Things Change

By
David Dogman Harvey

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FADE IN:

EXT. BACKYARD - DUSK

DONNY WILSON, mild mannered man in his forties and his no nonsense wife, LAURIE sit by their fire pit behind their home in Bellingham, Washington. They have two glasses of wine and the bottle on the table between them. Donny raises his glass.

DONNY
One more year.

Laurie raises her glass and clicks it against Donny’s.

LAURIE
I can’t believe it. In a year we can put away the money for that second house.

DONNY
In four years we’ll have at least forty thousand for that second home.

They click their glasses again.

LAURIE
I love this place.

DONNY
Life is good.

NANCY, the older woman next door comes out of her house onto the deck of her home and shouts out a greeting over the stockade fence.

NANCY
Hi neighbors. Donny, I’m going on a trip next week to see my son. Could you bring in my mail and take care of my Chester?

LAURIE
You’re not taking your dog?

NANCY
He getting too old for the trip. He likes it here.
DONNY
We all get use to routine as we get older, even dogs. I’ll stop by tomorrow and we can go over the details.

NANCY
Thanks Donny.

Nancy goes back into her house.

LAURIE
This second home should be the house we’d retire to.

DONNY
I think we should start researching islands on Puget Sound. Find the best fit.

LAURIE
Sounds good.

They click their glasses of wine again.

LAURIE (CONT’D)
Sweet.

DONNY
It is and we’re on our way to easy street. To smooth sailing.

LAURIE
To smooth sailing on the Pudget Sound.

They smile as they sip their wine.

EXT. CONDO COMPLEX – DAY

Three months later. A light snow has fallen on Spruce Hills Condos in Bellingham, Washington. It’s morning and the sun has been up for a couple hours. It’s cold. And there’s a slight breeze adding to the wind chill factor.

INT. CONDO – DAY

BRUCE WILSON, an eccentric elderly and small man in his eighties is in his little kitchen of his second floor condo pulls a bag of trash from a plastic bin from a base cabinets. He draws the strings of the plastic bag and starts
to tie it off.

His apartment is filled with his Civil War Union Suit
collection and other Worlds War Two memorabilia. With old
dirty union suits on the walls and other things cluttering
the apartment looks like a dirty hoarders home.

Bruce has three different television sets with old VCR tape
machines hooked up to them. His cat stands in the bathroom
doorway and starts crying. The cat is old and gangly
looking. Bruce stops.

BRUCE
Fluffy....is your box dirty .... Is
that the problem?

He re-opens the trash bag and walks into the bathroom. The
cat box sits between the bathroom vanity and the toilet.
Bruce grabs a plastic scooper leaning in the corner and
starts scooping hard dry cat poop out of the box.

BRUCE
Fluffy you’ve been busy!

There’s a lot of new and dried cat crap in the box. Once all
the cat poop is cleaned out, Bruce notices how wet the lower
two inches of the cat litter is.

BRUCE
We’ll get you some new litter.
This one needs to dry out.

He carries the box out to his second floor deck that has a
roof covering, protecting half the deck from the elements.
Cold, he throws the box in the corner and picks up an
identical box already sitting there. He rushes back in.

BRUCE
Boy it’s cold out there. I didn’t
know we’d get more snow.

Bruce takes the new box and places it back in the bathroom.
He picks up the plastic scooper again and starts breaking up
the used and now dry cat litter. He keeps working and
breaking up the urine soaked, but now “dried” cat litter.

Bruce goes to the kitchen and washes his hands. Fluffy now
stands by the condo’s front door and starts meowing.
BRUCE
My sweet little baby wants to
go out.

Wanting the cat to go out and do its business. Bruce grabs a
dish rag on the counter and starts to dry his hands. He
takes the trash bag sitting outside the bathroom. In a rush
he throws the dish towel into the sink and picks up the
trash. The water is still running from the faucet.

He takes his big puffy green down coat off the rack behind
the front door. He opens the door for the cat.

BRUCE
Lets go! Cops, Lets Make a Deal
and Family Feud start in ten minutes.
I have to start the machines.

Bruce and Fluffy leave with his coat half on, he closes the
door. The kitchen faucet continues to run, the dish cloth
slowly moves to the drain and absorbs the water and serves
as an adequate drain stopper. The sink starts to fill.

EXT. CONDO COMPLEX - DAY

Bruce walks down the unit’s stairs and opens the main door.
He lets the cat out. He walks down the sidewalk with the
trash bag in hand.

He notices a young MAN sitting in a car right in his parking
space. He eyeballs the young man with a GIRL next to him,
listening to their car’s radio. The music is loud and Bruce
can easily hear it even with the car windows rolled up.

Bruce turns the corner onto the main sidewalk and walks down
to the large dumpster that serves his condo unit. He slides
open the door and throws the trash bag in. He slides the
door back and starts back up the sidewalk.

Bruce continues to eyeball the young man in the car that’s
in his parking space. The girl is gone and the man is
staring up, smiling, listening to his loud music. Bruce cuts
the corner to the walkway to his unit.

Walking off the shoveled and sanded walkway across the snow
covered front lawn. The ground is covered in a few inches of
snow and the ground is icy under the snow. Bruce’s leg kicks
out and he falls hard to the ground on his butt.

He’s hurt badly and lies out on the snow unable to get up.
The man still sits in his car looking up and smiling, listening to his music oblivious to what just happened. Bruce lies in the snow weakly calling out.

**BRUCE**

Hel...lp.

His old gangly cat walks over to Bruce and climbs on top of his chest.

**BRUCE**

Fluffy, go get help!

The cat sits down on Bruce’s chest and starts cleaning its butt.

Two male fifteen year old stoners come walking down the condo’s sidewalk all bundled up with their jackets’ hoods up smoking a doobie. Their hoods are like horse blinders as they can only see straight ahead.

**TEEN 1**

This is some serious shit.

**TEEN 2**

I know, I think I’m hallucinating already.

**TEEN 1**

Where’d you get it?

**TEEN 2**

My brother’s stash.

**TEEN 1**

Aren’t you afraid he’ll mess you up?

**TEEN 2**

He had a lot of weed. He’s so stoned he won’t miss one joint.

They come up to Bruce wiggling his arms with the cat on his chest. The cat sees the youths and runs around the condo.

**TEEN 1**

Dude, look. Some guy is pretending to be a turtle on his back.

The two kids start laughing.
TEEN 2
That’s strange man. Maybe we should roll him over.

TEEN 1
No man. My biology teacher said man should never touch nature.

TEEN 2
Right. Good luck little turtle.

The two kids wave as they pass by Bruce as he struggles gasping for help and waving his arms and moving his one good leg.

INT. BRUCE’S CONDO - DAY

The sink in Bruce’s kitchen is overflowing and running over the countertop and down the cabinets and onto the kitchen floor.

EXT. CONDO COMPLEX - DAY

Thirty minutes later:

Bruce still lies on the ground weakly calling out and waving one of his arms towards the man in the car.

RUTH, an older resident of the condo unit comes out of the main door and spots Bruce lying on the ground. She rushes down the sidewalk to Bruce.

   RUTH
   Mister Wilson, are you alright?

   BRUCE
   No. I can’t get up. I think something’s broken.

   RUTH
   How long have you been here?

   BRUCE
   (exaggerating)
   Over an hour. I’ve been trying to get the attention of the man in my parking spot.

Bruce points at the man in the car who is still oblivious to what’s going on and Ruth walks over to the car and starts
shouting at the driver’s side window.

The man suddenly realizes something is up and partially rolls down his window.

RUTH
Can’t you see this man! He’s fallen and he can’t get up!

Ruth turns and starts up the walkway to her condo.

RUTH
Don’t worry Mister Wilson, I’m calling an ambulance!

She continues back up the sidewalk and into the condo unit.

The Girl’s head pops up front the man’s lap wearing a winter raccoon-animal cap on her head.

GIRL
Should I go in?

MAN
No! Finish up first.

INT. BRUCE’S CONDO - DAY

Water is now flooding the floor of Bruce’s kitchen.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS CONDO - DAY

Water is leaking out of light fixtures on the ceiling. The drywall is soaked from water damage. Water is puddling on the floor.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF CONDO - DAY

Over a hour later.

The ambulance with its lights on, pulls away from the condo as one of the tenants pulls into a parking space in front. A well groomed WOMAN gets out of the car and her SISTER gets out of the passenger side door.

WOMAN
You should see the fabulous work Lynn Lukas Designs did to my condo.
You’re not going to believe it!
SISTER
Maybe you should have done this
done before the holidays.

WOMAN
I know. I know.

The two women enter the condo’s main entrance.

INT. CONDO LOBBY - DAY

The Woman puts her key into the lock of her front door and
turns the key of her downstairs condo. She turns to her
Sister.

WOMAN
You won’t believe this!

The Woman opens the door and six inches of water pours out
of her apartment unit.

WOMAN
Ahhhhhhhh....

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Bruce lies in a bed surrounded by his grown middle age
daughters, serious DEBBIE, the partier JUDY and TRACY her
spunky sixteen year old daughter. Donny Wilson, his good
hearted son walks in.

DONNY
Pop, are you alright?

BRUCE
I broke my femur bone when I fell.

Groans in pain and winces.

DONNY
How’d you do that?

BRUCE
I was cutting the corner on the
sidewalk looking at this car in
my parking space.

DONNY
So why did you cut the corner?
BRUCE
(getting impatient)
I told you! Someone was in my parking space.

Donny puts up his hands to surrender.

DONNY
Okay. So where’s your car?

BRUCE
Elm Street. The side of the road.

DONNY
What’s it doing there?

BRUCE
I wanted to see how many miles I get to the gallon.

DEBBIE
Yeah. So?

BRUCE
So I filled it up and wrote down the mileage.

JUDY
And?

BRUCE
You know. I had to drive it till it ran out of gas.

JUDY
That’s not how you do it!

BRUCE
Sure it is. Then you subtract the old mileage from the new one.

DEBBIE
Oh my God. How advanced is your Alzheimer’s?

BRUCE
What are you talking about? It worked. I get twenty nine miles a gallon.
DONNY
Pop, you fill your tank and write
down the mileage. You then write
down the number of gallons you put in.....

BRUCE
Okay smart boy. I should of got
you to do it. Speaking of my smart
son, where’s Stephen?

DEBBIE
He’s flying in. He’ll be here tonight.

BRUCE
(looking at Donny)
I’ll ask him how you do it.

DONNY
You do that Pop. So we better call
the relatives to let them know.
I’ll call cousin Nancy, she can
let her side of the family know.

DEBBIE
I’ll call Aunt Ann. She can let
the Roberts side know.

BRUCE
Oh, you can’t do that!

DEBBIE
Why?

BRUCE
Ann is dead.

In unison they all say “What!” “When” and “Died.”

DONNY
Died!

BRUCE
Died.

DEBBIE
Died?

BRUCE
Died.
JUDY
Died.

TRACY
Who died?

Everyone gives Tracy a quick look.

BRUCE
Yeah. Patty called. To tell me about the wake and funeral.

DONNY
And you didn’t call us.

JUDY
Did you go?

BRUCE
God no! You know how I hate those things involving death.

DEBBIE
Did you ever think of calling us, so we could go?

BRUCE
I didn’t think about it.

JUDY
So our entire side of the family didn’t make an appearance at mom’s sister’s wake?

BRUCE
Well...if I thought it was important, I’d of called.

Judy slaps her head in disbelief as Donny rolls his eyes. A young pretty NURSE comes into the room with a pleasant smile.

DEBBIE
A little late now!

JUDY
I’ll call cousin Patty and apologize and explain never to call Dad with family matters that have to be shared.
The Nurse starts to pull the bed curtain around the bed.

**NURSE**
Mister Wilson, time for your sponge bath. Say good bye to your friends.

With a grin and wide eyes on the Nurse, Bruce raises both hands and waves, then does the shoo motion with his hands.

**BRUCE**
Bye bye bye. Go go go.

The family starts filtering out of the room as a happy and extremely effeminate African American orderly, MAURICE 24 comes in with a towel draped over his arm, holding a bowl and wash cloth.

He works his way through the curtain. He’s seems to love his job and appears very eager to do it.

**NURSE**
This is Maurice. He’ll be giving you your sponge bath.

**MAURICE**
Okay Mr. Wilson, shimmy up that jonnie so we can get at the naughty bits.

The Nurse leaves with Bruce sitting wide eyed without the grin.

**INT. CORRIDOR IN HOSPITAL – DAY**

The three siblings and walking down the corridor.

