

# CARLTON

## *Heights*

Episode 02 -  
"Playing With The Queen Of  
Hearts"

by  
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TEASER

EXT. IRVING VERANDA - MORNING

DYLAN IRVING is writing in a notebook and drinking coffee.  
SCOTT IRVING comes out of the house and kisses Dylan's neck.

SCOTT

Good morning. I see you made breakfast.

Dylan holds up his cup of coffee.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

What are your plans for today?

DYLAN

I don't have anything planned.

SCOTT

So the Sheriff won't be calling me today.

DYLAN

Ha ha.

Below the Irving's, LARRY BUSTAMANTE and his TWINS are on the beach collecting sea shells.

Dylan sees the Bustamantes and leans over the railing.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Hi Larry!

Larry turns around but ignores Dylan.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Did you see that? Did he just snub me?

SCOTT

He's just busy with his kids. Hi Larry!

LARRY

Hello Scott!

SCOTT

Well I'm off. I expect dinner at 6.

DYLAN

Then I expect you'll be home by 5:30 to make it.

SCOTT

Love you.

Scott kisses Dylan and walks into the house.

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CONTINUED:

DYLAN  
Love you more.

Dylan watches Larry gather the twins and leave the beach.

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
He did just snub me.

INT. BUSTAMANTE KITCHEN - MORNING

Larry enters through the back door pushing the twins in the stroller. ZIMMY BUSTAMANTE is at the kitchen table tying his running shoes.

ZIMMY  
How was the stroll?

LARRY  
The twins enjoyed it but I didn't.

ZIMMY  
Are they giving you trouble?

LARRY  
It's not the twins. It's Dylan Irving.

ZIMMY  
What has he done?

LARRY  
He got into a public fight with Ruth Carlton for one thing. Maybe this will all blow over but until then I think we need to keep our distance.

ZIMMY  
You're the boss. Let me give you all a kiss and then I'm off on my run.

Zimmy kisses his kids and Larry and runs out the back door.

INT. MITCHELL KITCHEN - MORNING

MARTY MITCHELL puts juice in a glass and takes a bowl of oatmeal out of the microwave. RONALD MITCHELL comes into the kitchen.

MARTY  
Good morning.

Marty attempts to kiss Ronald but he turns his cheek.

Ronald sits at the table and picks up the paper.

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Marty puts the bowl and the juice next to Ronald.

RONALD  
This is breakfast?

MARTY  
Yes. Oh wait, Larry made us some fruit salad. He dropped it off this morning.

Marty goes to the refrigerator to get the salad.

RONALD  
Are you ever going to learn cook?

MARTY  
Oatmeal doesn't just heat itself.

RONALD  
Oatmeal, juice. Coffee from a can! 10 years of the same thing.

Ronald takes a bite of the oatmeal and spits it out.

RONALD (CONT'D)  
Marty it's not even warm.

MARTY  
I'll heat it up.

Marty tries to take the bowl away but Ronald gets up from the table.

RONALD  
Forget it. I'm going to work.

MARTY  
What about your breakfast?

RONALD  
I can get a better meal from a vending machine.

Ronald exits.

Marty sits at the table

He pushes the bowl of oatmeal across the table.

END OF TEASER.

ACT ONE

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Dylan is walking through the aisles with his cart. Behind him numerous other shoppers talk about him in whispers.

As Dylan turns a corner to enter another aisle, a woman pushes her cart into Dylan's.

DYLAN  
Oh excuse me.

Dylan goes down the aisle when another person rams his cart.

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
Hey, watch it.

The customer walks off when Dylan comes to the end of the aisle where three more customers have him blocked in.

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
What is going on?

CUSTOMER 1:  
That's the one who beat up Ruth Carlton.

Dylan turns his cart around, looking over his shoulder as he runs down the aisle. He runs right into another cart.

DYLAN  
Oh my god.

The cart he runs into is being pushed by Marty.

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
Marty you scared me.

MARTY  
Are you all right?

DYLAN  
They're after me. They're all after me.

Marty sees the customers at the end of the aisle.

MARTY  
You got a problem? I said, "YOU GOT A PROBLEM?"

The crowd walks away.

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MARTY (CONT'D)

Yeah, I didn't think so.

DYLAN

I don't get it. I'm as nice as I can be to these people...

MARTY

They're just a bunch of bullies. Don't worry, this will all blow over in a few weeks and they'll find something else to talk about.

DYLAN

I hope you're right.

MARTY

I'm always right. Believe me something new will happen and they'll forget all about you.

DYLAN

What are you doing here anyway? I thought you didn't cook.

MARTY

I don't.

Inside Marty's cart are a dozen cans of generic coffee.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Did you think I had some kind of special blend? What are you doing here?

DYLAN

Besides being harassed? I'm going to surprise Scott with dinner tonight.

MARTY

That's nice. Do you do that often?

DYLAN

No, that's why it will be a surprise. See I have it all, bagged salad, frozen lasagna. He'll never know what hit him.

MARTY

A romantic dinner for two? Maybe I should do that. Since I just helped you out of a jam, could you return the favor?

Dylan smiles.

INT. M&A BANK - MAIN LOBBY - DAY

AIDAN PALMER walks in where Scott is up on a ladder hanging a sign announcing a party.

AIDAN  
Nice view handsome.

SCOTT  
Oh hi.

AIDAN  
So there's a party?

SCOTT  
Just a customer appreciation thing. We try to sell more products to the rich. It's tomorrow night, are you going to be there?

AIDAN  
I don't think so. Is Ronald in?

SCOTT  
Yeah, I'll go get him.

AIDAN  
No stay there, your cute little ass will bring customers in.

INT. M&A BANK - RONALD'S OFFICE - DAY

Aidan walks in. Ronald gets up from his desk and walks to Aidan. They begin to kiss passionately.

RONALD  
I've been thinking about this all morning.

AIDAN  
You didn't tell me about this party tomorrow night.

RONALD  
It's nothing special. It's for the clients really. I wouldn't do it if I didn't have to.

AIDAN  
Since you do have to do it, I think there's one more person you should invite.

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CONTINUED:

RONALD

I didn't think you'd want to come.

AIDAN

Not me. I'll have other plans. This is an old friend of mine. I think you'll like him. I think Scott will like him too.

RONALD

What are you up to?

AIDAN

This whole happy marriage thing the Irvings have going on makes me sick. I need Dylan distracted and what could be distracting than marital problems?

RONALD

Alright. I'll take care of it if you take care of this.

Ronald grabs his crotch as Aidan smiles.

INT. MITCHELL KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Marty and Dylan are looking at a piece of raw chicken.

MARTY

Well now what?

DYLAN

I guess we could bake it.

MARTY

That sounds a little risky. Couldn't we just throw it in the microwave?

DYLAN

I don't think so. I know, give me that bottle of wine.

MARTY

Are we going to marinate it?

DYLAN

No, but it will help me think.

Marty pours them both a glass of wine.

MARTY

It's probably no use anyway. I don't know what I was thinking.

(CONTINUED)



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DYLAN

No, don't worry. Just give me that recipe sheet from the Shake and Bake.

Marty hands him the recipe as Dylan starts pulling items out of the cupboard.

Marty sits at the kitchen table and puts his head in his hands.

MARTY

Chicken can't save a marriage.

