

KELSEY'S GIRLS

Written by Dan Bagan

Music by Dan Bagan

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INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Downstairs in a typical church basement there is a COUNTRY GOSPEL JAMBOREE taking place on a good sized stage. There is a banner that reads "ANNUAL COUNTRY GOSPEL JAMBOREE" across the front of the stage. The crowd is medium size but attentive. DAISY and GLADYS COOPER(both 65+, spinsters) are manning a bakesale table at the back of the hall. They are sneaking deserts and drinking coffee. We take in their self-righteous attitudes right away. GENE PERLEMAN(55ish- bald, short) is onstage in the middle of his song, "I'm Getting Old" with the audience singing the echo lines along with him. He has his ventriloquist dummy, "CHESTER" with him. (*Chester is a Mortimer Snerd dummy with the front tooth removed to make him look somewhat normal*). The five KELSEY GIRLS (SARAH-17, CHRIS-16, BROOK-14, SAM-12, & ALLY-11) are back stage right, with their housekeeper/nanny TESS (50ish, Scottish, feisty). They are somewhat nervous. She is trying to encourage them. ROBIN KELSEY(40ish, always has a pastor's collar on) is back stage left with the ANNOUNCER(50ish, smart-aleck). Robin is seated on a stool nervously rehearsing the chords he needs to play for the girl's song.

GENE (SINGS)

I'M GETTING OLD

Gene MOTIONS to Chester to repeat the line along with the audience does but his dummy refuses. Gene is getting FRUSTRATED.

AUDIENCE (SINGS)

I'M GETTIN' OLD

GENE

OR SO I'M TOLD

AUDIENCE

OR SO I'M TOLD

INT. STAGE LEFT

The announcer PEERS out at Gene and Chester as they perform. He talks with Robin.

GENE (V.O.)

I GOT PARTS IN ME THAT ONLY WORK PART TIME

ANNOUNCER

That is weird.

Robin peers out at them.

ROBIN

What is?

GENE (V.O.)
I AIN'T BEEN SOLD
ON GETTIN' OLD

ANNOUNCER
Gene and his dummy Chester.

GENE (V.O.)
BUT MY BEST BEFORE DATE
TELLS ME

ANNOUNCER
They have a fight or
something?

GENE (V.O.)
I AM WAY PAST MY PRIME

ROBIN

No one knows. Chester hasn't said a
word since Gene's wife took off with
the UPS man.

As Gene sings the announcer and Robin exchange a look. Robin grabs his stool and heads further upstage to rehearse his chords.

INT. ONSTAGE WITH GENE AND CHESTER

GENE
MY HEARING AIDS GO IN A DRAWER,
MY TEETH GO IN A GLASS
MY BIFOCALS IN A CASE,
AND PREPARATION "H" GOES UP MY-

The audience laughs. The Announcer enters the stage.

ANNOUNCER
Whoa, Gene! This is a family show!

The announcer stays on stage to interact with Gene and encourage the crowd.

INT. BACKSTAGE RIGHT

Tess gives the girls a pep talk as Gene performs on stage.

GENE (V.O.)
I'VE GOT LIVER SPOTS
AND VERTIGO AND

TESS
Alright girls, it's almost
time. Wait! Where's Sam?

GENE (V.O.)
FEET THAT SMELL LIKE CRAP
EV'RY TIME I PSYCHE MYSELF UP
HIGH

ALLY
(sarcastic)
In the bathroom. Where else?

GENE (V.O.)
I HAVE TO TAKE A NAP

TESS
I'll get her. Sarah? Maybe go
and see how your father is
holding up, okay?
(Sarah nods)

INT. ONSTAGE

Gene pretends to fall asleep by snoring loudly.

ANNOUNCER
Gene. Gene, wake up!

GENE
I'M GETTING OLD (audience repeats)
OR SO I'M TOLD (audience repeats)

Off stage right Tess can be seen parking a big metal pot and washcloth on the floor just behind the curtain.

INT. STAGE LEFT

Sarah steps out from behind a black curtain and walks towards her father. As a force of habit she FIDDLES with a necklace she always wears. It is a gold chain with a crucifix and a small key that once belonged to her mother. Robin sees her and shakes his head.

GENE (V.O.)
THEY TELL ME ALL MY WORK ON
EARTH IS DONE

ROBIN
This was a bad idea. I can't
remember half the dang
chords!

GENE (V.O.)
I AIN'T BEEN SOLD
ON GETTIN' OLD

SARAH
You'll do fine. Just pretend
you're giving a sermon.

Sarah KISSES her dad on the cheek and heads back to stage right.

GENE (V.O.)
SO I'LL JUST SING MY SONGS
AND BE KIND TO EV'RYONE...

Robin nervously walks to the curtain and peers out at the stage. The music fades completely down in a dream like extended moment with Robin:

ROBIN'S P.O.V.

A young man (*with a clerical collar*) and a beautiful young woman are singing onstage. They are very happy. Just as the young woman turns to look towards Robin (*stage left*) the two of them vanish and are replaced by Gene and the Announcer. Robin shakes his head in disbelief.

ANNOUNCER

Well! Please give a warm welcome back
to our stage Pastor Robin Kelsey and
the Kelsey Girls!

The audience applauds as the five Kelsey Girls ENTER from the
right side of the stage. Gene PUSHES Robin onto the stage so he is
positioned upstage left of the girls. Robin has his stool and
guitar.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Aww now don't they look cute in their
little uniforms-

Sam takes one look at the crowd and RUNS to stage right where Tess
is waiting with a bucket.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Oops, looks like we lost one.

Sam THROWS UP in the bucket with a big sound effect. The crowd
reacts.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Ooo, that is nasty.

Sam throws up again. Tess wipes her mouth with a rag. Sam re-joins
her sisters who briefly comfort her as the song intro plays.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

And she is back! What a little
trooper.

The announcer leaves stage left.

THE GIRLS (SING)

GOD HAD A PERFECT PLAN
TO HUMBLE PART OF EVERY MAN
THE DAY THAT HE CAME UP LITTLE GIRLS

SARAH: HE GAVE US WEAPONS OF OUR OWN

CHRIS: THAT SORT OF LEAVE US WHEN WE'RE GROWN

GIRLS: AND WE CALL THEM OUR
LITTLE GIRL STRING OF PEARLS

ALLY: WE CAN STAND AND LOOK LIKE THIS

(They strike the innocent pose)

FOR HOURS LONG EACH DAY

(They gather around Robin)

GIRLS: TO CIRCLE 'ROUND A DADDY'S FROWN
AND MAKE HIM SAY

DAD

"Okay!"

THE GIRLS
(pretending to cry)
 WE CAN TURN THE WATER ON
 FROM A SNIFFLE TO A RUSH
 REDUCE A STRONG DETERMINED MAN
 TO A BIG OL' PILE OF MUSH

ROBIN pretends to cry uncontrollably.

INT. AT THE BACK OF THE HALL.

Gladys and Daisy shake their heads in disapproval.

THE GIRLS (V.O.)
CHRIS, BROOK, ALLY: WE STOMP OUR FEET WHEN WE ARE MAD
SAM: A MOTHER'S NO MEANS GO TO DAD
CHRIS, BROOK: WE WRAP HIM ROUND OUR FINGERS OH SO TIGHT

EXT. TOWN OF GRACE - CONTINUOUS

As the girls sing establishing shots of the seemingly "perfect" town of Grace are seen. There is no garbage on the streets. There is one pub with a sign on the door that reads "Gone Hunting". SHERIFF TABER(40, small town female sheriff) is writing out a ticket for a car parked in a handicap zone with no permit.

THE GIRLS (O.S.)
SAM: CAUSE BREAD HAS A BUTTERED SIDE
SARAH: AND A DAD WILL BURST APART WITH PRIDE
GIRLS: WHEN HIS LITTLE GIRL HUGS HIS NECK
 WITH ALL HER MIGHT

INT. JAMBOREE AUDIENCE

Several teenage boys elbow each other as they watch the girls intently.

THE GIRLS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
CHRIS: WE CAN STARE DOWN ANY BOY
 AND CRUSH HIS LITTLE HEART
GIRLS: THEN BUILD HIM RIGHT BACK UP AGAIN
 BY PRETENDING HE IS SMART

INT. ONSTAGE

Chris is enjoying all the attention, so much so that she misses some of the choreography. Sarah gives her a dirty look.

THE GIRLS
SAM: WE SMILE AND TURN HIS FACE ALL RED
SARAH, BROOK: AND MAKE HIM WORK ALL WEEK
GIRLS: TOTE OUR BOOKS AND DO OUR CHORES
 FOR A KISS UPON THE CHEEK

INT. JAMBOREE AUDIENCE

The Teen-age boys all CHEER and wave their fists. Gladys and Daisy show up beside the boys with looks that could kill. One boy elbows several of his buddies. He points at the ladies and the boys settle right down.

INT. ONSTAGE

THE GIRLS
 YEP, GOD MADE LITTLE GIRLS
 WITH BUTTONS, BOWS AND GOLDEN CURLS
 FOR DADDY'S TO GO ON AND ON ABOUT
 OUR LOVE IS LIKE A SUNNY DAY
 AND WHEN WE DON'T GET OUR WAY
 WE CURL OUR MAGIC BOTTOM GIRL LIP AND POUT
 (The GIRLS hum the first two
 lines of "Jesus Loves Me" in
 three part harmony)

EXT. OUTSIDE CHURCH - continuous

While the girls perform an establishing shot of "GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH" is seen as well as the adjoining CEMETERY. In the cemetery is a gravestone that reads "Anne Marie Kelsey".

INT. ONSTAGE

During this last verse the audience is seen from the girls P.O.V. There are many smiling faces.

THE GIRLS
 YEP GOD HAD A PERFECT PLAN
 TO HUMBLE PART OF EVERY MAN
 THE DAY THAT HE CAME UP LITTLE GIRLS
SARAH,CHRIS: HE GAVE US WEAPONS OF OUR OWN
 THAT SORT OF LEAVE US WHEN WE'RE GROWN
GIRLS: AND WE CALL THEM OUR
 LITTLE GIRL STRING OF PEARLS

The girls position Robin center stage for a big finish.

THE GIRLS (CONT'D)
 YEP, GOD GAVE US OUR LITTLE GIRL STRING OF PEARLS.
 OH GOD BLESS OUR LITTLE GIRL STRING OF PEARLS!

ANNOUNCER
 Let's hear it for the Kelsey Girls!

APPLAUSE. The teenage boys JUMP to their feet. The girls bow. Chris steps forward for an extra BOW as the boys cheer louder. Brook pulls her back and they all exit stage right.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

I just know your momma is watching
from heaven and she's mighty proud.

Robin gives the announcer a dirty look then leaves stage left.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Sorry Robin. Folks, before we send you
home the ushers are gonna take up the
love offering-

INT. STAGE RIGHT

Gladys, Daisy and WILMA FARMER(60+, big lady) are holding flags,
ready for their entrance.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

-and as they do here's Gladys, Daisy
and Wilma Farmer with their salute to
the greatest hymns of all time!
(aside) May God have mercy on us all.

A big orchestral background CD plays an intro for the medley.
Gladys, Daisy and Wilma march onto the stage carrying flags that
say "Grace Community Church". They do elaborate flag waving and
movement as they belt out snippets of big hymns.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHURCH STAGE -- LATER THAT EVENING

A Few volunteers are CLEANING up after the concert. Tess walks
out from a side door. She is carrying several offering baskets and
an old travel suitcase. She sorts through the meagre offering,
TOSSING black identical buttons into one of the baskets. Robin
sits down and sees the buttons.

ROBIN

Oh this is encouraging. What am I
supposed to do with... five buttons?

TESS

Maybe they were getting ready to throw
in the shirt off their back.

ROBIN

Then they should have kept the buttons
on the shirt. I could have worn it.
Alright, Tess... Give me the news.
What's the count?

TESS

Ooo... wait for it... sixty four
dollars, eighty seven cents and-

TESS/ROBIN

Five buttons.

ROBIN

(smiles with pain)

Oy! Minus the cost of the shirts you made... And my girls get nothing new to wear to school.

TESS

We'll make due. Your wife left plenty of clothes to pass down to them even if most of them were handed down to her.

Tess takes a fairly full button jar out of the suitcase and TOSSES in the 5 buttons one at a time.

ROBIN

Yeah... well good thing you were there to stop me from throwing out everything she owned!

TESS

Robin-

ROBIN

Sorry, I know, I know. That was a long time ago.

TESS

Than why does that sore spot rear its-

ROBIN

Look, Teresa. I'm tired. Let's not do this, okay?

TESS

Fine. I won't say another thing.

Tess STACKS the baskets and bangs the button jar back into the suitcase then slams the lid hard. She starts FOLDING CHAIRS with as much noise as possible while Robin closes his eyes and leans back in his chair.

ROBIN

Pretty loud for someone who isn't talking right now.

TESS

I'm curious. Do you even know how long it's been?

ROBIN

I don't care.

TESS

Ten years!

ROBIN

I said-

TESS

Did you hear me?! Ten years! I'm tired too you know. When are you gonna forgive that dead wife of yours and find a new mother for those girls?

ROBIN

I have forgiven her. I've just never forgotten what she did.

TESS

(partial aside)

Ooo, the gospel according to Robin Kelsey.

ROBIN

I heard that.

TESS

Well good! Cause I hate mincing words! Robin, it's time you-

ROBIN

It's time for me to teach a bible study. A men's bible study. Take the girls home. Please.

Robin exits. Tess finishes cleaning up as she sings.

TESS (SING)

I'D LIKE TO CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS
THAT MAN UPON HIS THROWN
HARK HOW THAT HEAVENLY "FATHER" DROWNS
ALL MUSIC BUT HIS OWN.

Tess gathers all her stuff and attempts to walk out. She keeps on dropping items as she sings.

TESS (CONT'D)

AWAKE MY SOUL AND SCREAM
FOR HE WHO IS SO STUBBORN
AND KEEP ME LORD FROM COMMITTING THE SIN
I SHALL NOT KILL FOR THEE!!

EXT. THE ROAD JUST BEFORE THE KELSEY RANCH -- LATER

Tess is DRIVING the girls home in an old beaten up minivan.

BROOKLYN
Ugg, what is that smell?

SAMANTHA
Wasn't me.

SARAH
Me neither.

ALLY
Chris!

CHRISTINE
No way!

ALLY
Way!

TESS
Girls! It was the van. This fine piece of machinery passes more gas than herd of dairy cows.

CHRISTINE
Or the boys basketball team.

There is a stunned silence. They all laugh.

INT. CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Robin is READING his bible to a room with several men. They are listening to him at various levels of attention. One man ELBOWS an older one, waking him up in the process. Robin pretends he doesn't see this. Gene comes in late. He sits Chester on a small chair facing the corner with his face to the wall like he's being punished.

ROBIN
Mark 12 verse 25 "When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. They will be like the angels-

CHURCH MEMBER 1
Wait. You're saying,
(pointing up)
up there I won't be married to Phyllis?

ROBIN

That's right.

CHURCH MEMBER 1

(aside)

No wonder they call it heaven.

Several men stifle their laughter. One of the guys hits Carl on the arm playfully.

ROBIN

Gentlemen... Now... let's turn to Proverbs 21 verse 19 - "Better to live in the desert than with a quarrelsome, ill-tempered wife...

CHURCH MEMBER 2

How far to the nearest desert?

The men laugh.

GENE

That's not funny.

Gene wipes his eyes with a hanky.

CHURCH MEMBER 2

Aww cheer up Gene, you still have Chester!

They all laugh at Gene's expense.

INT. KELSEY HOME OLDER GIRL'S BEDROOM - LATER

The Girls enter the oldest girls bedroom. They are arguing.

CHRISTINE

We should have sang more than one song.

BROOK

But we only know one song...

SARAH

That isn't in the hymn book.

CHRISTINE

That's my point.

SARAH

Uhh...

CHRISTINE

We need to do the songs that momma wrote. I still hear folks talk about her.

BROOKLYN

You mean behind Papa's back.

SARAH

Chris, you and I both know what he would say.

BROOKLYN

Hey! Maybe he's forgotten the songs she used to sing.

SARAH

Uhh, Brook? If Papa doesn't remember them they're gone for good. Who do you think played for her?

Brook goes to make a comment than realizes she's right.

ALLY

I say we write some new songs... of our own.

SAMANTHA

Yeah!

SARAH

Yeah right.

CHRISTINE

Hey, if mom could write music maybe it's in our blood.

SARAH

Hmm. You never know.

BROOKLYN

My first song would be about horses.

CHRISTINE

I'd write a song about love.

SARAH

You mean a song about boys.

CHRISTINE

Same thing.

BROOKLYN

Hey Sam, what would you write a song about?

ALLY

Sam? Write a song? There's a joke.

SARAH

Ally!

ALLY

Sorry! If she wrote one it would have to be one about not puking her guts out every time she has to sing in front of people.

SARAH

Allyssa Anne Kelsey, you apologize!

ALLY

For what? It's true!

SAMANTHA

If you must know, Ally Cat, I hear songs is my head all the time.

ALLY

Yeah, right.

BROOKLYN

So what would you write a song about, right now?

SAMANTHA

That's easy. It would a song about the clothes we get to wear on the first day of school!

CHRISTINE

You mean-

THE GIRLS

Hand me downs!

The girls all plunk themselves on Sarah's bed as they sing. They act out this song with all manor of melodramatic flare.

GIRLS (SING)

WHEN GOD MADE EVE SOME CLOTHES TO WEAR
WHAT MADE ADAM STOP AND STARE?
DID EVERYTHING FIT HER JUST RIGHT?
NOT TOO LOOSE, AND NOT TOO TIGHT
WHEN ADAM TOOK HER INTO TOWN WE'RE BETTIN'
NO ONE EVER SAW HER IN A HAND ME DOWN!

The girls rush to the foot of Sarah's bed to an OLD TRUNK containing hand me downs owned by their mother. They open the trunk and begin tossing clothing everywhere. They find the clothing pieces that each of them sing about.

THE GIRLS

SARAH: HAND ME DOWN THOSE FADED BLUE JEANS
SAM: AND THAT LEATHER MINI SKIRT
BROOK: IS THAT A RHINESTONE JESUS
 ON THAT POLYESTER SHIRT?

CHRIS: HAND ME DOWN THOSE KNEE HIGHS
ALLY: AND THAT VELVET HALTER TOP
SAM: ALL THOSE ONE PIECE SWIMSUITS
GIRLS: WILL THIS NIGHTMARE EVER STOP?

SARAH: HAND ME DOWN THOSE SEXY BLOOMERS
SAM: THEY'RE SO VERY VERSATILE
BROOK: ALONG WITH PINAFORES AND CORSETS,
BROOK, ALLY: THEY MIGHT COME BACK IN STYLE

CHRIS: HAND ME DOWN THAT LIME GREEN PANT SUIT
SARAH: AND THAT 80'S EVENING GOWN
GIRLS: WE ENVY EVE OUR SISTER
 CAUSE SHE NEVER EVER WORE A SINGLE HAND ME DOWN!

Ally pulls out a DRESS from the girl's closet. She holds it up to her neck while STANDING on Sarah's bed. As the girls sing they use this dress as a prop.

THE GIRLS (CONT'D)

TAKE THIS ONE OUR MOTHER WORE
 SHE BOUGHT IT FROM A "DISCOUNT" STORE
 WE LET IT OUT, WE TOOK IT IN,
 RAISED THE HEM, WAS THAT A SIN?

Ally pretends to float away with the dress as the girls wave goodbye to her.

THE GIRLS (CONT'D)

SAY HELLO TO YOU MY FADED DREAM
 AND GOODBYE AND FAREWELL TO ANY SELF ESTEEM

Tess enters the room. The girls use her as a seamstress dummy by holding various hand me downs up to her.

SARAH: HAND ME DOWN THOSE WOOLEN SWEATERS
 EVERY GRAMMA USED TO KNIT
CHRIS: FORGET ABOUT YOUR FIGURE
 THAT'S HOW THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO FIT

SARAH: HAND ME DOWN THOSE PURPLE HOT PANTS
BROOK: AND THAT TYE-DYED PEASANT DRESS
SAM: GOTTA LOVE OUTDATED FASHION
GIRLS: WHEN DRESSIN' FOR SUCCESS.

Tess walks around the room, attempting to catch every piece of clothing as the girls toss them in the air.

SARAH: HAND ME DOWN THAT LOVELY MUUMUU
WITH THAT CHANTILLY LACE
BROOK: PLEASE PULL IT UP AND OVER
TO COVER UP MY FACE
CHRIS: HAND ME DOWN THOSE PLAID BELL BOTTOMS
GIRLS: I'LL DREAM OF CALVIN KLEIN

ALLY

If you think you've got it bad
(sings) TRY BEING LAST IN LINE

THE GIRLS

BROOK: HAND ME DOWN THOSE DAISY DUKE SHORTS
CHRIS: ALL THE BOYS WILL STOP AND WAVE
SARAH: AS WE SEND OUR FATHER
GIRLS: TO AN EARLY GRAVE

The girls pile Tess with tons of clothes. The pile grows high enough to cover her face.

THE GIRLS (CONT'D)

YEP, IT'S COVERALLS AND JUMP SUITS
AND LOOKING LIKE A CLOWN
THERE'LL BE A WAR IN HEAVEN
IF WE GET UP THERE
AND ALL THEY HAVE ARE HAND ME...

FATHER NO MORE HAND ME DOWNS
PLEASE OH LORD NO HAND ME DOWNS
NO FROWNS, NO CRAZY, WINKIN'
BLINKIN' STINKIN' HAND ME DOWNS!

On the very last note the girls all COLLAPSE on Sarah's bed. Tess is so overloaded with clothes she tosses them all on top of the girls, completely burying them in the process.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES - NEXT DAY

Brook is SITTING on the fence staring at the stables. Sarah and Chris walk up to her. Brook points at the stables as they talk but Sarah SHAKES her head with a definitive "no" and walks away. Brook looks at Chris for support. After some thought Chris decides to side with Sarah. She walks away from Brook as well. Brook stands and studies the building for a moment then heads for the house.

INT. KELSEY HOME HALLWAY - LATER

The Kelsey main floor hallway has pictures hanging on the walls that don't seem to match the weathered spaces that were left by previous pictures. In a family photo the name "Anne Kelsey" has an obvious black line through it and her face has been torn out of the picture.

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN

Tess is stirring a pot on the stove while she sings to herself.

TESS
 I'M A SOFT SPOKEN LASS
 WITH NOTHIN' TO BOAST
 WHO LOST HER POOR MAN
 WHEN HE GAVE UP THE GHOST

She hears a dog barking. She looks out the window and from her P.O.V. She sees Robin pulling up to the house in his car. She calls the girls for supper.

TESS (CONT'D)
 Girls! Suppertime!!

INT. KELSEY HOME HALLWAY

The girls come piling down the stairs. Everyone HEADS for the dining-room.

INT. KELSEY HOME DINING-ROOM

From a dining-room P.O.V. Robin is seen hanging up his coat on a set of hooks on the wall. He walks into the dining-room and sees the girls all seated. He sits down at the head of the table.

ROBIN
 You know the drill.

They all bow their heads.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 Heavenly Father, bless this food to our
 bodies, that we may be made strong for
 Your work and for Your service. Amen.

GIRLS
 Amen.

The Girls start PASSING around bowls of food without talking. Robin notices this almost right away.

ROBIN
 Seems kind of quiet in here tonight.

They girls exchange glances.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 I trust everyone had a good day?

No reaction.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 Fall colors are really starting to
 show...

The girls study their food.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 Yep... So much for summer... G'bye
 summer... Hel..lo...fall... Oh...
 Ummm... after careful thought I've
 decided to have an operation...
 to become a woman.
(bows his head)

The girls can't help but react. Ally laughs out loud.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 Thank you Ally. I knew I wasn't dining
 alone.

Sarah gives Ally a stern look to keep quiet. Tess walks in with a
 jug and pours everyone a glass of juice.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 Still, pretty quiet in here tonight.
 Not that I'm complaining.

The girls all look at each other nervously.

TESS
 Sam, would you please pass me your
 cup?

Sam passes Tess her glass.

TESS (CONT'D)
 Thank you.

Tess clears her throat at Brook who has worn her BASEBALL CAP to
 the dinner table. Brook reluctantly GIVES UP the cap. Tess
 whacks her once on the head and walks back into the kitchen,
 donning the cap as she does. More silence.

ROBIN
 Oh, I see... This is going to be one of those
 meals where we silently contemplate the
 blessings of God in our lives.

ALLY
(throaty laugh in disgust)
 Yeah, right.

SARAH
 Ally!

ALLY

What?

ROBIN

Allyssa? Is there something you'd like to discuss at the dinner table?

ALLY

(standing)

Yes!

Sarah pulls Ally back down to her chair.

SARAH

No!

ROBIN

No?

(the girls all look sheepish)
Alright. Let's hear it.

ALLY starts to speak but Sarah puts her hand over her mouth.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Sarah, let her speak.

SARAH

You sure about this?

ROBIN

Sarah.

SARAH

Okay... but I warned you.

Sarah takes her hand off of Ally's mouth. Ally stands up.

ALLY

Papa! School starts next week and we want new clothes!

ROBIN

I see. Anyone else?

Brook slowly raises her hand up high.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

(surprised)
Brooklyn?

CHRISTINE

(partially under her breath)
I wouldn't if I were you, girl.

ROBIN
Let her speak.

Ally gets frustrated waiting for Brook.

ALLY
(standing up)
Brooklyn wants us to-

ROBIN
Ally?! Will you let your sister speak
for herself?

Ally reluctantly sits back down in her chair.

CHRISTINE
Only if you stuff a sock in her mouth.

ROBIN
Chris!

CHRISTINE
Sorry, Ally,
(aside)
I meant a pair of socks.

Sam puts up her hand and speaks.

SAMANTHA
Uhhh, I'm okay with last years
clothes.

CHRISTINE
Me too... for the record.

ALLY
You liars!

ROBIN
Ally! Brooklyn? I believe you had
something you wanted to say?

BROOKLYN
(startled)
Me?... Oh...uhh...right!...Uhhh
(starts to hyperventilate)
I... umm... move... that we... take
the locks off the stables and bring in
horses to board... to help... with the
family... budget.

There is a stunned silence. Brook gets nervous and PUTS her hands
over her head for protection from her sisters. They glare at her.

ROBIN

I see.

Robin bangs his cutlery down on his plate. He gets up and LEAVES the room. Chris watches for his exit then whacks Brook across the back of the head.

CHRISTINE

Aw, nice going Brook!

BROOKLYN

Oww!

Ally whacks Chris in the same way.

ALLY

Yeah, nice going Brook!

CHRISTINE

Oww!

SARAH

Look who's talking!

INT. KELSEY HOME HALLWAY

Robin is leaning on the wall with his HEAD BOWED as he hears the girls arguing.

ALLY (O.S.)

Hey! I just said what everyone else was too chicken to say!

CHRISTINE (O.S.)

Oh yeah? Well Sarah should'a kept your big mouth shut!

BROOKLYN (O.S.)

Fat chance of that.

The Girls continue arguing. They don't see Robin come back in the room. He shakes his head at what his girls have been forced to deal with. He WIPES his eyes. Sarah sees him first and tries to quiet everyone down.

SARAH

Girls... GIRLS!

They continue arguing. Ally picks up the cue from Sarah and gives a LOUD HORSE WHISTLE.

SAMANTHA

Oww. I hate it when you do that!

ALLY

Sorry.

Robin leans over Brook using the back of her chair.

ROBIN

Brooklyn?

BROOKLYN

Yes, Papa?

ROBIN

I take it you are aware of some horses that need a place to board?

BROOKLYN

Yes, Papa.

ROBIN

And these are horses you know?

BROOKLYN

Yes, Papa.

ROBIN

Horses you've ridden?

BROOKLYN

Yes, Papa, I mean, no! Aww, crap!

ALLY

Ooo, somebody's in trouble.

SARAH

Ally, shush!

ROBIN

Well, than Miss Brooklyn Leah Kelsey? Tomorrow morning you get to see how much elbow grease it will take to muck out stalls that haven't been cleaned in over ten years!

BROOKLYN

(aside, but thrilled)
Yes!!

ALLY

(clueless)
Told ya. Trouble.

Christine slowly puts her hand up.

CHRISTINE

I... uhh... might be as guilty as Brook.

ROBIN

(imitating Chris)

You...uhh... might be as guilty as Brook?

CHRISTINE

Yeah.

ROBIN

Same horses?

CHRISTINE

Yep.

ALLY

Same horses my butt! She's talking about the same cowb-

Chris panics and elbows Ally. Robin tries not to think about what he may have missed. He rolls his eyes.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Oww!

ROBIN

Alright! The two of you will organize the rest of these volunteers to help.

SAMANTHA

Wait a minute.

ALLY

What volunteers?

BROOKLYN

Woohoo! Ladies!? We got poop to scoop and stables to get ready!!!

(chanting)

We're gonna board some horses. Gonna ride some horses, riding six wide horses. WOOHOO!!! Hi-O Silver, Away!

The WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE plays as we see Brook race out of the room all excited. She comes back into the dining-room pretending to ride a horse by using her hands to make the hoof noises against her legs.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D)

Come on ladies! Giddy up, Giddy up GIDDY UP!

The girls reluctantly rise up with the look of "too much work is coming" on their faces. One by one they half heartedly thank Robin. Brook grabs her father by the neck and almost strangles him with joy.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D)

Thank you Daddy! Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE KELSEY LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT EVENING

Robin is trying to read his bible but having great trouble. He is MUMBLING incoherent words. Tess enters and plunks herself down on the couch. She grabs a magazine to thumb through.

TESS

The girls are all in bed. Do you know how hard it was to get Brook calmed down enough so the rest of them could finally close their eyes?

ROBIN

I can believe it.

TESS

And how is Robin doing?

ROBIN

Well... I have attempted to read this one page... Oh...

(seeing he has his bible upside down, he turns it around)
nearly a dozen times.

TESS

Been there, done that, bought the T-shirt.

ROBIN

(slams the bible shut)
Tess, I've broken one of my most sacred rules.

TESS

When?

ROBIN

Today.

TESS

Aww, and I missed it?!

ROBIN

Funny.

TESS

No really. Which red letter "sacred" rule did you break? I'd like to put it in my diary.

ROBIN

Would you mind?!

TESS

Sorry.

ROBIN

If you really want to know... it's something I've tried very hard to teach the girls.

TESS

That being...?

ROBIN

The Tummy test.

TESS

The what?

ROBIN

The tummy test. The knot in my gut. The feeling that opening up those stables is the worst decision I have ever made!

TESS

Are you serious?

ROBIN

Yes! Any advice?

TESS

Oh, you want my advice?

ROBIN

Not really. But right now you're all I got.

TESS

Gee, I feel so special.

ROBIN

You know what I mean.

TESS

Robin, I have been with this family ever since my husband died. To be honest you'll have to pardon me if I'm beside myself - twice! I can't remember the last time I actually witnessed a measurable "crack" in that mighty exterior known as Robin Kelsey.

