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Television Pilot

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TEASER

EXT. KINGFISHER, OKLAHOMA - DAY BREAK

The town is just waking up as the sun BREAKS the horizon and lights up the Kingfisher WATER TOWER.

An early morning train pulls through town in front of the COOP grain elevator on it's way to transport railcars loaded with wheat.

EXT. MAIN ST. - CONTINUOUS

SHOPS and businesses like Snavelly Insurance, all dark except for one, the City Cafe' next door.

On a corner of Main and Elm streets sits the CHISHOLM TRAIL BAPTIST CHURCH. The marquee in front reads, *"The power position is on your knees."*

EXT. LILLIAN'S B&B - MORNING

There is literally a rooster across the street CROWING. It's waking up the guests staying at Miss Lillian's Bed and Breakfast. A large two story late nineteenth century house with a mix of Victorian and Prairie charm. A WHITE PICKET FENCE surrounds the yard.

The paperboy, TREVOR (12) rides by in SHORTS and a HOODIE. He rides down the street tossing newspapers in yards strategically placing them in awkward places. Roofs, under a bush, it's a gift that he's proud to use.

The LIGHTS on the porch turn off and SUZANNE RAYBURN (35), once a local girl filled with vim and vinegar, steps on to the porch. She still keeps her cheerleader figure from high school. However, this morning her shoulders and eyes droop from exhaustion. Rubbing her face to wake herself up, she stands in her jeans and polo shirt with the inn's logo.

Trevor tosses a newspaper. It travels high in the air and lands in a birdbath with a SPLASH.

SUZANNE

(yelling)

Nice shot, Trevor. At least put it in plastic. You little shhh--

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

SIZZLE, a handful of frozen hash browns lands in a pan on the stove. The kitchen, large with the standard appliances and a small eating table in the center of the room pulling double duty for eating and prepping.

MIKE RAYBURN (36), a California boy with looks and a smart liberal mind, washes strawberries in the sink while he watches Suzanne from the kitchen window.

EXT. PORCH

Suzanne lays the pages of the newspaper on the bannister to dry. She holds up the front page, the DATE: MAY 23, 2009.

On the page a lead article reads, "LOCAL TALENT, DICK AND THE DERBY BOYS, TO PERFORM AT PIONEER DAYS."

SUZANNE

(to herself)

Daddy, good for you. At least you're having a good day.

INT. KITCHEN

Mike cuts strawberries on a cutting board. He combines them with the other fruit already in the bowl.

Suzanne enters and takes a seat at the table. She lays her head down on the table. Mike notices.

MIKE

Did I hear Kingfisher's little darling curse at Trevor?

SUZANNE

Leave me alone.

MIKE

Where was the newspaper today?

SUZANNE

Trevor made it in the birdbath.

MIKE

He's been trying for weeks.  
(proud)  
Good for him.

Mike opens the upper oven and checks the quiche.

SUZANNE

At least there's one person you can be proud of this morning.

MIKE

Don't beat yourself up. We'll just have to make the bed and breakfast go the old fashioned way.

SUZANNE

Ugh! At least we can say we tried.

Still defeated, Suzanne drops her head back down.

MIKE

That's my girl.

SUZANNE

When we discovered the house had been a brothel in 1880, it just made sense.

Mike pulls the quiche out of the oven and places it on a cooling rack.

MIKE

I'm not going to lie. This is going to hurt us. All our savings went into it. I'm also worried about--

SUZANNE

I know, Billy Rae, Christie, and Eddie. I'll have to break the news to them this morning.

MIKE

(laughing)  
What were we thinking?

Suzanne gives Mike a "too soon" look.

SUZANNE

We weren't thinking. A cyber brothel in the middle of Kingfisher, Oklahoma? That goes against my core. I was raised better than that.

MIKE

I'm just glad it's over before your parents found out.

Mike opens the lower oven and pulls out the bacon.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
Bacon's done.

SUZANNE  
My mother would have had another  
heart attack.

Mike sets the bacon down on a hot pad. He faces Suzanne.

MIKE  
Come over here.

Suzanne goes to Mike and lays her head on his chest.

SUZANNE  
We could always sell...

MIKE  
We could.

SUZANNE  
And move in with my parents.

MIKE  
We couldn't.

Suzanne pulls away. Gives him a glare.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
(recovering)  
Wherever you are, I am as well.  
Promise. I love you.

SUZANNE  
Thank you. I love you too!

MIKE  
Good, cause my bacon's getting  
cold.

Suzanne let's out an AARRGGG! Throws an oven mitt at him.

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Two large tables fill the massive room decorated in wallpaper and lace. Each table easily seats eight. The room is more than half empty.

A Couple in their 70's, WALTER and PAULINE sip their coffee. Pauline has cleaned her plate of quiche, bacon, and hash browns. Walter's plate still has most of his quiche left.

At the other table a couple in their 50's, LEONARD and LUCY have finished their breakfast. Leonard has the damp newspaper spread out on the table reading.

Suzanne enters through the swinging door.

SUZANNE

Can I get anyone anything else?

She grabs Walter and Pauline's plate.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Did you not like your eggs?

WALTER

Those were eggs?

PAULINE

Walter! Be nice. It was quiche...

(to Suzanne)

And it was wonderful.

SUZANNE

Thanks, Pauline.

WALTER

Don't see that around here. Brought this with you from California?

SUZANNE

(speaking French)

No, Walter. Ce'est francais.

Walter GRUMBLES. He's still not impressed.

PAULINE

When did you two come back here?

Mike enters. He grabs Leonard and Lucy's plates.

SUZANNE

About a year or so ago in late 2007. I was born and raised here in Kingfisher. Mike is from California. Where we met.

MIKE

We worked at a hi-tech business with lots of stock options, which we took advantage.

LUCY

Oh, that's nice?

MIKE

And then the market crashed last year and 2008 killed the dream.

LUCY

Oh, dear.

PAULINE

Does that mean you'll pack up and leave? We've come here once a month for the last five years. I would hate to break in new inn keepers.

Mike gives Suzanne a 'you take this one' look. He disappears behind the swinging door.

SUZANNE

We'll stay. My mother had triple bypass. I need to be here for her.

LUCY

I'm sure Leonard is on his way to one too. When that happens, I'm sure our son would come home.

Leonard HUFFS, rolls his eyes and turns a page of the paper.

PAULINE

I love what you've done to the place; a step up from prior years.

BILLY RAE JOHNSON (34), a chiseled Adonis and former high school all-star football quarterback, wears tight, and I mean tight, black slacks, no shirt and barefoot. His body glistens from the shower he just took. He runs his fingers through his wet hair to pull it out of his face.

LUCY

(sees Billy Rae)  
I see what you mean.

Suzanne, surprised, rushes and grabs Billy Rae's arm. She pulls him into the parlor.

INT. PARLOR

Billy Rae looks confused. Suzanne, one hand on her hip and the other over her mouth, can't seem to keep her eyes of his perfect abs.

BILLY RAE

You told me to come down for  
breakfast. I looked and I couldn't  
find my jeans and shirt.

SUZANNE

(realizing)

Oh, I'm sorry. I couldn't sleep  
last night so I washed them. I'll  
run downstairs to the basement and  
get them.

Suzanne runs out of the parlor.

