

The Brooch

By

Kendra Peterson

(C) 2018 All Rights Reserved
WGA Registered I317499

mekp88@yahoo.com

1 FADE IN:

2 INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Young maid, DELILAH ROSS (20) stirs dinner in a GUMBO POT.

She chops ONIONS, TOMATOES and PEPPERS. She stops to massage a thick BRUISE engraved around her wrist.

The kitchen door swings open. Delilah stops. ALICE BUFORD (40s), stands in the doorway. She's drunk, dressed in a silk robe. She drinks from a wine glass.

DELILAH

Supper is almost ready, Mrs. Buford.

ALICE

Come with me, Delilah.

Alice lets go of her wine glass, it SHATTERS on the floor. Delilah flinches at the sound.

3 INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Three loose chipped PEARLS and an ENVELOPE lay side by side on a long oak dining table.

Alice sits at the head, Delilah stands beside her, quiet. Alice slowly slides the pearls closer to her.

ALICE

You ever seen these before?

DELILAH

No, ma'am.

ALICE

I found these in my bedroom. You'd tell me if another woman was in my house, won't you Delilah?

DELILAH

Yes, Mrs. Buford.

ALICE

You swear?

DELILAH

Yes, ma'am, I swear.

The wine bottle THUMPS on the table as Alice trades it for

the pearls. She brings them to her nose and inhales.

ALICE
It smells like her.

DELILAH
Like who, Mrs. Buford?

ALICE
Like that woman. Cheap like her
perfume. Cheap like her skin.

DELILAH
Mr. Buford would never hurt you.

Alice smiles at her innocence.

ALICE
You're a good girl aren't you Delilah?

DELILAH
Yes, ma'am.

ALICE
All good girls deserve rewards.

Alice reaches for the envelope. She reveals a wad of money.
She fans the crisp dollar bills. Delilah watches.

ALICE
A girl like you could do a lot of
things with money like this. Buy
yourself a nice dress or do something
nice for your mother.

DELILAH
She's sick and she needs things.

ALICE
Perfect. It's yours.

Alice tosses the money on the table. Delilah reaches for it,
Alice grabs her wrist, stopping her.

ALICE
It's yours if you do this one thing.

DELILAH
Yes?

ALICE
Kill my husband.

Delilah tries to remove her arm from Alice's hand. Alice tightens her grip, yanks Delilah down to her level.

Alice leans into her ear.

ALICE
(whispers)
Gregory is cheating on me. We have to kill him.

With wide eyes, Delilah slowly stands up.

DELILAH
What?

ALICE
Kill. Him.

She lets Delilah go, takes a small BOTTLE from her pocket, gives it to Delilah.

Delilah reads, quickly looks up from the bottle, frightened.

DELILAH
Poison, Mrs. Buford?

ALICE
I got it from the farmer up the street. He told me it could kill any vermin in seconds.

DELILAH
You told him you want to kill a man?

ALICE
I told him I want to kill a rat. You kill that rat, Delilah.

Delilah puts the bottle down on the table. She shakes her head, steps back.

DELILAH
I can't do that. This is the liquor talking. You don't mean this.

Alice roughly yanks Delilah by her arm, keeping her in place.

ALICE

You do as I say, little girl or I'll send you packing with the nothing you came here with. The choice is yours.

Delilah nervously stares at the poison, the money, the chipped pearls.

Keys JINGLE in the distance.

GREGORY (O.S)

I'm home.

Delilah snatches the bottle off the table, stuffs it in her apron pocket. Alice hides the money in her lap.

GREGORY BUFORD (40s) enters the room. He's in a suit, occupied with his briefcase. Alice forces a smile.

ALICE

Honey, home so soon?

GREGORY

Yeah, short day at the office.

He sits at the other end of the table.

ALICE

Just in time for supper. Delilah made gumbo.

Gregory eyes Delilah. She immediately looks away.

GREGORY

Is that so?

DELILAH

Yes sir.

ALICE

Well, Delilah, we can't wait any longer.

DELILAH

Yes ma'am.

Delilah turns to walk away. Alice watches her.

ALICE

And don't forget to put that special seasoning in his. Gregory likes his

extra spicy.

With her back turned, Delilah slowly nods.

4 INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Two BOWLS of gumbo rest on the kitchen counter. Delilah stares at them. With shaky hands she takes the bottle of poison from her apron.

She clasps her hands around the bottle, she closes her eyes. She prays.

5 INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Delilah serves. Alice carefully watches her place one bowl of gumbo in front of herself and another in front of Gregory.

GREGORY

Well, this smells wonderful.

Gregory eats a spoon full.

GREGORY

(mouth full)

I'll be damned, this might be the best gumbo ever. Try it, Alice.

Alice looks at Delilah. She gives Alice a reassuring nod.

Alice eats a spoon full.

ALICE

This is really good. You out did yourself Delilah.

DELILAH

Thank you.

Delilah nervously stands there. Both her and Alice look at Gregory as he eats. Nothing happens. Alice darts her eyes to Delilah. Delilah shrugs.

ALICE

(angry)

Well, don't just stand there, get us some tea to go with this gumbo.

Delilah hurries to the kitchen. Gregory opens a newspaper from his briefcase and reads. Alice angrily stares at him.

Frustrated, Alice jams her spoon in the gumbo and eats.

ALICE

That girl can't do a damn thing right.
I want her gone. I mean it this time,
Gregory, I don't care where she goes.

GREGORY

Sure, honey.

6 INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Delilah rests her head on the closed kitchen door. She closes her eyes. A muffled THUMP comes from the other side of the door.

Delilah's eyes quickly open.

7 INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

She peeks around the door, slowly walks into the room. Alice head lays in her bowl of gumbo. Her eyes are wide open. At the other end, Gregory stands and walks to Alice.

He feels for a pulse.

She's dead. Stunned, he looks to Delilah.

She makes a run for the kitchen. Gregory hurries after her. He stops her by the arm and yanks her back. He slams her up against the door, hard enough to hit her head.

Delilah weakly fights him, he traps her arms. He jerks them up by her wrist and holds them above her.

His grip overlaps her bruise perfectly.

He forces kisses on her neck, unzips his pants. Delilah no longer fights, she blankly looks out into space.

Suddenly, his head plops down onto her shoulder. His arms fall down to his sides. His weight leans on her completely. His body is limp.

Delilah pushes him off. Gregory falls to the floor.

He's dead.

She steps over him, goes to Alice, pulls the money from her lap. She takes off her apron, throws it on Alice's body. Delilah leaves.

As she walks away, we see A PEARL BROOCH nestled in her bun.
Three empty spaces where chipped pearls once laid.

END