**DONNY**
We’re going to have to discuss things as a family.

**DEBBIE**
He can’t live alone anymore.

**JUDY**
He’s going to have a hard time with the stairs. He can barely take care of himself since mom died.

**DONNY**
We’ll discuss this when Stephen gets here. Judy, we better check
DONNY (CONT’D)

his apartment. He won’t be going back. Feed the cat, get his mail.

JUDY

Right.

INT. BRUCE’S CONDO - DAY

Donny is at the door with the Woman whose downstairs apartment was ruined. Although the next day, the Woman still looks disheveled and in shock, exhausted and meek.

DONNY

I’m real sorry about your unit being flooded. My father’s insurance will take care of it.

WOMAN

Take care of it. My apartment is destroyed.

DONNY

Like I said, I’m sorry, but my father was hurt. He never returned to his unit. He was lying in the front of the building.

WOMAN

He left the water running.

DONNY

Yeah.. He’s like that.

Donny shuts the door on the Woman. He turns and walks over to his sister’s daughter, TRACY in the kitchen. The kitchen is a mess with dirty plates, silverware, glasses and food boxes and empty open cans on the countertop. Pots and pans in the sink.

TRACY

The linoleum is still wet at the edge and it’s curling up a little. The carpet’s wet but everything else looks fine.

DONNY

Sure, but go downstairs and look around like I did.
TRACY
No thanks. Not my pay grade.

DONNY
Not your pay grade! Where did you get that and where’s your mother?

TRACY
Political Science class.

DONNY
Whatever happened to baking or sewing class? So where’s your mother?

TRACY
She had to make a beer run.

DONNY
Figures.

TRACY
Check the fridge for beers.

DONNY
The apples don’t fall far, do they?

TRACY
What?

DONNY
Forget it.

Donny opens the door to the refrigerator and notices how bare it is, except for all these boxes of processed foods that are suppose to be kept frozen.

TRACY
What’s that smell? Shouldn’t those hash browns, waffles, and packages of bacon and sausages be in the freezer? Are those vegetables?

DONNY
Were. That’s the smell of spoiled food. It’s refreshing compared to the stench of cat urine.

Donny pulls out the vegetable drawer and hands it to Tracy.
DONNY
Here, wash out the rotter drawer.

He pulls out the meat drawer and exposes a drawer filled with bloody meat that has been thawed for a while and the blood has drained from the meat showing the real color of the meat, gray. The drawer is filled with the blood or red dye. Some of it has started to dry on the edges.

DONNY
Oh my god! This is disgusting.

TRACY
Grandma wouldn’t put up with this.

DONNY
No, she wouldn’t. He eats with Sal now.

TRACY
Who?

DONNY
Salmonella.

INTERCUT - SHOTS OF EVERYONE ON A PHONE - NIGHT

All of Bruce’s children, STEPHEN 52, the oldest and a successful executive, Donny, Debbie and Judy all content middleclass adults, are in their kitchens or living rooms during the phone conference. Judy and Tracy are listening by speaker phone, as is Donny and his wife, Laurie.

JUDY
Well Dad can’t live alone. His apartment stinks of cat urine and is filthy. His food situation is terrible. God knows how contaminated his food is with bacteria. He’s broke. His dirty underwear collection cost him whatever money he had left after mom died. His Social Security check is pretty small.

DONNY
How do you know about the food situation?

JUDY
Tracy. Who do you think’s feeding his cat!
DONNY
Of course. Anyway, I think one of us should take him in.

STEPHEN
What about a home? One of those retirement communities.

DONNY
They’re pretty expensive. More than Pop can afford on his Social Security check.

STEPHEN
He can use the money from the sale of his condo.

JUDY
I don’t think it’ll last long. What if he lives ten more years? The sale money would last five … six years maybe.

DEBBIE
I’m fine and can’t take in Dad. No room with the kids.

DONNY
Judy wants to move and could use the extra money. I don’t need any money.

STEPHEN
Me neither. I’m all set.

DONNY
I say we give all the money to Judy and she wants a new house. She can buy one with enough room. Like with an in-law space.

TRACY
(to Judy)
You’re not going to be yelling at Grandpa all the time? Are you!

JUDY
Honey, that’s always the wine talking.
TRACY
Well maybe you should see what the coffee has to say!

JUDY
(realizing she’s right)
Yeah...well.. that’s not going to work for me. I’m out...but I’m going to need some money. I still want a new house.

DONNY
Stephen you have the perfect house. A ranch with no stairs. Plus the extra bedrooms are on the opposite end of the house.

STEPHEN
Well... I’m not there that much with all my traveling. I’m not leaving him alone in my house. He deserves better... He deserves you. He gets along best with you!

DONNY
That’s true.

Laurie listening in, covers the phone with her hand so no one else can hear.

LAURIE
What! He’s not moving in with us!

DONNY
Just a minute.

Donny covers his phone.

DONNY
Why not?! We have no kids. We have three extra bedrooms.

LAURIE
They’re all on the second floor with us.

DONNY
He can have the one at the end.

LAURIE
Hell no! I’m not going to live
LAURIE (CONT’D)
with him constantly running into
him everyday. AND the cat!

DONNY
We’ll move. Get an in-law suite
with the house.

LAURIE
That won’t be easy. The work involved.
Fixing, selling, repairing, MOVING.

DONNY
I didn’t say it was going to be easy.

LAURIE
I like our house now and what about
his CAT? I hate cats.

DONNY
It’ll be in his unit. You’ll never
see it.

LAURIE
Well if our dogs see it…it’s dead meat.

DONNY
He’ll turn it into a house cat.

LAURIE
Wonderful! What happened to smooth
sailing?

DONNY
Things change. They say life is
what happens as you’re making plans.
(Donny uncovers his phone)
Okay, my place but we have to move.

STEPHEN
So we’re all set. Donny gets whatever
monies are left and of course Dad.

DEBBIE
Great.

LAURIE
Yeah… great.

JUDY
And I get some money too!
They all hang up quickly leaving only Donny and Laurie on the line with Laurie glaring across the table at Donny.

DONNY
I’d take in your parents.

LAURIE
Shut up.

EXT. OLD HOUSE - NITE
Spring. A moving truck is in the driveway. It’s fully packed with the rear door still up. Donny is placing the last item in its place. Laurie watches from the driveway.

LAURIE
Fixing up your father’s condo.
Selling it. Trips to the Salvation Army and one big tag sale. Fixing up our house, selling it. I can’t believe it’s almost over.

DONNY
Me neither. Three months of hell and we’re approaching the finish line.

LAURIE
I’ll get us a couple beers.

DONNY
Sounds good.

Laurie goes into the house as a car pulls up in front of Donny’s and Laurie’s old house. Judy and Tracy get out of the car and walk around the back of the truck and look in at Donny.

Laurie walks out of the house with two beers in hand.

LAURIE
Oh...hi Judy. Tracy. When did you get here?

Judy takes a beer out of Laurie’s hand.

JUDY
Just now. Thanks.

Judy takes a swig of her beer.
JUDY
Boy that hits the spot!

Donny walks down the ramp of the moving truck.

Tracy walks over to her Aunt and takes the other beer from her other hand.

TRACY
Thanks. You’re my favorite aunt and the best host.

Bewildered, Laurie looks at Tracy.

LAURIE
How old are you? Sixteen.

JUDY
Oh I let her drink now. She’s got to learn sometime, might as well be with me.

Judy takes another swig of beer as Donny and Laurie watch.

DONNY
Did you bring me one, Hon?

LAURIE
Yeah! I’ll get you another one.

Laurie retreats back into the house for two more beers.

DONNY
Just finished! Tomorrow we’ll throw in the last of it and spend all day moving in. I’m exhausted.

JUDY
I bet! You look like you could use some help.

DONNY
Yeah I do. We’ll be there by ten tomorrow, so bring Pop from the rehab center anytime after that. We’ll get his car later.

Laurie comes back out with two more beers. Donny takes one from her hand as Judy pounds the last of her beer and then takes the second beer from Laurie’s hand and puts her empty
bottle back in it.

Judy takes another big swig from her new beer.

    JUDY
    Boy that hits the spot.

Laurie stands blank faced.

    TRACY
    You should get a beer and join us.

Laurie now looks over to her niece blank faced as Tracy takes a swig of her beer.

EXT. NEW HOUSE’S DRIVEWAY - DAY

It’s late morning and the truck is being unloaded by Donny and Laurie. Donny’s dogs are BARKING from the backyard.

Their new neighbor, hyper and intense, SUSAN HOWELL in her forties, walks around from her backyard. She paces, walking back and forth, manic, a constant perpetual motion machine. She’s rarely stops moving.

    SUSAN
    Your dogs are barking!

    DONNY
    They’re dogs. They do that.

    SUSAN
    (stone faced)
    I’m trying to work in my garden.

    DONNY
    They don’t know you. Get to know them.
    Once they know you they won’t bark.
    Give them a treat. They’ll love you.

    SUSAN
    Shut those fucking dogs up. This is a peaceful neighborhood.

Two golden retrievers start barking from the backyard across the street. Donny looks at the dogs at the neighbor’s chain link fence barking and smiles and extends his hand.

    DONNY
    Right. I’m Don...
Susan turns abruptly and returns to her backyard. All the dogs continue barking.

LAURIE
That was strange!

DONNY
You mean she was strange. Put the dogs in the house.

The two return to their work of unloading the truck.

An hour passes and a Taunton police car pulls up in front of the Wilson’s new home. OFFICER FABBRI and OFFICER PESCA, both in their late thirties and the same height and size, the perfect looking cops in a perfect little town, get out of their cruiser and slowly walk up the driveway.

Fabbri is holding a coffee and is opening the flip top to the cup.

PESCA
Hello.

Donny is in the truck and LAURIE stands outside.

LAURIE
Donny the police are here.

DONNY
You’re kidding me.

Donny comes out off the truck walking down the ramp with a box.

DONNY
Officers. What can I do for you.

PESCA
We got complaints from your neighbors There’s a noise complaint about your dogs and one about a commercial vehicle in your driveway.

LAURIE
We already put our dogs in the house.

DONNY
We’re just moving in. The dogs are new and a little riled up, we put
DONNY (CONT’D)
them in the house.

FABBRI
We don’t hear any barking so you’re good.

LAURIE
Our dogs aren’t allowed to bark!??

The two golden retrievers across the street are barking at the commotion at the Wilson’s new house. Fabbri takes a sip from his coffee.

FABBRI
They’re allowed to bark. Just not constantly. If a neighbor complains we have to come out. We just want to avoid coming out again and WE don’t want to come back again. See my coffee, I just had my first sip. My chicken salad sandwich, still in its wrapper!

PESCA
The truck’s another issue.

Susan’s husband, MIKE HOWELL also in his forties is a self important, fat load. He walks out of his house and stands on his porch talking on his cell phone.

DONNY
We can’t have a truck in our driveway?

PESCA
No commercial vehicles in the driveway or vehicles in the yard. Town ordinance.

DONNY
We can’t have this truck to move in?

PESCA
No. You can move in. The truck has to be gone by nine or we’ll have to ticket it.

LAURIE
So a person can’t park his business van or truck in his own driveway?
PESCA
Not where it’s visible. You can park it in the garage, or you can keep it at your business address.

DONNY
You’re kidding?

FABBRI
We don’t make the laws, we just have to enforce them.

LAURIE
Pretty stupid law. What if a contractor’s truck is too big for his garage?

FABBRI
He could build a larger garage or park it somewhere else. It’s really not our problem.

PESCA
Taunton is an affluent community and people want to maintain certain standards.

DONNY
Our first day here and our neighbors are complaining.

FABBRI
One of your neighbors appear to be sending you a message.

DONNY
On our first day here!??

PESCA
Did you ever wonder why you got such a good price for this house?

DONNY
The market was starting to fail.

PESCA
Not that much. Did you ever wonder why the previous owners moved out?

DONNY
They said the owner wanted to go
DONNY (CONT’D)
back to California to teach.

PESCA
 Seriously. Who leaves tax free
Washington to move to California?
Cal-lee-fornia! Nobody that’s who.

DONNY
These people. They called.

Donny looks at Mike Howell who continues talking on his phone looking back.

PESCA
I can’t say. However if you do
have a problem with that neighbor,
you’ll be fighting city hall.

LAURIE
Why’s that?

PESCA
His brother is the mayor of Taunton.

LAURIE
Great.

The two officers start down the driveway to their car. Mike Howell is still on the phone when he waves to the officers.