ROBIN

That's not fair and you know it...

TESS

Hey, don't get me wrong. Your faith, your strength, your passion? Like a rock and everyone knows it. Always been there, and always will be.

ROBIN

Then why does your flattering character reference feel like a slap across the face?

TESS

(Casual about it)
Oh, you picked up on that.

ROBIN

Like a fifty pound bag of horse manure.

TESS

Oww!

ROBIN

Sorry. How about bagpipes filled with haggis and golf balls?

TESS

Ay! Robin, the truth is? Giving advice to you is a bit above my pay grade.

ROBIN

I suppose. Oh...uhh...speaking of pay... You saw what the Jamboree brought in...

TESS

(acting out)
Aww, don't give it another thought. I'll have my reward...

Tess sings melodramatically around him.

TESS (CONT'D)
"IN THE SWEET BY AND BY"

ROBIN
Oh, dear Lord, she's going to
sing.

TESS (CONT'D)
But I am keeping track of the wages
you owe me.

TESS (CONT'D)
"WE WILL MEET ON THAT
BEAUTIFUL SHORE"

ROBIN
And she continues to sing.

TESS (CONT'D)
You wanna know how much?

ROBIN
No.

TESS
Didn't think so. "IN THE SWEET BY AND
BY WE WILL-

Robin leaves as her back is turned.

TESS (CONT'D)
MEET ON THAT... BEAUTIFUL SHORE"...

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES - LATER THAT EVENING

Robin is sitting at an outdoor picnic table opposite the stables. He stares intensely at the double doors and the big chain and lock that keeps them securely shut. He falls asleep. In a DREAM LIKE STATE the lock falls off and the big doors swing open. An old family car speeds out of the stables. ANNE KELSEY (27ish, beautiful) is driving. In the passenger seat is COLIN PEARSONS (32ish, handsome, horse trainer). Robin is confused as he WAVES for them to stop. The car heads down the Kelsey driveway, swerving as it does. In a very determined effort Robin RUNS down the driveway after the car.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OMAR ROAD BEND

Robin runs uphill to a sharp bend in OMAR road which overlooks a canyon lake. He comes to a POLICE road block. Red and blue lights are SPINNING at the scene of an accident. Robin attempts to JUMP over the roadblock. He comes crashing down on his back.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES

Robin is startled awake. He feels his back for pain that has long since healed itself. He gets up and walks to the corral fence. He attempts to hoist himself up to sit on the top of the fence but

slips and lands on his butt. He looks around to make sure no one saw him and carefully climbs up and sits on top of the fence.

INT. KELSEY HOME UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - LATER THAT EVENING

Chris Kelsey SNEAKS across the upstairs hallway and looks through the big window with a pair of BINOCULARS. She sets a candle down of the window ledge. Through her P.O.V. Robin is seen sitting on the fence across from the stable doors. She signals her sisters to join her.

CHRISTINE

Psst!

The four girls TIP-TOE down the hallway and join Chris. They each have candles. All the girls are dressed in granny nightgowns. Chris hands the binoculars to Sarah, who looks out at Robin.

SARAH

Yep, he's down there alright.

ALLY

What's he doing?

SARAH

Just sitting there, staring.

SAMANTHA

At what?

SARAH

The stables I guess.

BROOKLYN

Is that a good sign or a bad sign?

SARAH

I don't know. Wait, wait! He's on the move.

CHRISTINE

About time.

SARAH

He's in front of the big stable doors.

ROOKLYN

Go Papa, go!

SARAH

He's lifting up the big lock, pulling ever so slightly on the chains...
AND... he's walking away.

THE GIRLS

Aww..

BROOKLYN

Please don't tell me he changed his mind!

SARAH

No... I don't think so... Wait! Okay, he's back.

BROOKLYN

Thank God.

SAMANTHA

What's he doing now?

SARAH

Whoa. He just kicked one of the doors.

CHRISTINE

With what?

Sam BOPS Chris on the top of her head.

SAMANTHA

His head.

CHRISTINE

Sorry. Dumb question.

From Sarah's P.O.V. ROBIN is seen, hopping on one foot.

SARAH

And now he's hopping on one foot... in great pain.

ALLY

Let me see!

Ally grabs the binoculars and pushes Sarah aside. She holds the binoculars close to her eyes and ends up looking at the wrong spot.

ALLY (CONT'D)

I don't see him.

Sam moves Ally's head so she is looking at the same spot that Sarah was.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Oh wait. There he is. Hey... he's on the ground.

SARAH

Ouch.

BROOKLYN

Bet he slipped on the wet grass.

ALLY

Now he's standing back up... Making sure no one saw him fall down. Brushing off his pants... This is kinda funny.

Chris takes the binoculars from Ally and PUSHES her aside.

CHRISTINE

My turn. Looking... Ah! Okay... Papa is... he's pacing... back and forth.

SARAH

What for?

CHRISTINE

Who knows?

BROOKLYN

Do all men act like this?

CHRISTINE

I sure hope not. Wait! He's holding the lock once again. He's staring... staring... And he bangs it hard against the door and walks away!
(the girls all groan)

BROOKLYN

So close.

CHRISTINE

Should we go help him?

SARAH

Not a chance. Whatever he's battling, he's gotta do this on his own.

ALLY

I bet he just lost the key for the lock.

Brook takes the binoculars in disgust.

BROOKLYN

Maybe. My turn. Okay girls... we've got serious movement. He is marching up to the door like a man on a mission. He appears to be talking to
(MORE)

BROOKLYN (CONT'D)

himself, nope scratch that. He is making gestures towards the All Mighty. Looks like he's trying to strike up a bargain of some sort. Whoa, whoa, whoa! He's taking out a key...

(the girls are excited)
And he drops it!

THE GIRLS

Aww...

BROOKLYN

He's fumbling for it. Searching... searching.... He has it in his hand!? Yes! He is on his feet... wait...wait... Back up the truck! He has unlocked the door!!!! Ladies? The Kelsey stables are open for business!!

THE GIRLS

Yay! Woohoo
(ad lib)
The GIRLS high five each other.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES

Robin looks up and sees the dancing lights in the window. He half smiles, sighs, and limps towards the house.

INT. THE KELSEY STABLES -- NEXT MORNING

Chris is reading a novel with one hand as she half-heartedly SWEEPS with the other. Brook is working hard to get the stables ready. Sam and Ally are sweeping away cobwebs. Tess walks in and is hit by the smell.

TESS

Whoa!... holy horse crap! There's a blast from the past.

CHRISTINE

Should have been here earlier.

TESS

No thank you. You know girls, your mother loved these stables more than you can possibly imagine.

BROOKLYN

Who wouldn't? Nothing better than the smell of a barn and horses-

CHRISTINE

And Cowboys!

ALLY

You mean, like Toby Jackson!!

CHRISTINE

Shut up you little snake!

ALLY

(teasing)

Toby and Christine going for a ride
Hoping he'll take her for his bride.

Chris picks up a bucket of WATER to throw on Ally, who takes a defensive stance with her mop. Tess intervenes.

TESS

Whoa, easy there girls, one mountain
at a time here.

Sarah comes in CARRYING an old wooden box.

TESS (CONT'D)

Ooo, what'd you find, Sarah?

SARAH

No idea. Probably some old tack.

BROOKLYN

Let me see.

BROOK takes the box.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D)

Nope. Too light.

She hands it back to SARAH.

TESS

Well, breakfast is ready.

SAMANTHA

Good I'm starving!

TESS

Sarah, you coming?

SARAH

I'll be right there.

They all exit the stables.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES

TESS

Ay, what a glorious day!

Ally sneaks up behind Chris and PUTS A FROG down her shirt, then heads towards the house. Chris has a fit and starts RUNNING, waving her hands. Brook RUNS after Chris to try and help. Sam and Tess look at each other and shake their heads.

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

ALLY enters before everyone else and immediately begins READING the bible that is always sitting on the kitchen table. Robin looks up from his paper. Ally smiles innocently. He is proud of her.

INT. THE STABLES -- CONTINUOUS

SARAH has the box on the floor. She tugs on a small lock that keeps the box shut. She contemplates using a hammer sitting on a shelf. A force of habit makes her tug at her mother's necklace. Besides a crucifix there is a small key she has never paid much attention to. Curious, she takes the necklace off and tries the key. She can't believe it but it OPENS the lock which she carefully removes. She opens the box anxiously and peers inside.

SARAH

What the...

She pulls out a picture of Anne's favorite horse followed by a bobble head horse ornament. She bops the head with her finger and giggles. She pulls out several horse ribbons and some trophies.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Wow. Go mom!

Sarah reaches in and pulls out five identical books. She can't believe what she has found. She opens one and sees a picture of Ally and her name.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Allyssa Anne Kelsey.

She sets Ally's diary down in what will become a chronological order. She opens each one and sets them beside each other.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Brooklyn, Samantha...

Sarah is amazed that she has opened three out of five diaries without finding hers yet. She carefully opens one more.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Christine.

Sarah holds the last diary. She studies it, is almost afraid to open the front cover.

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The family is sitting at the table. They are waiting for Sarah. Tess pours out juice and hands the cups down the line.

ROBIN

Tess?

TESS

I thought she'd be right behind us.

ALLY

I'll go find her, Papa.

ROBIN

No, I'll go.

Chris gives a look of "I'll get even" to Ally which she pretends not to see.

INT. THE KELSEY STABLES

With determination Sarah takes a deep breath and opens the diary. Inside the cover is a baby picture of Sarah and a birth announcement "Sarah Roseanne Kelsey, Born September 1, 1993." She turns the page and hears her mother's voice:

ANNE (V.O.)

"Dear Sarah,"

Sarah closes the diary in shock. She opens it again.

SARAH

"Dear Sarah,

ANNE (V.O.)

Today I became a mother for the very first time!

ANNE/SARAH

My joy is indescribable! You are my first born.

SARAH

My precious Sarah. I see myself in you already...

Sarah holds the book to her chest and takes a deep breath of both joy and sorrow. She chokes up as the words are read.

ANNE (V.O.)

This diary is something I look forward to giving to you on your 18th birthday, God willing..."

SARAH

Oh Mamma, I miss you so much. Papa took down all your pictures. I can just barely remember your face.

ROBIN (O.S.)

Sarah!

Sarah gasps, smells the diary, wipes her eyes, and then puts everything back in the box. She looks around in fear. She covers the box with hay then sits on it as Robin WALKS into the stables. She fakes a smile.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Sarah, Tess has breakfast on the table. We need to say grace.

SARAH

I'm... I'm not hungry.

ROBIN

Not hungry? You? Since when?

SARAH

I'd... rather not talk about it. Uhh... Girl stuff?

Robin doesn't handle this information well.

ROBIN

Oh...enough said.

SARAH

(looking rather guilty)
Yeah.

ROBIN

You sure you're okay? You look a little... flushed.

SARAH

I'm fine. Just not hungry. I think I'll keep on working if that's okay.

Sarah picks up a broom and starts SWEEPING.

ROBIN

I thought Brook was the horse fanatic, oh and Chris now as well.

SARAH

She is... I mean they are. But I used to ride too... at least back... when mom-

ROBIN

Don't wear yourself out.

Robin leaves. Sarah looks out the window to make sure he is gone then PULLS off the hay and opens up the box again. She pulls out the diaries, setting them down in order. She opens Chris's diary.

SARAH

"Dear Christine, welcome to the family. I know you'll be the greatest little sister Sarah will ever know"...
(laughs)
Yeah... Umm... mom? I think she would have preferred an older brother...

She reads a bit then sets Chris's diary down and picks up Brook's diary

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Robin sits down at the table.

ROBIN

Ally? Would you please say grace?

ALLY

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this food. You rock! Amen.

Robin goes to say something but the girls are already passing the dishes. Tess looks at Robin and laughs.

INT. INSIDE THE STABLES - CONTINUOUS

Sarah opens Brooklyn's diary.

SARAH

"Dear Brooklyn..."

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - FLASHBACK

Anne is lying in her hospital bed writing in Brook's diary.

SARAH (V.O.)

Today we were graced with a third daughter. Your father...

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD

Robin is staring through a glass into a ward of several babies with serious health issues.

SARAH (V.O.)
Your Father thinks we're are being
tested by God.

INT. HOSPITAL FAMILY ROOM.

Anne is seated in a wheel chair. Robin is looking out a window. The DOCTOR is bracing them for bad news. He puts his hand on Anne's hand. She attempts to comfort him by putting her hand over his.

DOCTOR
I wish I had your faith.

He pats her hand and walks out of the room. Anne wheels over to Robin. She puts her arm on his and he stares out the window.

INT. INSIDE THE STABLES - CONTINUOUS

SARAH
What the...I don't remember any of
this.
(panics)
I have to find out if she lives!
(she frantically turns the
page in Brook's diary.)
"Dear Brooklyn, welcome home!"
(relieved)
Oh, thank God!

EXT.KELSEY RANCH - FLASHBACK

Robin is getting set to take a picture of Anne on horseback. She is holding Sarah(3yrs old) who is holding onto Chris(2yrs old), who is holding onto baby Brook.

ROBIN
Okay, everyone say cheese!

ANNE/SARAH/CHRIS
Cheese!

Robin takes the picture.

ROBIN
Wait, one more, just in case.

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The family is finishing breakfast.

BROOKLYN

I think we should board at least a dozen horses!

ALLY

May I be excused?

ROBIN

Yes you may. And who will take care of this mighty herd?

Ally takes her plate to the kitchen. She hands it to Tess. As the rest talk she puts her shoes on to go outside.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)

We have it all planned out.

ROBIN (O.S.)

We? Chris, what exactly, do you know about horses?

BROOKLYN (O.S.)

Yeah Chris, what exactly, do you know about horses?

CHRISTINE (V.O.)

I... know I should be helping Tess with the dishes.

Ally heads out the door.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY HOME

As Ally walks away from the house the sound of dishes crashing is heard.

TESS (O.S.)

Chris, stop trying to help me, please!

INT. THE KELSEY STABLES - CONTINUOUS

Sarah closes Sam's diary.

SARAH

Samantha Mae Kelsey... May God give you the gift of courage to go along with that amazing voice.

She kisses Sam's diary.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Man... these diaries read like a fairy-tale... without the happily ever after part...

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES - CONTINUOUS

Ally overhears Sarah talking in the stables. She sneaks up to the window but she isn't quite tall enough to see into it.

SARAH (V.O.)

Alright. Last one. "Dear Ally...

ALLY

Dear Ally?

Ally looks around for something to stand on. She spots a rickety old egg crate.

INT. INSIDE THE STABLES - CONTINUOUS

As Sarah reads Anne appears holding a baby.

ANNE

...Welcome home little one. God has given us a fifth ray of sunshine in you, our precious Allyssa Anne Kelsey. Your Father has figured out how to stop God from punishing him any further. He has officially given up his quest for a son."

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES

Ally positions the egg crate against the wall.

SARAH (V.O.)

Hmm. Too bad. Number six might have been the charmer. Number five sure ain't.

INT. INSIDE THE STABLES

We see Ally slowly pull herself up to see in the window.

ANNE

I know he loves all five of his girls more than his own life. As the youngest member of the family Ally, you will have four sisters to love and care for you.

Ally slips and falls off the bucket. Anne and the baby slowly fade away. Anne looks at Sarah as she fades.

SARAH

We're trying mamma. Lord knows we're trying.

She thumbs through Ally's diary revealing nothing but empty pages.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Yikes. I better hide this from Ally.

Sarah starts putting EVERYTHING back in the box, starting with the diaries. Ally opens the door and SNEAKS UP on Sarah. She taps her on the back, scaring her in the process.

