT.