

(Name of Project)  
by  
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(Based on, If Any)

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FADE IN:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway's congested with noisy lockers, stomping feet, and an array of voices.

BETH and her girlfriend, MEGAN, stand by their lockers.

BETH  
Here he comes!

PETE is lugging a huge painting canvas.

MEGAN  
You're right. HE'S A HUNK!

BETH  
He doesn't even know I exist!

Megan's face brightens.

MEGAN  
Listen. When he comes by,  
'accidently' drop your books.  
BREAK THE ICE!

BETH  
Do you think...?

MEGAN  
Works like a charm. You want to  
meet him, don't you?

BETH  
Yeah, but...

As Pete passes by, Beth drop her books on the floor.

Pete is oblivious.

Another student rushes over and picks-up Beth's books.

The student is portly, greasy hair, taped-together glasses, assorted pens in his shirt pocket, oversized pants, sweaty shirt, with a ruler and color-coded keys on his belt.

He hands the books to a disappointed Beth.

FLAME  
You're in my English class. I'm  
ELMER...but, they call me FLAME.

BETH  
T h a n k s...Flame.

FLAME  
I don't think you noticed me in  
class 'cause you're busy. Ah, I  
notice you, though.

Beth shifts uneasily.

MEGAN  
Got to go! Have fun. Ha. Ha.

BETH  
THANKS!

FLAME  
Gosh. I wanted to ask you...  
the Senior Prom. I need a date  
and...

BETH  
My dad's ill. Mom's not well.  
Family. You understand!

FLAME  
Family? Oh yeah.

Beth swiftly takes off.

**TEN YEARS LATER**

EXT. DUMP - MORNING

A truck pulls up to a land fill.

The back lifts and collected trash is emptied.

A MAN (PETE) removes the trash from the storage space.

He begins inspecting the contents.

When he finishes, Pete puts two pieces of paper in his back  
pocket.

The truck drives away.

I/E. GATE HOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

BETH GATE sits is in front of her dresser mirror.

After wiping the excess powder off her cheek, she throws the  
used tissues into a full basket.

She carefully selects a set of sparkling diamond earrings and promptly sets them down on the corner of the dresser.

Beth unknowingly brushes her sweater against the earrings.

The phone rings.

The MAID (MARIA) comes in and empties the basket.

She carries the trash cans to the driveway.

The collection truck is pulling up.

INT. GATE HOUSE - MORNING

Beth searches frantically for her missing diamond earrings.

Notices the empty trash pail.

She hurries to Maria.

The confused maid, a busty young woman, points outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE GATE HOUSE - MORNING

A trash man is loading his truck.

Beth races down the driveway.

BETH  
STOP! STOP!

The trash man waits.

BETH  
MY EARRINGS! GET THEM FOR ME,  
PLEASE!

He shakes his head.

He notices earrings clinging to her sweater.

BETH  
They belonged to my grandmother.  
I'll pay you \$100 to get them!

PETE  
Whoa! You rich people think you  
can buy anything. Sorry...but you  
can't. I collect. Not scoop  
trash.

BETH  
Of all the rude...

Beth steps back and stares at Pete.

BETH  
Hey, I know you! Manford High  
School. You're PETE!

Pete is dumbfounded.

PETE  
Yea! What threw me was the fancy  
clothes and makeup.  
It's...Beth...Beth Sano. RIGHT?

BETH  
Beth Sano Gate.

Pete scans the beautiful home.

PETE  
YOURS?

BETH  
Mine and my husband. And what are  
you doing?

Pete's covered in filth.

PETE  
Trash engineer!

BETH  
Weren't you voted MOST LIKELY TO  
SUCCEED?

PETE  
No. No. That was Pete Shaw. I'm  
Shay. MOST LIKELY TO GET A JOB!

They laugh.

The earrings fall from Beth's sweater.

BETH  
The earrings?

Pete picks them up.

Hands them to Beth.

His eyes lock on hers.

PETE  
There!

BETH  
Let me pay you.

PETE  
How about a coffee instead?

Beth is iffy.

PETE  
C'mon.

She shrugs her shoulders.

INT. DINNER - DAY

A few blue collar customers are in the diner.

Pete guides Beth to a booth.

Country and western music is playing.

BETH  
Kickin' music!

Pete  
For horses.

WAITRESS approaches.

PETE  
Two coffees. That's it.

Okay. Waitress leaves.

BETH  
We were in the same biology class.  
Remember?

PETE  
Old man Perkin? A student's worst  
nightmare...BORING!

Pete sips his coffee.

PETE  
Any kids?

BETH  
No kids. And you?

PETE  
Single. Not much of a romantic  
demand for trash collectors.

BETH  
Did you know I was nuts about you  
in high school?

A stunned expression crosses Pete's face.

Waitress puts the bill down.

BETH  
That was then.

Pete takes a deep breath.

BETH  
Still obsessed with art?

PETE  
How did you know?

BETH  
Not hard to figure out. When you  
weren't in biology class, you were  
in the art room. I SAW YOU!

PETE  
Didn't think anyone noticed.

BETH  
I DID!

Pete nervously fiddles with his napkin.

Beth glances at the wall clock.

Beth stands.

BETH  
Better get going.

Pete reaches for the check.

INT. GATE HOUSE STUDY - DAY

HENRY, a salty old gent, is reclining half asleep in a  
leather chair.

The room is adorned with photos, newspaper clippings, medals, old rifles, and army paraphernalia.

Beth quietly tries to sneak past.

Henry's eyes pop open.

Henry  
 Hey, Beth. Did I ever tell you  
 about the time I was in the  
 Philippines during WW II...and how  
 this army corporal brings over a  
 bimbo and says to me...

Beth  
 Yeah. Yeah. A THOUSAND TIMES!

Henry holds Beth by her sweater.

HENRY  
 But you haven't heard the funny  
 part!

BETH  
 It's the same war stories, over and  
 over.

He lets go.

Tilts himself closer to Beth.

HENRY  
 TALK LOUDER! Can't hear a damn  
 thing!

Henry repositions himself.

HENRY  
 Anyhow, the corporal lines me up  
 with this big tit bimbo...

BETH  
 And, blah, blah, you made it with  
 the bimbo!

Henry is completely unaware of Beth's comment.

He continues talking.

HENRY  
 ...then, we went to a dark alley  
 and got laid. Man oh man!  
 (finger on his lips)

What was her name? It'll come to me. Linda? Lana?

Beth lets out a groan.

BETH  
For once, let me tell you about my day. I lost my...

Henry dozes off.

INT. GATE BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

ROBERT GATE enters the bedroom.

BETH  
Your father's pilot light has blown out!

ROBERT  
What do you expect? He's old.

BETH  
Then you listen to his stories.

ROBERT  
I do.

BETH  
Try listening to me!

Pointing his finger at Beth.

ROBERT  
You've got everything. What else do you want?

BETH  
A REAL HUSBAND? ONE WHO LOVES ME.  
Huh?

ROBERT  
I got you a dog. You forgot how the world works!

BETH  
That's your world. NOT MINE!

Beth storms out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Beth walks to the computer.

The computer is still on.

She notices an e-mail on the monitor signed by an ADOLFO. As it's shown on the computer screen, the e-mail reads:

BETH (V.O.)

SUPER: Dearest Robert,

You promised to get rid of your wife. Sneaking in different motels ain't working. Empty promises! When's our time together? Depressing!

Love you, as always.  
Adolfo

Beth's jaw drops.

In walks Robert.

BETH  
WHO'S ADOLFO?

Robert is completely thrown off guard.

ROBERT  
Adolfo who?

BETH  
Adolfo. YOUR LOVER!

ROBERT  
You been drinking?

BETH  
Don't take me for a fool. YOU'RE GAY! And you never told me!

Robert doesn't speak to Beth directly.

ROBERT  
How did you find out?

BETH  
Your e-mail was open. The note said it all.

Faces Beth.

ROBERT  
Give me a break. It was only a  
fling.

BETH  
GIVE ME A BREAK! Why did you lie?

ROBERT  
Whoa! Don't get touchy. It  
happens!

BETH  
NOT TO ME!

INT. GATE BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Beth has a large open suitcase on her bed.  
Next to it sits an active, white toy poodle.  
Beth's grabbing clothes out of the closet and drawers.  
She packs in her belongings and zips the suitcase.  
Robert comes in.

ROBERT  
Where are you going?

BETH  
Anyplace, but here!

ROBERT  
Think about what you're doing.

BETH  
The situation speaks for itself.

ROBERT  
I promise I won't see him again!

BETH  
You just don't get it, Robert. You  
don't get it!

ROBERT  
So what are you going to do for  
work? Go back to waiting tables?

Beth picks up her belongings, grabs the dog, and storms out.

BETH  
(muttering)  
Beats a phoney marriage!

ROBERT  
BITCH! You'll hear from my lawyer!

BETH  
AND YOU'LL HEAR FROM MINE!

EXT. OUTSIDE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The leashed dog strolls alongside Beth.

Beth is hauling a large suitcase.

A trash truck is parked at the end of the driveway.

Pete is emptying trash.

PETE  
LUGGAGE! A MUTT! Are you going  
away?

Pete lifts a can.

BETH  
Aha, it's the friendly trash guy!

PETE  
What a memory! Vacation?

BETH  
PERMANENT!

PETE  
Where to?

BETH  
A motel. I plan to call my mother  
in Saint Louis.  
(glancing back)  
I forgot my jewelry, but I'm not  
going back.

Pete scratches his head.

PETE  
Hummm. A motel?

BETH  
A motel. I'll call a cab.

PETE

There's an electrician's convention  
in town. Finding a vacancy is  
going to be difficult.

The dog keeps pulling on the leash.

She put the luggage down.

BETH

What should I do?

Glances at his watch.

PETE

It's getting late.

BETH

Heck, I'll find a place.

PETE

If you want, you can use my  
apartment.

Beth nods and yanks the dog's leash.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Pete unlocks the front door.

Beth and the dog follow.

Pete carries what appears to be a couple items of junk.

The apartment has a clean and cozy atmosphere.

Beth is noticeably impressed.

PETE

What did you expect?

BETH

Oh, something less. But, you're  
not typical.

(thoughtfully)

I can't explain it!

Beth puts down the suitcase and unleashes the dog.

He sniffs the premises, lifts his leg, and relieves himself  
on the recliner.

BETH  
BAD BOY!

PETE  
Must be his blessing. What's his  
name?

BETH  
Nippy.

PETE  
Nippy? What kind of name is that?

BETH  
Ask my husband.

PETE  
Nippy?

Pete wrinkles his forehead.

PETE  
Poor guy!

Beth views the sculptures in the side room.

They're created out of junk pieces.

BETH  
You bring junk items home?

PETE  
Keeps me busy.

BETH  
Not bad.

Beth finds a phone.

BETH  
I'd like to call my MOTHER. Do you  
mind?

PETE  
Not at all.

Beth dials.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Hello.

BETH  
Mom. It's Beth.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
 What a surprise! UNCLE HAROLD and  
 I were talking about you.

A hacking cough is heard.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
 HAROLD! His phlegm is acting up  
 again. You know, it starts with  
 the wheezing and the gagging until  
 you can't hear yourself think  
 straight!  
 (coughing)  
 HAROLD! I'm talking with Beth!

A voice is heard in the background.

HAROLD (V.O.)  
 WHOOO?

MOTHER (V.O.)  
 BETH! How are you, and what's his  
 name, doing?

BETH  
 We're separated.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
 LORD BE PRAISED!

There's a crashing sound.

Beth's mother covers the phone.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
 HAROLD! STAY AWAY FROM THE STOVE!

Mother uncovers the phone.

BETH  
 Would you mind if I temporarily  
 stayed with you?

MOTHER (V.O.)  
 Of course not. I'm booked to leave  
 tomorrow for a week's vacation to  
 Bermuda.  
 (beat)  
 I contacted a nursing agency to  
 care for your uncle Harold. But if  
 you'll be here...



I took it.  
(embarrassed)  
Entertaining men. It wasn't always  
sex!

PETE  
Why tell me?

BETH  
I have no idea. Just because...

Pete resumes his slumbering position.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Beth awakens to Nippy jumping on the couch.

She stretches and gets up.

Shouts into the kitchen area.

BETH  
I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING A  
GENTLEMAN LAST NIGHT... I MEAN,  
LETTING ME SLEEP AND EVERYTHING.

There's no response.

BETH  
PETE? HELLO!

She enters the small kitchen.

A note is on the counter.

INSERT:

PETE (V.O.)  
Beth,  
  
Help yourself to food and coffee.  
If you're still here, see you after  
work,

Pete

Beth pours a cup of coffee and gazes at Pete's sculptures.

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Pete and Beth are in the living room reading.

BETH

The phone rings at least four times a day. When I pick up, the caller hangs up.

PETE

Probably sales or fund raisers.

BETH

Maybe!

(beat)

I wonder...why be a trash man when you can be an artist?

PETE

Good question!

Without warning, Nippy wraps his paws around Pete's leg.

PETE

SCRAM!

BETH

He's fond of you!

Beth grabs Nippy's leash.

Pete brushes his leg.

I/E. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

Pete shuts the phone booth door and dials.

Speaks for a minute.

He steps out and walks down the street.

An unnoticed strange person trails him.

Pete passes a bank. The clock reads 6:02 PM.

Though the glass front, the FOLLOWER observes Pete in a small restaurant shaking hands with a SUITED MAN.

CUT TO:

INT. ADOLFO'S PENTHOUSE - AFTERNOON

A gloomy ADOLFO sits on his yellow recliner.

Robert is anxiously pacing the room.

ROBERT  
IT'S OVER!

ADOLFO  
Why? Why cut me off?

Robert examines Adolfo's art collection.

Adolfo's apartment has numerous art objects.

Prominent are the assorted naked cherubs crafted out of porcelain.

Everything is highbrow, extravagant, and snooty.

ADOLFO  
You're killing me, Robert. Why?  
Why? Why must you do this to me?  
As if I didn't do things for you.  
THE SACRIFICES I MADE!

Robert tears into a pile of collectibles.

He holds up a video

ROBERT  
What's this?  
(reading)  
THE COMPLETE VIDEO CATALOGUE OF THE  
JUDY GARLAND FAREWELL TOURS.

ADOLFO  
(moved)  
She had just gotten out of the  
rehabilitation clinic and decided  
to reclaim her womanhood.

Robert points at Adolfo's wall.

ROBERT  
And these obviously fake  
Renaissance paintings?

ADOLFO  
If you'd given me a bigger  
allowance, I might have been able  
to afford...

Robert goes through Adolfo's wardrobe.

He holds a furry object.

ROBERT  
Is this a hat, or a coat, or a mink  
stole, or what?

ADOLFO  
It's for my stage act. You know,  
when I transform into ADOLFINA THE  
WICKED. Now that I've lost my  
knight in shining armor...

ROBERT  
...I'm not your goddamn knight in  
shining armor!  
(disturbed)  
BETH'S GONE!

ADOLFO  
Good!

Robert grabs a porcelain cherub

ROBERT  
I'm warning you, Adolfo!

ADOLFO  
What? What? Are you going to hit  
me with Benedetto? First you  
kidnap me, lock me away in a  
secluded penthouse, and hide me  
from the world.

ROBERT  
KIDNAPPED YOU, MY ASS!

ADOLFO  
Then, then, your spoiled bitch  
leaves you and you get sulky and  
take it out on me. Now you want to  
be a big man and hit me? NO! NO!

Robert raises the statue.

Adolfo dives at Robert's feet trying to cushion the fall of  
Benedetto.

ROBERT  
Get it straight, I can smash  
anything I want. I PAID FOR IT!

ADOLFO  
Not my sweet Benedetto. Hey,  
don't hold him so tightly. He'll  
suffocate.



HENRY

Yea, you're much better off, I say.  
In WW II, we had this German whore  
who stole our money. We caught her  
ass, all right.

(proud)

She fought like a banshee.

Holds up his arms.

HENRY

Scratches from her fingernails!  
I've got the scars!

Henry pulls back his shirt..

Henry sneezes, yanks out a dirty handkerchief, and wipes his  
nose.

ROBERT

That's something.

Henry holds his hand to his ear.

HENRY

WHAT? Speak up!

ROBERT

I said, THAT'S SOMETHING. Christ,  
wear your hearing aids!

HENRY

That woman, that woman, for  
instance. YOUR mother. Slezbag.  
We get married. Made you legal.  
What a mistake! Bitch, bitch,  
bitch.

Puts out his cigarette.

HENRY

I had to throw her ass out.

(holds his beer)

Wake up! Beth loved your money.  
Jesus H. I told you. Ah, kids.

Henry plops on the couch and curls up.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Beth is stretched out on Pete's couch, covered by a light  
sheet. There's a glimmer of light from a nearby window.

Pete is standing next to her.

BETH  
 I found out Robert lied...he's gay.  
 My bags were packed!

Pete is startled.

BETH  
 Unexpected, to say the least.  
 (confident)  
 No big deal. We would have  
 eventually separated anyway.  
 Robert was also nailing the maid.  
 (smirk)  
 He actually believed I had no clue.

PETE  
 Why didn't you tell him?

BETH  
 Why say anything? I didn't love  
 him.

Pete spontaneously throws a pillow at Beth.

She ducks.

BETH  
 BAD SHOT!

Beth folds her arms behind her head.

Pete places a blanket on Beth.

PETE  
 It's supposed to be chilly tonight.

She laughs while he tucks her in.

His lips come close to hers.

They gaze at each other.

Without touching her, he slowly pulls away.

Pete slowly straightens out the blanket.

EXT. OUTSIDE PETE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Adolfo looks in the window.

Beth is sleeping.

Adolfo steps on a branch.

He leaps in fear at a cracking noise.

Nippy barks.

Adolfo awkwardly scurries away.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Adolfo is disguised as a plumber.

He knocks on Pete's door.

Nippy growls.

Beth answers.

ADOLFO

Ma'am, I'm here to inspect the  
bathroom pipes. Tenants are  
complaining.

Beth lets him in.

Nippy is ferociously barking.

Beth grabs Nippy by the collar.

She puts him in the kitchen.

BETH

He's so protective.

Adolfo, wearing a tool belt, goes to the bathroom sink.

Beth is leaning on the threshold of the bathroom door.

She stares at him perplexed.

ADOLFO

No need to watch. This is men's  
work.

She stays.

Adolfo grins nervously and removes a pipe wrench from his  
tool belt.

ADOLFO

Probably needs tightening.

Under the sink, Adolfo clacks the wrench against the pipes.

The kitchen door flies open and Nippy escapes.

He runs for the bathroom.

Adolfo is bent over, his ass crack showing, trying to fix pipes.

Nippy leaps up and bites the seat of Adolfo's pants.

Adolfo jumps up, his wrench smashes the pipe, and water gushes all over the place.

BETH  
BAD DOGGIE!

Again, she secures him in the kitchen.

Beth returns.

BETH  
Sorry! He's high strung.

Adolfo's hair and clothes are saturated by the spraying pipe.

His makeup is running.

His false mustache is peeling.

He grabs a roll of duct tape from his belt and seals the spray.

The front door suddenly opens.

BETH  
PETE! IS THAT YOU?

Adolfo grabs his tools and quickly leaves through the back door.

I/E. APARTMENT - MORNING

Beth is folding a sheet when the doorbell rings.

She opens the door to ADOLFO.

Nippy is behaving wild, but is being held by the collar.

Adolfo steps away.

BETH  
Excuse me.

Beth drags Nippy and locks him in the kitchen.

She returns to the door.

BETH  
Creepy. He's been acting out for  
the last couple of days.

ADOLFO  
Dogs will be dogs!

Both are standing at the door.

ADOLFO  
Can we talk?

BETH  
About what?

ADOLFO  
Robert.

BETH  
Who are you? Haven't I met you  
before?

ADOLFO  
Doubtful.

BETH  
You're familiar!

ADOLFO  
I'm Adolfo, a friend of Robert's.

Beth is stunned.

BETH  
ROBERT'S LOVER?

ADOLFO  
I was. Do you mind if I come in?

BETH  
Yes. I mind.

ADOLFO  
Please! Only for a moment.  
Please! I must speak with you.

Beth allows Adolfo in.

ADOLFO  
Robert's furious.

BETH  
Tough! I won't be his wife long.

ADOLFO  
That's the problem. He's  
financially cutting me off. And  
you too. BUT HE'LL PAY!

BETH  
I'll go to court.

ADOLFO  
Robert has money and high-placed  
friends.

Beth thinks for a moment.

BETH  
It's over for me.

ADOLFO  
He should suffer!

BETH  
Suffer?

ADOLFO  
Tormented! Hurt!

BETH  
What the hell are you saying?

ADOLFO  
Listen. His father senile.  
There's no living relatives.  
Robert has no one who's close.

Beth's eyes open wide.

BETH  
Forget it! I'm glad to be rid of  
him.

ADOLFO  
I hate him. He'll pay! You can  
help.

BETH  
No way! Leave me out.

ADOLFO  
Don't say I didn't ask.

Adolfo puts on his coat and hat.

The door slams behind him.

INT. STUDIO - NIGHT

Pete leads Beth into his studio.

The studio looks part junk yard and part playground.

She crumples her nose and fans her face.

BETH  
It smells. Paint?

Pete puts his head back.

BETH  
Robert's lover, Adolfo, was here  
today

PETE  
What did he want?

BETH  
Oh, he wanted to tell me he was no  
longer Robert's lover. I told him  
I didn't care. And he left.

PETE  
That was it?

BETH  
Yeah. That's all.

Pete starts to sculpt.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Beth, holding Nippy on a leash, approaches the airline ticket counter.

Beth moves with Nippy to the front of the counter.

She reaches in her wallet, pulling out her credit card.

BETH  
Do you have a flight to Saint Louis  
tomorrow?

The representative examines her book.

REPRESENTATIVE  
Tomorrow at 1:10.

BETH  
I'll take it.

REPRESENTATIVE  
That's \$250, one way.

BETH  
Okay.

She places her credit card on the counter.

The representative runs it through the machine.

Apologetically, she turns to Beth.

REPRESENTATIVE  
Sorry, ma'am. This card is  
cancelled.

BETH  
Must be a mistake. Would you check  
again?

REPRESENTATIVE  
Certainly.

The representative tries again.

She hands Beth the card

REPRESENTATIVE  
The same message. I'd call the  
credit card company.

Nippy begins biting the ankles of a CUSTOMER behind Beth.

The customer attempts to kick the dog away.

Nippy becomes more determined.

CUSTOMER  
Miss, could you please control your  
dog?

BETH  
WE'RE LEAVING!

Beth pulls Nippy from the counter.

She tosses her cancelled credit card into the trash.

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Pete is filthy with soot and grease.

Beth's eyes are fixed.

BETH  
The credit card...it's in his  
name...

PETE  
...and he cancelled it?

BETH  
Yep.

Pete rubs his chin.

PETE  
Any spending money?

Beth opens her wallet.

BETH  
About \$200.

PETE  
That'll hold you a while.  
Meantime, you and Nippy can stay  
here.

BETH  
I couldn't do that!

PETE  
Nonsense. Hey. I'm off tomorrow.  
How about a scenic country lunch?

BETH  
Bugs and animals?

PETE  
Nature!

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Robert and Maria are in bed recreating nude.

Maria wraps her legs around Robert and pins his hands down.

Robert breaks loose and swings Maria to the bottom, gripping her hands to the mattress.

MARIA  
(Australian accent)  
You win! I give up!

ROBERT  
Smart. What if I don't wanna let  
go? Eh?

MARIA  
PLEASE!

ROBERT  
Say pretty please, daddy.

MARIA  
Pretty please, daddy!

ROBERT  
It's your lucky day. Daddy will  
let go.

They roll on their backs.

MARIA  
Do you think the bitch ever  
suspected?

ROBERT  
Beth? The dumb dog knew more than  
her.

Maria gives off a moan of relief.

She clutches on to Robert's shoulders.

Kisses his neck.

They continue to tumble on the bed.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Except for Pete and Nippy, the apartment is empty.

Pete turns off the TV.

Addresses Nippy face-to-face.

Nippy's ears perk up.

PETE  
Really! You're not a bad little  
guy.  
(pets Nippy)

I'll bet you can be trained to be  
a normal doggie. Wouldn't you like  
that?

Nippy stands upright, stretches, and walks to the trash can.  
He begins digging.

EXT. PUBLIC NATURE PRESERVE - DAY

Beth, Pete, and Nippy, are at the nature preserve.

They're standing on a large cliff surrounded by telescopes.

CHILDREN are playing.

Nippy springs loose to attack a HEAVY MAN eating an ice cream  
cone.

The man is preoccupied with his telescope.

The man's WIFE and children are several feet away.

The man, gripping an ice cream cone, moves toward his family  
at the proper instant.

HEAVY MAN  
(lifting cone)  
Hey, Mildred! Get a taste. This  
is the best pistachio I've ever  
had!

On the run, Nippy misses the heavy man's ankle.

He's airborne over the railing, flying into the beauty of  
nature.

There's an unnaturally long squeal that fades out as he  
falls.

A dull thump is followed by silence.

The spectators are petrified.

The heavy man misses the incident, and eagerly continues  
eating his ice cream.

Beth and Pete simultaneously bend over the railing.

They look at each other horrified.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

A pile of wadded tissues cover the table.

Beth is cradling a large tissue box to her chest.  
With one hand, she views a framed photograph of Nippy.  
She pulls out another tissue, noisily blowing her nose.

BETH  
I decided to cremate Nippy's  
remains.

Beth sobs.

BETH  
You probably don't miss him much!

PETE  
How can you...how can you... ?

BETH  
A feisty dog intruding on your  
private life?  
(weeps)  
Oh, don't mind me.

Pete places his arms on Beth's shoulders.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The doorbell rings.

PETE  
Red Drew! What are you doing here?

RED  
Man, my sister lives nearby.  
Thought I'd stop over.

PETE  
Come on in.

Red walks in.

He cases the place.

Flowers cover the table.

RED  
Nice pad.  
(sniffing)  
Dude, what's the smell?

PETE  
A regrettable mishap. HAVE A SEAT!

PETE

Beth, this is Red Drew, a coworker.

BETH

Glad to meet you, Red. Sit down.

Red seats himself.

BETH

We'll get drinks. Be right back.

Beth and Pete head for the kitchen.

Red takes a giant stogie from his overalls.

RED

DO YOU MIND CIGAR SMOKE?

PETE (O.S.)

(from the kitchen)

NAH. GREAT FOR THE LUNGS!

Red bites off one end of the cigar and spits it out.

Plumes of smoke begin to take over the living room.

The cigar develops a huge hanging ash.

Red, feeling for an ashtray, gets his hands on Nippy's urn.

He opens it, and taps in his cigar ash.

RED

(hardly audible)

Hey, your ashtray's full.

He empties the urn into the trash.

Beth and Pete return with food and drink.

Beth notices the urn is moved.

She maneuvers it back into place, lifts it up and down, and opens the urn.

The urn is empty.

BETH

Where are Nippy's ashes?

Pete looks around.

PETE

No idea!

Red is quiet.

INT. GATE HOUSE STUDY - DAY

Henry's drinking a beer, shirtless, and smoking.

He hacks up phlegm.

Maria bends over to pick-up a shirt.

Henry seizes the opportunity to pat Maria's ass.

MARIA

I ASKED YOU NOT TO DO THAT!

HENRY

But I like it!

MARIA

Frankly, I don't.

HENRY

Have mercy. I'm an old man.

MARIA

Buy a blowup doll!

Henry takes a drag.

He flashes an evil grin.

HENRY

You still working here?

MARIA

Of course. Why?

HENRY

Never see you working...you and my kid?

(cocky)

C'mon. I'm old, not stupid!

Maria starts to walk toward Robert as he enters.

MARIA

HE KNOWS!

ROBERT

Knows what?

MARIA  
About us.

HENRY  
Ha, ha.

MARIA  
...I'm going to see to it that  
you're put away into a nice, quiet  
nursing home...FOR GOOD!

HENRY  
HORSE TITS!

Robert jumps in.

ROBERT  
Wait! We'll explore the options,  
dad.

HENRY  
DICK HEAD! I AIN'T GOING. PERIOD!

Maria is infuriated.

MARIA  
Are you backing out?

ROBERT  
No. I mean, I can't consider  
another marriage, yet.

Henry takes a sip of beer and a long puff.

MARIA  
Promises. In front of your old  
man, it's a whole different story!

Maria storms out.

Robert places his hands on his face.

HENRY  
Good riddance! When I was in the  
army, I broke lots of hearts. A  
lot of kneecaps, too. Broads are  
alike. This, this leg spreader, I  
think her name was Connie,...back  
in World War II...

ROBERT  
...dad, you were never in any  
military. GOT IT!

World War II was over by the time  
you were old enough to tie the  
shoes on your flat feet.

Robert races out the door.

INT. RECYCLING HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

A smoke-filled room.

Six men are gathered at the table.

DOM

Get this. We thought we could  
trust Pete Shay to join us. To  
make sure, we followed him.

(beat)

HE'S AN FBI AGENT!

Drug organization members are astonished.

RED

You sure? Pete. Pete Shay?

DOM

AGENT Shay!

Red puffs on a cigar

DOM

How do we eliminate him?

LESTER

I'M NOT GOING TO JAIL!

DOM

No one's going to jail. That's why  
he must die.

The men nod in agreement.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Beth and Pete stand near a tombstone.

The area is quiet, except for the sounds of birds, animals,  
and ruffling leaves.

They speak to the cemetery plot.

PETE

(facing headstone)

Beth, meet my father. PETER SHAY, SR. 1920-1995. One of the state's top prosecuting attorneys. A rock-solid, upright citizen. Dad, Beth.

BETH

(facing tombstone)

Pleased to meet you, Mr. Shay. Unmistakable resemblance!

PETE

Told you, dad. She's a funny one!

Pete addresses Beth.

PETE

I come here when I'm troubled, seek inspiration, or simply want to be with my thoughts.

BETH

Comforting.

PETE

Finally at peace. After prosecuting everybody he could, on and off the job. EVERYBODY.

Pete taps his chest gently with a forefinger.

PETE

He lives on. A man who reached his life mission.

BETH

And what's your mission?

PETE

To be me. Not to try to be someone else. To be the best at what I do. How's that?

BETH

You mean a great trash man?

PETE

Think of my job as part of a journey.

Beth is attentive.

Pete sits against the headstone.  
(beat)

BETH  
I took a part-time waitress  
position at GINO'S RESTAURANT.

PETE  
Gotta take care of yourself.

Beth pulls out a weed.

BETH  
Must be a million...a billion...  
stories buried here.

Pete thoughtfully nods in agreement.

He swats a bee flying near Beth.

PETE  
Bees are attracted to sweet things.

Pete peers into Beth's eyes.

Faces come closer together.

They kiss.

INT. PETE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Pete and Beth noisily enter, leaning on each other,  
staggering, and slurring their words.

They're joyfully singing a song.

BETH  
What's cook...cooking? I can  
barely stand up.

PETE  
It's your imagination!

BETH  
Bartender said...he said, it was  
furniture polish remover. Not  
vodka.

PETE  
He wasn't lying!

Beth flops on the couch.

BETH  
I'm hitting the hay for a couple of  
million years.

Pete drags Beth by the hand.

PETE  
Oh, no. You're not sleeping on the  
couch!

Pete opens his bedroom door.

BETH  
Whatever you say, monsieur.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - AFTERNOON

Pete starts to enter a phone booth when he hears a car  
barreling down the street.

A machine gun is pointed out the side window.

Pete leaps behind a building.

A flurry of shots blanket the phone booth and wall.

The vehicle speeds away.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is empty.

Pete is on the phone.

PETE  
They know!

MIKE (V.O.)  
How so?

PETE  
They tried to kill me. I  
recognized Red Drew, the shooter.

MIKE (V.O.)  
Are you okay?

PETE  
Close call.

MIKE (V.O.)  
I'll take you off immediately.

PETE  
Not yet. I'm making them nervous.

MIKE (V.O.)  
Anytime you want out, let me know.

PETE  
Will do.

Pete hangs up.

INT. RECYCLING HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Six men at the table smoking and drinking coffee.

DOM  
What happened.

RED  
Pete's not dead. But we scared the  
shit out of him!

DOM  
Let things cool. We'll lay low.

The men nod in agreement.

I/E. HOTEL - DAY

An ANONYMOUS PERSON places coins in a pay phone.

The caller's back and face are unable to be detected.

OFFICE SECRETARY (V.O.)  
CONNECTICUT WASTE AND RECYCLING.

ANONYMOUS PERSON  
(muffled voice)  
Hello. This is Robert Gate.

OFFICE SECRETARY (V.O.)  
Yes. How can we help you, Mr.  
Gate?

A cough from the other end.

ANONYMOUS PERSON  
I've had this horrible cold...  
(cough)  
and I hope you can do me a favor?

OFFICE SECRETARY (V.O.)  
Yeah. Sounds nasty. Be glad to help you, Mr. Gate.

ANONYMOUS PERSON  
Well. I've got numerous items of trash. Usually I put them out but...

OFFICE SECRETARY (V.O.)  
...not to worry. I'll tell the collector to go to the house and pick-up the trash.

ANONYMOUS PERSON  
Thanks so much.

OFFICE SECRETARY (V.O.)  
No problem, Mr. Gate. No problem. Hope you feel better.

The anonymous caller hangs up.

INT. GATE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

The back door leading to the kitchen is unlocked.

An anonymous individual, looking side to side, turns the door handle holding a long piece of metal.

The person's wearing gloves, sunglasses, and a baseball cap.

The door opens and the intruder lunges in.

The person sneaks down the hall.

Robert is fast asleep.

A sheet partly covers his head.

A pillow is on the floor.

The intruder lifts the metal object and smashes Robert's head.

At first there's a slight jerk.

He's hit on the head two more times.

Robert's body rests lifeless in a puddle of blood.

The killer flees.

I/E. OUTSIDE GATE HOUSE - LATER

A trash collection truck pulls up to the driveway.

Pete is inside the cab reading a note.

He places it on the seat, opens the door, and heads for the Gate house.

A MAN waves as he continues to mow his lawn.

A LADY is planting flowers.

They politely nod.

Pete circumvents the house.

He discerns a trash can full of small bags.

Next to them is an old computer.

He first grabs the trash can. Brings it to the truck.

He then returns for the computer.

Pete goes back to the truck carrying his find.

Pete drives away.

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - LATER

Henry is standing over Robert's body holding the phone.

DESK SERGEANT (V.O.)  
POLICE DEPARTMENT.

HENRY  
(slurring)  
My son...blood...my boy!

DESK SERGEANT (V.O.)  
Calm down. What's your name and  
address?

HENRY  
Henry. Henry Gate. At the Gate  
house.

Computer keys sound in the background.

DESK SERGEANT (V.O.)  
We know where it's located. Help  
is on the way.

HENRY  
MY BOY...!

DESK SERGEANT (V.O.)  
Is he breathing?

HENRY  
HE'S STIFF!

DESK SERGEANT (V.O.)  
What happened?

Henry tries to gain his composure.

HENRY  
He always calls me to breakfast.  
Not this morning.  
(stares at the body)  
Oh Christ!

DESK SERGEANT (V.O.)  
Go on...

HENRY  
I went to his room. Dead! I found  
him dead. My boy. Lord...

DESK SERGEANT (V.O.)  
Did you see or hear anything?

HENRY  
No. Only the trash truck out  
front.

Sirens get louder.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

TWO HOMICIDE DETECTIVES and Pete are in the interrogation  
room.

Pete is seated under a bright light.

WILKENSON lights a cigarette.

He offers Pete one.

PETE  
No thanks.

KELLY

Coffee?

PETE

No thanks. Why am I here?

DETECTIVE WILKENSON

We've got a problem. You collect garbage from the Gate estate?

PETE

It's on my route.

KELLY

Were you there yesterday?

PETE

Of course. It's my regular pickup day.

KELLY

About nine?

PETE

About nine.  
(annoyed)  
Say, what's this about?

WILKENSON

Robert Gate was murdered about nine.

Pete's jaw drops.

PETE

You suspect me?

WILKENSON

Just asking questions.

PETE

I'm not a killer.  
(beat)  
For your information, Beth Gate, a former high school friend, left Robert. She's staying at my apartment. That's where my connection ends!

KELLY

How did you end up with Mrs. Gate?

PETE  
Purely accidental.

KELLY  
Hummm. Was she bitter?

PETE  
Why would she leave him first, and then decide to go back and kill him?

KELLY  
Go figure. Angry people are not always rational.

PETE  
Agreed!

WILKENSON  
You were the last person seen near the residence. His father, Henry, said he heard the trash truck!

Pete shrugs his shoulders

PETE  
Makes sense. I'm scheduled to be there.

Wilkenson puffs on a cigarette.

WILKENSON  
We recovered a blood stained lead pipe.

PETE  
Don't you get it? The killer made it too easy. It's a set-up!

KELLY  
Possibly. Nonetheless, those are the facts.

PETE  
I've got the note from my supervisor. Speak to him.

KELLY  
We will. That's it for now. Stay in town.

Pete leaves.

Alone in the room, Detective Wilkenson begins to pace.

KELLY

Well?

WILKENSON

Everything points to him.  
Something's not right. I want to  
interview Mrs. Gate.

KELLY

We'll speak to Shay's supervisor  
too.

The Detectives gather papers and depart.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The clock on the dresser reads 8:15 PM.

The front door handle turns.

Beth scurries to the door.

BETH

I was worried!

PETE

Bad news.

BETH

I heard. Robert is dead.  
Murdered!

(beat)

He was a lousy husband, but he  
didn't deserve to die.  
And you?

PETE

Police questioning. The murderer  
tried to set ME up.

BETH

I expect they'll be questioning me.  
After all, I'm a choice suspect...  
THE WIFE!

Beth puts on a sweater.

BETH

I'm going out for a breather.

Pete gives a sign of understanding.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The phone is to Pete's ear.

MAGGIE (V.O.)  
Hello

PETE  
Hi MAGGIE. This is Pete Shay. How  
are you?

MAGGIE (V.O.)  
Fine, stranger. We miss you.

PETE  
I miss you too. Is Mike in?

MAGGIE (V.O.)  
I'll transfer you.

Pete fiddles with the phone cord.

MIKE (V.O.)  
Mike Brevor speaking.

PETE  
Mike. Pete here.

MIKE (V.O.)  
Pete! Any more attempts on your  
life.

PETE  
None. I'm keeping a low profile.

MIKE (V.O.)  
Getting ready to leave.  
(sound of a zipper)

PETE  
Robert Gate is dead!

MIKE (V.O.)  
Yes. Unfortunately.

PETE  
They tried to frame me.

MIKE (V.O.)  
They?

PETE

Who "they" are is yet to be determined.

A moment of stillness elapses.

MIKE (V.O.)

Would you stay a few more days?

(beat)

By the way, the old computer?  
Filled with evidence.

PETE

No surprise.

(deep breath)

Beth is getting suspicious.

MIKE (V.O.)

I'll only contact you in an emergency.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Beth is in the interrogation room.

The situation makes her tense.

KELLY

Ma'am, it's wise to voluntarily come in.

BETH

I'm a logical suspect. Correct?

KELLY

Lady, everyone is a suspect.

BETH

(arms crossed)

Go ahead. Fire away.

Kelly takes a drink of coffee.

WILKENSON

Anyone want to harm your husband?

BETH

No. Robert was loyal, at least to his friends.

Wilkinson paces before he speaks.

WILKENSON

What's going on with you and Pete Shay?

BETH

Nothing. Nothing at all.

KELLY

You stay with him?

BETH

...until I can earn plane fare home.

Kelly strolls. A hand is on his face.

Beth appears less confident.

KELLY

Who was Robert close too?

Beth ponders for a moment.

BETH

Close? Robert had a lover named Maria Pino. She acted as our maid.

WILKENSON

After you left?

BETH

Nope. During our marriage. Understand, Robert and I have not been lovers for years.

Beth bends forward.

BETH

That's not all. He took on a male lover.

(rolling her eyes)

I later saw the guy, Adolfo, at Pete's place. He came to say how infuriated he was.

KELLY

Last name? Address?

BETH

Neither.

KELLY  
We'll find him. Any others?

BETH  
No.

Kelly scratches his head.

KELLY  
Robert Gate. A bisexual?

INT. INSIDE CAR - DAY

Detective Dan Kelly is driving.

Frank Wilkenson is turning pages on a clipboard.

KELLY  
Pete Shay's supervisor confirms his story.

WILKENSON  
He still could be guilty.

KELLY  
Motive? ROBERT GATE'S WIFE?

Frank turns the page.

KELLY  
Hope this work address for Maria Pino is accurate.

WILKENSON  
If not, enjoy the ride.

They pull next to the driveway of a luxurious estate.

I/E. ESTATE - DAY

Dan scans the palatial grounds.

KELLY  
Different from the city!

WILKENSON  
Christ, a distinct playground.

They approach the home and ring the bell.

Maria answers.

They flash their badges.

KELLY

This is Detective Wilkenson and I'm  
Detective Kelly, from homicide.

MARIA

HOM...?

KELLY

HOMICIDE. Police investigation  
unit dealing with murders.

MARIA

Gotta do with Mr. Gate?

KELLY

Are you Maria Pino?

Maria immediately holds both hands on her chest.

MARIA

I DIDN'T DO IT!

KELLY

Hold on. We're not here to arrest  
you.

WILKENSON

Do you mind if we ask a few  
questions?

MARIA

Come.

The door closes behind them.

WILKENSON

You worked for Mr. Gate?

MARIA

Several years.

WILKENSON

Why did you leave?

MARIA

Disagreement. It was time.

KELLY

Did he have enemies?

MARIA

Enemies?

KELLY  
You know, people who didn't like  
him.

Maria pauses.

MARIA  
The wife!

KELLY  
Why?

MARIA  
They argued. He had a better  
relationship with me.

KELLY  
What do you mean?

Maria is unusually edgy.

MARIA  
He talked to me...regular.  
(fearful)  
I better get back to work!

Detective Wilkenson jots down notes.

KELLY  
Well, thanks for your time.

They walk down the driveway.

WILKENSON  
So?

KELLY  
She's telling part of the story...  
(slaps his cheek)  
...shit, I believe my wife's gonna  
kill me. I forgot our anniversary!

WILKENSON  
MY SYMPATHY!

Maria peeks between the curtains.

I/E. APARTMENT - DAY

Beth and Pete are drinking wine and listening to classical  
music.

BETH  
Do you like the music?

Pete drinks his wine.

PETE  
Sure do. I've got class.

BETH  
Aren't we proud of ourselves!

PETE  
Everyone should compliment  
themselves. Especially if no one  
else does. Ha, ha.

Pete abruptly changes to a serious tone.

PETE  
We're in hot water.

BETH  
Robert's murder?

PETE  
You weren't part of my plan!

BETH  
What plan? Are you hiding  
something?

Pete realizes what he said.

PETE  
Ah...don't mind me rambling.

BETH  
Rambling?

Pete grabs a magazine.

BETH  
We cooperated, didn't we?

PETE  
Cooperation helps. But it doesn't  
make us innocent!

BETH  
WE ARE INNOCENT!

PETE  
We know it. Do the police?

Beth is engrossed.

BETH  
What else can we do?

Pete takes a small piece of cheese.

Raises the volume.

He closes his eyes.

Beth gazes at him.

CUT TO:

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

The Detectives are in a lounge standing in the midsts of a boisterous group.

On stage there's a piano player dressed in a striped shirt, straw hat, and enlarged bow tie.

The piano plays.

Adolfo brakes out in song.

His voice is not polished, but the predominately male audience doesn't seem to care.

Adolfo tries to keep in tune, while humorously flipping his blonde wig and lifting up his dress.

Adolfo trips over the sign on stage that introduces Adolfina the Wicked.

The audience roars with laughter.

KELLY  
I'd rather be somewhere else!

Adolfo brushes himself off.

He grabs the microphone and begins to ramble a series of old standard jokes.

ADOLFO  
My favorite. COP JOKES!

Audience claps and hoots.

ADOLFO

I thought you had to be in  
relatively good physical condition  
to be a cop.

Piano player plays music. Crowd laughs.

ADOLFO

I almost became a cop, but I  
decided to finish high school  
instead.

Piano player plays more music. More chuckles.

ADOLFO

Can you give me another one of  
those full cavity searches?

The piano music brings the jokes to a close.

Adolfo waits for a reaction.

There's a mixture of chuckles, clapping, boos, and  
miscellaneous jeers.

Dan starts moving.

WILKENSON

Hold on. The act is nearly over.

Adolfo removes his garter belt and flings it into the  
audience.

A bug-eyed thin man stretched his arms and successfully  
captured the garter.

A glow of delicious satisfaction covered his body as he  
brushed the garter against his face.

Adolfina the Wicked exits.

INT. BACK STAGE - DAY

The two men knock on Adolpho's dressing room door.

ADOLFO

Come in, darling.

Adolfo is in front of a large, lighted mirror.

Adolfo's removing his make-up.

The detectives enter.

ADOLFO  
 Opps. I thought you were my  
 friend, Elgin.

Kelly approaches Adolfo flashing his badge.

KELLY  
 Afraid not! I'm Detective Kelly  
 and this is Detective Wilkenson.

ADOLFO  
 Did you enjoy the show? Sorry  
 about the cop humor. We don't get  
 many cops!

KELLY  
 You're Adolfo? We're here  
 regarding Robert Gate.

Adolfo is scraping the coloring off his face.

ADOLFO  
 I'm Adolfo.

Kelly is impatient.

KELLY  
 ROBERT. ROBERT GATE?

ADOLFO  
 Terrible. A dear of mine.

WILKENSON  
 When did you see him last?

Adolfo is tugging at one of his earrings.

ADOLFO  
 THESE DAMN THINGS HURT!

KELLY  
 Robert Gate?

Adolfo sits upright.

ADOLFO  
 Lord, I sleep late. I haven't seen  
 him in a week. Poor Robert! Why  
 question me?

KELLY  
 We're questioning his contacts.  
 You're on the list.

ADOLFO  
Silly boys.

KELLY  
We traced a call made by the  
murderer. It came from the lounge  
in your hotel.

ADOLFO  
Could be anyone!

KELLY  
Could be.

ADOLFO  
WELL, I DIDN'T CALL!

KELLY  
Finish your facial. We'll be back.

Kelly mockingly waves.

INT. BATH HOUSE - DAY

Wilkenson and Kelly approach the counter in the bath house.

A burly, gruff COUNTER MAN greets the Detectives.

COUNTER MAN  
Welcome. Sign in. I'll get you  
towels.

Dan gazes at Frank.

KELLY  
No thanks. We're searching for a  
club member.

COUNTER MAN  
Oh. Can I help?

Frank takes out his notebook.

WILKENSON  
Adolfo Rialli?

COUNTER MAN  
I'll page him.

WILKENSON  
That's okay. Where is he?

INT. BATH HOUSE - DAY

The bath facility houses a large swimming pool.

Surrounding the main pool are a number of small steam sites.

Men are socializing.

Kelly wipes his brow

KELLY

The steam is stifling.

WILKENSON

TROPICAL!

Frank accosts one of the SWIMMERS.

WILKENSON

Adolfo Rialli?

SWIMMER

(sappy voice)

Adolfo? In the hot pool.

The hot pool is a few steps away.

INT. BATH HOUSE - DAY

One person is in the water

ADOLFO

AGAIN! I just saw you boys.

WILKENSON

A couple more questions regarding  
Mr. Gates.

Adolfo utters in a sad murmur.

ADOLFO

Shameful. Who would possibly want  
to hurt Robert? I'M DEVASTATED!

Kelly slouches over the pool.

KELLY

You knew Robert Gate? Friends?

ADOLFO

Yes. More than friends.

KELLY  
MORE THAN FRIENDS? How so?

ADOLFO  
My boyfriend. We kept it secret.  
The news of his death slew me. I'm  
not myself. I'm simply not.

KELLY  
Was he keeping you?

ADOLFO  
Keeping?

KELLY  
Was he supporting you?

ADOLFO  
Sometimes.

Adolfo conveys an insincere composure.

ADOLFO  
My life is empty.

KELLY  
That's not what Mrs. Gate says.

ADOLFO  
My God, I was mad at Robert. He  
left me stranded.

KELLY  
Must be rough.

ADOLFO  
I WANT AN ATTORNEY!

KELLY  
No need. Enough for now.

ADOLFO  
He killed me. Pierced me through  
the heart.

Wilkenson wipes his forehead.

INT. VEHICLE - DAY

Kelly drives through traffic.

Wilkenson sits alongside going through his notes.

KELLY

When we get to the office, it's a  
cup of hot coffee.

Frank is silent.

KELLY

The place is FRUIT HEAVEN.

Frank remains quiet.

WILKENSON

Shouldn't call them FRUITS!

KELLY

What?

WILKENSON

The word FRUITS. It's offensive!

KELLY

(astonished)

Where are you coming from?

Peering out the side window, Frank blurts out.

WILKENSON

PHIL, MY SON...

KELLY

...great kid!

WILKENSON

Announced he's gay. Gay! Jeeezuz.  
What a ball buster!

(beat)

For Christ's sake, I'm a goddamn  
cop. He never told a soul.  
IMAGINE!

Dan is speechless.

He rolls up the window.

WILKENSON

He's still my son!

Dan fumbles for the right words.

KELLY

My first wife left me for a woman!  
Another woman! I never told anyone  
til now.

Kelly shoves a piece of gum in his mouth.

A call comes over the car radio reporting a robbery at a nearby liquor store.

Kelly and Wilkenson respond.

A marked cruiser with TWO UNIFORM PATROLMEN also arrive as they pull up.

They converse.

KELLY

Wilkenson and one officer cover the rear. We'll try the front.

Wilkenson and the other uniform cop move to the rear.

The front door is open.

There guns are drawn.

The clerk is slumped motionless over the counter.

Officer sees, from the end of the isle, the reflection of a shotgun pointed at Kelly's head.

Kelly is unaware.

The officer leaps and knocks Kelly to the ground.

The shotgun is fired.

The officer is hit.

Kelly is not injured.

The robber goes through the back.

He's quickly apprehended.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Both detectives are in their office.

KELLY

I'm getting too old for this shit.

WILKENSON

You got that right! Do you know the officer who stopped the bullet?

KELLY

It happened so fast. He was put in  
an ambulance. SAVED MY LIFE! I  
plan to thank him.

WILKENSON

His name is officer RICK YARDER.  
He's a recent academy graduate.  
HE'S GAY!

Kelly raises his head.

KELLY

He took a bullet for me?

Kelly goes into a contemplative state.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Beth is carrying a dish to the kitchen.

She stumbles on a protruding nail.

Beth rummages through draws in the living room, kitchen, and  
opens drawers in the bedroom.

BETH (V.O.)

A HAMMER?

She explores the bedroom and searches the closet.

An unlocked metal box is on the shelve.

Curiously, she opens it.

There's a wallet.

She unfolds it.

(INSERT)

There's a badge, Pete's photo, and FBI identification papers  
for Peter A. Shay.

Beth holds the wallet in disbelief.

Footsteps move through the living room.

PETE (O.S.)

BETH! ARE YOU HERE?

Beth quickly places the wallet in the metal box and returns  
it to the shelf.

BETH (O.S.)  
IN THE BEDROOM. STRAIGHTENING UP!

Pete saunters in.

Beth is centering a lamp.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Kelly approaches the nurse's desk holding a plant.

KELLY  
Room number for Rick Yarder,  
please?

NURSE  
Room 218. At the corner.

Kelly goes down the hall, sees room 218, and enters Rick's room.

Rick is seated on the bed reading a book.

KELLY  
Dan Kelly, homicide. You saved my  
life!

RICK  
Ah. Part of the job. Thanks for  
coming.

Kelly places the plant on the table.

KELLY  
Hope you like ivy.

RICK  
A favorite.

KELLY  
The shoulder?

Rick holds his shoulder.

RICK  
Feels fine. Should be out  
tomorrow.

KELLY  
You saved and changed my life at  
the same time.

RICK  
No need to explain!

Rick does not pursue it.

I/E. GATE LAWN - MORNING

Pete spots an old man (Henry) gathering fallen branches off the lawn.

He exits his truck.

Approaches the man.

PETE  
Heat's brutal!

Henry is startled.

HENRY  
WHAT? Can't hear. One ear is deaf. The other is going.

PETE  
(loudly)  
Sorry. I'LL YELL!

Pete stares at the house.

PETE  
Robert Gate was murdered here?

HENRY  
Huh?

PETE  
(louder)  
I said, THIS IS WHERE ROBERT GATE WAS MURDERED?

HENRY  
My boy!

Henry continues stacking loose branches.

PETE  
My deepest sympathy.

HENRY  
Happens.

PETE  
Any leads?

Henry clears a cluster of weeds.

HENRY  
Ea?

PETE  
ANY LEADS?

Henry shrugs his shoulders.

HENRY  
Got me!

PETE  
I'm your trash man. Today's my  
last day.

HENRY  
Treat your father right, sonny.  
Old people hate nursing homes.  
Anyway, did I tell you I was in the  
war...the big one?

PETE  
This is the first time we met.

HENRY  
Shit, I can tell you stories...

PETE  
...I'll bet you can.

HENRY  
Huh?

Pete begins moving away.

PETE  
Got to get back to work.

HENRY  
My kid didn't believe my war  
stories. ALWAYS BELIEVE YOUR  
FATHER!

Pete stands on the driveway.

CUT TO:

INT. FBI BUILDING - DAY

Pete enters the door which reads: MIKE BREVOR, SPECIAL  
INVESTIGATION AGENT.

He's enthusiastically greeted by Maggie, the receptionist.

MAGGIE  
How's our long-lost friend?

PETE  
Glad to be back.

MAGGIE  
A stack of mail is on your desk.

PETE  
Fans!

Maggie flashes a smile.

Maggie gestures.

MAGGIE  
He's in his office.

Pete goes into an adjoining office.

Mike Brevor is putting down the phone.

MIKE  
Good to have you back.

PETE  
Good to be back.

MIKE  
Excellent job! We assembled enough  
evidence to charge the drug leaders  
of Robert Gate's organization.  
We're issuing arrest warrants.

Pete gives a frown of satisfaction.

PETE  
No more digging through trash?

MIKE  
Not unless you feel an urgent need.

Mike leans back.

MIKE  
For two weeks, the vacation I  
promised. Starts tomorrow. And  
your promotion is waiting.

PETE  
Music to my ears!

MIKE  
Your name is cleared of the Gate  
murder.

Swinging in his chair.

PETE  
It's okay to reveal my identity?

MIKE  
Go ahead.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The day is crisp.

Leaves blanket the cemetery grounds.

Pete is lying on the grass.

Beth is near him.

PETE  
My personal world. A cemetery!

BETH  
Perfect.

PETE  
Last day at work today.

BETH  
Last day?

Pete starts running leaves through his hands.

PETE  
See, I've two things to tell you.  
Remember, you said you liked me in  
high school?

BETH  
Actually, I was crazy about you!

PETE  
Well, I had a huge crush on you  
too. But, I was so insecure.

BETH  
We're not in high school anymore.

Pete inhales a gulp of fresh air.

He hesitates.

PETE  
I'M AN UNDERCOVER FBI AGENT!

BETH  
I know.

Pete is taken aback.

BETH  
Yesterday, I was searching for a  
hammer. I went to the closet.  
You're an FBI Agent alright.  
(guilty expression)  
Are you annoyed?

PETE  
Hey, it wasn't your fault. I  
should have done a better job  
hiding my ID.

BETH  
Who were you supposed to  
investigate?

PETE  
Your husband!

BETH  
Robert?

PETE  
Did you ever wonder where he  
amassed his wealth?

BETH  
I have something to tell you.

PETE  
What?

BETH  
I was approached by the Federal  
Drug and Alcohol people to collect  
information on Robert's drug  
activities. Until then, we both  
lived separate lives.

PETE  
Why ask you for help? His wife.

BETH

They somehow knew Robert and I  
lived in distinct worlds.

(beat)

They told me of his drug  
involvement.

PETE

And...

BETH

And I took names, copied paper, and  
identified faces, until I left.

PETE

Why?

BETH

Why? My so-called husband only  
cared for himself. A drug lord who  
hurt others for money.

(reflective)

I'll admit...I foolishly stayed for  
the high living style. Dumb!

Beth places her hand on the father's tombstone.

BETH

What happens to US?

PETE

Say, I'm on vacation.

Beth places her finger on her lips.

BETH

I'M NOT GOING TOO FAR!

PETE

There's plenty to do here.

BETH

Pete, I'm scared.

PETE

Of what?

BETH

Of being charged with Robert's  
murder.

PETE

Did you do it?

BETH

No!

PETE

Then, don't worry!

Beth squeezes Pete's hand.

They embrace and kiss.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Maria Pino is toting a shopping bag as she walks toward the bus stop in the darkness.

One can still see mowed lawns and swanky homes.

Behind Maria, a shadow lurks.

Maria is struck on the head twice with a heavy pipe.

She drops to the ground.

Her shopping bag is scattered.

Her face rests in a pool of blood.

The gloved perpetrator releases the pipe and vanishes.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

A crowd gathers near the body.

Kelly and Wilkenson arrive.

They're approached by ANOTHER DETECTIVE.

KELLY

What do we have?

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

Female. About thirty. No ID. Hit twice on the skull. We have the weapon. Lab is investigating for leads.

Wilkenson lifts the sheet.

WILKENSON

Jesus H. MARIA PINO!

He returns to Kelly.

WILKENSON  
It's Maria Pino.

Kelly leans on a marked police car.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Frank is reading a bulletin handed to him by a DRESSED  
POLICEMAN.

He swings his chair toward Dan.

WILKENSON?  
Hell. What's going on? We lost  
another prime suspect!

KELLY  
Who?

WILKENSON  
Adolfo Rialli. DEAD!

Dan drops his pen.

KELLY  
Dead? How?

WILKENSON  
Apparently a drug overdose. Two  
elderly ladies found him on a park  
bench.

KELLY  
Murder? Suicide?

WILKENSON  
The autopsy report should be here  
soon.

Kelly is frustrated.

DETECTIVE KELLY  
Too bad. He knew a lot more than  
he was saying.

Wilkenson picks up his pen, shakes his head, and starts  
writing.

KELLY  
He said he was depressed.

Frank raises his head.

WILKENSON  
He wasn't kidding.

Dan goes over to the table and pours a cup of coffee.

An OFFICER hands Frank papers.

WILKENSON  
Here it is! The autopsy report.  
Adolfo's death was definitely an  
overdose.

KELLY  
Of course, the question is did he  
overdose? Or did someone help him?

Dan moves to his desk shaking his head.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Henry is fidgeting in the interrogation room.

Dan and Frank close the door.

Frank holds a folder filled with papers?

HENRY  
What the hell am I doing here? I  
told you what happened.

KELLY  
More questions.

HENRY  
Do I need a lawyer?

KELLY  
It's up to you. We're trying to  
fill in the blanks.

Henry bends his head toward Dan.

HENRY  
Speak up, sonny!

KELLY  
I SAID, IT'S YOUR CALL!

HENRY  
Horse tits! Who needs the money  
suckers, anyway?

Henry takes a cigar from his shirt pocket.

HENRY

Do you mind? Cuban! My kid's stock.

WILKENSON

Do you know Adolfo Rialli?

HENRY

Never heard of him.

WILKENSON

How about Maria Pino?

Henry's eyes open wide.

HENRY

Our former maid? The conniving twit! She and my kid schemed to send me to a nursing home. Ain't that a kick in the ass?

WILKENSON

She was murdered.

HENRY

Ea?

WILKENSON

MURDERED!

HENRY

NOT ME! Bullshit. You're not pinning it on me.

Frank places his hand on Henry's shoulder.

WILKENSON

Don't get excited!

HENRY

That's not to say the bitch didn't deserve it.

WILKENSON

There are things we find puzzling.

HENRY

PUZZLING? Is that what you said?

Kelly props his foot on the chair.

KELLY

PUZZLING! Was everything you told us true?

HENRY

Damn. I'm a war vet. We don't lie!

KELLY

On the morning of Robert's murder, you said you heard the trash truck?

HENRY

Couldn't miss the noise.

KELLY

IS YOUR HEARING GOOD ENOUGH TO DETECT A TRUCK OUTSIDE?

Henry puffs on his cigar.

HENRY

Sounded like a truck.

KELLY

Could you've been mistaken?

HENRY

Huh?

KELLY

COULD YOU BE MISTAKEN?

HENRY

Hell, when you're my age, anything is possible.

KELLY

Maybe a dream?

HENRY

Maybe.

Reaches in his pocket.

Throws a diamond earring on the table.

HENRY

One thing I didn't say...I saw the killer.

WILKENSON

WHAT? YOU SAW THE KILLER?

HENRY

Yea, I recognized her. Here's her earring.

Henry puts an earring on the table.

HENRY

Robert wanted me in a nursing home. I'd die first! She solved my problem.

KELLY

But he's your son.

HENRY

I took care of him. He didn't care what happened to me. Sure, I was shocked...and relieved.

KELLY

Henry. Who did you see?

Pulls the ashtray closer.

HENRY

BETH! She didn't see me. I'd know her ass anywhere!

DETECTIVE

Would you testify to that?

HENRY

Hey boys! It's time for a lawyer.

Kelly glances at his watch.

KELLY

Henry, we'll be talking. Soon.

HENRY

Yeah. Yeah.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Dan and Frank are in the midst of a discussion.

WILKENSON

Henry. Where does the truth end? Where does the fabrication begin?

KELLY

The guy's a storyteller.

Frank taps his pen.

WILKENSON

Pull any records we might have on  
the people under investigation.

KELLY

Already done. None found...except  
two convictions against Adolfo for  
lewd conduct. That's it!

Frank taps his pen harder.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Frank and Dan knock on Pete's door.

Pete answers.

KELLY

Hi. Strange seeing you, an FBI  
Agent.

Pete swings the door wide.

PETE

Collecting trash is not easy!

WILKENSON

Good to have you with us.

PETE

Appreciate that!

Pete escorts them in.

WILKENSON

Beth Gate?

Pete sees her walking out of the kitchen.

PETE

Here she comes! Have a seat.

They relax.

BETH

Hello. I kinda expected you.

KELLY

Do you want an attorney?

BETH  
Sounds serious!

KELLY  
It is!  
(deep breath)  
A witness claims YOU committed  
Robert's murder!

Beth steps back.

BETH  
PREPOSTEROUS!

PETE  
Who?

KELLY  
Henry Gate.

Beth is stunned.

BETH  
Why? This is ridiculous.

KELLY  
We want your story.

BETH  
I'M INNOCENT! End of story.

KELLY  
Allow me to cite possible motives.

Pete jumps in.

PETE  
ARE YOU CHARGING HER?

KELLY  
No. Consider the facts.

Beth listens silently.

PETE  
Go ahead.

KELLY  
The father said he saw you.

Beth bends forward.

BETH  
TOTAL FABRICATION!

KELLY  
See, Ms. Gates, the number of  
suspects is dwindling. And, with  
Robert dead, you're in line to gain  
his inheritance.  
(reflects)  
Henry found one of your diamond  
earrings next to the body.

Pete's eyes light up.

PETE  
NOT TRUE! When I first met Beth,  
she told me she forgot her jewelry.  
THE EARRING WAS PLANTED!

BETH  
Henry lied to you.

Frank puts away his notebook.

KELLY  
By the way, it could be someone  
else. Someone we never suspected.  
(beat)  
We'll speak to Henry again.

Frank and Dan head for the door.

INT. GATE LIVING ROOM - DAY

The two homicide Detectives are seated across from Henry.

Henry's cigar smoke fills the air.

HENRY  
The study! I was limited to the  
damn study. Now, the place is  
mine. NO NURSING HOME!  
(changes subject)  
Reminds me of what happened in the  
big war...

Kelly cuts Henry off before he starts.

KELLY  
Pardon the intrusion.

Henry's eyes light up.

HENRY  
Did you arrest her yet?

KELLY  
Who?

HENRY  
Bitchy Beth.

KELLY  
We have details to check out.

HENRY  
Damn. I told you I saw her. SHE  
DID IT!

Dan intensely stares at Henry.

KELLY  
YOU DIDN'T SEE BETH, DID YOU?

Henry takes a defensive posture.

HENRY  
Huh? You calling me a liar?

Kelly leans back.

WILKENSON  
What Detective Kelly means is we  
sometime imagine things.

HENRY  
She's real, alright.

WILKENSON  
Could you have been mistaken?

HENRY  
Suppose.