INT. BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

An office and laundry room combined. Light pours in from the  
half sized basement windows. Suzanne shakes out dried jeans  
from the dryer and grabs a shirt on the folding table.

Something catches her eye. She moves to the window and sees a  
the lower half of a man walk up the path. She realizes who it  
is and rushes up the stairs.

SUZANNE

Oh, dear god. No!

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Billy Rae sits at the table with Lucy and Leonard. Lucy is  
beside herself acting like a school girl.

LUCY

You look just like my first beau,  
before this one came along.

Billy Rae, not sure how to take the compliment, looks at  
Leonard with a CHUCKLE. Leonard ignores Lucy and Billy Rae.  
He's purposely engrossed in the paper.

CROSS CUT TO:

EXT. LILIAN'S PLACE B&B - CONTINUOUS

RICHARD SNAVELY (63), one of the founding families of the  
community, wears a short sleeve dress shirt, tie, and pocket  
protector. He walks up on the porch.

INT. ENTRY WAY

Richard closes the front door behind him.

RICHARD  
Suzanne?

INT. KITCHEN

Suzanne bolts into the kitchen from the staircase.

Mike washes dishes, turns around as Suzanne runs through the swinging door to the dining room.

INT. DINING ROOM

Suzanne blasts through the door and stops at the sight of Richard looking at a half naked Billy Rae.

SUZANNE  
Good morning, daddy.

Suzanne hands the jeans and shirt to Billy Rae.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)  
Hear you go, Billy Rae.  
(pleading with her eyes to  
go along)  
I got all the dirt out from the  
landscaping you did for us...  
early, early this morning.

Billy Rae buttons up his shirt to the dismay of Lucy.

Richard offers a scrutinizing look as Suzanne nervously twists her hair around her finger.

CHRISTY CHAMBERS (25), African American, cute and wears short shorts and a tee-shirt.

Leonard looks up from his paper, eyes wide open. A KNOCK from under the table. Leonard grimaces from a kick he just received from a miffed Lucy.

RICHARD  
Christy? What are you doing here?

WALTER  
(to Richard)  
Good morning Dick. You off to work  
on a Saturday?

Walter pinches dip of SKOAL from a can and shoves it between his bottom lip and dentures.

RICHARD  
Leonard, Pauline, enjoy your stay?

WALTER  
(bulging bottom lip)  
Grinnin' like a possum eatin' a  
sweet tater.

PAULINE  
I'll say.

Mike returns to grab more dishes.

MIKE  
Richard.

Without stopping, Mike returns to the kitchen.

SUZANNE  
Daddy, would you like to come with  
me to the kitchen?

Richard doesn't move trying to figure out the scene.

PAULINE  
It's nice to have some young people  
around. We don't get out much.  
(to Christy)  
Honey, what's your name?

CHRISTY  
Christy Chambers.

PAULINE  
I thought I recognized you. How are  
you holding up?

EDDIE WEBSTER (30), attractive Music Minister with a flair  
sings as he walks in wearing make-up and a red silk robe.

EDDIE  
"Good Morning, Good Mooorning!"

Eddie sees Richard, SCREAMS like a girl and runs out.

LEONARD  
What the hell was that?

LUCY  
Things just got interesting.

Walter LAUGHS and SPITS in his coffee cup. Suzanne watches with muted disgust.

WALTER  
God, I love this place.

SMASH CUT TO:

TITLE SEQUENCE

END OF TEASER

ACT I

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Mike washes dishes in the sink. Suzanne and Richard sit at the table. His arms are crossed as he leans back.

RICHARD

Don't tell me that Billy Rae and Christy--

SUZANNE

Oh, daddy, of course not.

MIKE

(offended by the  
implication)  
And that would be a bad thing? How long has it been since her husband died in Iraq?

SUZANNE

Mike, not helping.  
(to Richard)  
Daddy, she's a hard working single mother who just needed a spa day.

RICHARD

Where is her son?

SUZANNE

He's staying with Christy's mother.

RICHARD

(pulls out his wallet)  
Paying for her room. Her husband was a war hero for god's sake.

SUZANNE

Put it away. We're not charging her. Thanks for the offer anyway.

Richard tucks his wallet back into his back pocket.

RICHARD

Now, we going to talk about the red silk robed elephant in the room?

SUZANNE

Just a guest.

Mike starts to plate three servings of breakfast. He gives a sympathetic look to Suzanne.

RICHARD

You can't pull the wool over my eyes. It was Eddie Webster. I would recognize that singing voice anywhere. Especially every Sunday.

Suzanne, caught, finds this one tougher to explain. Instead, she does what anyone else would do. Changes the subject.

SUZANNE

Speaking of singing, I saw the paper this morning. Congratulations. I'm proud of you.

MIKE

What did I miss?

SUZANNE

(to Mike)

Daddy's blue grass band, Dick and the Derby Boys, are performing during Pioneer Days.

MIKE

That's fantastic.

RICHARD

That's quite enough. You two stop changing the subject. You gonna tell me what's going on?

Mike picks up the three plates and heads out of the kitchen.

MIKE

Got to feed some people.

SUZANNE

(calling out to him as he exits)

Just abandon me.

RICHARD

Suzanne?

SUZANNE

You're right. It's Eddie Webster, music minister from church. One of the most devout Christians I know.

RICHARD

You know very few, but go on.

SUZANNE

It's not really my place, but on the other hand, I would say it's better coming from me.

INT. DINING ROOM

Mike enters and drops a plate in front of Billy Rae sitting next to Lucy. At Pauline and Walter's table, Mike gives plates to Christy and Eddie now with a cleanly washed face dressed in slacks and a button down shirt.

WALTER

(getting up)

Thanks for breakfast, Mike. Me and the misses are going upstairs to pack. I need to be home in time to watch the game.

MIKE

Game day in Stillwater. OSU, right?

WALTER

Go, Cowboys.

LUCY

I'm more of a Sooner fan.

WALTER

And on that note.

Pauline and Walter exit.

BILLY RAE

I'd rather be fishing.

LEONARD

Know any good fishing holes round here? I thought I'd cast a pole.

BILLY RAE

Bubba's Bait Shop. They keep a chalk board with a list of where they're biting.

LEONARD

Good tip, thanks. Lucy, you ready?

Leonard and Lucy exit.

EDDIE

Is Richard still here?

MIKE  
In the kitchen.

CHRISTY  
Suzanne mentioned she needs to talk  
with us?

MIKE  
I'll go get her.

Mike, loaded with dishes, returns to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mike enters and drops the dishes in the sink.

Richard, dazed and confused, gets up and walks to the back door. He stops with his hand on the doorknob.

RICHARD  
(without turning around)  
Does his wife know he likes to wear  
women's clothes?

SUZANNE  
Yes, but no one else knows.

RICHARD  
Let's keep it that way.

Richard exits.

MIKE  
You told him everything? About the  
cyber brothel?

SUZANNE  
You crazy? No, just about Eddie.

MIKE  
Pauline and Walter are upstairs  
packing. Lucy and Leonard are  
heading out. The employees are  
waiting to hear from you.

SUZANNE  
Oh, god. That's right. They were  
all counting on that money.

