(Name of Project)
by
(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by
(Names of Subsequent Writers, in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by
(Current Writer, date)
INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

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

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

BETH
Here he comes!

PETE is lugging a huge painting canvas.

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

BETH
He doesn't even know I exist!

Megan's face brightens.

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

BETH
Do you think...?

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

BETH
Yeah, but...

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

Pete is oblivious.

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

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

He hands the books to a disappointed Beth.

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

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

Beth shifts uneasily.

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

BETH
THANKS!

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

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

FLAME
Family? Oh yeah.

Beth swiftly takes off.

TEN YEARS LATER

EXT. DUMP - MORNING

A truck pulls up to a land fill.

The back lifts and collected trash is emptied.

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

He begins inspecting the contents.

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

The truck drives away.

I/E. GATE HOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

BETH GATE sits is in front of her dresser mirror.

After wiping the excess powder off her cheek, she throws the used tissues into a full basket.
She carefully selects a set of sparkling diamond earrings and promptly sets them down on the corner of the dresser.

Beth unknowingly brushes her sweater against the earrings.

The phone rings.

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

She carries the trash cans to the driveway.

The collection truck is pulling up.

INT. GATE HOUSE - MORNING

Beth searches frantically for her missing diamond earrings.

Notices the empty trash pail.

She hurries to Maria.

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

EXT. OUTSIDE GATE HOUSE - MORNING

A trash man is loading his truck.

Beth races down the driveway.

BETH
STOP! STOP!

The trash man waits.

BETH
MY EARRINGS! GET THEM FOR ME, PLEASE!

He shakes his head.

He notices earrings clinging to her sweater.

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

PETE
Whoa! You rich people think you can buy anything. Sorry...but you can’t. I collect. Not scoop trash.
Beth steps back and stares at Pete.

Beth Sano Gate.

Pete scans the beautiful home.

Pete's covered in filth.

They laugh.

The earrings fall from Beth's sweater.

Pete picks them up.

His eyes lock on hers.
PETE
There!

BETH
Let me pay you.

PETE
How about a coffee instead?

Beth is iffy.

PETE
C'mon.

She shrugs her shoulders.

INT. DINNER - DAY
A few blue collar customers are in the diner.
Pete guides Beth to a booth.
Country and western music is playing.

BETH
Kickin' music!

Pete
For horses.

WAITRESS approaches.

PETE
Two coffees. That's it.

Okay. Waitress leaves.

BETH
We were in the same biology class. Remember?

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

Pete sips his coffee.

PETE
Any kids?

BETH
No kids. And you?
PETE

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

A stunned expression crosses Pete's face.

Waitress puts the bill down.

BETH
That was then.

Pete takes a deep breath.

BETH
Still obsessed with art?

PETE
How did you know?

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

PETE
Didn't think anyone noticed.

BETH
I DID!

Pete nervously fiddles with his napkin.

Beth glances at the wall clock.

Beth stands.

BETH
Better get going.

Pete reaches for the check.

INT. GATE HOUSE STUDY - DAY

HENRY, a salty old gent, is reclining half asleep in a leather chair.
The room is adorned with photos, newspaper clippings, medals, old rifles, and army paraphernalia.

Beth quietly tries to sneak past.

Henry's eyes pop open.

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

Beth
Yeah. Yeah. A THOUSAND TIMES!

Henry holds Beth by her sweater.

HENRY
But you haven’t heard the funny part!

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

He lets go.

Tilts himself closer to Beth.

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

Henry repositions himself.

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

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

Henry is completely unaware of Beth's comment.

He continues talking.

HENRY
...then, we went to a dark alley and got laid. Man oh man!
(finger on his lips)
What was her name? It’ll come to me. Linda? Lana?

Beth lets out a groan.

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

Henry dozes off.

INT. GATE BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

ROBERT GATE enters the bedroom.

BETH
Your father's pilot light has blown out!

ROBERT
What do you expect? He’s old.

BETH
Then you listen to his stories.

ROBERT
I do.

BETH
Try listening to me!

Pointing his finger at Beth.

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

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

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

BETH
That's your world. NOT MINE!

Beth storms out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Beth walks to the computer.
The computer is still on.

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

BETH (V.O.)

SUPER:    Dearest Robert,

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

        Love you, as always.
        Adolfo

Beth’s jaw drops.

In walks Robert.

    BETH
    WHO'S ADOLFO?

Robert is completely thrown off guard.

    ROBERT
    Adolfo who?

    BETH
    Adolfo. YOUR LOVER!

    ROBERT
    You been drinking?

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

Robert doesn't speak to Beth directly.

    ROBERT
    How did you find out?

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

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

BETH
GIVE ME A BREAK! Why did you lie?

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

BETH
NOT TO ME!

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

ROBERT
Where are you going?

BETH
Anyplace, but here!

ROBERT
Think about what you're doing.

BETH
The situation speaks for itself.

ROBERT
I promise I won't see him again!

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

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

Beth picks up her belongings, grabs the dog, and storms out.
BETH
(muttering)
Beats a phoney marriage!

ROBERT
BITCH! You'll hear from my lawyer!

BETH
AND YOU'LL HEAR FROM MINE!

EXT. OUTSIDE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The leashed dog strolls alongside Beth.
Beth is hauling a large suitcase.
A trash truck is parked at the end of the driveway.
Pete is emptying trash.

PETE
LUGGAGE! A MUTT! Are you going away?

Pete lifts a can.

BETH
Aha, it's the friendly trash guy!

PETE
What a memory! Vacation?

BETH
PERMANENT!

PETE
Where to?

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

Pete scratches his head.

PETE
Hummm. A motel?

BETH
A motel. I'll call a cab.
PETE
There's an electrician's convention in town. Finding a vacancy is going to be difficult.

The dog keeps pulling on the leash.

She put the luggage down.

BETH
What should I do?

Glances at his watch.

PETE
It's getting late.

BETH
Heck, I'll find a place.

PETE
If you want, you can use my apartment.

Beth nods and yanks the dog's leash.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - LATER
Pete unlocks the front door.
Beth and the dog follow.
Pete carries what appears to be a couple items of junk.
The apartment has a clean and cozy atmosphere.
Beth is noticeably impressed.

PETE
What did you expect?

BETH
Oh, something less. But, you're not typical.
(thoughtfully)
I can't explain it!

Beth puts down the suitcase and unleashes the dog.
He sniffs the premises, lifts his leg, and relieves himself on the recliner.
BETH
BAD BOY!

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

BETH
Nippy.

PETE
Nippy? What kind of name is that?

BETH
Ask my husband.

PETE
Nippy?
Pete wrinkles his forehead.

