

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ALBUQUERQUE - DAY 1

ROSE LORKOWSKI, 30, drives through Albuquerque. She passes small adobe houses, the Air force base, parched earth playgrounds, University cafes and other distinctive sights.

On the highway she passes under the freeway interchange, a tangle of rust and turquoise ramps. The Sandia mountains rise in the distance as Rose heads up to the nicer neighborhoods of the foothills.

2 EXT. SEVEN FIGURE HOUSE - DAY 2

Rose pulls up to an expensive looking Spanish style house and parks. She gets out of the car, pops the hatch and pulls out a vacuum cleaner and assorted cleaning supplies.

3 INT. SEVEN FIGURE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 3

Rose drags a vacuum cleaner into a room where expensive decor collides with the debris of a recent party.

She collects beer bottles from end tables, book shelves and house plants. Cigarette butts float in cocktail glasses.

Rose plugs in the vacuum cord and glances out the sliding glass doors. A group of twenty somethings frolic in the pool.

A lanky trust funder slides open the door and drips water onto the carpet as he makes his way to retrieve a cold beer.

He brushes past Rose on his way back out. Rose turns on the vacuum and wonders if he even saw her.

4 INT. FAIR N SQUARE MARKET - DAY 4

The space is packed with every kind of snack imaginable. JOE LORKOWSKI, 53, talks as the OWNER stocks shelves.

OWNER

I've got the five stores here and then two in Rio Rancho.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

That's fantastic. See, if we're talking that kind of volume I can absolutely massage the numbers a little. Seriously, you're not gonna be able to keep it on the shelf.

Joe pulls out some order forms.

OWNER

Yeah, I'd need to look at some things before I can place an order.

The owner looks at Joe's business card.

OWNER

How about I give you a call if I decide to--

JOE

I'll call you. Not a problem. No problem at all. Even better, I'll swing by. You're on my route. How 'bout that? I'll swing by tomorrow.

OWNER

Yeah, tomorrow's not good.

JOE

Thursday then. That's better anyway. That'll give you a chance to take a look see on those other stores. We'll put everything on one order and get you a good price break.

The owner seems to consider the offer. Joe scans the shelves.

JOE

My advice to you - weed out some of this weaker product to make more space for the corn. Like this...

Joe reaches over and grabs a packet of organic fruit bar.

JOE

Apricot Fruit Leather. Whose bright idea was it to stock that? I mean come on, what self respecting kid asks his mom for apricot fruit leather?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2) 4

The owner is not amused.

5 EXT. FAIR N SQUARE MARKET - DAY 5

Joe pulls a hand cart stacked high with Fancy Corn canisters to his rusted Monte Carlo.

6 EXT. LUCKY BOY RESTAURANT - DAY 6

Through the glass pane we see disgruntled waitress, NORAH LORKOWSKI (25). She appears to be in a heated argument with MR. KIM, the restaurant owner. A customer watches the exchange with amusement.

Norah takes off her apron, throws it at Mr. Kim. Norah exits the restaurant. Mr. Kim trails her. Then MRS. KIM notices and joins the fray.

MR. KIM
You are fired.

NORAH
I so don't care.

Norah flips him off and walk down the street. As she continues to walk she realizes that quitting her job might not have been the best decision ever.

NORAH
Fuck.

7 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - BATHROOM - DAY 7

A banana floats in the toilet. OSCAR LORKOWSKI, 7, smiles and kicks the flush lever. *Whoosh...* the banana is sucked down the drain. Gone.

Well, not quite. Oscar watches water fill the basin and spill onto the floor. Oscar turns and walks out.

8 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY 8

Oscar steps from the bathroom and walks quickly down the empty hall.

9 INT. BUSINESSMAN'S CAR - SPORTING GOODS STORE LOT - DAY 9

A BUSINESSMAN removes a single shotgun shell from the glove compartment. He drops it in his shirt pocket, sprays breath freshener in his mouth and gets out of his car.

10 INT. SPORTING GOODS STORE - DAY 10

The businessman approaches the gun display and points to a shotgun. An employee hands him the gun and turns his attention to another customer.

The businessman reaches into his pocket and pulls out the shotgun shell. Loads it. Draws the barrel up under his chin.

A Bubba pricing camouflaged vests nearby notices the businessman. His expression shifts from concern to alarm to horrible anticipation. He braces for the...

CUT TO:

11 INT. SPORTING GOODS STORE - LATER 11

Police mill about and question people. CARL SWANSON, a 40ish man sporting a crew cut and a 'Above and Beyond' polo shirt, talks to the STORE OWNER.

CARL

Yep, these shotgun cases are a real pain in the ass. What we call a wide field of contamination.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

CARL (cont'd)
Guy's all over the place and every
little glob of him's a biohazard.

The owner rubs his temples.

CARL
Gonna lose some inventory.

OWNER
Selfish bastard.

CARL
Trust me, you do not want some lady
suing you cuz she found this guy's
tooth in her brand new fanny pack.

A ABOVE AND BEYOND WORKER in a polo shirt waves his arm to
get Carl's attention.

CLEAN SWEEP WORKER
He's over here in fishing too.

CARL
Yep, a real pain in the ass.

Carl walks over to his assistant. Detective, 'MAC' MACDOWELL,
approaches the owner.

MAC
We're wrapping it up.

OWNER
Three grand just to have the
asshole wiped up off the floor. Can
you believe that?

Mac and another DETECTIVE walk toward the entrance.

MAC
Hey, can you handle the report
tonight? I gotta thing I gotta do.

DETECTIVE
A blonde thing or a brunette thing?

12 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

12

Rose steps from the shower. She is attractive with sharp
features and eyes that hint at future crow's feet. Her
confidence has grown brittle by the gnawing fear that life
peaked as the captain of the high school cheerleading squad.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

A note taped to the bathroom mirror reads: 'You are strong. You are powerful. You can do anything. You are a winner.'

Rose wipes condensation from the mirror to reveal her face.

ROSE

I am strong. I am powerful. I can do anything. I am a winner.

She doesn't look like she believes it.

13 INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - NORAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

13

Norah lounges on her bed and loads weed onto a jerry-rigged pop-can-pipe.

NORAH

The fact that we have sex, real coitus sex, means I'm under no obligation to blow you.

Norah fires up the bud, inhales deeply and passes the can to RANDY, a good-looking redneck in his early 20's.

RANDY

I think you're scared of it.

The phone RINGS.

Norah opens a book about sign language and starts practicing the sign alphabet. A-B-C-D-E-F. F is a hard one.

NORAH

(Holding in the smoke)
I'm not scared of it.

RANDY

Uncomfortable then. You just need to get better acquainted.

Norah exhales. Randy stands and takes off his pants. The phone RINGS again.

NORAH

(yelling)
Dad, get the phone.

RANDY

There's absolutely no pressure here.

(CONTINUED)

Randy lies next to Norah naked from the waist down. Norah ignores him and continues forming letters with her fingers. She jots a note and sticks the pencil behind her ear.

The phone RINGS again. Norah reaches across Randy and picks up the receiver.

RANDY

You can touch it if you want.

NORAH

(into phone)

Hello.

ROSE (O.S.)

(through receiver)

You haven't left yet? Damn it
Norah, my class starts in fifteen
minutes.

NORAH

(into phone)

I know, I know.

As Norah holds the phone her eyes slide from Randy's face to his off screen penis. She takes the pencil from behind her ear and, in the way you'd poke a hamster to see if it is dead or merely sleeping, prods Randy's off screen penis.

Joe sits in the living room, busily putting stickers on cans of Fancy Corn. Norah and Randy enter from Norah's room. *

JOE *

Doesn't Rose have her thing
tonight? *

NORAH *

I'm going. I need to borrow your
car. *

JOE *

Here. Take some corn. *

Norah leaves. Randy and Joe share an awkward silence. *

RANDY *

I'm really nuts about your
daughter, Mr. Lorkowski. *

JOE

That's nice. Give me a hand with
this.

*
*
*

They put stickers on popcorn cans.

*

RANDY

I see they sold that house across
the street. I bet they'll come
knocking on your door soon.

*
*
*
*

JOE

They can knock all they want. Wait,
wait, whaddaya doing? Don't put the
lime sticker on the cheddar can.
Maybe I better just do this myself.

*
*
*
*
*

14 CONTINUED: (2) 14

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15 EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 15

Randy pulls up to a small house and stops. Norah gets out, collects the canister from back and heads inside.

16 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 16

Norah enters the tidy two bedroom house with a barrel of Fancy Corn under her arm.

NORAH

Sorry.

ROSE

I'm gonna be so late.

Oscar runs from the bedroom and flings himself onto Norah. Pale and skinny, Oscar is the kind of kid easily picked off in slaughter-ball.

NORAH

I brought fancy corn!

ROSE

(Looking for her purse)
How can you eat that stuff?

Norah and Oscar both jam a handful into their mouths.

ROSE

He'll be hyper all night.

Rose finds her purse and quickly puts on lipstick. She leans down and gives Oscar a kiss on the forehead.

ROSE

Be good.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

She turns to Norah.

ROSE

And no lobsterman stories. He had nightmares all week.

(opening the door)

Just use some common sense.

NORAH

You're welcome.

17 INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

17

Rose lies on her back being fucked. Her head nearly hits the headboard with each thrust.

ROSE

You want me?

Rose closes her eyes. Her head starts to thump the headboard.

MAC

(Rhythmically)

Yeah... baby... I want... Oh...

Mac comes.

18 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - OSCAR'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

18

Oscar and Norah lie in Oscar's little bed. Oscar holds the covers tight under his chin. Norah drinks a beer. There's a half eaten canister of 'Fancy Corn' between them.

NORAH

He's slowly freezing to death and he knows lobsterman is out there... somewhere... coming for him. And he's totally screwed because his tongue is stuck to the mailbox.

OSCAR

Why did he lick the mailbox?

NORAH

I don't know. Maybe he had OCD and he was obsessed with licking mailboxes.

OSCAR

Why wasn't he in school?

(CONTINUED)

NORAH

Are you gonna let me tell the story?

Oscar nods.

NORAH

An then, he hears a horrible sound. Snap, snap, drag. Snap, snap, drag. Lobsterman is coming.

OSCAR

Maybe he didn't go to school because he had the ACD.

Norah looks at Oscar.

OSCAR

Sorry.

Norah downs the last swig of beer and sets the bottle down next to another empty.

NORAH

He's trapped. If he doesn't rip the skin off his tongue and make a run for it lobsterman will tear him to pieces with his razor sharp claws.

Curtains drawn in the cheap hotel room. Rose gets out of bed and pulls on her clothes. Mac watches for a moment, then rolls out of bed. He stops. Grimaces.

ROSE

Still sore?

Mac shakes his head and pretends not to be.

ROSE

I don't know why you did that.

MAC

You should hear the way he goes on about his lean body mass index bullshit. Drinking that antioxidant, protein powder, enzyme crap all the time.

Mac limps over to his clothes hanging over a chair.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE

When was the last time you even played basketball?

MAC

He needed to be brought down a peg or two.

ROSE

I'm sure you pulling a groin muscle humbled him.

Rose smiles and Mac pretends to be offended.

MAC

I should introduce him to your sister.

ROSE

Norah and a cop? That would happen.

Mac shrugs and steps into his slacks.

MAC

We were working a scene today where this guy offs himself in a sporting goods store. So they had this cleaning crew out there, right? You would not believe how much money they charge for that shit. It's ridiculous.

ROSE

With the dead body there?

MAC

Naw, the body's gone, it's just the blood and stuff.

ROSE

Sounds horrible.

Rose peels the backing off a nicotine patch and carefully sticks it on her arm.

MAC

You ask me it's a racket. You should get into that.

Rose slips on her blouse looks at Mac.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

ROSE
You think that's all I can do?
Clean other people's shit?

MAC
(He sighs)
Come here.

Rose steps toward him and eyes Mac as he buttons her blouse.

MAC
You know that's not what I think.

ROSE
I am gonna be a real estate agent.

Rose rubs the nicotine patch on her arm. Mac nods and smiles.

MAC
I know. With business cards.

20 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

20

Norah holds a lit joint out the window and watches a cheesy TV movie circa 1982. Big hair and leg warmers. Norah leans out the window and exhales, takes another toke.

The sound of a key at the door prompts Norah to quickly stub out the joint and close the window. Rose opens the door.

NORAH
It's about time. I thought your
class got over at 9:30.

Rose looks at Oscar sprawled out asleep on the couch.

ROSE
Why isn't he in bed?

NORAH
Said he was scared. I think he was
fakin' it though.

Rose fumbles in her purse and pulls out a ten-dollar bill.

NORAH
I'm not taking money.

ROSE
It's just ten bucks, take it. Dad
told me about you getting fired.

(CONTINUED)

Norah makes a face like 'great, here it comes.'

ROSE
What happened?

NORAH
Nothing.

ROSE
What, were you stoned or something?

Norah waves her hand dismissively.

NORAH
It was just Mr. Kim being a dick
head.

ROSE
I thought you liked Mr. Kim.

NORAH
Yeah, before Mrs. Kim started
working there. Now he's a full on
gym teacher, I swear to God.

ROSE
When are you going to grow up and
start taking responsibility for--

NORAH
Oh please, you love it when I fuck
up. Love it. Me screwing up gives
you the hugest woody.

ROSE
Shut up and take the ten.

Norah takes the ten. Rose looks at the TV.

NORAH
There was a diner scene earlier.
With a waitress.

Rose looks at Norah.

ROSE
Any pie?

Norah smiles and opens the door to leave.

NORAH
Completely pie free.

21 INT. DATZMAN-MEAD HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY 21

Rose wraps the vacuum cleaner cord while another MOLLY MAID wipes down the last window.

Through the window, a smartly dressed pregnant woman walks toward the house with shopping bags in hand.

MOLLY MAID
The lady's here.

Rose nods and heads downstairs.

22 INT. DATZMAN-MEAD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 22

PAULA DATZMAN-MEAD sets her bags down on the table and fishes a checkbook from her purse. Rose enters with the vacuum cleaner in tow.

ROSE
We're all finished. Since it's our first visit we did the blinds and appliances but normally we'll alternate those weekly. Nobody mentioned anything to us about laundry so we didn't bother with that but if you want laundry included there is an extra...

PAULA
Rose? Rose Lorkowski?

Startled, Rose looks the woman in the eye for the first time.

PAULA
It's Paula Datzman... cheerleading squad junior year.