INT. BASEMENT - LATER

Suzanne and Mike sit at the desk with Christy and Eddie in chairs on the other side of the desk. Billy Rae sits on the table for folding linens. He leans against a stack of towels. They all look like their dog died.

SUZANNE

(placing her hand on a  
stack of papers)

The numbers don't lie. We just  
didn't get the hits and clicks we  
needed. Mike has your checks for  
last night. I hope it can help,  
even if a little.

Billy Rae jumps down off the table. He grabs an overnight bag  
and his check.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

You going?

BILLY RAE

(depressed)

My landscaping business ain't gonna  
run itself.

Billy Rae exits.

Mike hands out the other checks.

SUZANNE

Christy, I'm sorry.

CHRISTY

Back to the Supercenter. Can't  
believe I got up the nerve and now  
it's over.

EDDIE

(to Christy)

God bless. I'll be praying for you.

Christy gets up, hugs Eddie, Suzanne and Mike, then leaves.

SUZANNE

Eddie you're welcome here any time  
and wear whatever you want.

EDDIE

Thank you, darling. Back home to  
the wife. You know, she loves me  
even in a dress. I'll need her when  
Richard tells the church.

SUZANNE

Oh, he didn't recognize you. You're  
in the clear.

Eddie, big smile, raises his hands to the ceiling.

Mike gives Suzanne a confused look.

EDDIE

Praise the Lord. I was so worried.

SUZANNE

You be who you are in your own  
time. You're secret is safe.

Eddie hugs Suzanne and shakes Mike's hand.

EDDIE

Hope to see you tomorrow... It's  
Sunday church.

MIKE

Doubt it, but thanks anyway.

Eddie leaves.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I can't believe you lied to Eddie.

SUZANNE

Daddy won't say anything. Denial  
ain't just a river in Egypt. It's a  
way of life in this little town.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. BASEMENT - AFTERNOON

Suzanne folds sheets. Mike reviews papers at the desk.

SUZANNE

I called the committee for Pioneer Days. I told them we would host an open house next weekend.

Mike is engrossed in the spreadsheets.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Are you listening to me?

MIKE

(placating)  
Uh, huh.

SUZANNE

Tour the rooms, give the history of the house. Maybe costumes?

MIKE

Sure.

Mike still engrossed in spreadsheets.

SUZANNE

Your beating a dead horse. The numbers are right there. I don't care how many times you look at it, the brothel didn't work.

MIKE

(ignoring her)  
Yeah, could be fun.

SUZANNE

(frustrated, grabs sheets)  
Come on. We need to clean rooms.

INT. ROSE ROOM - LATER

Like a bouquet of red roses, the room is decorated with shades of red and a four poster bed carved to simulate stems.

Suzanne pulls the pillow cases off.

SUZANNE

After we finish I've got to go over  
and see mom.

Mike enters with a bottle of bathroom cleaning fluid.

MIKE

What number were you looking at  
that said we crashed and burned?

SUZANNE

(scolding)  
Mike.

MIKE (O.S.)

Humor me.

Mike returns to the bathroom.

SUZANNE

(big sigh)  
Number of hits and clicks were less  
than 20% of what they need to be.

FLUSH of the toilet in the bathroom.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Well said. I knew you would agree.

Suzanne throws the sheets back. She slowly pulls a pair of  
handcuffs from the bed and holds it up.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

(yelling)  
Mike?

Mike steps into the room wearing rubber gloves and holding a  
toilet brush.

MIKE

Wow. Huh, who was staying in here?

SUZANNE

They're like 100 years old.

Suzanne opens the drawer of one of the side tables.

MIKE

Pauline and Walter know how to  
party.

SUZANNE

Yes, they do.

Suzanne holds a feather and can of whipped cream.

MIKE

I think we're looking at this whole thing wrong.

SUZANNE

(making the bed)  
Their sex life is none of our--

MIKE

No, the business. The length of time a customer stayed in the chat room was three times the industry average. You look at credits purchased?

SUZANNE

Once I saw the low rate of customers I assumed--

MIKE

Exactly, it's not how many customers, it's how long they stay. In order to stay, they have to buy credits. We made triple the revenue we thought we made.

SUZANNE

What? Don't tease me, Mike Rayburn.

MIKE

I swear on this toilet brush.

Suzanne runs to Mike and kisses him.

SUZANNE

I'm so glad I married you.  
(thinking)  
I wonder what they were doing to keep them in the chat rooms?

Mike shrugs his shoulders and returns to the bathroom.

MIKE (O.S.)

Reading the comments when we get done here. I'll let you know.

Suzanne lays down on the bed.

SUZANNE

(dazed in shock)  
What do you know. We're back in the cyber brothel business. Holy sh--

EXT. SNAVELY HOUSE - LATER

Suzanne's childhood home. A modest 1930's three-bedroom, two-bath, partially brick with siding and a single car detached garage. It's red brick, white trim and black shutters.

The yard is well manicured with two old-fashioned metal lawn chairs on the porch.

Suzanne steps out of a blue TESLA in front of her parents' house. She takes a moment and reminisces of growing up in the old house.

Suzanne takes a DEEP BREATH.

INT. SNAVELY BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The bedroom of an old couple. The lamps and furniture look like a scene out of *THE BRADY BUNCH*, 1970's chic.

BETTY SNAVELY (62), recovers from open heart surgery. She sits in bed propped up by several pillows. Her "bear coughing pillow" lies on the bed next to her.

Betty writes in a spiral notebook.

Suzanne examines a grooming set of antique yellowed hairbrush, comb, and mirror on the dresser. Each piece has a hand painted floral design on the back.

SUZANNE

(brushing her hair)

What were these made of again?

BETTY

Bovine bone. I've had them forever. Your grandfather had them made from one of his first head of cattle.

SUZANNE

Ah, that's sweet that he would sell his first head of cattle and buy her this.

BETTY

No, he actually made them from the cow's bones.

Suzanne puts the brush down and backs away.

SUZANNE

Ewww. I understand why I forgot.  
(turns to Betty)  
What are you writing?

BETTY

Why don't you go ahead and take  
those home with you.

SUZANNE

(stern)  
Mom, what are you writing?

Suzanne sits in a chair near the bed.

BETTY

Just some very specific directions  
for my will.

SUZANNE

Mother, you're not dead yet. So,  
just stop. You're doing great.

BETTY

I know you don't want to hear this.  
But, I nearly died during my triple  
by-pass. Who knows what's next.

SUZANNE

But, you didn't.

BETTY

Honey, I saw a light when I was on  
the operating table.  
(reenacting)  
I reached out to Jesus...  
(arms collapsing)  
No one was on the other side.

SUZANNE

(feigned yelling)  
And why do you think Jesus wasn't  
there? It's because, Betty Jean  
Snively...  
(calming down)  
It wasn't your time. Mike and I  
didn't come all the way back to  
Kingfisher to have you die on us.

BETTY

(very dramatic)  
Just remember, you're father will  
need you when I'm gone.

SUZANNE

Planning to take a trip?

Betty rapidly changes her tone and gets serious. She sits up and looks Suzanne straight in the eye.

BETTY

You listen to me Suzanne Snavelly--

SUZANNE

My last name is Rayburn.

BETTY

And, don't you go pulling any shenanigans at that bed and breakfast of yours and embarrassin' your daddy when I'm gone. His family goes way back and have a proud history, here. Don't you go digging up any crap from the past. You hear me, Suzanne Snavelly.

SUZANNE

(calm and collected)

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

Betty picks up a book sitting on the night stand. It's entitled, *LIFE CHANGING FOODS FOR BODY AND MIND*.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Did you read the book I got you?

BETTY

It's a little woo woo for me.

(whispering)

They talk about meditation and all that new age garbage.

SUZANNE

Why are you whispering?

BETTY

All I need is my B-I-B-L-E as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

SUZANNE

You truly are ridiculous. The book's about food, eating healthy to get better.

BETTY

Pastor Bob--

SUZANNE

(indignant)

Don't tell me Pastor Bob told you  
not to read a book about food?

BETTY

Pastor Bob believes, and so do I,  
that whatever is going to happen  
will. It's God's plan.

SUZANNE

I don't think God's plan included  
ingesting chemical additives and  
processed foods. Now, that's  
killing us. I'll just talk to  
Pastor Bob, myself.

BETTY

Honey, praise the Lord. I knew you  
would come around.

SUZANNE

What?

BETTY

Your daddy and me have saved you  
and Michael seats in our row every  
Sunday since you came back.

SUZANNE

Mother, that's never...

(gives in)

I'm not making any promises.

Betty reaches out for Suzanne's hand. Suzanne reciprocates.

BETTY

You're so good for me.

(pause)

Shame it may not help.

Suzanne cries out with an "ARRGGGG".

DING a timer goes off next to Betty's bed.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Time for my pills.

SUZANNE

More like, saved by the bell.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mike works on a laptop at the small table in the kitchen. Stacks of reports are covering the table.

Mike's phone DINGS. He looks at it and pushes a button.

MIKE  
(to phone)  
I'll be right there.

He opens the back door.

Billy Rae stands at the door wearing cargo shorts and a tee-shirt with the logo for his company, *Dirty Habitats*.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
Hey, Billy Rae. I'm sorry we put you through that this morning. Did Suze find you?

BILLY RAE  
No, why?

MIKE  
I'm sure she'll tell you. So, what's up Billy Rae?

BILLY RAE  
I'm fix'in to mow and wanted to know if you wanted me to pull that dead bush.

MIKE  
Sure, Billy. Did you bring your guy with you to help?

BILLY RAE  
No. He's no longer working for me, a difference of opinion.

MIKE  
Sorry to hear that. Need help?

BILLY RAE  
No, I'm good. Thanks anyways.

As Billy Rae leaves he walks past, PASTOR BOB WILCOX (40), a Joel Osteen type with an old-fashioned pompadour haircut. He sports a forced smile. Billy Rae picks up pace to avoid him.

PASTOR BOB  
Billy Rae.

BILLY RAE  
(gritted teeth)  
Pastor.

Pastor Bob steps into the kitchen uninvited.

MIKE  
(surprised)  
Come on in.

He closes the door.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
What can I do for you?

PASTOR BOB  
(looks around the kitchen)  
Bob Wilcox, pastor at Chisholm  
Trail Baptist Church.

Pastor Bob approaches Mike to shake his hand.

PASTOR BOB (CONT'D)  
Suzanne and her parents are  
members. I haven't seen you at our  
services.

MIKE  
This place is 24/7. Not much time.  
Besides, I was raised agnostic.

PASTOR BOB  
Don't believe in God?

MIKE  
I believe in God. I just don't  
worship any gods.

PASTOR BOB  
I would never judge. But, you  
really should attend somewhere.  
(points to swinging door)  
May I take a look?

MIKE  
Sure.

Pastor Bob walks through the swinging door as Mike  
reluctantly follows.

INT. PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

Victorian furnished parlor with hurricane lamps, fresh cut flowers, and lace on the tables.

PASTOR BOB  
Absolutely beautiful. I don't know  
why I hadn't stopped by before.

MIKE  
(suspicious)  
Yeah, why today?

PASTOR BOB  
It's nice that you refurbished it  
back to a more wholesome time.

MIKE  
Gunslingers and lawlessness?

PASTOR BOB  
The land run 1889, offering  
opportunity, fresh start for some.

MIKE  
It was actually built in 1880.

Pastor Bob looks around the room with great satisfaction to the decorating and style.

PASTOR BOB  
Well, I'll be. So, you know?

MIKE  
That the house was originally a  
brothel? Yeah, we know. Doesn't  
everyone?

PASTOR BOB  
How in God's good judgement, would  
knowing be good for this town.

MIKE  
Good to know.

PASTOR BOB  
Well, the reason why I stopped by  
was to do a blessing on the house.

MIKE  
Blessing?

PASTOR BOB  
 Pray with you to protect you, your  
 home, and your guests. Your father  
 in-law reminded me at the cafe'  
 earlier today that I had promised  
 to do it.

Mike blurts out an uncomfortable laugh.

PASTOR BOB (CONT'D)  
 Something funny?

MIKE  
 Funny he would remind you today.

PASTOR BOB  
 God works in mysterious ways.

MIKE  
 As far as a blessing goes, I think  
 that should be Suzanne's call and  
 she's with her mother right now.

PASTOR BOB  
 Did you know my father baptized  
 her?  
 (pantomimed)  
 He pushed her completely under  
 water for the burial of the old  
 life, and the resurrection.

MIKE  
 Sounds a little cruel.

There's an awkward silence as the two stare at each other  
 trying to size each other up.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
 Suzanne will give you a call.  
 She'll need to decide. My guess is  
 no to a blessing.

Mike walks to the front door and opens it.

Pastor Bob takes the hint.

PASTOR BOB  
 Well, now. You have a blessed day.

Mike closes the door with great relief.

MIKE  
(sarcastic)  
That was fun.

CUT TO:

INT. SUPERCENTER - DAY

Suzanne stands in line for one of the 30 cash registers.  
Christy checks a person out in front of Suzanne.

Suzanne moves to the register with a couple bottles of  
cleaning fluid in her hands. It's her turn.

CHRISTY  
Howdy, Suzanne.

BEEP, Christy scans the bottles and places them in a bag.

SUZANNE  
(whispering)  
I have great news. We misread the  
numbers. We're back on.

CHRISTY  
I have other customers. Will that  
be cash or credit?

SUZANNE  
You're not listening. What I'm  
saying is you can quit. The other  
is going to make you more money  
than you can ever imagine.

CHRISTY  
(smiles)  
For real?

Suzanne swipes her card and enters her pin.

SUZANNE  
I'll call you. I'm glad this is  
going to work out.

Suzanne grabs her bag and leaves.

Christy stands at the register in a daze.

CUSTOMER  
Are you going to wait on me or not?

CHRISTY  
 (snapping out of it)  
 What did you say?

CUSTOMER  
 Could you move any slower? Christ  
 almighty. Should've gone to the  
 Piggly Wiggly.

Christy grabs the LANE CLOSED SIGN and sets it on the check  
 out stand. She takes off her store vest.

CHRISTY  
 Maybe you should have. I'm going  
 home to see my son whose father is  
 a war hero and died to protect your  
 freedom to shop here and be a bitch  
 to hard working people like me.

CUSTOMER  
 Well, I never!

CHRISTY  
 It shows. You can do it yourself.