ALLY

Hey Sarah!

SARAH

Allyssa Anne Kelsey! You scared the crap out of me!

ALLY

Horse crap?

SARAH

Funny.

ALLY

Who were you talking to?

SARAH

You see anyone?

ALLY

Why'd you skip breakfast?

SARAH

None of your business.

ALLY

Oh yeah? What'cha reading?

Sarah keeps Ally from seeing any of the contents of Anne's box.

SARAH

Nothing.

ALLY

Let me see.

SARAH

No!

ALLY

I'll tell Papa.

SARAH

Tell him what?

ALLY

Tell him... Sarah's hiding something out here. Something really, really-

SARAH

Ally! Go play with your friends,
okay?

ALLY

And who will do my share of the
chores?

SARAH

I will.

ALLY

Hah! Now I know something's up. I
was just testing you!

SARAH

Go and play!

ALLY

No!

Chris, Brook and Sam enter the stables.

BROOKLYN

"No," to what?

SARAH

I told her I'd do her share of the
chores.

SAMANTHA

What?

SARAH

You can go too, Sam.

CHRISTINE

No way!

SARAH

Trust me.

(she gives Christine and
Brook a gesture)

Go on, you two.

SAMANTHA

O...kay... I won't look a gift horse
in the mouth.

Sam leaves through the door. Sarah is pushing Ally towards the
door as well.

ALLY

Just as long as that gift horse
doesn't bite you in the-

Sarah pushes Ally out the door before she can finish.

ALLY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (Muffled sound)
 Oh, HI PAPA!

Sarah opens the door in horror. Ally is face to face with her.

ALLY (CONT'D)
 Got ya!

SARAH
 Argh!

Sarah slams the door shut. Chris and Brook are already pulling stuff out of Anne's box.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 One of these days!

BROOKLYN
 Uhh... Sarah? What's going on?

SARAH
 I have something to show you.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES - CONTINUOUS

Ally and Sam are walking away from the stables.

SAMANTHA
 Don't you wanna know what they're up to?

ALLY
 You think I won't find out?

Sam stops. She doesn't know whether to be amazed or upset with Ally.

INT. INSIDE THE STABLES

Brook and Chris are holding their diaries. They open the covers.

CHRISTINE
 This is dedicated to me.

BROOKLYN
 So is mine.

SARAH
 These diaries were written by none other than... Anne Marie Kelsey.

BROOKLYN
Who?

SARAH
Our mother?

CHRISTINE
Wow.

BROOKLYN
I forgot we even had one.

SARAH
Trust me. We do...uhh...did.

They study the books.

BROOKLYN
This is kind of freaky.

SARAH
How so?

BROOKLYN
Reading a book written to me by someone
I don't even vaguely remember.

CHRISTINE
Yeah. I have this tiny picture of her
in my mind but I don't know if I just
made that up.

SARAH
Well... here's a way we can to get to
know her.

CHRISTINE
You think so?

SARAH
I know so. But we have to keep these
a secret.

CHRISTINE
From who?

SARAH
Who else?

The girls all say a different name all at once.

THE GIRLS
SARAH: Papa!
BROOKLYN: Ally!
CHRISTINE: Sam.

BROOKLYN

Sam? Why Sam?

SARAH

Because she can't keep a secret from-

THE GIRLS

ALLY KAT!

SARAH

Pinky swear?

The girls all join pinkies in a promise bond.

THE GIRLS

Pinky swear.

INT. ROBIN'S CHURCH OFFICE - LATER

Robin is reviewing a passage in his bible for a sermon.

ROBIN

Resist the devil and he will flee from
you...

He surveys a nonexistent congregation then lets his sermon rip
loose.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

RESIST the devil and he will FLEE from
you!

He is buzzed on an intercom phone by his secretary, CLARE(45ish).

CLARE (O.S.)

Pastor Kelsey. The Cooper sisters are
here to see you.

ROBIN

Thank you Clare.
(carries on with his sermon)
The devil is here to see me and I
shall resist him!!

Robin thinks about this then buzzes Clare in sheer panic.

INT. OUTSIDE ROBIN'S OFFICE. - CONTINUOUS

The Cooper sisters are seated outside Robin's office waiting to
see him. They hear Robin through Clare's phone speaker.

ROBIN (O.S.)

The Cooper sisters!? Why didn't you
warn me?!

Daisy nods at Gladys then EXITS out to the sanctuary where there is a secondary entrance to Robin's office. She wants to cut him off at the pass.

CLARE
 (trying not to laugh)
 I'm sorry sir. I was in the washroom
 when they came in.

ROBIN (O.S.)
 Tell them... tell them...

INT. ROBIN'S CHURCH OFFICE

Robin sees the doorknob to his office turning. He has his coat halfway on.

ROBIN
 Ahh!

Robin heads for the sanctuary door exit but the doorknob is turning as well. Daisy and Gladys enter his office at the same time, trapping Robin.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 Aw, crap!

GLADYS
 Pastor Robin. We're so glad you're
 in.

DAISY
 We won't take up much of your time.

They enter and SIT down in the chairs in front of Robin's desk. He reluctantly takes off his coat.

ROBIN
 (aside)
 That'd be a first.

GLADYS
 Excuse me?

ROBIN
 Uhh, thirst. Can I get you ladies
 something to drink?

DAISY
 Oh don't bother about us however, some
 tea would be nice.

Robin hangs up his coat.

GLADYS

And we wouldn't say no to any decent cookies you may have... as long as they're not baked by that Ida Jackson. The woman uses too much salt. Bless her heart.

Robin talks to Clare on the intercom.

ROBIN

Clare, tea and some un-salty cookies, please.

CLARE (O.S.)

Yes Pastor.

DAISY

That's probably what killed her husband. Bless his heart.

GLADYS

Daisy! The man died of a heart attack.

DAISY

(annoyed)
I know that Gladys.

GLADYS

Well, you can't say "bless his heart" when the man's organ blew apart like a hand grenade. Bless his heart.

ROBIN

(aside)
Oh Lord, take me now, please!

DAISY

Pastor Robin...you're probably wondering why we're here.

Clare walks in with a tray of tea and cookies.

ROBIN

The thought crossed my mind.
(aside)
Along with several others.
(takes the tray))
Thank you Clare.
(aside to Clare)
SAVE YOURSELF!

Clare hurries out in a partial panic.

DAISY

Why do you keep mumbling? Is there something wrong with you?

ROBIN

I'm sorry. I'll try and speak more "clearly".

DAISY

Well, good. The reason-

GLADYS

Daisy, let me. Pastor Robin, we understand you are planning on re-opening your stables and bringing in horses.

ROBIN

Word travels fast.

DAISY

Gladys, let me. We think this is a grave error in judgment.

ROBIN

And why is that?

(aside)

Dare I ask.

GLADYS

It's quite simple, really. Old wounds that have long since been buried should stay buried. Your wife, bless her heart, did a terrible thing to you and those girls.

DAISY

A scandalous thing!

GLADYS

And now you want to have your girls immerse themselves into the same sort of wild expressions-

DAISY

Not proper for young ladies.

ROBIN

Specifically my daughters...

GLADYS

As a man of the cloth standards must be set-

DAISY

In stone.

ROBIN

I see.

GLADYS

We're glad you agree.

ROBIN

When did I-

DAISY

So you'll tell your girls you've changed your mind?

ROBIN

They want to board some horses. Since when-

GLADYS

Horses need training which means "cowboys" and that spells one thing for those girls of yours.

ROBIN

And what would that be, exactly?

DAISY

The bible says that we are to avoid even the appearance of sin, lest we be drawn into it's snares and passions!

GLADYS

Into the very depths and lust-filled desires of the...

Both ladies have to fan themselves with their hands.

ROBIN

Look ladies, I appreciate what you're trying to-

GLADYS

Toby Jackson!

ROBIN

Who?

DAISY

The widow, Ida Jackson! Her nephew.

ROBIN

Oh, right.

GLADYS
He trains horses.

ROBIN
So?

GLADYS
AND riders.

ROBIN
Well, good for-

DAISY
It seems he's been giving riding
lessons to a certain daughter of
yours?

ROBIN
Brooklyn told me all about it.
Christine admitted to the same.

GLADYS
(shocked and angry)
You mean you knew?

ROBIN
Uhh...As of last night... yes.

GLADYS
Oh!!! It's already begun. Daisy!
We're too late!!

ROBIN
Too late for what?

DAISY
THE LIES! THE DEBAUCHERY!

ROBIN
I beg your-

GLADYS
Those girls went behind your back
nearly all summer long!

ROBIN
Only because they knew I'd say no.

GLADYS
(totally shocked)
Oh! The appearance of sin!

DAISY
COMPLETE REBELLION!

GLADYS

(angry)
What do you have to say for yourself
and those daughters of yours?!?

ROBIN

Uhh...more tea, anyone?

EXT. OMAR ROAD - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

An old beaten TRUCK and horse trailer wind down OMAR road towards the Kelsey ranch. TOBY(19-22, handsome, cowboy) is trying his best to change gears and keep his truck on the road.

TOBY

Come on Bessy. Second gear, your
favorite. Come on! Do it for Toby,
you piece of junk!

Robin is DRIVING his car behind Toby's truck. He honks his horn in hopes of signaling the truck to pull to the side and let him pass. Toby is oblivious to anything around him because of the noise from his truck and motor. Robin sees an opening to pass and goes for it.

INT. INSIDE THE STABLES - CONTINUOUS

The Girls are finishing the clean up.

SARAH

That's it. I am done! All this
cleaning better be worth the trouble.

Sarah flings a big rag over her shoulder.

BROOKLYN

Are you kidding me? There is nothing
better than a real live horse!

CHRISTINE

Except a real live cowboy!

SARAH

Chris, do you ever think of anything
besides boys?

BROOKLYN

Nope, has a one track mind and she's
proud of it!

CHRISTINE

So what if I am?

SARAH

I wouldn't let Papa hear you talk like that.

CHRISTINE

Hey, one of these days we're all gonna be gone.

Outside the stables the sound of an OLD TRUCK sputtering and backfiring, can be heard as it approaches the Kelsey ranch. Horse sounds and a dog barking are also heard.

BROOKLYN

Not me. I'm staying here to run this ranch.

CHRISTINE

Seriously?

BROOKLYN

Wait! Listen! I hear horses!

CHRISTINE

Forget them. Toby Jackson!

Chris and Brook fight to get out the door first. Sarah has a broom in her hand and rag over her shoulder as she walks out of the stables.

EXT. THE KELSEY STABLES

Ally and Sam come running across the yard. Toby's truck barely pulls in front of the stables, coughs, and then promptly DIES a horribly loud death. Toby gets out of his truck and gives it a big kick. Robin is walking towards Toby.

TOBY

You stupid, stupid truck! I should take you out and shoot you! Put you outta my misery!

BROOKLYN

Toby.

His truck blows it's rad cap and steam spews out of the radiator. Brook and Chris notice Robin but Toby doesn't.

TOBY

Oh yeah! Go ahead and blow a rad cap. SEE IF I CARE!!

CHRISTINE

Toby!

TOBY

If I was a cussin' man you know what
I'd say to you? You God forsaken SON-
OF-A-

Sarah COVERS up Sam's ears. Sam covers up Ally's ears at the same time. Brook jumps in quick before Toby makes a bad impression. Robin has walked up to within SEVERAL FEET of Toby's backside.

BROOKLYN

Toby Jackson! I'd like you to meet
Pastor Robin Kelsey-

Brook SPINS Toby around.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D)

-our father!?

TOBY

Our father? Who art a... a... pastor?
(his voice goes high pitched)

ROBIN

I see my...uh...fame hasn't exactly
preceded me.

Robin looks at the girls. They look away.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

So... Toby. You're Mike Jackson's
nephew?

TOBY

Yeah. I came here to help my aunt with
the ranch after his heart attack.

Chris moves in beside Toby and starts to SMELL his shirt. Robin doesn't see her actions however Brook does and she's embarrassed.

ROBIN

He was a good man. Sorry to see him go.

As Chris smells his shirt she looks like she's just died and gone to heaven. Brook pulls her away from Toby before Robin sees what she is doing.

TOBY

(nods)
Yeah.

ROBIN

But... that was early July and here it
is the end of August.

BROOK
(aside to Toby)
Careful. It's a trap!

ROBIN
(tugging at his collar)
All those Sunday mornings...

TOBY
Yeah, uhh...sorry...I...

CHRISTINE
Papa! Can we at least welcome the man
to our home before we try and get him
saved?!

ROBIN
Well, you can stay for lunch if you
like.

TOBY
Thank you, sir.

ROBIN
If you call for a tow truck by the
time we finish eating-

TOBY
Uh... no sir.

ROBIN
Beg your pardon?

TOBY
Ol'Bessy just needs some TLC.

ROBIN
"Ol'Bessy" here needs a complete
overhaul.

TOBY
If I could borrow some tools in a
couple of days I'm sure-

ROBIN
Look Toby, let me be right up front -
I won't have a young man, your age in
a house - full of -

SARAH
Papa! There's a bedroom, upstairs, at
the back...

Robin glares at her. Toby notices Sarah for the first time.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 ...of the stables. Needs some
 cleaning.

Sarah holds up her broom. Robin knows he's being cornered. Chris
 JUMPS right in. Sarah rolls her eyes.

CHRISTINE
 Ooo me, Me, ME!! I mean...

Chris grabs the broom and rag from Sarah and cuddles up to TOBY.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
 I'll do it, Papa.

Brook looks at Sarah and they both roll their eyes. Sam and Ally
 giggle.

ROBIN
 (sighs)
 Toby. How long will it take to make
 that piece of junk road worthy?

TOBY
 A few days. A WEEK, tops. I...I could
 give riding lessons in exchange for-

Chris tosses the rag which lands on top Brook's head. She pulls it
 off with disgust.

ROBIN
One week.

The exhaust on Toby's truck backfires.

TOBY
 It... might take me... two weeks.

ROBIN
 (big sigh)
 Fine, "two weeks" or I tow it up Omar
 road and push it right into Canyon
 lake! Agreed?

TOBY
 Yes, sir...uhh, no sir.

ROBIN
 Girls? Please help Mr.Jackson with the
 horses.

THE GIRLS
 Yes, Papa.

Tess can't help but watch Toby as he keeps looking over at Sarah. She elbows him then points at Chris. She walks back to the house. Toby RUSHES over to help Chris.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN - EVENING

On the Kelsey home fridge there are several pieces of elementary school artwork. One prominent picture shows stick drawings of the five Kelsey girls holding hands with Robin in the middle. Below him it reads "mommy" with a diagonal line through it and "Daddy" printed below. To the side of the drawing is an arrow that says "kitchen" this way and a stick figure of Tess holding a plate of food.

INT. OLDER KELSEY GIRLS BEDROOM - LATER THAT EVENING

The three older girls are reading from their respective diaries. They are wearing granny night gowns and reading to each other.

BROOKLYN

"Dear Brooklyn, today you and I got to go for a ride together. You held the reins while I held onto you. You smiled from ear to ear!"

TESS (O.S.)

Girls, lights out!

BROOKLYN

(quietly)
Imagine riding a horse with your own mother. What I would give to ride with her today.

SARAH

What I'd give to have her here, right now.

Chris closes her diary in frustration.

CHRISTINE

I'm sorry Sarah but these are just words... From a part of my life I can't connect with for some reason. I can't feel her, I can't...

SARAH

What if we pray?

BROOKLYN

Pray for what? She's been dead for ten years.

SARAH

Maybe God can... help us.. with... a
vision of what she was like.

A single gust of wind breeze blows into the room making the
CURTAINS wave in a big way.