DYLAN

You weren't going to use it in some strange sex act were you?

MARTY

Do you ever feel like your whole life is falling apart?

DYLAN

Well.

MARTY

No, you don't. You have a happy marriage. I don't have that. I can't cook.

DYLAN

You think that's why you have a bad marriage? I can barely make toast.

MARTY

I just want him to notice me. To look at me like I see Scott look at you.

DYLAN

With pure terror?

MARTY

I'm not kidding. I met Ronald in college. He was so good looking. Everyone wanted him. Guys made fools out of themselves to get his attention, but he wanted me. Me? But he doesn't want me anymore and I don't know what to do.

Dylan puts his arms around Marty.

DYLAN

We bake the hell out of this chicken and make him notice you, that's what we do.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - MAIN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

RUTH CARLTON and three old women are sitting around a table. They are GERTIE WINSTON, MARGARET MACKENZIE and GLADYS TUDROW.

HALEY OSBOURNE walks in carrying a tea tray.

HALEY

Here you go ladies, this should keep your palettes soaked while you dish.

RUTH

Haley, thank you. That will be all. You can go back to your post.

HALEY

Fine. Don't get too crazy ladies.

Haley exits.

RUTH

All right ladies, let's call this meeting of the First Ladies Auxiliary of Carlton Heights to order. What's on the program for tonight Margaret?

MARGARET

First and foremost I think it's about time we get rid of all that smut that's been seeping in at the library. Look at this magazine I found on the shelves. It has a half naked man on the cover.

GERTIE

Let me see that.

Gertie puts on her bifocals.

GERTIE (CONT'D)

He's half naked all right.

GLADYS

What kind of filth is it? Let me see.

GERTIE

It's called Esquire. Sounds filthy to me.

GLADYS

I'd better just slip this into my purse before we are all offended beyond repair.

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CONTINUED:

RUTH

What needs to be done is some good old fashioned book burning. I think it's high time we got back to the values that made this town so grand.

MARGARET

I couldn't agree more. You can have Toddy arrange the whole thing can't you Gladys?

GLADYS

Of course.

RUTH

Wonderful. We need all the help we can get. Margaret, I assume we can count on your son our beloved Sheriff.

MARGARET

Of course, of course.

RUTH

Good. There's one more thing we really need to take care of. This town has always had its little problems, most notably right down below me in that horrid cul-de-sac. Now I know it comes as no news to you ladies that I was viciously attacked by one of those homosexuals who live down there.

GERTIE

Terrible, terrible. I was there you know.

RUTH

I think it's only right we ban together as women of class, as women of justice, as women of America and rid ourselves of the vermin taking over this town.

All the women nod their heads in agreement.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Let's pray. Dear God, please give us the resources to stifle this evil. We give our hearts to you and to Jesus. Amen. Well let's get down to work shall we?

Gladys flips over the moveable table top where a poker table is set up. Ruth puts on her visor and begins dealing out cards while Margaret grabs a bottle of booze out of her purse and starts pouring shots.

INT. MITCHELL DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Ronald and Marty are having dinner.

MARTY

So what do you think?

RONALD

I'm not sure what to think.

MARTY

I'm taking cooking lessons. I may even start baking, that could turn some profits at the coffee shop. And that's just the beginning.

RONALD

What is this all about?

MARTY

I want to start over.

RONALD

Start over?

MARTY

Yes. Remember that time in college, the picnic? You and I and a bottle of wine and that little patch of grass in the park? Maybe we could take a picnic this weekend.

RONALD

Right.

MARTY

Come on Ronald, I'm trying here.

RONALD

What is it you're trying to do?

MARTY

We don't talk, we don't eat together. We haven't made love in months.

RONALD

That's what this is really about. You think cooking lessons and walks in the park are going to make you attractive to me.

MARTY

There was a time when you wanted me.

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CONTINUED:

RONALD  
Times change Marty.

MARTY  
Fine. I tried. Can we at least have a  
civil dinner together?

Ronald picks up his fork then puts it back down.

MARTY (CONT'D)  
What?

RONALD  
Now I've lost my appetite.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - NIGHT

Haley is looking through Ruth's binoculars at the cul-de-sac below her. She sees Ronald walk out of his house and go to Aidan's house.

Haley sees Aidan open the door as Ronald kisses Aidan passionately.

HALEY  
Aidan you are in so much trouble.

RUTH (V.O. - OTHER ROOM)  
Haley, we need more ice!

HALEY  
Ah, bitch, I am busy.

Haley exits the room.

INT. CARLTON HEIGHTS CITY LIBRARY - THE NEXT DAY

Dylan walks up to a woman behind the desk. The woman is Margaret Mackenzie.

MARGARET  
Can I help you?

DYLAN  
Yes, I hope so. I'm looking for some  
history books. Anything on Carlton  
Heights.

MARGARET  
Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

I'm doing some research. Can you just point me in the right direction?

MARGARET

I'm afraid the reference section is closed due to renovations.

DYLAN

You just locked up all the books?

MARGARET

Look Mr. Irving, I don't want any trouble. I'm just telling you the reference section is off limits.

DYLAN

Do I know you?

MARGARET

I know you. The whole town knows you and no one is going to help you do anything. You should do us a favor and just go back to where you came from.

DYLAN

If I have done something to you, I apologize. I can assure you I'm a very nice guy.

MARGARET

You're a pervert.

TODDY TUDROW wearing a bright colored shirt and bright pants sashays from the left of the back office.

TODDY

(speaking with a lisp)  
Margaret, is there a problem?

DYLAN

Yes there is. I was just looking for the reference section when..

TODDY

Oh my! You're Dylan Irving aren't you?

DYLAN

Yes.

TODDY

I've been so looking forward to meeting you.

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CONTINUED: (2)

Toddy walks around from behind the desk.

TODDY (CONT'D)

I've read your book and it is absolutely fabulous. Not to mention that great picture of you on the back. I must admit it had my heart all a flutter.

MARGARET

Toddy what are you doing?

DYLAN

I believe he's telling me how much he enjoyed my book.

TODDY

I feel like a gushing school boy. Margaret, why don't you take your break.

DYLAN

Yes, Marg you do look tired.

MARGARET

Well, you can bet your mother is going to hear about this Toddy Tudrow.

Margaret leaves the desk area.

TODDY

You wanted to see the reference section?

DYLAN

You're like a kind stranger. You know I've always counted on the kindness of strangers.

The two stroll into the files section.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Haley walks into the house without knocking.

AIDAN

Hey, what are you doing here?

HALEY

We have to talk. I want to know what's going on with you and Ronald Mitchell.

AIDAN

There isn't anything going on between us.

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CONTINUED:

HALEY

Don't deny it. I saw you guys together.

AIDAN

We're always together. We're neighbors.

HALEY

Do neighbors run around at all hours of the night? Kissing?

AIDAN

Haley, it's really none of your business.

HALEY

How can you say that? When I offered to help you there was nothing said about sleeping with your married neighbors.

AIDAN

You haven't been much help.

HALEY

Marty is a friend and I don't want to see him get hurt.

AIDAN

Blah blah blah.

HALEY

If you don't stop seeing him I'll...

AIDAN

You'll what? Tell Marty? It wouldn't matter their marriage is a joke.

HALEY

You can't run around breaking up marriages. Who else are you sleeping with?

EXT. AIDAN PALMER'S HOUSE - BACK DOOR - DAY

Zimmy runs up the stairs wearing only his running shorts.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S KITCHEN - DAY

Zimmy comes through the kitchen door. He pulls his shorts off.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM -DAY

Zimmy walks in naked with his shorts draped over his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

ZIMMY

Daddy's home and he's sweaty just like you like it...

HALEY

Oh, that's just brilliant.

AIDAN

Doesn't anybody knock?

EXT. AIDAN PALMER'S HOME - DAY

Haley runs out the door with Aidan following her.

AIDAN

Haley wait.

HALEY

I really can't believe you!

AIDAN

There's a reason for all of this. You have to trust me. Just give me some time.

HALEY

You're playing with people's lives. A great prophet once said, "Playing with the Queen of Hearts isn't very smart. The joker is the only fool who will do anything for you."

AIDAN

Wasn't that Juice Newton?

HALEY

Yes, yes it was.

Haley gets into her car and drives off shaking her finger at Aidan.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - FOYER - DAY

Ruth opens the door to find Margaret waiting there.

RUTH

Margaret what are you doing here? I won that game fair and square.

MARGARET

It's not that, Ruth. We have a problem.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. AVENUE SEA - THE CUL DE SAC - DAY

Marty is watering his lawn when Dylan drives to his house.

Marty walks over as Dylan begins taking books out of his car.

MARTY

Hi. Need a hand?

DYLAN

Oh thanks.

MARTY

I hope these books don't mean you have plans for tonight.

DYLAN

Well Scott is working late.

MARTY

I know, the annual big wig swig party.

DYLAN

The what?

MARTY

They wine and schmooze the richest clients. Hoping they'll look for tax shelters or something. I don't understand it. But it leaves me free for the night. I thought the two of us could spend the evening together. Maybe a video, maybe some wine.

DYLAN

I'm two steps ahead of you.

Dylan pulls out a bag with videos and wine.

Aidan Palmer walks from his house to the Irving house.

AIDAN

Hey neighbors.

Aidan approaches.

DYLAN

Hi.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

I was wondering what you were up to tonight.

DYLAN

We were just talking about that. Ronald and Scott are working late so we are going to watch some videos.

Aidan looks at the bag and pulls out a video.

AIDAN

"Muriel's Wedding." Please I had something more exciting in mind. I want to show you the sights.

MARTY

What sights?

AIDAN

Uncle Randy's.

DYLAN

Uncle who?

MARTY

Uncle Randy's Rooster Ranch. It's a bar just outside of town.

DYLAN

A real bar? With music and booze?

AIDAN

And men. I'll pick you up at 8.

Aidan walks back to his house.

MARTY

Why do I have a feeling we're going to regret this?

Dylan and Marty begin walking up to the Irving house.

DYLAN

So how was your dinner last night?

MARTY

Let's just say, you're in charge of dinner tonight.

DYLAN

Come on. You pick the place and I'll dial.

INT. M&A BANK - LOBBY - EVENING

There is a group of 20 PEOPLE drinking and talking.

Scott and Ronald are by the bar.

SCOTT

Who are all these people again?

RONALD

The richest of the rich sans Mrs. Carlton of course. That old man is Horatio Kane, he made all his money in lumber, talking to him is Chip Chandelor, he runs the newspaper. We want to keep all of them happy. Now grab yourself a drink and schmooze your way into their pocket books.

Scott walks over to HORATIO KANE and CHIP CHANDELOR.

CHIP

Scott Irving. I wanted to let you know we all think you're doing a bang up job.

SCOTT

Thanks so much, I appreciate it.

CHIP

I'm Chip Chandelor and this is Horatio Kane.

SCOTT

Nice to meet you both. I'm glad you could come out tonight.

CHIP

We look forward to these parties. It gets us away from our spouses. Speaking of which, you're married to that writer who beat up Ruth Carlton aren't you?

SCOTT

Yes. I apologize for Dylan.

CHIP

Ruth has been pushing buttons for years, it's about time someone pushed that woman back.

HORATIO

She once attacked me with her cane at an ice cream social.

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CONTINUED:

SCOTT

I'm glad no one is holding it against us.

CHIP

Hell no. I just told Ronald I'm willing to sign up for whatever it is you guys are selling this time around. And here, you give my card to your husband and tell him if he needs a job he's always welcome to come work for me at the newspaper.

SCOTT

I'll do that, thank you Mr. Chandelor.

Across the room, Ronald is talking with a very hot younger man. His name is SIMON REXLER.

SIMON

So that's him?

RONALD

I want you to pay extra special attention to him. That's what I'm paying you for. He's kind of shy so no matter how much he protests keep going for it. He'll give in.

SIMON

He's hot, this will be a breeze.

RONALD

Well, let's get you to work.

Ronald and Simon approach Scott.

RONALD (CONT'D)

Scott, I'd like you to meet Simon Rexler. He's very interested in the new high yield market plans we are offering.

SIMON

Oh yes, I'm really into umm markets. Sometimes I shop in them.

RONALD

I'll leave you two to talk while I mingle a little more.

Ronald walks across the room.

SCOTT

I'd love to sit down and talk to you about our latest plans.

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CONTINUED: (2)

SIMON

Me too. But I'd really love one of those drinks first.

SCOTT

Sure. So what can I get you?

SIMON

Whatever you're having is fine.

Scott pours a drink for the two men.

SCOTT

Here we are. Let me run to my office and I'll get the information.

SIMON

Why go to that trouble? I'll follow you, it's too loud out here and I'd hate to miss anything you have to say.

INT. UNCLE RANDY'S ROOSTER DEN - NIGHT

There is a guy singing karaoke on a stage while other patrons occupy the bar, tables and booths.

Haley is at the bar when The MAN IN BLACK approaches her.

MAN IN BLACK

I don't normally do this but I was wondering if I could buy you a drink?

HALEY

How do I put this so you understand?  
Bugger off.

Haley walks to the other side of the bar and talks to UNCLE RANDY, the bartender.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Uncle Randy, could I have another pint and do you think you could keep that creep away from me?

UNCLE RANDY

What creep?

HALEY

That guy at the end of the bar..

Haley points to the end of the bar but the Man In Black is gone.

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CONTINUED:

HALEY (CONT'D)

That's strange. He was just there. I guess he did bugger off.

Dylan, Aidan and Marty walk into the bar.

Haley comes up to the group as they grab a table.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Hi guys. I can't believe you made it.

AIDAN

I thought you'd be at my grandmother's.

HALEY

It's my one night off. The only thing I'm nursing tonight is whiskey. So what do you think of Uncle Randy's Dylan?

DYLAN

It's so, so...

MARTY

You can say it awful.

A shirtless waiter approaches the table.

AIDAN

We'll have four Ball Busters Wayne. Let's get you drunk Dylan so you can tell us all your secrets.

The waiter winks at Aidan.

DYLAN

I don't really have any secrets to tell.

AIDAN

I know one you could tell me. Did you cheat on Scott or did he cheat on you?

DYLAN

What?

AIDAN

You wrote that book about cheating and writers write from experience right? So did Scott cheat on you or did you cheat on Scott?

DYLAN

Actually neither.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AIDAN

Don't be embarrassed. You're among friends. I'm sure Marty's been cheated on a million times, right Marty.