Christy hands the vest to the Customer and walks out.

EXT. CHISHOLM TRAIL BAPTIST CHURCH - LATE AFTERNOON

Suzanne walks down the sidewalk leading to the front door of  
 the church. The HARMONIZING SOUND of the choir filters out of  
 the stained glass windows.

INT. CHISHOLM TRAIL BAPTIST CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Suzanne enters from the back. She sits in a back pew as she  
 watches the CHOIR practice. They're practicing, "All Creatures  
 Of Our God And King."

Eddie stands in front of them with his arms flaying. His  
 baton snaps through the air with gusto. He makes a circle  
 with his hands and baton cutting the Choir off.

EDDIE  
 Judy, you're a little sharp.

A CHOIR MEMBER points to the back of the sanctuary. Eddie  
 turns and sees Suzanne sitting in the back pew.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

(back to the Choir)

Let us go ahead and take our Kool-Aid break now. I understand Martha brought some of her snickerdoodles.

Several members of the Choir give a "Mmmm" and "HALLELUJAH" as they all leave the loft for snacks.

SUZANNE

Eddie, they sound really good.

EDDIE

(approaches her)

Mighty nice of you. They work hard. We're doing one last practice before tomorrow's service.

(sits next to her)

Your daddy missed practice today.

SUZANNE

I didn't know he was in the Choir.

EDDIE

You don't think it was because of what happened this morning?

SUZANNE

Huh. I wouldn't worry about it. I think he was working today.

EDDIE

Who buys insurance on the weekend?

SUZANNE

I have some good news. We read the data wrong. We're back in business.

Eddie's smiles, then moves to worry.

EDDIE

I don't know. The morning was a little too close. This town will eat me alive if they find out.

SUZANNE

I'm offering you a chance to chat with others who accept you just as you are.

EDDIE

I do get to be the way God made me when I was in the chat room.

SUZANNE

That's the spirit. I'll call you  
and we'll set up a time next week  
to regroup.

Eddie stands up proud and sings "Just as I am" on his way  
back to the front of the church.

EXT. LILLIAN'S PLACE B&B - EVENING

The landscaping is gorgeous. Flowers are in bloom and the  
grass is perfectly manicured.

Billy Rae loads his equipment in his PICK-UP. Suzanne pulls  
into the drive beside him. She gets out of the car.

SUZANNE

Howdy. The yard looks great.

BILLY RAE

Thanks. It's the one thing I do  
right. Shame business is down.

SUZANNE

Did Mike talk with you?

BILLY RAE

No. When I showed up, so did Pastor  
Bob. He gives me the creeps.

SUZANNE

Why would he show up here?  
(refocusing)  
Anyway, when you were in the chat  
rooms, what did you do?

BILLY RAE

I don't... That's kind of personal.

SUZANNE

Let me ask it a different way. When  
you were in the chat rooms, what  
made the women stay so long?

BILLY RAE

I don't know. We talked. I listened  
most of the time. I think the women  
were just lonely. Talking was fine  
with me. Otherwise, you know...

SUZANNE

Think you could do that again?

BILLY RAE  
I thought we went bust?

SUZANNE  
Appears we actually did very well.  
And that has a lot to do with you.

Billy Rae smiles with satisfaction and a boost of confidence.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)  
(patting his chest)  
See, there is something else you're  
good at.

BILLY RAE  
We're back in business. Hot dang.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT. CITY CAFE - LATE AFTERNOON

A modestly decorated diner style cafe. A smattering of PATRONS sit in booths and tables in the greasy spoon.

Richard, wears a short sleeve dress shirt, tie, and a napkin in his collar, sips on his CUP OF COFFEE, then digs into his PIE, a daily ritual.

Suzanne sits across from him.

RICHARD

You sure you don't want one?

SUZANNE

No, thanks, Daddy. Have you ever missed a day coming here at exactly the same time for a piece of pie?

RICHARD

My office is right next door. No reason to drive across town.

(pause)

Don't you have guests checking in?

SUZANNE

We're doing an open house and tour for Pioneer Days.

RICHARD

Be careful.

SUZANNE

That's a weird response. Why--

RICHARD

Sometimes keeping things in the closet, hidden, is the best.

SUZANNE

Like what our house used to be? It's just a piece of history. It was a brothel, not Satan's den.

RICHARD

Shush. Keep your voice down.

SUZANNE

And, another thing. We said we would keep things quiet.

(MORE)

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

(whispering)  
About Eddie.

RICHARD

I didn't say specifics, just that there were some undesirables in town and we should heed caution.

SUZANNE

We, meaning you and Pastor Bob.

RICHARD

I sensed something odd the other day when I came by. Don't deny it. I'm just watching out for you.

SUZANNE

I can take care of myself. And run the business the way I want to.

RICHARD

You're going to run with it, aren't you? Of course you are.

SUZANNE

Maybe... Wait... What are you talking about?

Pushes his plate away.

RICHARD

Can't even finish my god dang pie.

EXT. HOUSE - EVENING

Billy Rae stands on the porch of an expensive house. A cantankerous CUSTOMER is ready to slam the door.

CUSTOMER

I'm not going to tell you again, I don't need your services no more.

BILLY RAE

I got your voice mail. I don't--

CUSTOMER

Things change. People change. Hell, some ain't who you thought they was. Now, get off my yard.

The Customer slams the door.

Billy Rae, defeated, crosses the street and gets into his pickup sitting at the curb. He shuts his door with a SLAM!

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. LILLIAN'S PLACE B&B - MORNING

SPLAT! The newspaper lands in the birdbath.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

DROP, an egg falls and SIZZLES in the frying pan. Mike drops another egg.

MIKE

How did Leonard want his eggs?

Suzanne chops FRUIT and places it in chilled MARTINI GLASSES.

SUZANNE

Over hard.

MIKE

Of course he does.

Mike turns ham slices frying in another pan.

SUZANNE

He caught some fish yesterday and asked if you could fry them up for him tonight.

MIKE

I'll see what I can do.

SUZANNE

Everyone's coming over this afternoon to coordinate this weekend. The tours end at 7:00 p.m. I think if we keep the brothel chat rooms locked, we'll be fine.

MIKE

You'll have to meet without me. Your dad railroaded me into playing golf with him and his cronies.

SUZANNE

Try to have fun and let my dad win.

MIKE

That should be easy. I'm terrible.  
 (changing the subject)  
 Anyway, can we cancel the open  
 house? Now that we're "chatting"  
 again, It's a little risky.

SUZANNE

Come on. What could go wrong?

INT. BILLY RAE'S PICKUP - CONTINUOUS

SLAM! Billy Rae wakes up with a jolt. He slept through the night still parked across the street from his ex-customer's house. He sees TYLER WOOD (21) unloading his landscaping equipment from a flatbed trailer.

CROSS CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tyler pulls the chord on his mower. The engine revs up.

INT. BILLY RAE'S PICKUP

Billy Rae, agitated, BEATS his fist on his steering wheel.

BILLY RAE

God damn it, Tyler Wood!

He watches Tyler mow.

EXT. TYLER'S TRUCK - LATER

Tyler pushes his mower up the ramp and on to his trailer.

Billy Rae approaches inspecting the sign on the side of Tyler's truck door.