BROOKLYN

That was just the wind, right?

CHRISTINE

What if it wasn't?

SARAH

Only one way to find out. Okay Lord,
we're ready.

THE GIRLS (SING)

SARAH: FATHER TAKE HER WORDS
AND WRITE THEM ON MY HEART

CHRIS: HELP US MAKE BELIEVE
WE'VE NEVER BEEN APART

BROOK: WE BEG YOU ON THIS EVENING IN SEPTEMBER

GIRLS: HELP US NOW TO FIND HER AND REMEMBER:

HER FACE, HER VOICE,
THE SOUND OF HER PRAYERS TO YOU, OH GOD
HER HANDS, HER EYES, THE SMELL OF HER HAIR

SARAH: WHAT MADE HER LAUGH,

CHRIS/BROOK: WHAT MADE HER CRY?

SARAH: WHAT MADE HER LONELY,

BROOK: WHAT MADE HER SIGH?

SARAH: WHAT MADE HER SING,

CHRIS/BROOK: WHAT MADE HER SMILE

GIRLS: WHAT MADE HER HOLD HER BREATH
JUST FOR AWHILE?

SARAH/CHRIS: MAMMA CAN YOU FEEL ME?

MAMMA CAN YOU FILL ME?

BROOK: TAKE ME WHERE YOU ARE

GIRLS: SO I CAN TOUCH YOU

MAMMA I AM WAITING, ANTICIPATING
ALL THE LOVE I KNOW WILL MAKE IT RIGHT

OH MAMMA CAN YOU SEE ME?

MAMMA CAN YOU FREE ME?

OF THE HURT OF LEAVING ME SO LOST
AND WONDERING HOW MY LIFE COULD BE
IF YOU WERE HERE

WOULD I BE MORE LIKE YOU
OR LIKE MY FATHER

(MORE)

THE GIRLS (SING) (CONT'D)
 MAMMA, CAN YOU HOLD ME
 MAMMA DO YOU KNOW ME
 WOULD YOU HAVE SURRENDERED
 IF YOU KNEW THAT
 THERE'D BE NO TOMORROW
 ONLY PAIN AND SORROW
 MAMMA DO YOU MISS ME
 HALF AS MUCH AS I MISS YOU?

SARAH: MAMMA, CAN YOU HOLD ME?
CHRIS: MAMMA DO YOU KNOW ME?
BROOK: WOULD YOU HAVE SURRENDERED
GIRLS: IF YOU KNEW THAT
 THERE'D BE NO TOMORROW
 ONLY PAIN AND SORROW
 MAMMA DO YOU MISS ME
 HALF AS MUCH AS I MISS YOU?

The three of them finish the song sitting on the floor leaning on each other as they stare out the window. The curtains move one last time as we:

FADE OUT:

INT. CHURCH - NEXT DAY - MORNING

The congregation is in the middle of the song, "Down By the Riverside". Toby is drumming. Sarah is on piano. Brook is playing guitar and Chris is playing tambourine beside TOBY.

THE CHURCH
 GONNA MEET MY LOVING MOTHER
 DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE
 DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE
 DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

 GONNA LAY DOWN MY BURDENS
 DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE
 DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE
 DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE
 DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

The song ends but TOBY is so into it he forgets to stop. Christine SIGNALS him.

CHRISTINE

Toby!

He keeps on drumming.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Toby!!

She pushes him off his stool. The congregation laughs.

ROBIN
Thank you girls. Nobody likes a show
off Toby.

TOBY
Sorry.

The girls sit. Toby follows them. Robin looks over his
congregation.

ROBIN
Honor-- your Father and your Mother.
Commandment number...?

TESS
(shoots her arm up)
Oh! I know this!

ROBIN
Anyone? Toby?

TOBY
Uhh... Eleven?

The congregation laughs. Ally slaps her head with her hand.
Brook shows Toby ten fingers. Daisy has fallen asleep. Tess
still has her hand up. Gene has Chester with him. They have
matching suits on.

ROBIN
No.

TESS
Pick me!

ROBIN
Gene?

Gene stands up with Chester. He waits a second for Chester to
respond for him then reluctantly speaks.

GENE
Number One.

ROBIN
No, that's "You shall have no other
Gods Before me".

GENE
Dang.

Robin sees that Daisy is asleep. He WALKS over to her.

ROBIN
Daisy!!

DAISY
(wakes up, falls on floor)
Oh! Dear Lord, my hair!

The congregation laughs. Gladys is embarrassed for her sister.

GLADYS
Pastor Robin, I believe it is
commandment number nine.

ROBIN
I believe it is not. Number nine is,
"Thou shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor".

CHURCH MEMBER 1
Too late for that.

GLADYS
Oh!

The congregation laughs.

ROBIN
Settle down folks. Samantha?

SAMANTHA
What?

ROBIN
"Honor your father and mother," is
what commandment?

SAMANTHA
Uh....

ALLY
Six.

ROBIN
Ally, is your name Samantha? You were
close. Number six is "Thou Shall not
Murder".

CHRISTINE
Gettin' tougher every day.

ROBIN
Christine Kelsey?

SARAH
(coughs under her breath)
Five.

CHRISTINE

Wha-?

Sarah holds up five fingers. Chris takes Toby's hand and connects with each finger with her hand.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Oh, five. It's the fifth commandment.

ROBIN

That is correct. That is not. You, sit here!

Toby moves to sit beside Brook. As he does he looks up and mouths "Thank you" to God. Chris pouts.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Thank you Sarah for helping your sister cheat so eloquently.

The congregation laughs politely.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Honor your Father and Mother. What does the bible really mean by the word "honor"?

TESS

(raises her hand by reflex)
Oh!

ROBIN

(ignoring Tess)
If we go back to the book of Genesis...

There is a loud horse whinny from the back of the church. Robin attempts to preach.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

When horses roamed the land.

TOBY

Uh oh.

BROOKLYN

What's wrong?

ROBIN

Cain was the first child to...

TOBY

We have a visitor.

CHRISTINE

Who?

There is another horse sound.

TOBY

Leo. I road him to church.

ROBIN

...challenge the authority of his
parents...

BROOKLYN

So?

There is a further horse sound.

TOBY

I don't think I tied him good enough.

CHRISTINE

Big deal.

TOBY

I may have left the back door to the
church open... for air flow...

GLADYS

Oh dear Lord! What is that smell?

ROBIN

(attempting to salvage his message)
Cain ignored everything he had been
taught-

ALLY

Look! HORSE! RUN!

LEO (the horse) trots across the pulpit area and down the aisle of the church causing a huge commotion. Toby and Brook try and catch him causing even more commotion. Full pandemonium occurs complete with screaming, running and folks jumping over pews. Leo turns around and heads back towards the pulpit. Eventually Toby manages to jump on Leo and ride him out of the church.

CHRISTINE

Toby! What about me?!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH - LATER

Robin is SHAKING HANDS with folks as they leave. Gene holds up Chester's little hand for Robin to shake.

GENE

Good service Pastor. After that horse showed up we nearly stayed awake for all of it.

ROBIN

(sarcastic))

Thanks Gene, that means a lot.

Daisy and Gladys approach Robin with indignation.

DAISY

Pastor Robin.

ROBIN

I know. You warned me.

GLADYS

Oh, we shall have lots to say about this at the next deacons meeting. That you can be sure of.

DAISY

We did feel your sermon was on the right track.

ROBIN

You mean because of the horse?
(the ladies are deadpan)
Track?... Horse!!

GLADYS

However, we felt it needed more brimstone and punch.

ROBIN

You know Gladys, I agree.

GLADYS

Really?

ROBIN

Each week it dawns on me just how much PUNCH I hold back on. Have a lovely afternoon.

He shakes their hands and somewhat ushers them out the door.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

GLADYS

Daisy, I think we've just been insulted!

DAISY

Horses in church. Next we'll be
having pigs and chickens, two by two,
a regular Noah's Ark!

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES - LATER

Sarah, Chris, Toby, and Brook are riding down the long driveway on horseback. Chris is having some trouble controlling her horse.

CHRISTINE

Whoa, boy! Easy... Easy.

TOBY

Don't let him get away with that.
Tell him what you want.

The horse speeds up into a trot.

CHRISTINE

I want him to stop b-b-b-b-bouncing me
before m-m-m-my teeth fall out.

Toby looks at Brook. She heads off to help Chris. Toby looks at Sarah. Sarah points towards Chris.

SARAH

Keep you eyes on the prize, cowboy.

TOBY

That's what I'm doing.

Sarah takes off leaving Toby by himself. He smiles.

INT. KELSEY HOME OLDER GIRL'S BEDROOM - LATER

Ally SNEAKS into the older girl's bedroom. She REACHES under Sarah's mattress and finds her diary. She opens it, shaking her head at her discovery. She SCANS the room for the next hiding place. She WALKS over to the dresser and pulls open the lowest drawer. She REACHES into the drawer and digs to the bottom of a ton of clothes and junk and pulls out another diary, which she tosses on the bed. She opens the closet then GRABS A CHAIR to help her get high enough to reach a concealed shoebox which she pulls down. She OPENS the box and pulls out a third diary.

ALLY

Amateurs.

She stacks all three diaries under her arm and storms out of the bedroom.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE KELSEY STABLES - MOMENTS LATER

Sarah is brushing her horse. Chris is watching her.

SARAH

Chris, I know how to groom a horse.
This isn't rocket science.

CHRISTINE

Fine, then you won't mind if I take
over?

SARAH

Be my guest.

Chris unties the horse and leads her out of the stables.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Where you going?

From inside the stables Sarah hears the following conversation which fades out as they get too far away. Sarah tidies up the stall by putting the grooming tools away.

TOBY (O.S.)

Perfect! Now that is a well groomed
horse. Brook, you could learn
something from your sister...

BROOKLYN (O.S.)

Who? Wha- Are you kidding me? Who do
you think taught her?

Sarah shakes her head. PAUSE. Ally comes into the stables. She sets two diaries down on a table, clears her throat, and reads aloud from Sarah's diary.

ALLY

"Dear Sarah, today I became a mother
for the very first time! My joy is
indescribable! You are my first born.
My precious Sarah.

SARAH

ALLY KAT! Where did you get that?!

ALLY

In the most pathetic hiding place on
the planet!

SARAH

How dare you!

ALLY
Here, take it. Go ahead.

Sarah grabs the book.

ALLY (CONT'D)
I found two more.

Ally points to the table.

SARAH
Allyssa Anne Kelsey! You outta be ash-

ALLY
Where's mine?

SARAH
What makes you think-

ALLY
Oh, come on Sarah. Our mother started
these the first day we were born.
Hand it over.

Robin walks into the stables.

ROBIN
Hand what over.

Sarah hides the diary behind her back.

SARAH
Nothing.

Ally grabs the diary from Sarah and hands it to Robin.

ALLY
Here Papa.

SARAH
You little-

ROBIN
Sarah!

Robin looks at the diary. SARAH takes it back.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
See me in my den after supper. Bring
the diaries. All five of them.

Robin exits the stables. Ally takes one look at Sarah and runs off.

SARAH
 You better run you little-
 A horse whinnies.

EXT. KELSEY RANCH CORAL - MOMENTS LATER

Chris is watching Toby as he ground trains a horse. Toby is somewhat embarrassed about being watched so carefully.

TOBY
 Don't you have homework to do?

CHRISTINE
 I'm doing it as we speak.

TOBY
 Oh yeah? What subject?

CHRISTINE
 Anatomy.

INT. INSIDE THE STABLES - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Sarah pulls out her mother's box in anger. She DUMPS OUT all the contents onto the floor including the two diaries belonging to Sam and Ally. She shakes the box and hears the sound of SOMETHING ELSE banging from side to side. She peers inside and notices an irregularity to the wooden bottom. She explores the outside of the box and notices a small pin holding the bottom in place. She PULLS out the pin and the bottom drops, revealing two more diaries. She examines them to see who they are dedicated to.

SARAH
 These are mamma's personal diaries...
 Well... Papa? You asked for five
 diaries so that's what you're getting.

Sarah starts reading Anne's diary.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Sarah is explaining what happened to Chris and Brook. She shows them the five diaries. They nod and hug her in support.

INT. KELSEY HOME DEN - LATER THAT EVENING

SARAH knocks on the door. She is holding the five diaries.

ROBIN
 Come in Sarah.

She enters the den.

SARAH
Papa, I can explain.

She holds the diaries closely to her heart.

ROBIN
I wondered what happened to those.

SARAH
I found them in the stables... in
Toby's room.

ROBIN
Sarah, when your mother...
(starts again)
As you know... I have tried to protect
you girls, by-

SARAH
But I don't see how--

ROBIN
I had completely forgotten about her
diaries.

SARAH
Papa, the reason I never gave Ally her
diary... I... I... as trying to
protect her. There's only a few pages
written in hers...

ROBIN
That doesn't matter. The one thing
that does matter is the amount of
lying and deception that has somehow
infected this family! God only knows
what else has been going on behind my
back. My sermon to "Honor Your
Father" obviously fell on deaf ears.

SARAH
That's not true. What about honoring
our mother?

Robin bangs the desk.

ROBIN
She is dead!

SARAH
Yes! And thanks to you she has been
nothing but dead ever since the day
she died!

ROBIN
 You think I don't know that!? You
 think it's been easy to protect you
 girls from the sins of that woman!?

SARAH
 Isn't that like playing God?

ROBIN
 Don't you preach to me!

SARAH
 Does God judge the sin or the sinner?

ROBIN
 Give me the diaries.

SARAH
 Papa, no. You don't--

ROBIN
 (banging the desk)
 NOW!

Sarah reluctantly puts the books on his desk.

SARAH
 Please don't do this.

ROBIN
 While I have no right to destroy these
 I do have the power to keep them from
 you until the age your mother would
 have given them to you in the first
 place, had God not judged her the way
 He did.

Robin puts the diaries in the bottom drawer of his desk.

SARAH
 But she-

ROBIN
 By then you may be mature enough to
 handle what is in these. Do I make
 myself clear?

Robin pulls out a key and locks the drawer.

SARAH
 But-

ROBIN
 Sarah?

SARAH

Fine!

Sarah runs out of the room upset. She passes Tess, holding a laundry basket.

TESS

Oh Sarah, I was about to do a load...
of laundry.

Tess drops the basket on the floor and looks at Robin. He gets up and closes the door to the den before she can say anything.

INT.OUTSIDE ROBIN'S DEN - CONTINUOUS

Tess looks at the wooden door.

TESS

Two inch thick door. Two and a half
inch thick skull.

ROBIN (V.O.)

I heard that.

TESS

(to herself)
You were supposed to...

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN - LATER THAT EVENING

Christine and Brook are doing homework. Ally and Sam are playing a game of go fish. Tess is sweeping the floor. Sarah walks into the kitchen. She signals Christine and Brook.

ALLY

Do you have any 3's?

SAMANTHA

Nope. Go fish.

SARAH

(whispers)
Meet me in the stables in ten minutes.
Just the two of you.

BROOKLYN

What's up?

SARAH

Ten minutes.

INT. THE KELSEY STABLES - MOMENTS LATER

Toby is fixing the leather straps on some tack. Sarah walks into the barn and is so fixated she is startled by him.

SARAH

Oh! Sorry Toby, I forgot you were here.

Sarah grabs a broom and a dustpan and begins sweeping.

TOBY

No worries. Just trying to make some of this tack usable after all these years.

Toby looks over and sees Sarah bent over at the waist sweeping dust into her dustpan. He can't help but notice her figure.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Whoa! How's your butt?
(laughs)

SARAH

Easy cowboy.

TOBY

Sorry. Hey...is it too soon for another ride - Just you and me this time?

