

DIXIE DYNAMITE

Written by
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INT. KITCHEN - DAY

JUAN CARLOS (early 30's, well built Panamanian) sits at a kitchen table. His laptop is on the *Dixie Dynamite OnlyFans* fan page. He types a message.

JUAN CARLOS (V.O)

(Panamanian accent)

Good morning, Miss Dixie. I hope your day, wherever you are, is going nicely. I love following your travels and getting new pics from you. I was hoping you could make another...

His voice drifts...

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. PORTUGUESE ALLEY WAY - NIGHT

Trash and graffiti are visible. Individuals are behind a dumpster. Hustle and bustle from the city are audible. DPG (50s, AKA DARRELL), face out of sight. A mature woman, provocatively dressed (DIXIE DYNAMITE, AKA PENNY) is giving (action not visible) a hand-job as she looks around.

DIXIE DYNAMITE

Come on, hurry up!

DPG

I'm tryin'! I get performance anxiety in public. You know this!

DPG looks around anxiously.

DIXIE DYNAMITE

You don't get to stretch this out for 30 minutes! I'm just supposed to be getting a quarter bag. I'm not spending the night in a Portuguese jail dressed like this even if it is for Juan Carlos !

DPG

He is our number one subscriber and was very specific on what he wanted and, yes, I get it. Your handy's would be more expensive than a quarter. But it has to be believable to Juan and you're not gonna find a Portuguese dealer willing to give more than a quarter for a handy.

Dixie hears a noise. Looks around. Stroke maintains rhythm. DPG is anxious. A light-ring flows a few feet away: *a video is being filmed on a phone.*

DPG (cont'd)
OH GOD, Get ready. Can I?

DIXIE DYNAMITE
(dryly)
Please do.

Suddenly, the filming phone rings. Dixie and DPG look at it: 'SCARECROW CALLING'.

DPG
Are you fucking kidding me? Do not answer that phone!

DIXIE
It's Dave. You know I have to.

DPG
I know you *don't* have to.

DIXIE
Darrell, it's work.

DPG
This is work!

DIXIE
Sorry babe, Juan Carlos will have to wait.

DPG
He's been waiting for 3 days.

DIXIE
(cheerfully)
One more day won't hurt. It will make him even more excited when he finally sees it.

Dixie answers the phone.

DIXIE
Dave, great timing as usual. I'm kinda in the middle of something.

SCARECROW AKA DAVE speaks on the other line.

DAVE (V.O.)
You need to wrap it up, honey. Oskar is on the move in 30.

DIXIE

This is a Dixie work day! You know how this works. I shouldn't have even answered the phone.

DAVE (V.O.)

The drug trade doesn't stop for a Dixie work day. Wrap it up and get to the rendezvous spot. I need pictures and audio of everyone there.

(a beat)

Hey--

DIXIE

Yeah?

Momentary pause. Dixie is expectant.

DAVE

Darrell must be a grower, huh? You two...

Dave hangs up.

Dixie looks to the sky and dramatically flips off a barely visible satellite.

A few feet away, DPG sighs heavily.

DPG

(mutters)

Fuckin' Dave. Can we at least finish and consider it a practice take?

Dixie looks at DPG. Looks at the sky again. She shakes her head dejectedly.

FADE OUT

Super: ONE YEAR AGO

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Mid morning, a Black-on-Black Late Model Sports Car pulls out of a parking lot. COLTEN (23) and JAQ (23) are in the car.

JAQ

Babe, you really don't have to do this. It doesn't matter to me.

COLTEN

It matters. To both of us.

JAQ
OK, if it matters to you then *it matters to you*. But it really doesn't matter to me.

Moments later, the car arrive at a Starbucks drive thru to place an order

EXT. STARBUCKS DRIVE THRU - DAY

Colten rolls down his window.

DRIVE THRU ATTENDANT (O.S.)
Welcome to Starbucks. What can I get you today?

COLTEN
Uh, OK....I would like a Venti iced shaken espresso substitute with sugar free vanilla with a splash of milk and light ice.

DRIVE THRU ATTENDANT
Would you like bovine slime or healthy oat?

COLTEN
Dammit... Oat milk. Of course.

DRIVE THRU ATTENDANT (O.S.)
Please pull up.

JAQ
It's OK honey. That was really good. I've only been ordering the same drink each morning since November 26, 2022. And we've only been together 415 of those days. It's just gonna take a little more time. Good thing I'm patient.

INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

The bedroom is sparsely furnished. Sunshine pokes through blackout curtains. CHARLIE (17), dressed in all black with long red hair, sits on his bed with his phone, texting a contact named STAR.

CHARLIE (TEXTING)
I'm telling them tonight.

STAR (TEXTING)
Are you nervous?

CHARLIE
About what?

STAR
Oh OK, badass.

CHARLIE
I'm not nervous. This is the only
reasonable approach to take in
dealing with fascist abuse.

STAR
Will your Dad go ape-shit?

CHARLIE
Doesn't he always?

INT. STAR'S BEDROOM - DAY

A response is typed and a black-painted thumbnail hits send as we transition from phone screen to see a transgender female, STAR, (17) laying in bed.

STAR (TEXTING)
Maybe he'll understand. Thank you for
this! We're less than 2 months away!

INT. COLTEN'S CAR - DAY

With their coffee in tow, Colten and Jaq continue driving.

COLTEN
Are you nervous?

JAQ
Yes! I'm nervous. Quit asking me.

COLTEN
Maybe it won't be that bad?

JAQ
Of course it's gonna be bad. How
could it *not* be bad?

COLTEN
Are you sure you don't want me to go?

JAQ

Ewww, NO! This is not something you can be a part of. I'm just gonna have to swallow my pride and throw it out there. Whatever happens next is beyond my control.

COLTEN

Well...

JaQ looks out the window, mind made up.

JAQ

Don't even say it.

COLTEN

I have to say it. I wouldn't be a good boyfriend if I didn't.

JAQ

Create Your Own Destiny. Ewwwucckkk. I wish I never told you that.

COLTEN

But I love it. I really do. A family motto! It's one of the things that I loved about you from the start. Hearing you talk about how life is yours and how you choose to live it is a decision you consciously make. I'd never heard that kind of shit.

JAQ

Well it's all bullshit so you can forget you ever heard it. So anyway, yeah that's the plan. We'll see I guess won't we. We'll see...

COLTEN

I really don't think it's that big of a deal. It's just some pictures on a website. No one really should get upset by *pictures*.

JAQ

Videos too...

COLTEN

And some videos. They'll understand. I'm sure of it.

JaQ stares out the passenger window, *not sure* of it.

EXT. PENNY'S CAR - DAY

PENNY, AKA Dixie from the Cold Open drives her Mercedes and presses her phone.

PENNY
'Call Darrell - Office'.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

DARRELL, AKA DPG from the Cold Open, sits in his office, typing an email: subject line 'RESPONSE TO SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS - MORTGAGE MASTERS'.

His phone rings. He examines his cluttered desk and pushes papers off the hidden phone and picks it up in exasperation.

INTERCUT the following phone conversation between Penny's car and Darrell's office.

PENNY
Hey!

DARRELL
Hey you.

PENNY
What's wrong?

DARRELL
Nothing.

PENNY
Bullshit. I hear it in your voice.
Still having issues with the
auditors?

Darrell spins in his chair in exhausted resignation.

DARRELL
Of course. That's my life these days.

PENNY
Well, shut it down here in a few.
Don't forget Jaq is coming over for
pizza tonight and have I got a story
to tell you! You are not going to
believe this shit.

DARRELL
Sounds good. I have to get this
response back to the state today.
(MORE)

DARRELL (cont'd)
I'll head that way as soon as I send it.

PENNY
Want some good news?

DARRELL
Yeah. Please.

PENNY
The new pictures are a hit. Six new subscribers today! 32 total. Can you believe it? I'm on my way to OnlyFans super-stardom!

DARRELL
That's great babe. I gotta get back to this now though so I can get outta here.

PENNY
Any ideas on timing?

Darrell looks at his messy desk, his open computer tabs, the clock. He picks up a years old family photo beside his computer and stares at it. He shakes his head.

DARRELL
At least another hour.

PENNY
OK, well hurry up. You're spending too much time at the office. As usual. We need you at home too. I need you at home.

Darrell's eyes rest on a family portrait, clearly several years old now. Through the mess of his desk, it is the only oasis of happiness.

DARRELL
I know. I know.

PENNY
OK, well I'm gonna hang with Heidi and Ricky at Mary Jane's for a bit and hopefully you'll decide to come home and have dinner with your family.

DARRELL
(sighing, sets the picture back down)
I'll do my best.

EXT. PENNY'S CAR - DAY

Penny turns into her driveway and glares at the car phone before primping and checking herself and smiling in the mirror. She looks like a model as she exits the vehicle with a plastic ice cream bucket hanging from her arm.

EXT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - DAY

Penny walks up to her house when--

HEIDI (PRE-LAP)
Howdy neighbor.

A fence separates the two houses. HEIDI remains unseen. Accustomed to the greeting, Penny smiles.

PENNY
What's up girl?

HEIDI
Oh you know. Getting ready for 4:20.
You gonna join me or what?

PENNY
OK, let me go pee first.

Penny hurries up her sidewalk, the yard lavishly appointed.

EXT. MARY JANE'S BACKYARD PATIO - DAY

Penny, Heidi sit at a round table on a cluttered patio. Penny places the ice cream bucket on the table. Heidi (late 50's) youthful looking, slightly over 6 feet with large breasts and weighs 300 LBS packs a bowl.

HEIDI
Look at you, Princess Penelope!
You're all dressed up and boujee
looking. Where you been?

PENNY
Oh my God - you will not believe the
day I've had. Fire up a bowl. I'll
tell you all about it!

HEIDI
Sounds good, Sister. Let's wait on
Ricky and Tony though.

PENNY

Fuck them! They're late - spark that shit up!

Heidi lights bowl, inhales, hands to Penny.

HEIDI

No, we ain't waiting on the Pope to fire up, hold off on your story until they get here so you don't have to tell it 2 or 3 times. You know those gossip girls want to hear all about it too!

PENNY

(inhales a sizable
hit, exhales)

Yeah, those boys definitely like the drama and today was a drama day, no doubt about it!

HEIDI

After your story, Ricky and I have our own little bit of news to share as well. I'm so excited!

PENNY

Oooo, I can't wait!

EXT. MARY JANE'S HOUSE - DAY

An overhead view of the two backyards. 'It Was A Good Day' plays as a Camry pulls into view. RICKY (mid 50s, a large, imposing man) exits vehicle and walks to patio, dressed in a factory uniform.

RICKY

Damn! Y'all bitches started without me?

HEIDI

4:20 is the same time every day Ricky dicky. The flame is ignited whether you are here or not.

RICKY

Traffic was a bitch. No accidents or fucking horse drawn Amish wagons, just seemed like the LA freeway got transplanted in Princeton, Indiana today.

PENNY

I'd like to see you in that LA traffic. OMG, you'd have road rage and give it to a dozen other people too!

HEIDI

He'd get a cap popped in his ass. That's what would happen. Pumping Ice Cube and looking whiter than Lawrence Welk, flip off the wrong Crip or Blood and get his ass shot.

Ricky sits down, takes a hit.

RICKY

That's probably not too far from accurate.

PENNY

Where is Tony?

RICKY

Yeah, where is that little bastard? He still owes me for last week!

Heidi takes a hit.

HEIDI

He's working late this week.

(exhales)

If they finish this job early he gets a bonus so he's trying to bust ass to get that. And he still owes Momma \$100 for rent this month so that comes to her before he pays you for any weed.

(mock sympathetic)

Pooooor Ricky.

RICKY

Bullshit.

HEIDI

Bullshit, bullshit. You know the drill Ricky - you sell him weed on lay away that's up to you but he pays Momma before anyone else.

RICKY

That's not right.

Heidi packs another bowl. Penny enjoys the show. Heidi glares at Ricky while she lights up the bowl.

RICKY (cont'd)
I mean, HE shouldn't be telling me he needs weed if it's gonna take two weeks to pay me back.

HEIDI
Ricky? Are you being serious right now or are you already high as fuck? When has this shit not been this way the last year? Becky has him over a barrel and unless he wins the lottery or until he pays that child support off this is just the way it is.

CUT TO:

INT - SMALL EMPTY APARTMENT - DAY

TONY (early 50s but looks MUCH older) and a CO-WORKER are hard at work laying carpet in a bedroom of a 30-unit apartment building. BILL, Tony's supervisor, walks in.

BILL
Lunchtime fellas. 30 minutes. No longer.

Bill leaves.

TONY
Goddamn, this shit is getting old. 30 minutes for lunch is bullshit.

CO-WORKER
Gonna be tough to be done by Friday if we took an hour.

TONY
It's still bullshit.

EXT. DUMPSTER BEHIND APARTMENT - BUILDING - DAY

Tony pulls out a crack pipe, lights it and inhales deeply. He scrolls his phone and lands on the last text from Becky: 'See you in court... \$16,345'.

A new text notification from Bill pops up.

BILL (TEXT)
Tony, thanks again for taking the lead on this job. I need my best guy leading this so we can get it done by Friday. Appreciate you.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARY JANE'S BACKYARD PATIO - DAY

Heidi scrolls through her phone to avoid eye contact with Ricky.

HEIDI

So you can continue to let him put your shit on lay away or you can cut him off. Pretty simple. He shouldn't have poked the bear. They were on good terms and she was letting him pay here and some there. But Tony started being Tony again.

CUT TO:

EXT. EX-WIFE'S HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

Tony on front porch of ex-wife's house. Knocks on door. A haggard looking mid 50's BOYFRIEND in his boxers answers.

TONY

Who the fuck are you?

BOYFRIEND

Who the fuck are *you*?

TONY

I'm Quentin's goddamned father, that's who I am.

BOYFRIEND

Oh. The ex.

The boyfriend extents a hand to shake.

BOYFRIEND (cont'd)

Good to meet you. Bobby. The future ex.

Tony looks at the hand like *fuck that* and looks right back at "Bobby".

TONY

Send Becky out here.

BOYFRIEND

She's not here.

TONY
Well, where the fuck is she?

BOYFRIEND
Got called into work.

TONY
Send Quentin out here.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARY JANE'S BACKYARD PATIO - DAY

BOO, an ugly mutt (forged from a night better left forgotten between a Chihuahua and a Mini-Doberman), walks up to Ricky as he bends down to pick up the dog. The gang continues their conversation.

RICKY
Tony still wants Becky back. Why on earth anyone in their right mind would want her back is beyond me.

HEIDI
He's not always in his right mind.

Heidi puts a finger to her head in a circular motion and other hand to mimic smoking a crack pipe.

HEIDI (cont'd)
Just sayin'.

EXT - BECKY FRONT PORCH AND SIDEWALK - DAY

Tony and Quentin walk away from Becky's as Tony furiously texts on his phone. The conversation between Ricky, Heidi and Penny continues in voice over.

TONY (TEXT)
WTF, Becky? Leaving Quentin with some bar pick up from last night???

BECKY (TEXT)
I don't have time for this Tony! I'm at fucking work. And Bobby is my boyfriend!

TONY (TEXT)
You'll be hearing from my attorney, bitch.

BECKY (TEXT)

See you in court. \$16,345.

RICKY (V.O.)

Anyway he loses his shit and when he and Quentin leave he starts blowing up Becky's phone how it's bullshit that she has a guy spending the night and left him there alone with him and he's calling his lawyer to let him know and he's gonna get full custody.

HEIDI (V.O.)

Like I said, Tony being Tony when he's on the hard stuff.

RICKY (V.O.)

So she sends a text back that said "See you in court. \$16,345."

PENNY (V.O.)

\$16,345?

EXT. MARY JANE'S BACKYARD PATIO - DAY

HEIDI

That's how much child support she says he owes. He says that's bullshit, but he did say it was going to take him 7 years to pay her off, so you do the math. So she took his ass back to court and he got tossed into jail for a couple of weeks. One of the conditions of his release is that now he has to pay at least \$300 a month or he violates the order and goes back to jail.

PENNY

Oh, fuck.

HEIDI

Yeah, oh fuck. But, enough of that shit. It's killing my buzz. Let's hear your drama day, boujee lady. I'm sure it will be much funnier than Tony's. I want to know why you're dressed up like a Housewife of Chandler Square, all gussied up in the middle of the day like you had a hot date or something.

RICKY
Yeah, no yoga pants and hoodie?

PENNY
Damn. Can't a girl look nice on a
Wednesday?

Heidi looks Penny up and down, her pointer finger in unison.

HEIDI
Not *this* nice, bitch.

PENNY
Well, thank you.
(pause)
I think.

Heidi smiles coyly.

PENNY (cont'd)
OK, so you know Dave Wedding is
running for Congress. No offense,
Ricky!

Ricky shakes off the reference dismissively.

CUT TO:

INT. MARY JANE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A COMMERCIAL for DAVE WEDDING's political campaign. We sees
Heidi and MARY JANE watch the commercial. Images of a cheesy
political ad flash across the screen:

-Dave kisses a baby

-Dave shakes hands with a business owner

-Dave gives money to a homeless person

-Dave does a Tiktok style dance with someone in a Statue of
Liberty costume.

HEIDI (V.O.)
Oh my god, how I know. No offense,
Ricky. Every time that commercial
comes on, Momma goes on and on and on
about how handsome he is. I swear I
think the ol' girl might be gettin' a
nut to him. I see that massager under
her blanket and her cheeks beet red
as she gets all squirmy.

PENNY (V.O.)

Ewww. TMI!

(pauses)

Seriously. Way, way too much. So
anyway Dave called me last night.

CUT TO:

INT. PENNY'S BEDROOM / INT. DAVE'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Intercut the phone call between Penny's bedroom and Dave's
office.

Penny lays in bed with her laptop on the OnlyFans site.
DAVE, late 50's, attractive, sits at an executive desk a
glass of bourbon in his hand. A lonely lamp lights the room.

PENNY

Dave? What are you doing up this
late? I thought seniors were in bed
before 10. Did the prunes just kick
in or something?

DAVE

Still as funny as ever. Hey, I need a
favor.

PENNY

I'm not proofreading your Grinder ads
anymore, Dave. You're a freak. And I
never took you for a bottom.

DAVE

I need you at a donor lunch tomorrow.

PENNY

No! I hate that shit.

DAVE

I wouldn't ask if I didn't really
need this. This is the last
fundraiser before the election. I
need the help.

PENNY

Dave. I can't. Fuck me. It's 10 o'
clock and I don't have my nails done.
I'm not going to some schmooze fest
with these nails. I have standards.

DAVE

Hold on.

Dave calls a number on the other line.

ASIAN MAN (V.O.)

Hello?

We stop inter-cutting to stay with Penny as she examines her nails and absentmindedly scrolls her laptop, impatiently waiting for Dave.

A moment later--

DAVE (V.O.)

You still there?

PENNY

Yes, Dave I'm still here.

DAVE (V.O.)

OK, I got you an appointment at that place over on Burkhardt. By Subway. You know it?

PENNY

Ricky's Nail Art.

DAVE (V.O.)

Yeah, that's it. It's all paid for. Tip and everything. Be there at 9. OK?

PENNY

Dave, Ricky is booked up for weeks in advance. No way you just got me an appointment.

We switch back to Dave who swishes the drink in his hand and swallows in one gulp. He gets up and pours another.

DAVE

He owes me a couple of favors. I called one in.

PENNY (V.O.)

Who doesn't owe you a favor?

DAVE

You after this. We'll be all square. So I'll see you a little before Noon?

PENNY (V.O.)

I guess. So what is this boondoggle I am going to?

DAVE

It's all my biggest donors and some people from the state. At Steve Chancellor's house. You know where that is?

PENNY (V.O.)

Yes Dave, I know where fucking Steve Chancellor's house is.

DAVE

OK, so be there at noon. Wear something sexy. But not slutty.

PENNY (V.O.)

Oh Lord. What am I getting myself into? Is this a Diddy thing?

DAVE

Sorta. Except there'll be no baby oil, you'll be the only female there and everyone is paying \$500 to have lunch with me. Oh, do flirt with Chancellor. He loves you.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARY JANE'S BACKYARD PATIO - DAY

Ricky continues petting Boo, the dog. The trio continues chatting.

RICKY

\$500? Goddamn, you roll in a different crowd than me Penny.

PENNY

I didn't pay \$500. That's just his donor buddies. No fucking way. I wouldn't pay shit. *He* pays when we go to lunch.

HEIDI

BOO-GEE. That is what that is called. But, I understand. A girl's gotta have her standards. Can't be schmoozing anyone with ratchet nails. Much less, boner buddies.

RICKY

(correcting Heidi)
Donor Buddies.

HEIDI

Ricky... Just never mind. So Ricky owes Dave a couple of favors, huh? You know what that shit's about?

PENNY

No. Half the town owes him a favor.

HEIDI

You know he's got so much shit on people. He probably pulls those strings just to see people squirm.

Penny cocks her head, unsure.

PENNY

I don't know.

RICKY

I don't know? Of course he does, that's one of the biggest perks of being sheriff in this hick town for almost 20 years. You have shit on every one. Ricky is probably running heroin out of the back.

HEIDI

Oh Ricky - you're just saying that cuz he's Asian.

RICKY

Well, yeah.

PENNY

(bewildered)

Well, yeah?

RICKY

Those nail salons are drug running fronts. Same for Chinese restaurants.

PENNY

Oh Good Lord, Ricky. Not this shit again.

RICKY

I'm serious. I mean y'all act like I'm the idiot over here but how 'bout y'all just think about it for a second. Over 30 nail salons and 40 Chinese restaurants in this area if you include Newburgh. I mean goddamn - we only have 180,000 people that live here? Please.

(MORE)

RICKY (cont'd)
Plus, have you noticed when you go into these joints, they never shut the cash register? They just use a calculator and anytime there is cash, they never ring it up, just goes in the till.

HEIDI
(reluctantly)
I have noticed that.

RICKY
And why do you think that is?

PENNY
They don't want to pay as much in taxes?

Ricky throws his hands up indignantly.

RICKY
Just go to Reddit and--

PENNY
When did you turn into Archie fucking Bunker? You sound like a paranoid old white man. Please tell me you're not going to Reddit for affirmation of your racist social theories.

RICKY
OK, I'm too high to understand exactly what you said but I think you're mocking Reddit.

PENNY
I'm mocking you!

INT. DARRELL'S OFFICE - DAY

Darrell works at his desk diligently when AARON pokes in.

AARON
You're the last one here, DPG.

Darrell doesn't look away from his screen.

DARRELL
I'm always the last one here.

AARON
Always grinding, man! Head on out.

DARRELL
I gotta get this shit back to the
state tonight.

AARON
I hear ya. Alright, well I got all of
the lights for ya. See ya in the
morning. Fantasy Football Lunch is
tomorrow, don't forget.

Aaron starts down the hall.

DARRELL
(sarcastically)
How could I...

Darrell sits for a second, thinks. Then--

DARRELL (cont'd)
Hey Aaron?

Aaron comes back, sticking his head in.

AARON
Yeah?

Darrell turns from his monitor.

DARRELL
You heard from Shannon today?

AARON
No. But she's traveling. I never hear
from her when she's traveling.

DARRELL
She's always traveling.

AARON
Text her. She usually responds to
that.

DARRELL
Nah, it's fine. I was expecting an
email today, that's all.

AARON
She'll probably send it tonight. She
never seems to keep up with the time
zones.

DARRELL
Yeah. That's probably it.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jaq and Colten are at a park swinging as the sun sets. Starbucks cups are on the ground, silence and tension in the air.

COLTEN
It's just OnlyFans.

JAQ
Just OnlyFans? People think it's gross. It is gross. Especially to people my parent's age.

COLTEN
Your parents are cool though.

JAQ
They're not that cool. Actually they're not cool at all. They're in their 50s!

COLTEN
Well, I think you are going to be surprised and I think they are going to be completely reasonable and understanding.

JAQ
Reasonable? My Dad didn't let me watch TED until I was 16. So now all of the sudden it's OnlyFans and he's just gonna be reasonable and Mr. Cool Guy. It's gonna be a disgusting conversation all the way around and I really wish I didn't have to have it.

COLTEN
You don't have to. Nothing is forcing you to have it.

JAQ
Are you kidding? This will get out there and then when it does who knows what's gonna happen? It would mess up my Dad's job, my Mom will be humiliated. My grandparents, our cousins. Everyone. I won't be able to do anything about it then. Why is this happening to me?

COLTEN
Create Your Own...

JAQ

If you finish that statement we're
never having sex again.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

Behind Mary Jane's house, a cube van rolls to a stop . Tony gets out. He has a half smoked Marlboro that he draws on and flicks in the alley. He waves to the driver.

He bends over and stretches. Something hurts. He looks up. He sighs. The pains of a 12+ hour work day that feels twice as long.

He walks to the backyard patio.

EXT. MARY JANE'S BACKYARD PATIO - DAY

Tony sees Ricky, Penny, and Heidi while they're mid-conversation. Ricky spots him.

RICKY

Hey Tony - why do Chinese restaurants
never have the register closed?

TONY

Cuz they're running heroin out the
back.

Ricky slaps the table violently.

RICKY

I rest my case!

HEIDI

All right Tony, you made it just in
time to hear Penny's story. Grab a
seat.

Tony walks onto the patio, dabs up Ricky, and nods to the girls.

TONY

Hello beautiful ladies. How are you
all?

Penny pulls out the seat next to her, patting the seat for Tony to sit down.

PENNY

Great! Here, sit down by me.

TONY

You know what? I'm pretty beat up today. I'm gonna head up and take a bit of a rest. I'll be out here for our night time session though.

RICKY

You sure man?

TONY

Yeah. I'm just wiped out.

PENNY

OK, but we'll see ya tonight?

TONY

Of course.

Tony walks up the steps leading to the back door and goes into the house as the door shuts behind him.

HEIDI

He's just not right. I want to shake him and get him out of this funk. I'm scared something's gonna happen.

INT. TONY'S ROOM - DAY

Photograph by Nickelback plays over.

Tony walks into his one room apartment. Bed unmade, clothes, empty food and drink containers strewn about. Stacks of DVDs and CDs. The TV has a startling crack in the screen.

Tony sits on a shitty side table at the end of his bed. He collapses on the bed, and pulls out his phone. He reaches into a drawer and pulls out a bag of drug paraphernalia.

He removes a crack pipe, a rock, and a lighter and begins the ritual of preparing to smoke before lighting the pipe and taking a deep draw.

He looks at his phone and scrolls through pictures of himself, a WOMAN (Becky) his age and a YOUNG MAN (Quentin) in happier times.

He takes another draw.

PENNY (V.O.)

Like I was *tryin'* to say before the Ricky nonsense.

RICKY (V.O)
Just sayin'!

EXT./INT. NAIL SALON - DAY

Penny pulls up to Ricky's Nail Art. The clock reads 8:59 AM and flips to 9:00 as someone unlocks the front door. Penny exits the vehicle hurriedly.

PENNY
Oh, thank goodness! I have to pee so bad. Can you tell me where the restrooms are?

ASIAN RECEPTIONIST
Sorry. We do not have public restrooms.

PENNY
I'm sorry?

ASIAN RECEPTIONIST
Since COVID, we no longer have public restrooms.

PENNY
OK, I don't think COVID had anything to do with the sanitation laws in this city. You're about to have a big mess in the floor if I can't get to the little lady's room.

ASIAN RECEPTIONIST
I'm sorry ma'am. No bathrooms.

EXT. MARY JANE'S BACKYARD PATIO - SUNSET

Heidi hits the bowl before passing to Penny

HEIDI
This woman and her bladder!

PENNY
(inhaling deeply)
Isn't that the truth?

Ricky throws his hands up in the air.

RICKY
Oh OK, here we go.

PENNY

Here we go?

RICKY

Because of COVID? Come on, we know what this is all about.

Penny looks at Heidi. Heidi returns a 'DON'T EVEN ASK' look.

PENNY

OK, you're gonna have to explain it to me because you lost me.

RICKY

First off - have you ever wondered why they always speak in Chinese to each other?

PENNY

(exchanges glances
with Heidi)

Ricky is from Vietnam. Not China.

RICKY

OK, you know what I mean.

PENNY

I know what you say and what you are saying is racist.

RICKY

It's not racist.

PENNY

Then what is it?

RICKY

I don't know but it's not racist.

PENNY

It sure sounds so to me.

RICKY

Penny, Penny, Penny...

HEIDI

OK, enough of the social studies lessons for today. I want to hear this story. Go ahead, girl.

Penny looks mindlessly at her phone, she realizes how much time as passed. A mild anxiety runs over her face.

PENNY

Oh geez, I didn't realize how late it was. Darrell will be home soon. OK, I am actually gonna run.