KELLY  
And the earring. You placed it  
near your sons body?

Henry lowers his head.

HENRY  
What does it matter? Hell, no one  
believes an old man.

KELLY

You can be charged for giving false information?

Henry is dazed.

HENRY

Didn't mean to hurt anyone!

KELLY

What about Beth Gate?

HENRY

Well, I figured if the cops arrested her, everyone would be happy.

KELLY

Everyone...except Ms. Gate.

WILKENSON

We'll be getting back.

The Detectives start to leave.

HENRY

WILL I GO TO JAIL?

WILKENSON

Can't answer.

The front door closes.

Henry places his head in his hands and weeps.

INT. POLICE LAB - DAY

The big lab is loaded with technology.

Dan opens an office door that says: KEN HARDING, DIRECTOR.

Ken puts a folder to the side.

KEN

Dan! Long time no see. Keeping you busy?

KELLY

I'm earning my pay.

KEN

Let me guess. You're here about the Gate case?

KELLY

Bingo!

Ken pulls a folder from his pile.

Starts turning pages.

KEN

GET THIS! When we first investigated Gate's murder, we found nothing significant, Then, I sent another team, and they found footprint treads encircling each body.

KELLY

The killer's prints?

KEN

We're not certain, yet. I'll get the results shortly.

KELLY

Good work!

KEN

Also, a hair was found on the weapon used to murder Maria Pino. A possible DNA match.

KELLY

Sweet.

KEN

We aim to please!

Ken departs with an insightful grin.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Ken Harding enters Dan and Frank's office.

KELLY

Pretty important when the big honcho comes.

KEN

Certainly is!

KELLY

What's up?

Ken opens a folder.

KEN

The murderer in the Gate's case!

Frank and Dan immediately focus on Ken.

KELLY

What do you have?

Ken displays papers.

KEN

Lab results.

KELLY

Well?

KEN

Seems the crime was perpetrated by a male. We have molded footprints and photos. Size ten. The exact footprints at the two crime sites.

The Detectives listen intently.

KEN

Incidentally, we received the results of the DNA on the hair. Once we find the match, the murderer is history.

WILKENSON

Search warrants! Ken, you're a saint.

Frank and Dan take the report and scoot out of the office.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Knock on Pete's door.

Pete answers.

The two Detectives are invited in.

PETE

Hello again.

WILKENSON

Hey Pete. New information on the murderer.

PETE

Go ahead.

WILKENSON

Evidently a male, with a size ten shoe.

Frank hands Pete pictures of the footprints.

KELLY

The Chief wants us to check the shoe collection of every adult male in contact with Mr. Gate, including you.

PETE

I agree.

Detective Wilkenson begins removing official papers from his jacket.

PETE

No need for a search warrant. My shoes are in the closet. Elevens.

The Detectives complete their search.

PETE

Who's next?

KELLY

Eccentric Henry. Our best suspect.

PETE

Wish you luck.

The apartment door closes.

I/E. GATE ESTATE - DAY

A car pulls up to the Gate house.

They walk to the front and ring the bell.

Henry answers.

HENRY

YOU TWO AGAIN!

Detective Kelly hands papers to Henry.

KELLY

Again. We have a search warrant. We're matching shoe prints.

HENRY  
Hell. You gotta be joking.

KELLY  
No joke.

HENRY  
My tax money. What a fuckin'  
waste.

Henry allows the officers in.

KELLY  
What's your shoe size?

Henry raises his hand to his ear

HENRY  
WHAT'S THAT?

WILKENSON  
HE ASKED YOUR SHOE SIZE!

HENRY  
Aha, medium.

Henry yanks a cigar out of his shirt pocket.

WILKENSON  
THE NUMBER?

HENRY  
Nine. I think...nine. Why?

WILKENSON  
Part of the investigation. Where  
are your shoes?

HENRY  
My shoes?

WILKENSON  
Yeah.

HENRY  
In my closet? Under the bed? In  
the bathroom? Could be anyplace!

Kelly rummages through the closet.

Each shoe is matched with the photo.

He goes to each room, closet, and under the beds.

Kelly glances at his watch.

KELLY  
The shoes are size nine.

HENRY  
What did I say?

WILKENSON  
Had to check.

HENRY  
I wore size nine in the BIG ONE,  
WW2.

WILKENSON  
We're on our way out. Thanks.

HENRY  
That reminds me of the Army boot  
story...hey...  
(V.O.)  
...dicks!

Dan and Frank bolt down the driveway.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Frank is busily going through reports.

Dan stares into space.

WILKENSON  
What next?

KELLY  
Start identifying all Robert's  
outside contacts.

WILKENSON  
That could take forever!

Dan's eyes open wide.

KELLY  
HOW COULD WE MISS IT?

WILKENSON  
Miss what?

KELLY  
Adolfo! He was alive when the  
murders occurred.

WILKENSON

You mean...?

KELLY

Exactly.

They fly out of the office.

CUT TO:

I/E. PET STORE - DAY

Pete and Beth are peering into a pet store window.

A flashing sign reads: THE CARING PET.

Pete pulls Beth inside.

BETH

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.

PETE

Celebrate! You're off the hook. A puppy will spark your life.

They're surrounded by cages housing mice, gerbils, birds, cats, one chimp, puppies, and assorted creatures.

A beautifully colored, huge, parrot swivels its head.

PARROT

GET UP! GET UP!

The SALES LADY comes over.

SALES LADY

Quite a bird! That's BULFORD.

Beth moves closer.

BETH

Howdy Bulford! You're priceless.

SALES LADY

He is! Bulford's vocabulary is limited to GET UP!

BETH

Why's that?

SALES LADY

He use to be owned by a wealthy  
gent who tipped the bottle once too  
often. The bird was trained to  
say GET UP.

(resigned)

Unfortunately, customers enjoy  
sleeping. Bulford is a tough sell!

Beth places her hand on the cage.

BETH

Hope you find a nice home, Bulford.

A slew of puppies are whimpering inside the row of cages.

One is alone.

He's far from being the most handsome.

Beth is immediately attracted.

She grabs Pete's arm.

The plaque on the cage says: ENGLISH BULL DOG, 8 WEEKS OLD.

BETH

Isn't he adorable?

PETE

Adorable?

BETH

He's so homely, he's cute.

PETE

That's not how you pick your men,  
is it?

BETH

Silly!

PETE

Got a name picked out?

BETH

Almo.

SALES LADY

(interrupting)

You may want to think again. It's  
a female.

BETH  
Then...it'll be Alma.

Beth squeezes the pup.

PETE  
We'll take her!

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Frank and Dan approach the desk of a swank hotel.

Frank takes papers out of a folder.

The MANAGER greets them.

KELLY  
This is Detective Wilkenson. I'm  
Detective Kelly. We have a search  
warrant to inspect Adolfo Rialli's  
place.

MANAGER  
We gave him until this week to  
raise the back rent. I haven't  
even seen him.

KELLY  
You won't. Adolfo's dead.

MANAGER  
Ohmigod!  
(beat)  
I'll take you up to his penthouse.

They follow the Manager up plush stairs and expensively  
designed hallways.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

The Manager fiddles with his keys to open the padlock.

KELLY  
I'll start with the closets.

WILKENSON  
I'll get the dressers and under the  
bed.

Each search diligently.

Dan finds shoes in the closet.

Takes out a photo.

Kelly holds up a pair of shoes.

KELLY  
Size ten alright. But no match.

They continue to search.

Detective Kelly displays a large sign and blonde wig.

The sign promotes Adolfina. In bold red captions - SEE THE  
BLOND BEAUTY ADOLFINA THE WICKED. SHE SINGS! SHE DANCES!  
SHE'LL EXCITE YOU!

Kelly removes hair samples from Adolfo's jacket.

The Manager goes into the luxurious bathroom.

Behind the shower curtain he spots a pair of muddy shoes,  
alongside a pair of gloves.

He runs out.

MANAGER  
There are shoes and gloves in the  
shower!

Frank and Dan go in.

WILKENSON  
Size ten. The prints match.

KELLY  
JACKPOT!

They thank the Manager for his help and depart.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Kelly is in the lab office speaking to Ken.

Ken is reviewing a report.

KEN  
This DNA report confirms the hair  
match. The foot prints are  
identical. ADOLFO IS OUR MAN!

KELLY  
A dead killer!

Dan rubs his head.

Dan starts for the door.

Stops halfway out.

KELLY

What do they say in show  
business...IT'S A WRAP!

INT. PETE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lights are dim.

Pete walks over to the couch where Beth is lying with Alma  
fast asleep.

Beth slowly rises, holds Pete's hand, and enters his bedroom.

They get on the bed and stare at each other.

Beth hugs the pillow.

BETH

HAVE YOU EVER LOVED ANYONE?

PETE

I guess so. You see, I'm looking  
for the genuine woman!

BETH

Where will you find her?

Pete reaches over to the end table and picks up a rose.

He hands it to Beth.

BETH

BEAUTIFUL!

She smells the fragrance and notices a ring inside the rose.

Beth pulls it out.

PETE

I'VE FOUND HER!

BETH

You have?

PETE

Yep. Will you be my wife?

Beth looks at Pete, and then the ring.

BETH  
Yes. YES. OF COURSE!

They passionately kiss.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Beth holds the phone to her ear.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Hello.

BETH  
Hi. It's Beth.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Pumpkin!

Beth throws herself backwards on the recliner.

BETH  
GUESS WHAT?

FADE OUT.

THE END