BILLY RAE

*Woody for landscaping with Tyler  
 Wood. Interesting name.*

Tyler approaches. Bottom lip fat from a dip of Copenhagen.

TYLER

Why, does that turn you on?

His smile is broad revealing pieces of tobacco sticking to his teeth.

BILLY RAE  
 (points to his mouth)  
 You got something on your...  
 (remembering why he was  
 there)  
 What makes you such an asshole?

TYLER  
 You're just pissed because I stole  
 one of your clients.

BILLY RAE  
 How is it you did that? You're no  
 where as good as me.

TYLER  
 Come on. Everybody's talking. I'm  
 just using it to my advantage.

BILLY RAE  
 (gritted teeth)  
 You son of a bitch.

TYLER  
 Bring it on, old man.

Billy Rae clinches his fists. He turns his back on Tyler and slams his fist in the hood of Tyler's truck leaving a dent.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
 Oh, you're going to pay for that.

BILLY RAE  
 Like hell!

Tyler spins Billy Rae around and punches him in the face.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB GOLF COURSE - MORNING

PING! Richard drives his ball down the fairway. Mike and two other players, STEVE TRUESDALE (55) and ARNIE BISHOP (45).

ARNIE  
 That's a beautiful shot, Dick.

RICHARD  
 Thanks, Arnie. You're up.

Arnie approaches the tee box for hole 8. He pushes his tee in the grass and set his ball. Before he makes his stance, he bows his head and prays.

MIKE  
 (whispering to Richard)  
 Does he do that on every hole?

RICHARD  
 Maybe you should. Maybe you and  
 Susie should go to church.

ARNIE  
 Amen.

STEVE  
 Drive already. I'm hungry.

MIKE  
 (under his breath)  
 And I could use a drink.

PING! Arnie's ball slices.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
 So much for prayer.

Arnie SLAMS his driver in the grass.

ARNIE  
 God damn. Damn, damn...

RICHARD  
 I guess Arnie's buying lunch.

ARNIE  
 Shit!

MIKE  
 Because he sliced?

RICHARD  
 Because he cursed.

EXT. GOLF CART - MOMENTS LATER

Richard drives along the fairway toward Mike's ball.

MIKE  
 (pointing)  
 That's it over there.

Richard pulls to the outside of Mike's ball.

Mike pulls out his 8 iron. After a couple practice swings,  
 PING, he sends the ball to the green.

RICHARD  
Might beat those knuckleheads.

MIKE  
Your daughter told me that I needed  
to make sure you win.

RICHARD  
Good girl.

MIKE  
(smiling)  
That she is.

RICHARD  
She's not cooking up something  
stupid, is she?

MIKE  
I'm not sure--

RICHARD  
Yesterday, during pie, she... never  
mind.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. PARLOR - AFTERNOON

Billy Rae and his black eye, Christy, and Eddie sit on the couch. They watch Suzanne "on fire" in front of them. She runs down a schedule for the next day.

SUZANNE  
(project management mode)  
Stay in your rooms with the doors  
locked. We'll manage the noise so  
it doesn't impact your rooms.

CHRISTY  
Are we going to talk about Billy  
Rae's shiner?

SUZANNE  
Some people may like rough and  
tough men.

CHRISTY  
Billy Rae?

EDDIE

Let me use some concealer. We'll  
get his eye fixed up. No one will  
know he was kissed by the devil.

Billy Rae gives Eddie a "what the hell was that" look.

CHRISTY

What did you do to get that?  
Unwanted advances?

BILLY RAE

(incensed)  
What the hell? Let's just drop the  
subject, okay?

EXT. GREEN - CONTINUOUS

Richard pulls up next to the GREEN. Arnie and Steve are on  
the green sizing up their putt.

STEVE

Dick, you're up.

Richard lines up his putt and hits the ball. It stops just  
inches from the cup.

RICHARD

Well, shoot.

Steven and Arnie take their turn. They both sink their putts.

ARNIE

Dick, in your face!

Both laugh.

MIKE

(not amused)  
Funny.  
(to Richard)  
You really like these guys?

RICHARD

You got to make yours if we're  
going to win the hole.

ARNIE

Yeah, no pressure Mikey.

Arnie looks to Steve with a big grin.

ARNIE (CONT'D)  
 (whispering)  
 He ain't going to make it.

Mike lines up his putt and with an easy TAP, the ball rolls to the hole. It just barely reaches the rim, then drops in. Mike SIGHS with relief.

RICHARD  
 We take the front nine. Lunchtime.  
 Remember, Arnie, you're buying.

STEVE  
 Wait. Gotta tally up the score.

RICHARD  
 Go ahead. We still won.

Steve works on the score card.

MIKE  
 (taking in the view)  
 This really is a beautiful course.

ARNIE  
 The grounds keeper is great. I  
 could introduce you.

MIKE  
 That's okay. I've got a landscaper.

ARNIE  
 Is that right? Who do you use?

MIKE  
 Billy Rae Johnson. Dirty Habitats?

STEVE  
 (looking up from his card)  
 Dirty habits, more like it.

Richard turns and walks away. Arnie shakes his head.

RICHARD  
 (frustrated)  
 Come on boys. I'm hungry.

Mike is all ears.

MIKE  
 What are you NOT saying?

STEVE  
 Didn't Susie date him?

MIKE

Went to prom together.

ARNIE

Ask her. She had to know.

RICHARD

(agitated)

Leave her out of this. I'm going in  
without you guys. Mike, you coming?

Richard, Arnie and Steve hop in their carts and drive away.

Mike, left behind, is flabbergasted. He watches them drive  
away.

MIKE

(yelling)

Is anyone going to tell me?

EXT. LILIAN'S PLACE B&B - DAY

Mike and Suzanne stand on the porch wearing costumes from the  
1880's. Mike, dressed like a pioneer, and Suzanne in a  
prairie dress and bonnet. They look at the long line of people  
down the sidewalk waiting to get in.

The crowd is entertained by Dick and the Derby Boys playing  
BLUEGRASS MUSIC in the front yard.

MIKE

Nice your dad is entertaining the  
people. It will be a wait.

SUZANNE

Is everyone locked in their rooms?

MIKE

Yes, and I've got a bad feeling  
about this.

INT. PARLOR - LATER

Suzanne stands in the Parlor giving a quick talk on the  
history of the house. With her are a group of about 12  
TOURISTS. Suzanne lays her master key on a table.

SUZANNE

Our inn sits right on what was the  
Chisholm Trail.

(MORE)

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

This was a stopping place for cowboys driving cattle to Kansas. Reginald Burnbottom, from Boston built the house in 1880.

TEENAGE TOURIST 1

Malarkey. Before the land run of 1889, no one could own land here.

SUZANNE

Leased from the Creek Indians. The house was abandoned in 1885. It sat empty until the land run.

FEMALE TOURIST

So, Mr. Burnbottom was a sooner.

SUZANNE

Before, we always referred to it as the Sidel house. That's because Lawrence Sidel, an inspector for the land office, staked his claim on the land and the house. He lived in the house until he died in 1915.

TEENAGE TOURIST 1

Why here? On the Chisholm Trail?

SUZANNE

It was a brothel.

CHATTER from the Tourists.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

To entertain the cowboys on the trail moving cattle.