Recognition punches Rose in the face.

ROSE
Paula Datzman. Wow.

Awkward silence.

ROSE
How are you?

PAULA
Great! I'm Paula Datzman-Mead now.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE
Congratulations.

PAULA
Thanks. We're expecting our second
in a couple of months.

Paula pats her swollen belly and Rose forces a smile.

PAULA
How are you? You look just the
same.

ROSE
I'm good. Really good!

PAULA
God, I always envied you so much.
Head cheerleader... dating the
quarterback... So did you and Mac end
up getting married?

ROSE
Nope. No.
(Awkward silence)
I'm not sure...I think he ended up
marrying Heather Volkman.

PAULA
Wow. Well it's so good to see you.
Let me get your info so I can send
you an invite to the baby shower.

Paula gets a piece of paper and a pen and hands it to Rose.

PAULA
It'll be like a big reunion. The
whole gang from high school will be
there.

Rose writes her number and address on the scrap of paper.

PAULA
So what are you doing now?

Woops. Paula immediately regrets the question.

ROSE
I... I've just gotten my real estate
license, and so...

(CONTINUED)

PAULA

Real estate?

ROSE

Yeah, this... this is just kind of a temporary thing and I'm about to just really phase over into the real estate full time.

PAULA

You're kidding, I'm in real estate!

Paula pulls a business card from her purse and hands it to Rose. The card has a picture of Paula's smiling face.

PAULA

With Long and Foster. Who are you with?

ROSE

Me? Um. You know, I haven't really decided yet. I might check out Long and Foster.

Paula nods. Uncomfortable.

PAULA

Maybe you'll just be independent.

ROSE

Yeah. Maybe.

They grasp for something to say. They fail.

PAULA

What was that about the laundry?

Rose carries a vacuum cleaner and bucket of cleaning supplies out to a rusted Nissan Sentra with a Molly Maid door magnet. She throws the vacuum and bucket in the back hatch, starts to close it, then stops.

Rose walks to the side of the car, peels off the Molly Maid magnet and throws that in as well. She looks at the Datzman-Mead house with a mixture of resentment and shame.

She gets into the car and cries. Her cell phone rings. She digs the phone out of her bag and tries to steady her voice.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

ROSE

Hello.

24 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - OUTSIDE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY 24

Oscar sits outside the counselor's office on a bench. He cranes his neck to watch the secretary typing forms.

25 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY 25

Rose sits nervously across from the school COUNSELOR, a serious man in his mid forties and a TEACHER with cotton candy hair. The man speaks first.

COUNSELOR

It's not just this incident. There have been several episodes over the past year where Oscar has... has engaged in disruptive behavior.

Rose shifts her eyes from the counselor to the teacher and back to the counselor.

COUNSELOR

There was the incident in gym class.

ROSE

I did pay the damages for that.

COUNSELOR

And the chalk thing.

Rose bites a fingernail.

COUNSELOR

And the time he locked Jeremy Johnston in the--

ROSE

Okay. What did he do this time?

COUNSELOR

Now it's... licking.

Rose looks confused.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

TEACHER

I will not tolerate it. I will not tolerate that behavior in my classroom.

COUNSELOR

Oscar has started licking things in the classroom.

Rose looks even more confused.

TEACHER

First it was the pencil sharpener. Then the aquarium.

26 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - OUTSIDE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY 26

The secretary stops typing and offers a sympathetic glance to Oscar. He capitalizes on the moment by licking the wall.

COUNSELOR (O.S.)

It's unsanitary. And it's disturbing to the other children.

The secretary recoils and returns to her typing.

27 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY 27

The counselor leans forward with genuine concern.

COUNSELOR

We think Oscar might benefit from an environment where he could receive more specialized attention.

TEACHER

He licked my leg.

28

INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

28

Oscar finds Joe asleep on the Lazy Boy. He snores in that scary sleep apnea way - holding his breath between snores.

Oscar notices a leather strap hanging down from the top shelf of a book case. He pulls up a chair to investigate.

The strap leads to an old pair of binoculars. Behind it, dusty books about birds. Oscar grabs the binoculars and climbs down.

Oscar holds the binoculars to his face but the lenses are too far apart. Oscar compensates by closing one eye and looking through only one lens. He focuses on his grandpa's nose hair.

Joe wakes.

JOE

Where'd you get those?

OSCAR

Up there.

Oscar points to the book shelf. Something sad stirs in Joe.

JOE

Come here.

Oscar steps closer. Joe twists something on the binoculars and pushes the lenses closer together to accommodate Oscar's small face. Better.

JOE

Those were your grandma's. She'd watch birds with those.

Oscar walks around the room examining various objects and clunks them against a lamp in the process.

JOE

Hey, hey. Careful.

Joe holds out his hand to retrieve the binoculars.

JOE

Why don't we put those away.

Oscar doesn't want to. He hesitates. Joe raises an eyebrow. Oscar shuffles back to his grampa and hands them over.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR

Why can't I play with them?

JOE

Because it's not a toy. It's a scientific instrument.

Oscar's disappointed.

JOE

You can play with them when I'm around to supervise.

OSCAR

You're around now.

JOE

I'm tired now.

Joe studies the binoculars for a moment and then sets them back on the shelf.

Rose shakes her head and hands Norah another dish.

ROSE

Well I'm not putting him in special ed. I'll figure out a way to put him in private school before I do that.

NORAH

Rose, you buy generic cigarettes with couch change. How are you gonna pay for private school?

JOE

Who's going to private school?

Rose turns and sees her dad leaning in the door way.

ROSE

Nobody dad, we're just talking.

JOE

Oscar get suspended again?

Yes, that's it.

29 CONTINUED:

29

JOE

The kid's a little strange. What?
That's against the law now? It's
not like he's out killing kittens
or any damn thing. I swear
everyone's so damn uptight these
days.

29A INT. FAIR AND SQUARE - DAY

29A

Oscar rides a mechanical horse.

Rose pushes a cart down the isle and dials her cell phone.
She grabs a box of cereal and tosses it in her cart.

30 INT. MAC'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

30

Mac sits at the table with a cup of coffee and reads the
paper. A young girl holds out the telephone.

MAC

Hello.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

ROSE

Mac, it's me.

MAC

What are you doing calling here?

ROSE

I know, I'm sorry.

MAC

Heather could have easily--

ROSE

I thought she had yoga on
Saturdays.

MAC

Still, it's not cool.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSE

I know, I'm sorry. I just needed to ask you... you know the other day... you said that... about the specialized cleaning guys making so much money...

30B EXT. FAIR AND SQUARE - DAY

30B

Rose and Oscar walk to the car with the groceries.

31 INT. FAMILY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

31

The Lorkowski family dines in style.

ROSE (O.S.)

Are you even listening?

Norah turns to face Rose at the other side of the table.

NORAH

No thanks.

ROSE

What do you mean 'no thanks'? What else do you have to do? You don't have a job. You don't go to school. What, are you going to live with Dad the rest of your life?

NORAH

I don't think you're in any position to feel superior.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

JOE

Girls, come on. Lets have a nice dinner.

ROSE

It's just until I get my real estate license.

The staff sings a BIRTHDAY SONG at a table nearby.

OSCAR

I want to have my birthday at Hinkle's.

JOE

The hell with Hinkle's, I'm taking us to Disney Land!

Oscar's eyes light up as he smiles at Joe.

ROSE

Dad don't.

OSCAR

Why? I think Disney Land is a great idea!

Rose gives Joe a sharp look.

JOE

Yeah, what's wrong with Disney Land? And I think it'd be great if you girls worked together.

NORAH

You are so out of touch.

32 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ONE WEEK LATER - DAY

32

A large bellied SUPERINTENDENT leads Rose and Norah up a flight of stairs. Beads of sweat drip from his doughy face.

SUPER

Some sorta domestic disturbance kind of a deal. It was the lady who got the last word I guess. Course she's in jail now, so... Heard one bullet completely shot off his ring finger. How long you gals been doin' this kind a work?

(CONTINUED)

A while. ROSE

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

SUPER
(Checking out Rose)
You know Mac pretty well?

Norah shoots Rose a look. Rose doesn't answer. They arrive at the door of the apartment. The super unlocks the door.

SUPER
Just swing by the office when
you're done and we'll settle up.

33 INT. DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE APARTMENT - DAY

33

Rose and Norah step into the apartment littered with dirty dishes and clothes.

Rose walks down the hall while Norah examines a plastic bird with top hat. It tips down and drinks from the glass.

ROSE (O.S.)
Found it.

34 INT. DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

34

Norah and Rose stand frozen at the threshold. They are awe struck by the horrible scene in front of them.

Blooms of splattered blood dry on tile walls. It gathers in sticky brown lines around grout. The mirror is broken. The shower curtain hangs half torn.

NORAH
Think they loved each other?

ROSE
Yeah.

35 INT. DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE APARTMENT - BATHROOM - LATER

35

Hands pull on yellow cleaning gloves.

Pinkish foam slides down Norah's glove as she scrubs bloody grout with a toothbrush.

Metal shower rings CLINK against the metal bar as Rose pulls down the shower curtain.

A rag is wrung out in a bucket of reddish water.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 35

Rose and Norah clean in silence. Reverent but detached. The way you would act at a stranger's funeral.

36 INT. DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY 36

Norah puts blood spattered towels into a washing machine.

She spots a dish on the dryer filled with pennies and buttons and other odds and ends. She fishes out a PINK CANDY HEART. It reads, 'Luv U 4 ever'.

Norah pockets the candy.

37 INT. DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY 37

Rose and Norah gather their cleaning supplies and stand back to admire their handiwork.

38 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 38

Norah hangs back while the super hands Rose a check.

SUPER

You gals did a real nice job.

As Rose turns to leave she flashes the check to Norah. Five hundred bucks. Rose raises an eyebrow. Cha-ching.

39 EXT. BAR - DAY 39

Joe walks though a low rent part of town carrying a barrel of Fancy Corn. He ducks into the neighborhood bar.

40 INT. BAR - DAY 40

Joe enters a dingy little corner bar where everyone's a regular. A couple of old guys slump over the bar. The BARTENDER smiles.

BARTENDER

Hey Joe, what you got for me?

JOE

World's finest corn snack.

Joe hands the canister to the bartender and sits down on a stool. The bartender pours him a beer.

(CONTINUED)

BARTENDER

See where old Miller's house sold?

Joe nods. A grizzled REGULAR nearby looks over at Joe.

REGULAR

Bet you could get a chunk of change for your place. You should cash out now before the market turns sour.

Joe shakes his head.

JOE

I'm not selling my house. No way. I don't care how much those idiots would shell out for it. I got history in that house. You think they understand about history?

REGULAR

Still... How much commission you get on that popcorn? Bet you gotta sell a lot of corn to-

JOE

Hey, the corn's good. Really good. Not like the pet food but that was a phenomenon.

The bartender sets a basket of cheddar popcorn in the space between Joe and the grizzled regular.

JOE

It'll get there. Takes time to get to know the market. Develop a relationship with the buyers. But it'll get there. Who doesn't like popcorn for Christ's sake.

REGULAR

My brother-in-law's in sales.

The regular scoops up a handful of powdery orange popcorn.

REGULAR

Last year he buys a cow.

JOE

Why would you buy a cow?

(CONTINUED)

REGULAR

Not a live cow. A whole butchered
cow from a rancher. On the hoof
they call it.

JOE

Mm hmm.

Joe looks at him with renewed interest.

REGULAR

He sells off the parts of this cow
to a bunch of restaurants. Direct.
Made a killing.

The grizzled man licks orange powder from his fingers.

JOE

What'd he do with the brains and
intestines?

Regular shrugs. Joe's wheels are turning.

JOE

So he cuts out the middle man. Not
a bad idea.

Joe takes a drink of his beer while he mulls it over.

JOE

Course it'd be smarter to do that
with something that didn't have bad
parts. Like... shrimp.

41 EXT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - SIX DAYS LATER - MORNING

41

Another day in paradise.

42 INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - NORAH'S BEDROOM - MORNING

42

Norah sleeps in her clothes and makeup from the previous
night. Knocking wakes her.

JOE

(though the door)
Rose is on the phone. Norah?

NORAH

I'm sleeping.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

JOE
She says it's important.

With great effort Norah picks up the receiver.

NORAH
What do you want?

ROSE
Mac got us another gig.

NORAH
I'm sleeping.

ROSE
I'll pick you up in an hour.

NORAH
No.

43 EXT. ALBUQUERQUE - DAY

43

Rose's Nissan rolls down a rough looking Albuquerque street toward a trailer park.

44 INT. ROSE'S CAR - DAY

44

Rose sips her 7-11 coffee. Norah stares blank and blood-shot.

NORAH
You suck.

ROSE
Money.

NORAH
You still suck.

ROSE
Apparently some crazy bag lady
squatter person died and--

NORAH
You didn't get me coffee?

ROSE
I didn't know you wanted any.

NORAH
Of course I...

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

Norah shakes her head in frustration.

45 EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY

45

Rose turns into the trailer park, heads past a row of trailers, and parks.

Rose and Norah get out of the car and approach a particularly run down trailer.

NORAH

How long is this gonna take?

ROSE

All we have to do is go in and throw everything away. Cake.

46 INT. TRAILER HOME - DAY

46

Rose and Norah open the door and the rancid sweet smell of decayed flesh splashes them in the face. They lift their T-shirts up over their noses and walk inside.

Old newspapers stacked to the ceiling. Piles of trash lean like snowdrifts against the wall. Cat food encrusted plates.

Norah opens the bedroom door and peeks in. Flies BUZZ. She darts to another room and retches.

ROSE

Great, now we're gonna have to clean that up too.

Rose walks into the bedroom, blanches and stifles a gag reflex. Norah storms past Rose and out the door.

47 EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY

47

Rose chases after Norah and grabs her arm.

ROSE

Where are you going?

NORAH

There is no way.

Norah shakes off Rose and walks down the row of trailers.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE
You said you would help me.

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

NORAH
(without turning)
Maybe if you'd gotten me a coffee.

48 INT. TRAILER HOME - DAY

48

Rose pulls her shirt off and wraps it around her head so that only her eyes are exposed.

She strains to open a window that's been painted shut. She bangs and pulls but it doesn't budge.

Rose finds a can of beans and whacks them against the base of the window in an attempt to break the seal. Rose grows more desperate with each failed effort.

49 EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY

49

Norah watches Rose struggle with the window.

Pigeons gather at her feet and she gives a little kick. Birdseed tumbles on to her shoe. She turns.

A weathered man sits outside his small rectangular castle and tosses birdseed to the pigeons.

NORAH
I'm standing here.

Norah looks back up to Rose still struggling with the window. Finally, Rose muscles it open and throws Norah an angry look of triumph. There!

49A EXT. ALBUQUERQUE STREET - DAY

49A

Joe and Oscar drive to a potential sale.

50 INT. TRAILER HOME - DAY

50

Norah ties a shirt around her face as she enters.

They turn their attention to the discolored mattress attracting flies in the corner.

NORAH
What do we do with that?

Rose shrugs. Looks around.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE

Dumpster?

Rose and Norah lift the mattress and drag it to the door.

51 EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY 51

Rose and Norah struggle to transport the stinking mattress to the dumpster. It is a clumsy process. The thing tips and falls on Norah.

52 INT. MALL - CANDY STORE - DAY 52

Tucked inside a mall, the candy store does brisk business. Pimple-faced clerks ring up clumps of overweight families.

Oscar pretends to look at hard candies while he listens to Joe and the MANAGER.

MANAGER

You're telling me this Fancy Corn stuff is some kind of health food?

JOE

Well, it's a candy... and a health food. Absolutely. Absolutely.

MANAGER

Yeah, I don't know. We don't have much more shelf space.

Oscar spots a GIRL perusing wax lips. She looks to be about five or six. Joe ignores the manager and reads ingredients off a Twizzler package.

JOE

Glycerol monostearate? What is that? I can't even read that.

Joe spins a can of Fancy Corn around and points to the ingredients.

JOE

Read that.

The manager leans close.

MANAGER

High fructose--

JOE

No. The first thing listed. The number one ingredient.

(CONTINUED)

MANAGER

Corn.

JOE

Exactly. Corn. Can you think of anything more wholesome? It's all American for Christ's sake.

The manager's not buying it. Oscar takes action. He positions himself next to the girl.

OSCAR

Do you know if they sell fancy corn here?

The girl looks at him suspiciously.

OSCAR

Do you even know what fancy corn is?

GIRL

Yes.

OSCAR

Well, do they sell it here?

GIRL

I dunno.

She looks back to the lips and tries to ignore Oscar.

OSCAR

I heard that the strawberry fancy corn gives you bionic strength.

GIRL

That's stupid.

OSCAR

It's true. Some kind of chemical in the strawberry flavoring. If you eat a whole lot of it, it gives you bionic strength.

The girl gives Oscar a long stare.

GIRL

I don't believe you.

OSCAR

I don't care if you do or not.

(CONTINUED)

The girl watches him for a moment and then walks over and tugs her mother's shirt.

JOE

I read where these chemicals are getting into the streams, making hermaphroditic frogs! You think mothers want to expose their kids to that stuff? No way. More and more people are looking for healthy alternatives which is why the demand for this product is so huge right now.

MANAGER

Like I said, I already put in all the orders I want for this year.

Just then, the GIRL'S MOTHER walks up to the manager.

GIRL'S MOTHER

Excuse me. Do you carry something called fancy corn?

Joe looks at Oscar. Oscar smiles.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: (3)

52

53 INT. TRAILER HOME - DAY

53

Much progress has been made on the trailer. Rose and Norah work on the last remaining piles of trash.

NORAH

It seems wrong though doesn't it...
to throw everything away.

Rose tosses a tattered fanny pack onto the heap in the garbage can. Norah plucks it out and opens it.

Norah pulls out a PHOTO ID. She holds it up. The woman on the ID looks street-worn and crazy.

NORAH

I bet this is her.

Rose sweeps. Norah digs deeper into the fanny pack and pulls out a small packet wrapped in satin ribbon.

Norah unties the ribbon and finds a stack of old school photos. Each photo is of a different grade. Norah flips through the stack and the girl appears to grow up.

NORAH

Wow, look at this.

Norah holds the senior photo next to the ID. The resemblance between the two is clear.

NORAH

Think it's her daughter?

Rose looks. Shrugs.

NORAH

Shouldn't we do something? Try to
find her or something?

ROSE

That's none of your business,
Norah.

(CONTINUED)

Rose picks up a bag stuffed with cans and fast food wrappers. She screams and drops the bag. A giant ball of maggots writhes at her feet.

ROSE
(pointing)
Hand me that.

Norah grabs the dust pan and hands it to Rose.

NORAH
What if she doesn't know? Wouldn't
you want to know if this was mom?

Norah looks closely at the I.D. as Rose deposits trash and maggots into the garbage bin. The comparison angers Rose.

ROSE
Mom was never like this. Mom would
never have been like this.

Norah thinks about that and looks back at the I.D.

NORAH
I wonder how she died?

ROSE
Damn it Norah, we still have a lot
of shit to do here. Are you just
gonna talk?

Joe and Oscar roll a handcart strapped with Fancy Corn canisters through the parking lot to the car.

JOE
That was real good. You're a
natural. You got the timing, you
got the nerve. You're a real sharp
cookie, you know that?

OSCAR
No I'm not. I'm stupid.

JOE
You're not stupid. What are you
saying? You're not stupid.

54 CONTINUED:

54

OSCAR

Yes I am. They want to put me in
retard classes.

JOE

Don't say that.

OSCAR

What?

JOE

It's those teachers who are
retarded. You're probably just too
advanced for those classes. You're
bored. Do you get bored in class?

OSCAR

Yeah.

JOE

See. You're too smart! And those
teachers just don't know how to
handle you. You're probably a
goddamn genius.

OSCAR

You think so?

JOE

I know so!

55 EXT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - DAY

55

Weeds grow in the yard of the small house.

56 INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - NORAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

56

Norah empties the contents of the fanny pack onto her bed.
She examines the photos and picks up what appears to be a
senior photo. She turns it over and sees, written on the
back, LYNN WISEMAN - 1998.

57 EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

57

Rose's Sentra is again parked next to the blue Camry.

58 INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

58

Same room as before. Same curtains drawn. Mac unzips Rose's skirt and kisses her neck.

ROSE

It was so disgusting. I mean the smell, you would not believe.

Mac's in the sex zone. He unbuttons his shirt and tunes out all those distracting words tumbling from Rose's mouth.

Rose, animated, slips her skirt off and tosses it aside.

ROSE

There were flies everywhere and, really, the smell. I can't even describe it.

Mac's shoes hit the floor with a thud. He sets his belt and gun on the dresser.

MAC

Shhhh.

Rose pulls her shirt over her head. Mac kisses her belly.

ROSE

But, after we finished.. you woulda never even known. We took all that away.. made it right.

Mac pulls off his pants. Rose hangs her bra on the back of the chair and slips off her undies.

MAC

I can't believe you... I mean, I feel like I got you into this mess.

Her sense of pride wilts. Her hand instinctively reaches up to massage the nicotine patch on her arm.

ROSE

No, I--

MAC

Listen, I'm gonna pay for new real estate classes. Okay?

Rose looks at Mac. Shrugs. Mac smiles.

(CONTINUED)

MAC

We'll get you your license and then get you a little photo in the real estate section. You can drive people around all day and talk about... Gosh, what would you talk about?

(Suddenly very serious)
Crown molding?

Rose smiles. Apparently it's some private joke.

ROSE

Oh yeah, definitely talk about crown molding.

The phrase seems to send a ripple of pleasure through Mac.

ROSE

Property easements, square footage, appliances...

Mac reacts to each word as if it were some filthy sex talk. He looks at Rose and raises an eyebrow.

MAC

You're holding out on me.

Rose rolls her eyes and laughs.

ROSE

Freak.

MAC

Say it. Come on. One time.

She smiles and shakes her head. Mac waits. Rose relents.

ROSE

Curb appeal.

Mac growls and pounces on Rose. It's fun and light. Rose laughs while Mac makes a show of mauling her neck.

He falls on the bed and reaches out. Rose takes his hand. It's rough against hers. There's a circular indentation where his wedding ring isn't.

Rose stops laughing. She touches the invisible ring.

ROSE

Why'd you pick her?

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (2)

58

Mac looks up. Buzz kill. The residue of a smile fades.

MAC

You know it wasn't like that.

ROSE

How was it like?

He takes a step back.

MAC

Are you going to do that?

ROSE

No.

MAC

If this is going to get all heavy--

ROSE

No.

Rose turns around and kisses Mac. One of those soft, teasing kisses that ends with a look that kicks things in gear.

59 EXT. CLEANING SUPPLY STORE - TWO DAYS LATER - DAY

59

Rose pulls her car up to one of many warehouses in the area and double checks the address on a scrap of paper.

60 INT. CLEANING SUPPLY STORE - DAY

60

Rose and Norah enter this no frills operation. Cinder block walls and concrete floors. A small TV on the front counter offers up a not-so-classic afternoon movie line up.

As they approach, the clerk drops out of sight behind the counter. Rose leans over to see the clerk on his knees searching for something small and lost.

ROSE

Winston?

WINSTON, 35, crudely handsome with dark unkempt hair and full lips, looks up.

ROSE

I spoke with you on the phone. I'm
Rose Lorkowski.

(CONTINUED)

Rose sticks out her right hand.

Winston stands to reveal he is missing his right arm. He clumsily shakes her hand with his left.

ROSE
So, our situation is...

On the TV, a waitress enters the frame. Rose stops. She and Norah both turn and look at the TV.

The waitress pours coffee and exits the frame without a word. Rose and Norah turn back to Winston. Rose continues.

ROSE
We're doing some postmortem kind of
um... specialized cleaning stuff and
we had this really difficult...

NORAH
Smelly.

Rose looks at Norah and nods.

ROSE
Really smelly job where the lady
had died and they didn't find her
for a while and it was really...

NORAH
Stinky.

ROSE
The odor was really strong.

WINSTON
A decomp.

Rose smiles a little too enthusiastically.

ROSE
Yeah, a decomp!

Winston motions them to follow him through the store. He indicates points of interest with a flat monotone voice.

WINSTON
General purpose cleaners,
extraction cleaners, odor control.
We carry both the Winzyme and the
DR 450. Disinfectants, stain
removers and shampoos.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: (2)

60

WINSTON (cont'd)
Steamers, buffers, foggers, that
kinda stuff's in there, for rent or
purchase. Quick absorbing sawdust,
good for vomit.

The tour ends at the back corner where respirators, safety
glasses, gloves and Tyvec coveralls crowd the shelves.

WINSTON
And you've got your personal
protective gear back here.

The door BEEPS as it opens. CARL SWANSON walks in wearing his
'Above and Beyond' polo shirt. Winston returns to the
counter.

61 INT. CLEANING SUPPLY STORE - FRONT COUNTER - DAY

61

Carl grabs a case of disinfectant and sets it on the counter.
Winston pulls out some paperwork.

CARL
You hear there're a couple of
amateurs poaching jobs?

Winston shakes his head.

Rose and Norah make their way to the counter with arms full
of supplies and stand within earshot of Carl and Winston.

CARL
Bruce said they took a decomp for
five hundred bucks. What do you
wanna bet they threw all that shit
right in the dumpster.

Norah nudges Rose. Carl pays and Rose and Norah watch him
leave. They step up and set their supplies on the counter.

As Winston rings them up, Rose notices the shellacked puzzle
picture of a big white cat on the wall.

ROSE
Hey, I have that puzzle. It's a
hard one. I think I got lost in the
white and gave up.

Rose flashes a 'captain of the cheerleading squad' smile.

WINSTON
Fifty-eight twenty-four.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

ROSE
You like cats?

Winston looks squarely at Rose and steps into the back room.

NORAH
Great. You freaked him out.

ROSE
I asked him if he liked cats.

Winston returns with several books and pamphlets. Hazmat Guidelines, Biohazard Recovery and Disposal, etc.

WINSTON
Bring these back.

62 INT. ROSE'S CAR - DAY

62

Rose drives while Norah scans one of the books.

NORAH
Turns out it's against the law to
throw bio hazards in the dumpster.
Who knew?

Rose processes the visit.

NORAH
How perfect was he with the one
arm?

ROSE
Hmm?

NORAH
The creepy guy. Do you think he was
born like that?

ROSE
I didn't think he was creepy.

NORAH
Dude, he has one arm.

ROSE
They think we're just a couple of
hacks.

NORAH
We are a couple of hacks.

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

Norah looks out the window.

NORAH
Stop here.

ROSE
Why?

NORAH
I gotta thing. Just drop me off
here.

Rose looks confused but pulls over.

63 EXT. LYNN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

63

Norah opens the door and slides out.

ROSE
I'll drop Oscar by around seven.

NORAH
(sarcastically)
You have class tonight?

Rose smiles uncomfortably.

ROSE
Mortgage lenders and financing.

Norah shakes her head in disgust.

NORAH
Heather's pregnant again. Did you
know that? He's never going to
leave her.

Rose clenches her jaw and picks at a crack in the steering
wheel. Norah gets out of the car.

NORAH
God, you're pathetic.

Norah slams the door and watches Rose drive off.

Norah stands at the door well and scans the apartment number
listings. She sees the name she's looking for, LYNN WISEMAN.

Just then, LYNN, the woman from the photos, opens the door
and walks past. Caught off guard, Norah follows her.

64 FOLLOWING THROUGH STREETS 64

They walk several blocks, Norah keeping a safe distance behind Lynn.

65 EXT. ALBUQUERQUE BLOOD SERVICES BUILDING - DAY 65

Lynn opens the door to the building and disappears inside. Norah follows.

66 INT. ALBUQUERQUE BLOOD SERVICES BUILDING - DAY 66

Lynn steps into an elevator. Norah does too.

67 INT. ALBUQUERQUE BLOOD SERVICES BUILDING - ELEVATOR - DAY 67

The doors close. Lynn slaps the 'stop elevator' button. Norah emits a small yelp.

LYNN

Who are you?

NORAH

What?

LYNN

Why are you following me?

NORAH

I'm not following you.

LYNN

You are following me!

Lynn freezes for a moment. It seems she isn't even breathing. Her anger twists into fear.

LYNN

Aren't you?

Norah remains silent. Lynn paces back and forth.

LYNN

Oh no.

NORAH

What?

(CONTINUED)

LYNN

Shit! This is not happening.

Norah is uncomfortable. Lynn spins around to face Norah.

LYNN

Listen, I'm sorry. I thought... I thought you were following me.

NORAH

That's all right.

Lynn steps closer.

LYNN

You think I'm crazy.

NORAH

No. No I don't.

LYNN

I'm not crazy.

NORAH

It was a mistake. No big deal.

Lynn smiles. Norah releases the stop button. Nothing happens.

LYNN

It's not moving.

NORAH

Let's press the alarm button.

Lynn shrugs. Norah presses the alarm button. There's a loud quick ring. They wait for something to happen.

An awkward silence hangs in the air. Norah gives it another quick punch for good measure. Smiles. They look at the ceiling. They look at the floor. Norah makes little noises.

Norah takes out her sign language book. She steals a quick sideways look at Lynn before settling on the series of small, illustrated hands before her.

LYNN

Go to the university?

NORAH

Me? No.

Lynn leans close and checks out the book.

(CONTINUED)

NORAH

Hobby...

Lynn sizes Norah up.

NORAH

There's this gorilla who knows sign language and I've always thought that would have to be the most amazing thing ever. You know? To actually talk to a gorilla.

LYNN

I think I've seen something on--

Norah nods.

NORAH

KoKo.

LYNN

Yeah, yeah, with the kitten.

Norah offers a sad nod.

NORAH

Kitten died. It wasn't KoKo's fault. She was heartbroken.

A KNOCKING sound reverberates through the elevator.

LYNN

Kind of weird, don't you think?
Teaching a gorilla to talk.
Probably, gorillas aren't supposed to talk.

NORAH

That's what's so cool about it.

Lynn takes a long bold look at Norah. Norah sweats. The elevator moves.

LYNN

I'm sorry again about the...

NORAH

No, don't... it's fine.

Lynn lightly touches the crook of Norah's arm.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (3)

67

LYNN

You've got nice veins.

Norah smiles self consciously. She's flustered. Not a familiar sensation. The doors open to the "Albuquerque Blood Services."

LYNN

You should give blood.

Lynn steps off the elevator and grabs a white coat from a rack. She glances back with a smile just as the doors close.

68 EXT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - NIGHT

68

The house is dark except for a TV in the living room and a light in Norah's bedroom window.

69 INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - NORAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

69

Norah pulls the photos from her bag and sets them on a shelf next to the candy heart. Then, she drops to the floor and pulls the LUNCH BOX from under her bed.

She surveys the contents: lipstick tipped cigarette butts, an eyelash curler, a Blue Jay feather, an old photo.

In the photo two girls, twelve and five, stand with their mom. A cigarette dangles from the mother's ruby red mouth.

70 EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

70

This time Rose's Sentra sits alone. No blue Camry in sight.

71 INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

71

Rose lies in bed and listens to cars go by on the highway. She checks her watch, picks up the phone and dials.

ROSE

Hi. Could you tell me what time you have? Okay. Thanks.

Rose hangs up and falls back onto the bed, feet dangling off the edge. She stares at the ceiling and whispers.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

ROSE

I am strong. I am powerful. I am a winner.

(pause)

I'm a fucking idiot.

71A INT. MOTEL HALLWAY- NIGHT

71A

Rose stands in the motel's glass enclosed hallway watching the world go by.

72 INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

72

Joe clears the dinner table while Oscar occupies himself with markers, construction paper, and a creative impulse.

Rose walks in defeated.

JOE

You're back early.

ROSE

I'm quitting real estate.

JOE

What are you talking about? You can't quit real estate. You're gonna be great at real estate. You got the whole look and besides, that's where everything's headed. Hell, it's what I should have done forty years ago.

ROSE

Shut up.

Rose sits at the table next to Oscar. She looks miserable. Oscar looks at his mom.

OSCAR

Want me to make you something happy?

Rose can't help but smile.

ROSE

Yeah. I'd like that.

JOE

Make me something happy too.

73

INT. CLEANING SUPPLY STORE - THREE DAYS LATER - DAY

73

Rose hands Winston a canister of Fancy Corn and a business card. Rays of the sun dart off the edges of the card in a style of a child's drawing. It reads, "Sunshine Cleaning."

WINSTON

Sunshine Cleaning. Nice.

ROSE

Thought we'd put a positive spin on things. My son drew the design.

(CONTINUED)

Oscar stares at Winston's empty sleeve.

WINSTON

That's a nice job you did there.

OSCAR

Where's your arm?

ROSE

Oscar!

WINSTON

That's all right.

ROSE

I was thinking maybe I could set a few out by the register?

WINSTON

Yeah sure.

Rose hands Winston a stack of cards. He places them in an owl business card holder in front of several Clean Sweep business cards.

WINSTON

This is great but you guys should really get out there and market yourselves.

Oscar plays with an extraction cleaner and accidentally turns it on. Winston gives him a nod that indicates that he should turn it off. He does.

ROSE

So, marketing? Like...?

WINSTON

Funeral Homes, property managers... What you really want is to get in with the insurance companies. They can throw you a ton of work.

Oscar walks into the back room.

The room is jammed with model planes, cars and boats in various stages of construction. A hobbyist's fantasy land.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

74

Oscar's mouth drops open.

75 INT. CLEANING SUPPLY STORE - DAY

75

Winston puffs up a bit with 'manly know how'.

WINSTON

Do you guys have your B.B.P.
certification?

ROSE

B.B. who?

Winston smiles.

WINSTON

Blood Born Pathogens. The big money
jobs... they'll expect you to be
certified. I can register you for
the next seminar if you want.

76 EXT. LAWSON'S USED CAR LOT - TWO DAYS LATER - DAY

76

Rose, Norah, Oscar and Joe follow SHERM LAWSON across the car
lot. Rose shoots an irritated look to her dad.

ROSE

(whispering to Norah)
Did you ask him to come.

NORAH

Not exactly.

Joe positions himself next to Rose.

JOE

(Quietly to Rose)
Now Sherm's gonna say he's against
the wall but don't you believe him.
There's always some wiggle room.

ROSE

I can handle it.

The troop comes to a stop in front of a large blue van.

SHERM

I think you're gonna like this
Econoline.

(CONTINUED)

Sherm opens the back doors. Rose, Joe and Sherm stick their heads inside. Rose nods.

JOE

The girls have started up their own specialized cleaning business. Crime scene and trauma clean-up.

ROSE

It's a real growth industry.

SHERM

Sounds kinda gory.

ROSE
Can be. Can be.

Rose surveys the interior space.

ROSE
We gotta take any contaminated
materials to the incinerators. So
we'll need lots of space back here.

OSCAR
For the *bloody* stuff.

ROSE
So, how much is this?

SHERM
Nineteen Ninety-nine.

JOE
What's the play on that?

SHERM
Oh, that's the floor right there.
I'm actually taking a loss on this
to make room for some new product.

ROSE
Well, I could pay cash.

SHERM
Cash is good.

Sherm walks around and unlocks the driver's side door.

JOE
(whispering to Rose)
Ask him about the bumper.

ROSE
What?

JOE
The dented bumper.

Rose approaches Sherm with a smile.

ROSE
I noticed the bumper's kind of
banged up.

Sherm smiles.

(CONTINUED)

SHERM

Character.

JOE

We were over at Motor Mart on Lomas earlier. They got a nice looking Chevy G series for eighteen.

SHERM

Power steering?

Joe nods.

Oscar crawls into the passenger seat for a closer look. He sees the CB mounted on the ceiling and tugs Norah's sleeve.

OSCAR

What's that?

NORAH

Oh, excellent.

ROSE

God, do people even use those anymore?

OSCAR

What is it?

Sherm grabs the handset to demonstrate.

SHERM

It's a CB. You talk into this thing and hold this thing down and it turns your voice into radio waves and sends it into the heavens.

OSCAR

Heaven?

Sherm tosses the keys to Rose.

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: (4)

76

SHERM

Why don't you take it for a test
drive.

Rose, Norah and Oscar pile into the van. Joe hangs back with
Sherm.

77 EXT. STREET - DAY

77

The Econo van rumbles by.

78 INT. VAN - DAY

78

Rose drives. Norah sits shotgun and sings the baseline to a 70s era porno. Oscar kneels between them staring at the CB.

NORAH

Bow-chicka-bow-bow. Can I drive?

ROSE

No.

OSCAR

Try the CB!

Rose reaches up and clicks the CB on. Nothing but static. She adjusts the frequency dial until she lands on the faintest hint of a voice buried beneath the crush of static.

Oscar's face lights up with amazement. Rose is underwhelmed. She clicks the CB off.

ROSE

Antenna's probably broke.

Norah points out the window.

NORAH

Ice Cream Hut!

79 EXT. ICE CREAM HUT - DAY

79

Rose pays for three soft serve cones and makes her way to the picnic table where Norah and Oscar wait.

Norah points to an 'apartment for rent' sign on the building across the street. A big bosomed woman sits on the porch with a rabbit in her lap.

NORAH

How cool to live across from the Ice Cream Hut.

Rose distributes the melty goods.

ROSE

You should rent it. Seriously, you're making money now.

Norah assesses the building. The RABBIT LADY sees them staring. She waves. Rose and Norah turn around amused.

(CONTINUED)

NORAH

Yeah well, what about Dad?

ROSE

Oh please, Dad would survive just fine. You should do it.

As Norah thinks about a possible move glistening rivulets of chocolate ice cream drip down Oscar's cone, over his hand and on to Norah's leg.

NORAH

Ahh! Lick around the base. Secure the perimeter.

(To Rose)

Don't you teach this kid anything?

Norah demonstrates proper technique. She extends her tongue out to the bottom edge of the dripping glob, then twirls the cone to lick away the troublesome chocolate.

LYNN (O.S.)

It's the gorilla girl.

Norah looks up to see Lynn with a milk shake in hand. An involuntary smile breaks across Norah.

LYNN

You never came to donate.

NORAH

Yeah.

Lynn looks at Rose. An awkward moment passes.

NORAH

My sister.

Rose smiles, nods a hi. Something familiar about the girl nags at Rose. She searches to connect a face out of context.

Lynn eyes Norah. Chemistry.

LYNN

We have snacks you know. Juice boxes.

NORAH

Had I known about the juice boxes...

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED: (2)

79

Rose makes the connection - her smile drops. Lynn picks up on the tension between the two.

LYNN

Okay. Well, see you around.

Lynn leaves. Rose slaps Norah with an accusing look.

80 EXT. LAWSON'S USED CAR LOT - DAY

80

Joe stands with Sherm and waits for the girls to return. He looks at his watch.

SHERM

You still selling that luggage?

JOE

No, no. That was a whole big mess.

SHERM

Crappy zippers. Wasn't that it?

Sherm smiles. Joe's smile disappears.

JOE

Yeah, that's been a while now.
Dropped the luggage around the time
your other lot when out of
business.

Touche. Sherm's smile dissolves.

SHERM

I could maybe drop it to nineteen
even.

Joe holds out for more.

SHERM

And toss in some wiper fluid.

Joe smiles.

81 EXT. ICE CREAM HUT - DAY

81

Rose, Norah and Oscar walk back to the van. Everyone's slightly stickier. Rose clenches her jaw.

ROSE

What the hell?

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED:

81

NORAH

I just wanted to give her the pictures.

ROSE

You took the pictures? Why would you do that? We could get in a lot of trouble for that.

NORAH

Relax, I didn't give them to her.

82 INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - ONE WEEK LATER -
EVENING

82

Joe sits in his Lazy Boy as Norah hauls a box from her room.

NORAH

It's just three blocks away.

JOE

I know.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED:

82

NORAH

It's not like I'm never gonna see you.

JOE

Hey, I think you should have done this a long time ago.

Joe strains to be cavalier but he can't look at Norah.

83 EXT. HOTEL - NEXT DAY - DAY

83

A marquee welcomes the conference attendees.

84 INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

84

Rose sits on a folding chair and takes notes. The thirty or so people listening to the SPEAKER appear to be mostly hospital staff and EMT workers. A placard near the door reads: SEMINAR FOR BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS.

CARL SWANSON leans forward from his chair and looks down the row to Rose.

SPEAKER

OK. Let's take a quick break before we move on to potential pathogens suspended in excrement.

85 INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM - FOOD TABLE - DAY

85

Rose stands by a display of medical waste pamphlets and munches on a sandwich. As she takes a bite, Carl walks up.

CARL

Food's better at the bar.
(holding out his hand)
Carl Swanson, Above and Beyond.

Flustered, Rose brushes crumbs off her face and inadvertently deposits a blob of mustard on her cheek. They shake hands.

ROSE

Rose-
(swallow)
Rose Lorkowski. Nice to meet you.

CARL

I hear you're my new competition.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE

We're hardly competition for you.

CARL

(smiles)

I'm glad to see you're doing a little homework. A lot of people, you know, they think they can just jump in to this, make lots of money. But, they don't know what they're doing. No idea. They're not professional and that makes us all look bad.

ROSE

Well, we're not like that. I just have to complete this seminar and we're certified.

CARL

You're not certified?

ROSE

Not yet. Probably by the end of the month.

Carl smiles, dips a napkin in his cup of water and wipes the smudge of mustard from Rose's cheek.

CARL

You had a...

Attendees file back to their chairs.

ROSE

I think it's starting.

CARL

Sure I can't buy you a drink?

Rose and Carl sit at the bar nursing drinks.

CARL

If you spray the enzyme at that point it'll just turn back to liquid which is a pain in the ass. The key is to bag it when it's kind of Jell-o-ee.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE

That makes total sense. Why didn't I think of that?

CARL

You just figure all this shit out as you go. Experience.

Rose chews on her cocktail straw.

ROSE

It's not how I thought it'd be. I thought it'd be gross.

Rose stops. Reflects. Turns to Carl.

ROSE

Sometimes it's gross. The maggots are gross. The maggots kind of freak me.

CARL

Yeah.

ROSE

The sound. The munching sound.

CARL

And it's so hard to kill the little fuckers.

ROSE

Tell me about it. You pour industrial bleach right on 'em...nothing.

Carl offers a knowing nod.

CARL

Just roll their eyes and call you a pussy.

Rose laughs and takes another sip of her drink.

The door to the bathroom is open. Carl hums a happy tune in the shower.

Rose shimmies back into her clothes with an expression of self-loathing.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

ROSE
I am strong. I am powerful.

88 INT. VAN - THREE DAYS LATER - DAY

88

Rose drives and Norah holds a long list of funeral homes and other establishments. They're all crossed off. Oscar sits bored in the back.

OSCAR
What's a bastard?

Rose looks at Norah with concern.

OSCAR
Jeremy said I was a bastard. What does that mean?

Rose has no idea how to respond. Norah turns to face Oscar.

NORAH
It just means your mom wasn't married when she had you. It's no big deal. In a couple of years you're gonna find it's a free pass to cool. You'll probably start a band called Bastard Son. Use it to impress the chicks. Trust me, the whole bastard thing... it's working for you.

Oscar looks to Rose and then back to Norah.

Rose's phone rings. She answers it, relieved for the distraction

ROSE
Hello, Sunshine Cleaning... Well, I'm glad you liked the Fancy Corn....Okay, yeah, yeah.

Rose grabs a pen, hands it to Norah and motions for her to write something down.

ROSE
Okay... 2327 Grove Avenue. Got it... Sure. Yeah. Thank you.

Rose hangs up.

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED:

88

NORAH

What was that?

ROSE

A suicide!

89 EXT. BRICK RANCHER - DAY

89

Rose pulls the van up to the house and sees the old lady sitting out front. MRS. DAVIS.

ROSE

Oh, man.

Rose and Norah exchange a look and then Rose turns to Oscar.

ROSE

OK. Stay in the van. You want a soda or anything?

Oscar shakes his head.

ROSE

We won't be long.

As Rose and Norah get out and unload supplies the old lady stands to greet them. She's dressed up in the way old ladies are when they expect company.

ROSE

Mrs. Davis?

The woman nods. She is dazed with grief.

ROSE

We're the cleaning service.

MRS. DAVIS

Yes, yes. I... I wanted to give you the keys.

The old woman holds out a shaky hand. Rose gently takes the keys. Norah hangs back.

MRS. DAVIS

In the sunroom. That's where my husband... I had bridge and...

She blinks twice, slowly, then snaps back.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. DAVIS

Do you need me to show you?

ROSE

No, no. I think we can find it.

MRS. DAVIS

Oh. Okay. That's good then.

Rose and Norah gather their things and head up the stairs.

MRS. DAVIS

My son-in-law's coming to take me
to lunch at the Howard Johnson's.
They have such nice rolls there.

Rose hands Norah the key and motions for her to go ahead.

ROSE

Would you like to sit for a moment,
Mrs. Davis?

MRS. DAVIS

Yes dear, I think I would.

Rose sits down on the steps with Mrs. Davis and Norah quietly enters the house.

From the van Oscar watches Rose and the old woman sit side by side on the front step. Rose's hand rests lightly on the woman's bony shoulder. Words seem useless.

Norah looks around the room furnished modestly with a mixture of antiques and things that are simply old.

Yellow sticky notes cling to doors, walls, light switches, etc. Each note contains a simple instruction such as 'turn off light' or 'watch news at 6:00'.

Norah walks past family photos that line the hall.

Norah enters the red splattered room. A walker lies on its side next to a blood-soaked rug. Golden sunlight pours through the windows.

91 CONTINUED:

91

A yellow square sticks to a picture frame on the coffee table. The frame holds the image of a smiling young couple in a different era. The note reads 'Edna plays bridge at 4:00'.

Norah slips a Tyvec jumper on and looks out the window. A car pull up to the curb. Norah stops and watches her sister walk Mrs. Davis to the car before starting her work.

92 INT. BRICK RANCHER - SUNROOM - MOMENTS LATER

92

Rose enters quietly, in a fog. The stillness of grief is contagious.

NORAH

She okay?

Rose nods and picks up the photo of a younger Mr and Mrs Davis. She then steps into her Tyvec coveralls and zips up.

93 INT. VAN - DUSK

93

Norah drives. Rose holds Oscar in her lap, arms clasped tight around him.

OSCAR

That lady seemed really sad.

ROSE

Her husband died.

Oscar thinks about this a moment.

OSCAR

So he's in heaven?

Rose nods.

OSCAR

Maybe we could let her use our CB and she could talk to him.

Rose looks confused. Oscar presses on.

OSCAR

Maybe he would hear her.

Rose smiles. Doesn't seem like the moment to correct him.

ROSE

Maybe.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

They ride the rest of the way home in silence.

94 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NEXT DAY - DAY

94

Joe's Monte Carlo sits out front.

95 INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

95

Oscar and Joe scratch game cards.

OSCAR

I won a million dollars!

JOE

Let me see that.

Oscar hands the ticket over.

JOE

You gotta get two hydrants with a matching amount. See? None of your fire hydrants match.

Oscar looks at the Lucky Dog card with defeat.

JOE

And three zeros is a thousand dollars. You woulda won a thousand dollars but it doesn't match anything.

OSCAR

What happens if it doesn't match anything?

JOE

You toss it and try the next one.

Oscar moves on to his next ticket. He scratches the coating away and tentatively lifts his game card

OSCAR

I think I won five hundred dollars.

Joe looks at the card. He looks at Oscar and grins.

OSCAR

I'm gonna buy a trampoline and a karaoke player and some chocolate honey dipped donuts.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

Whoa now. Hold up there kiddo.
That's not your money. That's my
money.

OSCAR

I scratched it.

JOE

Yes you did. You scratched the
ticket that I bought.

Oscar follows his grampa over to the pay phone.

(CONTINUED)

95

CONTINUED: (2)

95

JOE

And we're not going to spend the money. We're going to invest the money.

Joe plunks in some quarters, dials, waits while it rings.

JOE

See, that's the difference between a regular person and somebody with business acumen. That's a good word for you to know. A-cu-men. Means smarts.

Oscar nods and sips his Coke.

JOE

(into the receiver)

Bobby! Joe Lorkowski here.

(laughs)

I told you I'd call.

(pause)

Yeah well, I got the money and we're in. But you gotta throw in twenty bags of ice.

96

INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

96

Rose pays bills at the kitchen table. Oscar bounces a super ball.

OSCAR

We're gonna make the money grow because that's the smart way. It's capital and you don't spend that. You invest it. That way you can get the SP250 and have money left over.

ROSE

What are you talking about?

Oscar races out of the kitchen and then races back in with a pamphlet showcasing the amazingly sleek SP250 binoculars. He hands the pamphlet to Rose.

OSCAR

The binoculars that grampa's gonna get me for my birthday.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR (cont'd)

They've got an internal stabilizer
thingy that's electronic so if
you're in a speed boat or something
it won't matter and...

(CONTINUED)

ROSE

Oh honey, come here.

Rose pulls out a chair for Oscar. Oscar sits down and crosses his arms in front of himself.

ROSE

Sometimes your grampa promises things that he really wants to happen.

OSCAR

No, he's really gonna get 'em. He's got a plan.

ROSE

Okay. If you say so.

Rose goes back to the bills.

Lynn wears a white coat. Norah sits in one of the reclining chairs scattered about the room.

NORAH

You made it seem so fun.

LYNN

Oh it is fun. Would you like a refreshment?

Norah smiles and shakes her head.

LYNN

No?

Norah watches Lynn's hands push up her sleeve. Lynn rubs iodine in expanding circles on the inside of Norah's arm.

Lynn puts plastic gloves on and ties a tourniquet around Norah's arm. She puts a rubber ball in Norah's hand.

LYNN

Can you squeeze that for me?

Norah squeezes the ball and Lynn touches the plump vein.

LYNN

That's good. One more time.

(CONTINUED)

Lynn takes the needle and draws it close to Norah's arm.

NORAH

Oh my God, is that the needle? It's
a fucking cocktail straw.

Norah looks nervous. Lynn smiles reassuringly.

LYNN

Trust me, I'm very good at this.
Squeeze again.

Norah squeezes, Lynn touches the soft blue stripe of blood
beneath Norah's skin and slides the needle into the vein.

LYNN

Wasn't that fun?

NORAH

You might have oversold it.

Lynn smiles.

LYNN

Kind of twirl the ball around in
your hand. Good. It doesn't hurt,
does it?

NORAH

(shakes her head)
Feels hot.

LYNN

That's a good sign.

Norah self-consciously nods and smiles. Lynn turns and
jostles the bag of blood.

NORAH

My friend's having a thing tonight.

Lynn switches her attention from the blood back to Norah.

NORAH

Never mind.

LYNN

What?

NORAH

Nothing it's...

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED: (2)

97

LYNN

What?

NORAH

You wouldn't like it.

LYNN

I might like it.

98 EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

98

Music and party-goers spill from the student ghetto house.

99 INT. PARTY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

99

Norah and Lynn sit on a ratty couch in a crowded smoke filled room. Next to them, a flannel wearing burn-out rocks to headphones. Norah wears a candy necklace. Debauchery plays out around them.

NORAH

I knew you wouldn't have any fun here.

LYNN

I am having fun.

Norah takes a tug on the joint and passes it to Lynn.

LYNN

No thanks.

NORAH

Lamb's breath.

LYNN

Yeah, no thanks.

NORAH

Straight edge?

LYNN

(Shakes head)

Just kind of superstitious.

Norah nods and passes the joint across Lynn to the burn-out. The burn-out tugs and passes it back to Lynn. Lynn waves it off a second time.

(CONTINUED)

NORAH

She's Mormon.

LYNN

I'm not Mormon. I just... You're gonna think it's weird.

NORAH

What?

LYNN

Sometimes I think that when you get high or drink or alter your consciousness like that--

NORAH

You don't drink?

Lynn shakes her head.

LYNN

I think it weakens you psychically.. like it creates these cracks and then bad things can seep in and maybe never go away.

Norah stares at Lynn with great blood-shot concentration.

NORAH

All right, you're kind of freakin me out.

LYNN

Sorry.

NORAH

You should just tell people you're Mormon.

LYNN

I think your boyfriend is winning.

Two women gnaw at Randy's neck. His necklace is almost empty.

NORAH

Yes. Yes, he is.

Lynn lightly tugs on Norah's candy necklace. She leans in close and takes a bite of the candy. Norah catches her breath. Paralyzed.

Lynn smiles, pleased by Norah's reaction.

(CONTINUED)

LYNN
(whisper)
Breathe.

Norah snaps back.

NORAH
I need more beer.

Norah pulls herself off the couch and starts for the keg. She stops. Turns.

NORAH
Um. Can I get you anything?

LYNN
I'm good.

Norah offers a nervous smile.

Norah and Randy lie on a thread bare couch. Their bodies rock to the motion of sex. Norah's thoughts are elsewhere.

A small TV sits next to Norah's growing collection of found trinkets. It spills blue light into the smoke tinged air.

On the TV, a REPORTER stands outside Quicky Lube. Norah turns her attention to the TV while Randy pumps and grinds. She grabs the remote.

REPORTER
(on TV)
Tragedy today when an out of control driver crashed his car into a south side Quicky Lube killing one employee.

RANDY
What are you doing?

NORAH
Shh.

Norah turns up the volume. Randy grinds to a halt.

100 CONTINUED:

100

REPORTER

The driver of the automobile,
apparently suffered a heart attack
at the wheel and is currently in
critical condition.

The phone rings. Randy glares at Norah. Norah answers.

NORAH

Hello.

RANDY

Unbelievable.

NORAH

(into phone)

Yeah, I'm watching it now.

101 EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

101

A van zooms past with a SUNSHINE CLEANING MAGNET on the door.

102 EXT. NORAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

102

Randy steps out onto the porch where the big bosomed RABBIT
LADY strokes her rabbit. He closes the door behind him.

RANDY

Hey.

RABBIT LADY

Hey.

Randy starts down the steps feeling dejected.

RABBIT LADY

You like rabbits?

Randy stops and turns.

103 EXT. QUICKY LUBE - NIGHT

103

The large glass panel that made up the front of the store is
shattered. Shards dangle from red tipped edges. Blood and
glass mingle on the linoleum floor and plastic chairs.

Outside, Mac motions a stunned crowd to disperse. Rose and
Norah walk confidently past Mac into the lobby where a man
wearing a Quick Lube shirt stands off to the side and cries.

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED:

103

Mac watches as Rose goes back inside and greets the officer.

104 INT. QUICKY LUBE - NIGHT

104

The OFFICER points to the shattered glass.

OFFICER

Nut job goes through the window there.

(he stops, turns)

You guys are BBP Certified, right?

ROSE

Legally, it's not really necessary.

NORAH

We are.

ROSE

We're in the process.

NORAH

You went to that thing.

ROSE

We adhere to all the proper procedures when dealing with a potentially hazardous situation. We are very professional.

NORAH

Wait. I thought you went to that thing.

Rose scans the area.

ROSE

Are you guys all finished?

OFFICER

It's all yours.

Rose and Norah slip into their Tyvecs.

ROSE

Why don't you grab the wet-vac and I'll start bagging the loose stuff.

The officer walks past Mac who continues to stare at Rose. She looks beautiful and strong.

105 EXT. QUICKY LUBE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

105

Rose and Norah pull supplies from the van and ready themselves for the Quicky Lube job.

NORAH

I thought you went to the thing.

ROSE

I did. I mean, I went to part of it. Most of it.

NORAH

What do you mean you went to part of it? It was a one day thing.

ROSE

I got side tracked.

NORAH

Side tracked?

ROSE

That Above and Beyond guy was there. Carl. We got talking shop and--

NORAH

Oh my God, you humped Carl!

Rose can't deny it. Norah shakes her head.

ROSE

I'm already registered for the next one.

NORAH

That's disgusting.

106 EXT. DESERT ROAD - TWO DAYS LATER - DAY

106

Joe and Oscar sit in the car pulled off to the side of a lonely highway intersection.

JOE

You got twenty bucks and you want three pizza's. They cost five dollars each and you have a coupon for two dollars off.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

106

CONTINUED:

106

JOE (cont'd)

You figure you'll tip the delivery guy a couple bucks but the delivery guy turns out to be a lady. Real sizzler. So you give her a crisp five. How much do you have left?

Oscar thinks.

Joe assumes there's no way the kid's getting this and turns his attention outside. A truck appear on the horizon.

OSCAR

Two dollars?

JOE

Hey, how'd you come up with that?

OSCAR

Math.

The truck slows down as it reaches the intersection, pulls off the road, and stops. Joe gets out and walks over.

Oscar watches the trucker hop down from the cab and shake Joe's hand like they're old friends.

CUT TO

The trunk of the Monte Carlo brims with shrimp and ice. Joe slams it closed, climbs in the car and gives Oscar a wink.

107

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

107

The Monte Carlo slices through a vast empty landscape.

108

INT. JOE'S CAR - DAY

108

Joe beams with excitement.

JOE

The thing is Oscar...and this is important to learn early...*life* is sales. Buying and selling. It's the core of social interaction. And human beings are social beings.