SARAH

I don't think that would make Chris very happy.

TOBY

Who?

SARAH

Christine? My sister?

TOBY

Oh... Umm... no, I mean... We're just friends.

SARAH

Right...

TOBY

She has a crush-

SARAH

A big crush.

TOBY
Which I probably should have...

 SARAH
Yeah. You're a little late there,
Romeo.

 TOBY
And a little too old. I swear, I
didn't encourage her.

 SARAH
But you didn't discourage her either.
With Chris, that's like saying, "go
ahead and order the wedding
invitations".

 TOBY
Yeah... so what do I do?

 SARAH
Cowboy, I have four sisters and no
brothers. You're on your own.

 TOBY
What about you?

 SARAH
What about me?

 TOBY
Would you... ever...you know...

Sarah sees Brook and Chris coming towards the stables. We hear
them arguing about a halter.

 CHRISTINE (V.O.)
Brook gimme that back!

 SARAH
Would I...? Better make this
fast.

Toby takes Sarah by the hand.

 BROOKLYN
No! You don't even know how
to use one.

 TOBY
I'd really like to ask you
out... sometime...

Brook and Chris enter the stables. Sarah takes her hand back.

 TOBY (CONT'D)
Aww crap.

 BROOKLYN
It's a barn. What'd you expect?

Chris walks up to Toby and takes his hat and puts it on her head, flirting with him.

CHRISTINE

Hey, you...uhh... promised me a riding lesson.

TOBY

Yeah, some other night, okay?... I've got to go see a man about a... horse...

Toby picks up a saddle to take with him. Chris hangs onto a saddle strap as Toby tries to leave. He pulls hard and she finally releases her grip. She is hurt. She looks at Sarah.

CHRISTINE

What were you two talking about?

SARAH

Who?

CHRISTINE

You and Toby! Who else!?

SARAH

Chris, relax. It was nothing. Wait here.

Sarah pulls out her mother's box.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Watch this.

She unlatches the false bottom of the box revealing Anne's two diaries.

BROOKLYN

More diaries? Are there a couple of siblings we don't know about?

SARAH

No... these are mom's.

CHRISTINE

(amazed)

No way! I take it Papa doesn't-

SARAH

Even know they exist and he never will, right?

CHRISTINE

As long as Ally doesn't find out.

SARAH

She won't. I'm guarding these with my life.

BROOK

So have you read them already?

SARAH

Only bits and pieces. Near as I can figure this one is pre- marriage, her life growing up as a teenager, you know. And this one starts at around the time she met our father.

CHRISTINE

Ooo, juicy.

BROOK

No, yucky.

SARAH

Well, you wanted to know all about our mother? Yucky or not-

CHRISTINE

Here we come.

SARAH

The first half of this diary is mom getting pretty serious about two things in her life - number one - Robin Kelsey and number two - her dream of becoming a champion in show jumping.

BROOK

Whoa. Talk about two different worlds.

SARAH

Get this. Two weeks after her and Papa got married she inherited this entire ranch when her parents were killed by a drunk driver.

CHRISTINE

Oh, man.

SARAH

For some reason everything starts to change from that moment on.

BROOK

What do you mean?

SARAH

Well, every time mom started to get anywhere in the horse world, winning awards, our beloved father would get her...you know...pregnant.

BROOKLYN

(disgusted)
Eeyoo.

CHRISTINE

I thought they had cures for that sort of thing.

SARAH

It gets complicated. Mom talks about another man in her life, her horse trainer and coach - Colin somebody. Soap opera time. Jealousy, fighting, you name it... I'll skip ahead to where I left off. Five daughters later. Listen to this... "Today started with the most wonderful news

ANNE (V.O.)

I had just finished a riding lesson with Colin..."

INT. THE KELSEY RANCH - JUST OUTSIDE THE STABLES - FLASHBACK

Anne walks into the stables with Colin. He has his arm around her.

COLIN

Anne, I told you, you could do it! I think you're ready...

ANNE

Are you kidding me?

COLIN

Well... as long as he doesn't get you pregnant again.

ANNE

Not this time. Five is it. Robin has finally given up on having a son.

COLIN

So you can compete again? Get back to your first love for real this time?

ANNE

Maybe.

(pauses))

Ooo, I'd love to!!

Anne is so excited that she hugs Colin hard as they spin around. Colin is the first to see Robin walk in, facing off with them.

COLIN

I'll...umm... catch up with you later.

ANNE

Okay.

Colin exits the stables.

ROBIN

(sarcastic)

B'bye!

ANNE

Why are you looking at me like that?

ROBIN

Oh, I'm sorry. Am I making you feel uncomfortable?

ANNE

Wha- Look, Robin, Colin figured out where I was losing over three seconds on my jumps. He thinks I can still compete-

ROBIN

Your girls need you.

ANNE

Is someone hurt?

ROBIN

No, of coarse not.

ANNE

Has Tess said-

ROBIN

I need you. You have to choose.

ANNE

Choose? Between who and what?

ROBIN

Don't! Anne, it's him or me!

ANNE

Your jealous of a horse!?

ROBIN

What?! How dare you! You know what I mean!

ANNE

You... you're jealous of Colin? After all I've given you? Are you insane?

ROBIN

He loves you.

ANNE

And you know what? I love him, but not the way I love you. You're my husband.

ROBIN

Then choose!

ANNE

Why, Robin? Why would you make me do this?

ROBIN

Anne! Are you so stupid, so naive, and so blind to not see what an entire town can see even with their eyes closed!?

ANNE

What town? You mean that back biting, back stabbing congregation of yours who wouldn't know God if He showed up on Sunday in a flaming robe and personally served them communion!?

ROBIN

That is not fair and you know it!

ANNE

I know the truth hurts!

ROBIN

CHOOSE! Him or me!

ANNE

But...

Robin storms away, angry.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Robin, wait!

INT. THE KELSEY STABLES - REAL TIME

BROOKLYN

Whoa! This is better than a movie.

CHRISTINE

I sure wish I could have met this
Colin. He sounds like a real dream.

SARAH

Chris... can we stay focused here?

ROBIN (O.S.)

Sarah? Are you in here?

BROOK

Oh oh!

SARAH

Shhh... To be continued...

INT. KELSEY PORCH - LATER THAT EVENING

Sam is trying to finish writing a song. Ally sneaks up behind SAM
and scares her.

SAMANTHA

GOD OF PEACE, HEAR MY HEART
BREATHE IN ME YOUR SPIRIT
YOU ALONE ARE MY GOD
AND YOU RESCUE ME-

ALLY

Boo!

SAMANTHA

Ally cat! One of these da-

ALLY

Who were you singing to?

SAMANTHA

No one.

ALLY

Bet you wish you were singing for
Toby.

SAMANTHA

You're crazy.

ALLY

Yeah right. I saw you looking at him.

SAMANTHA

You did not!

ALLY

I wonder what Chris would think?

SAMANTHA

Ally, please don't say anything!

ALLY

Hey, I can keep a secret-

ALLY/SAM

For a price.

ALLY

(smiles)

I'll be in touch.

Ally heads into the house. Sam closes her eyes and tries to regain her joy.

SAMANTHA

I FOUND IN YOU MY EVERYTHING
WHEN I SURRENDERED ALL
BUT YOU BECAME MY LORD AND KING
WHEN I ANSWERED TO YOUR CALL

Sam taps her notebook with her pen and shakes her head in frustration. Toby approaches her.

TOBY

Hey, that sounded pretty good!

SAMANTHA

(embarrassed)

You mean you were listening?

TOBY

Well, yeah, I hope that's-

Sam runs off the porch behind a bush and throws up.

TOBY (CONT'D)

-okay...

INT. THE KELSEY HOME UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - LATER THAT NIGHT

Sarah tip-toes down the hallway to Sam and Ally's room. She puts her ear to the door. She hears them snoring.

INT. SAM AND ALLY'S BEDROOM

Sam and Ally are sound asleep. On a night table between them, are two glasses with different levels of milk and a plate with crumbs and a half eaten cookie.

INT. THE KELSEY HOME UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Chris puts her ear to Robin's door. She hears him snoring.

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM

On Robin's night table there is a bottle of sleeping pills and a half cup of water.

INT. THE KELSEY HOME HALLWAY

Brook puts her ear to Tess's door. She hears snoring.

INT. TESS'S BEDROOM

On Tess's there is half a bottle of scotch and a empty glass.

INT. THE KELSEY HOME HALLWAY

Sarah tip toes down the stairs, followed by Chris and Brook. They head for the living-room.

INT. KELSEY LIVING ROOM.

Sarah turns on a small light and the girls gather around her. In the living room there is a sofa, a piano, a rocking chair and an easy chair. Sarah looks at her sisters and then opens Anne's diary.

SARAH

Ready?

CHRISTINE

This is so exciting!

SARAH

Shh. Okay...before reading ahead I wanted to go back to find out what life was like on the ranch when there were only four in the family and no Tess.

BROOK

You mean before I was born?

SARAH

Well, buzz ahead to just after. When mom finally brought you home Brook, I
(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

think she started to feel pretty overwhelmed. Papa was spending way too much time with church stuff...

CHRISTINE

(sarcastic)

Really? That's surprising.

SARAH

... and with three kids to raise mom could only stare at the horses...

BROOK

Ooo, that's not good.

SARAH

Yeah.

CHRISTINE

What about Colin?

SARAH

What about him?

CHRISTINE

Mom home alone with three kids... lonely...? Desperate housewife!!

Brook and Sarah are shocked at Chris.

SARAH

I don't get any sense that her and Colin were ever more than just good friends.

CHRISTINE

Too bad.

Brook and Sarah give Chris dirty looks.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Sorry. Look, maybe she left that part out. Just thinkin' out loud here.

SARAH

Anyway. She wrote a song right in her diary. Notes, chords and words.

BROOK

What kind of song?

SARAH

Something to help her cope with life. But I don't think she wrote it just

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

for herself. I cried when I read
these lyrics.

As the intro to the song "Why Can't I Feel You Jesus?" plays, Anne Kelsey appears. She is trying to comfort her baby as she sits in the rocking chair. She sings. The girls watch her in awe joining her in harmony on the chorus.

ANNE

SHE REMEMBERS A CHILD WHO WOULD RUN TO YOUR ARMS
WITH TEARDROPS, BUTTERFLIES, AND STORIES
THEN A PROMISE TO A YOUNG GIRL;
HOW YOU'D ALWAYS BE THERE
AND WITH ALL OF HER HEART SHE BELIEVED YOU

ANNE AND THE GIRLS

BUT NOW SHE CRIES, "WHY CAN'T I FEEL YOU JESUS?"
DID I WANDER TOO FAR TO FIND MY WAY HOME?
OH I KNOW THERE'S A HEAVEN ABOVE ME
BUT I'VE FORGOTTEN WHY YOU EVEN LOVE ME"
SHE CRIES, "WHY CAN'T I FEEL YOU JESUS?"
I'VE GOT TO FIND YOU SOMEHOW
'CAUSE JESUS, I NEED TO FEEL YOU NOW."

Anne walks towards the door. It opens. She exits the home.

EXT. THE KELSEY PORCH - CONTINUOUS

As Anne comforts the baby she looks out over the ranch. The girls follow her out side. She stares at the horses in the choral. It is a gloomy grey cloudy day.

SARAH (SING)

IT FELT LIKE A MOMENT AND HER TRUE LOVE WAS GONE
AND LIFE MEANT HER JOB AND THREE CHILDREN
SOME DAYS IT'S ALL SHE CAN DO TO HOLD ON
AND SHE'S NEVER FELT SO ALONE

Anne wanders back inside the Kelsey home. The girls follow her.

ANNE AND THE GIRLS

AND NOW SHE CRIES, "WHY CAN'T I FEEL YOU, JESUS?"
DID I WANDER TOO FAR TO FIND MY WAY HOME?
OH I KNOW THERE'S A HEAVEN ABOVE ME
BUT I'VE FORGOTTEN WHY YOU EVEN LOVE ME
WHY CAN'T I FEEL YOU, JESUS?
I'VE GOT TO FIND YOU SOMEHOW
'CAUSE JESUS, I NEED TO FEEL..."

Anne crumbles to her knees in tears.

THE GIRLS

SARAH: WITH CLOTHES TO WASH, AND BILLS TO PAY
CHRIS: SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND NO TIME TO PRAY
(MORE)

THE GIRLS (CONT'D)

BROOK: A BATTLE WITH HER DAUGHTER'S WILL

GIRLS: THEN SHE HEARS YOU WHISPER

ANNE

"Peace, my child, just be still"

THE GIRLS

And she cries...

ANNE

NOW I CAN FEEL YOU JESUS

I NEVER WANDERED TOO FAR TO FIND MY WAY HOME

The girls lift Anne up to her feet. A light fills the room as they sing.

ANNE AND THE GIRLS

WITH HEAVEN ALL AROUND ME AND ABOVE ME

I KNOW JUST HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ME

SHE CRIES, "NOW I CAN FEEL YOU, JESUS

I KNEW YOU'D FIND ME SOMEHOW

OH AND JESUS? IT'S SO GOOD TO FEEL YOU NOW.

As the song finishes we:

FADE OUT:

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Robin is having a nightmare. He tosses and turns.

EXT. OMAR ROAD BEND

Robin runs uphill to a sharp bend in OMAR road which overlooks a canyon lake. He comes to a POLICE road block. Red and blue lights are SPINNING at the scene of an accident. Robin attempts to JUMP over the roadblock. He comes crashing down on his back. This time he gets up with determination, jumps over the barricade. He runs over to the accident but is stopped by Sheriff Taber. Robin yells!

ROBIN

ANNE!

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM

Robin bolts up in his bed as he yells.

ROBIN

ANNE!!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN - NEXT DAY

Tess is making lunches for the girls to take to school while the girls clean up from breakfast. Toby is still finishing up his food as Chris fawns over him. Sam whispers to Ally. They giggle then head for their coats. Sarah and Tess watch Chris from a distance while they prepare for school.

TESS

That girl has it bad.

SARAH

Real bad. If he doesn't shut this down soon she'll be picking out China patterns. Chris! Come on, we're gonna be late for the bus.

CHRISTINE

Bye Toby.

Chris KISSES him on the cheek.

BROOKLYN

"Bye Toby"

As a joke Brook also kisses him on the cheek. Ally and Sam do the same.

ALLY

"Bye Toby"

CHRISTINE

Would you-

SAMANTHA

"Bye Toby"

SARAH

"Bye Toby"

Sarah goes to kiss Toby on the cheek but he turns his head and they ACCIDENTALLY KISS on the lips. The girls all laugh except Christine, who storms out.

TOBY

Oops.

Tess looks at Toby. He shrugs.

EXT. OUTSIDE GENE PERLEMAN'S FUNERAL PARLOR - LATER.

Robin drives into the parking lot of a modest funeral home.

INT. GENE'S FUNERAL PARLOR

Gene is working at his desk. In his office is a large casket and a tiny one beside it. He has his black funeral suit on. Chester has a matching black suit on as well. From Gene's P.O.V. Robin walks up to Gene's open office door and knocks as a curtesy.

GENE
Come in, Pastor.

Robin walks into Gene's office. He has his bible with him.

ROBIN
Gene.

CHESTER
Robin.

ROBIN
Chester. I see you're talking now.

CHESTER
Yep.

ROBIN
Since when?

CHESTER
None of your business!

Robin sits down in front of Gene's desk.

GENE
Chester! Have some respect.

ROBIN
So. I'm here. What's up? Somebody die?

GENE
Uh, no... actually, it's been pretty slow.

ROBIN
Well, cheer up, Gene. Soon the holidays will be here with business for everyone.