DYLAN

The book was all research. I interviewed people. It was quite enlightening and made me really appreciate what Scott and I have.

HALEY

That's beautiful. More people should respect the sanctity of marriage.

The waiter brings the drinks.

AIDAN

Here you go Dylan. Drink up. Oh and if you want I can always hook you up with someone. You know for more research.

MARTY

Can we change the subject?

AIDAN

Of course, I know how sensitive you are when it comes to the subject of cheating husbands.

DYLAN

You know I have one secret. It's kind of silly but...

AIDAN

Dish, please.

DYLAN

I used to be a singer. I was in a band called Ciji's Demise. We were great. We had this kind of goth new wave thing going on. Oh it was so much fun. It was the best three weeks of my life.

HALEY

We have to duet. Come on, I know the karaoke guy, we're a shoo in.

DYLAN

Okay.

Dylan and Haley leave the table.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

Marty and Aidan look at each other with disdain when a hot guy walks past the table. He is STEPHEN MERRICK.

AIDAN  
I could use some of that.

STEPHEN  
Thanks.

Stephen turns around to see who said it when he sees Marty.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)  
Marty? Marty Mitchell.

MARTY  
Stephen.

Marty jumps off his stool and the two awkwardly hug.

STEPHEN  
You look great as always.

MARTY  
Thanks. What are you doing here?

STEPHEN  
I had some business in town. I was supposed to meet someone here. I guess they never showed up.

MARTY  
Here?

STEPHEN  
You can't go near Carlton Heights without stopping at Uncle Randy's.

AIDAN  
Excuse me, but I would like to meet this hunk.

MARTY  
Sorry. Stephen Merrick meet Aidan Palmer. You can shake his hand but you can't be sure of where it's been.

AIDAN  
Marty has such a sense of humor. You can tell he's funny by those laugh lines all around his eyes.

STEPHEN  
It's nice to meet you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

AIDAN  
You will join us.

STEPHEN  
Sure, if I'm not intruding.

AIDAN  
No, you're not.

Stephen joins the table as Haley and Dylan return.

HALEY  
We're all signed up.

MARTY  
Stephen Merrick, this is Haley Osbourne  
and Dylan Irving.

DYLAN  
Stephen, nice to meet you.

MARTY  
Stephen used to live in Carlton Heights.  
He is the one who helped Larry and Zimmy  
adopt the twins.

STEPHEN  
Ah, it was nothing I just helped out.

MARTY  
Stephen used to be our neighbor as well.  
He lived in your house, Dylan.

STEPHEN  
You live on Avenue Sea? How do you like  
it?

DYLAN  
We love it.

AIDAN  
Dylan and his husband just moved in and  
everyone in town just wants to eat them  
up.

INT. M&A BANK - SCOTT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Scott and Simon are at a sofa looking through papers.

SCOTT  
So you see here, if you put the money  
into the secured plan your earned  
interest could be as much as

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Simon moves closer to Scott.

SIMON  
So what's this little chart here?

SCOTT  
That is the amount of interest I was just  
telling you about.

SIMON  
Charts are hot don't you think?

Simon takes an ice cube out of his drink and licks it.

SCOTT  
Umm, okay. Like I was saying, this  
particular plan could..

Simon knocks his drink over in Scott's lap. Scott jumps up.

SIMON  
I'm sorry. Here let me clean it.

Simon grabs a napkin, drops to his knees and starts rubbing  
Scott's crotch.

SIMON (CONT'D)  
Maybe I should just lick it off.

Simon moves forward so Scott jumps out of the way and runs to  
the door.

SCOTT  
No, that's quite alright. I think we've  
accomplished enough tonight.

Simon gets up and walks to Scott.

SIMON  
I don't want to leave you with wet pants.  
Why don't we take them off.

Simon tries to get at Scott's pants again.

SCOTT  
Mr. Rexler, please I'm a married man.

SIMON  
That's never stopped anyone before.

SCOTT  
It stops me. I'm sorry but this meeting  
is over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SIMON

Alright. You can't blame a guy for trying.

Simon exits.

INT. UNCLE RANDY'S ROOSTER RANCH - NIGHT

Haley and Dylan take the stage and begin singing Juice Newton's "Queen Of Hearts."

Stephen and Marty watch from their table.

STEPHEN

They're pretty entertaining. Dylan seems nice.

MARTY

He is. We've become pretty good friends.

STEPHEN

Is he as good of a neighbor as I was?

MARTY

Well. I don't find myself running over to borrow sugar as often as I did when you lived there.

STEPHEN

I miss all of this.

MARTY

All of this? What this? Uncle Randy's?

STEPHEN

No, this. You and I talking. Remember we used to spend a lot time talking.

MARTY

No I don't remember that. I do remember a lot of trying to talk to you but for some reason my lips just never connected with my mind.

STEPHEN

Really?

MARTY

Yes. Now don't laugh but I have to admit I had a crush on you. I feel so stupid even admitting it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHEN

So I guess you're over it.

MARTY

What?

STEPHEN

You seem to be able to talk to me just fine.

MARTY

Ah, liquid courage works wonders.

STEPHEN

Since we're being so honest, I have a confession as well.

MARTY

What's that?

STEPHEN

I had a crush on you too.

Marty pretends he didn't hear Stephen and he looks to the stage.

MARTY

They're really quite good aren't they?

On the stage, Haley continues to try to outshine Dylan by dancing in front of him. Dylan does the same back.

Dylan and Haley finish the song and everyone applauds.

HALEY

For my next number, I will be SOLO.

Haley pushes Dylan off the stage.

INT. M&A BANK - RONALD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ronald is writing a check for Simon.

SIMON

Sorry it didn't work out.

RONALD

You could still earn that bonus.

Ronald leans back in his chair and Simon goes to his knees.

Scott walks into the office.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

Ronald, I'm taking off.. oh sorry. Sorry.

Ronald and Simon are startled. Scott backs out of the room.

RONALD

Don't sit there with your mouth open. Get back to work.

INT. UNCLE RANDY'S ROOSTER RANCH - NIGHT

Dylan walks over to the booth where Aidan is talking with THREE YOUNG GUYS.

DYLAN

Aidan, I think I've had enough fun for one evening.

AIDAN

Boys, I'd like you to meet Dylan. He's a cutie huh. How about the five of us..

DYLAN

Aidan, I'm serious. Let's go.

GUY #1 stands up and checks out Dylan. He walks behind him and puts his arms around him to kiss his neck.

GUY #1

You are hot. Are you sure you don't want to..

Dylan elbows the guy in the stomach, then he pulls the guy's arm around his back.

DYLAN

I am a married man. You, let's go.

AIDAN

I'm not going anywhere and I have the keys. I'm sure if you let go of John he'd be willing to take you home.

Dylan lets go of the guy.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Why don't you have a little fun? I mean it's not like your guy's not having fun of his own. Or is that why you want to leave? Are you worried your upstanding husband may be doing something wrong?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN  
You can stay but I'm leaving.

EXT. AVENUE SEA - THE CUL-DE-SAC - NIGHT

Dylan gets out of Stephen's car.

DYLAN  
Thanks for the ride Stephen. Are you coming Marty?

MARTY  
No, you go in. Scott is probably worried sick.

Scott walks out of the house as Dylan walks up to him.

SCOTT  
I've been worried sick.

DYLAN  
How was the party?

SCOTT  
It was jaw dropping. I'll tell you all about it.

Scott and Dylan walk into the house hand in hand.

INT. STEPHEN MERRICK'S CAR - NIGHT

MARTY  
I should go in too. It was good to see you again.

Marty starts to reach for the car door.

STEPHEN  
Marty, wait.

MARTY  
Yes?

STEPHEN  
I had a really good time tonight.

MARTY  
Me too. Well, good night.

STEPHEN  
Marty, wait. What I'm trying to say is, I had a really good time tonight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY  
You did say that.

STEPHEN  
What I mean to say, see I'm the one who's  
tongue tied. (sigh) I want to see you  
again. I need to see you again.

MARTY  
Stephen don't.

STEPHEN  
I'm sorry, I thought I was being

MARTY  
You are "being" that's the problem.

STEPHEN  
Marty, I don't want you to do something  
you don't want to. I just want to spend  
more time with you. You are perfection.  
I've always thought so and I'm sorry your  
husband doesn't see it.

MARTY  
Oh Stephen.

Stephen leans in to kiss Marty. Marty begins to move forward.

MARTY (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, I can't do this. I thought I  
could. I just can't. I'm sorry, sorry...

Marty gets out of the car and runs to his front door.

Stephen bangs his hand on the steering wheel.

STEPHEN  
Stupid, stupid.

INT. MITCHELL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Marty runs into the house breathing a sigh. He looks out the  
window and sees Stephen drive away.

END OF ACT TWO.



ACT THREE

INT. CARLTON MANOR - MAIN LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ruth and Gladys Tudrow are looking through a photo album.

RUTH

Remember this? The four of us had such a good time that summer.

Gladys looks at the picture. It is a formal gathering with people dancing.

GLADYS

As I recall that was one of the last Founder's Day dances.

RUTH

Well things turned a little ugly shortly after.

GLADYS

Things tend do that in this town.

Haley enters with a tray of tea and cookies.

HALEY

Here you go ladies. Oh pictures. How fun.

RUTH

That will be all Haley.

HALEY

Fine. If you won't be needing anything else I do have to get into town.

RUTH

Yes, just go.

Haley exits the room.

GLADYS

Alright Ruth, she's gone. You can cut through the pleasantries. What exactly do you want?

RUTH

You always were so astute Gladys. That must be how you ended up marrying so far above you.

GLADYS

Well, he was no Edgar now was he?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

Tell me, how is Toddy these days?

GLADYS

He's fine, why do you ask?

RUTH

Have you asked him to remove those items from the library?

GLADYS

I have and he's been more than cooperative.

RUTH

You never could lie Gladys. It has come to my attention that those months at Mrs. Maloney's Homo Remedy Center didn't give us the results on Toddy that we expected.

GLADYS

What are you saying?

RUTH

I'm saying they didn't yank the fag out of the boy. He was all over that Dylan Irving at the library. Margaret saw him and told me in great detail how they were using their homosexual senses to communicate.

Gertie spits out her spot of tea.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I hope you aren't finding humor in this.

GLADYS

Of course not. I am just as concerned about my son as you are.

RUTH

Good, because if you don't use your parenting skills, lacking as they may be, to keep your son in line and away from that Irving character then I'll be forced to react. And you don't want to be the one I'm reacting to. Cookie?

Gladys takes a cookie as Ruth smiles at her guest.

INT. CARLTON HEIGHTS LIBRARY - DAY

Dylan is looking through tour books and making notes. Toddy comes behind him, looking over his shoulder.

TODDY

I see you're back at it today.

DYLAN

A researcher's work is never done.

TODDY

What exactly are you looking for?

DYLAN

I'm not really sure yet. I think I'll know it when I see it.

TODDY

People have been talking a lot about this new book you're working on. Is that what all this is about?

DYLAN

Yes. I think. I'm just very curious about this town. I think it's fascinating that it's a sort of hidden treasure. When I was moving here there was hardly any information about it at all. These tour books that are all over in the library never seemed to have made it outside of Carlton Heights.

TODDY

We used to have a bigger tourist crowd. But that all stopped when the hotel burned down.

DYLAN

The hotel? There was only one?

TODDY

No. There's several hotels but the big A list crowd would come to Carlton Heights to stay at the Chateau Monroe.

DYLAN

Chateau Monroe?

TODDY

Yes, here, I'll show you.

Toddy joyously takes a seat next to Dylan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Toddy thumbs through a few books until he finds what he is looking for.

TODDY (CONT'D)

Here. See the Chateau Monroe.

Toddy shows a picture of a giant hotel by the ocean.

DYLAN

That is gorgeous. It burned down?

TODDY

Yeah, in like 1960 something. Since then our tourist crowd has dwindled.

DYLAN

What kind of crowd did this place bring in? You said A list?

TODDY

Well I don't want to drop names but it was a lot of celebrities, politicians and the like. Anyone on the down low, with money that is.

DYLAN

The down low?

TODDY

You know in the closet, not willing to commit to Dorothy, type of thing.

DYLAN

A gay resort in Carlton Heights? That explains some things. It sure didn't stop the gays from moving here though did it?

TODDY

Shh, I don't want Margaret hearing but this town has always had its share of gays. All the way back to the beginning.

DYLAN

Really?

TODDY

Oh yeah. Years and years of gay couplings in this town. I'm sure there's a picture.

Toddy cozies up a little closer to Dylan.

Toddy finds a picture of a formal ball with both same sex and opposite sex couples dancing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TODDY (CONT'D)  
The Blue Ball.

DYLAN  
Excuse me.

TODDY  
The Blue Ball, it was the Annual  
Founder's Day Gala. It was tradition for  
years. All the old fogies always talk  
about it.

DYLAN  
Do you know who any of these people are?

TODDY  
No I wouldn't know that. It was before my  
time. But I know who would know all these  
people.

DYLAN  
Don't tell me Ruth Carlton. We're not  
exactly on speaking terms.

TODDY  
Oh heaven's no, I would never succumb  
anyone to that she devil. My own mother,  
that's who. She has been around forever  
and a day and she knows everyone and  
everything that ever happened in Carlton  
Heights. I'll just take this stuff home  
with me tonight and tomorrow we can go  
over it together.

DYLAN  
You would do that?

TODDY  
No problem. I'm sure Mother would love to  
take a trip down memory lane and as for  
me, it sends goose bumps right down to my  
toes to be helping a famous writer.

DYLAN  
Well thanks. I'll see you tomorrow then.

Dylan grabs his coat.

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
Oh Toddy, out of curiosity where was  
Chateau Monroe?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TODDY

Silly, that's where your house is. It was vacant for years until Larry and Jimmy started building the cul-de-sac.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - FOYER

Ruth using her cane to support herself walks Gladys to the door.

RUTH

I'm glad we had this talk Gladys and don't worry, I've made all the arrangements.

Gladys walks out the door.

EXT. CARLTON MANOR - FRONT PORCH

GLADYS

Bitch. I'll make some arrangements of my own.

INT. M&A BANK - RONALD'S OFFICE - DAY

Ronald is working at his desk when Scott walks by.

RONALD

Scott. Can you come in here a second?

Scott enters.

SCOTT

Did you need something?

RONALD

I wanted to talk to you about last night. I think I should explain something.

SCOTT

You don't have to explain anything to me.

RONALD

It's just that Marty and I we just don't connect. I like to have a little fun. That's all.

SCOTT

It's really none of my business.

RONALD

Right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT  
Anything else?

RONALD  
Yeah actually. Did Simon you know try something with you?

SCOTT  
I guess he's just a horny guy.

RONALD  
Why didn't you go through with it? I mean what stopped you?

SCOTT  
I'm married. I mean not just married but "Married." I love Dylan. I wouldn't want to jeopardize that.

RONALD  
But don't you want something else? Even just once?

SCOTT  
I've had other people before him. Dylan makes me laugh, he makes me happy. I wouldn't know what I'd do if I didn't have him and that makes me want him even more.

RONALD  
But you could be missing out on so much.

SCOTT  
Maybe you're the one missing out.

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

Marty is making coffee while Haley and Larry are playing cards at one of the tables.

LARRY  
Oh a three of diamonds. Is this the third round? It is, isn't it?

HALEY  
I guess so. What does it matter?

LARRY  
Looks like I may win this round. If you discard a three of diamonds on your third round it's nothing but bad luck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HALEY

Bad luck huh?

LARRY

Oh yes, my Mama always read cards. She could take a regular deck of playing cards and tell you all kinds of things.

MARTY

That's ridiculous Larry.

LARRY

No, it's true. I'll show you. Come on.

Marty takes a seat with Larry and Haley.

Larry dramatically shuffles the cards.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Okay, now pick up the first card and flip it over. This will be your life card.

MARTY

Life card?

LARRY

Yes. It will show you what is happening in your life.

MARTY

Oh if I flip this card it will show me playing cards in my coffee house.

LARRY

You know that's not what I mean. Go on flip it.

MARTY

Oh alright.

Marty flips over a 3 of Spades.

LARRY

Oh my goodness. Three swords. 3 of Spades. It's really three swords, see. It's a mirror of your life. Goodness, I didn't know things were so bad. You're stifling yourself, you aren't being heard and worst of all, you're not happy.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

MARTY

Of course I'm not happy, I'm sitting here in the middle of the afternoon listening to this.

LARRY

Do another one.

MARTY

Larry.

LARRY

Come on, do it.

HALEY

This is fascinating.

MARTY

Fine. A Queen of Hearts. That's got to be good right?

LARRY

I'm afraid not. You see it's really a Hanged Man, or in this case a Hanged Woman.

HALEY

A Queen of Hearts? That's so strange.

MARTY

Why?

LARRY

You see the Queen of Hearts represents the Hanged Man in the tarot sense, at least according to Mama who learned it all from my Aunt Isabelle in Carolina. Anyway, the Queen of Hearts means you are denying yourself your true self. You are afraid of being alone and thus have created a false sense of security by pretending to be someone else.

HALEY

Who are you?

MARTY

I don't believe any of this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LARRY

Look I just read the cards. You have to know the Queen of Hearts is bad. I mean she was hung because she was caught cheating.

MARTY

This is ridiculous. I'm going back to work.

LARRY

Wait. There's one more card. Your future.

MARTY

No, I'm not doing this anymore.

HALEY

Marty, you have to.

MARTY

Fine, then will you both leave me alone.

HALEY

You got it.

MARTY

There, an Ace of Clubs. Let me guess, I have a brain tumor.

LARRY

No, actually this is good. The Ace of Clubs is like the Ace of Cups. It shows strength and hope. It's a sign that things are changing and moving to a stronger plane. Thank goodness, Marty you will be happy after all.

MARTY

Yes, I can already feel it.

A DELIVERY MAN walks in carrying flowers.

DELIVERY MAN

Excuse me, Marty Mitchell?

MARTY

Yes?

DELIVERY MAN

I need you to sign for these.

MARTY

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Marty signs the paper as Haley and Larry look on.

Marty opens the card which reads:

"I had a wonderful time Love, S."

LARRY

See things are already looking up. Ronald sent you flowers.

HALEY

Brilliant! Now read my cards.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Dylan comes running into the house with books and papers.

SCOTT

There's my little investigator. Dinner's almost ready.

DYLAN

I have been so busy. Did you know this cul-de-sac used to be a hotel?

SCOTT

No, I didn't. But I have something to tell you.

DYLAN

It burned down, my guess is under mysterious circumstances but I can't prove it yet.

SCOTT

Okay. But listen, you'll want to hear.

DYLAN

I tell you the more I learn about this place the more I feel like we moved into the Twilight Zone.

SCOTT

Will you listen. Ronald called me into the office today..

DYLAN

First there was that Ruth Carlton business, then Margaret what's her name and then..

SCOTT

Margaret? Who's Margaret?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

Just some old lady. I didn't tell you about her, I didn't want to upset you.

SCOTT

Did you get in more trouble? Is the Sheriff going to be knocking on the door?

DYLAN

No. Meanwhile, Larry is mad at me for something, Marty can't do anything right according to Ronald and now we know he's cheating on Marty.

SCOTT

That's what I'm trying to tell you...

DYLAN

Then there was that whole grocery store debacle and that Aidan Palmer is nothing but trouble.

SCOTT

Margaret. Grocery store debacle. What do you do all day?

DYLAN

It was nothing really. I didn't mention it because

SCOTT

You didn't want to upset me..

DYLAN

Exactly. Oh dinner smells great.

Dylan walks to the kitchen.

SCOTT

I swear if the Sheriff comes I'm just turning you in!

INT. MITCHELL BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marty is in a chair reading when Ronald comes out of the bathroom in a towel still wet from the shower.

RONALD

The party was a big success. I think we're going to end up with a lot more business. Everyone seemed to really like Scott too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ronald takes off the towel and finishes drying himself off.  
 Ronald puts on a pair of boxers.

MARTY  
 I'm glad.

RONALD  
 We should do something nice for the  
 Irving's I think. We haven't really had  
 them over. Maybe we could have a dinner  
 party. Oh wait we'd have to order in.

MARTY  
 Is that supposed to be a jab at me?

RONALD  
 I was kidding. I was just trying to be  
 funny. What, you don't have a sense of  
 humor anymore?

MARTY  
 I guess not.

RONALD  
 It was just a joke.

Ronald walks over to Marty and straddles Marty's legs.

RONALD (CONT'D)  
 Maybe there's a way I can make it up to  
 you.

Ronald drops his shorts.

RONALD (CONT'D)  
 You want it?

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Aidan walks into the house and turns on the light. Jimmy is  
 sitting on the sofa.

AIDAN  
 You scared me. What are you doing here?

ZIMMY  
 Ever since Haley caught us you've been  
 avoiding me. This is the only way I could  
 see you.

Aidan walks over to Jimmy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

I haven't been avoiding you. I've just been very busy.

ZIMMY

With Ronald?

AIDAN

You too huh? Why is everyone suddenly so concerned about Ronald and I.

ZIMMY

I'm worried about you and me too. Is Haley going to tell Larry what she saw?

AIDAN

Haley is concerned about Ronald and I not you and I.

ZIMMY

How did she find about that?

AIDAN

I guess we weren't as discreet as I thought. She wants me to stop seeing him.

ZIMMY

So do I. I can't handle you being with someone else.

AIDAN

Why is it always the married men who say that?

ZIMMY

We had a plan. Now everything is getting too complicated for me.

AIDAN

Haley has nothing to gain by telling Larry about you and I.

Aidan starts rubbing Zimmy's shoulders.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

You're so tense. Let me help you out those clothes.

ZIMMY

No, this is serious.

AIDAN

Are you saying you want us to stop?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ZIMMY

No, I don't. I need you.

AIDAN

Good. I need you too.

Aidan continues rubbing Zimmy's shoulder.

ZIMMY

Oh that feels good.

AIDAN

Yeah, that's it, just relax.

ZIMMY

I just don't understand why you have to sleep with him?

AIDAN

Men like Ronald think with their dicks. Now, let's get you out of those clothes.

Aidan begins undressing Zimmy.

INT. MITCHELL BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronald and Marty finish having sex.

MARTY

That was wonderful.

Marty tries to give Ronald a kiss but he turns away.

Ronald gets out of bed and heads to the door.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

RONALD

I'm going to sleep in the guest room.

MARTY

What? But I thought...

RONALD

I just wanted to see if I was missing out on something and as it turns out I'm not.

Ronald walks out.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. AVENUE SEA - THE CUL-DE-SAC - NEXT DAY

Dylan walks out of his house and sees Larry playing with the twins in the front yard. He waves to Larry.

DYLAN  
Hi Larry. (to himself) Of course you're not waving back.

Dylan gets in his car.

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
He's not going to do this to me.

Dylan gets back out of the car and walks to Larry's.

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
Hi guys.

Dylan bends down to play with the kids.

LARRY  
Oh hi Dylan.

DYLAN  
I was just headed to town and thought maybe you guys would like to come with me.

LARRY  
No, I can't. I have plans all day long.

DYLAN  
Alright, well maybe we can have dinner sometime this week.

LARRY  
Yes, I'll let you know. With the twins things are always so hectic.

DYLAN  
Right, I understand. I'll see you later.

LARRY  
Okay, bye.

Dylan starts walking back to the car but turns around.

DYLAN  
Larry, if I did something to offend you I'm really very sorry.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

LARRY

Offend me? Why would you think that?

DYLAN

I get the impression we are on the outs and I don't want that. Come on, until you tell me what I did, I can't fix it. I'll bend over backwards, I'll bend over forwards. Just tell me what I did wrong.

LARRY

I don't know what you're talking about. There's nothing wrong between us.

DYLAN

Alright if you say so. I just don't feel the love Larry.

LARRY

Is everything a joke to you?

DYLAN

No, of course not.

LARRY

Maybe someday you and Scott will have children and you'll understand the sacrifices a parent sometimes has to make.

DYLAN

What are you getting at?

LARRY

Never mind.

DYLAN

Is that what this is about? Did I do something to the twins? I swear when I gave them that candy I had no idea they didn't have teeth.

LARRY

No, you didn't do anything. I have to get the twins breakfast. Thanks for stopping by.

Larry grabs the twins and heads to his house.

DYLAN

Yeah, have a nice day.

INT. MITCHELL KITCHEN - MORNING

Marty is fixing a plate for breakfast with eggs and pancakes. He pours a cup of coffee and puts the plate on the table with fruit and a flower.

Ronald comes into the kitchen.

RONALD

When are you going to give up?

MARTY

It's not for you, it's MY breakfast.

Marty sits at the table to eat.

RONALD

I have a breakfast meeting anyway.

Aidan knocks on the back door and walks in.

AIDAN

Hi neighbors. Is that fresh brewed coffee I smell?

MARTY

No.

Marty gets up to get himself some coffee.

RONALD

Marty made breakfast. First time in years.

AIDAN

Really? I guess you can teach old dogs new tricks. Are you ready for our breakfast meeting Ronald?

MARTY

This is your breakfast meeting?

AIDAN

I am terrible with my finances. Luckily Ronald is always around to help me.

MARTY

Of course he is. Ronald's always a big help to anyone in need.

RONALD

Do we have to do this now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

Do what? I was simply saying how nice you are. To everyone.

RONALD

Except you. Is that what you mean?

MARTY

No, it's not what I mean at all. I think it's great that you two get along so well and I feel sorry for you Aidan. Not being able to manage one's own money can be very embarrassing. But like you said, Ronald's always available to help.

RONALD

I don't know what's going on with you but I'd stop drinking so early in the morning. Let me get my brief case then we can go Aidan.

Ronald walks out the door.

AIDAN

That's a nice charade you're putting on.

MARTY

How do you sleep at night?

AIDAN

Oh, I don't get much sleep... ever.

Ronald comes back in the room.

RONALD

Aidan, are you ready?

AIDAN

Absolutely.

RONALD

I won't be home for dinner so you only have to heat up one TV dinner tonight.

Ronald exits.

MARTY

Maybe I won't be home either.

EXT. AVENUE SEA - DAY

Ronald and Aidan walk out of the Mitchell house.

Instead of getting in the car, they walk over to Aidan's house. They kiss passionately before walking in the door.

Across from the cul-de-sac, Haley is in her car watching them.

HALEY

I warned you Aidan. Now it's time to take action.

INT. CARLTON HEIGHTS LIBRARY - DAY

Dylan walks into the library and goes to the counter carrying books.

DYLAN

Hello? Toddy I'm returning these books.

Dylan drops a book and bends down to get them.

Margaret makes her appearance behind the counter startling Dylan.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Oh my god. Sorry you startled me. Where's Toddy?

MARGARET

Toddy and his mother have taken a vacation. He won't be back for two weeks.

DYLAN

Really? He never said anything about a vacation.

MARGARET

I'm sure there are many things he hasn't told you.

DYLAN

I guess I don't really need him today. I'm returning these books and I have a few more I need to check out.

MARGARET

I'm sorry but with Toddy gone I'm just not able to let anything out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

You're kidding me right. That's fine.  
There are some reference books I need to  
look through anyway. I know I can't check  
those out.

MARGARET

Our reference section is closed.

DYLAN

For how long? Wait let me guess, two  
weeks?

MARGARET

Maybe longer.

INT. SHADY GROVES HOTEL - DAY

Marty walks up to the front desk where a hotel clerk sits  
behind the desk.

DESK CLERK

Can I help you?

MARTY

Room 16 please.

The desk clerk rings the hotel room but there isn't an  
answer.

DESK CLERK

I'm sorry there isn't an answer. Would  
you like to leave a message?

MARTY

No, that's okay. I shouldn't have come  
anyway. Umm thank you, you have a nice  
day.

Marty walks to the door then turns around and walks back to  
the front desk.

MARTY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I would like to leave a  
message.

The desk clerk grabs a pen and paper to begin taking a note.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Actually, do you mind?

The desk clerk hands the paper and pen to Marty.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Marty walks to the lobby passing the man in black as he walks in.

The man in black goes to the front desk.

DESK CLERK  
Can I help you?

MAN IN BLACK  
Yes

The phone rings and the desk clerk puts her hand up.

DESK CLERK  
Shady Groves Hotel, can I help you?

The Man in Black looks around and sees Marty.

The desk clerk hangs up the phone and looks up but the man in black is gone.

Marty looks at his note:

"THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS."

Marty tears up the note. He writes again.

"MEET ME TONIGHT AT UNCLE RANDY'S"

Marty tears up the second note. Marty writes again.

"COULD USE A GOOD TALKING TO. MEET ME TONIGHT. UNCLE RANDY'S  
8 PM. MARTY."

Marty walks up to the desk clerk.

MARTY  
Could you make sure Stephen Merrick gets  
this?

DESK CLERK  
Sure.

MARTY  
Thanks and do have a nice day.

Marty exits as the Man in Black watches him leave from a corner.

INT. ZIMMY'S BISTRO - NIGHT

Zimmy is at the front desk when Haley comes in.

HALEY

Hello Zimmy. I'm here to pick up some dinners. I called in.

ZIMMY

Of course. I'm glad to see Mrs. Carlton likes our food.

HALEY

She doesn't know where it comes from. She thinks I'm in the kitchen right now.

ZIMMY

Angelo, can you get the order for Carlton please?

ANGELO runs to the back as Haley takes a seat to wait.

HALEY

You'll forgive me if I can't help staring. I keep seeing your naked image in my head.

ZIMMY

I've been wanting to talk to you about that.

HALEY

I imagine you were.

ZIMMY

I don't want you to think that something was really going on.

HALEY

Why would I think that? I mean plenty of men run into their neighbor's homes without clothes on screaming, "Daddy's home and he's sweaty."

ZIMMY

Yeah, see I realize how that could confuse you.

HALEY

That's bullocks and you know it. I wasn't confused at all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIMMY

Aidan says you aren't really interested in telling Larry about this. I hope he's right.

HALEY

Living on hope won't get you very far Zimmy. But you should use hope and faith in this situation. Hope that I don't tell Larry what I saw, and faith that if I do tell Larry he'll still want to be with you.

ZIMMY

Think about my kids. I love Larry and I love my kids. I don't want this to ruin my life.

HALEY

You should've thought of that before you started shagging Aidan. You should be ashamed of yourself.

ZIMMY

I am. I am ashamed. That's what I'm trying to tell you. Aidan just has a power.

Angelo brings the food over and Zimmy takes it handing it to Haley.

HALEY

Aidan is a user. He's using you just like he's using Ronald. As soon as he gets what he wants he's going to dump you both. Now how much do I owe you?

ZIMMY

It's on the house.

HALEY

No, here. You're going to need the money.

Haley exits.

EXT. UNCLE RANDY'S ROOSTER RANCH - NIGHT

Marty drives into the parking lot and turns off the car.

MARTY

Come on Marty Samuels Mitchell. It's just a drink, two friends having a drink.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

Marty sighs and gets out of his car.

Marty gets back into the car.

Marty throws his head in his hands.

Marty is about to get out of the car again when he sees Stephen walking towards the entrance of the bar.

Marty ducks under the dashboard.

Marty takes another sigh.

MARTY (CONT'D)  
A drink, it's just one drink.

Marty gets out of the car.

INT. IRVING BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dylan is in bed making notes. All around him are papers, books, photos and the newspaper.

Scott is in the bathroom brushing his teeth.

DYLAN  
I just don't understand why Toddy would just leave like that. I'm sure he would've told me if he was going on vacation. I mean we had agreed to talk today.

SCOTT  
What?

DYLAN  
I said Toddy didn't say he was going on vacation.

SCOTT  
Maybe it was a family emergency.

DYLAN  
No. Margaret told me it was a vacation. Not that she wouldn't lie to me.

SCOTT  
What?

DYLAN  
She probably lied to me.

Scott finishes brushing his teeth and comes in the bedroom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

Are you sure you're not just looking for more conspiracies?

Scott gets into bed.

DYLAN

He told me there have always been gay people here.

SCOTT

Dylan, there's always been gay people everywhere.

DYLAN

Not like here. I was really hoping Toddy could give me some insight.

SCOTT

I think you're wasting your time. You're going to find out Carlton Heights is just like every other place we could live. There's nothing strange happening here.

DYLAN

Right. Doesn't it bother you to know that woman has me locked out of the library?

SCOTT

Imagine if there was a place where you could find information at the touch of your fingers right in your very own home. Oh wait, there is.

DYLAN

You are real funny. They don't have everything on the internet you know. They can't tell me who's sleeping with who and what my neighbors aren't telling me.

SCOTT

Did you call Mr. Chandelor yet about the job at the paper?

Dylan picks up the paper.

DYLAN

No, have you ever read this?

SCOTT

The newspaper? A few times.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN

The local paper. There's nothing but good news in it. There's no catastrophes, no fires, no police log. Only so and so got married, so and so got promoted, so and so put in a new hedge. Pages and pages of it.

SCOTT

Maybe nothing bad ever happens here.

DYLAN

I'm living proof bad things happen here.

SCOTT

Put the paper down. I have some good news for you.

DYLAN

What?

SCOTT

You're going to get lucky tonight.

DYLAN

Ooh that is good news.

Dylan throws the paper over his head as Scott kisses him.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Haley enters the room where Ruth is asleep at her desk.

HALEY

Poor dear she's plum tuckered out from being a bitch to everyone all day.

Haley walks to Ruth and tries to shake her but Ruth continues to sleep.

Haley notices there is something under Ruth's head. Haley pulls a photo album out from under Ruth.

Haley nudges Ruth until she finally stirs.

RUTH

Oh did I fall asleep?

HALEY

Must have been all of your excitement the last few days.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

I was just looking through old memories. Things have certainly changed around here. Maybe you should wheel me to the stairs. I am a tad tired.

HALEY

I'll wheel you over there but you can use your cane up the stairs. I can't carry your dead weight.

RUTH

I'm thinking of reporting you to the health officials.

HALEY

I'm only looking after your best interests. Kind of how you look after this town's best interests.

RUTH

Oh please, don't compare yourself to me.

HALEY

You're right, I could never be as devious and conniving as you.

RUTH

Don't be so sassy or you may end up on the unemployment line and I seriously doubt that voice of yours is going to get you too far.

INT. UNCLE RANDY'S ROOSTER RANCH - NIGHT

Stephen is at a table.

STEPHEN

I'm glad you decided to meet me.

We see it isn't Marty he's meeting but the Man in Black.

EXT. UNCLE RANDY'S ROOSTER RANCH - NIGHT

Marty gets back into his car and drives away from the bar.

INT. IRVING BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dylan and Scott lay post coital when the door bell rings.

DYLAN

Who could that be?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The door bell rings again. Dylan walks to the window but can't see anyone.

SCOTT  
Who's there?

DYLAN  
I can't see anyone. I'll be right back.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan walks down the stairs and to the front door. He opens the door but there isn't anyone there.

Dylan is about to shut the door when he sees something on the ground. He picks up a white envelope with his name written on it. Dylan opens the envelope. He pulls out a photograph of two men smiling in front of a white building. It is the same picture from Ruth's photo album.

Scott comes down the stairs.

SCOTT  
What's that? Fan mail?

DYLAN  
I don't think so.

Dylan flips over the photo and there's a note.

SCOTT  
What does it say?

DYLAN  
Roses are red, violets are blue, if I  
seem familiar, it's because I look like  
you.

SCOTT  
Not exactly Shakespeare is it?

DYLAN  
What do you think it means?

Dylan opens the door again but no one is around.

FADE OUT.

THE END.