(directing)

Would you like to see some of the rooms upstairs? Follow me to the stairs.

The Tourists file to the stairs behind Suzanne.

TEENAGE TOURIST 1 picks up the master key that Suzanne left behind on the table.

Suzanne sends everyone up the stairs just as Mike brings a group back down.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Going okay?

MIKE

So far. People want to see all the rooms, but we know that's not going to happen.

Suzanne digs into her dress pockets.

Mike calls out to the Tourists coming down the stairs.

MIKE (CONT'D)

For those of you who finished the tour, please go into the dining room for punch and cookies. And the band is still playing out front.

SUZANNE

Mike, have you seen my master key?

MIKE

No. Did you lose it?

SUZANNE

I hope not. Take care of your group and I'll look for it.

Mike follows the Tourists into the dining room. Suzanne dashes for the parlor.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Some of the Tourists file into the Rose Room. Teenage Tourist 1 pulls another TEENAGE TOURIST 2 back.

TEENAGE TOURIST 1

Let's check out some of the other rooms.

TEENAGE TOURIST 2

I tried, but they're locked.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. PARLOR

Suzanne looks on the tables, under magazines, on the floor. She drops down on her knees and looks under the couch. It's not there.

RICHARD

Suze?

SUZANNE

Daddy, You guys are sounding great out there.

RICHARD

Your Aunt Leatha brought your mother over. She's sitting on the porch. Tires out easy. She'll be fine to sit. What are you doing?

SUZANNE

(getting up)

Daddy, I've lost my master key. Please help me find it.

INT. HALLWAY

The Male and Teenage Tourists creep up to one of the bedroom doors. They press their ear against it. They hear Christy giggling. They look at each other and smile.

Teenage Tourist 1 unlocks the door and pushes it open.

Christy sits on the bed in a bustier and petticoats. She sees the Tourists and SCREAMS!

INT. PARLOR

Suzanne and Richard hear the scream. They run upstairs.

INT. HALLWAY

Suzanne rushes to Christy's room.

INT. TIGER LILY ROOM

Christy puts on a robe as Suzanne runs in. The two Tourists are in the room staring at Christy, mouths open.

SUZANNE

(grabbing the key)

Boys, get the hell out!

The two Tourists rush out of the room and fly by Richard walking down the hall.

Richard approaches the door. Suzanne closes and locks it.

RICHARD

What do you have going on behind  
closed doors, Suzanne?

SUZANNE

Nothing to worry about.

Across the hall in another room, the sound of SHOW TUNES.

Richard approaches the door and puts his ear to it. He  
listens and hears Eddie doing his rendition of CABARET.

RICHARD

Suzanne, open this door right now.

SUZANNE

I can't do that.

RICHARD

I'm not going to ask you again.

Suzanne folds her arms, defiant.

EXT. LILIAN'S PLACE B&B

Betty sits in a wicker chair looking at the hoards of people  
waiting to get in. The Two Tourists run out the front door.

TEENAGE TOURIST 2

That was freaking awesome!

TEENAGE TOURIST 1

Talk about authentic. She looked  
like a real whore from a Western.

Betty overhears and grabs a fan from her purse to cool down.

BETTY

(fanning herself)  
Oh, dear god!

TEENAGE TOURIST 1

Hey, lady, you okay?

Betty waves them on. The Two Tourists leave.

INT. HALLWAY

Richard and Suzanne are at a stand off. Tourists move around  
them like they were furniture.

SUZANNE

It's better for all of us that we  
just leave things be.

RICHARD

I don't know what you're up to  
young lady, but it ain't good. You  
can bet dollars to donuts I'm going  
to find out.

Richard storms down the stairs.

Billy Rae steps out of his room in a Chippendale outfit. His  
chest and abs are oiled up. The concealer is doing a great  
job on his eye.

The Female Tourist turns to Billy Rae.

FEMALE TOURIST

Oh, Lord have mercy.

BILLY RAE

I just need everyone to quiet down.  
I'm trying to work in here.

The Tourists and Suzanne stand in the hallway in shock. Billy  
Rae, confused, looks at Suzanne.

BILLY RAE (CONT'D)

What's everyone staring at?

FEMALE TOURIST

Those pants are so tight, I can see  
his religion.

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Suzanne and Betty sit alone in the waiting area of Betty's doctor's office. Suzanne looks like a wreck. A receptionist thumbs through files and TYPES on the computer keyboard.

SUZANNE

I want you to talk with him about  
some antidepressants.

BETTY

(incensed)  
I'm not crazy.

SUZANNE

Has nothing to do with it. Your  
having a little post surgery blues  
and he needs to know.

BETTY

Maybe I need something for anxiety  
if you're going to keep up with the  
shenanigans like you did on  
Saturday.

SUZANNE

There's that word again. Let's not  
bring that up.

BETTY

(scolding)  
Do you know how embarrassing it was  
for me to have townspeople saying  
you had... I can't even say it.

SUZANNE

You're such a prude, mother.

Suzanne, upset, violently turns the pages of a magazine.

BETTY

(whispering)  
Fine, prostitutes. You happy?

Suzanne continues to flip pages.

BETTY (CONT'D)

You're going to tear that magazine  
that's not even yours.

SUZANNE

It's probably a year old. No  
telling how many people...

Suzanne drops the magazine.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

And talk about the pot calling the  
kettle black. The business is mine,  
not yours. I can run it the way I  
want.

BETTY

We are talking about the same  
thing, aren't we?

SUZANNE

(catching herself)  
Yes, of course. The open house.

BETTY

That's all I'm going to say.

SUZANNE

What about daddy? I haven't seen or  
talked with him since Saturday.

BETTY

Give him some time. You hurt him.

A door opens and a NURSE holds it open.

NURSE

Mrs. Snavelly, come on back.

Betty gets up and slowly moves to the door. She stops and  
turns back to Suzanne.

BETTY

Well, come on. I'm not doing this  
alone. I need you.

SUZANNE smiles and helps her mother through the door.

INT. MIKE AND SUZANNE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Suzanne wears a silk nightgown. She sits on the bed with her  
legs crossed leaning against the headboard on a laptop.

The sound of WATER comes from the bathroom.

Suzanne scrolls through a report.

SUZANNE

I don't believe it.

The water shuts off. Mike enters in a Stanford tee-shirt and sweatpants. He dries his hands and tosses the towel into the bathroom and turns out the light.

MIKE

I told you the customer feedback was good.

SUZANNE

They love the wholesomeness our people give them. Their authentic caring selves.

MIKE

Some people just need a non judgmental ear who really listens.

SUZANNE

Listen to this, "Thank you, Billy Rae, for helping me understand how to have a better relationship with my husband."

MIKE

I like the Veterans who are going into Christy's chat room. She can relate to them. Smart to put that in her profile.

SUZANNE

Eddie seems to be doing alright too. He says there is a priest that comes into his chat room almost every night. I'd like to be a fly on a wall in that rectory.

Mike crawls into bed and kisses Suzanne.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

We're going to need more people. I'm sure there are others who are down and out and would like to make good money and get a leg up.

MIKE

Let's worry about that tomorrow. Good night, baby.

SUZANNE

It is good.

Suzanne turns out the light.