Gene comes out from behind his desk and sits opposite Robin.

GENE
Yeah...Uhh look.. Pastor Robin... you know I've always tried to avoid conflict.

ROBIN
That's fair to say...

GENE
And God knows I wouldn't hurt anyone
for love nor-

CHESTER
Oh, would you stop tap dancing around
for two minutes? You make my head
spin.

Chester's head spins around 360 degrees.

ROBIN
Uhh Gene? Look, I'm sorry but I have
a lot of work-

GENE
Last night... Chester and I started
talking...

ROBIN
(trying to be serious)
O--kay...

CHESTER
And we figured out why Edna left us.

ROBIN
Why Edna left the two of you?

GENE
Yep.

ROBIN
But she was married to--?

CHESTER
Aww, who do you think, numb nuts!

ROBIN
I was... just asking. Go on.

GENE
Edna, she had a problem-

CHESTER
Oh don't sugar coat it! The woman was
jealous!

ROBIN
Of?

GENE

Chester and me.

CHESTER

Green with DEMON SLIME!

GENE

If I had paid even half as much attention to her as I paid to him she never would have left us.

ROBIN

And...I can't believe I'm going to ask this, but, Chester?

Chester leans towards Robin.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

How do you feel about that?

CHESTER

I...uh... suppose it's true but in my defense I was here first.

ROBIN

Well, I'm just glad to see you two worked this out. Time to go-

Robin starts to get up but sits back down again.

GENE

Uhh!...There's more.

ROBIN

I figured there would be.

GENE

Chester, I don't feel right about hurting people's feelings.

CHESTER

Then Gene? Shut up and learn. Robin? Been talking to God about you.

ROBIN

Oh, this ought'a be good.

CHESTER

And He told me part of your ticker is harder than the back of my head.

ROBIN

Ticker?

CHESTER
Your heart, dummy!

ROBIN
Hey! It takes one to-

CHESTER
Are you dissin' me!?

GENE
Chester, don't-

CHESTER
You heard of prophesy?

ROBIN
(Grabs a bible)
Uhh duh...I've read about it.

CHESTER
Well here's one for you! Unless you
get on your knees and seek God for the
sins you've buried you're gonna lose
more than you ever bargained for.

ROBIN
Sins!? Just who in hell do you think
you-

Gene holds up Chester's right hand.

CHESTER
THUS SAYETH THE LORD!

ROBIN
Is that right!!? Well, thus SAYETH
Pastor ROBIN! How much wood can a
woodchuck-!

Robin grabs Chester and stuffs him into the tiny coffin. He slams
the lid.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
-Stuff! Gene! You got something to
say to me than just say it!

CHESTER (O.S.)
(muffled sound)
Let me outta here!

GENE
Look Pastor, I'm... sorry for... uh..
wasting your... I... had no call
to...Look, can I maybe buy you lunch?

ROBIN
Goodbye Gene.

Robin leaves, closing the door behind him.

GENE (O.S.)
A cup of coffee?

EXT. OUTSIDE GENE PERLEMAN'S FUNERAL PARLOR.

Robin steps outside.

ROBIN
A prophetic dummy. What in the Sam
Hill is next?

EXT. THE KELSEY RANCH DRIVEWAY - LATER

The five Kelsey Girls are walking away from the school bus.

ALLY
Hey Sam. I've got an apple left over
from lunch.

SAMANTHA
I've got a carrot.

ALLY
Race you to the horses!

The two of them run off. Sarah is withdrawn.

BROOKLYN
Today I am going to try my very first
jump.

CHRISTINE
Good luck. I'm still trying to figure
out what it takes to post properly.

BROOKLYN
That's easy. Concentrate on your
horse instead of Toby Jackson.

CHRISTINE
No promises. You coming Sarah?

SARAH
No...I have some... homework I need
to...

CHRISTINE
Are you okay? You look like you wanna
hurl or something.

SARAH

No, I'm fine.

CHRISTINE

Well, if you're catching something
keep it to yourself.

SARAH

You mean away from Toby, right?

CHRISTINE

Couldn't have said it better myself.

SARAH

Thanks for the sympathy. Go!

BROOKLYN

First one to the stables gets the best
saddle!

Brook runs off. CHRIS follows her.

CHRISTINE

Yeah right. Cheater!!

Sarah slowly walks towards the house. She pulls Anne's diary from her backpack and reads the last page of it. In the background Tess can be heard singing "**Nobody Knows the trouble I've seen**" from the kitchen. When she's done one full chorus she comments:

TESS (V.O.)

Aww, sing it again, Tess. You've got
the voice of an angel!

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Tess is rolling out some pie dough, oblivious of anyone else as she sings.

TESS

NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I'VE SEEN
NOBODY KNOWS BUT--

Tess looks up and sees Sarah walking into the kitchen and is slightly embarrassed.

TESS (CONT'D)

Sarah!

SARAH

Hey.

TESS

There's fresh cookies.

SARAH

No thanks.

TESS

Let me guess, tough exam?

SARAH

No.

TESS

Then what is it?

SARAH

It's nothing.

TESS

Oh yes and pigs fly my dear...

SARAH

I don't think I can talk about it.

TESS

Might make you feel better.

Sarah studies Tess then SITS at the table.

SARAH

Okay... Tess... you ever read something you wish you hadn't only because knowing what you read means you have to do something about it?

TESS

Umm...no?

SARAH

And you basically have no choice.

TESS

But we always have a choice my dear. Sarah, God will never allow you be tested beyond what you can endure.

SARAH

That doesn't exactly comfort me right now.

TESS

Oh!! Does this have something to do with Toby?

(She pokes Sarah playfully)

SARAH

No.

TESS
(deadpan)
Is this about your father?

Sarah stares ahead.

SARAH
Yes... and no.

TESS
Okay...

SARAH
It's more about my mother...and my
father.

TESS
Your mother?

SARAH
Yeah.

TESS
Sarah, don't believe everything you've
heard about her okay?

SARAH
(laughs in desperation)
That's an understatement.

TESS
Meaning what? How can I help?

SARAH
(breaks down crying)
I don't think you can, Tess... This is
something I have to do myself.

TESS
(handing her a kleenex)
What are we talking here?

SARAH
I have to challenge my...

TESS
Your...?

SARAH
I have to take on my father.

TESS
Oh crap!

EXT. KELSEY HOME DECK - LATER

Sarah is sitting on the porch bench. Robin steps outside. He has a sweater on.

ROBIN
Whew! Gonna freeze again. You warm enough?

SARAH
I'm fine.

ROBIN
Tess said you wanted to talk to me?

SARAH
Yeah.

Robin sits in a chair near the bench.

ROBIN
So... talk.

SARAH
Papa, I have to ask you some questions and bring up some stuff you probably won't like.

ROBIN
Why not? Been the theme of my day.

SARAH
But I need you to... to not get mad at me, okay?

ROBIN
Sarah-

SARAH
You promise?

ROBIN
Look, what ever-

SARAH
Just promise me you'll try.

ROBIN
(put out)
I'll do my best. okay!?

Sarah halfway crumbles with his insensitivity.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Wait, if this is about those diaries
my mind is made up! When you turn 18-

SARAH

No, it's not about them.

ROBIN

Then what?

SARAH

Tell me... Tell me about... my mother.

ROBIN

Your mother? Sarah, where is this
coming from? I've told you girls
everything you need to know about her.

SARAH

(disgusted at him)
Really, Papa?

ROBIN

Yes!

SARAH

Did you love her!?

ROBIN

Did I--? Of coarse I loved her!

SARAH

And did she love you!?

ROBIN

I--

SARAH

Well? Did she?!

ROBIN

I believe she did. At least at first!

SARAH

Five children! She gave you five
bless-ed children! Wasn't that proof
enough?!

ROBIN

Sarah, you're too young to understand.

SARAH

Don't pull that on me!

ROBIN
 Pull what!? You don't know anything
 about love. Your mother lived two
 lives. In one of them she was so
 caught up in her fantasy world--

SARAH
 She gave up everything for you!

ROBIN
 You think so? Sarah, there is so much
 you don't know about her.

SARAH
 So tell me!

ROBIN
 And even less you know about-- him!

SARAH
 You mean, Colin?!

ROBIN
 So you do remember.

SARAH
 Just barely.

ROBIN
 Good. Let's keep it that way!

SARAH
 But why?

ROBIN
 Ask him!

SARAH
 I can't! He's dead and buried along
 with my mother!!

The two of them STAND and carry on the argument.

ROBIN
 And that is where he's gonna stay!
 This has gone far ENOUGH!

Sarah studies him and CRIES OUT in frustration.

SARAH
 Ergh! Did you ever, EVER, stop and
 consider how blind you might have
 been!??

ROBIN
Blind? To what!? And watch what you
say young lady!

SARAH
Blind to your own selfish, even sick
definition of real love!

ROBIN
(seething)
Honor your father--

SARAH
And jealous! Don't even get me
STARTED!

ROBIN
Sarah!!

SARAH
That's what you were! Envious and
jealous of her, of him. Of the TWO OF
THEM!

ROBIN
STOP IT!

Robin TURNS away from her.

SARAH
You couldn't stand to see her as
anything more than YOUR OWN PERSONAL
SLAVE!

ROBIN
I said STOP IT!

Sarah turns Robin around to face her.

SARAH
So you DROVE HER TO THE POINT OF--

Robin slaps her hard across the face. There is a stunned silence.
Sarah runs off towards the stables.

ROBIN
Sarah, wait! I'm sorry...I... Oh
God! What have I done?

Robin sits back down on the bench in horror.

INT. THE KELSEY STABLES - MOMENTS LATER

Toby is working on a saddle. Sarah runs into the stables, crying, into Toby's arms.

 TOBY
 Whoa. Easy there. It's okay. I've
 got you.

Sarah allows herself to cry.

 SARAH
 I'm sorry-

 TOBY
 Don't be. You're shaking.

 SARAH
 I'm okay.

Toby lifts up her chin and sees a red cheek where Robin had slapped her.

 TOBY
 (angered)
 Who did this?

 SARAH
 It doesn't matter.

 TOBY
 It does to me.

 SARAH
 Toby-

 TOBY
 Your father do this?

Sarah looks away.

 TOBY (CONT'D)
 He did, didn't he? I'd say it's time
 for a good ol' fashion ass-woopin!

 SARAH
 Toby, he could wipe you off this
 planet and not break a sweat.

 TOBY
 Not if I run him over with my truck
 first!

PAUSE - they laugh.

SARAH
I...uhh...I think I have a better
plan.

TOBY
Oh oh.

SARAH
I haven't told you what it is yet.

TOBY
You know what? Doesn't matter. I am
your official knight in...jeans and
cowboy boots.

Sarah studies him.

SARAH
Okay...

Sarah looks down the corrals and out the window. Robin is still
sitting on the porch staring at his hands.

SARAH (CONT'D)
There's something I, make that, "we"
need to do.

TOBY
Gettin' nervous.. but keep talking.

SARAH
How's your truck doing?

TOBY
She's off the critical list. At least
when push comes to-

Sarah surprises Toby with a passionate kiss.

TOBY (CONT'D)
Shove...

SARAH
Don't look so surprised.

TOBY
I'm not. I'm just trying to put my
tongue back in my mouth. Here.

Toby kisses Sarah this time. It's obvious they really like each
other.

TOBY (CONT'D)
Now that's a kiss.

Sarah smiles. She holds both his hands.

SARAH

Yeah... Look, ummm... tomorrow night is youth group but I'm staying home with a "headache". Tess has a "Woman's Aglow" meeting at the church.

TOBY

And your Father?

SARAH

He's got couples marriage counseling. Those meetings go pretty late.

TOBY

Sarah? Is this something you're gonna regret?

SARAH

No...well... I guess that remains to be seen. Tomorrow night, okay?

TOBY

I'll be here, waiting.

Sarah kisses him again then leaves. Toby takes a deep breath and starts working on a saddle.

INT. ROBIN'S DEN - NEXT DAY - EARLY MORNING HOURS

Robin's bible is resting on his chest as he sleeps in a big leather chair. He is having a bad dream. In a DREAM STATE Robin wakes up to someone banging heavily on the kitchen door.

ROBIN

Can someone get the door!?

No one answers. Frustrated, he gets up and storms into the kitchen.

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS DREAM SEQUENCE

Robin approaches the back door as the banging continues. He opens it, somewhat annoyed. Sheriff Tabor is there for a second but she fades away. Robin steps outside and is immediately transported to the bend in OMAR ROAD.

EXT. OMAR ROAD BEND -- CONTINUOUS DREAM SEQUENCE

Robin is standing in front of the road block. In anger, he grabs the wooden rail and yanks it aside. Sheriff Taber turns and gives Robin a look of real bad news as she attempts to stop him from looking at the accident. Robin struggles with her. He pushes her

aside but as he walks towards the cliff he slips on the ice, doing a face-plant on the road. A female scream is heard.

INT. ROBIN'S DEN -- NEXT MORNING

Robin is face down on the carpeted floor of his den. He is startled awake by a scream.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)
AHHH! Ally Cat! Will you keep your
stupid frog outside!

TESS (O.S.)
GIRLS! In five minutes the bus leaves -
with or without you!

Robin's hair is matted with sweat.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES - MOMENTS LATER

A school bus pulls away from the Kelsey ranch.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES - TIME PASSING.

The sun is seen setting and the moon rising. It quickly becomes dark. Robin drives up the driveway towards the house.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KELSEY HOME KITCHEN - LATER THAT EVENING

Robin is on the phone. Tess is drying some dishes.

ROBIN
Okay... If you see her tell to call
home. Thanks.

He hangs up.

TESS
More coffee?

ROBIN
No, my guts are in a knot. Anymore
caffeine and everyone will have to
sleep in the stables.

TESS
Too much information... I'm sure she's
okay. If she is with Toby then-

ROBIN
Then he's a dead man.

TESS

Robin-

ROBIN

You know what I mean.

TESS

I just hope we get to her before Chris does.

Chris WALKS into the kitchen, picks up a cloth and wipes the table.

CHRISTINE

Before Chris does what?

ROBIN

Umm... Look...Chris...

CHRISTINE

What's going on?

ROBIN

Sarah left...here... sometime during youth group.

CHRISTINE

So?

ROBIN

She didn't leave a note or anything.

CHRISTINE

She's been pretty upset-

ROBIN

With me. I know.

CHRISTINE

So? She'll be back.

ROBIN

But no ones seen her anywhere. None of her friends.

TESS

Chris! She left with Toby.

CHRISTINE

No, she didn't.

ROBIN

She must have. His truck is gone.

Chris storms off. Tess heads off to see if she can calm her.

TESS

I'll go.

ROBIN

Thanks. I'll be in my den.

As Robin walks into his den there is an URGENT KNOCK on the kitchen door, followed by banging. Robin stops in shock and heads for the kitchen. Robin sees the lights of a police car spinning outside, reflecting on the kitchen window. He pauses, then quickly opens the door revealing Sheriff Tabor who has a rather grim look on her face.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Sheriff Taber?

SHERIFF TABER

Pastor Robin... I have bad news.

EXT. OMAR ROAD BEND

Robin runs to the police barricade. He grabs it and hurls it aside. He takes one look at Sheriff Tabor. She tries to stop him. Robin pushes her aside. He slips on the road. In frustration he gets back up and carefully steps his way to the edge of the cliff. Sheriff Tabor hands Robin a beaten up old suitcase and a shirt with dirt on it. In the moonlight a large hole in the ice can be seen on Canyon lake. Robin is beside himself.