FABBRI
Make sure you move that truck by nine.

PESCA
We don’t want to come back.

The two officers get into their cruiser and drive off. Seemingly satisfied, Mike Howell walks back into his house.

DONNY
Shit.

LAURIE
You wanted to move! Not starting well.

EXT. TRUCK IN DRIVEWAY – DAY

Donny comes out of the truck with the last item and puts it on the driveway.
DONNY
That’s it. That’s all of it.

LAURIE
I’ll get you a beer.

A car pulls up in front of the house and Judy, Tracy and Bruce get out of the car. They walk across the lawn towards Donny. Bruce is using a cane and limping and holding his cat.

DONNY
I thought you were going to help.

JUDY
When did I say that?

DONNY
Last night when you stopped by!

JUDY
Help! God no! I was just making conversation. That’s all.

Laurie comes out of the garage with a beer in her hand and holds it out towards Donny. Judy takes it again out of Laurie’s hand.

JUDY
Thanks.

Bruce wanders into the garage and into the house with his cat.

TRACY
So where’s grandpa staying?

LAURIE
I’ll show you. I need to get another beer anyway.

The two start into the garage.

TRACY
Thanks, I am a little thirsty.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Donny and Judy walk into the open kitchen of the new house as Laurie and Tracy come up the cellar stairs.
TRACY
Mom, you should see grandpa’s apartment. It’s real neat.

JUDY
It’s not too dark?

TRACY
No, its got windows and everything.

LAURIE
It’s a walkout.

DONNY
So where is Pop?

LAURIE
We haven’t seen him.

BRUCE V.O.
This is real nice.

Donny, Laurie and Tracy move to the foyer of the house looking up to the second floor landing. Bruce leans over the railing. Judy goes to the fridge and gets a second beer.

BRUCE
I love my new bathroom. It’s so big.

DONNY
Pop. You don’t live upstairs. You’re in the basement where you can’t flood the place.

Donny starts up the staircase to the second floor. Bruce wanders back into the master bedroom.

MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

BRUCE
This is just fine. I like the walk-in closet too.

Donny enters the master bedroom where his father is looking into the closet.

DONNY
This is our room. Laurie’s and mine.

BRUCE
Really? Not mine.
DONNY
Really! Look in the boxes in this room. They’re Laurie’s and my clothes.

Donny pulls a box over to show its contents and Fluffy jumps out startling him.

DONNY
And the cat stays downstairs. At all times! No cats upstairs.

BRUCE
Downstairs? Like in the basement? The dungeon of the house.

DONNY
It’s nice. It has windows and its own kitchen.

BRUCE
Do the windows have bars?

DONNY
No, but it has a large closet for your dirty underwear collection. Huh... what do you think?

BRUCE
I’ll have to see it.

EXT. BACK DECK - DAY

Shot of Laurie’s face as she’s sipping coffee, as SCREAMING is heard. Things like “Shut the fuck up,” “Shut up,” “Shut the fuck up,” over and over again with the dogs barking.

Donny wearing his Big Box work shirt, walks out of the door and stands next to his wife who is staring across the yard and into the neighbor’s yard. The fat neighbor, Mike is standing on his deck screaming down at Donny’s dogs, a golden and a beagle mix, who are barking at the chain link fence.

DONNY
Yeah. That should work.

LAURIE
He’s relieving his wife. They’ve been doing that for awhile. He must be retarded.
DONNY
Well the dogs seem to be loving it.

LAURIE
Dogs love having an angry dog on the other side of the fence. That’s what he is now. An angry dog on the other side of the fence.

DONNY
With very limited knowledge of dog behavior.

LAURIE
Well.. They’re your dogs, so he’s going to blame you.

DONNY
Where’s your dog?

LAURIE
Oscar? I’m keeping him in. I’m not getting involved in this.

Susan the neighbor, comes screaming from the side of the neighbor’s house with a garden hose in hand.

SUSAN
How do you like this!

She starts hosing the dogs but she only has her thumb over the nozzle of the hose and the water spray is weak.

SUSAN
Take that and that!

She whips the hose along the fence.

DONNY
You got to be kidding me!

LAURIE
There’s the demented wife.

DONNY
Yeah, I remember.

Susan puts the hose down and starts rubbing her ass against the chain link. Up and down and sliding along the yard, ass
firmly pressed against the fence.

**SUSAN**
You want this! You want this!

**DONNY**
I can see why they’re attracted to each other. Their towering intellects.

The woman turns on the dogs as they approach again and tries to hose them more. The stream of water is pathetic with just her thumb over the nasal of the hose, so she whips the hose along the fence at the barking dogs.

**DONNY**
Maybe we should call them in?

**LAURIE**
Why? The dogs seem to enjoy it and they needed the exercise.

**DONNY**
Let’s not push our luck. What’s for dinner?

**LAURIE**
Treats!

The dogs stop in their tracks and then beeline it to the upper deck.

**INT. BIG BOX STORE – DAY**

Donny and Josh 22, his associate at work stand in one of the aisles in the tool section of the store, that Donny manages.

**DONNY**
We’re going to need more sets of the Black and Decker....Do you smell something. I think it’s this shirt.

Donny pulls up his Big Box uniform shirt from the chest and tries smelling it. Josh smells it. Then turns up his nose and steps back.

**JOSH**
Gross! It smells like piss!

FLASHBACK
The day Donny moved in and how his Dad’s cat jumped out of the box of clothes.

FLASHFORWARD

DONNY

Shit!

Donny starts to pull off his shirt.

DONNY

And I thought the cat was sleeping in that box, not pissing in it.

Josh puts up his hands to stop Donny.

JOSH

Not here! Customers aren’t ready for the man boobridge show.

DONNY

Right! Right. The employees bathroom.

EMPLOYEE BATHROOM - DAY

Donny is wringing out his shirt in the sink. He is bare-chested and Josh stands next to him playing with another sink’s faucets.

JOSH

Maybe you can go home and get another shirt?

DONNY

Not possible until my lunch break. This has been a great day so far. This morning the dog officer shows up at my front door and says my dogs’ barking is bothering my neighbor.

JOSH

Was he wearing a uniform?

Donny wraps the bottom of his shirt around the hand blower and hits the button, blowing up his shirt.

DONNY

Yeah a uniform. So he tells me my dogs are barking incessantly. He says it’s against city ordinance
DONNY (CONT’D)
for dogs to bark incessantly.

JOSH
Like a cop’s uniform?

DONNY
No. it was green like a Park Ranger’s. So I tell this guy my dogs don’t bark incessantly. They bark at things, like my neighbors who are conditioning my dogs to bark at them.

JOSH
So did he have a badge?

DONNY
Yeah. He had some kind of badge. So I tell this guy that my neighbors are conditioning my dogs to bark at them. They hose my dogs with water, scream at them and throw stuff at them. What am I suppose to do?

JOSH
Old guy?

Donny re-hit’s the hand blower button when it stops.

DONNY
Yeah. He was an older guy. So this guy says they’re bothering my neighbors and I should keep my dogs in the house.

JOSH
So did he carry a gun?

DONNY
No gun, but he had mace and what looked like a stun-gun. So I tell the dog officer that my dogs have just as much right to enjoy the yard as my neighbors. They’re the ones making things worse.

JOSH
So did he have like a regular police car or a van to put animals in?
DONNY  
A regular police car, only white.  
Are you even listening to me?

JOSH  
How much money do you think he makes?

Donny looks at Josh and just shakes his head and re-hits the button to the hand blower, blowing out his shirt.

INT. BRUCE’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Donny goes downstairs with packages and a large handful of mail. He drops one of the boxes that rolls down the stairs.

DONNY  
Pop, here’s your mail and some packages from UPS.

BRUCE  
Ohhhh.. I wonder what they could be.  
I don’t remember ordering anything.

DONNY  
Pop, the Dog Officer came over this morning. The neighbors keep complaining. Remember your job is to get them in if they start barking and make sure Oscar goes out to pee. He doesn’t like to go out. So make sure he goes out in the morning and in the afternoon now that he’s sleeping down stairs with you.

BRUCE  
Oscar seems to like Fluffy.

DONNY  
He likes stinky things and I wouldn’t be surprised if he’s not eating your cat’s poop out of the cat box.

BRUCE  
I clean it all the time.

DONNY  
Sure you do Pop.

BRUCE  
Donny, I was wondering if you could
BRUCE (CONT’D)
pick something I forgot up at the store for me.

DONNY
Sure Pop. What do you want.

BRUCE
I forgot to get it this morning at the store.

DONNY
No problem, what was it.

BRUCE
I forgot now. I remembered later. It was... I forget...wait a minute ....ahhh

DONNY
Okay. You call me when you remember.

BRUCE
I will. It came to me before.

DONNY
You do that Pop. Remember about the dogs. That’s your only job here.

BRUCE
I got it! I remember that. Jeeze!

DONNY
Good. Supper will be ready in an hour. We’re having one of your favorites. Salmon.

BRUCE
Yum yum yum yum. My favorite.

Donny goes back upstairs.

INT. BASEMENT APARTMENT - DAY

Bruce is watching another mindless daytime show on his TV sitting in his beaten up recliner when a buzzer sounds.

He gets up and moves to the laundry room in his apartment.

LAUNDRY ROOM
Bruce opens the door to the front loader dryer and then the washing machine. He starts pulling the wet clothes out of the washer and tosses them into the large dryer.

When finished, Bruce starts throwing more of his dirty clothes from his laundry basket into the washer. He closes the door and picks up the container of laundry detergent and shakes it and empties what’s left of it into the machine.

He then throws the container into the trash and leaves the room.

Fluffy enters the laundry room and walks over to the dryer. She stands up, putting her front paws on the dryer’s opening. She sniffs what’s in the dryer then jumps in.

Bruce returns the room with a new bottle of laundry detergent. He sees the open dryer door and closes it. He puts more soap in the washing machine and turns it on. He then turns on the dryer and leaves the laundry room.

BASEMENT APARTMENT

Laurie comes down the stairs with a large handful of Bruce’s mail, followed by Donny carrying a couple of packages.

> LAURIE
  Bruce, here’s your mail.

> DONNY
  And you got a couple of packages.

They put down his mail on his coffee table. Bruce looks up with sad eyes and says meekly.

> BRUCE
  Fluffy’s dead.

> DONNY
  What?

> BRUCE
  Fluffy’s dead.

> LAURIE
  How?

> BRUCE (pointing)
  The dryer.
LAUNDRY ROOM

Donny opens the door to the dryer.

There’s blood on the inside of the dryer door as Donny and Laurie’s make the “OWwww” face as they look inside the dryer.

LAURIE
I think we need a new dryer.

DONNY
I think you’re right.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Donny finishes placing the last couple of shovels of dirt on Fluffy’s grave. Bruce and Laurie and the three dogs surround Fluffy’s new home.

DONNY
Poor Fluffy ... huh Molly!

Donny bends over and kisses his dog Molly on the head. Molly reciprocates and licks her master on the mouth.

BRUCE
(smiling)
Five minutes ago she was licking Sophie’s ass.

DONNY
Funny Pop. They smell each other’s ass, they don’t lick each other’s asses.

BRUCE
I don’t know what I’m going to do without Fluffy.

DONNY
Wear clean shirts!??

Bruce looks at Donny confused as Laurie backhands him in the chest.

LAURIE
There’s always Oscar. He’s about the same size as a cat and he really seems to have taken to you.
BRUCE
I don’t know. I prefer cats.

Laurie backhands Donny in the chest again.

DONNY
A new cat? That’s not fair to the cat, you know a kitten. You could die and you know.. we’re not cat people. Oscar loves you already.

BRUCE
I guess you’re right.

DONNY
Okay then.

Donny and Laurie start to walk away.

BRUCE
Aren’t we going to say something.

Donny and Laurie looked confused.

BRUCE
A prayer or last words.

LAURIE
For a cat!??

Donny backhands Laurie in her upper arm.

LAURIE
Yeah... sure ... lets see .. ahhh Matthew Five. Blessed are the gentle, for they inherit the earth. Amen.

DONNY&BRUCE
Amen.

Bruce smiles. He starts up towards the house.

BRUCE
Thanks Laurie.

DONNY
Was that too hard?

LAURIE
You’re right. We’re now cat free.
The three dogs start running up the yard towards the driveway and chain link fence where Officer Pesca and Officer Fabbri stand coffees in hand. When they get to the fence the dogs start barking at the two officers.

DONNY
Get the dogs in. I’ll see what they want.

LAURIE
They’re ruining a good day. Girls... Sophie, Molly. Let’s get a treat. Come girls.

The two dogs come in and little Oscar stays his ground barking.

LAURIE
You Too Oscar! Come.

Donny and Bruce both approach the officers together as Oscar make his way into the house.

DONNY
Well you can’t be here because my dogs were barking because they just started and that’s their job. Barking at strangers on my property.

PESCA
No Mister Wilson. We got a call that you were burying an animal in your yard.

DONNY
I can’t bury my cat in the woods on MY property!??

PESCA
No. City ordinance, property owners can’t bury a human being, livestock, or any pet or animal on their property.

DONNY
My property! You can tell me what I can do on my property?

PESCA
Of course we can. When you bought said property, you agreed to all
city ordinances governing said property.

DONNY
What about my property rights?

FABBRI
You’re good, as long as you obey all town ordinances.

DONNY
What about my property rights according to the U.S. Constitution?

FABBRI
That’s funny. He’s one of those.

PESCA
Just dig up the cat and dispose of it properly.

The officers turn and start down the driveway.

DONNY
(to himself)
I thought I was.

FABBRI
Constitutional rights.....too much.

BRUCE
(horrified)
We have to dig Fluffy back up?

DONNY
Don’t worry Pop. We’ll have her cremated and have some of her ashes put in an amulet, vial thing, that you can wear around your neck.

BRUCE
They do that!

DONNY
I’m sure. People wear vials of people’s blood around their necks. We’ll do that for you, but ... I don’t think Fluffy has any blood, so we’ll go with the ashes.

Donny turns around sees his two neighbors, Mike and Susan
standing on their deck his arms crossed with her hands on her waist and nodding. She’s nodding her head pacing in manic little circles.

INT. LAURIE’S HOME DEN – DAY

Laurie is at her computer typing when all of a sudden the silence is broken with dogs barking frantically and the sound of a piercing whistle being blown constantly.

She looks out the window to the back yard where Susan is standing by the fence and repeatedly blowing on a whistle and stomping back and forth with their three dogs going crazy barking.

LAURIE

Shit!

EXT. BACKYARD – DAY

Laurie walks out onto her deck with a large bucket of dog treats.

LAURIE

Molly come. Sophie come. Oscar treats.

Donny’s dog Molly comes immediately followed by Oscar after another call by Laurie for him. The alpha female, Sophie is the last to come in after a couple more calls by Laurie.

The dogs in. Susan stops blowing on her whistle, but not her pacing. Laurie walks down the stairs to the yard and starts across the yard towards Susan.

LAURIE

You know … you’d catch more flies with honey, than vinegar.

SUSAN

You’re the worse fucking neighbors we ever had!

LAURIE

Why? Because we haven’t moved out yet!

SUSAN

Fuck you! Next time I’m calling the dog officer.
LAURIE
(trying to smile)
Again. Listen, try another approach
with our dogs. Here some treats
they love. Give them these instead
of the hose and maybe they’ll start
to like you and you can undo the
negative conditioning you’ve already started.

Laurie holds the bin if treats over the fence for Susan to
take.

Susan swats the container out of Laurie’s hands and back
over the fence, where they spill on the ground.

SUSAN
Fuck you and your treats! It’s
not my job to control your dogs!

Laurie stops in her tracks stunned by this rude behavior.
She stares across the fence at Susan who makes an angry face
and flips Laurie the bird.

DAYDREAM FANTASY

She steps up to the fence grabbing Susan by her hair and
pulls her over the fence.

Laurie pulls her to her feet and just as Susan’s about to
scream, she slugs her in the stomach, knocking the wind out
of her.

She grabs her by the hair again and starts dragging her
across the yard to a large wooden catapult.

She drags the winded and stunned neighbor onto the netted
rope pocket of the catapult.

The base of the ancient machine is massive to support the
throwing arm, called the trebuchet. The trebuchet is as long
as a telephone pole.

Laurie pulls the rope which fires the catapult. It starts
slowly as the weighted trebuchet starts it movement down
gaining speed then pulling the ropes attached to the cargo
net containing Susan Howell.

It pulls her off the ground and snaps her up and slings her
out across the sky.
Susan is flying through the sky with a look of terror, when she suddenly notices she descending towards a small electrical wind farm with several large turbines.

Several hundred feet tall with three huge blades over one hundred feet in length slowly move around the turbine engine, Susan has a look of horror as her timing is poor. She’s about to sliced in two by one of the blades.

She screams.

LATER - BACKYARD - DAY

Laurie stands in front of the catapult with Officers Pesca and Fabbri.

PESCA
So it’s just a coincidence your neighbor was thrown across the sky into a wind turbine and you have a catapult?

LAURIE
Yes. It sounds terrible. Cut in half you say? How dreadful.

FABBRI
Clean through. They found your neighbor in the town of Northampton.

PESCA
And the other half in Southampton.

The two cops say Booyah and laugh, high five, then turn serious again.

PESCA
This catapult looks to have been fired.

LAURIE
Why is it smoking? It’s just a hobby since high school. I was captain of the catapult team.

PESCA
I’m not buying it. Cuff her.

LAURIE
Wait.....
REALITY

Laurie picks up the treats on the ground putting them back in the plastic bin. An angry Susan watches arms on her hips.

LAURIE
Yeah, that would be a mistake.

SUSAN
You’re the mistake! Your fucking dogs are a mistake!

Laurie finishes filling the bin and turns and walks back to her deck leaving Susan still standing at the fence shouting insults.

EXT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Bruce pulls his little car into the handicapped space in front of the grocery store. He stops just short of the yellow metal post holding the sign. He gets out and goes into the store.

He returns to his car later with a couple bags of food and gets into his car. He starts his car. Unable to see the low post well over his hood, he puts the car in drive and steps on the gas. Crunch. Bruce pulls his car into a large service area for cars.

His car seems to have a smile due to the front bumper being smashed in at the middle.

EXT. GARAGE - DAY

Bruce is standing outside of a service station talking to a middle aged REPAIRMAN from the garage.

REPAIRMAN
Sure Mister Wilson, we can fix the bumper. Not a problem. Do you want to repair the front grill too?

Looking at the smashed front grill of the car as the car makes a awful sputtering sound.

REPAIRMAN
It should be corrected and the engine sounds like crap. Turn off your car and I’ll take a look.
Repairman leaning over the car’s engine.

REPAIRMAN
Tell me about your regular P.M.’s?

BRUCE
I’m fine now. I now take that Metamucil and everything is very regular.

REPAIRMAN
P.M.! Not your B.M.’s. Your preventative maintenance for you car.

BRUCE
I’m confused.

REPAIRMAN
Who works on your car? Who changes the oil and filters? How often? That kind of thing.

BRUCE
I bought that car four years ago. It’s been running fine. Never a problem.

REPAIRMAN
You do maintain the car?

BRUCE
Why? They say, if it’s not broke, don’t fix it.

REPAIRMAN
We’re not talking about repairing it, we’re talking about preventative maintenance. To keep it running smoothly.

BRUCE
It was running smoothly until a few weeks ago.

The Repairman runs his hand over his head.

REPAIRMAN
We need to talk.

BRUCE
(confused)
I thought we were.
REPAIRMAN
In my office.

INT. BRUCE’S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Donny comes down the stairs with a package and a large handful of mail.

DONNY
Mail and another couple of packages for you.

BRUCE
A packages! I don’t remember ordering anything.

DONNY
They’re addressed to you. You get more mail than Laurie and I combined?

Laurie comes down the stairs. She’s in a bad mood.

BRUCE
Really.

DONNY
I’ve never seen so much junk mail. Every charity is after your money.

LAURIE
Tell him about the fruit flies!

BRUCE
What else do I have to spend my money on?

Donny ignores his wife. She walks over to Bruce’s kitchen unit.

DONNY
Pop, you don’t have that much money. You spent most of your money on your Civil War collection of union suits.

BRUCE
I wanted Union uniforms. You know that! It started as a misunderstanding. When I die you’ll be able to sell it for a small fortune.
DONNY

BRUCE
I heard this Liszt guy will buy anything.

DONNY
Liszt who?

BRUCE
I wrote it down. Wait a minute. Here it is. Craig Liszt.

DONNY
I think you’re right. I think Craig would buy the dirty long john collection. Maybe not for the price you’d want. So whose car is in the driveway?

Laurie starts swatting at flies around the kitchen sink.

BRUCE
Mine. I bought a new car.

DONNY
Why?

Laurie wildly swinging at the flies.

LAURIE
Oh my God! It’s like a Stephen King horror story!

BRUCE
I blew the engine in the other one. This was cheaper then putting in a new engine.

Laurie picks up a bowl of fruit which contains over ripe bananas and assorted fruit. She walks over to Donny and Bruce and holds out the bowl.

LAURIE
Here’s the nest of the infestation!

DONNY
Sounds reasonable. Listen Pop, we’re getting fruit flies up stairs
DONNY (CONT’D)
and they’re all over your kitchen area.
You can’t leave the door open for the dogs.

Laurie walks over to the open door and shuts it.

BRUCE
I never had a fruit fly problem
in my old place. I think they’re
coming down here from upstairs.

LAURIE
(gritting her teeth)
From upstairs!

She throws up her arms and starts towards the stairs.

DONNY
We don’t leave the door open and
fruit out on the counter. Get some
exercise and get out of that recliner
and stop leaving the door open.

Donny bends over to the chair next to his father that Oscar
has now made his own and pats him. Oscar sits up and Donny
gives a kiss on the head and Oscar looks up and licks
Donny’s face.

BRUCE
(big smile)
Oscar been lying there all day
licking his butt.

DONNY
Pop, that never gets old. We’re
having shepherds pie tonight.

BRUCE
Yum yum yum ... my favorite.

DONNY
I’ll bring down some wine traps
for the flies too.

LAURIE
Three! Three! At least three traps.

Laurie smacks Donny in the shoulder as they go upstairs.
EXT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Laurie, Donny and the Taunton DOG OFFICER stand on the front porch of their house.

DOG OFFICER
Listen, I know your dogs aren’t barking incessantly, however I have to come out here when I’m called. Especially when it’s coming from the mayor.

DONNY
The mayor is calling you?

DOG OFFICER
He wants me to do something about you. I told him your dogs don’t bark incessantly.

LAURIE
And what did he say to that?

DOG OFFICER
He doesn’t care. I told him only his brother and sister-in-law have complained. No one else. No other neighbor.

DONNY
So what going to happen next?

DOG OFFICER
I come out when called. So have your father keep the dogs in when they bark. I don’t want to keep coming out here and I don’t want to be an asshole and write tickets that’ll be dismissed in court.

LAURIE
Trust me, I don’t want to have to go to court and have them dismissed every time.

DOG OFFICER
So we have a basic agreement. You keep the dogs in and I won’t hump your leg, sort of speak.
DONNY
We’ll do our best. My father’s dementia is getting worse and he always suffered from Television Lock Syndrome. Nothing gets through when the TV’s on. You can only talk to him when there’s a commercial.

DOG OFFICER
So that’s what it’s called. It’s a syndrome. I knew it!

LAURIE
We’ll keep the two dogs upstairs and hope we get home before one has an accident. Oscar’s another story. He doesn’t like to be out alone and my father-in-law appears to be training him to pee on the carpet.

DOG OFFICER
Well good luck with that.

He turns and walks down the steps and across the lawn to his car.

LAURIE
Television Lock Syndrome! Remember you wanted to take in your father, not me! Not me.

DONNY
Maybe it’s my turn to try to bring some civility to this problem. I’ll ask the Howell’s over to a July Fourth barbecue.

EXT. HOWELL’S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Donny stands on Mike Howell’s porch holding the door open.

MIKE
We have our own barbeque, so don’t have any of your guests park in front of our houses. My guest need those spots. Have them park down the street out of the way.

Mike starts to close the door and then re-opens it.
MIKE
One other thing. Make sure your fucking dogs are in the house. If they disturb my party I’ll have the cops down on you in a heartbeat.

Mike SLAMS the door.

DONNY
Nice talking to you.

INT. BASEMENT APARTMENT - MORNING

Donny walks down the stairs to Bruce’s apartment with a large yellow envelope tucked under his arm and a stack of mail in his hand. A large wet pee spot is in Oscar’s new favorite place.

BRUCE
I know. I feel exactly the same way.

Bruce is drinking a cup of coffee in his recliner watching “FOX and Friends” morning show.

BRUCE
RIGHT! I didn’t think of that.

DONNY
Who are you talking to?

His father looks up.

BRUCE
Elizabeth Hasselback, but Steve Doocy and that Brian Kilmeade keep interrupting us.

Bruce turns back to the set.

BRUCE
Exactly. I know what you mean.

DONNY
You’re talking to her right now?

BRUCE
Yeah but Brian and Steve won’t shut up.
DONNY
Okay then. Here’s your mail and your doctor sent me these medical swatches things. She wants me to get fecal smears from you.

BRUCE
That’s okay I’ll do it.

DONNY
She sent them to me. I can do it. It’s not a problem. Let me know when you go. Leave it and I’ll put a little smear on it with this stick tool thing-of-ma-gig they sent.

Donny produces the large thin yellow envelope from his side and pulls out the thin wooden tool.

BRUCE
I’ll do it.

DONNY
Your doctor sent this to me, so….

BRUCE
I do it all the time. Don’t worry about it.

Handing the envelope to Bruce.

DONNY
Okay then. They sent this tool for doing it.

Donny starts to leave and sees Oscar peeing in the corner.

DONNY
Pop, did you put Oscar out this morning?

Bruce waves off Donny.

BRUCE
I’ve been a little busy. Don’t worry, I’ll clean it up.

Donny starts up the stairs.

DONNY
First thing in the morning. The dog goes out.
Bruce gets up and shuffles into the bathroom.

BRUCE
I got it. I got it.

Bruce comes out of the bathroom with a spray bottle for urine clean up. He stands over the wet mark and sprays the wet spot three times.

BRUCE
That should do it.

EXT. DRIVE-UP BANK LINE — DAY

Bruce is sitting in his new, but still little car behind an elderly couple in a large Cadillac.

He’s trying to get ready and starts pulling out his bank card and withdrawal slip. Then his license and he starts leaning over to fish for a pen in his glove box.

He drops the pen down on the passenger side and bends down to retrieve it.

His foot comes off the brake and his car moves forward and hits the Cadillac. Bruce pulls himself back up and hits the brakes and puts the car in park.

The elderly couple get out of the car and look for any damage to their bumper. Seeing none, they focus on Bruce who’s getting out of his car.

BRUCE
Ahhhhh....

Bruce stoops and places his hand on his lower back.

COUPLE
Are you all right?

BRUCE
My back. I have a bad back. Ohhhh....

INT. BIG BOX STORE — DAY

Josh is behind the desk of the tool section, while Donny is holding a twelve inch circular saw blade and talking to a CUSTOMER.
DONNY
Well this is the best blade we sell. It’ll go through tile, stone and even metal like it was butter. Of course it’s the most expense blade we sell.

The phone at the desk starts ringing.

CUSTOMER
Speaking of expense…. the power saws...

DAYDREAM FANTASY

EXT. DONNY’S BACKYARD

You see Donny’s back as he is busy cutting something with a large arm table saw.

He finishes cutting something and moves to a dug hole and throws whatever he has in the hole. Sophie sits by the hole and smelling the air over it, panting.

Donny starts filling the hole with the dirt around it.

He hears a siren as he throws the last bit of dirt of the filled hole.

A Taunton police car screeches to a stop at the top of Donny’s driveway.

Later, Officer Fabbri finishes snapping the hand cuffs on Donny.

DONNY
How did you know?

PESCA
Well, for one, you should have killed both your neighbors and not leave one as a witness.

Officer Pesca gestures to the neighbors back deck where Susan Howell is standing and glaring down at Donny. She’s rocking and pointing.

DONNY
Right.
PESCA
Also burying the body on your property
is a bad idea. All police department’s
have access to a cadaver dog.

He gestures toward the grave where their German Shepherd is
busy humping Donny’s dog Sophie.

DONNY
Okay.. That’s two things.

FABBRI
Thirdly, I wouldn’t use a rental
power saw for the job.

Fabbri gesture to the bloody table saw with the large
Property of Home Box on the side of it.

FABBRI
And fourth … cutting up the body
in front of your shed was a real
bad idea.

He gestures with a tilt of his head. The front of shed is
fully sprayed with blood. Top to bottom.

DONNY
I see your point, but what if……

BACK DECK
Donny comes out of the house and onto the deck with a large
stainless steel bowl. Sophie is excited and jumps up on
Donny’s side.

DONNY
Down girl!

He lowers a full juicy bowl of meat mixed with dry dog food.
Sophie goes wild chomping down the food.

DONNY
Well?

Officer Pesca standing next to Donny.

PESCA
That would take too long, and what
about the bones?
Pesca gestures with his hand to the middle of the backyard where Molly, the medium size dog is proudly strutting across the yard with a large femur bone in her mouth.

She lies down with it and starts chewing on one end.

DONNY
Yeah....

REALITY
INT. BIG BOX STORE’S TOOL SECTION

CUSTOMER
...that’s pretty expensive for me.

Josh holding out the phone.

JOSH
It’s for you. It’s the Taunton police.

DONNY
Put them on hold. Listen, you don’t need to buy a saw if this is just a home project. Just rent one at our rental center at the end of the building. You’ll save a lot of money. Just remember to wash off the blood...I mean stone dust before you return it.

CUSTOMER
Thanks.

The Customer hands the saw to Josh. Donny answers the phone.

DONNY
Donny Wilson, can I help you?

DISPATCHER V.O.
Is Bruce Wilson your father?

INTERCUT: DONNY/LAURIE AT HOME

DONNY
Come on, I’m working. It’s your day off.

LAURIE
I’m not spending my day off with
LAURIE (CONT’D)
your father!

DONNY
Come on! I’ll make it up to you.

LAURIE
Like I haven’t heard that before.

DONNY
Anything.

LAURIE
Alright ... me and your credit card
this weekend.

DONNY
Okay. We’ll have some fun.

LAURIE
Who said we.

EXT. BANK PARKING LOT - DAY

Laurie drives into the bank parking lot. The elderly couple
is gone but there’s a police cruiser and an ambulance there
now. Bruce is sitting on the edge of the back of the
ambulance, an officer and an EMT are talking with him.

Bruce recognizes the Laurie’s SUV and slowly stands up.

BRUCE
Oh there’s my ride.

Bruce starts his groaning act as he walks towards Laurie’s
vehicle.

EMT
Are you sure you’re alright?

BRUCE
Ahhh.. I’m fine. Thanks for everything.

Bruce gets into the SUV.

BRUCE
They wouldn’t let me get back in
my car.

LAURIE
Of course they wouldn’t. With all
LAURIE (CONT’D)
your moaning and groaning they thought you injured yourself.

BRUCE
My back hurts from before. That’s why I’m going to therapy.

LAURIE
They don’t know that. You know your back hurts because you never exercise and get out of that damn recliner. That ugly recliner.

BRUCE
That’s why I’m going to my rehab therapy. To do my exercises.

LAURIE
You’re suppose to do your exercises all the time. They have told you that. Haven’t they?

BRUCE
I do my exercises.

LAURIE
Sure you do. The man who leaves the door open for fruit flies so he doesn’t have to get up to let the dogs in.

BRUCE
They constantly wanting to go in and out! In and out!

LAURIE
No more talking!

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Donny comes through the garage door to the house wearing his work shirt. He throws his keys into a bowl on a side table and opens the door downstairs to his father’s apartment.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS APARTMENT - DAY

As Donny comes down the stairs with a couple packages and about twenty letters tucked in his armpit. Oscar waddles over to his favorite corner and lowers his pelvis. Oscar
pees.

DONNY
Pop, what did I say about putting Oscar out. He just peed again in the corner.

BRUCE
He never wants to go out.

DONNY
That’s because you taught him to pee indoors. You have to put him out whether he wants to or not.

BRUCE
Damn. It’s getting so you have to put him out every day!

Donny drops the packages and mail on the coffee table and slaps his head in disbelief and moves to the bathroom to get a rag and the products needed for urine cleaning.

He opens the door and finds a tall attractive woman without a bra standing in front of the toilet peeing. She’s wearing shorts and has long beautiful legs.

DONNY
Oh...sorry.

SAMANTHA turns slightly exposing her perfect breasts. She looks at Donny then her penis.

SAMANTHA
Oh don’t mind me. It takes some time to unwrap this, then rewrap it. If you know what I mean.

DONNY
Sure...sure.. Take your time.

Donny closes the door and walks towards his father who is seated in his recliner in front of the TV.

BRUCE
I meant to warn you about...

DONNY
What ... I mean who is that?
BRUCE
My new girlfriend.

DONNY
Your new girlfriend?

BRUCE
Not really, but I wish.

Bruce holds up his fingers crossed.

DONNY
Where did you meet her?

BRUCE
At the grocery store. She said she needed some money and when I handed her some bills, she said she could help me out if I had a little more cash.

DONNY
So you brought her home?

Bruce bends over in his chair and zips up his fly and buckles the top button to his pants.

BRUCE
Yeah. That girl really knows how to take care of business.

Samantha pops out of the bathroom and walks over and picks up her bra and shirt and puts them on.

Bruce just sits and admires the site and Donny is still stunned and stares at this perfect looking woman putting on her bra who just happens to have a penis.

SAMANTHA
I have to go ... unless you need something too?

Looking straight into Donny’s eyes.

DONNY
No ...
(looking down)
No .. I’m all set. Thank you.

Samantha walks to the walkout door, which is all glass and
leaves to a large patio.

DONNY
Give me a second, I’ll walk you up.

Samantha opens the door to the patio.

SAMANTHA
You’re so sweet.

She steps out and waits. Donny turns to his father.

DONNY
You know she’s a man. Right?

BRUCE
What!?!?

DONNY
She’s one of those transsexuals! Probably a prostitute.

BRUCE
Get out of here. You saw how beautiful she is.

DONNY
Yeah and she has a beautiful penis too!

BRUCE
Wait a minute.
(starting to get angry)
Are you calling me some kind of fag!

Donny waves off his father and moves to the door to the patio.

DONNY
No! forget about it.

BRUCE
(muttering to himself)
He’s got some nerve calling me some homo. I’m nothing like my brother.

EXT. BACKYARD PATIO – DAY

Donny walks Samantha across the patio and up the stone stairs to the side of the house.
SAMANTHA
So what’s your name?

Samantha has a very deep sexy voice which just flusters Donny whose brain is sending him mixed messages.

DONNY
Donny.

SAMANTHA
You’re so sweet to walk me out. Are you sure I can’t help you?

DONNY
No. no, I’m fine.

SAMANTHA
I’m Samantha. It’s nice to meet you.

Samantha extends her hand out to Donny in a very feminine way with her hand turned down.

DONNY
So your name use to be Sam?

Samantha stops and tilts her head disappointed in Donny.

SAMANTHA
No. I just liked the name. It was David if you must know.

Trying to recover from this unknown faux pas.

DONNY
(struggling)
Yeah I do too. Davida just doesn’t roll off the tongue as easily.

The two reach the top of the stairs which turns in front of the garage where Laurie has just pulled in and is exiting her car with a small package. Samantha turns and walks up to Donny and puts her index finger over his lips.

SAMANTHA
Hush, here’s my card in case you change your mind. My Webcam site’s on there too!

Samantha stares deep into Donny’s eyes. Donny is transfixed even with his wife approaching.
Samantha turns and walks down the driveway, ass in full movement to her little car parked in the road.

She waves before she gets in her car. Laurie is now watching her husband who was just staring at this woman and her ass.

Laurie
Really! Right in front of me!

Donny
What!?!?

Laurie
You staring at that woman’s ass! Who is that woman?

Donny
A friend of my father’s. It’s not what you think.

Laurie
Really! I think you were staring at another woman’s ass right in front of me! You were frozen in appreciation of Her ass!

Donny
It not what you think. She’s a man.

Laurie
Really!

Donny
She’s a transsexual. She’s really a man!

Laurie
Oh my God! This is getting even worse!

Laurie turns into the garage and moves towards the door to the house.

Donny
Let me explain! It was my father!

INT. BRUCE’S IN-LAW APARTMENT – DAY

Bruce is watching TV.
EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

The two dogs are in the backyard. One’s chewing a rawhide bone on the grass, the other is exploring the back wooded area.

Susan Howell comes out of her house and walks down to her garden that she built right next to the chain link fence dividing the two properties.

The sight of the woman sends the two dogs over to the fence barking.

Susan screams over the fence to “do something about the dogs.”

The dogs continue to go crazy barking and Susan throws fistful of soil at the dogs.

BRUCE’S APARTMENT - DAY

Bruce sits watching intently to the television oblivious to the commotion outside.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Bruce comes up the steps to the driveway. He starts towards his car in the garage. Susan Howell starts screaming.

SUSAN
You can’t leave the fucking dogs in the yard! Put them in the house!

BRUCE
I didn’t know they were out.

SUSAN
They barking! Put them in the house or I’m calling the dog officer!

BRUCE
I’m only going shopping. I’ll be right back.

SUSAN
Now! You senile old bastard!

Susan goes back around her yard. Bruce goes back down the stairs.
INT. BRUCE’S IN-LAW APARTMENT – NIGHT

Donny comes down the stairs in his work shirt and a lot of mail and a package. He walks into Bruce’s bedroom where Bruce is curled up in a fetal position in bed.

DONNY
Laurie says you had a bad day.

BRUCE
The lady next door keeps yelling at me. She yells at my visiting nurses. One won’t come back. She’s a bitch.

DONNY
I know. She’s a nightmare on speed.

BRUCE
She yells about the dogs being out.

Bruce rolls over and looks at Donny.

DONNY
Pop, we told you to bring them in when she’s out in her yard. You can tell when she’s out because the dogs go crazy barking.

BRUCE
They’ve been good. I haven’t heard them bark.

DONNY
They must bark when the nurses come over.

BRUCE
Yeah a little. They’re not use to them yet. My main nurse loves the dogs!

DONNY
Pop, you have to bring in the dogs when they bark. I know the neighbors created this problem but if you leave the dogs out, you just acerbate the problem.

BRUCE
I do bring in the dogs, but sometimes they don’t listen.
DONNY
Do you offer them a treat?

FLASHBACK

INT. BRUCE’S APARTMENT – DAY

Bruce is at his back door calling the dogs, waving two hot dogs.

BRUCE
Here girls. Sophie, Molly, want a hotdog?

The two dogs come running to Bruce. They snatch the hotdogs from his hand and run back out into the yard, because Bruce fails to shut the door.

BRUCE
No! Get in here.

FLASHFORWARD

INT. BRUCE’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

BRUCE
Yeah. It doesn’t work.

DONNY
The hotdogs don’t work?

BRUCE
Nope. Doesn’t work.

DONNY
Well try harder or we’re going to have to keep the dogs in and I don’t want to do that. Do you have the smears for your doctor?

BRUCE
They’re next to the TV.

DONNY
Great.

Donny walks over to the TV and sees the large yellow envelope sitting on a table next to the television, only it’s thick now. It appears a large brick was put in it.
Donny picks it up and weighs it in his hand. He smells it and turns up his nose.

DONNY
Pop, you know what a smear is?

BRUCE
Of course I do. I do it all the time.

DONNY
They want a smear not a stool sample. Did you use the tool?

BRUCE
NO, sorry! You weren’t home.

Bruce rolls over back into his fetal position.

BRUCE
(sobbing)
Ahhhhh……

Donny holds up the package.

DONNY
Pop, you got a package. I think it’s the pee stained union suit from that soldier who fought in the Battle of Antietam.

Bruce rolls out of bed, his mood changing instantly.

BRUCE
Oh boy!

Bruce rips open the box.

DONNY
We’re having steak tonight!

BRUCE
Great! My favorite.

Bruce drapes the pee stained union suit across his body, smiling.

EXT. BACK YARD - NIGHT

Laurie is watching the three dogs do their business for the last time that day.
Sophie starts barking in the direction of the landscaping in front of the chain linked fence.

LAURIE
Quiet Sophie.

She continues to BARK at the same spot.

LAURIE
Sophie, quiet!

Sophie continues to bark, when out of the darkness shouts a voice.

MIKE
How do you like it!

Susan and Mike Howell stand at the property line in the dark taking video and pictures of Laurie and the dogs.

LAURIE
They’re barking at you asshole!

Laurie spots the lawn sprinkler a few feet from her and kicks it closer to the fence.

MIKE
Nice language.

Laurie walks over to the house’s rear faucet and starts to turn it on. Donny watches from the deck.

LAURIE
You started it ass wipe! Hiding in the dark like a creepy stalker. Taking pictures. You people are freaks.

SUSAN
We’re recording evidence for the authorities.

LAURIE
You’re both fucking idiots!

The sprinkler starts spinning sending water over the fence and surprises the Howells in the dark. The Howells yell “aaahhh” as they run towards their house. Laurie takes the dogs up the stairs to the deck.
INT. WILSON’S KITCHEN - NIGHT

She enters the house with the dogs, Donny gives her a big hug.

DONNY
I’m so proud of you! Listen to the Howell’s howl.

LAURIE
Why? Because our neighbors have me swearing like a sailor now?

DONNY
Well YEAH … and standing up for yourself, but I think the swearing started way before this.

Laurie walks over to Donny and slugs him in the shoulder.

LAURIE
Bite me.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Donny is putting up a new and larger light on the garage and angling it towards the side yard where Mike and Susan were hiding in the bushes at the property line.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

11:00 PM. Donny and Laurie stand at the door with Officers Pesca and Fabbri standing on the porch.

PESCA
So you did put up a new light on your garage.

DONNY
It’s eleven o’clock. We were on our way to bed.

FABBRI
The call came in. We’re due for our shift change but we’re here because we have to answer the call.

PESCA
Your neighbor called and complained
PESCA (CONT’D)
you put up a light on his property
and that you’re trying to harass
him and his wife.

DONNY
That light’s been on since eight.
Why now? Why does he call you this late?

FABBRI
Obviously to irritate us. Our pizza
is in the back seat. Have we had
one bite? No. It’s now getting cold.

LAURIE
How would you like the police showing
up at your door at eleven.

FABBRI
The police don’t show up at my door
anytime. I’m a cop. I show up at
other peoples doors.

PESCA
Your neighbors may like irritating
you but they know it irritates us
too and we’re going to take it out
on you. Not the mayor’s brother.

LAURIE
Why us and not go after the Howells.

FABBRI
Because we like our jobs and you
can’t get us promotions and sweet
details. They can. I make my boss
happy, who makes the mayor happy.
We all scratch each others backs.
You can’t do diddle for us. Face
it … you’re screwed.

DONNY
Do you know the entire time we’ve
been here, Mike Howell has never
come over here to talk about anything.

PESCA
Never?
DONNY
Not once.

LAURIE
Never! My husband’s been over their house twice. We’re not the problem.

FABBRI
Not once?

DONNY
Not once. Never.

LAURIE
Not once! Unless we’re counting the times they curse at us from their yard. They’ve been harassing us.

PESCA
Okay, just show me this light.

DONNY
Okay what city ordinance did I break this time. Show me.

The two officers and the couple walk around the house to the garage and light.

EXT. GARAGE - NIGHT

PESCA
See how your light shines on their property?
DONNY
Yeah!

PESCA
Can’t shine on their property.

LAURIE
Are you saying our residential light can’t shine their property?

FABBRI
That’s right.

Laurie goes to the light then using her hand angles her hand down to the property line, to show the path of the light.
LAURIE
So our light has to take a forty-five degree angle down to the ground to our property line and not flow over it.

FABBRI
Yep.

DONNY
That would be a hell of a trick. Their property would have to be a black hole and absorb all light.

PESCA
Also your light seems to have too many candles.

DONNY
Candles?

PESCA
That’s a measurement of light. Your light has too many.

FABBRI
Yes. You’ll need to replace this lamp with one with less candles.

DONNY
Fine I’ll put it in the back and light up the backyard and move that smaller light up here.

FABBRI
Do that. Lets go. I’m hungry.

The two officers walk down the driveway to their cruiser.

LAURIE
I’ve heard of a watt, but what the fuck is a candle?

DONNY
Beats me. Maybe his father’s an electrician. Call the building department and find out all the lighting codes.
INT. BRUCE’S CAR - DAY

Bruce is driving down the street and looking at his CD’s on the passenger’s seat as he’s driving.

   BRUCE
   Where’s my Lawrence Welk CD?

He drives by the driveway to the house.

   BRUCE
   Ooops!

Bruce locks up his brakes causing the car behind him to sound their horn and swerve around him. He puts the car in reverse and backs up causing the next car coming up behind him to sound their horn and swerves around his little car.

   BRUCE
   Sorry.

He waves at the passing car. Puts his car in drive and pulls into the driveway. He reaches up and hits the garage door opener on his sun visor.

The door doesn’t open. He bangs on the device as he closes in on the garage door.

He starts getting more panicked as the door hasn’t opened and he continues slapping the door opener on his visor.

Bruce drives his car through the two car garage door and slams on his breaks just before he hits the back wall.

   BRUCE
   Whooa … that was a close one!

EXT. GARAGE - DAY

Donny is writing a check in his check book with a work van sitting in his driveway with one repairmen putting their tools away in the back of the van and the other one is standing waiting for the check.

Laurie and Bruce are looking at the new garage door. Donny rips out the check and hands it to the man.

   DONNY
   There you go.
REPAIRMAN

Thanks.

The repairman goes to his van examining the check. The two men get in their van and back out of the driveway.

BRUCE

It’s a really nice door. You needed a new one.

LAURIE

No we didn’t.

Bruce smiles and moves out of the garage and around and down the steps to his apartment.

LAURIE

Sometimes I wish you were an orphan.

DONNY

That makes two of us. Did you check with the Building Department.

LAURIE

I did! Guess what?

DONNY

What!?!?

LAURIE

According to the Building Department there isn’t any lighting codes or ordinances. That cop was lying to us! Candles!

DONNY

Funny, cops have no problem lying to the citizens, but hate it if we lie to them!

LAURIE

No it’s not funny. These cops don’t want to deal with this and want us to kowtow to the Howells. If they can get us to appease them, they get to eat their donuts in peace!

DONNY

They’re stuck in a hard place and we’re getting the short end.
DONNY (CONT’D)
Kowtow ... you don’t get to use that word often.

LAURIE
Shut up!

Laurie walks away and back into the house.

EXT. FRONT DOORWAY PORCH - NITE

Donny and Laurie once again are standing on their front porch at 11:00 PM talking with officers Pesca and Fabbri.

LAURIE
Right on time. Eleven o’clock. We were going to bed.

FABBRI
It’s our shift time and we’re here. My wife just called and said she was ovulating. She wants me home NOW, to do my part.

PESCA
See, it’s not just about you. My partner is under a lot of stress.

LAURIE
Having sex with your wife is stressful?

PESCA
It isn’t fun, when you’re under the gun.

LAURIE
Sex is stressful?

FABBRI
I feel like I’m back in basic training again, the pressure!

LAURIE
A lot of forced sex in basic training too?

PESCA
You’re not helping. So, your neighbor says you’re shining a rear light into his yard.
DONNY
The light has always been there,
I replaced the bulb. I’ll show you.

EXT. BACK DECK - NIGHT
All four people stand on the rear deck looking at the light.

DONNY
See .. It’s directed down onto
the stairs. The only thing different
is that I replaced the bulb that
hasn’t worked for months.

PESCA
See how your light illuminates
the roof of you neighbor’s shed.
That can’t happen.

LAURIE
I checked with the Town’s Building
Department and there are no lighting codes.

FABBRI
Well done, however the Howells
are filing harassment charges
against you for your lighting.

DONNY
You’re kidding me. They creep around
in the dark taking pictures of
my wife and dogs and I’m harassing
them with my exterior lights.

FABBRI
That’s correct.

LAURIE
Correct me if I’m wrong but isn’t
harassment the repeated and intentional
action to cause another distress?
Like the Howells have done to our
dogs and my father-in-law since
we moved in?

FABBRI
(to Pesca)
I think she’s one too. You know,
the Constitution thing.
PESCA
This is our second trip here creating
the repeated harassment claim.
Anyone can file a claim and maybe
you should have called us about
them. Period.

DONNY
Would that of helped?

PESCA
Hell no! But you could have tried.

LAURIE
Are you guys really cops or the
light police?

PESCA
We’re just the messengers. Don’t
blame us.

FABBRI
You’ll be getting a summons in
the mail. Have a nice night.

The two cops walk back into the house and back out the front
door to their cruiser in the street.

DONNY
Can you believe this?

LAURIE
Bull shit! Fucking light weight
light police. That’s what they are.

Donny raises his eyebrows in disbelief to her aggressive
statement.

INT. HOUSE OFFICE – DAY

Early Fall. Donny leads his father into the home office
followed by Laurie.

LAURIE
What’s going on?

BRUCE
The Washington Husky’s game.