Hesitantly (she's high) she gets up. She pauses then--

PENNY (cont'd)

I'll see you all later tonight.

HEIDI

You sure?

PENNY

Yeah, yeah - I let the time get away. Jaq is coming over tonight.

HEIDI

How fun - tell the kiddos I said 'Sup' and we'll hear the rest of this tale of intrigue later during the late night smoke sesh.

PENNY

(absentminded)

OK - yeah that sounds good. And I wanna hear your all's news too.

HEIDI

For sure girl, I can't wait to tell you all about it.

Penny leaves.

INT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jaq, Charlie, Penny and Darrell sit around the dining room table. Dinner is almost over with almost empty pizza boxes scattered in the middle of the table.

DARRELL

So Sis - how's work going?

JAQ

As good as can be I guess.

DARRELL

Yeah? What's that mean?

JAQ

I mean, when half the workers you are managing are high school aged -- no offense Charlie--

Charlie shrugs with look: *none taken*.

JAQ (cont'd)

--it gets a little frustrating, oh,
like every hour I'm at work.

DARRELL

Yeah?

JAQ

Yes! If someone isn't calling in sick
then they are asking to leave early.
Or they're on their phone while they
have customers in line! How much more
obvious should it be than 'if you
have a customer in line you stay off
your phone' but they look at me like
I'm the idiot when I tell them. I
swear. Seriously, what is wrong with
your generation?

CHARLIE

That's a pretty long conversation
you're wanting to initiate.

Darrell snorts some laughter.

DARRELL

Charlie.

The table chatter dies down and Jaq seizes the opportunity.

JAQ

I was sorta hoping we could talk
about something later after Charlie
leaves. Just the three of us? Would
that be ok--

CHARLIE

--Actually, I have something that I
wanted to talk about since we are all
together.

Jaq looks at Charlie bewilderingly and scans the table for
recognition that she was interrupted. None received.

DARRELL

Oh yeah, buddy? What's that?

CHARLIE

It's not going to be something you
really want to hear. But...

Charlie looks at every person at the table. Then he looks down to say--

CHARLIE (cont'd)
I've decided to quit school.

Penny, distracted, snaps back to attention.

PENNY
What did you say?

Charlie doesn't look up.

CHARLIE
I'm quitting school.

DARRELL
What do you mean, you are quitting school? Like you wanna do home school or something?

CHARLIE
No, definitely not.

PENNY
Charlie, you can't quit school.
You're not 18.

Charlie looks up from his plate.

CHARLIE
I don't have to be 18, I just have to be over 16 and a half and have you all sign for me that you support me quitting school.

DARRELL
Why would we do that?

CHARLIE
Why wouldn't you?

PENNY
Uh, because you need to graduate high school.

CHARLIE
Well, that's not happening so what's the point?

DARRELL

The point is, eventually you'll stop this tantrum, realize what a great opportunity this school really is and make up the classes you've failed over the summer and graduate. We fought to get you in this school and now you're just going to throw it away?

CHARLIE

What am I throwing away? The American education system is just designed to teach us to consume. I'm not living that shallowly. I'm not going to stop my protest either.

PENNY

Charlie, I understand you're upset for your friend.

CHARLIE

No you don't. And Pops doesn't either. I'm not just upset for Star. I'm furious that the school system is used to oppress and emotionally castrate kids that are different and refuse to conform to created societal roles that we all have to just fit into.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK

PRINCIPAL PETERS (50s) sits at office desk reading a printed POWERPOINT PRESENTATION - SUICIDE RATES FOR TEENAGERS IN THE LGBTIA+ COMMUNITY: CHARLIE PENNINGTON.

An office phone buzzes. Peters presses the phone to respond.

MR. PETERS

Yes.

SECRETARY (V.O.)

Charles Pennington is here for your 2:00 meeting.

Peters pauses, opens a desk drawer and takes out a PILL BOTTLE, pops two tablets and returns the bottle to the desk drawer. He swallows hard. He arranges items on his desk and looks at the two empty chairs across from him.

MR. PETERS

Send him in.

Mr. Peters gets ready. Moments later, Charlie comes in.

LATER, we pick up the conversation mid-stream.

CHARLIE

So Mr. Peters I think it is obvious that the school's decision to only refer to their students by birth names and genders is putting those students in significant danger and I have to believe that knowing this information will cause you to change this destructive policy.

MR PETERS

Charlie, I really empathize with you. I know Christopher is your best friend and he is very upset by this policy.

CHARLIE

Star is my best friend and Star is not upset! Star is clinically depressed and your hateful policy is making it a million times worse.

INT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM-NIGHT

Back at the dinner table, JAQ is noticeably irritated.

PENNY

Charlie, I think it is great that you are such an empathetic and loving young man.

CHARLIE

I've asked you to call me a person. My assigned gender is irrelevant.

DARRELL

Lord...

PENNY

(glares at Darrell)

Right, you are an empathetic and loving young person and your idealism is so fantastic. I respect you so much for your willingness to stand up to situations you think are wrong.

CHARLIE

This isn't a situation that-- 'I' think is wrong.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (cont'd)

A human being is being physically and emotionally abused in that school. I think you should be asking yourselves why aren't you demanding that the school change its policy or making me quit if it doesn't. Why aren't you asking why am I still going to this school where all of this abuse is occurring?

Charlie throws his napkin in his plate and walks downstairs. Darrell starts to go after him.

PENNY

Let him go.

Jaq looks at Darrell and concurs.

JAQ

That's a good idea. He needs some time probably.

DARRELL

Did you know about this?

JAQ

Well... yeah I guess so. I mean he told me last week he was thinking about it but I had no idea he was going to bring it up tonight.

DARRELL

(to Penny)

Did you have any clue?

PENNY

Well, we'd all be blind if we haven't noticed the change since last semester, so yeah I guess you could say I had a clue. Hopefully, you did too. Did I know that he was going to tell us tonight that he is quitting high school? No. Am I surprised that he told us tonight that he is quitting high school? No.

Darrell throws his napkin in his plate, mimicking Charlie's action.

DARRELL

He's ruining his fucking life... This is not the way we raised him.

PENNY

You sure about that?

DARRELL

Fuck no, we didn't. To be a quitter and to ruin his life over a stupid situation?

PENNY

Stupid to you maybe. How 'bout the rest of us? Maybe we don't think it is stupid.

DARRELL

That's not fair. You know what I mean.

PENNY

I know what you say.

(pauses to let it
sink in)

Maybe he is standing up for those that can't stand up for themselves. Maybe he is trying to help people get a chance that other people wouldn't give them. Maybe he is protesting this policy in a very principled way. Like what we did.

DARRELL

That's not the same at all. We gave people a chance to rent a house because other people wouldn't.

PENNY

I sure remember you saying that we could make a lot more money if we bought different houses and rented to different people.

CUT TO:

INT - HOME OFFICE DAY

A YOUNGER PENNY is at a work desk, speaking heatedly with a COLLECTIONS AGENT. CHARLIE (7), is in the office coloring. A quick look of office reveals many housing awards.

COLLECTIONS AGENT

1043 Covert is behind 6 weeks now. We still haven't filed eviction.

PENNY

I know...

A beat.

COLLECTIONS AGENT

If we don't--

PENNY

(taking a breath so
as not to explode)

Her husband's left again. I'm not
kicking her and her kids out.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM / INT. STAR'S BEDROOM

Intercut Charlie laying on his bed, texting with Star in her
room.

CHARLIE (TEXTING)

I'm so fucking done with this place.

STAR (TEXTING)

He went ape-shit?

CHARLIE

Of course.

STAR

Wanna go online and play Warzone?

CHARLIE

No. I want to punch my fucking Dad. I
hate him so much.

STAR

Do you want to come over? My parents
aren't here right now.

CHARLIE

No.

Star's types with a visible "..."

CHARLIE (cont'd)

I have to work on some stuff for the
march.

Star pauses typing, reads Charlie's message. Starts typing
again.

STAR

Are you sure? They won't be back for another couple of hours.

Star erases it all. Instead she types--

STAR (cont'd)

Ok.

A black thumbnail hits send.

CHARLIE

We have to be out of town by December 30th, right?

STAR

Yes, that's when my Dad gets transferred.

INSERT: An email to Star's father indicating he is getting transferred to Nigeria and a scene at their family dinner table discussing the news and Star later looking up assorted internet articles highlighting Nigeria's poor record on transgender rights and safety.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

OK. Whether they sign for me to quit or not we're outta here.

STAR (V.O.)

Charlie, you have to convince them! They can go to jail for your truancy. You can't just leave town and let that happen.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Maybe then my Dad would have a different perspective on incarceration conditions in this country.

INT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM -NIGHT

Jaq, Darrell, and Penny sit and stew on the house fight until Penny clears her throat.

PENNY

Maybe we just need to look at this situation specifically and not paint it with such a broad brush. Charlie isn't our little robot to program. He makes decisions and has consequences like we all do.

(MORE)

PENNY (cont'd)
But we're family and we're going to
be there for him when he needs us to
be. Let's just listen to him and--

Penny's cell phone rings. 'MARY JANE'. Penny answers.

PENNY (cont'd)
Hey Mary Jane, can I call you right
back?-- What?!-- Did you call 911?
OK, I'll be right over.

Penny drops the phone and rushes out, leaving Jaq and
Darrell confused.

EXT - MARY JANE'S FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Penny stands on the front porch as paramedics push a
stretcher into the front door. Ricky pulls up and exits in a
rush.

RICKY
What's going on?

PENNY
It's not good, Ricky.

INT. COLTEN'S CAR - NIGHT

Jaq and Colten drive in the car.

COLTEN
So, how'd it go?

JAQ
I didn't get a chance to bring it up.

COLTEN
What? Why? I thought you were going
to.

JAQ
Yeah, I was going to but I didn't get
a chance to. Mary Jane called and
Momma rushed over there in a panic.

COLTEN
What happened?

JAQ

I'm not sure. She's still over there.
I just told Pops to call me when he
finds out what's going on. Charlie
sure dropped a bombshell though.

COLTEN

He's quitting high school?

JAQ

What? How did you know that?

COLTEN

Well...

(looks at Jaq then
away)

He told me.

JAQ

What? And you didn't tell me? What
the fuck, Colten.

COLTEN

He made me promise not to say
anything.

JAQ

I don't care! That's my little
brother and anything he tells you,
you tell me.

COLTEN

No. That's not how it always works.

JAQ

Excuse me?

COLTEN

(softer)

No, not always. Look, Charlie is a
teenage boy. He's going through shit.
I love your parents but come on, they
can be a tad extra from time to time.

JAQ

Uh, no one knows that better than
this bitch.

Colten looks at Jaq, then road a couple of times.

COLTEN

Yeah, of course. So you gotta also understand that he isn't always going to want to go to his big sister for everything. He needs a dude that he can reach out to.

JAQ

I seriously doubt he thinks of you as a 'dude'.

COLTEN

Yeah probably not. But, you know what I mean. I love Charlie, I feel like he's my little brother a little bit too so trust me - if he ever told me anything that you needed to know about I'm gonna let you know.

JAQ

Ummm, and quitting high school doesn't fall into that category?

COLTEN

You already knew he was quitting . You just didn't know he was gonna bring it up tonight. Honestly I didn't either but he was asking me for advice on how to tell you all.

JAQ

And what did you tell him?

COLTEN

I said look Charlie, you are incredibly smart - you've probably already figured out how it's gonna go over. If it were me, I'd just make the case of why that school isn't for you and make it tough for them to disagree.

JAQ

Well, he did that alright!

Colten looks from road to Jaq, smiling.

COLTEN

Really?

Jaq nods.

COLTEN (cont'd)
Yeah - that's my boy. Good job
Charlie.

JAQ
Yeah, so since you and Charlie went
all rogue on us and he threw that
surprise out and then Mary Jane
called I never got a chance to bring
up the OnlyFans stuff.

COLTEN
Well, that's a bummer. I'm sorry for
that.

JAQ
Yeah me too. I mean how much longer
am I going to have to deal with this
shit? I still don't know how to even
bring it up. I don't want her to be
mad or embarrassed, either one.

COLTEN
It doesn't have to be embarrassing.
Really, it doesn't. You have no
reason to be embarrassed.

JAQ
Yeah - well that's easy to say but
when the conversation is me, my
mother and OnlyFans - uh, that's
gonna be embarrassing. That's not
anything a mother wants to hear from
her daughter - I can assure you. And
it is certainly not a conversation a
daughter wants to have with her
mother.

COLTEN
I mean...

JAQ
You mean what?

COLTEN
I mean...

JAQ
Colten?! What? Say it!

COLTEN

(blurting)

I mean I think you might be the only daughter who has had a 55 year old mother on OnlyFans and had to tell her to stop because your friends are being disgusting perverts.

JAQ

I know! HOW EMBARRASSING!

EXT./INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Darrell walks through a parking lot and into the back of a large office building.

He turns on the lights with bored, disaffected routine. A digital clock on wall reads 5:07 A.M.

In his office, A DESK PLATE reads Darrell A Pennington - Chief Operations Officer. A large TV hangs on the wall. CNBC is already on. Darrell pulls out a chair and wearily sits down.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Penny and Ricky stand at the back. The casket is up front. A large picture of HEIDI is on a stand by the casket. A video of her plays.

RICKY

I can't fucking believe it, Penny.

Penny dabs a tissue at her eyes.

PENNY

Me either.

RICKY

It's just not right. She's here and then she's not.

Penny pulls out her phone to text Darrel

To DPG: Where are you?!?!

Penny pockets her phone.

PENNY

I know, Ricky. I know...

INT. DARRELL'S OFFICE - DAY

Darrell is knees deep into his work day. He takes a sip of coffee when--

A LOUD CELL PHONE notification buzzes and TWO EMAIL notifications ding on his DESKTOP. He nearly spit-takes, but he saves himself.

Overwhelmed, Darrell multitasks picking up his phone AND reading his inbox.

On the computer, FROM: SHANNON RE: COMP. DARRELL. Darrell clicks on the email and--

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARIS CAFE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

At a busy cafe, SHANNON sits with two laptops. Her empty glasses and dishes clutter the space.

She types on one laptop, looking at the screen on the other: a web page boasting a resort in Abu Dhabi. WEEK STAYS START AT ONLY \$25,000. Shannon returns to the email she types:

SHANNON (V.O.)

Darrell, hate to deliver this via email but the time differences don't allow me another way. We've cut compensation for senior officers effective immediately. I'll get with you on details when I'm back.

CUT TO:

INT. DARRELL'S OFFICE - DAY

Darrell looks at his cell phone.

INSERT: *Lil P: Where are you?!?!*

Darrell runs his hand over his head.

Darrell returns to email inbox, FROM: Department of Financial Institutions RE: Recent audit findings. He clicks on email.

DARRELL

A fucking break would be nice...
Jesus, please.

DFI RESPONDER (V.O.)

Mr. Pennington - The Audit Team has determined that the findings were not resolved based on submitted responses and the \$50,000 fine shall remain in force...

DARRELL

(heavily sighing)

Fuck me.

Darrell looks out the window.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Penny looks at her cell phone to see if there is a reply. There is none. She takes a breath before speaking to Ricky.

PENNY

Has Tony been by yet?

RICKY

Mary Jane said he hasn't left his room since Heidi died. I'm worried about him. He won't answer his phone or reply to texts. Becky has even tried to reach out but he won't respond to anyone.

PENNY

Oh no. I'll try and talk to him when I get back. Did they tell Mary Jane for sure what happened?

RICKY

You're not gonna believe this, Penny. It is called defecation syncope. She actually died taking a shit. It's Elvis all over again.

Penny stuffs a laugh between sobs.

PENNY

I don't mean to laugh but that girl. Heidi never did anything normally I don't think.

RICKY

Her blood pressure medicine was all fucked up.

(MORE)

RICKY (cont'd)

We had been working on the recipes for the food truck so Heidi was eating 6 or 7 meals a day the last week trying out all of the different foods.

PENNY

Food truck?

RICKY

Yeah, Heidi was gonna tell you that night. We had finally got enough money to start it up. We were gonna do some test runs for a few weekends and if it took off I was going to quit Toyota and we were gonna take it all over the country and finally get the fuck out of here.

PENNY

What kind of food truck?

RICKY

Chinese. How do you think I knew all about that shit that goes on at those places? I've been researching for months. We were going to call it Take A Wok.

PENNY

Oh, Ricky.

Penny hugs Ricky.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Darrell walks the hallways turning off all of the lights before exiting the building via the back door.

INT. MARY JANE'S TV ROOM - NIGHT

Penny peruses the house looking for something. A box beside Heidi's chair sits opened, contents not visible. Penny gingerly opens the box and sees food menus - TAKE A WOK with cartoon image of Food Truck with Heidi and Ricky's caricature smiling faces on front of the menu.

EXT. TRUCK - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Darrell drives home from work. The media screen on his truck reads 6:10 P.M. KENTUCKY SPORTS RADIO shows on the screen and a voice fills the cab.

MATT JONES (V.O.)

Matt Jones here for the second hour of Kentucky Sports Radio. Ryan and Drew are with me as we recap another tough loss for the Cats. The fans are starting to get restless Ryan and I honestly can't blame them...

Flashbacks dart from one to another in his mind as he drives home:

-Arriving at the office around 5:00 A.M.

-Staying working on an audit until 9:30 P.M.

-Working on his laptop while at a cheerleading game for Jaq.

-Reading work emails on a tablet while he is at Cub Scouts with Charlie.

-Secretly scrolling emails on his phone at church.

-Laying in bed with his laptop at midnight reading production reports.

Darrell flips the Sirius Radio station to Willie's Roadhouse. The Patty Loveless tune 'You'll Never Leave Harlan Alive' begins.

A pensive Darrell is shaken by the lyrics as he drives into a barely visible sunset on the darkened horizon.

EXT./INT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Darrell pulls into the driveway and gets out.

He surveys the yard and the house. He walks slowly to the back door.

He enters the back door and walks through the kitchen.

Penny jumps into the frame wearing a very sexy pink and black negligee with tight fitting leather pants and stiletto heels. Her big reddish blonde hair and perfectly made up face looks directly out of an 80s rock video.

PENNY
SURPRISE!

Darrell is shocked at first then offers a weak smile.

DARRELL
Wow. Look at you, you vixen.

She poses playfully.

PENNY
You like?

DARRELL
I love!

He leans in to give Penny a kiss. The kiss lingers and he pulls her in tighter. His body betrays emotion. Penny pulls her head back.

PENNY
Hey, you OK?

Darrell stays in the hug a beat longer before adjusting his body and face.

DARRELL
I'm great! Look at you - how could I not be? What's made me get so lucky to come home to this tonight?

PENNY
(coily)
Well, it is Friday...

DARRELL
Thank God!

PENNY
Yes, TGIF. And we talked about doing a pool room shoot next, so... I'm dressed for it if...
(pauses)
...you want to take some dirty pictures!?

INT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - POOL ROOM - NIGHT

CENTERFOLD by J. Geils Band plays over the scene.

A pool table centerpieces the middle of the ornate space. Penny poses as Darrell shoots pictures from all angles on his phone.

An open bourbon and two filled rocks glasses sit on the buffet. Darrell takes a swig from one as he passes.

A light-ring illuminates the space in softened light. The viewer sees skin, lingerie and various poses, close ups, overheads etc. but no nudity.

INT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Darrell and Penny look at a laptop (screen not visible to viewers), examining their work. Darrell and Penny both sip bourbon. The couple reacts to their work.

Penny cocks her head.

PENNY
That's a weird angle.

DARRELL
I was getting a little artistic with that one.

PENNY
Yeah, let's leave that to Helmut Newton.

DARRELL
Noted.

PENNY
Ooooo..I do like that one! Alot!

DARRELL
Really?

PENNY
Yeah, that is hot!

DARRELL
I told you - that was the shot!

Penny leans over and kisses Darrell on the cheek.

PENNY
You're so weird.

INT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darrell and Penny are propped against stack of pillows and the laptop sitting on Darrell. They upload pictures to the OnlyFans website.

PENNY

These are really good. You've gotten so much better in just a few months!

DARRELL

Thanks! The perfect muse helps!

Penny strikes a quick mock-pose.

PENNY

Well of course. Dixie Dynamite. In the flesh!

DARRELL

You laugh, but this is going to take off. Wait and see. All it takes is a plan. I've been working on a new audience I think is really going to respond well. It is a little unconventional but that's us, right?

PENNY

I think it's cute that you think so much about this. I really do. I've been thinking about Heidi a lot today.

DARRELL

I'm sorry I wasn't at the funeral. I should have been there.

PENNY

Yes you should have! I needed you there, Darrell. I really did.

DARRELL

I'm sorry. Work was shit again today. The audit findings are still in force and work is on the hook for 50K in 15 days. Shannon is going to shit. She has no clue this is coming and guess who's gonna get all the blame?

PENNY

That's not an excuse.

DARRELL

No, it isn't. I really am sorry.

PENNY

I know. Everyone missed you though. I kept hoping you'd walk through the door at the last minute.

DARRELL

Shit has got to change at work.

PENNY

I don't want what happened to Heidi to happen to us.

DARRELL

I'm pretty sure neither of us our gonna die taking a shit.

PENNY

I'm being serious. She and Ricky were getting ready to launch a food truck.

Penny pulls menu from her bedside table and hands it to Darrell. He examines it as Penny continues.

PENNY (cont'd)

Ricky was going to quit his job and they were going to travel the country serving Chinese food to the masses. They'd been working on it for months and neither one of them had said a word.

DARRELL

Really? Just like us.

PENNY

Yeah. And now she's gone and neither her or Ricky are going to get to live their dream. I don't want that to happen to us.

DARRELL

That's not gonna happen to us. Plus, we're living the dream, aren't we? Look around babe, we made it!

PENNY

Are we? No offense. Our life is great and I am so proud of us and all the hard work we've done and I truly appreciate everything we have. But is this really IT? You're working yourself into an early grave and I am resentful of you being at the office more than you are at home. I keep having this recurring dream that I get a phone call from Aaron to tell me you've had a heart attack at work.

DARRELL

I hear you.

Darrell leans over to hug her, but Penny pulls back.

PENNY

Do you? I mean do you really hear me?

DARRELL

Well, what do you think we should do?

PENNY

I don't know. But it isn't this. This has served us well but we need something new.

DARRELL

Like swinging again?

PENNY

I'm being serious.

DARRELL

I know. Hell, maybe this--
(gestures at the
computer)
--is the next step.

PENNY

I said I'm being serious.

DARRELL

Why couldn't this be the next step? Like we've always said: Create. Our own. Destiny. We don't have to fall in line with the way everyone else does it.

PENNY

That's all great and I'm along for the ride. If you can get people to pay to look at this seasoned sexpot, more power to you! But come on, it's only 32 subscribers.

DARRELL

Yeah, now but I told you - I'm working on a thing. I have high hopes for it. I really do. Have some faith in me. One more time.

PENNY

All part of the plan, right?

DARRELL
All part of the plan.

Darrell and Penny kiss and roll over, deeply in love.

As they drift into sleep later, we peer into each of their minds.

Penny sleeps restlessly. Visions infiltrate her dreams:

-Pictures posted on OnlyFans floating.

-Heidi, Ricky, Tony and Penny, herself, laughing and smoking weed together.

-Moments from the funeral.

-Penny getting a call from Aaron.

Darrell is even more restless and fitful:

-Reading the compensation email.

-An article reading: Retire to Belize for \$2,000 a month.

-His retirement account statements.

-A spreadsheet titled 'Travel The World'.

-A document titled Dixie Dynamite: Business Plan.

-The regulator email.

Night transitions to morning and sunshine filters into the room.

INT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Darrell opens eyes. Looks at the clock - 6:33 A.M. He rolls onto his back. Penny is starting to wake. She rolls over and looks at Darrell. Leans in to give him a kiss.

DARRELL
Good morning, sunshine.

PENNY
You're awake early for a Saturday.
This is a catch up day.

DARRELL
I know. I couldn't sleep.

PENNY

Me either.

DARRELL

I've been thinking about our conversation and Heidi.

PENNY

I don't want you to be upset.

DARRELL

I'm not. Why don't we get cleaned up and go get some breakfast and then day drink. We can talk about it then.

PENNY

Day Drinking! I can never say no! Lay here and let me wake and bake and when I come back up we can take a shower together.

DARRELL

Oh that sounds heavenly... another 45 minutes of sleep?

Penny throws a bed pillow at him as he rolls over.

PENNY

OK, bitch. None for you. Penny grabs a robe, puts it on and grabs glasses and laptop off bedside table.

INT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

TRASHY WOMEN by Confederate Railroad plays over the sequence.

In the kitchen, PENNY pours her cup of coffee.

EXT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - PATIO - DAY

She turns on the fireplace and sets her laptop on the table with her coffee cup. She grabs the Ice Cream Bucket and starts her wake and bake ritual.

Penny opens the laptop and launches the OnlyFans app. As the page loads, she removes rolling papers, a bag of weed and a lighter from the ice cream bucket. She meticulously rolls a joint as she eyes the laptop, waiting for the page to fully load and takes a draw. She signs in with her username and password.

As her account loads she gets a notification:
 CONGRATULATIONS YOU HAVE 77 NEW SUBSCRIBERS! A banner screams
 CONGRATULATIONS YOU ARE NOW IN THE TOP 5% OF EARNERS ON
 OnlyFans. Penny scans the page as she tries to exhale and
 has a coughing fit.

Regaining composure, she pulls glasses from her head and
 focuses on the screen, viewing each element to make sure she
 is reading it correctly.

A flood of messages with subject lines: So fucking hot /
 Will you be my cougar / Do you have a twin sister / Love the
 new pix / My new fave MILF etc. She clicks on one of the
 messages from Ivan. Music fades away.

IVAN (V.O.)
 (Croatian accent)
 Dixie, OMG these pix are so hot! Will
 you marry me? I'm so glad you invited
 me to join your page! Thank you!

PENNY
 Invited you to my page?

She clicks on the next message from Juan Carlos. The text is
 in Spanish and she clicks the translate button as the
 message is read.

JUAN CARLOS (V.O.)
 Miss Dixie , aye carumba! You are a
 feast for my eyes. Please come to
 Panama to see me! Your BIGGEST fan -
 Juan Carlos

There is an attachment to the message that Penny clicks and
 launches the picture of a huge Panamanian dick.

Penny gasps and puts her hand to her mouth.

PENNY
 Oh!

Various Eastern European and Latin American male voices
 flood her head. She closes the laptop and runs inside.

INT. DARRELL AND PENNY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Darrell is barely dozing as Penny bounds into the room.

DARRELL
 Are we still going to shower
 together?

PENNY

Shut up for a minute. You are not going to believe this.

Darrell sits upright in a flash.

DARRELL

What?

PENNY

You need to call Shannon and tell her you're working remotely now.

DARRELL

What? Why--

PENNY

I have 77 new subscribers since last night. 77! And none are from America. None. It's weird. They are from mainly Latin America and Eastern Europe and Juan Carlos lives in Panama and man is he hung! He wants me to come see him. *Dixie* to come see *him*.

(whispering &
exaggerating)

He is so hung. And Ivan in Croatia, OMG he LOVES. Loves me. I mean I think he might legitimately be in love. With me. With *Dixie*.

DARRELL

Oh yeah - I think I know what that is. Awesome!

PENNY

You know why that is? How would you know why that is?

DARRELL

Wait, were you serious?

PENNY

Yes I'm serious. I mean Juan Carlos has a big fucking dick. And he wants to see me. See *Dixie* .

DARRELL

No, I mean were you serious about me working remotely?

PENNY

Wait, why am I such a hit in Romania, Bulgaria, Panama and Albania? You said you knew why that was. How could you know? Ivan is in love with me! With Dixie.

DARRELL

(abruptly)

Hold on!

Penny pauses and regains composure.

DARRELL (cont'd)

Just hold on.

PENNY

Ok.

DARRELL

So when you ran in you said I needed to call Shannon about working remotely. Did you mean that?

PENNY

Yeah - because of this!

Penny holds up the laptop.

INT - HOME OFFICE - DAY

The OFFICE DESK drawer is opened and the desktop is scattered with maps, retirement account statements, and misc. printed articles with handwritten notes scribbled on them.

DARRELL (V.O.)

Shannon, I am sending this email to officially resign my position of Chief Operations Officer with Mortgage Masters EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Please send my last paycheck to my home address. I'll send someone for my belongings. Sincerely, Darrell A Pennington.

Darrell pulls out the Dixie Dynamite plan from desk drawer, flips through it and plops it on top of the scattered papers.

DARRELL

Time to update the plan...

DARRELL hits send on the drafted email, he leans back in his chair, and smiles broadly at the office skylight as he double-barrel flips off the sky in exact replication of Penny from the cold open of the episode!

Screen fades to black and music starts - Dixieland Delight by Alabama plays as the credits roll.