EXT. LILLIAN'S PLACE B&B - MORNING

CLICK, the front door closes behind Suzanne. She walks along the porch, takes a deep breath and enjoys the morning. For the first time, in a long time, she's getting ahead.

NEWSPAPER flies through the air. Heads straight for the bird bath. Before it hits the water, a HAND grabs it in midair.

SUZANNE

Ha, ha. Take that, Trevor!

EXT. MAIN STREET - MORNING

The occasional car passes by the shops.

EXT. BANK - CONTINUOUS

Christy pulls a check out of her purse and enters.

INT. BANK

Christy approaches the teller's window. The Teller, ETHEL, counts money.

ETHEL

Just hold your horses.

Ethel puts her cash back in the drawer.

ETHEL (CONT'D)

Christy, aren't you the early bird today. What can I do you for?

CHRISTY

Hey, Ethel. I need to make a deposit. I've signed the back.

Christy hands the check to Ethel. She inspects it and types on the computer. She rubber stamps the check and gives Christy a receipt of deposit.

ETHEL

All done. You have a real fine day.

CHRISTY

Thank you, Ethel.

Ethel smiles and waves as Christy exits. When Christy is out of sight, Ethel picks up the phone.

ETHEL

Good morning, Dick. It's Ethel over at the bank. I just got a five thousand dollar deposit from someone. It was written on Lilian's Place Bed and Breakfast. I just thought you should know.

(pause)

You are so very welcome, Dick.

INT. PARLOR - LATER THAT DAY

Richard stands in an aggressive stance, arms crossed, fuming.

Suzanne enters.

SUZANNE

Daddy, I'm surprised to see you hear. Are you talking to me again?

RICHARD

I told you to be careful. What in the world are you doing?

SUZANNE

I would call that more like yelling than talking.

RICHARD

I'm sorry. I can't protect you if I don't know what I'm protecting you from.

SUZANNE

(gives it thought, then..)  
Fine. Got time for a walk? I'll tell you everything.

EXT. MAIN ST. - MOMENTS LATER

Suzanne slowly walks with Richard in a daze down Main street. They go by businesses.

SUZANNE

You gonna say something?

RICHARD

I can't talk about this right now.

SUZANNE

We came back here to help out. It's been pretty hard making ends meet. I had no other choice.

RICHARD

I don't know what I was expecting.

The DRY CLEANER'S OWNER stands near his door. Richard waves and the Owner waves back.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

People can be cruel. If some of those old biddies at the church... If anyone found out, we'd be ruined.

SUZANNE

I'm real good at keeping secrets.

They approach the City Cafe.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Let me buy you lunch. I'm making good money now.

Richard stops short of the door.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

You have to eat.

RICHARD

(reluctant)

Because your my pumpkin. Besides, I need to tell you about a call I got from Ethel at the bank.

SUZANNE

Oh, great.

They enter.

INT. CITY CAFE - LATER

Suzanne and Richard finish breakfast while engrossed in conversation.

SUZANNE

A five thousand dollar check raised a red flag? Christy deserves it.

RICHARD

I'm sure she does. I think. It's the fact that it came from your B&B. You have to be careful.

SUZANNE

I'm not sure I--

RICHARD

You need to set up a separate corporation, new bank accounts... pick a name that's nondescript.

SUZANNE

(surprised at the help)  
Okay, that's good advice. It sounds like you're going to be okay with this.

RICHARD

I wouldn't say okay. But, I'm your father and I need to love you unconditionally.

SUZANNE

That's very progressive. Thank you.

RICHARD

I have a condition--

SUZANNE

I'm listening.

RICHARD

You have to let me in on all of your dealings. That way I can head off any problems that may come up. And there's one other thing.

SUZANNE

That makes two conditions.

RICHARD

You and Mike start coming to church, every Sunday.

SUZANNE

(apprehensive)  
Oh, daddy. I don't--

RICHARD

Not an option. Besides, you need to keep up appearances.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

If they think your one thing,  
they'll be blind to the other.

A Waitress, RACHEL DOUGLAS (25), cute, but plain in jeans,  
discount store blouse, and apron around her waist.

RACHEL

Y'all finished?

RICHARD

Yes. I'll take a refill.

Rachel grabs the empty plates.

RACHEL

Coming right up.

Approaches a TUB on a cart and dumps the DIRTY DISHES. She  
grabs the COFFEE POT.

SUZANNE

(watches Rachel)

Is that cousin Rachel?

RICHARD

Yes. That's a sad case--

He stops when Rachel approaches and fills the cup.

SUZANNE

Is it really you?

Suzanne jumps up and hugs her.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Of course it is. How are you?

RACHEL

(smiling)

Hey, Susie. Let me know if you need  
anything else.

Rachel drops off the pot and exits into the kitchen.

SUZANNE

Why didn't you tell me she was  
still living here?

RICHARD

She got pregnant in high school and  
now a single mother waiting tables.  
Why don't you leave that alone.

SUZANNE

That's terrible. I need to help her. I can't imagine what she might be going through.

RICHARD

Of course you can't. I brought you up better than that.

SUZANNE

The boy needed to take responsibility too.

RICHARD

She needed to make better decisions.

Suzanne leans back in her chair, arms crossed.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

(noticing)  
What?

SUZANNE

I'm realizing that I'm seeing things differently than how I did growing up. This place needs a wake-up call of humanity.

Suzanne pulls CASH from her pocket. She lays money down.

RICHARD

Where are you going?

SUZANNE

I got a business to run. I have people to help.

Suzanne approaches the door to the cafe.

RICHARD

Save a seat for you in church.

Suzanne hesitates, grits her teeth and leaves.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. CHISHOLM TRAIL BAPTIST CHURCH - MORNING

Suzanne and Mike, dressed up, walk down the sidewalk leading to the front door of the church. PARISHIONERS enter the church ahead of them. A DEACON at the door greets people.

MIKE

I can't believe you agreed to this.

SUZANNE

It takes a little give and take to make this world go around. We're doing our part today and give.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CHISHOLM TRAIL BAPTIST CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

PASTOR BOB WILCOX (40), a Joel Olsten type with an old-fashioned pompadour haircut. He sports a forced smile.

PASTOR BOB

What a glorious morning. Amen.

Richard and Betty sit next to Mike and Suzanne. They repeat, "Amen" with the rest of the Congregation.

PASTOR BOB (CONT'D)

The Lord be with you.

The Congregation responds, "And with you".

PASTOR BOB (CONT'D)

Let us turn to page 232 in our hymnals. "Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly."

Eddie stands in front of the Choir. Suzanne scans the rows of singers and finds Richard among them. She gives him a little wave. He smiles back.

Eddie raises his arms with baton in hand. As he raises his arms, his robe pulls up just enough to see his lower leg.

Suzanne's smiles. She turns to Mike and elbows him. She directs his eyes to Eddie.

Eddie wears panty hose and expensive women's Gucci Loafers.

Suzanne and Mike chuckle as the Choir sings.

SUZANNE

(whispering)

Guess we know where his money went. I have those shoes.

BETTY

(slapping Suzanne's leg)

Shush.

Suzanne gives Betty a playful slap back.

SUZANNE

Momma!

BETTY

I'm glad you're here. And you and  
your daddy worked things out.

SUZANNE

(smiling)

We sure did.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW