

**PAINS OF THE HEART**  
**BY**  
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an original screenplay by  
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ACT ONE

INT. TELEPHONE COMPANY OFFICE 1972 - MORNING

CRYSTAL., Early twenties, low key, a little naive, slim frame, African American.

A large room with customer service representatives sitting at their desk, taking orders over the telephone. In the rear of the office is a small mail bin, where the clerks sort the orders taken by customer service representatives. Also, there are three clerks sitting in the corner of the room typing the installation orders for the installers.

MANAGER

Crystal, I want you to hurry up and get those orders to the service rep's. We have customers waiting for their service to be connected.

CRYSTAL

I will. I just want to make sure that I have all the files in the correct order.

Murmuring to herself

I am doing the best that I can why can't they see that!

MANAGER

What did you say, Crystal?

(Crystal bends down as if she dropped something)

CRYSTAL

Oh, nothing just picking up some orders that I dropped.

Crystal places the orders on the cart and begins pushing the cart around the office. She stops in front of the desk of service representative to pick up the orders that have been taken over the telephone

SERVICE REP 1

Hi Crystal, how are you doing today?

Crystal smiles.

CRYSTAL

I am doing just fine. Thank you for asking.

SERVICE REP 1

How is the job coming. Are you learning it?

CRYSTAL

Yes, although it has been challenging.

SERVICE REP 2

Hey Crystal, I just returned from a vacation in Los Angeles.

CRYSTAL

How was Los Angeles? Was it nice?

SERVICE REP 2

It was great! I went all over California, I took my kids to Disneyland. Maybe, you should think about visiting LA someday. I think you would like California.

CRYSTAL

Sounds great. I've always wanted to visit Disneyland. Maybe I will one day.

A 2nd level manager walks pass Crystal. He over hears the conversation. He stops and walks over to Crystal.

MANAGER

Um Crystal, can you come into my office, for a few minutes. I would like to talk to you.

Crystal nervously pushes the cart into the office,

INT. A GLASS ENCLOSED OFFICE WITHIN THE ROOM -DAY

MANAGER

I want to personally welcome you to our company. You've been with us for a couple of months, what I heard from your manager is that you are doing a good job.

CRYSTAL

Thank you sir. I try to do the best that I can.

MANAGER

I overheard your conversation with the service representative. I just want to make you aware that one of the benefits of working for the telephone company, is that you can transfer to anyone of our companies within the United States.

Crystal looks amazed.

CRYSTAL

Wow, that sounds good. I thought about traveling one day seeing another part of the world.

MANAGER

Yes, this would give you the opportunity to see what it is like to live in another state. We just had one of our employees return after a year's stay in New York.

Crystal stands to exit the room.

CRYSTAL

Thank you for sharing this information with me. I will keep this in mind.

Crystal returns to work and finishes out her day.

SCENE ONE

INT. THE KITCHEN OF HER HOME - MORNING

Crystal is at home. She is coming downstairs to the kitchen where she sees her mother cooking breakfast. Crystal mother is heavysset, in her early forties, with long graying hair. She is a devoted homemaker.

CRYSTAL

Good morning Mother. What's for breakfast?

MOTHER

Good morning dear. I just cooked some bacon and eggs. How did you sleep?

Crystal goes over to the kitchen counter grabs a piece of bacon and starts eating it while she is talking.

CRYSTAL

I slept good. The best that I have slept in a long time.

MOTHER

How was work yesterday? Oh, before I forget being that today is Saturday, I want you to put some clothes in the cleaners for me.

Crystal gets a plate for her food.

CRYSTAL

It was ok, you know one of the manager's called me into his office.

Mother sounding curious.

MOTHER

What on earth for?

CRYSTAL

Well, the manager said I could transfer within the company to any state. Just before that one of my co-worker's suggested that I should visit California. Do you think that is a sign?

Mother is standing at the kitchen washing dishes, with a puzzle look on her face she turns and looks at Crystal.

MOTHER

What kind of a sign? What do you mean?

CRYSTAL

That I should move to another state, like California.

MOTHER

That's ridiculous you shouldn't make anything out of a meaningless conversation.

Father enters the Kitchen. He is medium built early forties, with a mustache and small beard. He is a member of the church with a strong belief in biblical principles.

FATHER

Good morning everyone. What's all the conversation about, so early in the morning.

He walks over to his wife kisses her on the cheek.

CRYSTAL

Mom, I am just saying that I am 21 years old and I have a job. I should be seriously be thinking about getting my own place. You know there are lots of people who are married and have children at 21. Look you married Dad at 19.

Mother puts her hand on her hip Dad interrupts.

FATHER

I am glad you mentioned moving out. I have been thinking that it is time for you to learn some responsibility, like paying rent. So far, all I see you bring into this house is clothes, shoes, jewelry. Are you saving any money out of your checks?

Crystal is visibly upset she stands up

CRYSTAL

Oh, I can see I am not going to win this argument. I am going out. I will see you guys later. I am going to try to catch up with some of my friends, people who understands me.

FATHER

Go ahead, remember what I said about the rules of this house. No coming in at 5 or 6 a.m. in the morning. I don't care how good the party gets.

Crystal walks out of the kitchen heads toward her room to get her car keys and purse.

EXT. DRIVING - EVENING

Crystal hops in her car she drives down the street thinking to herself where should I go. She decides to head over to a male friend of hers. Her friend's name is Basil, he is a high school dropout. He likes to drink, and party. Crystal knows that her parents would not approved of him so she has never brought around her home nor has she mentioned him. Crystal is drawn to the bad boy type, she thinks that she can change them. She pulls up in front of his house and blows the horn. Basil peeks out of the window looking to see whose blowing the horn. He sees that it is Crystal and comes out of his house. Basil is a tall guy medium build, large afro with a earring in his ear. He has on pants, gym shoes and no shirt. He opens the car door and gets in.

BASIL

Hey, baby what's happening? Did you come to check on papa?

CRYSTAL

I just stopped by to talk, can't you just listen.

BASIL

What do I look like a counselor?  
(MORE)

BASIL (CONT'D)

All I can do is to offer you something to relax your nerves, like a drink , or some smoke.

Crystal pushes him on his shoulder.

CRYSTAL

You know I don't get high, I don't need any of that, Listen I had a disagreement with my parents.

Basil puts his arm around Crystal

BASIL

We don't need to talk. I got something to ease your anger.

Basil pulls Crystal close to him and kisses her on her neck. He wants to get intimate, Crystal pushes him back.

CRYSTAL

Basil back off please, I am not ready for that.

BASIL

That's is your problem you are never ready. I don't get you. You come around me tempting me but never give me any play. My brother and his girlfriend have sex all the time and she is a church girl. Hey, I am tried of talking if you can't satisfy me than just leave.

Basil opens the car door to get out, Crystal yells at him

CRYSTAL

Go ahead and get out. I don't even know why I even waste my time coming around you. You don't have anything to offer except drugs and sex. Good riddens I am going to California and meet someone who is going places instead of potentially going to prison.

Basil is so angry he slams the car door. Crystal drives off fast barely miss hitting him with the car.

SCENE TWO

EXT. OUTSIDE IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE. - NIGHT

As Crystal pulls up in front of her home she notices a car in the driveway. She notices there are a couple of guys sitting in the car, One of them is her younger brother Johnny. Johnny is tall medium built, light brown skinned teenager, with a medium afro his hair is a reddish tone. As she parks her car on the street she opens her car door steps out and she could smell the alcohol and marijuana in the air. She walks pass the car toward the house, one of the guys yells out the window.

GUY

Hey, baby want a smoke.

JOHNNY

Man shut up that is my sister.

Johnny gets out of the car walks up to Crystal

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Crystal what's up?

CRYSTAL

Are you nuts sitting in Mom and Dad's driveway getting high. Good thinking great way to start a fight with them.

JOHNNY

I wasn't doing anything wrong.

CRYSTAL

Give me a break you reek of alcohol.

JOHNNY

Don't judge me. I know that you have been seeing that drug dealer Basil. Word gets around you know.

CRYSTAL

He is not a drug dealer just a little misguided. Besides as of today I am not seeing him anymore. We've better go into the house before Mom or Dad hears us and looks out the window.

Johnny and Crystal both enter the home. Johnny's friends take off in the car.

### SCENE THREE

EXT. CHURCH BUILDING STEPS. - MORNING

It is Sunday and Crystal is leaving church along with her parents. She sees a childhood friend leaving at the same time.



CRYSTAL

Sharon, hi how are you? I haven't seen you in a while. Where have you been?

Crystal parents pause on the steps and wait for Crystal while she visits with her friend.

SHARON

I was in California for a couple of months, you know how I like to travel. Something wonderful happen to me while I was there.

CRYSTAL

What tell me please spare no details.

SHARON

I met this really nice guy and now we are engaged to get married.

CRYSTAL

Oh, I can't believe it that's wonderful. I am so happy for you, you are the third person that mention California to me, it is something wonderful about that state. Girl, you are going to have to tell me about it later. I got to go I rode to church with my parents. I can't keep them standing for long. Call me later Sharon.

Crystal walks back to her parents and they all continue to walk back to their car.

#### SCENE FOUR

INT. THE LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Crystal, Johnny the mother and father are sitting in the living room. Crystal sitting in a chair looking through a magazine. Johnny is lying on the floor on a pillow watching television. The father is reading the newspaper while the mother is glancing at a recipe book.

MOTHER

Has anyone seen my oldest child Kevin. I haven't seen or heard from him since he moved out a couple of months ago.

CRYSTAL

I haven't seen hide nor hair out of him.

FATHER

I have not see him either.

JOHNNY

I have.

MOTHER

Where?

JOHNNY

He was going into some fancy restaurant, with some hippy type looking girl.

MOTHER

I sure hope he does not get himself into a bad relationship. He falls so easily in love.

FATHER

Well, men are going to be men. I just hope he knows to use some protection.

CRYSTAL

Dad please this is the 20th century, protection is suppose be thought out by both parties. I hope his girlfriend is using protection it goes both ways.

JOHNNY

You know lover boy, just might have a couple of kids already.

MOTHER

Hush Johnny, don't put that news out there.

The phone rings Johnny jumps up and runs to pick it up. It is his friend whom he calls his running buddy Mack.

JOHNNY

Hello.

MACK (O.S.)

Hey, Johnny it's me Mack. What are you doing right now?

In the background the Mother yells out.

MOTHER

Johnny, who is that on the telephone?

JOHNNY

Nobody, just a friend. Man, I am chilling here at the crib. What's going on?

MACK (O.S.)

Man, I got some stuff here that will get you high as a kite. Why don't you run over here for a second and I will let you try it out. It's a young lady over here that wants to meet you.

JOHNNY

Right now, I ain't got no gas money. Let me see if I can borrow a car. Check you out later bro.

Johnny hangs up the telephone.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Dad can I borrow your car?

DAD

You already know my answer, before you even ask.

CRYSTAL

Don't bother asking me. The answer is no!

Johnny calls his friend Mack back.

JOHNNY

Mack I can't make it, I can't borrow a car.

MACK (O.S.)

Don't worry I will have Eddie pick you up. Just be waiting outside your house.

JOHNNY

Man, I don't like to ride in the car with him he is always so jittery. Tell Eddie that I will be waiting outside though.

Johnny walks toward the front door to leave.