PETE
Poor guy!

Beth views the sculptures in the side room.
They're created out of junk pieces.

BETH
You bring junk items home?

PETE
Keeps me busy.

BETH
Not bad.

Beth finds a phone.

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

PETE
Not at all.

Beth dials.

MOTHER (V.O.)
Hello.

BETH
Mom. It's Beth.
MOTHER (V.O.)
What a surprise! UNCLE HAROLD and I were talking about you.

A hacking cough is heard.

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

A voice is heard in the background.

HAROLD (V.O.)
WHOOO?

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

BETH
We're separated.

MOTHER (V.O.)
LORD BE PRAISED!

There's a crashing sound.

Beth's mother covers the phone.

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

Mother uncovers the phone.

BETH
Would you mind if I temporarily stayed with you?

MOTHER (V.O.)
Of course not. I'm booked to leave tomorrow for a week's vacation to Bermuda.
(beat)
I contacted a nursing agency to care for your uncle Harold. But if you'll be here...
BETH
(gulp)
Go ahead...hire a nurse! I'll come when you return.

MOTHER (V.O.)
Can't wait to see you pumpkin.

A hacking cough resonates.

Beth places the phone down.

BETH
Pete, I'll find a place tomorrow. Mom is going on vacation.

PETE
You and the dog are welcome to hold up here.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Pete is resting on the recliner as Beth comes in from the kitchen holding a glass of water.

She sits by Pete.

Extends the glass.

BETH
Water?

PETE
No thanks. I'm watching my weight.

Beth takes a drink.

BETH
Can we get serious for a moment?

PETE
Umm. I'm serious!

BETH
Something I want to tell you.

Pete shifts to an attentive posture.

BETH
After high school, I worked as a restaurant receptionist. A friend told me about this cocktail waitress job in Las Vegas.
I took it.
(embarrassed)
Entertaining men. It wasn't always sex!

PETE
Why tell me?

BETH
I have no idea. Just because...

Pete resumes his slumbering position.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING
Beth awakens to Nippy jumping on the couch.
She stretches and gets up.
Shouts into the kitchen area.

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

There's no response.

BETH
PETE? HELLO!

She enters the small kitchen.
A note is on the counter.

INSERT:

PETE (V.O.)
Beth,

Help yourself to food and coffee.
If you're still here, see you after work,

Pete

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

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON
Pete and Beth are in the living room reading.
BETH
The phone rings at least four times a day. When I pick up, the caller hangs up.

PETE
Probably sales or fund raisers.

BETH
Maybe!
   (beat)
   I wonder...why be a trash man when you can be an artist?

PETE
Good question!

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

   PETE
   SCRAM!

   BETH
   He's fond of you!

Beth grabs Nippy's leash.

Pete brushes his leg.

I/E. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

Pete shuts the phone booth door and dials.

Speaks for a minute.

He steps out and walks down the street.

An unnoticed strange person trails him.

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

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

CUT TO:

INT. ADOLFO'S PENTHOUSE - AFTERNOON

A gloomy ADOLFO sits on his yellow recliner.

Robert is anxiously pacing the room.
ROBERT
IT'S OVER!

ADOLFO
Why? Why cut me off?

Robert examines Adolfo's art collection.

Adolfo's apartment has numerous art objects.

Prominent are the assorted naked cherubs crafted out of porcelain.

Everything is highbrow, extravagant, and snooty.

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

Robert tears into a pile of collectibles.

He holds up a video

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

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

Robert points at Adolfo's wall.

ROBERT
And these obviously fake Renaissance paintings?

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

Robert goes through Adolfo's wardrobe.

He holds a furry object.
ROBERT
Is this a hat, or a coat, or a mink stole, or what?

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

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

ADOLFO
Good!

Robert grabs a porcelain cherub

ROBERT
I’m warning you, Adolfo!

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

ROBERT
KIDNAPPED YOU, MY ASS!

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

Robert raises the statue.

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

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

ADOLFO
Not my sweet Benedetto. Hey, don’t hold him so tightly. He’ll suffocate.
Adolfo is on his knees, holding out his arms to protect his treasures.

ADOLFO
If I convince your slut, wife to return, will you take me back too?
(beat)
And you're screwing the maid. I'll even tolerate her.

ROBERT
You mention my wife again, I'll kill you! Why did I ever tell you?

ADOLFO
I called one time. Your father answered. He said you were busy...banging the maid.

ROBERT
You're history!

Robert rubs the porcelain cupid against his face.

INT. ROBERT’S STUDY - DAY

Henry gets up from his chair and chummily drapes his arm across Robert’s shoulders.

Robert winces at the cigarette smoke.

He leads Robert on a short stroll through the study.

HENRY
Sonny, why in WW II, it was a different woman each week. Or was it each day...?

Henry halts to reflect.

Smoke collects over Robert’s face.

HENRY
...anyway, we never stuck long. GODDAMN WOMEN. You’re better off!

Henry's cigarette ember hits Robert’s hand.

Oblivious, Henry stares into space.
HENRY
Yea, you're much better off, I say.
In WW II, we had this German whore
who stole our money. We caught her
ass, all right.
(proud)
She fought like a banshee.

Holds up his arms.

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

Henry pulls back his shirt..

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

ROBERT
That's something.

Henry holds his hand to his ear.

HENRY
WHAT? Speak up!

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

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

Puts out his cigarette.

HENRY
I had to throw her ass out.
(holds his beer)
Wake up! Beth loved your money.
Jesus H. I told you. Ah, kids.

Henry plops on the couch and curls up.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Beth is stretched out on Pete’s couch, covered by a light
sheet. There’s a glimmer of light from a nearby window.
Pete is standing next to her.

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

Pete is startled.

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

**PETE**
Why didn't you tell him?

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

Pete spontaneously throws a pillow at Beth.
She ducks.

**BETH**
BAD SHOT!

Beth folds her arms behind her head.
Pete places a blanket on Beth.

**PETE**
It's supposed to be chilly tonight.

She laughs while he tucks her in.

His lips come close to hers.
They gaze at each other.
Without touching her, he slowly pulls away.
Pete slowly straightens out the blanket.

**EXT. OUTSIDE PETE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Adolfo looks in the window.
Beth is sleeping.
Adolfo steps on a branch.
He leaps in fear at a cracking noise.
Nippy barks.
Adolfo awkwardly scurries away.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY
Adolfo is disguised as a plumber.
He knocks on Pete’s door.
Nippy growls.
Beth answers.

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

Beth lets him in.
Nippy is ferociously barking.
Beth grabs Nippy by the collar.
She puts him in the kitchen.

    BETH
    He’s so protective.

Adolfo, wearing a tool belt, goes to the bathroom sink.
Beth is leaning on the threshold of the bathroom door.
She stares at him perplexed.

    ADOLFO
    No need to watch. This is men’s
    work.

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

    ADOLFO
    Probably needs tightening.

Under the sink, Adolfo clacks the wrench against the pipes.
The kitchen door flies open and Nippy escapes.

He runs for the bathroom.

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

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

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

**BETH**
BAD DOGGIE!

Again, she secures him in the kitchen.

Beth returns.

**BETH**
Sorry! He’s high strung.

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

His makeup is running.

His false mustache is peeling.

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

The front door suddenly opens.

**BETH**
PETE! IS THAT YOU?

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

I/E. APARTMENT - MORNING

Beth is folding a sheet when the doorbell rings.

She opens the door to ADOLFO.

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

Adolfo steps away.

**BETH**
Excuse me.

Beth drags Nippy and locks him in the kitchen.
She returns to the door.

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

    ADOLFO
    Dogs will be dogs!

Both are standing at the door.

    ADOLFO
    Can we talk?

    BETH
    About what?

    ADOLFO
    Robert.

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

    ADOLFO
    Doubtful.

    BETH
    You're familiar!

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

Beth is stunned.

    BETH
    ROBERT'S LOVER?

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

    BETH
    Yes. I mind.

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

Beth allows Adolfo in.

    ADOLFO
    Robert's furious.
BETH
Tough! I won't be his wife long.

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

BETH
I'll go to court.

ADOLFO
Robert has money and high-placed friends.

Beth thinks for a moment.

BETH
It's over for me.

ADOLFO
He should suffer!

BETH
Suffer?

ADOLFO
Tormented! Hurt!

BETH
What the hell are you saying?

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

Beth's eyes open wide.

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

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

BETH
No way! Leave me out.

ADOLFO
Don't say I didn't ask.
Adolfo puts on his coat and hat.
The door slams behind him.

INT. STUDIO - NIGHT
Pete leads Beth into his studio.
The studio looks part junk yard and part playground.
She crumples her nose and fans her face.

BETH
It smells. Paint?
Pete puts his head back.

BETH
Robert's lover, Adolfo, was here today

PETE
What did he want?

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

PETE
That was it?

BETH
Yeah. That's all.
Pete starts to sculpt.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT - DAY
Beth, holding Nippy on a leash, approaches the airline ticket counter.
Beth moves with Nippy to the front of the counter.
She reaches in her wallet, pulling out her credit card.

BETH
Do you have a flight to Saint Louis tomorrow?
The representative examines her book.
REPRESENTATIVE
Tomorrow at 1:10.

BETH
I'll take it.

REPRESENTATIVE
That's $250, one way.

BETH
Okay.

She places her credit card on the counter.
The representative runs it though the machine.
Apologetically, she turns to Beth.

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

BETH
Must be a mistake. Would you check again?

REPRESENTATIVE
Certainly.

The representative tries again.
She hands Beth the card

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

Nippy begins biting the ankles of a CUSTOMER behind Beth.
The customer attempts to kick the dog away.
Nippy becomes more determined.

CUSTOMER
Miss, could you please control your dog?

BETH
WE'RE LEAVING!

Beth pulls Nippy from the counter.
She tosses her cancelled credit card into the trash.
INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Pete is filthy with soot and grease.
Beth's eyes are fixed.

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

PETE
...and he cancelled it?

BETH
Yep.

Pete rubs his chin.

PETE
Any spending money?

Beth opens her wallet.

BETH
About $200.

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

BETH
I couldn't do that!

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

BETH
Bugs and animals?

PETE
Nature!

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Robert and Maria are in bed recreating nude.

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

Robert breaks loose and swings Maria to the bottom, gripping her hands to the mattress.
MARIA
(Australian accent)
You win! I give up!

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

MARIA
PLEASE!

ROBERT
Say pretty please, daddy.

MARIA
Pretty please, daddy!

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

They roll on their backs.

MARIA
Do you think the bitch ever suspected?

ROBERT
Beth? The dumb dog knew more than her.

Maria gives off a moan of relief.

She clutches on to Robert's shoulders.

Kisses his neck.

They continue to tumble on the bed.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Except for Pete and Nippy, the apartment is empty.

Pete turns off the TV.

Addresses Nippy face-to-face.

Nippy's ears perk up.

PETE
Really! You're not a bad little guy.

(pets Nippy)
I’ll bet you can be trained to be
a normal doggie. Wouldn’t you like
that?

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

He begins digging.

EXT. PUBLIC NATURE PRESERVE - DAY

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

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

CHILDREN are playing.

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

The man is preoccupied with his telescope.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A dull thump is followed by silence.

The spectators are petrified.

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

Beth and Pete simultaneously bend over the railing.

They look at each other horrified.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

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

BETH
I decided to cremate Nippy's remains.

Beth sobs.

BETH
You probably don't miss him much!

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

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

Pete places his arms on Beth's shoulders.

INT. APARTMENT – DAY

The doorbell rings.

PETE
Red Drew! What are you doing here?

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

PETE
Come on in.

Red walks in.

He cases the place.

Flowers cover the table.

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

PETE
A regrettable mishap. HAVE A SEAT!
PETE
Beth, this is Red Drew, a coworker.

BETH
Glad to meet you, Red. Sit down.

Red seats himself.

BETH
We'll get drinks. Be right back.

Beth and Pete head for the kitchen.

Red takes a giant stogie from his overalls.

RED
DO YOU MIND CIGAR SMOKE?

PETE (O.S.)
(from the kitchen)
NAH. GREAT FOR THE LUNGS!

Red bites off one end of the cigar and spits it out.
Plumes of smoke begin to take over the living room.
The cigar develops a huge hanging ash.
Red, feeling for an ashtray, gets his hands on Nippy's urn.
He opens it, and taps in his cigar ash.

RED
(hardly audible)
Hey, your ashtray's full.

He empties the urn into the trash.
Beth and Pete return with food and drink.
Beth notices the urn is moved.
She maneuvers it back into place, lifts it up and down, and
opens the urn.
The urn is empty.

BETH
Where are Nippy’s ashes?

Pete looks around.
PETE

No idea!

Red is quiet.

INT. GATE HOUSE STUDY - DAY

Henry's drinking a beer, shirtless, and smoking. He hacks up phlegm. Maria bends over to pick-up a shirt. Henry seizes the opportunity to pat Maria's ass.

MARIA
I ASKED YOU NOT TO DO THAT!

HENRY
But I like it!

MARIA
Frankly, I don't.

HENRY
Have mercy. I'm an old man.

MARIA
Buy a blowup doll!

Henry takes a drag. He flashes an evil grin.

HENRY
You still working here?

MARIA
Of course. Why?

HENRY
Never see you working...you and my kid? (cocky)
C'mon. I'm old, not stupid!

Maria starts to walk toward Robert as he enters.

MARIA
HE KNOWS!

ROBERT
Knows what?
MARIA
About us.

HENRY
Ha, ha.

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

HENRY
HORSE TITS!

Robert jumps in.

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

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

Maria is infuriated.

MARIA
Are you backing out?

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

Henry takes a sip of beer and a long puff.

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

Maria storms out.

Robert places his hands on his face.

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

ROBERT
...dad, you were never in any military. GOT IT!
World War II was over by the time you were old enough to tie the shoes on your flat feet.

Robert races out the door.

INT. RECYCLING HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

A smoke-filled room.

Six men are gathered at the table.

DOM
Get this. We thought we could trust Pete Shay to join us. To make sure, we followed him.
(beat)
HE'S AN FBI AGENT!

Drug organization members are astonished.

RED
You sure? Pete. Pete Shay?

DOM
AGENT Shay!

Red puffs on a cigar

DOM
How do we eliminate him?

LESTER
I'M NOT GOING TO JAIL!

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

The men nod in agreement.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Beth and Pete stand near a tombstone.

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

They speak to the cemetery plot.
PETE
(facing headstone)

BETH
(facing tombstone)
Pleased to meet you, Mr. Shay. Unmistakable resemblance!

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

Pete addresses Beth.

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

BETH
Comforting.

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

Pete taps his chest gently with a forefinger.

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

BETH
And what's your mission?

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

BETH
You mean a great trash man?

PETE
Think of my job as part of a journey.

Beth is attentive.
Pete sits against the headstone.  
(beat)  

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

PETE  
Gotta take care of yourself.  

Beth pulls out a weed.  

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

Pete thoughtfully nods in agreement.  

He swats a bee flying near Beth.  

PETE  
Bees are attracted to sweet things.  

Pete peers into Beth's eyes.  

Faces come closer together.  

They kiss.  

INT. PETE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT  

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

They're joyfully singing a song.  

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

PETE  
It's your imagination!  

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

PETE  
He wasn't lying!  

Beth flops on the couch.
BETH
I'm hitting the hay for a couple of million years.

Pete drags Beth by the hand.

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

Pete opens his bedroom door.

BETH
Whatever you say, monsieur.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - AFTERNOON

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

A machine gun is pointed out the side window.

Pete leaps behind a building.

A flurry of shots blanket the phone booth and wall.

The vehicle speeds away.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is empty.

Pete is on the phone.

PETE
They know!

MIKE (V.O.)
How so?

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

MIKE (V.O.)
Are you okay?

PETE
Close call.

MIKE (V.O.)
I'll take you off immediately.
PETE
Not yet. I'm making them nervous.

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

PETE
Will do.

Pete hangs up.

INT. RECYCLING HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT
Six men at the table smoking and drinking coffee.

DOM
What happened.

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

DOM
Let things cool. We'll lay low.

The men nod in agreement.

I/E. HOTEL - DAY
An ANONYMOUS PERSON places coins in a pay phone.

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

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

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

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

A cough from the other end.

ANONYMOUS PERSON
I've had this horrible cold...
(cough)
and I hope you can do me a favor?
OFFICE SECRETARY (V.O.)
Yeah. Sounds nasty. Be glad to help you, Mr. Gate.

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

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

ANONYMOUS PERSON
Thanks so much.

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

The anonymous caller hangs up.

INT. GATE'S KITCHEN - MORNING
The back door leading to the kitchen is unlocked. An anonymous individual, looking side to side, turns the door handle holding a long piece of metal. The person's wearing gloves, sunglasses, and a baseball cap. The door opens and the intruder lunges in. The person sneaks down the hall. Robert is fast asleep. A sheet partly covers his head. A pillow is on the floor. The intruder lifts the metal object and smashes Robert's head. At first there's a slight jerk. He's hit on the head two more times. Robert's body rests lifeless in a puddle of blood. The killer flees.
I/E. OUTSIDE GATE HOUSE - LATER

A trash collection truck pulls up to the driveway.
Pete is inside the cab reading a note.
He places it on the seat, opens the door, and heads for the Gate house.
A MAN waves as he continues to mow his lawn.
A LADY is planting flowers.
They politely nod.
Pete circumvents the house.
He discerns a trash can full of small bags.
Next to them is an old computer.
He first grabs the trash can. Brings it to the truck.
He then returns for the computer.
Pete goes back to the truck carrying his find.
Pete drives away.

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - LATER

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

        DESK SERGEANT (V.O.)
        POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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

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

        HENRY
        Henry. Henry Gate. At the Gate house.

Computer keys sound in the background.

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

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

HENRY
HE’S STIFF!

DESK SERGEANT (V.O.)
What happened?

Henry tries to gain his composure.

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

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

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

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

HENRY
No. Only the trash truck out front.

Sirens get louder.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

TWO HOMICIDE DETECTIVES and Pete are in the interrogation room.
Pete is seated under a bright light.

WILKENSON lights a cigarette.

He offers Pete one.

PETE
No thanks.
KELLY
Coffee?

PETE
No thanks. Why am I here?

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

PETE
It's on my route.

KELLY
Were you there yesterday?

PETE
Of course. It's my regular pickup day.

KELLY
About nine?

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

WILKENSON
Robert Gate was murdered about nine.

Pete's jaw drops.

PETE
You suspect me?

WILKENSON
Just asking questions.

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

KELLY
How did you end up with Mrs. Gate?
PETE
Purely accidental.

KELLY
Hummm. Was she bitter?

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

KELLY
Go figure. Angry people are not always rational.

PETE
Agreed!

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

Pete shrugs his shoulders

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

Wilkenson puffs on a cigarette.

WILKENSON
We recovered a blood stained lead pipe.

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

KELLY
Possibly. Nonetheless, those are the facts.

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

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

Pete leaves.
Alone in the room, Detective Wilkenson begins to pace.

    KELLY
    Well?

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

    KELLY
    We'll speak to Shay's supervisor too.

The Detectives gather papers and depart.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The clock on the dresser reads 8:15 PM. The front door handle turns. Beth scurries to the door.

    BETH
    I was worried!

    PETE
    Bad news.

    BETH
    I heard. Robert is dead. Murdered!
    (beat)
    He was a lousy husband, but he didn't deserve to die. And you?

    PETE
    Police questioning. The murderer tried to set ME up.

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

Beth puts on a sweater.

    BETH
    I'm going out for a breather.

Pete gives a sign of understanding.
INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The phone is to Pete's ear.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
Hello

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

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

PETE
I miss you too. Is Mike in?

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

Pete fiddles with the phone cord.

MIKE (V.O.)
Mike Brevor speaking.

PETE
Mike. Pete here.

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

PETE
None. I'm keeping a low profile.

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

PETE
Robert Gate is dead!

MIKE (V.O.)
Yes. Unfortunately.

PETE
They tried to frame me.

MIKE (V.O.)
They?
PETE
Who "they" are is yet to be determined.

A moment of stillness elapses.

MIKE (V.O.)
Would you stay a few more days?
(beat)
By the way, the old computer?
Filled with evidence.

PETE
No surprise.
(deep breath)
Beth is getting suspicious.

MIKE (V.O.)
I'll only contact you in an emergency.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Beth is in the interrogation room.

The situation makes her tense.

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

BETH
I'm a logical suspect. Correct?

KELLY
Lady, everyone is a suspect.

BETH
(arms crossed)
Go ahead. Fire away.

Kelly takes a drink of coffee.

WILKENSON
Anyone want to harm your husband?

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

Wilkenson paces before he speaks.
WILKENSON
What's going on with you and Pete Shay?

BETH
Nothing. Nothing at all.

KELLY
You stay with him?

BETH
...until I can earn plane fare home.

Kelly strolls. A hand is on his face.

Beth appears less confident.

KELLY
Who was Robert close too?

Beth ponders for a moment.

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

WILKENSON
After you left?

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

Beth bends forward.

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

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

KELLY
Last name? Address?

BETH
Neither.
KELLY
We'll find him. Any others?

BETH
No.

Kelly scratches his head.

KELLY
Robert Gate. A bisexual?

INT. INSIDE CAR - DAY
Detective Dan Kelly is driving.

Frank Wilkenson is turning pages on a clipboard.

KELLY
Pete Shay's supervisor confirms his story.

WILKENSON
He still could be guilty.

KELLY
Motive? ROBERT GATE'S WIFE?

Frank turns the page.

KELLY
Hope this work address for Maria Pino is accurate.

WILKENSON
If not, enjoy the ride.

They pull next to the driveway of a luxurious estate.

I/E. ESTATE - DAY
Dan scans the palatial grounds.

KELLY
Different from the city!

WILKENSON
Christ, a distinct playground.

They approach the home and ring the bell.

Maria answers.

They flash their badges.
KELLY
This is Detective Wilkenson and I'm Detective Kelly, from homicide.

MARIA
HOM...?

KELLY
HOMICIDE. Police investigation unit dealing with murders.

MARIA
Gotta do with Mr. Gate?

KELLY
Are you Maria Pino?

Maria immediately holds both hands on her chest.

MARIA
I DIDN'T DO IT!

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

WILKENSON
Do you mind if we ask a few questions?

MARIA
Come.

The door closes behind them.

WILKENSON
You worked for Mr. Gate?

MARIA
Several years.

WILKENSON
Why did you leave?

MARIA
Disagreement. It was time.

KELLY
Did he have enemies?

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

Maria pauses.

MARIA
The wife!

KELLY
Why?

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

KELLY
What do you mean?

Maria is unusually edgy.

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

Detective Wilkenson jots down notes.

KELLY
Well, thanks for your time.

They walk down the driveway.

WILKENSON
So?

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

WILKENSON
MY SYMPATHY!

Maria peeks between the curtains.

I/E. APARTMENT - DAY

Beth and Pete are drinking wine and listening to classical music.
BETH
Do you like the music?

Pete drinks his wine.

PETE
Sure do. I've got class.

BETH
Aren't we proud of ourselves!

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

Pete abruptly changes to a serious tone.

PETE
We're in hot water.

BETH
Robert's murder?

PETE
You weren't part of my plan!

BETH
What plan? Are you hiding something?

Pete realizes what he said.

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

BETH
Rambling?

Pete grabs a magazine.

BETH
We cooperated, didn't we?

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

BETH
WE ARE INNOCENT!

PETE
We know it. Do the police?
Beth is engrossed.

BETH
What else can we do?

Pete takes a small piece of cheese.

He raises the volume.

He closes his eyes.

Beth gazes at him.

CUT TO:

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

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

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

The piano plays.

Adolfo brakes out in song.

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

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

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

The audience roars with laughter.

KELLY
I'd rather be somewhere else!

Adolfo brushes himself off.

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

ADOLFO
My favorite. COP JOKES!

Audience claps and hoots.
ADOLFO
I thought you had to be in relatively good physical condition to be a cop.

Piano player plays music. Crowd laughs.

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

Piano player plays more music. More chuckles.

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

The piano music brings the jokes to a close.

Adolfo waits for a reaction.

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

Dan starts moving.

WILKENSON
Hold on. The act is nearly over.

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

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

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

Adolfina the Wicked exits.

INT. BACK STAGE - DAY

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

ADOLFO
Come in, darling.

Adolfo is in front of a large, lighted mirror.

Adolfo's removing his make-up.

The detectives enter.
ADOLFO
Opps. I thought you were my friend, Elgin.

Kelly approaches Adolfo flashing his badge.

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

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

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

Adolfo is scraping the coloring off his face.

ADOLFO
I'm Adolfo.

Kelly is impatient.

KELLY
ROBERT. ROBERT GATE?

ADOLFO
Terrible. A dear of mine.

WILKENSON
When did you see him last?

Adolfo is tugging at one of his earrings.

ADOLFO
THESE DAMN THINGS HURT!

KELLY
Robert Gate?

Adolfo sits upright.

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

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

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

ADOLFO
Could be anyone!

KELLY
Could be.

ADOLFO
WELL, I DIDN'T CALL!

KELLY
Finish your facial. We'll be back.

Kelly mockingly waves.

INT. BATH HOUSE - DAY

Wilkenson and Kelly approach the counter in the bath house.

A burly, gruff COUNTER MAN greets the Detectives.

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

Dan gazes at Frank.

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

COUNTER MAN
Oh. Can I help?

Frank takes out his notebook.

WILKENSON
Adolfo Rialli?

COUNTER MAN
I'll page him.

WILKENSON
That's okay. Where is he?
INT. BATH HOUSE - DAY

The bath facility houses a large swimming pool.
Surrounding the main pool are a number of small steam sites.
Men are socializing.

Kelly wipes his brow

KELLY
The steam is stifling.

WILKENSON
TROPICAL!

Frank accosts one of the SWIMMERS.

WILKENSON
Adolfo Rialli?

SWIMMER
(sappy voice)
Adolfo? In the hot pool.

The hot pool is a few steps away.

INT. BATH HOUSE - DAY

One person is in the water

ADOLFO
AGAIN! I just saw you boys.

WILKENSON
A couple more questions regarding Mr. Gates.

Adolfo utters in a sad murmur.

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

Kelly slouches over the pool.

KELLY
You knew Robert Gate? Friends?

ADOLFO
Yes. More than friends.
KELLY
MORE THAN FRIENDS? How so?

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

KELLY
Was he keeping you?

ADOLFO
Keeping?

KELLY
Was he supporting you?

ADOLFO
Sometimes.

Adolfo conveys an insincere composure.

ADOLFO
My life is empty.

KELLY
That's not what Mrs. Gate says.

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

KELLY
Must be rough.

ADOLFO
I WANT AN ATTORNEY!

KELLY
No need. Enough for now.

ADOLFO
He killed me. Pierced me through the heart.

Wilkenson wipes his forehead.

INT. VEHICLE - DAY
Kelly drives through traffic.
Wilkenson sits alongside going through his notes.
KELLY
When we get to the office, it's a
cup of hot coffee.

Frank is silent.

KELLY
The place is FRUIT HEAVEN.

Frank remains quiet.

WILKENSON
Shouldn't call them FRUITS!

KELLY
What?

WILKENSON
The word FRUITS. It's offensive!

KELLY
(astonished)
Where are you coming from?

Peering out the side window, Frank blurts out.

WILKENSON
PHIL, MY SON...

KELLY
...great kid!

WILKENSON
Announced he's gay. Gay! Jeeezuz. What a ball buster!
(beat)
For Christ's sake, I'm a goddamn cop. He never told a soul.
IMAGINE!

Dan is speechless.

He rolls up the window.

WILKENSON
He's still my son!

Dan fumbles for the right words.

KELLY
My first wife left me for a woman! Another woman! I never told anyone
til now.
Kelly shoves a piece of gum in his mouth.

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

Kelly and Wilkenson respond.

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

They converse.

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

Wilkenson and the other uniform cop move to the rear.

The front door is open.

There guns are drawn.

The clerk is slumped motionless over the counter.

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

Kelly is unaware.

The officer leaps and knocks Kelly to the ground.

The shotgun is fired.

The officer is hit.

Kelly is not injured.

The robber goes through the back.

He's quickly apprehended.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Both detectives are in their office.

KELLY
I'm getting too old for this shit.

WILKENSON
You got that right! Do you know the officer who stopped the bullet?
KELLY
It happened so fast. He was put in an ambulance. SAVED MY LIFE! I plan to thank him.

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

Kelly raises his head.

KELLY
He took a bullet for me?

Kelly goes into a contemplative state.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Beth is carrying a dish to the kitchen.

She stumbles on a protruding nail.

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

BETH (V.O.)
A HAMMER?

She explores the bedroom and searches the closet.

An unlocked metal box is on the shelve.

Curiously, she opens it.

There's a wallet.

She unfolds it.

(INsert)

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

Beth holds the wallet in disbelief.

Footsteps move through the living room.

PETE (O.S.)

BETH! ARE YOU HERE?

Beth quickly places the wallet in the metal box and returns it to the shelf.
BETH (O.S.)
IN THE BEDROOM. STRAIGHTENING UP!

Pete saunters in.
Beth is centering a lamp.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Kelly approaches the nurse's desk holding a plant.

KELLY
Room number for Rick Yarder, please?

NURSE
Room 218. At the corner.

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

Rick is seated on the bed reading a book.

KELLY
Dan Kelly, homicide. You saved my life!

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

Kelly places the plant on the table.

KELLY
Hope you like ivy.

RICK
A favorite.

KELLY
The shoulder?

Rick holds his shoulder.

RICK
Feels fine. Should be out tomorrow.

KELLY
You saved and changed my life at the same time.
RICK
No need to explain!

Rick does not pursue it.

I/E. GATE LAWN - MORNING

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

He exits his truck.

Approaches the man.

PETE
Heat's brutal!

Henry is startled.

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

PETE
(loudly)
Sorry. I'LL YELL!

Pete stares at the house.

PETE
Robert Gate was murdered here?

HENRY
Huh?

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

HENRY
My boy!

Henry continues stacking loose branches.

PETE
My deepest sympathy.

HENRY
Happens.

PETE
Any leads?
Henry clears a cluster of weeds.

HENRY
Ea?

PETE
ANY LEADS?

Henry shrugs his shoulders.

HENRY
Got me!

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

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

PETE
This is the first time we met.

HENRY
Shit, I can tell you stories...

PETE
...I'll bet you can.

HENRY
Huh?

Pete begins moving away.

PETE
Got to get back to work.

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

Pete stands on the driveway.

CUT TO:

INT. FBI BUILDING - DAY

Pete enters the door which reads: MIKE BREVOR, SPECIAL INVESTIGATION AGENT.
He's enthusiastically greeted by Maggie, the receptionist.

MAGGIE
How's our long-lost friend?

PETE
Glad to be back.

MAGGIE
A stack of mail is on your desk.

PETE
Fans!

Maggie flashes a smile.

Maggie gestures.

MAGGIE
He's in his office.

Pete goes into an adjoining office.

Mike Brevor is putting down the phone.

MIKE
Good to have you back.

PETE
Good to be back.

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

Pete gives a frown of satisfaction.

PETE
No more digging through trash?

MIKE
Not unless you feel an urgent need.

Mike leans back.

MIKE
For two weeks, the vacation I promised. Starts tomorrow. And your promotion is waiting.
PETE
Music to my ears!

MIKE
Your name is cleared of the Gate murder.

Swinging in his chair.

PETE
It's okay to reveal my identity?

MIKE
Go ahead.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY
The day is crisp.
Leaves blanket the cemetery grounds.
Pete is lying on the grass.
Beth is near him.

PETE
My personal world. A cemetery!

BETH
Perfect.

PETE
Last day at work today.

BETH
Last day?
Pete starts running leaves through his hands.

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

BETH
Actually, I was crazy about you!

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

BETH
We're not in high school anymore.
Pete inhales a gulp of fresh air.

He hesitates.

PETE
I'M AN UNDERCOVER FBI AGENT!

BETH
I know.

Pete is taken aback.

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

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

BETH
Who were you supposed to investigate?

PETE
Your husband!

BETH
Robert?

PETE
Did you ever wonder where he amassed his wealth?

BETH
I have something to tell you.

PETE
What?

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

PETE
Why ask you for help? His wife.
BETH
They somehow knew Robert and I
lived in distinct worlds.
(beat)
They told me of his drug
involvement.

