

# CARLTON

## *Heights*

Episode 01 -  
"I Know There's Something  
Going On" a/k/a "Pilot"

by  
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TEASER

INT.- CARLTON MANOR FOYER - NIGHT

A rainstorm is battering the mansion, as thunder crashes and lightning flashes through the many windows.

In an upstairs bedroom YOUNG RUTH and YOUNG EDGAR are arguing, the sound is muffled as A YOUNG MAN wearing a raincoat and hat comes through the front door and into the foyer. The man hears the muffled argument and makes his way up the grand staircase.

INT.- CARLTON MANOR SECOND FLOOR BEDROOM - NIGHT

YOUNG RUTH and YOUNG EDGAR are fighting while a baby cries in a bassinet.

YOUNG RUTH  
You can't do this to me, Edgar.

YOUNG EDGAR  
I am doing this and there isn't anything  
you can do about it.

YOUNG EDGAR walks to the baby

YOUNG EDGAR (CONT'D)  
I am her father, she belongs with me.

YOUNG RUTH  
I'm her...

YOUNG EDGAR  
Don't even insult the word "mother" by  
including yourself in the category. You  
aren't worthy of the title.

YOUNG RUTH  
Think about what everyone will say. What  
they're going to think.

YOUNG EDGAR  
This is for the best Ruth. You've  
changed..

YOUNG RUTH  
Of course I've changed. You made me  
change! You're doing this because of HIM  
aren't you!

The young man enters the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOUNG RUTH (CONT'D)

Get out of here! Get out of my house!

YOUNG EDGAR

(TO THE YOUNG MAN)

Here's our bags, take them to the car.

The YOUNG MAN takes the bags and leaves the room.

YOUNG RUTH

I'm begging you, I'll do whatever you want. I will tell, I will tell everybody.

YOUNG EDGAR

You will do nothing of the kind. I know you and I know what you really care about. You would be ruined if anything were to come out.

YOUNG RUTH

You son of a bitch, after all I've done for you.

YOUNG EDGAR

You haven't done anything for me. It was all for you. Goodbye Ruth.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - FOYER - NIGHT

Young Edgar walks down the staircase where the Young Man is waiting by the door. Young Ruth is still at the top of the stairs.

YOUNG EDGAR

Don't worry, you can have the house and you will be taken care of. Isn't that what you really want anyway?

YOUNG RUTH

I will kill you, I will kill you both!

Young Edgar walks out the door as Young Ruth runs down the stairs. Her nightgown gets caught on the railings and she tumbles down the flight screaming.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - RUTH CARLTON'S BEDROOM - DAY

50 years later

RUTH, now an old woman is sitting in a wheelchair looking out her window. Down below a moving van is unpacking in Avenue Sea, the cul-de-sac.

EXT. AVENUE SEA - MORNING

LARRY and ZIMMY BUSTAMANTE come out of their house carrying a giant rolled up paper sign and a picnic basket while pushing their TWIN BABIES in a stroller. Across the cul-de-sac AIDAN PALMER is washing his car. He is bare chested and wearing tight skimpy shorts. ZIMMY takes a moment to stare across the cul-de-sac while LARRY tries to unroll the sign.

LARRY

Zimmy please help me with this, I want everything to be perfect when the Irvings arrive. I want their first impression of the neighborhood to be our smiling faces and this sign.

ZIMMY

Shouldn't we at least let them unpack?

LARRY

And let Marty Mitchell get to them first! One is already working for Ronald Mitchell. We are going to make these people our best friends if it kills me.

Zimmy helps Larry hold up the sign which reads in huge letters: "WELCOME TO AVENUE SEA"

LARRY (CONT'D)

I can't believe Aidan is just washing his car. He is supposed to help me.

ZIMMY

I'll go get him, it looks like he could use MY help.

A car drives into the cul-de-sac, inside is DYLAN and SCOTT IRVING.

LARRY

Oh my goodness, it's them. They're here. Quick, go get Aidan... Quick! Oh my, oh my!

DYLAN

(INSIDE THE CAR)

Our new home, a cul-de-sac and an ocean view. I love it! I can't believe you did all of this on your own. How did I get so lucky?

SCOTT

You married a very smart man. So you're not disappointed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

Not at all. This is great! I wonder if the people are friendly.

SCOTT

I've met Ronald Mitchell and he seems pretty friendly.

As the car approaches the IRVING house, Aidan, wet and practically naked arrives with Zimmy. Dylan and Scott both see the three men fighting to hold up the sign. The Irvings pull into their driveway on the left side of the Bustamante home. Before the car is at a complete spot, Larry is pushing his way closer and opening the car door for Dylan.

LARRY

Hi ya neighbor, welcome to Carlton Heights and Avenue Sea. I'm Larry Bustamante of the next-door Bustamantes. We're your typical family, two kids, family dog named Tiger. These are my babies Donald and Kelly, this is Zimmy, my husband and this is Aidan Palmer from right across the street. Now don't tell me, you are Dylan Irving, famous writer and you are loving husband Scott Irving, newest transfer to M&A Bank.

Larry hands the picnic basket to Dylan without taking a breath:

LARRY (CONT'D)

I made you a special welcome to the neighborhood picnic basket. Something to give you a little pep while unpacking. There's some homemade fruit bars, some muffins, a little homemade cocoa, and of course some handcrafted potpourri to give your new house that fresh scent. We just want your move be as comfortable as possible.

SCOTT

I think you can safely say the natives are friendly.

As the camera pulls back, we see Zimmy has his hands firmly planted on Aidan's butt while Dylan smiles shyly and Larry beams ear to ear.

END OF TEASER.

ACT ONE

EXT. AVENUE SEA - MORNING

Dylan, Scott, Larry, Zimmy and Aidan are talking in the Irving's driveway.

DYLAN  
So you live next door?

LARRY  
That's right and next door to us are the Mitchell's, your new boss and his lovely husband Marty and then...

AIDAN  
My house. You'll excuse my appearance.

SCOTT  
That's fine. It is pretty hot out here.

LARRY  
I hear you're from the Midwest somewhere. Walamazoo, or ...

DYLAN  
I was born in Wausau, Wisconsin but we're actually moving from Los Angeles.

LARRY  
Oh Los Angeleees, how fancy. I hope we aren't going to bore you with our little town ways!

DYLAN  
I doubt that. It's just so nice to be here and it's so nice to meet all of you.

ZIMMY  
It's a real pleasure. I'm sure we'll be seeing more of each other.

Zimmy holds onto Dylan's hand longer than normal and Dylan finally pulls it away.

DYLAN  
We were expecting the Mitchell's to meet us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

Ronald is running late and Marty, the poor dear had to work at the coffee shop. I filled in at the last moment I hope you don't mind.

DYLAN

Not at all. We have a picnic basket.

ZIMMY

Aidan wasn't there something you wanted me to take care of at your house? Some problem with drains or pipes?

LARRY

Aidan moved in just a few months ago as well. We've been looking after him. Poor dear has no skills whatsoever when it comes to home maintenance and I'm just so busy with the twins poor Zimmy is always running over to help him. There always seems to be something wrong at this boy's house. If it's not the plumbing, it's the gutters that need to be cleaned out.

DYLAN

I'll bet. So who lives up there?

AIDAN

The Wicked Witch of the West.

LARRY

Aidan.

AIDAN

Actually my grandmother.

ZIMMY

So about that pipe.

AIDAN

I think it can wait.

LARRY

It's so exciting to meet a published writer. We have a singer in town too. We could become the new Bohemia. Now wouldn't that be exciting? Haley, that's our resident songstress, sings at Marty's coffee shop.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AIDAN

Larry, are you thinking what I'm thinking?

LARRY

Oh my goodness, yes. A pot luck dinner!

DYLAN

A what?

LARRY

Yes, a special "Welcome to the Neighborhood" dinner in your honor.

SCOTT

We couldn't.

DYLAN

Really, we couldn't.

LARRY

A big neighborhood fiesta. You and Scott, and me and Zimmy and Ron, and Marty will love the idea, and of course you'll be there right Aidan?

AIDAN

I wouldn't miss it for the world.

LARRY

Really, I insist. It will give us all a chance to get to know each other.

DYLAN

How can we possibly refuse?

LARRY

Great, we'll see you around 7. Oh now I have so much to do, I will leave you with your basket of goodies and see you tonight. Zimmy, it's bonding time with the babies.

ZIMMY

(LEANING INTO AIDAN:)

That pipe won't clean itself you know.

Zimmy gives Aidan's butt one last squeeze.

ZIMMY (CONT'D)

Coming darling. I'll see you all tonight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DYLAN

We better start unpacking the car, don't you think honey?

SCOTT

Well it was nice to meet you.

AIDAN

You too, I'll see you tonight.

DYLAN

Yes, we'll BOTH be there tonight.

Dylan begins unloading the trunk as Scott watches Aidan walk away.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

(HEAD STILL IN TRUNK)

You better not be watching him walk away.

Scott turns around and heads to help Dylan with the bags.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

I can't believe you. Could you look at him just a little longer?

SCOTT

I could but I think you would get mad.

Dylan throws a bag into Scott's chest.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Come on I'm just kidding, you know it's you I love.

Scott puts the bag down and goes after Dylan. Scott catches Dylan and picks him up.

DYLAN

Cut it out, we have things to do.

SCOTT

That's right, we do. We're going to do this right.

DYLAN

Do what right?

SCOTT

I'm carrying you over the threshold.

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

Inside the vacant coffee house HALEY OSBOURNE is performing on a make shift stage, she is alone with an acoustic guitar singing a strange Irish folk song. MARTY MITCHELL comes out from the back room as HALEY finishes up her song. MARTY is behind the counter pouring coffee for himself.

HALEY  
(SPEAKS IN A BAD FAKE BRITISH  
ACCENT)  
So what do you think?

MARTY  
Honestly?

HALEY  
Of course.

MARTY  
I think it's time you headed up the hill  
to your other career.

HALEY  
Mrs. Carlton can wait for her tea; I want  
to know what you thought of the song. I  
based it on an old Irish hymn I heard  
when I was a child in England.

MARTY  
Haley, you were never a ...

HALEY  
What?

MARTY  
Nothing, I loved it. It was very  
(searching for words) hymnal??

HALEY  
Thank you, I thought the exact same  
thing. Why are you even here? I thought  
you had new neighbors moving in today?

MARTY  
We do, but I am not in the mood to be  
gracious and forthcoming to a couple of  
strangers.

HALEY  
I thought you wanted new friends?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

What I want is a new life. I don't need a bunch of neighbors running over to my house every two seconds with gossip and dramatics.

HALEY

But you love gossip.

MARTY

Okay gossip is fine but I'm not about to help anyone with dramatics besides if I know Larry he has already gotten to them with one of his famous picnic baskets and handcrafted signs. He's probably even planning a potluck.

HALEY

Better stop at the store for Entemann's.

RONALD MITCHELL enters

RONALD

You are supposed to be greeting my new vice president.

MARTY

You're supposed to be a loving husband, guess we're both disappointed.

HALEY

It's time for me to get going.

RONALD

Hello Haley, still working up the music I see.

HALEY

It's my passion.

MARTY

And ours, seriously.

HALEY

It was nice to see you, Ronald, but I'm off to see the crab on the hill. Wish me luck.

RONALD

Why do you even work for her if she's so awful?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HALEY

Awful, yes but she pays me a little more than I make here. Besides there's a lot of stuff in that old house that needs dusting.

MARTY

And snooping.

HALEY

Of course. Cherio!

RONALD

I thought you would be home by now. I specifically asked you to meet Scott and his husband when they arrived. You know how important this is.

MARTY

If it's so important why aren't you there?

RONALD

I told you I had some business to take care of and I wanted you to apologize for me not being there. They are going to think we aren't very hospitable.

MARTY

We're not.

RONALD

You're not.

MARTY

You want to make a good impression, you want them to be your new friends, fine, but I have more important things to do than create some image of happiness that is far removed from what we really are.

RONALD

Why can't you just do what I ask, just once?

MARTY

I did, I opened up this little shop to keep me busy while you have your trysts! Is that where you were today? Meeting up with some new investment? Or was it Aidan? Is he your latest banking associate?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RONALD

Do you know how stupid you sound right now?

The phone rings so Marty turns to a pleasant voice.

MARTY

Marty's Mayhem, how can I help you? Oh hi Larry. Oh, you met them. Great. I'm glad you like them. What? Dinner? Tonight?

RONALD

Tell him yes, tell him yes.

MARTY

No, I don't think I could. But. Larry. Fine, 7 o'clock.

Marty hangs up the phone.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Happy? Now I have to run out for some Entemann's.

EXT. OUTSIDE CARLTON MANOR - DAY

Haley is walking up the tree lined lane singing to herself. A MAN IN BLACK is following her from a safe distance. Haley hears something and turns around. The Man is gone but she runs to the door of the mansion and inside.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - FOYER - DAY

Ruth is holding onto the stair banister trying to get into her wheelchair as Haley enters, out of breath.

RUTH

There you are stupid girl. I could've killed myself.

HALEY

Mrs. Carlton, I think someone was following me!

RUTH

Who would follow you? One of your devoted fans from that freak's coffee shop?

HALEY

I see you're as concerned about my safety as I am over yours.

INT. BUSTAMANTE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The dinner party. Scott, Ronald, and Zimmy are talking in the living room. Marty, Dylan and Aidan are on the other side of the room talking when Larry comes out carrying hoer d'oveures. He will continue to come in and out of the room through out the dialogue.

MARTY

So I understand you're a writer.

DYLAN

Yes, I am.

AIDAN

We're dying to know what you've written.

MARTY

The great American novel no doubt.

DYLAN

Actually, no, it's more of a how to book.

LARRY

Really, how to what?

DYLAN

How to tell if your husband is cheating on you.

AIDAN

Sounds right up your alley, Marty.

DYLAN

It's more of a humor piece than anything. It's called "Is He A Cheating Bastard? 10 Easy Steps To Find Out".

MARTY

Now that is fabulous. Do you have any more of these little nuggets coming out?

DYLAN

I wasn't sure what I was going to write about next but I think this town would make the perfect centerpiece for a novel. I couldn't find a single thing about it anywhere.

MARTY

Probably because there isn't much to learn and even less to care about.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

I don't know about that. I think the whole thing sounds grand. I'm a recent transplant as well.

DYLAN

Did you move here to be near your grandmother?

AIDAN

It's a long story, quite tragic as well.

MARTY

I'll just bet.

AIDAN

I never actually knew my grandmother before moving here. My mother was born in Carlton Heights and after she died I decided to look up some relatives then I decided to settle here.

DYLAN

Really? So you didn't know anyone?

AIDAN

No, but as you can see I've made many friends.

MARTY

Many, many friends.

LARRY

Aidan, dear could you give me a hand in the kitchen?

AIDAN

Excuse me Dylan. We'll talk more about this though, it would be great to talk to you more privately about our common desire in this town, don't you think?

DYLAN

Umm sure...

AIDAN

And to have your husband along, why I think the three of us would get on famously.

LARRY

Aidan please, my pop ups are about to fall.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AIDAN  
Duty calls.

Aidan touches Dylan's shoulder and walks away. On his way to the kitchen he stops by the other men. He "accidentally" touches Scott on the butt.

AIDAN (CONT'D)  
Oh excuse me boys.

RONALD  
(TO SCOTT)  
I want to apologize again for not meeting you here this morning.

SCOTT  
Oh, that's fine; we had more than our share of things to do.

ZIMMY  
I'm sure Larry was greeting enough.

SCOTT  
It was a zealous greeting.

ZIMMY  
He loves to entertain.

Aidan walks back into the room to Ronald, Scott and Zimmy with a tray of food. This time he brushes up against Ronald.

RONALD  
And speaking of entertaining.

AIDAN  
Anybody want a piece?

EXT. CARLTON MANOR - NIGHT

Ruth is in her wheelchair on her veranda outside her dining room. She is looking down over the houses in the town and has a fairly good view of the cul-de-sac. Haley is behind her setting the dinner table.

HALEY  
Mrs. Carlton what are you doing out there?

RUTH  
Do you smell that? That stench?

HALEY  
It's tomato bisque. Your favorite.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

Not that! Dirtiness, evil. Can't you smell it? It's coming from right down there. All of them filthy filthy little..

HALEY

Mrs. Carlton you should come in. You're just going to upset yourself.

RUTH

Upset myself, it's them. They're the ones upsetting me you stupid child. With their parties, and their sex, filthy dirty sex. You can just bet they are all fucking each other.

HALEY

Mrs. Carlton, you should calm down.

RUTH

And you know the worst of it is that grandson of mine is right up in there, getting it from all of them I'll bet.

HALEY

Getting what?

RUTH

Getting what? How stupid are you girlie? Getting shagged, whatever it is they call it in that country you insist you're from. They're getting it up the butt! That's what's going on down there, Sodom and Gomorrah. My poor Edgar would have a heart attack if he weren't already dead.

HALEY

(UNDER HER BREATH)

Or hadn't left your arse 150 years ago.

RUTH

I should poison the water, that's what I should do.

INT. BUSTAMANTE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Marty and Dylan are still talking to each other by the bar.

MARTY

So what do you think of your new neighbors?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

I haven't really got to know anyone yet.

MARTY

Well let me be the one to do the introductions. I am of course, Marty, patron bitter pill and loather of all things bland.

DYLAN

And you own the coffee shop in town.

MARTY

I run the local café, Marty's Mayhem.

DYLAN

Oh a café! I was thinking of getting a part time job. Are you looking for any help?

MARTY

We don't get too busy and when we do Haley is there to pick up the slack. I mean it's not like I serve food or anything.

DYLAN

You don't serve food?

MARTY

Oh no, I can't cook!

DYLAN

So it's just..

MARTY

Coffee.

DYLAN

Like espresso, oh and café au lait.

MARTY

No, coffee, like Folgers.

DYLAN

You said Haley worked for you. Larry mentioned her earlier. She's a singer right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARTY

Right, if you want to go that far. Her enthusiasm far outreaches her talent so I let her sing at my café just to make her happy. She's a very interesting gal. Thinks she's British.

DYLAN

She thinks she's British? You mean she's not?

MARTY

No, born and raised in Carlton Heights. One summer she went to Pacoima for beauty school, came back three months later with a bad perm and an even worse accent. Suddenly she swore she was Ozzy Osbourne's illegitimate daughter. Which though I'm not hard pressed to believe still doesn't explain the accent.

DYLAN

Why isn't she here tonight?

MARTY

Her second job working for Ruth Carlton serving up the old prune whatever banshees feed on. Probably young children.

DYLAN

Ruth Carlton. On the hill?

MARTY

Lives on the hill, owns the hill, used to own the town. Rumor has it her husband left her taking Aidan's mother with him when she was just a baby.

DYLAN

Really? Now there's something you won't find in the tour books.

MARTY

I can't say I blame the man for leaving the old bat. In my opinion, we'd all be the victors if Haley opted for arsenic rather than a sugar cube the next time she hands the old woman her morning tea. She doesn't like US people. Been a bane in our sides ever since we started taking over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Larry approaches Dylan and Marty with hoer d' oveures

DYLAN

You mean gay people?

LARRY

Gay people? Are you kidding? I'm sure that's not what Marty is referring to at all. Who's gay? (beat) You writers and your imagination. Gay? Of all things.

DYLAN

(TO MARTY)

Is he serious?

MARTY

Larry is a tad on the conservative side. I'm afraid it has come as a great shock to him that he is indeed homosexual. He's a REAGAN lover. He spent ten hours waiting to see the casket.

DYLAN

This is all fascinating. Continue, give me the dish.

MARTY

Of course you've met the lovely Bustamantes, sexy Zimmy and his Spanish ways. His family lived in Carlton Heights forever. They were migrant workers for the Carltons, working on the vineyards for years.

Marty takes Dylan to the side

MARTY (CONT'D)

I didn't want to say anything within earshot of Larry but Zimmy's grandfather was left a huge chunk of land when Edgar Carlton disappeared, and the clincher is his grandfather disappeared soon after.

DYLAN

Really? What does that mean?

MARTY

You tell me. I guess it's irrelevant now since the Bustamante family is all dead. Zimmy got the parcel of land and it was all Larry's doing it became this quaint little neighborhood. I've never quite forgiven him for that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DYLAN

Does Jimmy still work the vineyard?

MARTY

There isn't any vineyard anymore. He runs Jimmy's Bistro at the end of town. Highly elegant but a stupid name if you ask me.

DYLAN

Well it's no Marty's Mayhem.

MARTY

You aren't kidding. Let's continue shall we? The lady of the house needs no introduction. Mrs. Larry Bustamante, hostess extraordinaire and now mother to boot. All in such a short time too. Then there's Aidan Palmer.

DYLAN

I don't think I really care for that one. I mean, does he have a job? Or clothes?

MARTY

Ironically he owns a clothing store in town but apparently they're too spendy for him to even purchase. Now you have to promise to give me an acknowledgement in your book should you use any of these little tidbits.

DYLAN

I could never use other people's miseries for my own profit.

Dylan and Marty look at each other and laugh.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

I hope you don't think I'm presumptuous but I think you're my new best friend.

MARTY

I'll drink to that.

Marty and Dylan toast each other.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. THE BUSTAMANTE HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Larry and Aidan come out of the kitchen carrying more food.

LARRY

Oh no, it looks like there's not enough room for everyone. Aidan would you be a dear. I have some folding chairs in the garage. Could you please get them for me? I have to check on the twins. All this excitement I'm sure they're not able to sleep. I know I couldn't.

DYLAN

Could I see the twins?

LARRY

You want to see my babies? Come on, everyone, come.

RONALD

I think I'll go help Aidan in the garage.

MARTY

I'll bet you will.

LARRY

Don't be ridiculous. You haven't seen the babies in forever. Zimmy can help Aidan.

ZIMMY

Of course.

LARRY

Oh, you're so sweet.

MARTY

I think I'll just stay and have another round.

INT. THE BUSTAMANTE GARAGE - NIGHT

Aidan is bending over looking under a shelf for the chairs. Zimmy walks up behind him.

ZIMMY

It seems like every time we meet, you're bending over.

AIDAN

There's a reason for that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Zimmy walks over to Aidan as he starts unbuttoning his pants.

AIDAN (CONT'D)  
Aren't you afraid of the guests?

ZIMMY  
They're upstairs with the twins. We have time for a quick little bite of our own.

AIDAN  
You know I can't help but feel a little guilty.

Aidan now has his pants dropped as Zimmy drops his and bends Aidan over the shelf.

AIDAN (CONT'D)  
Larry is like my own mother.

ZIMMY  
That makes me your daddy.

AIDAN  
Oh daddy.

The two begin to have a fast and frenzied sexual encounter.

EXT. CARLTON MANOR - NIGHT

Ruth is on the veranda off of her bedroom. She is looking for something around her wheel chair.

RUTH  
Where are those binoculars?

Ruth picks up the binoculars and scans the houses seeing the lights at the Bustamante house. She can see in but can't make out the people.

RUTH (CONT'D)  
Damn, I'm going to have to get better ones. These are useless.

HALEY  
Maybe it's the cataracts.

RUTH  
I am telling you Haley something's got to happen. I have to rid myself of this vermin taking over my town. I swear to you, I will get rid of them all, including my grandson.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HALEY  
I know you will.

RUTH  
They're sick, and right now I just know  
something disgusting is going on.

INT. THE BUSTAMANTE GARAGE - NIGHT

Inside the garage, Jimmy and Aidan are having sex. Jimmy has Aidan up against the washer. Aidan is being banged into the washer with Jimmy behind him. Aidan reaches up for support and accidentally turns on the machine.

INT. THE BUSTAMANTE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Marty is fixing himself another drink. He sees a photo of Larry, Jimmy and the twins.

MARTY  
Typical American family, I could puke.

Marty hears a banging noise coming from the other room so he wanders into:

INT. THE BUSTAMANTE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Marty walks through the kitchen and towards the garage door. He puts his ear to the door and hears the grunts. He rolls his eyes and takes another big gulp of his drink.

INT. BUSTAMANTE HOUSE - TWINS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Larry, Ronald, Scott and Dylan are standing around the bassinet. Larry hands Kelly to Ronald.

LARRY  
There you are, go to Uncle Ronald.

RONALD  
Larry, you know I'm not good with kids.

LARRY  
Dylan, it was Ronald who helped us get  
the children in the first place.

DYLAN  
Really?

RONALD  
A lawyer friend of mine arranged the  
whole thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

Was it hard to adopt?

LARRY

Not at all. It helps that both Zimmy and I come from such upstanding backgrounds of course. Have you thought of having children?

SCOTT

Dylan is enough of a handful.

LARRY

Oh I know what you mean. Zimmy and the twins are enough to keep me at the washing machine day and night.

INT. THE BUSTAMANTE GARAGE - NIGHT

Aidan and Zimmy are still going at it when suddenly the whole washing machine begins shaking as the boys climax.

AIDAN

Now that was fun.

ZIMMY

You are the best.

AIDAN

Thanks Daddy.

INT. THE BUSTAMANTE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Marty is leaning against the kitchen counter when Ronald enters the kitchen.

RONALD

Are you stealing the silverware?

MARTY

Hah, you're a regular comedian.

RONALD

Where's Zimmy?

MARTY

Don't you mean where's Aidan?

RONALD

Are you going to start on that again?

Ronald heads to the garage door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

I wouldn't go in there. I think your boy  
toy is ocupado.

RONALD

Why don't you head back to the bar?

MARTY

That's the best suggestion you've had in  
years.

Zimmy and Aidan come out of the garage carrying folding  
chairs.

AIDAN

Oh, hi Ronald, you're looking good.

MARTY

Washing clothes were you?

Marty exits. Zimmy and Aidan head to the door but Ronald  
stops Aidan.

INT. THE BUSTAMANTE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Marty enters the living room as Larry, Dylan and Scott make  
their way to the buffet table. Zimmy begins setting up some  
of the chairs.

LARRY

And that's why I don't think I'll ever  
have the heart to tell them they were  
adopted.

DYLAN

But don't you think they'll know. I mean  
you are..

LARRY

What? A loving mother, a good cook?

DYLAN

Well, they'll have two fathers.

LARRY

The more the better I've always said.

DYLAN

I just mean, when they're old enough to  
know that a man can't get pregnant.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

Marty, how is that drink? Can I get you a refill?

MARTY

Always.

SCOTT

(TO DYLAN)

Are you enjoying yourself?

DYLAN

Immensely.

INT. THE BUSTAMANTE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ronald has Aidan cornered.

RONALD

What was going on in there?

AIDAN

In there? In the garage? Nothing. Are you getting jealous?

RONALD

No, I just want to know if there's something going on.

AIDAN

Ronald, you know you're the only guy for me.

Ronald kisses Aidan trying to push him towards the garage door.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Ronald, please, we're at a party. Besides I'm not the kind of guy who does quickies in my neighbor's garage. Come on, help me with these chairs.

RONALD

But I need you.

AIDAN

Well Larry needs chairs. Come on. Later. Tonight.

The two share a quick kiss.

INT. THE BUSTAMANTE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone is standing near the table ready to dig in. Aidan and Ronald come out from the kitchen carrying more chairs.

LARRY

Thank you boys for the chairs. I hope it wasn't too much trouble.

MARTY

I think they were having some trouble pulling out (beat) The chairs.

LARRY

There I think everything is perfect. Oh my goodness Aidan, you look absolutely flushed. I think you might be coming down with something.

MARTY

(aside)

Going down with something is more like it.

LARRY

Please, everyone sit.

The group all gathers around the enormous table.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I'd like to propose a toast. Welcome to our new neighbors. May we all get to be lifelong friends and remain as happy as we are today!

The group clanks their glasses together, though Marty downs his drink rather than cheer with Ronald.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CUL-DE-SAC - NIGHT

As the party goes on a black car is waiting in the cul-de-sac. Inside, the man in black who was following Haley is now watching the Bustamante house. He is writing something in a small notebook. In the notes are the names of all the Avenue Sea residents.

INT. IRVING BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Dylan and Scott are in bed with the lights out. Dylan gets out of bed. Scott rolls over.

SCOTT

What are you doing out of bed?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

I can't sleep. (puts his hand on stomach)  
I think that gumbo got the best of me.  
I'm just going to go downstairs and do  
some writing. Go back to sleep.

Dylan walks over to the desk on the right hand side of the bed, grabs a pencil and yellow note pad.

INT. IRVING HOUSE - NIGHT

Dylan walks down the stairs and through the living room out into:

EXT. IRVING VERANDA - NIGHT

Dylan sits on a chair looking over the water. He hears whispering coming from the right side of his house. Aidan and Ronald are talking to each other but Dylan can't hear them. Dylan gets up from the chair and sneaks to the right to try and hear who is talking.

RONALD

The old woman used some law firm in San Francisco to do the will. I can handle that part, but what I need you to do is get into the house.

AIDAN

It's not that easy. The old woman is indestructible.

RONALD

No one is indestructible. Particularly old people. They have accidents all the time. They fall, Aidan, they fall and they hurt themselves, sometimes they even die.

AIDAN

Yeah, well what about Haley?

RONALD

You can take care of Haley I'm sure. I don't know why you're acting so paranoid now. This was your idea.

AIDAN

I know, but so many things could go wrong. I just want to be careful. What about our newest residents?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RONALD

You wanted me to find them and I did.

AIDAN

I didn't necessarily want you to bring them to Carlton Heights.

RONALD

If there is one thing I learned it's to keep your friends close and your enemies closer. Now don't worry your sweet little head any more. I have another head you can worry about.

AIDAN

Here?

RONALD

It never bothered you before.

Aidan goes down to his knees as Dylan looks over the veranda and to the right to see who it is talking. Dylan's foot hits the chair behind him making a sound. Dylan runs back in the house.

Aidan and Ronald walk around the house to where they heard the sound.

AIDAN

We better get back to our houses.

Dylan peers out the window, pulling back the curtain.

DYLAN

Ronald? Not Jimmy? Ronald and Jimmy??

Dylan peers back out the window just as Scott comes up behind and puts his hand on Dylan's shoulder. Dylan jumps.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

(Loud whisper) What are you doing?

SCOTT

(whisper) I wanted to see what you were up to?

Scott looks out the window. He turns to Dylan.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

(Still whispering) What are YOU doing? And why are you whispering?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN  
Because I like the quiet.

SCOTT  
You're spying aren't you?

DYLAN  
No, I am not spying. I think there was a  
deer out there.

SCOTT  
A deer?

DYLAN  
(louder) Yes a deer.

SCOTT  
Shh...They'll hear you.

DYLAN  
Who?

SCOTT  
Whoever you're spying on.

DYLAN  
I'm going to bed.

EXT. CARLTON MANOR - RUTH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley is checking on Ruth who is fast asleep. Haley walks to the window to close it when she spots the binoculars. She takes them out and looks down on the cul-de-sac where she sees Aidan and Ronald walking together from the Irving house.

HALEY  
Aidan, what are you up to?

RUTH  
They can't hear you, you know. Stupid  
girl.

EXT. THE CUL-DE-SAC - NIGHT

The man in black is sitting in the car watching the cul-de-sac. He writes down the time and circles the name: "IRVING"

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

INT. IRVING KITCHEN - MORNING

Dylan is dressed in a robe cooking eggs when Scott enters.

SCOTT

You're cooking? Aren't you feeling well?

DYLAN

It's your first day at your new job. I wanted to do something special for my man. Now sit down and have some breakfast.

Dylan smiles and hums as he serves Scott.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Aren't you going to eat?

SCOTT

Yes, I just wanted to see today's newspaper. Find out what's happening in Carlton Heights.

DYLAN

So what's happening?

SCOTT

It says here a man was seen staring through neighbor's windows last night.

DYLAN

Oh knock it off. I wasn't looking through neighbor's windows. I was looking at neighbors through MY window.

SCOTT

Alright tell me all about it.

DYLAN

Tell you what?

SCOTT

Okay you don't have to tell me but I know it's killing you.

DYLAN

Alright, since you asked. Well you know I'm not one to gossip but

SCOTT

But

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

There wasn't really a deer outside our veranda last night. It was men, two men, two men we know, two men who live...

SCOTT

I get it two men. What two men?

DYLAN

I couldn't be sure at first because when I popped my head around the corner they were, well you know. Then just as I was about to make out the silhouettes I had to pop my head back in but I think I can safely say it was Ronald and Aidan! At first I thought it was Aidan and Zimmy, you know because I distinctively saw something happening between the two of them but then I realized it had to be Ronald because...

SCOTT

Because?

DYLAN

Because I just knew. I told you. I told you that blonde boy was nothing but a slut. I knew it from the moment I saw him and now poor Marty. I wonder if Marty knows. I wonder if everybody knows. Oh poor Marty. I wonder if Aidan is sleeping with Zimmy too. I wouldn't put it past him. Could you imagine? Oh my god, I bet he is. I wonder if Larry knows. Oh my, poor Larry, poor..

SCOTT

Poor Marty, poor Larry, poor me.

DYLAN

What do you mean poor you? You're not the one who has to carry this big secret around with you like I do.

SCOTT

You don't even know if you have a secret. You don't know even know for sure who was out there last night.

DYLAN

Oh I know and what's more is I know they're hatching some sort of plot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SCOTT

A plot?

DYLAN

Yes, a plot. I heard them say something about the old lady and that Haley girl. I didn't get the details but I heard some things I'm sure I wasn't supposed to hear. I think I even heard something about you and me. Can you believe the audacity of talking about us right on our own side lawn?

SCOTT

You're unbelievable you know that?

DYLAN

Thanks, I think so too.

Dylan gets up and heads towards the other room.

SCOTT

Where are you going?

DYLAN

I have to get dressed. I need to go over to Marty's and see what he knows. Or should I stop at Larry's first? Oh well whoever is home.

SCOTT

Are you nuts?

DYLAN

No I'm not nuts. I'm not going to tell them their husbands are cheating on them. I'm just going to hint around that maybe there is a husband cheating and see how they react. If one of them knows something I will figure it out.

SCOTT

YOU don't even know anything.

DYLAN

What are you talking about? I just gave you the facts.

SCOTT

The facts?

DYLAN

Yes, the facts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SCOTT

The facts are you were outside in the middle of the dark night and heard voices. Voices you don't even recognize saying things you couldn't hear.

DYLAN

I saw them too remember?

SCOTT

In the dark, two silhouettes hugging.

DYLAN

Well they weren't exactly hugging.

SCOTT

Whatever. You never saw their faces! You have only met these people once for about two hours and you couldn't possibly know who they were and now you're going to march over to our neighbor's house and start looking for clues?

DYLAN

Yes. Wouldn't you?

SCOTT

No, I wouldn't.

DYLAN

Well then I won't tell you what I find out.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - FOYER - MORNING

Haley is walking through the room when Aidan comes through the door.

HALEY

What are you doing here?

AIDAN

I'm here to see my Grandmother of course.

HALEY

I need to talk to you.

AIDAN

Sorry doll I don't have time for you today.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HALEY  
I saw you last night with Ronald  
Mitchell.

RUTH  
(FROM THE OTHER ROOM)  
Haley, who are you talking to?

HALEY  
No one.

AIDAN  
It's me Aidan, here to see my favorite  
grandmother.

RUTH  
Oh Christ.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Aidan walks into the room and kisses his grandmother's cheek  
while she wrestles with her spoon in a grapefruit.

RUTH  
Haley, how many times have I told you I  
can't stand grapefruit!

AIDAN  
I believe I kissed you "Hello".

RUTH  
Haley, get in here and take this away.

Haley takes the grapefruit away while looking at Aidan who  
winks at her.

AIDAN  
Grandmother, are you with us today?

RUTH  
I realize you are here you little  
bastard. I was hoping if I ignored you,  
you would slither your way back out the  
front door.

AIDAN  
You are feisty today. That's good,  
because I have some business to chat with  
you about.

RUTH  
What do you want this time? Did you  
finally knock up the wrong girl?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

Grandmother, really you're too insane. You know I'm queer as a three dollar bill. That's the reason you wouldn't let me stay with you when I came knocking on your door.

RUTH

Shut up. I don't want to hear about any of this.

AIDAN

But I have something that might interest you.

RUTH

I doubt that.

AIDAN

So you don't want to know about the newest arrivals to our town?

RUTH

I'm not the least bit interested.

AIDAN

A wonderful reputable couple from Los Angeles. One is a banker and one is a writer.

RUTH

It's about time some normal people moved in.

AIDAN

Oh and they're gay. Gay, gay, gay! And married! Married gay people, Grandmother. That's who's moved in.

RUTH

You make me sick!

AIDAN

Not as sick as this might make you. The banker, Scott Irving he transferred here and is now VP for your local bank. Right under Ronald Mitchell, all those grubby gay hands touching your wads of cash. It makes me giddy.

RUTH

Get out of my house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AIDAN

Wait, there's more. The writer Dylan Irving, and this, this you're going to love Grandmother. He plans on writing a book about Carlton Heights. It seems he just can't get enough of all the eccentrics that live in the area. He plans on delving into all the secrets of our town including and I'll bet this will tighten your last unclogged artery, the Carlton family. He plans on exposing everyone and everything. Isn't that fab?

RUTH

You can wipe that smile off your face Aidan. I haven't dropped dead with your latest antics. Which wouldn't really help you anyway since your smug little ass isn't in my will.

AIDAN

Grandmother, do you really think I'm worried about your will? That's for the lawyers to worry about. What I'm worried about is the money I need now. While you're still burdening us with your breathing.

RUTH

You think you can walk in and demand money from me just because some new degenerate wants to write about Carlton Heights?

AIDAN

Well if that didn't do it, then perhaps this could change your mind. You see I never mentioned this to you because I wanted to keep it for just the most special moment. I have a little book that might help our Dylan Irving should he need some extra material.

RUTH

What are you talking about?

AIDAN

When my poor mother lay dying she not only told me where to find my dear Grandmother, she also told me where to find her diary.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RUTH

What?

AIDAN

A big journal of scandals and secrets all about my family. Now I haven't had time to read it all, but what I have read is quite disturbing Grandmother.

RUTH

How much do you want to keep your cocksucking mouth shut?

AIDAN

Grandmother! Tsk tsk. Don't make me get Haley in here to wash your mouth out with soap. All I want is what I deserve. I think a down payment of say \$200,000 might keep me quiet, for awhile anyway.

RUTH

You aren't getting any of my money.

AIDAN

Then you aren't getting any of my mother's notes.

Aidan takes a bite out of Ruth's toast as he heads to the door.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

I think you'll change your mind once you've had your morning bran. I know how irritable you are before then.

Aidan exits as Ruth slams down her silverware.

RUTH

Haley, get out here! Now!

HALEY

Another pleasant visit?

RUTH

Did you know about these new people in town?

HALEY

Yes, Marty told me all about them. They're a couple..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RUTH

Yes I know they are a couple! But a couple of what is what I aim to find out. Haley, rev up the Caddy, we're going to town.

EXT. THE CUL-DE-SAC - MORNING

Dylan is walking past the Bustamante house on his way to Marty's when Larry comes out with the twins in a stroller.

LARRY

Hidy hi neighbor.

DYLAN

Hi. I was just on my way to Marty's.

LARRY

He's already gone to the coffee shop.

DYLAN

That's too bad, I was hoping to catch him. Maybe I'll just go the coffee shop.

LARRY

He would love that. I'm a little worried about Marty. To be frank, I think there is something bothering him. In fact that's where we were headed, isn't it little ones?

DYLAN

Good morning, Kelly and Donald.

LARRY

Did you hear that little chickadees? Uncle Dylan remembered your names. That is too precious. Come on let's stroll.

DYLAN

Alright. I was hoping to check out the library as well, for research. You do have a library don't you?

LARRY

Of course we do.

DYLAN

You said something might be bothering Marty? What do you think it could be?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

I'm not sure but I do think there may be some problems in the marriage.

DYLAN

What makes you say that?

LARRY

Marty hasn't talked about it but I am a pretty good expert on relationships.

DYLAN

Maybe it's an affair. Maybe Ronald is having an affair.

LARRY

An affair? No. I mean who would he be having an affair with? But then again you are an expert on the subject aren't you?

DYLAN

I did write the book.

LARRY

Still I can't imagine one of my friends you know, having one of those.

DYLAN

It's really quite more frequent than one would believe.

LARRY

I can't think of anyone Ronald could be seeing.

DYLAN

Maybe it has something to do with Aidan.

LARRY

Aidan? An affair with Aidan?

DYLAN

I didn't say that. I just meant maybe Marty has a problem with Aidan and that's what's been bothering him.

LARRY

You do think Aidan and Ronald are having an affair don't you? Look I'm not blind to Aidan's ways. I can assure you he is just flirting. He's kidding. There is nothing going on between Ronald and Aidan, I can guarantee that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN

Maybe you're right. Maybe there isn't anything going on between Aidan and Ronald. So where's Zimmy this morning? Is he at the restaurant already?

LARRY

He's such a workaholic. I mean we aren't even open on Mondays and here he is running into town before I even get the twins their breakfast. He's so dedicated.

DYLAN

(Under his breath)  
Maybe you should read my book.

LARRY

What was that dear?

DYLAN

Nothing, I'm sure you're right. Ronald and Aidan are not having an affair.

INT. THE COUTURE - BACK ROOM - DAY

Aidan walks through the unlit store to the back. A man grabs him from behind and begins to caress Aidan.

AIDAN

I was supposed to be the robber this time Ronald.

Aidan turns around to find Zimmy not Ronald.

ZIMMY

I'm not Ronald, I hope that's okay.

Aidan pulls Zimmy's pants down and drops to his knees.

ZIMMY (CONT'D)

I guess it is.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS - DAY

Larry, Dylan and the twins are walking up the street.

LARRY

There is the town library and right here is Marty's Mayhem.

DYLAN

Is that a thrift store across the street?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

Why yes, it's the town's only...

DYLAN

I've got to go. Do you want to?

LARRY

No, that's okay. To be honest with you I think Marty will more forthcoming if it were just me there. I am his best friend. You understand don't you?

DYLAN

Yeah, yeah see you later.

Dylan runs across the street as Larry walks into Marty's Mayhem. In the background, Ruth Carlton's black Cadillac pulls up to the curb. Haley helps Ruth out of the car.

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

Marty is at the counter when Larry and the twins enter.

MARTY

Hi guys. What brings you here?

LARRY

I just had to have a cup of your coffee.

MARTY

It's your stomach.

LARRY

You're right, maybe just a glass of water.

Marty brings Larry some water and stoops down to the twins.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Marty I'm really quite worried about you.

MARTY

Me? Why?

LARRY

You just don't seem yourself. Is there something you would like to tell me? Something maybe going on with you and Ron?

MARTY

Ron and I are just...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Haley enters Marty's Mayhem dressed formally as a chauffeur making Marty laugh out loud.

HALEY

I know I look positively ghastly!

INT. THRIFT STORE - DAY

Dylan looks through record bins as Ruth enters the store from the background, watching Dylan the whole time.

INT. M&A BANK - DAY

Scott is handing a receipt to an elderly man as Ronald looks on.

RONALD

I think you have this place all handled.  
It's time for my lunch break.

SCOTT

So where do you go for lunch around here?

RONALD

There are a couple of diners in town but personally I think you're better off bagging it. As for me, I need to burn energy everyday so I walk the town for the hour.

SCOTT

Well have fun.

RONALD

I will. My lunchtime workout does wonders for me.

INT. THE THRIFT STORE - DAY

Dylan is looking at clothes as Ruth eyes him up. Dylan sees a table of patchwork quilts and begins to caress them. He is lost in a trance.

DYLAN

Mama?

Dylan holds an edge of the quilt to his face as Ruth's cane comes down on the edge of the table.

RUTH

This is my quilt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

You made it? It's just lovely.

RUTH

No I didn't make it. I'm buying it.

DYLAN

You can't. I saw it first. It reminds me of something. Something long ago..

RUTH

I don't care what it reminds you of, you silly little faggot, it's my quilt.

DYLAN

Now wait just a minute. Who do you think you are calling people names and getting all up in their faces with your cane?

RUTH

It's MY quilt.

DYLAN

No, this is mine. I saw it first and I don't care how many centuries you've been living on this planet, it's mine.

GERTIE WINSTON, the shopkeeper runs over to the two as they begin tug of war with the quilt.

GERTIE

Excuse me. Is there some kind of problem?

DYLAN

Yes there is. I was admiring this quilt and just about to purchase it when this old bird came up and attacked me with her cane.

RUTH

How dare you. Do you know who I am?

DYLAN

Yeah, you're the old bitch trying to steal my quilt.

RUTH

Is this the calibre of clientele you let into your shop Gertie Winston?

Dylan pulls money out of his pocket with his free hand waving it at Gertie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN  
Here, I'll take this.

RUTH  
Over my dead body.

DYLAN  
That could be arranged old lady.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS - DAY

SHERIFF MACKENZIE is walking the streets greeting the townspeople. He is wearing his officer shirt and badge with a kilt. He sees the crowd gathered around the thrift store and makes his way through the residents.

TOWNSPERSON  
Sheriff, thank goodness you're here. Some stranger is trying to rough up Mrs. Carlton!

INT. THE THRIFT STORE - DAY

Sheriff Mackenzie runs into the store. Ruth and Dylan are still fighting over the quilt while Gertie tries to get the object away from both of them.

DYLAN  
Let go of it.

RUTH  
You let go, you stupid fag.

DYLAN  
You know you have a filthy mouth.

GERTIE  
Please, please let go of it. I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

DYLAN  
Hah, you hear that? It's mine.

GERTIE  
I was speaking to you. Don't make me call the police.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE  
No need. What's going on here?

END OF ACT THREE.

ACT FOUR

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - DAY

Haley is singing one of her signature screeches while Larry and the twins dance to her tune. Marty is looking out the window when he spots a flamboyant man in his late 40s waving at him and running towards the coffee shop.

MARTY

Oh no, here comes Toddy Tudrow. He drives me nuts.

LARRY

He is a bit of a gossip.

MARTY

His suits are too loud and his voice is so hiii...

TODDY TUDROW enters.

TODDY TUDROW

(speaking with a lisp)

There's a fight at the thrift store! It's that stranger, that new person is fighting with Mrs. Carlton!

MARTY

What new person?

TODDY

That gorgeous new guy. The writer. Sheriff Mackenzie was just running up there to put a stop to it!

HALEY

I can't leave that woman alone for two minutes.

Marty, Haley and Toddy run out the door while Larry quickly gathers up the twins so he too can follow along.

EXT. OF THE THRIFT STORE - DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS - DAY

A whole gang of onlookers is standing outside of the thrift store watching the scene inside - some with horror and some with humor. Ronald approaches the crowd when Marty and Haley arrive. Marty pushes his way to the front of the crowd.

INT. THE THRIFT STORE - DAY

Sheriff Mackenzie walks up to Dylan and Ruth as Gertie tries to pry the prized quilt from their hands.

GERTIE  
Please let go, please.

Gertie and Sheriff Mackenzie pry the two apart.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE  
Now will you please tell me what in the blazes is happening here? Gertie?

SHOPKEEPER  
(Pointing to Dylan)  
This one here was trying to rough up...

DYLAN  
This one here? Me? I was minding my own business.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE  
Look why don't we just have a seat and calm down. You can tell me all about it.  
(To Ruth) Let me help you.

DYLAN  
Help her! I'm the one who was practically caned to death.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE  
That's enough out of you, Mr. Irving.  
That's right I know who you are. Now sit down.

Sheriff Mackenzie points to a chair for Dylan to take while he escorts Ruth to a chair next to Dylan. Mackenzie takes a chair directly across from them.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE (CONT'D)  
(to Ruth) Can you tell me what happened?

RUTH  
I am just a fragile old woman and this, this PERSON just attacked me! Over a quilt of all things. Now does that seem logical to you?

DYLAN  
Oh you are pushing it lady.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

You shut your mouth. Go on Mrs. Carlton.

DYLAN

You're Mrs. Carlton, I should've known.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I've had just about enough of you.

Mackenzie leans back in his chair. He crosses his leg exposing the fact he is not wearing any underwear.

DYLAN

You've got to be kidding me.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Do you have a problem?

DYLAN

No.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Now, Mrs. Carlton I realize this has been quite traumatic for you.

RUTH

It has been, it really has been. I just don't understand what happens to these people who are raised away from our simple values. They come in to our town and bully, practically knocking down defenseless elderly people and for what? For the sake of a second hand quilt. Well I don't want it if it's worth all this.

DYLAN

Now you don't want it?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Really you should be ashamed of yourself. Mrs. Carlton, do you want to press charges?

DYLAN

Press charges! For what?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

You can't just come in here with your high faluting ways and push people around. This isn't Los Angeles, Mr. Irving. Do you want me to get your husband and see what he has to say about all of this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN  
Are you kidding me?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE  
You can bet your sweet bippy I am not  
kidding you little mister.

DYLAN  
I'm in Hell.

Mackenzie pushes his chair back and spreads his legs even further while Dylan is having a hard time keeping serious.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE  
Do you think this is funny?

DYLAN  
No, I don't. In fact I think this is all  
ridiculous.

Larry and the twins make their way into the store.

LARRY  
Dylan, what have you done?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE  
Larry, you know this person?

LARRY  
He's my neighbor. I hope nothing serious  
has happened.

Ruth grabs her cane for stability in an attempt to rise.

DYLAN  
Watch out! She's going to hit someone!

RUTH  
I am merely trying to stand up to look at  
these beautiful babies.

Larry rolls the stroller to Ruth.

LARRY  
Hello Mrs. Carlton. You remember Donald  
and Kelly don't you?

RUTH  
Of course I do. Such beautiful children  
you have.

Mackenzie stands up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DYLAN

Thank god.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

So Mrs. Carlton, about the charges.

RUTH

Let's just put this behind us shall we?  
How can I hold a grudge when there are  
such special little creatures present?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I guess you are free to go Mr. Irving.  
But I don't want any more trouble from  
you.

Dylan stands up as Gertie brings the quilt over to him.

DYLAN

I don't think so.

Dylan walks through the crowd where Marty and Haley stop him.  
Ronald disappears into the crowd so Marty won't see him.

HALEY

Good show old chap. Hi, I'm Haley.

DYLAN

Hi.

MARTY

Come on, I think you need some Folgers.

HALEY

You'll excuse me, it's time to pretend  
I'm a caregiver.

DYLAN

They all hate me.

MARTY

Welcome to Carlton Heights.

INT. THE COUTURE - BACK ROOM - DAY

Aidan and Zimmy are having sex.

ZIMMY

(IN BETWEEN GRUNTS)

You're so hot, you're the best fuck  
around.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

Wait until we're rich, money makes me hot!

ZIMMY

I... don't... want... you... with... Ron... anymore.

AIDAN

We...need...him...to...get...the... will!

ZIMMY

I..don't..like...it.

AIDAN

You'll...love...it!

INT. THRIFT STORE - DAY

Mackenzie is dispersing the crowd. Haley runs into the store pretending she just arrived.

HALEY

Mrs. Carlton are you alright? I came as soon as I heard.

RUTH

I'm fine, Mr. Bustamante was of great assistance.

LARRY

I am so sorry for what has happened Mrs. Carlton.

RUTH

There's no need for you to apologize.

LARRY

I feel I do. Dylan Irving is a friend of mine and I would hate for his behavior to reflect any on my family.

RUTH

Don't be silly. I'm not one to hold grudges or make people miserable.

HALEY

Of course not.

RUTH

Haley, grab my cane and please be quiet, I'm having a conversation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY  
I'll help you up.

Ruth grabs Larry's arm as a guide and rises from her chair while Haley checks out her nail cuticles.

RUTH  
In appreciation of your kindness Mr. Bustamante, I would love to take you to lunch.

LARRY  
That's not necessary.

RUTH  
I insist. Does that husband of yours still own that lovely little bistro at the end of town?

LARRY  
Yes, he does but...

RUTH  
Then let's go. It will be perfectly lovely and we can talk about much more pleasant things than this terrible incident. Haley, come on!

INT. THE COUTURE - BACK ROOM - LATER

Aidan and Zimmy are lying on the floor post coital.

AIDAN  
To put your mind at rest about Ron, I am starting to doubt his ability to get what I want. So I have a little secret weapon.

Aidan reaches around and grabs a book out of his satchel.

ZIMMY  
What's that? A book?

AIDAN  
Yes, Zimmy a book, but not just any book. This is a book that sheds light on every single little secret in Carlton Heights.

ZIMMY  
Every secret?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

Yes every secret! Will you please stay with me? I just know Granny would be willing to pay to keep this book out of the wrong hands, say those of a snooping Dylan Irving with his publishing contacts and all.

ZIMMY

Then we don't need Ron. Why don't you just ditch him?

Zimmy's cell phone rings. Zimmy reaches for his phone as Aidan begins to get dressed.

ZIMMY (CONT'D)

Hi Larry. (pause) What? (pause) Of course. We'll be ready.

Zimmy jumps up struggling to put his pants on.

AIDAN

Problems with the kiddies?

ZIMMY

Larry thinks I'm at the restaurant and he's on his way with Mrs. Carlton for lunch.

AIDAN

What is he doing with my grandmother?

ZIMMY

Larry just saved your grandmother from a run in with Dylan Irving.

AIDAN

What?

ZIMMY

Looks like your plan is already backfiring.

AIDAN

If Grandmother and Dylan have already met, it's all the more reason for Dylan to write a nasty tell all on the witch don't you think?

INT. THE COUTURE - THE MAIN ROOM - DAY

Ronald walks in whistling and untying his tie as he heads to the back room. He calls for Aidan.

INT. THE COUTURE - BACK ROOM - DAY

Aidan pushes Zimmy towards the door though Zimmy is still half undressed.

AIDAN  
Go, he can't find you in here.

ZIMMY  
You just said we didn't need him.

AIDAN  
You said we didn't need him, I'm still not so sure.

Aidan pushes Zimmy out the door with Zimmy still zipping up his pants as Ronald enters the room.

RONALD  
There's my love muffin. Didn't you hear me calling you?

AIDAN  
I was ignoring you. You're late!

RONALD  
I'm sorry. There was some drama at the thrift store.

AIDAN  
What kind of drama?

RONALD  
Your grandmother and Dylan had some kind of scuffle.

AIDAN  
Really! Shouldn't you be at the bank telling Scott?

RONALD  
I have a feeling Scott will find out soon enough. Right now I'm here for my lunch.

Ronald bites at Aidan's neck.

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - DAY - LATER

Dylan is at a table as Marty brings him a cup.

DYLAN  
What's this?

MARTY  
My own gourmet brew. Some Folger's,  
chocolate syrup and dab it up with some  
whip cream.

DYLAN  
(sipping the drink)  
Mmm good.

MARTY  
It needs something doesn't it?

Marty runs behind the counter and returns with a bottle of  
booze, pouring the contents into the drink.

MARTY (CONT'D)  
This might help. It always seems to help  
me when Haley starts singing her songs.  
Let's celebrate, "Kudos to you for  
standing up to that old hag."

DYLAN  
I'm glad it brought you some happiness.  
All I had planned for the day was a  
little trip to the library and a little  
snooping. Curse my love for cheap second  
hand goods.

MARTY  
It's the downfall of every frugal man.

DYLAN  
Scott is not going to like this if he  
hears about it.

Marty sees Scott through the window of the coffee shop.

MARTY  
I think he might have already heard.

INT. ZIMMY'S BISTRO - DAY

Ruth and Larry are having lunch with the twins looking on.

RUTH

So tell me about these Irvings. Do you know them well?

LARRY

No I don't. I really feel quite awkward talking about this.

RUTH

Nonsense. This is what luncheons are all about. Dishing with friends about friends.

LARRY

You're right, but I just want you to know, I don't usually talk out of turn. It must be the wine so early in the day.

RUTH

By all means, indulge.

LARRY

I don't want to sound suspicious or anything but I do always find it a tad strange when a new couple comes to town.

RUTH

How exactly did the Irvings come to find our secluded hideaway?

LARRY

The Mitchells of course. Scott works for the bank with Ronald. He was transferred here. Now who gets transferred from a big bank in Los Angeles to a small branch with only one teller? It just doesn't add up. Get it, add up? They're bankers you see...

RUTH

Yes, amusing. So because of this job the young couple just packed up and moved away from their home?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

I think it was Dylan's idea. He's a writer and has all this time on his hands to come up with insane theories about everyone. Oh and I guess he loves the ocean and cul-de-sacs. He's from the Midwest somewhere, Wausamazoo..

RUTH

Do you believe their story?

LARRY

Oh sure, I believe it, I just think it's strange. And now he plans on writing a book about Carlton Heights. I just know he's going to be snooping around.

RUTH

A book you say.

LARRY

Yes. You know I love it here and I don't want anything bad to happen.

RUTH

That's a very wise statement, Mr. Bustamante.

LARRY

Please, call me Larry.

RUTH

It really is a shame someone would have such a low moral aptitude they would nose around in others personal affairs.

LARRY

I agree 100% Ruth.

RUTH

Please, call me Mrs. Carlton. I think it's to everyone's benefit that Dylan Irving stays as far away from our town's secrets as possible don't you?

Ruth moves in closer to look at the babies.

RUTH (CONT'D)

They're adopted right? It would be a pity if their true origin were to be found out now wouldn't it?

Larry takes another big gulp of wine.

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - DAY

Scott enters the diner.

DYLAN

In my defense, it's not what you think.

SCOTT

It's not? The whole town is talking about the new guy who likes to beat up old ladies. Why didn't you just let her have the quilt?

DYLAN

Oh, you know about the quilt too? Well, it was the principle of the thing. What are you doing here anyway? Shouldn't you be at work?

SCOTT

Everyone came running into the bank to tell me about my bad husband and his thrift store carnage. Ron was still at lunch and I didn't know what to do. That is until Sheriff Mackenzie came in and forced me to close the bank.

DYLAN

What? He can't do that.

SCOTT

He said it was mandatory during a terrorist strike.

DYLAN

A terrorist strike? We're being attacked?

SCOTT

It's you! You're the terrorist.

MARTY

I hate to butt in but Ruth Carlton is a crazed old bird whom most of this town is too afraid to say anything to. You can trust me, she is hardly a victim.

SCOTT

Thanks for your help Marty but I still don't think Dylan should take it upon himself to rid us of the woman. You could've hurt her you know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

This is so ridiculous. You know it's almost like she had it planned, like she singled me out. She knew who I was and she wanted to wreak havoc in my life.

MARTY

Sounds plausible to me, she's a wretched old bat and everyone in town does know who you two are.

DYLAN

See.

SCOTT

I think you've just had too much excitement with the move. Your imagination has been going crazy for two days.

Scott picks up the drink in front of Dylan.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Are you drinking? Come on I'm taking you home. I think you need some rest.

The Irvings exit the coffee shop to:

EXT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - DAY

SCOTT

I don't think you should hang around with him anymore.

The man in black passes in front of the Irvings acknowledging them.

EXT. ZIMMY'S BISTRO - DAY

Ruth exits the restaurant with Larry, Jimmy and the twins.

RUTH

It was a beautiful lunch. Thank you so much for opening for me.

ZIMMY

It was our pleasure, Mrs. Carlton.

RUTH

Oh and Larry, am I correct in thinking I can count on you for any kind of help I may need involving this problem.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

Of course. You can count on me.

RUTH

Good. Now you take real good care of those babies.

Haley helps Mrs. Carlton into the car.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS

The man in black goes to a pay phone and dials a number. In the background are Larry and the twins as Mrs. Carlton gets into the car.

MAN IN BLACK

It's me. I found your babies.

INT. RUTH CARLTON'S CADILLAC

Ruth gets into the backseat of her car as Haley gets into the driver's seat.

HALEY

Did you have an entertaining afternoon Mrs. Carlton?

RUTH

It was divine, Haley, simply divine.

HALEY

Did you get the information you were looking for?

RUTH

Oh yes. It looks like a prodigal son has returned home. There is no question in my mind. Dylan Irving is not who he says he is. He is most definitely a Carlton. Let's go Haley, there are many preparations to be made.

HALEY

Yes Ma'am.

The black Cadillac pulls away from the curb and heads up the hill to Carlton Manor.

FADE OUT.

THE END.