SHERIFF TABER

Robin, I am so sorry. First, Anne... and now... Worse yet, we can't even get down there till spring break-up. I told the county this cliff needs a barrier to stop-

Robin screams in anger as he hurls the suitcase down the canyon wall.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY HOME

Robin storms to a small shed, opens the door and grabs a gas can. Sheriff Taber follows him towards the stables, trying to talk sense into him. The girls watch from the house. Brook sees what Robin is about to do and runs outside. Tess grabs onto her several feet from the house but Brook breaks free. Closer to the stables Sheriff Tabor is finally able to wrestle the gas can from Robin as Brook grabs his other arm. Robin hugs Brook hard as he goes to his knees in bitter tears.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY -- MEMORIAL SERVICE - AFTERNOON

AMAZING GRACE plays on the bagpipes as the church fills up. A memorial board displays "In Loving Memory" and pictures of Toby and Sarah. Ally is crying. Sam is gathering her courage. Chris and Brook are torn and numb. Robin is comforted by the towns folk as they pass by him. Brook walks up to the pulpit.

BROOKLYN

Ladies and gentlemen, at this time our baby sister Samantha would like to dedicate a song she wrote for her big sister and to Toby. Sam?

Tess stands up with a big metal bucket. Sam shakes her head "no". Tess is touched at Sam for conquering her fear.

SAMANTHA

HEY LORD, CAN I BEND YOU EAR?
IT'S BEEN A DAY AND I NEED YOU NEAR
TEACH ME HOW TO KNOW YOU AND BE STRONG
WHEN SO MANY I WAS COUNTING ON ARE ALREADY GONE

THE GIRLS

SHE'S SINGING IN THE ANGEL CHOIR
HE'S IN A GLORY BAND
THERE'S A HOLY FIRE
WARMED BY GOD'S OWN HAND

SAMANTHA

IF THEY COULD HEAR ME
I KNOW WHAT I'D SAY... HEY...

THE GIRLS

IT'S 10 A.M. AND ALREADY BEEN A LONG MISS THEM DAY
AND THAT'S WHEN HEAVEN NEVER FELT SO FAR AWAY

Sam gets caught up in the loss of her sister and runs into the arms of Tess. Brook convinces Chris to take over the next verse.

CHRISTINE

I WILL SEE MY LOVED ONES ALL TOO SOON
BUT HEAVEN'S AS FAR AS THE MAN IN THE MOON

CHRISTINE/BROOKLYN

HERE'S HOPING THEY HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN ME
COME THE DAY I CLOSE MY EYES

THE GIRLS

I WILL OPEN THEM AND SEE

HER SINGING IN THE ANGEL CHOIR
HE'S IN THE GLORY BAND
AND THERE'S A HOLY FIRE
(MORE)

THE GIRLS (CONT'D)
WARMED BY GOD'S OWN HAND

AND WHEN THEY SEE ME
I KNOW WHAT WE'LL SAY IT'S 10 A.M.
AND ALREADY BEEN ONE GLORIOUS DAY
NO WONDER HEAVEN ALWAYS FELT SO FAR AWAY

SAMANTHA
THAT'S WHY HEAVEN FELT SO... VERY FAR AWAY.

There is a stunned silence in the room. The girls hug Sam. Robin stares at them in disbelief. As the music plays a reprise of Sam's song the girls each plant a kiss on the two pictures.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KELSEY HOME DECK - EVENING

Robin is sitting by himself. Tess comes outside to see if she can comfort him in any way.

TESS
Pretty chilly out here.

ROBIN
Numbs the pain.

TESS
So what now?

ROBIN
Good question.... Rather than burn
down those stables... maybe it's time
to move on. Get a fresh start
somewhere far away from here.

TESS
Sounds more like running away.

ROBIN
Maybe so.

TESS
Is that the best thing for those
daughters of yours?

ROBIN
I don't know. Maybe... maybe not.

TESS
Why not ask them?

ROBIN
I'm afraid to.

TESS

Afraid?!

ROBIN

Afraid I'd say something or do something that would make them hate me as much as Sarah must have.

TESS

She didn't hate you Robin. That's crazy.

ROBIN

Is it? The last thing I did to her was slap her across the face. I've never laid a hand on any of my girls.

TESS

Well too bad!... for Ally's sake.

They both laugh.

ROBIN

Tess, I'm lost.

TESS

For the moment.

ROBIN

And I'm... I'm...

TESS

Feeling pretty sorry for yourself?

ROBIN

I honestly can't help it.

TESS

Robin, why don't you take some of your own advice for a change?

ROBIN

And do what?

TESS

Pray! Pray to God! Only this time stop doing all the talking and maybe do a whole lot more listening.

ROBIN

I don't have the strength.

TESS

Well good. Cause the stronger you
think you are the less you need of
Him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. INSIDE THE FUNERAL PARLOR SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS

Gene is sitting in the front row staring at the cross. Chester is beside him. He stares at a picture of his wife. As the intro of the song, "If My People Plays" Gene looks up and sees a light on the cross. He looks towards the street but no light is shining through. He sets Chester down on the pew and walks up to the pulpit and sings:

EXT. OMAR ROAD - CONTINUOUS

As the song is sung Robin gets out of his car and WALKS to the edge where Anne and Sarah both perished. The moon is full and bright. The ice on the lake glistens.

GENE (V.O.)

IF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME
WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES
AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE
AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS
THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN
AND I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND

Robin contemplates ending his life. He is a completely beaten man. He tries to FALL FORWARD down the cliff but fails. During the next section of the song he SITS DOWN on the edge of the cliff. There is a reflection from the moonlight close to his hand. He reaches down and finds Sarah's necklace containing a cross and the key to Anne's box.

GENE

FOR I ALONE AM GOD
AND I'M LONGING FOR MY CHILDREN
TO COME HOME AT LAST
TO WRAP THEM IN MY ARMS
AND TAKE AWAY THEIR PAIN AND FEAR
AND IN MY TENDER MERCY
DRY UP ALL OF THEIR TEARS

Ext. OUTSIDE THE KELSEY STABLES

As the music continues Robin is now standing in the middle of the Kelsey ranch yard holding up the necklace. He is both broken and angry. Snow falls on him.

INT. INSIDE THE STABLES

Robin walks into the stables and hangs the necklace on the horn of one of the saddles that sits on a wooden rail. He folds over the saddle in tears.

Anne APPEARS and calls Robin's name. She is wearing a white flowing gown. Robin is startled at first. He stumbles towards her in complete humility and FALLS TO HIS KNEES before her, begging for her forgiveness. She strokes his head. Robin looks up and she takes his hand and they do a beautiful ballroom/ballet dance. During this dance FLASHBACK moments take place of Anne and Robins' life together - their wedding day, the birth of Sarah, going for a romantic walk, a kiss, Anne looking up at Robin as he preaches etc. Every lift in the dance should put them in a different space such as in the middle of a riding arena, a ballroom, the Kelsey living room, a field etc.

GENE

SO COME UNTO ME IF YOU'RE WEARY
AND ALL ALONE AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST
COME UNTO ME IF YOU'RE SAD AND BROKEN
AND STAND BEFORE MY THRONE AND BE BLESSED

IF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME
WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE
AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS
THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN AND I,
I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND

As the song ends Anne gives Robin a kiss. He opens his eyes and she is gone.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY -- SUNDAY SERVICE - NEXT MORNING

The scene opens with everyone singing the last verse of the hymn, "Holy Holy Holy".

ROBIN

Thank you all for coming out on this
frosty Sunday morning and for your
continuing words of comfort-

TESS

(standing)
And casseroles.

ROBIN

-to me and my family.
(pauses to review)
I...have been your pastor at Grace
Community church for as long as I can
remember. This was all I ever wanted
to do and in many ways all I really
(MORE)

ROBIN (CONT'D)

cared about... But in seeking God's will, I fear a change is necessary. For both you and my family. It is time for someone else to lead you--

There is a MURMUR of disagreement.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

I know... My friends... last night I prayed for God to show me my heart. Be careful what you pray for. I stand before you as someone who has failed God, my family and all of you.

There is another murmur of disagreement.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

No, no. It's true. Eighteen years ago I stood here as a young proud seminary graduate. But what I became was an angry bitter man who in the end really only cared about himself while playing the part of your Pastor. Reveling in the power of telling everyone else how to live right for God. A God I shut out the day an amazing young beautiful woman became Anne Marie Kelsey, my wife. I knew I was unworthy of her love and because of that I became this jealous, pathetic excuse of a man. Demanding that she serve me, unconditionally. Give up all that she was, her hopes and dreams, her gifts. Give up everything to satisfy my own insecurity and my need to feel loved. Little did I know that the kind of love I was searching for could only be found in God. A God who loved me enough to sacrifice His only son for me and for you. In the end Anne died, but not as a judgment of God as I allowed myself and you to believe. No! Her car slipped on an icy road, and that's all.

GLADYS

(aside)

Hmm! I don't believe that for one minute.

ROBIN

But the real tragedy is all of us have used her death to feed and

(MORE)

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 nourish the darkest parts of our
 lives. Our own self righteousness!

There is a murmur of disagreement.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 Friends, when God showed me exactly
 who I was I had only two choices left -
 life or death. Today I choose life,
 for me and my fiv-... my four
 daughters.

MEMBER 1
 We love you Pastor!

ROBIN
 And I love you as well. Only today I
 truly mean it.

GLADYS
 Rubbish!

DAD
 Yes, rubbish!

ROBIN
 Gladys? Daisy? Do you have something
 to say?

GLADYS
 We most certainly do. All this talk
 of being righteous like it's some
 horrible two headed monster!

CHESTER
 Yeah, Gladys and Daisy.

ROBIN
 Not now, Chester.

DAISY
 The bible says to be perfect just as
 He is perfect.

Robin opens his bible.

ROBIN
 Yes. But!.. The bible also says-

GLADYS
 Pastor Robin! We have heard ENOUGH!

ROBIN
 But-

GLADYS

Need I remind you and everyone here that the best clothes owned by your deceased wife were found scattered down that canyon wall. The woman was abandoning her family with that... that womanizing horse trainer, Colin Pearson!! Plain and simple irrefutable facts! And now, like mother, like daughter, the apple has grazed the tree on its way to the ground and once again caused this entire community nothing BUT GRIEF!! I challenge anyone in this room to contradict me. Anyone? Anyone at all? Hmm! I-

Sarah walks onto the church, followed by Toby.

SARAH

(shouts)
I challenge that!

The congregation gasps.

ROBIN

Sarah? SARAH!!!

Robin RUNS down the aisle and hugs her. Sam and Ally hug each other. Tess and Brook hug each other. Chris stares in unbelief. Robin sees Toby and can't help but show his anger. Toby backs away in fear.

TOBY

Pastor Robin, I-

ROBIN

I trusted you! And this is how you REPAY ME?!

Robin lunges at Toby. Sarah pulls him back.

SARAH

Papa, NO! No, it was all my idea. Please. I need everyone to hear something.

ROBIN

Hear what?

SARAH

You'll understand in a moment. Please...

Sarah motions for everyone to sit. She pulls out Anne's diary from her backpack, then sets it on the pulpit.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Forgive our intrusion and accept my heartfelt apology for the sadness I've caused all of you and my family. Sometimes the decisions we make in a moment of great pain or...sacrifice... are the ones we end up regretting the most. That's why I'm here today, to make everything right.

The congregation murmurs.

DAISY

Well! I think we've heard enough. Gladys?

Chester leans his face between the two ladies.

CHESTER

Sit down and button up lady!

DAISY

Oh shut up! You, you DUMMY!

Daisy slaps Chester with her glove.

SARAH

Thank you Mr. Perleman. I'd like to read from the last entry of my mother's diary if I may. Gladys? You wanted someone to challenge your belief?

Gladys looks away. Sarah opens up the diary to the last entry.

GLADYS

Hmm!

SARAH

"Dear Diary, in order to save my marriage to my beloved Robin I am giving up my horse training. As of this day I will devote my life to God, my husband, and my daughters. *(She looks up and recites from memory)* Colin has accepted a position to train horses and future Olympians at a stable near his only sister, who is not well and needs help in beating breast cancer. To cheer her up I am sending Colin home with a suitcase
(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)
 full of some of my favorite things to wear. (*She looks back down at the diary*) While Robin is at church I am going to brave the icy roads and drive Colin to the...airport."

Sarah closes the diary.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 Now. Would anyone like to challenge these last words of my mother?

Chester leans in and peers at Gladys. Her and Daisy bow their heads in shame.

ROBIN
 But Sarah... We...we thought you were dead.

SARAH
 I know and I'm so sorry.

ROBIN
 But why?

SARAH
 (soberly)
 The truth, Papa?

ROBIN
 Of coarse.

SARAH
 I wanted to destroy you! The same way you destroyed our mother.

Robin looks down in shame. He can't help but cry.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 But I couldn't live with myself.
 (she cries)
 Can you forgive me?

ROBIN
 The question is - can you forgive me?

He walks over to her and they hug.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 I have something for you... and your sisters.

Robin retrieves a binder hidden inside his own pulpit.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

This binder contains the songs your mother wrote. It's time we sang some of these.

SARAH

Oh Papa.

Robin hands the binder to Sarah.

ROBIN

There's a song she wrote a few days before she died. I'd like to sing it if that's okay. Maybe you girls could join me after you hear it once.

The girls all nod in agreement. Robin takes the binder from Sarah. As the music starts. The four sisters storm Sarah for a reunion hug.

ROBIN (SING) (CONT'D)

TIME TO EMBRACE HOLINESS
TIME TO BECOME AS OUR FATHER
TURN AWAY FROM SIN
AND ENTER IN HIS PRESENCE

Sarah separates herself from her sisters and joins Robin.

ROBIN/SARAH

TIME TO EMBRACE RIGHTEOUSNESS
TIME TO BECOME AS OUR FATHER
PUT AWAY ALL STRIFE
IN A BRAND NEW LIGHT OF FREEDOM

ROBIN

TIME TO SURRENDER TO HIS GLORY
TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD
TO UNDERSTAND THE GRACE
OF WHO WE REALLY ARE
AND THE TRUTH OF WHO HE IS

ROBIN AND THE GIRLS

TO HOLD ONTO ALL THAT'S NOBLE
TO DELIGHT IN WHAT IS RIGHT
BE IT LOVELY, PURE, AND WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE
TIME TO THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS

The Congregation stands and spontaneously starts to forgive each other of whatever hurt they may have caused. The room evolves into a sea of tears and repentance.

ROBIN AND THE GIRLS (CONT'D)

TIME TO EMBRACE HOLINESS
TIME TO BECOME AS OUR FATHER
TURN AWAY FROM SIN
(MORE)

ROBIN AND THE GIRLS
AND ENTER IN HIS PRESENCE

TIME TO EMBRACE RIGHTEOUSNESS
TIME TO BECOME AS OUR FATHER
PUT AWAY ALL STRIFE
IN A BRAND NEW LIGHT OF FREEDOM

EVERYONE
TIME TO SURRENDER TO HIS GLORY
TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD
TO UNDERSTAND THE GRACE
OF WHO WE REALLY ARE
AND THE TRUTH OF WHO HE IS

TO HOLD ONTO ALL THAT'S NOBLE
TO DELIGHT IN WHAT IS RIGHT
BE IT LOVELY, PURE,
AND WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE
TIME TO THINK ABOUT.

ROBIN
AND PRAY ABOUT...

EVERYONE
THESE THINGS.

During this musical interlude Gladys and Robin hug.
Gladys is in tears.

ROBIN/SARAH
TIME TO EMBRACE HOLINESS
TIME TO BECOME AS OUR FATHER
TURN AWAY FROM SIN AND ENTER IN HIS
PRESENCE.

THE END.