PETE
And...

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

PETE
Why?

BETH
Why? My so-called husband only
cared for himself. A drug lord who
hurt others for money.
(reflective)
I'll admit...I foolishly stayed for
the high living style. Dumb!

Beth places her hand on the father's tombstone.

BETH
What happens to US?

PETE
Say, I'm on vacation.

Beth places her finger on her lips.

BETH
I'M NOT GOING TOO FAR!

PETE
There's plenty to do here.

BETH
Pete, I'm scared.

PETE
Of what?

BETH
Of being charged with Robert's
murder.

PETE
Did you do it?
BETH

No!

PETE
Then, don't worry!

Beth squeezes Pete's hand.

They embrace and kiss.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

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

One can still see mowed lawns and swanky homes.

Behind Maria, a shadow lurks.

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

She drops to the ground.

Her shopping bag is scattered.

Her face rests in a pool of blood.

The gloved perpetrator releases the pipe and vanishes.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

A crowd gathers near the body.

Kelly and Wilkenson arrive.

They're approached by ANOTHER DETECTIVE.

KELLY
What do we have?

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

Wilkenson lifts the sheet.

WILKENSON
Jesus H. MARIA PINO!

He returns to Kelly.
WILKENSON
It's Maria Pino.

Kelly leans on a marked police car.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

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

He swings his chair toward Dan.

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

KELLY
Who?

WILKENSON
Adolfo Rialli. DEAD!

Dan drops his pen.

KELLY
Dead? How?

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

KELLY
Murder? Suicide?

WILKENSON
The autopsy report should be here soon.

Kelly is frustrated.

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

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

KELLY
He said he was depressed.

Frank raises his head.
WILKENSON
He wasn't kidding.

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

An OFFICER hands Frank papers.

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

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

Dan moves to his desk shaking his head.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Henry is fidgeting in the interrogation room.

Dan and Frank close the door.

Frank holds a folder filled with papers?

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

KELLY
More questions.

HENRY
Do I need a lawyer?

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

Henry bends his head toward Dan.

HENRY
Speak up, sonny!

KELLY
I SAID, IT'S YOUR CALL!

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

Henry takes a cigar from his shirt pocket.
HENRY
Do you mind? Cuban! My kid's stock.

WILKENSON
Do you know Adolfo Rialli?

HENRY
Never heard of him.

WILKENSON
How about Maria Pino?

Henry's eyes open wide.

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

WILKENSON
She was murdered.

HENRY
Ea?

WILKENSON
MURDERED!

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

Frank places his hand on Henry's shoulder.

WILKENSON
Don't get excited!

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

WILKENSON
There are things we find puzzling.

HENRY
PUZZLING? Is that what you said?

Kelly props his foot on the chair.
KELLY  
PUZZLING! Was everything you told us true?

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

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

HENRY  
Couldn't miss the noise.

KELLY  
IS YOUR HEARING GOOD ENOUGH TO DETECT A TRUCK OUTSIDE?

Henry puffs on his cigar.

HENRY  
Sounded like a truck.

KELLY  
Could you've been mistaken?

HENRY  
Huh?

KELLY  
COULD YOU BE MISTAKEN?

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

KELLY  
Maybe a dream?

HENRY  
Maybe.

Reaches in his pocket.

Throws a diamond earring on the table.

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

WILKENSON  
WHAT? YOU SAW THE KILLER?
HENRY
Yea, I recognized her. Here's her earring.

Henry puts an earring on the table.

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

KELLY
But he's your son.

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

KELLY
Henry. Who did you see?

Pulls the ashtray closer.

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

DETECTIVE
Would you testify to that?

HENRY
Hey boys! It's time for a lawyer.

Kelly glances at his watch.

KELLY
Henry, we'll be talking. Soon.

HENRY
Yeah. Yeah.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Dan and Frank are in the midst of a discussion.

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

KELLY
The guy's a storyteller.
Frank taps his pen.

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

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

Frank taps his pen harder.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Frank and Dan knock on Pete's door.

Pete answers.

    KELLY
Hi. Strange seeing you, an FBI
Agent.

Pete swings the door wide.

    PETE
Collecting trash is not easy!

    WILKENSON
Good to have you with us.

    PETE
Appreciate that!

Pete escorts them in.

    WILKENSON
Beth Gate?

Pete sees her walking out of the kitchen.

    PETE
Here she comes! Have a seat.

They relax.

    BETH
Hello. I kinda expected you.

    KELLY
Do you want an attorney?
BETH
Sounds serious!

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

Beth steps back.

BETH
PREPOSTEROUS!

PETE
Who?

KELLY
Henry Gate.

Beth is stunned.

BETH
Why? This is ridiculous.

KELLY
We want your story.

BETH
I'M INNOCENT! End of story.

KELLY
Allow me to cite possible motives.

Pete jumps in.

PETE
ARE YOU CHARGING HER?

KELLY
No. Consider the facts.

Beth listens silently.

PETE
Go ahead.

KELLY
The father said he saw you.

Beth bends forward.
BETH
TOTAL FABRICATION!

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

Pete's eyes light up.

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

BETH
Henry lied to you.

Frank puts away his notebook.

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

Frank and Dan head for the door.

INT. GATE LIVING ROOM - DAY

The two homicide Detectives are seated across from Henry.

Henry's cigar smoke fills the air.

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

Kelly cuts Henry off before he starts.

KELLY
Pardon the intrusion.

Henry's eyes light up.
HENRY
Did you arrest her yet?

KELLY
Who?

HENRY
Bitchy Beth.

KELLY
We have details to check out.

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

Dan intensely stares at Henry.

KELLY
YOU DIDN'T SEE BETH, DID YOU?

Henry takes a defensive posture.

HENRY
Huh? You calling me a liar?

Kelly leans back.

WILKENSON
What Detective Kelly means is we sometime imagine things.

HENRY
She's real, alright.

WILKENSON
Could you have been mistaken?

HENRY
Suppose.

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

Henry lowers his head.

HENRY
What does it matter? Hell, no one believes an old man.
KELLY
You can be charged for giving false information?

Henry is dazed.

HENRY
Didn't mean to hurt anyone!

KELLY
What about Beth Gate?

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

KELLY
Everyone...except Ms. Gate.

WILKENSON
We'll be getting back.

The Detectives start to leave.

HENRY
WILL I GO TO JAIL?

WILKENSON
Can't answer.

The front door closes.

Henry places his head in his hands and weeps.

INT. POLICE LAB - DAY

The big lab is loaded with technology.

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

Ken puts a folder to the side.

KEN
Dan! Long time no see. Keeping you busy?

KELLY
I'm earning my pay.

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

Bingo!

Ken pulls a folder from his pile.

Starts turning pages.

KEN

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

KELLY

The killer's prints?

KEN

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

KELLY

Good work!

KEN

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

KELLY

Sweet.

KEN

We aim to please!

Ken departs with an insightful grin.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Ken Harding enters Dan and Frank's office.

KELLY

Pretty important when the big honcho comes.

KEN

Certainly is!

KELLY

What's up?

Ken opens a folder.
KEN
The murderer in the Gate's case!

Frank and Dan immediately focus on Ken.

KELLY
What do you have?

Ken displays papers.

KEN
Lab results.

KELLY
Well?

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

The Detectives listen intently.

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

WILKENSON
Search warrants! Ken, you're a saint.

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

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Knock on Pete's door.

Pete answers.

The two Detectives are invited in.

PETE
Hello again.

WILKENSON
Hey Pete. New information on the murderer.

PETE
Go ahead.
WILKENSON
Evidently a male, with a size ten shoe.

Frank hands Pete pictures of the footprints.

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

PETE
I agree.

Detective Wilkenson begins removing official papers from his jacket.

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

The Detectives complete their search.

PETE
Who's next?

KELLY
Eccentric Henry. Our best suspect.

PETE
Wish you luck.

The apartment door closes.

I/E. GATE ESTATE - DAY

A car pulls up to the Gate house.

They walk to the front and ring the bell.

Henry answers.

HENRY
YOU TWO AGAIN!

Detective Kelly hands papers to Henry.

KELLY
Again. We have a search warrant. We're matching shoe prints.
HENRY  
Hell. You gotta be joking.

KELLY  
No joke.

HENRY  
My tax money. What a fuckin' waste.

Henry allows the officers in.

KELLY  
What's your shoe size?

Henry raises his hand to his ear

HENRY  
WHAT'S THAT?

WILKENSON  
HE ASKED YOUR SHOE SIZE!

HENRY  
Aha, medium.

Henry yanks a cigar out of his shirt pocket.

WILKENSON  
THE NUMBER?

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

WILKENSON  
Part of the investigation. Where are your shoes?

HENRY  
My shoes?

WILKENSON  
Yeah.

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

Kelly rummages through the closet.

Each shoe is matched with the photo.

He goes to each room, closet, and under the beds.
Kelly glances at his watch.

    KELLY
    The shoes are size nine.

    HENRY
    What did I say?

    WILKENSON
    Had to check.

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

    WILKENSON
    We're on our way out. Thanks.

    HENRY
    That reminds me of the Army boot story...hey...

(V.O.)

    ...dicks!

Dan and Frank bolt down the driveway.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Frank is busily going through reports.

Dan stares into space.

    WILKENSON
    What next?

    KELLY
    Start identifying all Robert's outside contacts.

    WILKENSON
    That could take forever!

Dan's eyes open wide.

    KELLY
    HOW COULD WE MISS IT?

    WILKENSON
    Miss what?

    KELLY
    Adolfo! He was alive when the murders occurred.
WILKENSON
You mean...?

KELLY
Exactly.

They fly out of the office.

CUT TO:

I/E. PET STORE - DAY

Pete and Beth are peering into a pet store window.

A flashing sign reads: THE CARING PET.

Pete pulls Beth inside.

BETH
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.

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

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

A beautifully colored, huge, parrot swivels its head.

PARROT
GET UP! GET UP!

The SALES LADY comes over.

SALES LADY
Quite a bird! That's BULFORD.

Beth moves closer.

BETH
Howdy Bulford! You're priceless.

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

BETH
Why's that?
SALES LADY
He used to be owned by a wealthy
gent who tipped the bottle once too
often. The bird was trained to
say GET UP.
(resigned)
Unfortunately, customers enjoy
sleeping. Bulford is a tough sell!

Beth places her hand on the cage.

BETH
Hope you find a nice home, Bulford.

A slew of puppies are whimpering inside the row of cages.
One is alone.
He’s far from being the most handsome.
Beth is immediately attracted.
She grabs Pete’s arm.
The plaque on the cage says: ENGLISH BULL DOG, 8 WEEKS OLD.

BETH
Isn’t he adorable?

PETE
Adorable?

BETH
He’s so homely, he’s cute.

PETE
That’s not how you pick your men, isn’t it?

BETH
Silly!

PETE
Got a name picked out?

BETH
Almo.

SALES LADY
(interrupting)
You may want to think again. It’s
a female.
BETH
Then...it’ll be Alma.

Beth squeezes the pup.

PETE
We'll take her!

INT. HOTEL - DAY
Frank and Dan approach the desk of a swank hotel.
Frank takes papers out of a folder.
The MANAGER greets them.

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

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

KELLY
You won't. Adolfo's dead.

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

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

INT. HOTEL - DAY
The Manager fiddles with his keys to open the padlock.

KELLY
I'll start with the closets.

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

Each search diligently.
Dan finds shoes in the closet.
Takes out a photo.

Kelly holds up a pair of shoes.

KELLY
Size ten alright. But no match.

They continue to search.

Detective Kelly displays a large sign and blonde wig.

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

Kelly removes hair samples from Adolfo's jacket.

The Manager goes into the luxurious bathroom.

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

He runs out.

MANAGER
There are shoes and gloves in the shower!

Frank and Dan go in.

WILKENSON
Size ten. The prints match.

KELLY
JACKPOT!

They thank the Manager for his help and depart.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Kelly is in the lab office speaking to Ken.

Ken is reviewing a report.

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

KELLY
A dead killer!

Dan rubs his head.
Dan starts for the door.
Stops halfway out.

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

INT. PETE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT
Lights are dim.
Pete walks over to the couch where Beth is lying with Alma fast asleep.
Beth slowly rises, holds Pete's hand, and enters his bedroom.
They get on the bed and stare at each other.
Beth hugs the pillow.

    BETH
    HAVE YOU EVER LOVED ANYONE?

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

    BETH
    Where will you find her?

Pete reaches over to the end table and picks up a rose.
He hands it to Beth.

    BETH
    BEAUTIFUL!

She smells the fragrance and notices a ring inside the rose.
Beth pulls it out.

    PETE
    I'VE FOUND HER!

    BETH
    You have?

    PETE
    Yep. Will you be my wife?

Beth looks at Pete, and then the ring.
BETH
Yes. YES. OF COURSE!

They passionately kiss.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Beth holds the phone to her ear.

MOTHER (V.O.)
Hello.

BETH
Hi. It's Beth.

MOTHER (V.O.)
Pumpkin!

Beth throws herself backwards on the recliner.

BETH
GUESS WHAT?

FADE OUT.

THE END