Smoke starts to seep out from under the hood. Joe eyes the temperature gauge.

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED:

108

JOE
No, no, no, no, no.

109 EXT. ADOBE HOUSE - DAY

109

Norah loads equipment into the van, gets in and waits for Rose to finish the transaction.

A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN opens the door. She's angry.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE

I'm sorry, I don't mean to bother you. I just wanted to let you know that we're all finished up and--

The woman glares at Rose.

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

Oh, you want to get paid.

ROSE

We can come back later if that's better.

The woman shakes her head and holds out a check.

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

I can't believe I have to deal with this now. My son just died for Christ's sake.

The woman looks away.

ROSE

I'm so sorry for your loss.

Rose starts to leave.

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

Thank you.

Rose stops. Turns

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

For what you did. Thank you.

Rose nods and continues on to the van.

They ride down an Albuquerque street in silence.

ROSE

You want a Coke?

NORAH

Sure.

111 INT. GAS STATION FOODMART - DAY

111

Rose fills a cup at the soda fountain. Through the window she sees Mac and family pull up on the other side of the store.

Mac gets out and pumps gas. The woman, HEATHER, laughs with the little girl in the back seat. They look happy.

Rose's fountain drink overflows.

ROSE

Dammit.

Rose grabs for a napkin which clumps and tears.

The door BEEPS. Rose jumps behind the candy rack and peeks around. All clear. She turns and smacks into Heather. Heather glares at Rose.

HEATHER

You think I don't know?

Heather trembles with anger. Rose stands frozen.

HEATHER

You may have been hot shit in high school but what are you now?
Nothing. A waste of space.

Heather reaches out and gives Rose a little push. Ten years of anger culminating in this one anti climactic gesture.

Rose watches Heather walk away and knows every word is true.

112 EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY

112

A stream of water leaks from the trunk. Joe gets out cursing under his breath. He kicks the car and a hub cap falls off. It's an unbearable insult.

JOE

Stupid shit heap!

Fifty years of failures result in an explosion of frustration. Joe stomps on the hub cap, picks it up and throws it as far as he can.

Joe gathers himself and leans in the window. He forces a smile at Oscar. Oscar looks nervous.

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED:

112

JOE

It's alright. Everything's okay.

Joe opens the trunk and checks on the shrimp. A car zooms by. Joe tries to wave it down. No good. Another zooms by.

JOE

Come on, come on, come on, come on.

Joe struggles to wave down a car. No luck. Joe has an idea.

JOE

Make like you're crying.

Oscar turns on the tears. A car stops.

113 INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

113

Rose walks in. Oscar and Joe feign casualness.

Joe looks at the bathroom door which stands open. Inside the tub brims with shrimp and ice.

ROSE

What did you guys do today?

OSCAR

Nothing.

Rose turns to Joe who shrugs.

ROSE

How's it without Norah here?

JOE

Weird.

Joe walks over and casually shuts the bathroom door.

114 EXT. DOGHOUSE WEINER HUT - NIGHT

114

Randy stuffs his face with a hotdog while Norah glares, annoyed.

RANDY

I'm sorry. I know it was stupid.

NORAH

On so many levels.

(CONTINUED)

114 CONTINUED:

114

RANDY

I'm really sorry. I swear it won't happen again. It's just... you weren't around and...

Norah shakes her head. Randy doesn't know what to say.

NORAH

Listen, Randy I think we should stop hanging out.

RANDY

You're breaking up with me over the rabbit lady?

Norah doesn't respond.

RANDY

I don't know, the way you act, I didn't even think that you'd care that much.

NORAH

Yeah, I don't. I should, but I don't. And you're a really great guy. But...I don't care if you have sex with the rabbit lady... and I mean, it seems like I should care about that.

115 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

115

Rose opens a stack of neglected mail. She is interrupted by a light knock on the door. Rose peeks out the peep hole.

ROSE

Shit.

Rose hesitates, then opens the door just a crack.

MAC

Rose.

ROSE

What are you doing here?

MAC

Can we talk a minute?

ROSE

Oscar's asleep.

(CONTINUED)

115 CONTINUED:

115

Rose stands her ground for a moment before stepping outside.

MAC

It was great seeing you last night.
You looked so professional and
confident. Your own business...

Mac touches her lightly on the arm.

ROSE

How's the baby?

Mac looks away.

MAC

I just wanted to congratulate you
on the business. Seems like things
are really going great for you.

Rose and Mac's eyes meet. Rose smiles.

ROSE

They are. If we keep going at this
rate I can hire a couple of
employees soon, put a little more
in marketing, give those Clean
Sweep guys a run for their money.

Rose glows.

ROSE

I'm a business woman.

MAC

(nodding)
You're a business woman.

116 EXT. LYNN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

116

Norah stands disheveled, six pack in hand. Lynn opens the
door wearing slippers.

NORAH

Ever been trestling?

117 EXT NOB HILL RESTAURANT ROW - NIGHT

117

Shrimp jiggles in Joe's hand cart as he makes his way toward
the row of upscale restaurants.

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: 117

A couple of upscale hipsters stare curiously at the hand cart as they pass Joe.

118 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - OSCAR'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 118

Sounds of sex seep through thin walls. Oscar sits up in bed.

After a moment he crawls out of bed, he grabs a flashlight from his shelf and exits his room.

118A INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - ROSE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 118A

The mattress squeaks slightly as Mac and Rose have sex.

119 EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 119

In pajamas and bare feet, Oscar steps into the night. He flicks on the flashlight.

120 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT 120

Norah leads Lynn through a wooded area toward a train trestle. Norah carries the two remaining beers of a six pack.

LYNN

Are the bodies there?

NORAH

No. The person is gone. It's weird 'cuz we're connected to them in this strangely intimate way... but we never actually meet them. It's just kind of weird.

Norah steps over a discarded tire.

NORAH

I have seen a dead body once though.

LYNN

Yeah?

NORAH

My mom.

Lynn follows Norah, not knowing how to respond. It's awkward. Norah tries to lighten things.

(CONTINUED)

NORAH

She was in a movie of the week
once, ya know.

(CONTINUED)

LYNN

Your mom?

Norah nods.

NORAH

A bunch of Hollywood people were filming down in Old Town. They thought my mom was so beautiful and so talented that they gave her a speaking part. You want to hear it?

Lynn nods.

NORAH

'I recommend the pecan pie.'

Norah looks back at Lynn for applause.

LYNN

I recommend the pecan pie?

Norah nods.

NORAH

That was her line. It was on TV and everything.

LYNN

That's pretty cool.

NORAH

Me and Rose, we didn't actually see it but Rose says mom talked about it all the time. I don't remember.

Norah shrugs.

NORAH

I don't remember her much at all. I have this box of her stuff though, little things she touched. When it seems like she never even really existed... it's proof.

The two reach the bottom of a train trestle.

NORAH

All right. This is where we climb.

LYNN

What?

(CONTINUED)

NORAH

Up to that girder.

Norah points to a rusted girder about eight feet from the underbelly of the track.

LYNN

I'm not climbing up there.

NORAH

Best place to be when it comes.

LYNN

Uh-uh.

Norah slips her hand through one of the plastic rings of the six pack and starts to climb.

NORAH

You're gonna miss the best part.

LYNN

I accept that.

The two cans of beer dangle from Norah's arm like a giant charm bracelet and clank against girders as she climbs.

NORAH

It's like... it's like this big
pissed off God up in your face just
screaming at you. So close you can
smell the metal on his breath.

LYNN

Sounds great.

NORAH

It is. I'm telling you.

Norah wedges her butt into the belly of a beam and taps her fingers against the rusted girder. After a moment she leans out and looks down toward Lynn.

NORAH

I didn't mean to bum you out with
the whole mom stuff. I just thought
you would... I don't know, I guess
I thought...

LYNN

What?

(CONTINUED)

120 CONTINUED: (4)

120

The trestle starts to shake.

NORAH

He's coming.

The thunder gets louder. Lynn covers her ears. Norah pops open a beer and laughs as the train approaches.

121 EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

121

Oscar walks along the sidewalk alone. He stops at the van, opens the door and gets in.

He looks very small in the driver's seat. He lifts the handset to the CB.

INTERCUT DIALOGUE WITH FOLLOWING SEQUENCE

OSCAR

What was I before I was born? What happens when we die? Do animals go to the same place as we go after we die? Is heaven really crowded? When somebody gets an arm chopped off does it go to heaven? Is Jesus another name for you or are you two separate people? Were you born? Will you die? If you already live in heaven where do you go when you die?

122 EXT. TRAIN TRESTLE - NIGHT

122

The train careens above Norah. Sparks fly from the blur of wheels. The sky flashes between each of the cars. Stars and grease and metal and night collide. Norah closes her eyes.

The sound of the train merges with the loud static of a CB.

123 EXT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - FRONT YARD - 1987 - DAY

123

The sky is an electric blue. The kind that lives in memories and dreams. Rose (10) and Norah (5) play in a parked car.

Rose pretends to drive and smoke a cigarette while Norah makes faces in the rearview mirror.

(CONTINUED)

Rose gets out of the car and races toward the house. Norah chases after.

NORAH

Rose, wait for me.

124 INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - 1987 - DAY 124

A giggling Rose stumbles in. She stops. The bathroom door is open slightly. She walks over peeks through the opening.

There's a dress crumpled on the floor. A woman slumps motionless in the tub. Her delicate hand hangs over the edge. Scarlet fingerprints mar the white porcelain.

Norah enters the front door. She smiles, unburdened by the knowledge. She runs towards Rose. Rose quickly pushes her back and closes the door.

Norah senses something's wrong. She struggles to see what's behind the door but Rose won't let go.

125 EXT. TRAIN TRESTLE - NIGHT 125

The static mixes back into the roar of the train. The roar grows distant and is replaced by Norah's laughter.

Still laughing, Norah takes a sip of her beer and sets it on a beam next to her. The beer falls. Norah tries to catch it, loses her balance and falls with a thud.

Lynn catches her breath.

LYNN
Oh, shit.

Lynn runs over to find Norah on her back, eyes closed. Norah opens her eyes and laughs.

LYNN
You idiot.

Norah grabs the beer that she had been chasing. There's not much left but she downs the remainder.

NORAH
Sneaky fucker.

(CONTINUED)

125 CONTINUED:

125

LYNN

That was really stupid.

NORAH

I think I broke my hand.

LYNN

Really?

Lynn leans close with real concern.

NORAH

No. But it hurts like a mother.

Lynn pops the top on the remaining beer and takes a huge gulp before handing it to Norah.

126 EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - SIDEWALK - NIGHT 126

Oscar walks down the sidewalk alone. His flashlight provides small circle of light on the cement in front of him.

127 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 127

Rose stands in her T-shirt and undies. Mac shuts the door. Rose leans her head against the door and exhales deeply. She turns as if something is calling her.

128 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 128

Rose stands on tip toes and feels around on top of the refrigerator until she finds what she's looking for... emergency cigarettes.

129 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 129

Rose sits down on the couch and lights her cigarette. The nicotine patch is still clearly visible on her arm.

Rose looks at the stack of unopened mail. Something grabs her attention. An envelope bearing the return address of Paula Datzman-Mead. Rose rips opens the envelope.

Rose stares at an invitation to Paula's baby shower. A smile creeps across her face.

The front door opens and Oscar walks in.

(CONTINUED)

129

CONTINUED:

129

ROSE

Oscar?

Brow furrowed, he walks past Rose without acknowledging her. He goes straight to his room and shuts the door.

130

INT. NORAH'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

130

A bottle of wine sits empty on a box next to two nearly empty Styrofoam cups.

LYNN

How's the hand?

Norah shakes the last few drops from her cup and starts gnawing on the side. Lynn takes Norah's hand and examines it.

NORAH

Ow!

LYNN

Sorry.

Lynn draws Norah's hand close to her lips. Smiles. Looks at Norah. Norah's a deer in headlights. Lynn kisses Norah's hand. Everything is still and tense.

LYNN

Better?

Norah stares at her recently kissed hand and nods. She looks up to Lynn. Lynn kisses Norah lightly on the lips. A tester kiss. Then again. Softly. Norah doesn't move, eyes locked on Lynn. All is good.

Norah leans in and kisses Lynn's neck. Lynn's eyes are closed enjoying the moment.

Lynn opens her eyes. The school photos of Lynn sit directly across from her on the shelf. Lynn stares at the pictures. Waves of recognition and confusion register in her eyes.

Norah kisses Lynn's neck oblivious.

LYNN

Is that?

Lynn pulls away.

LYNN

Are those...

(CONTINUED)

Lynn tries to suss it out, shakes her head, looks at Norah.

LYNN

How do you have my school pictures?

NORAH

I just... I found them. I was gonna tell you.

Lynn shakes her head disbelieving.

LYNN

Where would you find old pictures of me?

NORAH

At work.

LYNN

What?

NORAH

We did this job a while back. This woman...

Lynn scans the other trinkets arranged neatly on the shelf. Her eyes focus on the photo ID. Her mother. Her face goes completely blank. Shock.

LYNN

My mom.

Norah bites her lip and nods.

LYNN

My mom is dead.

A hazy mix of shame, sadness and guilt seeps into the void.

NORAH

I wanted to tell you... that first day. That's why I--

LYNN

You knew this whole time?

NORAH

I think... You know, I think there's a reason that I found them. The pictures. Because that lead me to you, right?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

130 CONTINUED: (2)

130

NORAH (cont'd)

And I don't know exactly what went on between you and your mom... what the situation was... but it just seems like... You know, of anybody, I would understand.

Lynn's hazy emotional mix has hardened into something sharp. Anger. She looks at Norah with disgust.

LYNN

You would understand?

Lynn turns to leave.

NORAH

Wait. Please. Don't...I--

Lynn opens the door. Norah reaches out but Lynn stops her with an icy look.

LYNN

You're sick, you know that? There's something wrong with you.

Lynn shuts the door and it feels like a slap.

Norah sinks down onto the couch. Just Norah now. The emptiness crowds around her.

131 EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - ONE WEEK LATER - DAY

131

The afternoon sun beats against the weathered paint.

132 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

132

The baby shower invitation looms large on the makeup table.

Rose wears a slip and unusually big hair. She grabs several outfits from her closet. Oscar watches.

ROSE

The blue or the flowery?

OSCAR

The blue.

ROSE

Good call.

Rose slips on the dress and sits to apply mascara. Oscar shuffles out of the bedroom.

(CONTINUED)

Rose's cell phone rings. She picks up the phone while applying lipstick.

ROSE
Sunshine Cleaning.

INSURANCE GUY
(over phone)
Hello, this is Henry Schmidt at
State Farm.

ROSE
State Farm?
(pause)
State Farm! Yes. Hello.

INSURANCE GUY
(over phone)
I spoke with you about a month ago.

ROSE
Yes! Hi. What can I do for you?

INSURANCE GUY
(over phone)
We've got a house we need to turn
around and our regular guys are
busy in Santa Fe today. Thought I'd
give you all a call.

Rose knocks over a bottle of nail polish remover as she grabs a pen and writes down the info.

ROSE
Great. No problem.

Rose hangs up.

ROSE
Shit, shit, shit.

Rose pulls on some panty hose and wrestles with her shoes.

ROSE
Honey, call grampa.

Oscar dials.

OSCAR
It's busy.

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED: (2) 132

Rose grabs her purse. Rose and Oscar rush out. A baby shower gift sits forgotten by the door.

133 INT. NORAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON 133

Norah cradles a phone to her ear and shoves clothes from a box into an old dresser.

NORAH
Blow off the shower.

133A INT. VAN - AFTERNOON 133A

Rose drives the van and talks on her cell phone. Oscar looks tiny in the passenger seat.

ROSE
I can't I... I RSVPed.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

NORAH
So tell him we can't do it.

ROSE
It's an insurance company. They could throw us a ton of work. This is our in.

NORAH
So, don't go to the damn baby shower. It's not like you ever even liked Paula.

ROSE
I promise I'll come straight after the shower and help finish up.

134 EXT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - DAY 134

Rose and Oscar walk up to the house. Rose tries the door but it's locked. She knocks. No answer. An uneasy tension shoots through her.

She fumbles for her keys to unlock the door and is hit with a horrible familiar smell. Oscar pinches his nose.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR
Pee-ew.

ROSE
Stay out here.

OSCAR
Why do I--

134 CONTINUED: (2)

134

ROSE
(too sternly)
Because I said so.

Angry, Oscar sits down on the steps.

135 INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

135

The phone next to Joe's Lazy Boy is off the hook.

ROSE
Dad!

Rose walks briskly through the house. Urgency mounts with each step.

ROSE
Dad! Daddy!

Rose throws the bathroom door open in a panic.

136 INT. LORKOWSKI HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

136

Joe scoops rotten shrimp from the bathtub with an empty fancy corn canister and dumps them into a garbage can.

Rose recoils at the intense smell.

JOE
I'm busy here.

He tries to swing the door shut but Rose stops it. Steps in.

ROSE
Damn it dad, you scared me.

Sweat drips down Joe's face. He continues his labor and avoids looking at Rose.

JOE
Those snotty restaurant fucks
wouldn't buy my shrimp. Some
bullshit about health codes or
whatever. I don't believe that shit
for a second.

ROSE
God, dad what were you--

He holds up a finger.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

Don't. Don't start with me.

(Pause)

Bastards completely shut me out.
They got their own little cartel.
Little restaurant mafia. I bet they
screwed with my car too. I wouldn't
put it past 'em. Bunch of shady
mother fuckers.

Rose leans against the door and watches her father. A wet
slap punctuates each new deposit into the garbage.

ROSE

I need you to watch Oscar.

Another load of slimy shrimp smacks the garbage.

JOE

I can't.

ROSE

What do you mean you can't?

JOE

I can't watch Oscar today Rose.

ROSE

I'm in a real bind here.

JOE

Yeah, well it's hard, isn't it?
Raising a kid on your own. Try two.

137 EXT. CLEANING SUPPLY STORE - DAY

137

Rose and Oscar get out of the Sentra and march toward the
store.

138 INT. CLEANING SUPPLY STORE - DAY

138

Winston sees Rose and Oscar through the window and returns
his attention to the model plane before him.

Rose and Oscar enter.

WINSTON

You look nice.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE

Thanks.

Winston finishes gluing the piece and looks up.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE

I was wondering if Oscar could hang out here for a little while.

Winston looks nervous. He looks at Oscar.

ROSE

I've got this baby shower to go to and Norah's working a job and my dad's incapacitated... Do you mind?

WINSTON

I guess not.

ROSE

You're a lifesaver.

WINSTON

You did your hair different.

ROSE

You like it?

Winston nods.

ROSE

All right. Be good. I'll pick him up in a few hours when I'm done.

Rose leaves. Oscar and Winston are left on their own. Winston forces a smile. Oscar does not reciprocate. Winston turns and walks to the back room.

Winston glues a tiny piece to the model plane. Oscar inches his way over.

OSCAR

What's that?

WINSTON

This is a World War Two Mitchell Cannon Nose Bomber.

Oscar leans in closer to examine all the tiny pieces.

OSCAR

You make all these models?

Winston nods and points to a teeny plastic strut.

(CONTINUED)

139 CONTINUED:

139

WINSTON

Dab the end of that in the glue.
Just a little bit.

Oscar carefully dabs the plastic piece in the puddle of glue and hands it to Winston.

OSCAR

What's that piece for?

WINSTON

It's a strut.

With delicate precision, Winston attaches the piece.

OSCAR

What's a strut?

WINSTON

Supports the wing.

Oscar examines one of the many completed models.

OSCAR

Seems like it'd be hard to build
models with just one hand.

WINSTON

It is.

- 140 EXT. ISOLATED ROAD - AFTERNOON 140
Norah drives the van down a desert road.
- 140A EXT. DATZMAN-MEAD DRIVEWAY - AFTERNOON 140A
Rose pulls the Nissan in. She checks her lipstick in the rearview mirror before getting out and heading to the door.
- 141 EXT. LAUGHING BUDDHA HOUSE - AFTERNOON 141
Norah pulls supplies from the van and lugs them to the house.
- 142 INT. LAUGHING BUDDHA HOUSE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON 142
Norah grabs a bottle of OJ from the fridge, checks the expiration and takes a slug. Cat bowls sit in the corner.

(CONTINUED)

142 CONTINUED:

142

Norah examines a snapshot on the fridge. A chubby middle-aged woman surrounded by cats. The woman is bald and smiling.

Norah spots some incense. She holds a stick to her nose.

143 INT. LAUGHING BUDDHA HOUSE - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

143

Norah lights the incense stick and sets it on the dresser next to a little statue of the laughing Buddha. A collection of cat whiskers sits in the Buddha's lap.

Evidence of death soils the bed. Books crowd the night stand. Living with Breast Cancer, Foods That Fight Cancer, and Coming to Terms With Death.

(CONTINUED)

143 CONTINUED:

143

Norah rolls out plastic sheeting and prepares the room.

144 INT. DATZMAN-MEAD HOUSE - GREAT ROOM - AFTERNOON

144

The room titters with wannabe country clubbers. They nibble appetizers around a pastel tower of gifts.

Rose lifts a cheese puff to her mouth. She's flanked by Paula and a MOUSEY WOMAN in a pink dress and matching pink pumps.

MOUSEY

So Rose, what are you doing? Are you still cleaning houses?

PAULA

Rose has gone into real estate.

MOUSEY

Really?

ROSE

Actually, I own my own business.

MOUSEY

A real estate business?

ROSE

No. It's a biohazard removal and crime scene clean up service. It's a growth niche industry right now - highly technical and competitive.

MOUSEY

What does that mean - biohazard removal whatever?

ROSE

A lot of times, when somebody dies, it can be kind of, you know, messy. So, we go in and clean up all that left over mess. Make sure that the area is clean and sanitary.

Paula and Mousy exchange a glance infused with disgust.

ROSE

People just don't understand the health and safety risks involved in disposing of biological material like blood and body fluids.

(CONTINUED)

PAULA

Oh my God.

ROSE

Course, we have a whole arsenal of disinfectants and um... professional techniques. Like I said, it's a highly technical and professional operation with a whole complicated, you know... methodology behind it.

Pleased with herself, Rose grabs another cheese puff.

ROSE

Real growth industry.

MOUSEY

I can't imagine. You like doing it?

ROSE

Yeah.

Rose stops. She hadn't thought about whether she liked it.

ROSE

I do. We come into the lives of people who have just experienced something so sad and profound. They've lost somebody. The circumstances are different but that's the same.

As Rose talks, her whole demeanor changes. Relaxes. That brittle, self conscious edge dissipates.

ROSE

And we help them. In this one small way... we help.

Rose is lost in her thoughts. Something profound is shifting.

MOUSEY

Sounds horrible to me.

PAULA

I believe I'd vomit.

Norah stuffs bedding in biohazard bags and wraps the mattress in plastic sheeting. A fan clanks at the window.

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED:

145

Norah struggles to get the wrapped mattress through the door. It tips and Norah bangs her hand against the door frame.

NORAH

Shit.

The incense falls from the dresser. Norah finally muscles the mattress through the doorway.

146 EXT. LAUGHING BUDDHA HOUSE - AFTERNOON

146

Norah drags the mattress to the driveway. A wisp of smoke curls from the window behind her.

As Norah rubs her injured hand, she hears the teeniest MEOW rise from the bushes. She investigates.

A little orange fluff ball at the base of some box hedges looks up with big startled eyes. Norah smiles.

NORAH

Oh my God, you're the cutest thing ever. Did you get left behind?

The kitten answers with a pitiful raspy sound that passes for a meow. Norah is powerless to resist.

NORAH

It's okay.

As Norah leans down to pick up the kitten, it darts from the bushes and heads toward the road.

NORAH

No, no, no.

Norah chases the frightened kitty across the street and disappears behind a house.

After a moment, Norah emerges from behind the house. She coos at the small kitten cradled in her arms, then looks up. An expression of horror and disbelief sweep over her.

Norah runs toward the house.

147 INT. DATZMAN-MEAD HOUSE - GREAT ROOM - AFTERNOON

147

A PEPPY WOMAN with the enthusiasm of a game show contestant stands on a stool and waves her arms.

(CONTINUED)

147 CONTINUED:

147

PEPPY

Okay, ladies. For our first game we've taken five different kinds of candy bars and melted them in these diapers.

MOUSEY

Oh I love this game.

PEPPY

You all can--

Somewhere a cell phone rings. The peppy woman stops and looks at Rose. Rose digs into her purse and pulls out the offending phone. She checks caller ID. It's Norah. She cuts it off.

ROSE

Sorry.

Rose forces a smile at Peppy who motions for someone to start distributing the diapers.

PEPPY

You can look, smell and taste. The first to identify all five correctly wins!

148 INT. LAUGHING BUDDHA HOUSE - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

148

Flames shoot up around the dresser and gobble a curtain. Norah slaps a towel at the flames with one hand and holds a phone with the other.

ROSE

(over the phone)

Hello, you've reached Sunshine Cleaning. Your call is very important to us so...

NORAH

FUCK!

Norah snaps the phone shut and continues slapping back the flames.

149 INT. DATZMAN-MEAD HOUSE - GREAT ROOM - AFTERNOON

149

Rose watches with a detached expression as Floral clad women stick their noses in the brown goo of the diapers.

(CONTINUED)

149 CONTINUED:

149

It hits Rose that she does not belong here. And for the first time, she does not want to belong here. She turns to Paula.

ROSE

You know what? I... uh...Actually,
there's somewhere I need to be.

PAULA

Oh nooo! You can't leave now. We're
just starting the games.

ROSE

Yeah. Well...
(smiles and nods)
Yeah.

Rose stands and weaves her way through the throng of Stepford moms. Relief sweeps across her face as she nears the door.

150 INT. ROSE'S CAR - EVENING

150

Rose drives as the sun sinks into the desert landscape.

151 EXT. LAUGHING BUDDHA HOUSE - NIGHT

151

Rose pulls up near the fire trucks and still smoldering house. Rose steps from the car with an expression of horror.

Fear grips her as she scans the area for her sister. Then she sees Norah, sitting in the van across the street. Headphones on. Kitten curled up in her lap.

Rose marches over but Norah doesn't notice her until she raps on the window. Norah pulls off her headphones, opens the door and slides out of the van.

NORAH

It was an accident.

Rose's mouth slackens as her mind stumbles over the probable consequences of the scene before her.

ROSE

Oh my God, what have you done?

NORAH

It was an accident.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE

How does this happen? Huh? How do you burn down a house, Norah? Jesus fucking Christ!

NORAH

Jesus Rose, Calm down.

Rose throws her keys at Norah.

Norah turns to shield the kitten. The keys thump her arm. Norah eyes her sister. So that's how it's gonna be.

NORAH

Well, if you had been here to help me but no, you're off desperately trying to impress stupid high school people who don't even matter. Prove to your old cheerleading squad that you're not this huge loser. If you had been here doing your job it wouldn't have happened. So don't try to put all this on me.

Norah's denial of responsibility knocks the wind from Rose.

ROSE

This *is* on you. You did this. You set a fucking house on fire! *You*.

NORAH

Oh, go ahead and play the martyr. It's like your favorite thing.

ROSE

I can't believe I was so stupid to think that you could handle a little bit of responsibility.

NORAH

I am so sick of all your holier than thou bullshit. Why don't you take a look at you're own life, huh? You're a real inspiration.

ROSE

Well maybe if I didn't have to take care of everybody in this family.

(CONTINUED)

151 CONTINUED: (2)

151

NORAH

Fuck you. I'm done being your
excuse.

Norah, filthy with soot, turns and walks away from Rose, the
fire and everything. The kitten clings to her shirt.

ROSE

Oh that's great. Turn everything to
shit and then walk away.

Without turning or breaking her stride, Norah flips off Rose.

Rose leans down and picks up her keys, then turns and watches
the firemen hose down the house.

152 EXT. CLEANING SUPPLY STORE - NIGHT

152

Rose, looking worse for wear, tries to open the door but the
store is closed and the door is locked.

ROSE

Great.

She bangs on the glass doors.

153 INT. CLEANING SUPPLY STORE - NIGHT

153

Winston walks from the back room and opens the door.

WINSTON

Long baby shower.

ROSE

I'm sorry, I... everything's
horrible.

Rose is about to break.

WINSTON

Oscar's asleep in back.

ROSE

Norah's ruined everything. She
burnt down a house. A client's
house.

(CONTINUED)

WINSTON

Yeah.

ROSE

You know?

WINSTON

Carl told me.

ROSE

How does he...?

Realization slaps.

ROSE

That's just great. We burnt down a client's house. How do you get around that?

WINSTON

Insurance?

Rose shrugs.

ROSE

I figured we'd wait and get the better rate once I got certified.

WINSTON

Didn't you go to that?

Rose doesn't respond. She slowly blinks and lets her new reality ooze over her.

ROSE

There's not a lot I'm really good at, you know.

Winston looks at Rose.

(CONTINUED)

153 CONTINUED: (2)

153

ROSE

Really. I'm good at getting guys to want me. Not date or marry me. But want me. I've always been good at that.

Winston looks away.

ROSE

And cheering. I was pretty good at that too.

WINSTON

Cheering is good.

ROSE

Yeah. Not as marketable as you'd think.

Winston smiles.

154 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

154

Smoke slinks from a cigarette on the makeshift ashtray.

Rose looks up to see Oscar in his PJs, one arm tucked in his shirt, the sleeve dangling empty. Rose musters a smile.

ROSE

You brush your teeth?

Oscar nods, kisses her good night. Rose watches him walk to his room and takes a drag from her cigarette.

There's a knock at the door.

155 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

155

Rose looks through the peep hole and sees Mac fidgeting outside. She takes a step from the door and freezes.

Mac knocks again.

156 EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

156

Mac looks at the unresponsive door with irritation. He shifts his weight and jangles some change in his pocket.

157 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

157

Rose leans against the wall with eyes closed.

MAC (O.S.)

Rose?

She takes a breath, opens her eyes, then opens the door.

MAC

Hey beautiful.

Mac smiles for the both of them.

MAC

I was starting to think you were on
a date or something.

Rose looks at him like he's speaking a foreign language.

MAC

You okay?

Rose nods.

ROSE

Long day.

MAC

Can I come in?

ROSE

It's not really a good time.

Mac sags a bit. Then rallies. Flexes an eyebrow.

MAC

I got you something.

Mac pulls a small gold box from his pocket and presents it to Rose. The top is engraved with her initials.

MAC

It's for your business cards. You
put 'em in there and, I don't
know... impress people.

He laughs at the silliness of the whole concept.

ROSE

It's beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

Rose stares at the small shiny box. It seems to make her sad.

MAC
You don't like it?

ROSE
No, I like it very much.

Rose looks up and Mac senses something bad is coming his way.

ROSE
It's just this thing we're doing.

MAC
Come on, let's not do that.

But Rose is resolute. She looks Mac in the eye.

ROSE
I don't want this anymore.

Disbelief gives way to the unpleasant understanding.

MAC
So that's it?

Rose gives an almost imperceptible nod. Mac tries hard to ignore the rising slurry of hurt and anger.

MAC
That's it then.

Mac hesitates, hoping for a last minute reprieve. Finally, he nods and Rose watches him walk away.

158 INT. ALBUQUERQUE BLOOD SERVICES - ONE WEEK LATER - DAY 158

Norah steps off the elevator. People in white coats walk past her, bump into her. Norah spots Lynn.

Lynn sees Norah and looks away.

GUY IN WHITE COAT (O.S.)
Is this your first time donating?

Norah turns to the GUY IN THE WHITE COAT addressing her. He holds a clipboard.

NORAH
No.

(CONTINUED)

GUY IN WHITE COAT

Can I get your name?

NORAH

I need to talk to Lynn.

Lynn approaches.

LYNN

She can't donate. You can't donate.

She points to a sign indicating how often people can donate.

LYNN

Forty-eight days. It's not been
forty-eight days.

NORAH

Why are you acting like this? Why
haven't you called me back.

LYNN

Listen, I just, don't think you're
the kind of person I need to be
hanging out with right now.

NORAH

What's that supposed to mean?

LYNN

Do I really need to spell it out?

Norah stands stunned. Sad. Blank. She pulls the packet of
photos out of her bag and holds them out to Lynn.

NORAH

Here.

Lynn takes the packet. As she walks back to the reclining
blood donors she tosses the photos in a trash can.

A smiling Korean woman gives Norah a cup of juice and puts an
'I gave blood today' sticker on her chest.

Joe sits on a bench near the pond with his feet propped up on
a canister of Fancy Corn. He reaches into the open canister
next to him and pulls out a handful of gourmet corn.

(CONTINUED)

A few pieces land in his mouth, the remainder he tosses to a flotilla of ducks. Joe smiles as the greedy little bastards squabble over his offering.

160 EXT. CLEANING SUPPLY STORE - DAY 160

Rose and Oscar struggle to unload the super wet-vac from the van. Other equipment litters pavement around the van.

Winston records serial numbers onto a clipboard.

WINSTON

I'm sure I can turn this stuff
around pretty quick.

ROSE

Thanks. For everything.

OSCAR

Are you coming to my party?

Awkward moment. Rose looks from Oscar to Winston.

ROSE

We're going to Hinkle's Saturday
for Oscar's birthday. It'd be great
if you came.

WINSTON

Sounds like a blast.

Rose smiles at the sincere enthusiasm in Winston's voice.

161 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT 161

Rose steps out of the shower and wraps her hair in a towel. As she walks past the mirror she plucks off the affirmation note and tosses it in the trash.

162 INT. HINKLE'S RESTAURANT - A FEW DAYS LATER - DAY 162

Rose, Oscar, Joe and Winston sit in a carnival like restaurant. Oscar opens a gift in the shape of a binocular case. He beams with anticipation.

Oscar snaps open the case and pulls out the old familiar pair of binoculars. Rose looks disappointed. Oscar looks confused.

JOE

That other pair we looked at, full
of gadgets and gimmicks.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOE (cont'd)

They just didn't have the heft you want in a pair of lenses. No weight. No history.

Oscar nods. Joe points to the old binoculars.

JOE

These here are the real deal. I want you to have them.

Oscar smiles. Rose shakes her head. It's not like she didn't see this coming. But still.

ROSE

Dad, you promised him those others. From the store. He's been talking about it for weeks.

Joe looks at Rose with new found confidence.

JOE

No Rose, I want to him to have these.

Winston eyes the binoculars.

WINSTON

Wow, is that an old Zeiss?

Joe nods.

WINSTON

Porro prism?

Joe nods full of pride.

JOE

Eight by thirty Jenoptems. No marks on the objectives. Perfect bloom.

Winston looks at Oscar.

WINSTON

You got yourself some classic binoculars there.

Norah walks in.

NORAH

Sorry I'm late.

Norah noogies Oscar and drops a gift in front of him.

(CONTINUED)

162 CONTINUED: (2)

162

NORAH
(to Winston)
Hey.

Norah kisses Joe on the cheek and ignores Rose. Rose gets up.

JOE
Where are you going?

Rose walks to the bathroom.

163 INT. HINKLE'S RESTAURANT - LADIES ROOM - DAY

163

Rose splashes water on her face. Norah walks in and leans against the counter. Rose makes no sign of acknowledgement.

Norah grabs some paper towel and holds it out for her sister.

NORAH
Winston cleans up pretty good.

(CONTINUED)

Rose isn't biting. She doesn't even look at Norah. She leans past Norah and gets her own paper towel. Norah tries again.

NORAH

I read somewhere that beauty is really all about symmetry. Like having eyes the same size and all that.

(pause)

So, you know, when you factor that in he's like, hot.

Rose won't play. She dabs her face and ignores Norah. Norah walks to the door, starts to leave, then turns around.

NORAH

Listen, I know I fucked up, okay? Like really huge and I know that and I'm sorry, okay?

It's a bullshit apology. More defensive than sincere. Just the thing that pushes Rose's buttons.

ROSE

God, that drives me crazy! That whole 'Oh, I'm sorry, I'm just a big fuck up' routine. Like that's a legitimate excuse.

Norah's defensiveness loosens its grip. She steps towards Rose. This is hard for her. Sincerity is not her strong suit.

NORAH

I really am sorry. But it really isn't all my fault, Rose.

ROSE

I think there's something wrong with you. The way your brain works. I mean, what the hell? It's like you can't be trusted with anything. You just screw around all the time like it's all a big fucking game. It wasn't a game, Norah. We're not all just here for your amusement. You should have been paying attention. You should have been focused on the job.

Rose finally hears herself. It's all the same old stuff. She grinds to a stop. She knows it wasn't all Norah's fault.

(CONTINUED)

NORAH
You finished?

(CONTINUED)

163 CONTINUED: (3)

163

ROSE

I know. I should have been there.

NORAH

What are you going to do now?

ROSE

I got some ideas. I was thinking maybe we could--

Norah shakes her head.

NORAH

I've got my own ideas.

Rose nods. As they exit, she turns to Norah.

ROSE

So, you really think he's hot?

NORAH

Winston? No.

164 INT. HINKLE'S RESTAURANT - DAY

164

Rose and Norah return from the bathroom. Joe eyeballs the girls in silent appraisal of the situation. Seems okay.

NORAH

You gonna open my present?

Oscar opens the package of fake tattoos.

OSCAR

Cool.

NORAH

The guy said that if you're careful they'll last a whole month. And these aren't stupid kiddie unicorns and shit. They're all based on classic biker designs.

Oscar picks up one of the tattoos.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR

Cool.

ROSE

What's that say?

NORAH

Li'l bastard.

Rose looks at Norah.

ROSE

Cool.

Oscar slips his arm out of his sleeve and inside his shirt and stares at Winston admiringly. Rose whispers in Oscar's ear and he pulls his arm back into his sleeve.

NORAH

I'm thinking of taking a road trip.

JOE

Where?

Shrug.

ROSE

How?

NORAH

Haven't worked it all out yet. I was thinking I could maybe take the van.

Rose shakes her head.

ROSE

I'm selling the van.

JOE

Don't sell the van.

ROSE

Have to. Can't afford the payment.

JOE

No, listen... just don't sell the van.

Rose forces a smile and examines her pizza. She can't watch her father cling to another impotent dream.

(CONTINUED)

164 CONTINUED: (2)

164

JOE

Just don't sell the van yet. Okay?

Oscar slowly retracts his arm again. With his remaining arm he lifts the binoculars to his face.

JOE

Rose tells me you make models.

WINSTON

Yeah.

JOE

Any money in that?

WINSTON

Not really.

The wait staff begins to sing a birthday song.

165 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - OSCAR'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

165

Rose quietly kisses Oscar's forehead and pulls up the covers. She turns and steals another look before shutting the door.

166 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

166

Rose sizes up her stack of unopened bills. She opens one, sighs, sets it aside. She moves on to the next one.

The TV flickers blue light into the room. Rose stops and looks at the TV.

167 INT. NORAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

167

The phone wakes Norah. She fumbles for the receiver.

NORAH

What?

ROSE

(over the phone)

Turn your TV on. Channel sixty-five.

Norah clicks on the TV and watches slack-jawed as a WAITRESS hands menus to two hard nosed detectives. One of the TV DETECITVES looks up and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

167 CONTINUED:

167

TV DETECTIVE

What's good?

TV WAITRESS/MOTHER

I recommend the pecan pie.

Norah focuses on the flicker light of the TV.

168 INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

168

As if in a dream Rose watches the image of her mother disappear off screen. She smiles.

169 EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

169

Rose walks toward the van with a trash bag that swishes with each step. She takes one last look, then peels the Sunshine Cleaning door magnet off and drops it into the trash bag.

She crawls into the front seat and tosses empty pop cans and candy bar wrappers into the trash bag. A faint sound nags at her. She looks up to see the CB on.

Soft white static fills the van. Rose sits a long moment before taking the handset.

ROSE

Hello? Mom?

Rose stops and looks around self-consciously before resuming.

ROSE

Oscar turned eight today. We had this whole big thing at Hinkle's. Winston came. After dinner Oscar and Norah got a high score on Centipede and put in ASS as their initials and got in trouble by the manager.

(Pause)

I don't know if you're in heaven or what. But you're not here and that's too bad for you 'cuz you've missed out. You've missed out on some really great stuff.

170 EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - TWO MONTHS LATER - DAY

170

Rose pulls up in her Sentra. The Molly Maid magnet is back on the door and she's in her Molly Maid uniform. She gets out and sees Joe sitting on the steps to her house.

ROSE

Dad?

JOE

There's something I wanted to talk to you about.

Rose pulls a vacuum cleaner from her car.

ROSE

Okay.

JOE

Well, I was wondering if I could move in with you and Oscar.

ROSE

What?

JOE

Just temporarily - until I find a place.

ROSE

You lost the house. Oh my god, you lost the house. Dad how could you lose the house?

JOE

I didn't lose the house. I sold the house. There's this business opportunity--

ROSE

Not shrimp I hope.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

It's not just some get rich quick scheme. And I got a partner who has experience. I'd learn from her.

Rose's edge softens slightly. She's listening now. Joe points to where the newly painted Econo van is parked.

In bold cursive: LORKOWSKI CLEANING. Underneath in smaller letters: SPECIALIZING IN BIOHAZARD REMOVAL SINCE 1963.

ROSE

Nineteen sixty-three?

JOE

Don't make a big deal out of it.

ROSE

Dad.

JOE

It's a business lie, not a real lie.

ROSE

I can live with that.

JOE

And you'd be the boss.

ROSE

Thank you.

With windows down, Norah drives across an open landscape. She glances at a wind battered map. A highlighted route cuts across the country. Destination - California.

Norah bobs her head to the radio, sucks on a slurpee. She holds her arm out the window and lets her hand surf the wind.

Oscar, in a Catholic school uniform, holds binoculars to his face. He watches a scrawny girl across the school yard.

173 CONTINUED:

173

The girl ties a strand of hair to her pigtail then loops the invisible strand over a pencil. She glances over to Oscar. Oscar doesn't flinch.

With school girl slight of hand, the pigtail rises and falls. It is a magical, flirtatious pigtail greeting.

Oscar lowers the binoculars and pulls his sleeve up to reveal the Lil' Bastard tattoo. The girl smiles. Oscar smiles.

174 INT. GORILLA FOUNDATION - ONE MONTH LATER - DAY

174

Norah walks down a corridor. The kitten clings to her. She turns the corner and walks through a set of doors to what looks to be a play room.

Blocks and brightly colored plastic toys litter the ground. Sitting in the middle of the play area is an enormous black gorilla. KOKO. She turns her massive head and looks at Norah.

KOKO

(captions)

I have a tooth ache.

KoKo responds with thick hands.

NORAH

(captions)

Me too.

Norah smiles.

175 EXT. ALBUQUERQUE - DAY

175

The Lorkowski Cleaning van merges on the freeway interchange and spirals up the tangle of rust and turquoise ramps.

FADE OUT.