Donny puts the game on. Donny is now seated at the computer.
DONNY
Pop was upset the game wasn’t being carried on TV and I told him the game was being streamed by ESPN.

LAURIE
So Bruce you’re going to watch the game on the computer?

BRUCE
Oh yeah! So much better then the radio!

Donny has the game on and gets out of the chair.

DONNY
They stream eight major games every Saturday. Okay Pop have a seat. You’re all set. Enjoy the game. We have to run some errands, so you have the house to yourself.

BRUCE
Boy oh boy oh boy!

LAURIE
Help yourself to a drink in the fridge.

Donny and Laurie leave the room.

EXT. WILSON’S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Donny and Laurie pull their car into the driveway. Mike Howell stands in his yard watching the leaves from the Wilson’s yard blow into his yard. The Wilson’s get out of their car.

MIKE
Your leaves are blowing into my yard!

Donny looks at the blowing leaves.

DONNY
They’re not my leaves. Look they’re blowing across my yard, I have no trees.

Donny and Laurie walk to the front door of their house.

MIKE
What are you going to do about it!
Donny looks at Laurie as they go into their house.

DONNY
I can’t take this crap anymore.

LAURIE
You can’t this crap anymore!

INT. WILSON’S OFFICE – DAY

Donny walks into an empty room. The computer is still on and a football game is heard through the speakers. He steps in a wet spot on the throw rug.

DONNY
Damn! That’s funny.

Laurie pops her head in.

LAURIE
What?

Donny looks down at the wet spot.

DONNY
Pop’s must have had Oscar up with him, plus he’s not here and the games still on.

Donny sits down at the desk.

LAURIE
Are you sure it’s the same game?

Donny looks at the computer screen and a large pop up covers the screen.

DONNY
Shit! He got a pop up. I didn’t show him how to get rid of them.

LAURIE
Maybe you should have taught him how to use the mouse.

DONNY
Yeah yeah yeah. He could of just listened. Their losing twenty eight to three. He probably just gave up on the game.
LAURIE
(singing)
Wishin and hopin,

Laurie turns and goes back to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

LAURIE
(still singing)
Thinking and prayin, planning
and dreamin. Your father, the pee spot.

Donny goes to the kitchen door to his father’s apartment and starts down.

DONNY
Pop!

EXT PATIO FIREPIT - NIGHT

The constant barking of a dog is heard in the distance. Donny’s two dogs sit quietly on the patio.

Judy, Tracy and Donny sit around the fire holding wine glasses. Tracy’s is empty as Laurie approaches with a bottle of wine. She refills Tracy’s wine glass.

LAURIE
Try to slow down Tracy.

Laurie fills Judy’s wine glass.

JUDY
She takes after her mom.

DONNY
You got that right.

Laurie fills Donny’s and her glasses.

TRACY
(already buzzed)
I think I like wine more than beer.
You can drink it faster.

LAURIE
That’s lovely. Try to moderate your intake.
TRACY
What! You talk funny.

The barking continues as the couple’s two dogs stand nearby listening to the other dog howling.

DONNY
Now that’s incessant barking. It’s been close to an hour now.

JUDY
Whose dog is that?

DONNY
That’s the chocolate lab two houses down. Their owners rarely leave him out anymore.

LAURIE
Nice people. Maybe they’re busy getting busy.

DONNY
Possible. I can’t imagine them leaving him out. He hates being out and they’re lucky the loveable Howells are out tonight. The local fuzz would be paying them a visit.

TRACY
(laughing)
What’s a fuzz visit?

LAURIE
I’m sure they’ve already been read the riot act by Bert and Ernie.

TRACY
I know them!

JUDY
So you were saying you’re thinking of moving.

DONNY
Yeah. Laurie and I think there’s not much more we can do. This situation with the neighbors is getting worse.
JUDY
So your just giving up? Who are these people?

LAURIE
It’s in the best interest of your father especially.

JUDY
They’re the neighbors from Hell, you can’t reason with them?

LAURIE
You have to be seriously into S&M to be able to reason with them.

Tracy laughing and pouring herself another glass of wine.

TRACY
You’re funny Aunt Laurie. S and M.

LAURIE
They’re on this power trip. You can’t make any head way with them. Didn’t you just pour yourself a glass?

TRACY
Maybe.

DONNY
So we’re thinking of putting Pop in one of those retirement community where he can get more supervision. His social worker feels we’re not up to the job because of our hours. He needs more supervision.

Laurie raises her glass.

LAURIE
Here’s to the social worker!

TRACY
The social worker!

Tracy starts laughing and raises her glass and drinks.

DONNY
We’ll put the house for sale once Pop is situated.
EXT. DECK - NIGHT

The four party members are walking up the stairs to the upper deck.

Tracy opens the door to the house and trips on the rise of the door and falls flat on face on the inner house’s throw rug.

She starts laughing.

DONNY
Looks like you’re not the only blind one.

LAURIE
Like in blind drunk?

DONNY
Yeah.

JUDY
Just like her mom!

INT. RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - DAY

BARBRA 58, the pleasant resident counselor of Quail Hollow Community Center for the retired, is showing Bruce and Donny the common dining room.

BARBRA
We can hold up to one hundred and fifty people at one time. The meals are not at one time and a resident can come in within the hour and a half of the slotted time.

DONNY
I like the high ceiling. Nice.

BRUCE
The tables are for four people.

BARBRA
If you needed to pull table together, that would be possible.

BRUCE
No. I mean do I have to sit with someone?
DONNY
He’s just kidding! Barbra what’s the ratio here. You know women to men.

BARBRA
Men are living much longer now and our ratio bares that out. I’d say the ratio it’s about four to one.

Donny elbows Bruce.

DONNY
Hear that Pop! Four to one.

BARBRA
There’s an efficiency available now.

DONNY
Great.

BRUCE
Can I display my antique Civil War collection in the atrium?

BARBRA
Antique collection. I don’t see why not.

DONNY
(to himself)
I do.

BARBRA
What?

DONNY
Oh. I said I do want my father here.

BARBRA
Good. I’ll get our application form and we can meet again in two days to finalize the process.

BRUCE
Finalize the process?

BARBRA
Sign the paper work Bruce.
DONNY

Great.

EXT. FRONTYARD – DAY

Donny, Laurie and their REALTOR stand in the grass as the Realtor pushes down on the FOR SALE sign, then uses her feet to finish the job.

Mike and Susan Howell come down their driveway on their bikes. They’re wearing helmets, elbow pads and knee pads with reflectors on their clothing and bikes.

REALTOR

There.

DONNY

And so the battle begins.

REALTOR

You have a beautiful home. It shouldn’t be difficult to sell as long as you’re flexible.

LAURIE

Why is it, that we are always the ones that have to be the flexible?

REALTOR

I was just….

LAURIE

Forget it. I was just venting.

The Howells slowly peddle by on their bike.

SUSAN

YES!

MIKE

YEAH!

Mike raises up his arms in joy.

DONNY

Hey! Do us a favor. Try not to be around when buyers come by!

SUSAN

You’re the worst neighbors ever!
With a large phony grin.

LAURIE
Right back at you! That woman is nuts!

DONNY
I’m not happy about this. There’s gotta be something else we can do. That woman is wound so tight.

EXT. DRIVEWAY – MORNING

Donny exits through the garage to his car. Susan Howell stands on the property line between the homes. Hands on her hips.

SUSAN
Your father continues to leave the dogs out!

DONNY
He’s an old man, his mind is failing. He forgets.

SUSAN
That’s not my problem! It’s your’s. do something or I’m calling the police.

DONNY
You trained them to bark at assholes.

SUSAN
Fuck you! You’re the worse neighbors ever.

Donny turns back into the garage.

INT. KITCHEN – DAY

Donny walks into the room and peels the plastic wrap off a plate of brownies. He picks one up in his hand and looks at it. He squeezes the brownie in his hand crushing it.

EXT. DRIVEWAY – DAY

Donny drives up and parks his car. Susan is in her kitchen window working at her sink that overlooks Donny’s driveway. Donny gets out of the car stares at his neighbor then turns around and pulls down his pants and squats.
A dark brown turd falls from his ass.

Donny stands up and pulls up his pants and re-buckles his pants and belt.

He walks into the house through the garage. His neighbor watches mouth agape and picks up her phone from her countertop and starts dialing.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

The doorbell rings and Donny moves from the kitchen to the front door. He opens the door and Officer Fabbri and Officer Pesca are standing at the front door.

PESCA
Sir did you pull down your pants and defecate on your lawn?

DONNY
Excuse me!??

FABBRI
Sir your neighbor said you just pulled down your pants and defecated next to your car.

DONNY
You’re kidding me right?

FABBRI
No sir. Could you come out and explain this incident for us?

DONNY
Sure, but I don’t know what you’re talking about.

Donny steps out of his house.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Donny follows the two officers around his house to his driveway where his neighbor, Susan is standing on the edge of her property, arms firmly across her chest. She looks pretty angry, bobbing her head manically.

PESCA
Ms Howell, could you tell us again what happened?
SUSAN
Well, he drove up and got out of his car. Pulled down his pants and then bent down and crapped on the lawn.

FABBRI
Well sir. What do you have to say?

DONNY
I’m shocked. Does she have any evidence of this gross behavior she’s accusing me of?

Susan slides along the property line to the spot Donny squatted and points towards the ground. Pointing repeatedly.

SUSAN
Right there! There’s the crap! Right there!

The three men move to the spot Susan is pointing. There’s a big dark brown turd lying in the green grass.

SUSAN
See!??

She again crosses her arms across her chest, seemingly satisfied.

PESCA
Well sir?

DONNY
Well sure. It’s a turd, but it could be a dog’s. How do we know if it’s human crap?

The cops just look at Donny and he quickly responds to his own question before the officers can say anything.

DONNY
Well there’s one way to check.

Donny bends over and carefully picks it up with his thumb and index finger. He gingerly brings the turd up to his nose and smells it.

Donny makes a sour face as he smells the turd. Susan lets out a shrieks and covers her mouth. All three step back away
from Donny.

DONNY
I don’t know. It smells like dog poop to me.

Donny steps towards the officers holding out the poop.

DONNY
What do you think?

The two officers step further back and Pesca holds his hand up to stop Donny from getting too close.

PESCA
Just hold it there!

FABBRI
We’re not smelling that!

Donny steps back and brings the turd back towards his nose, smelling it again and turning up his nose.

DONNY
You’re probably right. We’ll have to taste it to see if it taste different than dog poop!

Donny turns up his nose again as he puts the small end of the turd into his mouth and bites down making a face like he just bit into a bitter lemon. He starts shaking his head and making faces as he chews. He starts stomping down with one foot as he chews.

Susan screams in horror and falls to her knees and tries to covers her mouth as she vomits on the grass. She stands and takes off running around her house, arms flailing over her head screaming.

The two officers make similar faces of disgust and step further back.

DONNY
(disgusted and still chewing)
Aaah auchaa. Yeah, it’s definitely dog poop!

Donny starts towards the officers again, holding out the poop. Some of the poop is on his front teeth.
DONNY
Taste it for yourself. It’s dog poop.

The officers keep backing down the driveway. Pesca has his hand on his gun, while Fabbri pulls out his mace and aims it at the crazy man eating poop.

FABBRI
Stay right there!

Donny stops moving forwards as the two cops jump into their squad car.

PESCA
You’re nuts!

He works the poop with his finger nail from his front teeth.

DONNY
Just remember you owe me for this.

PESCA
What!?? We owe you? For what? Not shooting you!

DONNY
The story. You’ll be able to tell this story for the rest of your lives. A classic cop story. I gave you that.

PESCA
You’re nuts. You eat fucking dog shit and we should be grateful for the story!

DONNY
Sure. It’s a great story.

Donny slowly approaches the cruiser. He puts the turd in his shirt pocket.

FABBRI
Your lucky we don’t arrest you for insanity.

PESCA
You’re one sick asshole.

Pesca puts the cruiser into gear and shakes his head.
PESCA
One sick fuck.

...and the cruiser pulls away. Donny has a slightly crazed look on his face.

DONNY
I am now.

Donny walks back through his garage into his house grinning.

FLASHBACK

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Earlier. Donny exits his car. He sees Susan Howell at the kitchen window. He un-buckles this belt and turns his back to her. He pulls down his pants and squats. His shirt tail covers the fact his underwear is still pulled up.

He takes the brown turd from his shirt pocket and drops it between his legs. Donny stands up while pulling up his pants. He buckles his pants and walks into his garage.

FLASHFORWARD

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Donny walks into his kitchen and is greeted by his dogs. He pulls the turd from his shirt pocket.

DONNY
Here Sophie, want a brownie?

He feeds the brownie to the larger dog, who chews it and swallows it. Donny peels back the plastic wrap covering the plate of brownies and picks one up.

DONNY
Daddy prefers a fresh one.

Donny takes a bite of the brownie.

INT. INSIDE CAR IN FRONT OF HOWELL’S BAR - NITE

You can see a pair of full lips in the rearview mirror of a car. A blonde artfully puts on her lip gloss. She puckers her lips and does a big kiss.
The car door opens and two long and gorgeous pair of legs swing out of the car. The woman stands and straightens out her short skirt, tugging it down.

EXT. HOWELL’S BAR - NIGHT

It’s Samantha in the short skirt and smoking hot blouse and a blonde wig. She’s standing in front of Howell’s Bar.

She walks up to the front entrance and walks in.

INT. HOWELL’S BAR - NIGHT

Samantha sits at the bar. The bar is quiet and not very busy.

The bartender, Mike Howell approaches the woman and asks what she wants.

SAMANTHA
Could I have a Pinot Grigio.

MIKE
Coming up.

Mike places the drink in front of Samantha.

SAMANTHA
Seems slow.

MIKE
Tuesday night. It’s always slow.

She takes a sip of her wine and Mike moves away. She opens a charm hanging from her charm bracelet. It contains a powder that she pours into her drink. She picks up her glass and swirls it dissolving the powder.

She raises her hand.

SAMANTHA
Excuse me. Bartender.

Mike comes down the bar.

MIKE
Can I help you?

SAMANTHA
This wine tastes funny. I think
SAMANTHA (CONT’D)

it might be bad.

She hands him her glass with a sexy smile. He takes the glass and sips it.

MIKE

I think you’re right. It does have a different taste to it.

He sips the wine again. Pleased, Samantha smiles again.

MIKE

I’ll open another bottle.

Mike dumps the old wine in the bar’s service sink and opens another bottle and pours Samantha a new glass.

INT. HOWELL’S BAR – DAY

Mike is leaning over the bar talking with Samantha. He’s totally engrossed in their conversation.

SAMANTHA

It’s so dead here. I have a great bottle of Pinot Grigio, Cantina Terlano at my place. I bet we could have fun there. Too bad you have to work.

Samantha rubs the bartender’s upper arm.

Mike snaps up and addresses the bar.

MIKE

Last call. We’re closing early tonight.

INT. MOTEL ROOM – NIGHT

Boom, Boom, Boom sounds at the motel room’s door. Donny opens the door where Samantha is kicking at the door as she’s supporting half of the weight of a sleep walking Mike Howell.

Samantha’s friend MILTON, around forty, supports the other half of the man. Milton is carrying a small suitcase in one hand.

SAMANTHA

Give us a hand. He weighs a ton.
Donny slips under Howell’s arm and replaces Samantha.

**SAMANTHA**
Put him on the bed.

Donny and Milton move Howell to the bed where they drop him.

**SAMANTHA**
Donny, this is Milton. Milton, Donny.

The two men shake hands and say hi. Milton puts down his case and opens it. He takes out a tool belt with small tools on it, an extra battery pack, lenses, microphone heads, and assorted other electronic devices.

He pulls out lighting and a camera from the case. With the tool belt snapped on, the big plastic framed glasses, and the pocket protector, Milton looks like the perfect electronics nerd.

**SAMANTHA**
You’re lucky. Milton agreed not to charge you because I promised him a ride around the world. Here’s his phone.

Samantha hands Mike’s phone to Donny.

**DONNY**
Thanks. I appreciate that. I think.

**SAMANTHA**
I have to get ready. So strip him down.

Samantha goes into the bathroom and Donny starts taking off Mike’s shoes and socks. Milton starts setting up the right lighting angles.

**MILTON**
So, are you a friend of Samantha’s?

**DONNY**
I’m straight.

**MILTON**
So am I!

**DONNY**
I’m married.
MILTON
Me too!

Donny unbuckles the man’s belt and pants and starts pulling off the Mike’s pants.

DONNY
We’re just friends!

MILTON
Yeah, me too!

DONNY
So here’s his phone. Downloading this video to all his contacts isn’t a problem?

MILTON
Shit no. Piece of cake.

20 MINUTES LATER:

The final adjustments to the lighting is made. Donny stands at the end of the bed when Samantha walks out of the bathroom totally nude.

SAMANTHA
Guys. Sit him up at the end of the bed. Against the headboard. We’ll start with kissing and then oral.

DONNY
Remember simulated. Right.

SAMANTHA
Trust me. A drugged man who’s probably never had a cock in his mouth. He might unconsciously bite down. I’m one horny girl, but I’m not that horny.

The two man position Mike and Samantha straddles him, sitting on his upper thighs. She looks at Milton, who’s doing a lighting check, has his camera up and ready at the end of the bed.

SAMANTHA
Action!

Samantha goes to work. First the kissing and sucking on his
neck. Then she stands up and thrusting her hips into Mike’s face with her hands on the wall as she groans.

When done she makes sure she turns to the camera giving it the full frontal shot.

SAMANTHA
Cut! Now get him on his stomach and on his knees.

Mike is now bare ass with his ass sticking out.

SAMANTHA
That doesn’t look right. Put the pillows under his chest and make it look like he’s hugging them.

The two men follow the instructions and Samantha climbs onto the bed and “doggie styles” Howell’s ass from behind. Milton gets ready.

SAMANTHA
Action!

Samantha starts out slowly with her humping, then starts going faster and faster till she’s going wild. She fakes her climaxes. She rolls away at the end of the bed giving Milton another money shot of her goods.

SAMANTHA (CONT’D)
Cut!

She rolls off the bed, standing at the end. Milton lowers the camera.

MILTON
Man, that was perfect. Isn’t she wonderful!

DONNY
(stunned and fascinated)
Yeah ... great.

Samantha smiles and turns back to Mike Howell on the bed.

SAMANTHA
OH SHIT!

MILTON
Uhh...oooo.
DONNY
What?

Donny takes a peek around Samantha.

SAMANTHA
He’s crowning!

DONNY
What do we do?

SAMANTHA
Quick, get me a towel in the bathroom.

Donny grabs a towel and hands it to Samantha.

DONNY
Here.

SAMANTHA
This wasn’t part of the plan, so it’s going to cost you extra.

She goes to work at the man’s back end. Donny grits his teeth and wrinkles up his nose as he turns around.

DONNY
Sure.

Milton shrugs at Donny.

MILTON
It happens. Even when you prepare for it. It happens.

20 MINUTES LATER:

Donny and Samantha are at the motel door. Milton is busy with Mike’s phone. His case is already packed.

DONNY
One thousand and an extra hundred. Worth every penny.

He hands the money to Samantha who pockets the cash.

SAMANTHA
You’re such a sweetie.

She puts her hands behind his head and gives him a big wet
kiss. She turns and leaves the room. Donny is speechless.

MILTON
That how it starts. Here’s your disc and the man’s phone. You’re all set.

He leaves Donny with the disc and phone still speechless.

EXT. HOWELL’S MAILBOX – EARLY MORNING

Donny and Laurie are walking the dogs past the Howell’s mailbox with Sophie and Molly on their leashes. The dogs start sniffing around the post and Donny slips a medium size envelope into the paper receptacle below the mailbox.

LAURIE
What are you up to?

DONNY
Nothing. Just leaving a recipe for a cold dish for their annual Christmas party.

LAURIE
Yeah... I bet.

The couple kiss and continues walking the dogs down the street.

EXT. WILSON’S FRONT PORCH – EARLY EVENING

Donny and Laurie sit on their front porch sipping ice tea watching their neighbor, Mike get out of his vehicle and start walking up his front walkway. He has two very large and noticeable hickeys on his neck.

As he approaches the front stoop Susan comes out of the front door and standing on the porch at the top of the stairs, she starts screaming and waving a DVD disc.

She frisbees the disc at Mike’s head. He ducks and she flies down the stairs punching him in the eye. He turns and runs as she follows pounding on his back. Laurie turns and smirks at Donny.

LAURIE
I don’t think she likes the recipe.

Laurie gives Donny a big kiss.
EXT. WILSON’S FRONT PORCH: CHRISTMAS EVE - NIGHT

Two weeks later. Donny and his wife, Laurie stand on their front porch watching a car pull up in front of the Howell’s house.

Christmas lights are on the Howell’s and Wilson’s front bushes. There are only a few cars parked on the street.

DONNY
Small turn out this year.

LAURIE
Yeah. I wonder why?

Donny puts his arm around his wife.

DONNY
Yeah, I wonder.

LAURIE
Maybe their friends are getting more selective in their party choices.

Laurie smiles and Donny kisses her.

DONNY
Merry Christmas.

INT. BRUCE’S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

One week later. Bruce is sitting in his recliner watching TV when the phone rings. He mutes the volume and answers the phone.

INTERSECT DONNY/BRUCE

BRUCE
Oh hi Donny. Have you found my back-up teeth?

DONNY
No ... well actually we did. Great news! We sold the house.

BRUCE
Good. I need those teeth and the rest of my stuff. I’ll be right over.
EXT. FRONTYARD - DAY

Donny, Laurie and their Realtor stand in the grass as the Realtor puts a SOLD sign over the FOR SALE sign. The Realtor turns and shakes hands with Donny and Laurie.

Just as before, Mike and Susan Howell come down their driveway on their bikes. Again they’re wearing helmets, elbow pads and knee pads with the reflectors on their clothing and bikes.

Meanwhile Bruce is bearing down on his old address. Speeding slightly, with a very large SUV riding close behind matching his speed.

REALTOR
Congratulations. You’re now able
to move to your new house in Bellingham.

DONNY
I wish we got more. That’s all.

LAURIE
Let’s be grateful we’re almost
out of here.

As the Howells see the SOLD sign they again start celebrating and throwing their arms up off the handle bars of their bikes.

SUSAN
Yes!

MIKE
We win! We always win!

Laurie flips the two bikers the finger. Mike still has a partial black eye and signs of the hickeys still on his neck.

DONNY
(smiling)
Go fuck yourself!

The bikers are in the middle of the road and fully turn their heads to confront Donny and Laurie as they pass.

Donny does the international sign for blow job with an open fist at his mouth and the tongue in his cheek. Mike glares back not paying attention to traffic.
Bruce doesn’t slow down and is going past the house except Mike and Susan are in his way.

SLOW MOTION

Bruce’s small car hits the two bikes sending their passengers up and over his car.

As they fly in slow motion over the car, the two can see the large SUV they’re about to land in front of. Shock is on the faces of the Howells.

The Realtor’s face is frozen in horror. Laurie’s face has a more neutral look of mild interest, while Donny’s face is smiling with his eyes lit up like a child on Christmas morning.

30 MINUTES LATER:

The police stand in the front of Wilson’s house with Bruce, Donny and Laurie. The cruiser sits in front of the house while one of two ambulances drives away and the second sits with an EMT working on a gurney and then zip the body bag closed.

PESCA
Witnesses confirm your neighbors were in the middle of the street. So your Dad is off the hook for this accident Mister Wilson. However with his past driving record, I’ll partition the court to revokes his license.

DONNY
(faking concern)
I understand officer.

PESCA
This accident will be under further review. Our Accident Reconstruction Team will be here shortly to further look into your neighbors’ unfortunate deaths.

DONNY
Well if you need us, you know where we are. It’s so so sad.

BRUCE
They’re going to take my license?
Laurie puts her arm around Bruce.

LAURIE
Bruce, let’s go in the house.
I’ll make you some tea.

BRUCE
They want to take my license away?

They start towards the garage.

LAURIE
Did they explain all the great transportation choices at Quail Hollow.

Officer Pesca tips his cap and walks down to his partner who’s directing traffic around the emergency vehicles. Donny trots up to Bruce and Laurie.

DONNY
You know, we don’t have to move now. We still can get out of these contracts!

Laurie stops turns around and walks back to Donny and punches him hard in the shoulder.

DONNY
Owwww....

BRUCE
They want to take my license away?

LAURIE
We’re moving! Got it!

Donny rubs his shoulder.

DONNY
Got it. Back to Bellingham. I got it.

They start walking into the garage, Laurie with her arm still around her father-in-law.

DONNY
You did vet the new neighbors. Right?
Laurie stops and slowly turns with a bewildered look.

    LAURIE

    Shit!

DISSOLVE TO:

FADE OUT: