

# CARLTON

## *Heights*

Episode 10 -  
"He Could Be The One"

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TEASER

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

RUTH CARLTON is at her desk.

Seated across from her is PHILLIP BARTON, a private detective she has hired.

RUTH is looking through some papers on her desk.

She holds up a pamphlet that celebrates "family values" the group's name is the National Order for Future American Generations Society (NOFAGS)

PHILLIP

You can see it's all there. You were right about everything.

RUTH

Johnny Belducci belongs to this NOFAGS Group?

PHILLIP

Not only belongs to it, he was the close right hand man to Senator and Mrs. Teinenbaum. It's pretty obvious they used him in order to get the twins. My guess is as some kind of mole.

RUTH

A mole?

PHILLIP

They had him survey everyone, see how they lived, what their time schedule was and then move in and make contact.

RUTH

Thus giving this Dr. Teinenbaum the precise time to kidnap the children.

PHILLIP

I happen to think the infants' getting sick was purely coincidental. The whole thing was probably planned a little differently but seeing her chance, the doctor took the kids when she could.

RUTH

Is there any other way to link Johnny to the kidnapping?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHILLIP

It's all mostly heresy. I mean he did work for the Senator and the doctor in West Virginia, and he did belong or does belong to this group whose sole purpose is to condemn gays.

RUTH

That's not really going to help me. I condemn gays. For Christ's sake I belong to this group.

PHILLIP

I'm not sure what you want to hear Mrs. Carlton.

RUTH

I want to hear that Johnny Belducci will be getting out of Carlton Heights and taking all this bullshit with him. You know I don't like any of this. I try to make this town a peaceful, loving place to live in. Then these homos come charging in, of course we can blame my husband for that. But then kidnapping babies, this Dylan Irving trying to write a book about my family, Gertie having a heart attack. It's all just too much!

PHILLIP

I can see you're stressed. Maybe I can lighten your mind a little.

RUTH

Really?

PHILLIP

You'll notice the last page there.

Ruth goes through the papers.

RUTH

What is this?

PHILLIP

It's a warrant. Johnny Belducci has unpaid speeding tickets. If nothing else, we may be able to hold him for awhile.

RUTH

That is good news. You'll make sure Sheriff Mackenzie knows about this right away, won't you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PHILLIP

Of course.

Phillip gets up from his seat.

RUTH

Wait Mr. Barton. I have another case for you.

PHILLIP

So soon?

RUTH

I need you to find those twins.

Phillip sits back down.

PHILLIP

Aren't the police already working on that?

RUTH

I'm sure they are, but you've seen Mackenzie. On a good day, he couldn't catch a clue if it blew up his kilt. And the Mahogany Bay Mayhem isn't much better. The FBI aren't doing anything and for that I'm glad. I want to keep this as quiet as possible.

PHILLIP

So far it hasn't seemed to cause much publicity. Only local stuff really.

RUTH

That's why I need you on this. I want those babies back before it can bring any kind of outside publicity.

PHILLIP

I'm curious. Why do you want them back? I know you're no fan of the family. And surely you can't stand gay men raising babies.

RUTH

I don't condone stealing children. As for those fags, they're part of Carlton Heights and Carlton Heights belongs to me and no one fucks with the residents of my town.

END OF TEASER.

ACT ONE

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

MARTY MITCHELL walks out of his house pulling a bag of golf clubs.

He whips them onto the yard.

There are various items all over the yard including clothes, sports equipment, books, stereo equipment and even a Lazy Boy Chair.

Marty walks back into the house and reappears a few seconds later with a lamp.

Marty goes to throw the lamp into the yard and almost hits STEPHEN MERRICK.

STEPHEN

Hey!

MARTY

Oh, I'm sorry.

STEPHEN

What is all this?

MARTY

I'm cleaning house.

STEPHEN

Ronald's stuff?

MARTY

You got it. Hey, there's a big painting in the guest room I've always hated. Can you give me a hand with it?

STEPHEN

Are you okay with all this?

MARTY

I know when to cut my losses. So I won't have a husband. I still have a house, a coffee shop and friends.

STEPHEN

Speaking of friends, how's Haley doing? Is she still seeing Johnny?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

Of course, it's true love. Whatever the hell that is.

STEPHEN

Marty, will you promise me something?

MARTY

I'll promise you anything if you help me take down that god awful painting.

STEPHEN

I'm being serious.

MARTY

What is it?

STEPHEN

Please stay away from Johnny Belducci.

INT. BUSTAMANTE KITCHEN - DAY

LARRY BUSTAMANTE is walking around the kitchen in his pajamas.

He pours himself a cup of coffee.

He takes a sip and grimaces.

Larry opens the cupboard and finds a bottle. He pours some alcohol into his coffee and sips it again.

Larry walks to the kitchen table and sits down.

ZIMMY BUSTAMANTE walks in through the back door, sweaty from running.

ZIMMY

Hey baby. You're up.

Larry stares at Zimmy.

ZIMMY (CONT'D)

Aren't you feeling well?

LARRY

I feel fine. I'm just a little tired.

ZIMMY

That was some party.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

I can't believe all the trouble I went through and it was all ruined.

ZIMMY

Oh come on, it wasn't planned. Nobody meant to ruin the barbecue.

LARRY

I think Ronald meant to ruin it. I'd feel sorry for Marty if he hadn't gone and ruined my steaks. You know I cleaned and cooked for hours and in one instant it's all ruined.

Zimmy kisses Larry.

LARRY (CONT'D)

What's that for?

ZIMMY

Nothing. It's just really good to see you.

LARRY

You see me all the time.

ZIMMY

I mean, to see you like this. You're like your old self. Before the twins.

Larry gets up from the kitchen table.

ZIMMY (CONT'D)

You should see what Marty's doing next door. I think he's throwing everything of Ronald's out into the street.

LARRY

What?

Larry runs to the side window and looks out.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I can't believe it. He's ruining the neighborhood.

ZIMMY

Maybe he needs some help. You know, if you were feeling better.

LARRY

I told you I feel fine!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ZIMMY

I'm sorry. Listen, maybe I should take the night off. We can have a picnic on the beach or go up to the woods. Like we used to.

LARRY

You need to work.

ZIMMY

Come on, it will be fun.

LARRY

No! It won't be fun. What would be fun is if I could just sit here quietly and drink my coffee. Is that too much to ask?

ZIMMY

I'm worried about you.

LARRY

Well don't be. I told you I'm just tired. Why don't you go shower? You're dripping sweat all over my floor.

Larry sips his coffee.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - DAY

DYLAN IRVING is running down the stairs, pulling his jacket on as he descends. He is talking on his cell phone.

DYLAN

Yes, Toddy I heard you. (pause) I know she can't wait. I can't find my shoes.

He finds one shoe and puts it on while hopping around to find the other.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

I will be there in ten minutes. Just hold her there. (pause) Well, I don't know. Tell her you need her to sign some papers or your mother wants something from her. Just do anything to keep Widow Hollingsworth there. I will be there soon.

Dylan ends the call.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

There!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dylan finds his other shoe and is about to open the door.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Keys, now where in the hell are the keys?

Dylan begins rummaging through his living room. He goes to his computer desk and looks around - picking up papers, picking up the keyboard.

He bends down to look under the desk when the door bell RINGS. He looks to the door and walks to it, without ever noticing the FILE FOLDER hidden between the desk and the wall.

Dylan opens the door.

There is a MAN in his early 30s, dressed in a suit and tie. He is well groomed and smiles largely when Dylan opens the door. The man's name is JED BARCLOVICH.

JED

Mr. Irving, it is so nice to meet you.  
I'm Jed Barclovich from the Northern  
Kookenai County Pride Division.

DYLAN

The what, the who?

JED

The Northern Kookenai County Pride  
Division. We're a human rights group  
that...

DYLAN

...wants my money. Look I give all my  
money to my husband and he sends it out  
to all those charities that are so  
important to us. If you have a brochure,  
you can leave it in the mail box. I'm  
running late.

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

Dylan walks out the door and closes it, walking past JED.

JED

But that's not why I'm here.

DYLAN

Put it in the mailbox!

Dylan gets into his car and drives away.

EXT. AVENUE SEA - MITCHELL HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Marty and Stephen walk out of the Mitchell house carrying a painting as Dylan honks his horn and speeds away.

JED BARCLOVICH walks back to his car.

MARTY

Okay at the count of three, just throw the thing anywhere. 1, 2, 3...

Marty and Stephen hurl the painting to the curb.

STEPHEN

You're really serious about kicking Ronald out?

MARTY

I'm not letting him back in my house.

STEPHEN

Where is he now?

MARTY

I don't know and I don't care.

STEPHEN

Well how about when you're done with all this, I take you out to dinner.

MARTY

I think that's an excellent idea.

STEPHEN

Great.

AIDAN PALMER walks out of his house and sees Marty and Stephen.

He walks across the cul-de-sac to Marty and Stephen.

AIDAN

Marty, are you moving?

Marty ignores Aidan and starts moving items from the lawn to the curb.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Good morning Stephen. I guess Marty isn't up to talking yet.

STEPHEN

Hi Aidan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

I heard the drama that happened at the barbecue. I wish I would have been here to see that.

STEPHEN

It wasn't really that exciting.

AIDAN

Oh come on, local queen goes ballistic and fires up his husband's clothes!

Stephen's cell phone rings.

STEPHEN

I have to take this.

Stephen walks to the corner of the yard to talk on the phone while Aidan picks up a lamp from the yard and follows Marty to the curb.

Aidan hands the lamp to Marty.

AIDAN

Aren't you going to ask me?

MARTY

Ask you what?

AIDAN

You must be curious as to why I'm not in New York.

MARTY

I'm not curious about anything you do Aidan.

AIDAN

Oh come on. Ask me.

MARTY

Why aren't you in New York?

AIDAN

Because I'm not moving. Isn't that great? I decided I really liked this little hell hole after all.

MARTY

I'm sure Ronald will be very happy to hear that. I'll have my lawyer give him the news when he serves him my divorce papers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AIDAN

Marty, there's no reason to be so pissy.  
I don't want Ronald anymore than you do.  
But that Stephen Merrick on the other  
hand, he's what I call man meat.

Marty stops carrying objects and stares at Aidan with complete hatred.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Bye neighbor.

Aidan walks back to his house and past Stephen, slapping him on the butt.

Stephen is stunned from the slap but doesn't do or say anything as he is still on the telephone.

Stephen ends his phone call.

STEPHEN

I'm going to have to cancel dinner Marty.

MARTY

Oh (pause) well, that's okay.

STEPHEN

I'd like to make it up to you. How would you feel about a little adventure instead?

MARTY

What kind of adventure?

STEPHEN

That was my friend Greg.

MARTY

The FBI guy?

STEPHEN

Yeah. We've been looking for the twins' birth mother and we found her. She's about 8 hours East. If we leave now, we could be there before dark. What do you think?

MARTY

I think I should pack an overnight bag.

Marty walks back into the house.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - DAY

HALEY OSBOURNE walks past the living room on her way out the door.

Ruth is in the living room having a cup of tea when she spots Haley.

RUTH

Haley, where are you going?

Haley walks into the room.

HALEY

I was popping out to get Gertie's parcel.  
Isn't that what you wanted me to do?

RUTH

Yes, but I think we should chat first.

Haley rolls her eyes and then sits down across from Ruth.

HALEY

What did you want to chat about?

RUTH

This whole ordeal with your, with Gertie  
has got me to thinking.

HALEY

Are you afraid you're going to fall over  
dead?

RUTH

Don't be morbid Haley. Ever since you  
were a little girl you'd been a bit of a  
rebel. Always on the cutting edge, like  
they say. But it's time to stop.

HALEY

I can't deny who I am.

RUTH

Yes you can and you should. This town is  
too vulnerable right now for you to be  
jumping into bed with complete strangers.

HALEY

He may have been a stranger, but Johnny  
and I are in love. He's no more a  
stranger to me now than you are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

Haley, how can I make you understand.  
This is much bigger than you can imagine.

HALEY

I've done everything you've asked Mrs.  
Carlton. I've been to hospital every day  
looking after that woman, I'm here  
cooking and cleaning. I barely have time  
for my singing. What more can I do to  
prove to you that I am not causing  
trouble?

RUTH

It's not about you, stupid girl. Johnny  
is the evil one here.

HALEY

He is the most religious person I know.  
He's hardly evil.

RUTH

He is rotten to the core and I sincerely  
hope that it doesn't take him doing  
something God awful to you before you  
actually realize that.

EXT. HOLLINGSWORTH HOUSE - DAY

Dylan drives up to the large house in downtown Carlton  
Heights.

He gets out of his car and walks to the house.

TODDY TUDROW opens the door carrying boxes.

TODDY

Well it's about time. I've been moving  
boxes and packing for three hours.

DYLAN

I'm sorry, I had to wait until Scott went  
to work. You're the one who told me I  
can't tell anyone about this, and let me  
just say I am not the kind of person who  
likes to keep a secret.

Toddy puts down a box and moves Dylan out of the way of more  
MOVING MEN walking down the steps of the house.

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CONTINUED:

TODDY

Look sister, if you're going to expect me to give you information then you could at least show up on time. How am I supposed to convince the old woman you're a mover now?

DYLAN

Fine, I'm not playing a mover anymore. Out of my way.

Dylan walks up to the house.

INT. HOLLINGSWORTH HOUSE - DAY

Dylan walks into the house.

There are numerous MOVING MEN all around, moving furniture and packing boxes.

Dylan walks into the kitchen and sees AN OLD WOMAN in her 70s, with white hair. She is dressed in black, sitting at the kitchen table. She is WIDOW HOLLINGSWORTH.

Dylan walks in and notices she is crying.

DYLAN

Mrs. Hollingsworth?

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH

Oh, yes. Sorry, can I help you?

Toddy walks in behind Dylan.

DYLAN

I'm from the Carlton Heights Chamber Of Commerce. We heard you were leaving and we wanted to make a special visit to bid you goodbye.

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH

That's awfully sweet of you. Please sit.

Dylan sits at the kitchen table.

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH (CONT'D)

Toddy, would you be a dear and bring us some coffee?

Toddy rolls his eyes and walks to the pot.

DYLAN

It's really a lovely home you have here.

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MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH

There's nothing here for me now that my Johnson is dead. When he wanted to move here, I was dead set against it. I loved our home in North Carolina but once we were here and met everyone Carlton Heights became our home. We raised our children here.

DYLAN

You helped others raise children as well didn't you? Your husband's help with adoptions.

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH

He knew there were so many unwanted children out there. He wanted to make sure everyone had the opportunity to have a good home.

DYLAN

Well he certainly did that didn't he? Giving Gertie Winston two children and helping the Bustamantes adopt.

Toddy puts the cup of coffee down and stares at Dylan.

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH

He wasn't too keen on that whole idea let me tell you. Johnson didn't like the queers much. As for me, I've always been more open minded. I think women are bitchy in general and the women in this town in particular. It's nice to have a good gay boy to help you with things every now and then. Isn't that right Toddy?

Toddy smiles at Dylan.

DYLAN

If you don't mind my asking, we, meaning the Chamber Of Commerce were concerned about some paperwork. We seem to be missing a lot of the county records regarding your husband's work.

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH

The Chamber Of Commerce huh?

DYLAN

Yeah that's right. You don't believe me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH  
No, Mr. Irving I don't believe you.

DYLAN  
You know who I am?

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH  
Everyone knows you. I would have thought you'd realized that by now.

DYLAN  
Well I guess I'll just be leaving.

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH  
Wait, you don't have to leave. I just want you to know I know who you are. As for the records, I don't have any of them. By now, Ruth should have everything. Everything except for the twins' records. The ones you're looking for.

DYLAN  
Who has those?

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH  
That other gay fellow took it. Simon, or Stuart. The other lawyer.

DYLAN  
Stephen Merrick?

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH  
That's it. He came by and Johnson was so ill I didn't want to disturb him. I knew they worked together on the twins so I didn't think it would be a problem. But he never brought the files back.

DYLAN  
Maybe he's using them to help the police find the twins.

MRS. HOLLINGSWORTH  
That could be but he took the files months ago.

DYLAN  
Months? The babies have only been missing a few weeks.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ruth is at her desk when Haley walks into the room.

Haley hands Ruth a stack of envelopes.

RUTH

Oh thank you.

HALEY

Will you be needing anything for the rest of the afternoon?

RUTH

Why do you have some kind of plans?

HALEY

Marty called me. He's going out of town for something and wanted me to work at the coffee shop. If it's a problem, I'll tell him.

RUTH

Don't be ridiculous. Helping out a friend is an admirable quality. Besides you could use some time away from everyone. Maybe it will help you think.

HALEY

Mrs. Carlton, I have nothing to think about.

RUTH

No dear girl you have nothing to think with. You have plenty to think about.

HALEY

I'll just be taking my leave then.

RUTH

Ta ta.

Haley walks out the door.

Ruth smiles to herself.

Ruth takes the stack of envelopes.

It is Gertie Winston's mail.

Ruth takes a letter opener and begins opening up envelopes.

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We see an envelope from M&A Bank.

Ruth opens up the envelope and looks through the contents.

Her smile quickly fades.

Ruth reaches for the telephone and dials a number.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Margaret, it's me. We have some business  
to take care of.

EXT. HOLLINGSWORTH HOUSE - DAY

Dylan and Toddy walk to Dylan's car.

From behind a grove of trees SOMEONE is watching them talk.

DYLAN

Aren't you afraid of being seen with me?

TODDY

I think we're fine. Mother and Margaret  
are with Gertie at the hospital and you  
would know if Ruth were coming by the  
stench in the air.

DYLAN

There are a few things I don't  
understand. So Gertie adopted Thomas  
around the same time as all of you were  
born. Why wait so long to adopt Haley?

TODDY

You didn't hear this from me. But Thomas  
wasn't such a good egg. Sure, he was hot  
in the sack but he was a bit troubled. He  
had some morbid fascinations. Which is  
why becoming a cremationist was so  
perfect for him. When he started getting  
in trouble, Gertie was forced to send him  
away. I think she wanted to try her luck  
with a girl.

DYLAN

And Haley turned out alright. Sort of.

TODDY

Not really. Something happened about a  
year ago. They sent her away. She came  
back and started working for Ruth.

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

RONALD MITCHELL is at his desk.

SCOTT IRVING walks into the room with some papers.

SCOTT  
Hey, here are this month's bank  
statements.

RONALD  
Just put them over there.

Scott puts the papers on the corner of Ronald's desk. He notices the sofa in the office has a blanket and pillow on it.

SCOTT  
Did you sleep here last night?

RONALD  
Well, it was better than a hotel.

SCOTT  
So you and Marty are really going to go  
through with the divorce?

RONALD  
The sooner the better. He's obviously  
insane.

SCOTT  
Alright then. Are you just going to  
continue sleeping at the bank?

RONALD  
I haven't thought it through yet. But the  
minute I know, I'll tell you all about  
it.

SCOTT  
Sorry, I didn't mean to be nosy. I guess  
it's all those years with Dylan. Well,  
let me know if you need anything.

Scott walks out of the office.

Ronald begins going through the bank statements. He comes upon Gertie Winston's papers.

He walks out of the office with the paper in his hand.

INT. M&A BANK - DAY

Ronald walks into the main lobby and over to Scott's desk.

RONALD  
Did you send all of these statements out?

SCOTT  
Yeah, a couple of days ago.

RONALD  
You're positive that you sent all of these?

SCOTT  
Well of course. That's my job right?

Ronald walks to the door.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Where are you going?

Ronald walks out of the bank.

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - DAY

Haley is strumming her guitar at the counter when JOHNNY BELDUCCI walks in.

He is sweaty and wearing construction work clothes.

JOHNNY  
You look like a tall glass of cool water.

Haley puts down her guitar and runs to him.

HALEY  
Johnny!

They hug and kiss.

JOHNNY  
How's it feel to be working outside of the mansion?

HALEY  
I think there are more visitors at Carlton Manor than here at the coffee shop. Marty's lucky to have me perform or he wouldn't have any business at all.

Haley gets some ice and gives Johnny a glass of water.

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HALEY (CONT'D)

You look all hot and sweaty.

JOHNNY

I am. I can't believe all the problems we're having with that roof.

HALEY

You know I'm really glad we decided to hold off on any more shagging.

JOHNNY

As much as we want to, I think it's for the best. Too many people can get hurt.

Haley leans across the counter.

HALEY

I know you're right. I know that all that hot and sweaty muscle God gave you is really intended for hard work and not to be caressed by delicate English hands.

Haley begins to touch Johnny's biceps.

JOHNNY

Right.

HALEY

It wouldn't be right to do something immoral. Not when it's so dirty and wrong. When it's still daylight and anyone could walk in.

JOHNNY

Yeah, it wouldn't be right.

Johnny leans over the counter and starts kissing Haley.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS - DAY

Dylan is in his car driving.

He is listening to the radio and singing along.

A car begins following him as he travels down the road.

As Dylan continues driving, moving out of downtown and heading home, he notices the car is still behind him.

As Dylan begins to speed up, the car behind him speeds up.

Dylan spots a side road and turns sharply into it.

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The car turns down the road following him.

Dylan does a giant U turn and puts his car in front of the oncoming car.

The car stops before hitting Dylan.

Dylan gets out of his car and runs to the trunk.

He pulls out a tire iron and approaches the other car.

DYLAN

Alright, mother fucker what do you want!

Jed gets out of the car just as Dylan is trying to open the car door.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

You! What are you doing chasing me like that?

JED

I wasn't. At least not at first but when you started driving like a maniac I thought you were in trouble. I wanted to help.

DYLAN

I told you I'm not in charge of our charity finances. You'll have to talk to my husband. And he's well, dead. So I guess you'll have to cross us off your list.

JED

This hasn't got anything to do with giving us money. Though every little bit does help.

DYLAN

What do you want?

JED

We've been watching you. The group that is. We want to help with the Bustamante case and we think you'd be the perfect candidate.

DYLAN

The perfect candidate for what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JED

Ever since we found out about this horrible kidnapping, the lack of police work involved, not to mention the FBI's refusal to even acknowledge it, we thought it was our duty to do something.

DYLAN

Okay.

JED

We want to make a public service announcement. We want to broadcast it all over the country.

DYLAN

I think that's a great idea, but why are you telling me? Shouldn't you be talking to Larry and Zimmy?

JED

We will, but first we wanted to make sure you agree to it.

DYLAN

Why does it matter what I think?

JED

We want you to star in the public service announcement.

DYLAN

Me?

JED

Yes, you're a celebrity. People know who you are.

DYLAN

Oh, well, thank you, but I'm hardly a celebrity. Did you want an autograph or something?

JED

You are a celebrity. I know at least two people who have read your book.

DYLAN

Two, huh?

JED

Yeah, and imagine how many dozens of others have done the same.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DYLAN

Imagine.

JED

Not only are you a celebrity, you live here in Carlton Heights and you're neighbors with the poor couple who this happened to. If that doesn't tug the heart strings and bring attention to what is essentially a hate crime, then nothing will.

DYLAN

So you really want me to do this?

JED

It would bring our cause to the forefront and most importantly, it could bring Donald and Kelly Bustamante back home where they belong.

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - DAY

SHERIFF MACKENZIE walks into the coffee shop but it is deserted.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Hello? Marty?

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - BACK ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Haley and Johnny are having sex when they hear the Sheriff in the other room.

HALEY

Oh bloody hell.

JOHNNY

This isn't happening. This just can't be happening. What is wrong with me? Why am I so weak?

Haley gets off of Johnny and looks for her clothes.

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sheriff hears something coming from the back room so he walks towards the sound.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Marty? Haley?

He is just about to open the door when Haley opens the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HALEY

Sheriff Mackenzie, how are you?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Well, I'm just dandy, thanks for asking.  
How are you doing?

HALEY

Oh, quite busy I'm afraid. If you're  
looking for Marty he's not here. He  
needed some time away so he took a  
holiday.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

For how long?

HALEY

Just a day. He'll be back tonight I  
think.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Actually, I'm glad you're here Haley. I  
have some bad news.

HALEY

What is it? Is it about Gertie?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

No, no, she's fine.

HALEY

What is it then?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I'm looking for a friend of yours. Johnny  
Belducci.

HALEY

Why on earth are you looking for him?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I have a warrant for his arrest.

HALEY

What? That's impossible.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Do you know where he is?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HALEY

No, I don't. This is all just some trumped up charge from Mrs. Carlton isn't it? I know she sent you here. Whatever she says Johnny did, you have to realize she's lying.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

This didn't come from Mrs. Carlton. This is from the State of West Virginia.

Johnny walks out of the store room.

JOHNNY

It's okay Haley.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Don't know where he is huh? I thought Mrs. Carlton was the liar.

HALEY

He didn't do anything.

Sheriff takes his handcuffs from around his kilt and puts them on Johnny.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

The state of West Virginia says differently.

HALEY

I'll get you out of this.

JOHNNY

It will be alright. This is penance. We should've known better.

HALEY

You can't do this Sheriff. There's been some kind of mistake.

JOHNNY

Don't worry Haley. God will protect us.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I'm really disappointed in you Haley.

Sheriff Mackenzie walks Johnny out of the coffee shop.

EXT. QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Marty and Stephen pull up in front of a nice two bedroom home.

MARTY  
This is it. 1465 Sycamore. So now what?

STEPHEN  
So now we go in.

MARTY  
We just walk up there and see if this woman has the twins?

STEPHEN  
Talía.

MARTY  
What?

STEPHEN  
Talía Lee. That's the woman's name. She was born in Williamsport, Louisiana. She moved to New Orleans in her twenties and moved here about three months ago.

MARTY  
Right before the twins were kidnapped.

STEPHEN  
Yeah. What do you think about that?

MARTY  
I think we walk right up there and bust Talía Lee.

INT. TALIA LEE'S HOUSE - DAY

TALIA LEE, a dark haired woman in her early 30s walks to the door. The door bell is ringing.

TALIA  
Just a minute.

Talía opens the door to Marty and Stephen.

TALIA (CONT'D)  
Can I help you?

MARTY  
Do you have any kids in there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TALIA

Excuse me.

STEPHEN

Are you Talia Lee?

TALIA

I was. I'm Talia Shepard now. Why? Who are you?

STEPHEN

My name is Stephen Merrick, I'm a lawyer from Carlton Heights. We're investigating a kidnapping. Could we come in for a minute?

TALIA

Umm, do you have any identification?

Stephen takes out his wallet and shows her his ID.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Not that it matters that much. I guess I'll just know the name of the psycho who killed me.

STEPHEN

We're not here to kill you.

TALIA

Well then, why don't you come on in.

Talia stands back and lets Stephen and Marty into the house.

STEPHEN

Nice house.

TALIA

Thanks. (to Marty) Are you a lawyer too?

MARTY

No, I'm a PI. I can smell a liar a mile away.

Stephen nudges Marty.

TALIA

You said you were investigating a kidnapping?

MARTY

Yes. Twins.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TALIA

I'm not sure how I can help you. But you can take a seat if you like.

Stephen and Marty sit down on the sofa.

Talia sits at a chair to the side.

STEPHEN

Do you know a man named Larry Bustamante?

TALIA

Can't say as I do. The name sounds a bit familiar.

STEPHEN

Maybe you knew him by his maiden name. What was it Marty?

MARTY

Oh, Du Prez.

TALIA

No, that doesn't ring a bell. The last name that's what sounded familiar to me.

MARTY

Do you know Jimmy Bustamante?

TALIA

Oh my god, yes I know Jimmy. Now that's a name you don't forget.

MARTY

Not if you give him your babies, I wouldn't think so.

Stephen takes some photos out of his wallet.

STEPHEN

Is this the man you know?

Talia takes the picture.

It's a picture of Larry, Jimmy and the twins.

TALIA

That's him. Although I don't think I've ever seen him with so many clothes on.

MARTY

You had sex with him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TALIA

No, though I would've if he asked. When I lived in New Orleans we would go to the clubs. Zimmy was a dancer at one of them gay clubs. But he was so hot. Someone told me a lot of those guys were gay for pay.

STEPHEN

Did he know you?

TALIA

Yeah, he knew who I was. He was always really nice to me but not the least interested. It was a college girl crush and then he moved away. Someone said he moved back to his home town.

STEPHEN

He did. He and Larry moved back to Carlton Heights. It's their children that are missing.

TALIA

That's terrible. I didn't even know he had kids. I actually hadn't even thought of him in years. My husband would kill me if he found out I went to see strippers, let alone had a crush on one.

MARTY

So you didn't have babies with Zimmy?

TALIA

What are you talking about?

STEPHEN

Your name is listed on the twins original birth certificate as their mother.

TALIA

Why won't you people stop harassing me?

STEPHEN

Who's been harassing you?

TALIA

I don't know, you, your buddies. I don't know what this is about.

MARTY

This is about you having babies, giving them away and stealing them back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

TALIA  
Get out of my house.

STEPHEN  
Marty calm down.

MARTY  
You can't keep those kids.

TALIA  
I don't have any kids! Look around, do you see anything?

STEPHEN  
I'm sorry Mrs. Shepard, we're not trying to upset you. Who else has contacted you about this?

TALIA  
A few months ago, I got a phone call. I thought it was some sick joke. A man called me and told me they had found my babies. Then a few weeks ago, a woman calls me and tells me for a million dollars I can have the babies I've always wanted. Who does something like that?

Talia breaks down and sits on the chair.

Stephen walks over to her and puts his hand on her arm.

TALIA (CONT'D)  
We moved here because the city was not the place to raise kids. So we tried and tried. But I can't get pregnant. We went to the doctor and it's something genetic. Something I've had my entire life. I can't have children. I have never been able to have children.

Marty and Stephen look at each other.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

INT. TALIA LEE'S HOUSE - DAY

Stephen is sitting on the sofa. Talia is in her chair.

Marty walks in with a glass of water for Talia.

TALIA

Thank you.

MARTY

We really didn't mean any harm. The Bustamantes are very close friends and we just want to find their twins.

TALIA

I really wish the best of luck to you.  
But I can't help you.

Stephen takes out another photo from his wallet.

STEPHEN

Have you ever seen this man before?

Talia takes the photo - it's a picture of Johnny.

TALIA

No. Can you please just go? My husband is going to be home any minute and I don't want to explain all of this to him. Not having children seems upsets him even more than me.

STEPHEN

It's okay. We'll go.

TALIA

Mr. Merrick, I don't know why my name is on that birth certificate. I knew Zimmy and he knew me but that's the extent of the relationship. If I knew anything I would help you. I don't need any reminders about my own inabilities. You have to believe I would never want to steal anybody else's children.

MARTY

We should go.

Stephen and Marty get up from the sofa.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHEN

Well, thanks again. We're really very sorry for upsetting you. If you think of anything, please call me.

Stephen hands her a business card.

Marty and Stephen walk out the door.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Aidan is going through papers when Ronald barges into the house.

AIDAN

What do you think you're doing?

RONALD

I thought you were going to New York?

AIDAN

I changed my mind.

RONALD

Good, I'm glad because I think we might have a problem.

AIDAN

I think you have a lot of problems.

RONALD

Scott Irving just gave me a stack of bank statements he sent out to our customers.

AIDAN

That's a wonderful story. Why don't you write me a letter all about it?

RONALD

I'm trying to tell you something.

AIDAN

And I'm trying to tell you that I don't care.

RONALD

You should care. One of those statements is going to Gertie Winston. If she sees the electronic statement, she'll know there's a problem. All of her banking is done by me, with hand written receipts to make it look like she has money. But she doesn't. We do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

Oh I see. One more fool proof Ronald Mitchell plan has hit the shitter. What a complete surprise.

RONALD

Just tell me you didn't spend any of that money.

Aidan smiles and bats his eyes.

Ronald walks over to him.

RONALD (CONT'D)

Aidan. How much?

AIDAN

I don't know. It was in my account. I thought it was for me.

RONALD

How much money?

AIDAN

I'd have to look. I've been using it to pay my bills.

Ronald puts his head in his hands in desperation.

RONALD

I have to do something.

AIDAN

You're such a loser sometimes. Gertie Winston is in the hospital. She had a heart attack four days ago.

RONALD

What are you talking about?

AIDAN

If you weren't so wrapped up in your own dick, you'd know what was going on around you. Gertie won't be reading her Old Folks Journal let alone her bank statements any time soon. So there your problem is solved, now get out.

RONALD

Why don't I stay for awhile?

AIDAN

I don't think so.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Ronald walks over to Aidan and runs his fingers up his chest.

RONALD  
What made you decide to stay?

AIDAN  
It wasn't you that's for damn sure.

RONALD  
Are you sure? You know we were good together.

Aidan looks down at Ronald's fingers and grabs them.

AIDAN  
Ronald, let it go.

RONALD  
Marty changed the locks on the house. The bitch isn't even home.

AIDAN  
He changed the locks on you?

RONALD  
Yeah. Can you believe it?

AIDAN  
Well you're not staying here.

RONALD  
Fine.

Ronald walks out the door.

INT. M&A BANK - LATE AFTERNOON

Scott is at his desk finishing up paperwork when Ruth Carlton and MARGARET MACKENZIE walk in.

Scott doesn't notice as Ruth walks up to his desk and begins tapping her cane.

Scott looks up.

RUTH  
Hello Mr. Irving. Tell me where is that troublesome Dylan you hang out with?

SCOTT  
My husband is at home working on his new book.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

Still trying to uncover my town's secrets?

SCOTT

Actually no. His editor didn't want to know about Carlton Heights so he's writing a different book.

RUTH

It would appear the publishing company has some taste though their choice of writers is a tad questionable.

SCOTT

Did you come in here to talk about Dylan?

RUTH

Of course not. I need to talk to that other homo that works here. Mitchell. Where is he?

SCOTT

He took the afternoon off. I'm the Vice President of the bank, I can help you.

RUTH

Fine. I want you to tell me why this statement is incorrect.

Ruth hands a statement to Scott.

Scott looks at the papers.

SCOTT

I'd like you to tell me how you got your hands on Gertie Winston's bank statement.

RUTH

Just tell me why there isn't as much money as there should be in her account.

SCOTT

I don't know how you got this but I'm not going to tell you the amount in someone else's account or how they spend their money.

RUTH

Margaret, can you believe the asinine people who have positions of authority?

Margaret looks at her shoes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RUTH (CONT'D)

Mr. Irving, I suggest you look up this account and when you do, you'll see I'm a cosigner on it. Should something happen to Gertie, like being in the hospital due to a heart attack, then I'm in charge of her money.

Scott pulls up the account.

SCOTT

What do you know? You are on the account.

RUTH

Mmm. Now tell me how much money is in that account.

SCOTT

The statement is correct. There hasn't been any activity in the past few months.

RUTH

That's impossible. Gertie gets a check from her insurance company every month, she has social security, the receipts from the thrift store. This doesn't make any sense.

SCOTT

I don't know what to tell you.

RUTH

Get me Mrs. Winston's bank statements for the past six months and I want them now.

Scott begins typing into the computer.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Dylan walks into the house, picking up the mail from a table.

DYLAN

Hey I'm home. I have some news!

Dylan walks towards the dining area when Larry walks out of the kitchen carrying some dishes.

LARRY

Welcome home.

Scott walks out of the kitchen carrying a basket of bread.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT  
Hey there adorable.

Scott kisses Dylan.

DYLAN  
So what's going on?

LARRY  
I realized I've been spending so much time at Marty's, I've been completely neglecting the other neighbors. Today, I trimmed the hedges over at Aidan's and tonight I'm making you dinner.

DYLAN  
That's great. You don't have to do all of this you know.

LARRY  
Of course I know that. That's what makes it so special, don't you agree?

Larry walks back into the kitchen.

SCOTT  
He came in and started cooking.

DYLAN  
Who does that?

Larry walks back into the dining room, carrying more dishes.

Scott and Dylan stop talking and both put on smiles, looking at Larry.

LARRY  
You two better start setting the table.

Dylan and Scott look at each other.

SCOTT  
You heard him, start setting the table.

DYLAN  
Funny.

Dylan goes to the credenza and takes out some dishes.

SCOTT  
You'll never guess who came into the bank today.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN

Who?

SCOTT

Your arch nemesis, Ruth.

DYLAN

Oh my god. How painful was it?

SCOTT

She was in a rampage, something about Gertie Winston's bank account. Very strange.

DYLAN

Speaking of strange, I have some news to tell you.

SCOTT

I think Ronald's been sleeping at the bank. Have you talked to Marty?

DYLAN

No, his cell phone is turned off. Do you want to hear my news?

SCOTT

Maybe there's something in the air today.

DYLAN

There might be. Something else happened to me today but it's good. Do you want to hear it or not?

SCOTT

You know I'm only teasing you. I wanted to know how long it would take you before you freaked out. Tell me your good news.

Larry walks into the room overhearing Scott's last statement.

LARRY

Is this news only for your husband or can I hear?

DYLAN

Actually it has something to do with you.

LARRY

Good news that has to do with me? I can't wait.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DYLAN  
Why don't you both sit down.

LARRY  
(hesitantly)  
Okay.

Scott and Larry take seats around the dining table.

DYLAN  
This morning a man named Jed Barclovich from the Pride Foundation stopped by. He wants me to be in a public service spot.

LARRY  
Oh how exciting!

DYLAN  
He wants to make a statement to broadcast all over the country about the twins' kidnapping. He thinks it will really help.

LARRY  
Help what?

DYLAN  
Help find the twins. If everyone sees the commercial, they'll be aware and they'll be on the lookout. He wants you and Jimmy to be in it as well. What do you say?

LARRY  
Why would he want to help us like that?

DYLAN  
It's a human rights foundation. They want to fight for justice. For everyone.

SCOTT  
I think it's great Dylan.  
Congratulations.

Scott gets up and kisses Dylan.

DYLAN  
Thanks. Well, Larry? It's really your decision.

LARRY  
If there's any chance it will bring the twins back home, I can't really say no now can I?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DYLAN

Oh thank you Larry. I think this is going to really help everyone.

LARRY

You know why don't we celebrate with a cocktail before dinner?

Larry gets up and walks into the kitchen.

DYLAN

Do you think he's really fine with this?

SCOTT

It's hard to tell, he's always smiling.

Larry walks back out and Dylan and Scott both stop talking.

They smile at Larry and he pours them all a glass of wine.

LARRY

To a fresh approach to this awful scenario.

The three clink their glasses and Larry downs his in one gulp.

DYLAN

Do you think we should talk to Zimmy before I agree to it?

LARRY

Of course not, you go and call this Jed. Tell him you'll do the spot. We needn't bother Zimmy with this. He's busy at the Bistro. Always working so hard.

Larry pours himself another glass of wine.

INT. ZIMMY'S BISTRO - BACK ROOM - EVENING

Zimmy has Aidan propped up against a shelf as they are having sex.

Zimmy is holding one of Aidan's legs up as he pounds into him.

ZIMMY

I promised myself I wouldn't do this anymore.

AIDAN

Just shut up.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Marty is on the bed while Stephen sits on the floor.

A half eaten pizza is sitting in a box near Stephen.

STEPHEN

I'm really sorry about the room. I thought there would be more than one room available. Or at least more than one bed.

MARTY

I told you it's fine. This reminds me of one of my first apartments.

STEPHEN

We could always drive back.

MARTY

No, don't be crazy. It's one night in a cheap hotel. I think I can handle it.

Marty picks at a piece of pizza.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Can I ask you something?

STEPHEN

Sure.

MARTY

Why did you show Talia a picture of Johnny? Do you think he has something to do with the kidnapping? Is that why you asked me to stay away from him?

STEPHEN

Until I can prove something, I just want you to be safe.

MARTY

You mean until you can prove he had something to do with this right?

Stephen stands up and stretches.

STEPHEN

I think we should get some sleep. I'll take the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

No, really. It was my idea to stay and you have to drive all that way. You sleep in the bed. I'll be fine on the floor.

Marty grabs a blanket from the bed and heads to the floor.

STEPHEN

I really don't want you sleeping on the floor.

MARTY

It's okay. I used to do it all the time when I was a kid. I'm sure it's not any different now.

Marty puts the blanket down on the floor.

Stephen starts taking off his shirt to get ready for bed.

Marty adjusts the pillow and blanket.

Marty lies down on the floor.

He gets back up and starts to fluff out the pillow.

Stephen takes off his shirt and pants.

Stephen climbs into bed wearing only his boxers.

He watches Marty's struggle with the blanket and pillow.

STEPHEN

Are you sure you're okay?

Marty tries to lay down on the hard floor once again.

MARTY

Of course. This is perfect.

Stephen smiles.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Marty is tossing and turning on the floor.

He beats at his pillow a few times and sits up.

He looks at the empty chair.

Marty takes his pillow and blanket and walks over to the chair.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He sits in the chair and puts the pillow on his lap.

He tries numerous different ways to be comfortable before giving up.

Marty looks over to Stephen sleeping on the bed.

He has thrown the blanket off of himself and is uncovered.

The moonlight coming through the window shines light on Stephen's body.

Marty puts his hands to his face contemplating what to do.

After a little hesitation, Marty gets up and walks to the bed.

He methodically gets into the bed, trying not to disturb Stephen.

He climbs under the blanket and sighs.

Marty looks over at Stephen's almost naked body.

MARTY

Marty Mitchell you are such a slut.

Stephen rolls over and puts his arm around Marty.

Marty lies there, uncomfortably - for a moment.

He takes a deep sigh, smiles and closes his eyes.

INT. BUSTAMANTE TWINS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Zimmy walks past the room and notices Larry sitting in a chair. Larry has a glass of wine in his hands.

ZIMMY

Larry? What are you doing?

LARRY

I can't sleep.

Zimmy walks into the room.

ZIMMY

What about the pills Dr. Stein gave you?

LARRY

I took them. They aren't working.

Zimmy notices the bottle of wine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIMMY

Should you be drinking with the pills?

LARRY

I don't see why not. Neither one helps me sleep.

ZIMMY

Is there anything I can do?

LARRY

I used to think that there was always something someone could do. I thought I could clean and cook and make my home sparkle. I thought that might make things alright. Then I thought if I was the perfect host, then that would make things alright. I thought maybe if I even put a little of my expertise to help the neighbors that would help.

ZIMMY

Larry.

LARRY

But mostly, I thought if I leaned on you, and you were there then that might make it feel better. But you know what? It doesn't. The cleaning, the cooking, the pills, the love, nothing helps. So no, Zimmy there isn't anything you can do.

Zimmy has tears in his eyes and he walks over to Larry.

ZIMMY

I want to help you so much.

LARRY

Dylan Irving is taping a segment tomorrow for the Pride Foundation. They're going to talk about the twins and how they were kidnapped in hopes that someone will care enough to call and tell us where they are. Soon enough, the whole world will know all of our secrets. You should go to sleep. We have to be fresh for the film crew.

Larry picks up the bottle of wine hidden next to the chair.

Larry walks out of the room.

END OF ACT THREE.

ACT FOUR

EXT. DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS - DAY

There is a LARGE CROWD gathered on a public street.

Amongst the people in the crowd are Scott Irving, Larry and Zimmy Bustamante, Toddy Tudrow and Sheriff Mackenzie.

There are film crews and cameras all around.

To the left, Dylan is getting make up put on him.

Jed Bachlovich is next to him.

JED  
You have it all memorized right?

DYLAN  
Of course I'm a professional.

JED  
You're not nervous.

DYLAN  
Nervous? I was born for this.

A CAMERA MAN approaches them.

CAMERA MAN  
It's time.

DYLAN  
It's time. How exciting.

Dylan gets up from his chair and follows Jed and the CAMERA MAN.

EXT. SHERIFF'S STATION - DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS -  
CONTINUOUS

Margaret and Ruth pull up in front of the Sheriff's station.

Margaret helps Ruth out of the car.

RUTH  
Thank you for bringing me, Margaret. I  
had to make sure that bastard was in  
jail.

The two women notice all the commotion up the street.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGARET

What on Earth?

RUTH

Indeed, Margaret. Fetch me my scooter  
will you?

Margaret heads to the trunk of the car.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS - DAY

Jed, the camera man, and a DIRECTOR are all behind the camera. Dylan is facing them with the crowd of spectators behind him.

The camera man counts down with his fingers.

DIRECTOR

Action.

Dylan begins walking to the camera, as behind him is the large crowd of spectators.

DYLAN

Hi, I'm Dylan Irving. You may have read my bestselling novel "Is He A Cheating Bastard? 10 Ways To Find Out". But I'm not here today to talk about my book. Instead I'm here to talk about this peaceful little town, a town not much different than yours. A town known for its hospitality and loving nature.

RUTH

(V.O.)

Stop this! Stop this right now!

DIRECTOR

Cut!

Ruth rides her scooter through the crowd.

Margaret sheepishly follows.

JED

Who is that?

DYLAN

The devil incarnate.

Seeing Ruth, Scott walks over to Dylan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

I should've known this had something to do with you.

DYLAN

This has something to do with everyone who lives in this town.

RUTH

That's impossible. If it had any bearing on Carlton Heights, I would be the one who put it together. What exactly do you think you're doing?

Jed walks over to Ruth, holding out his hand.

JED

You must be Ruth Carlton. I've heard so much about you.

RUTH

Who the hell are you?

JED

I'm Jed Bachlovich. We're from the Kookenai County Pride Division. We're a foundation that fights for human rights, particularly the rights of gays, lesbians, transgender, bisexual and questioning.

While Jed is talking, Ruth becomes increasingly impatient. By the time he is through, she makes a grimace.

RUTH

That's disgusting.

DYLAN

We're trying to help find Larry's and Jimmy's twins.

RUTH

You think they watch gay TV do you? Where is Sheriff Mackenzie, surely he didn't give you permission for this. Sheriff!

Sheriff Mackenzie is hiding behind some people in the crowd. But slowly makes his way to the front.

JED

I have all the appropriate permits.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RUTH

Did you give them permission to do this?

Sheriff Mackenzie says nothing.

Ruth turns to Margaret.

RUTH (CONT'D)

You better have a talk with your son.

DYLAN

Ruth, listen to me.

RUTH

Ah, the audacity. If you must address me you address me as Mrs. Carlton.

DYLAN

Ruth, we are filming an announcement that will be broadcast across the country. Anyone who knows or has seen the twins or the people who kidnapped them will be able to contact us. Now are you going to stand here in front of all these people and tell me you would rather just watch the kidnappers walk away with those innocent babies?

Everyone in the crowd is looking at Ruth, wondering what they should do.

Ruth's face suddenly turns to a bright smile.

RUTH

Of course not. I love those twins as if they were my own grandchildren.

DYLAN

Great grandchildren. Great, great....

RUTH

I was just upset I wasn't included. You all know how much I want to help this town. Dylan, you sweet boy you should've just called me.

Ruth smiles at the crowd and turns to Dylan.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I'll get you for this.

DYLAN

And my little dog too?

INT. CARLTON HEIGHTS HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Stephen walks into the lobby.

Haley is sitting on the sofa. When she sees him, she runs over to him.

STEPHEN

Haley? What are you doing here?

HALEY

Oh Stephen, I need your help.

STEPHEN

What is it? Did something happen to Marty?

HALEY

No, it's Johnny, my boyfriend. He's been arrested. He's been in jail all night and they're talking about extraditing him back to West Virginia.

STEPHEN

He's in jail, really?

HALEY

Yes. Please, I don't know who else to turn to. Can you come with me? Can you help him?

Stephen thinks about it for a minute.

STEPHEN

Let's go to the jail.

HALEY

Oh thank you so much.

INT. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - JOHNNY'S CELL - DAY

Johnny is in the cell sitting on the bed.

Sheriff Mackenzie opens the door.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I have a visitor for you.

Stephen walks into the cell.

JOHNNY

You're my lawyer?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sheriff sits down on the bed next to Johnny.

STEPHEN  
Can I have some privacy Sheriff?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE  
You're sure you don't need me?

STEPHEN  
I think we'll be fine.

Sheriff Mackenzie gets up and walks out of the cell.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE  
Just let me know if you need anything.

Stephen turns to Johnny.

STEPHEN  
It looks like you're in a little trouble.

JOHNNY  
It's speeding tickets. It's going to be a couple of days in jail at most.

STEPHEN  
You're going to be spending the rest of your life in prison for kidnapping.

JOHNNY  
I'm sick of this crap. Tell Mackenzie I want a real lawyer.

STEPHEN  
I'm sick of your crap. I went to see Talia Lee yesterday. You know her don't you? The woman you thought gave birth to the Bustamante twins. You called her and told her you knew where her babies were. You even had that doctor friend of yours call once she had the babies.

JOHNNY  
You're insane. You can't prove anything.

STEPHEN  
No, but I think Mrs. Shepard, that's her name now, I think she might recognize your voice when she hears it.

Stephen takes out a tape recorder from his jacket.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHNNY

You think you're pretty smart, fag?

STEPHEN

Keep it up and I might just have the FBI  
throw in a couple more years for  
conspiracy.

Stephen gets up and walks to the cell door.

Out of site from Johnny and Stephen is Ruth. She has been  
listening to their conversation.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

I think some of those boys at the prison  
are going to like a little piece of you.

INT. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - OUTSIDE JOHNNY'S CELL - DAY

Stephen walks out of the cell and runs right into Ruth.

RUTH

Mr. Merrick, I heard you were back in  
Carlton Heights.

STEPHEN

Nothing ever gets past you Mrs. Carlton.

RUTH

Well every once in awhile there's a  
little glitch in the system. Haley tells  
me you're going to be helping Johnny with  
this nasty arrest business.

STEPHEN

I'm going to take care of Johnny.

RUTH

I'm so glad to hear that.

Haley runs over to Ruth and Stephen.

HALEY

Well, is there anything you can do?

STEPHEN

I'll do what I can but these are out-of-  
state charges. I'll see if we can't hold  
him here for a few days. I have to make  
some arrangements.

Ruth smiles as she watches Stephen walk away.

INT. M&A BANK - DAY

Ronald walks into the bank.

Scott is at his desk working on the computer.

SCOTT

Hey, you missed the filming this morning.

RONALD

What filming?

SCOTT

My husband's the latest TV star.

RONALD

What?

SCOTT

He did a public service thing about the twins. They're hoping someone will see it and have some information about the kidnapping.

RONALD

I didn't realize Dylan was such a philanthropist.

SCOTT

Dylan's just an attention hound. But even if his main objective is to be seen on television, his heart is still in the right place. Man, he was so great. Even Ruth Carlton showed up trying to cause a ruckus.

RONALD

You'll have to congratulate him for me.

Ronald starts walking to his office.

SCOTT

Which reminds me, Ruth came into the bank yesterday. Did you know she's the cosigner on Gertie Winston's bank account?

RONALD

What kind of president would I be if I didn't know that?

Ronald walks into his office.

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

Ronald walks to his desk.

Ronald sits down and suddenly sweeps all the contents of his desk onto the floor.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Ruth and Margaret are at the table sorting through stacks of papers.

From the foyer, we see Haley walk into the door, sniffing.

RUTH

Haley dear, is that you?

Haley walks into the room.

MARGARET

You poor thing you're so upset.

HALEY

You'd be upset too if your boyfriend was in jail.

RUTH

He's in jail because he's a criminal. People don't go to jail unless they've done something wrong.

HALEY

I should've known you wouldn't understand.

RUTH

I understand plenty. I understand that he will be sent back to West Virginia any day now and you will go back to normal.

Haley runs out of the room crying.

MARGARET

Ruth you shouldn't be so insensitive.

RUTH

What did you say?

MARGARET

Nothing.

Margaret looks back at her stack of papers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGARET (CONT'D)

There certainly is a lot of information here.

RUTH

I realize that Margaret, but we have to go through everything. I want to know how much money that thrift shop has taken in, her rent receipts from that convict and anything else that brings in cash. There is something wrong here and I want to find it. So keep looking.

MARGARET

Of course Ruth.

Both women continue looking through papers. Ruth stops.

RUTH

Aha.

MARGARET

What is it?

RUTH

I was going about this all wrong. Gertie hasn't lost any money. Everything that was there is still there. It's the deposits that are missing. There haven't been any made in four months. I think we finally got them Margaret.

MARGARET

Who?

RUTH

That wretched Dylan Irving, you fool. Do you know what happened four months ago?

MARGARET

No.

RUTH

Do I have to spell everything out to you? The Irvings moved to Carlton Heights four months ago. Gertie's deposits haven't been put into her account since. Don't you see, Scott Irving has been stealing from Gertie.

INT. IRVING KITCHEN - EVENING

Dylan, Marty and Larry are putting trays of food together.

Larry begins to talk but doesn't look up from the plate.

LARRY

I want to thank you Dylan, I really do.

DYLAN

I think this is going to be the big break in the case. Someone's going to see it and someone who knows that awful doctor Linda is going to contact us.

LARRY

Do you really think so?

MARTY

We know it.

Marty puts his arm around Larry.

LARRY

Thank you guys. I better get this food out to the masses.

Larry walks out of the kitchen.

DYLAN

Do you really think it will work?

MARTY

I don't know but I think it's better than not doing anything, don't you?

DYLAN

Absolutely.

MARTY

I've been helping too.

DYLAN

Oh.

MARTY

Stephen and I went to visit the twins' birth mother yesterday.

DYLAN

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

Turns out, the woman listed on the birth certificate isn't their real mother though. But get this, Talia, that's the woman's name, she got a call a few months ago telling her they found her babies, then another call telling her they have her babies.

DYLAN

And Stephen took you there?

MARTY

Yes, I invited him by the way. I hope you don't mind.

DYLAN

Of course not.

Dylan begins putting small tomatoes on to a plate.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

How well do you know Stephen?

MARTY

Pretty well I guess. I spent the night with him last night.

DYLAN

You didn't.

MARTY

No, I didn't. I mean we did. Stay in a hotel but we didn't, you know. But I wanted to. Oh Dylan I wanted to.

DYLAN

I'm sorry to hear that.

MARTY

What? I thought you'd be happy for me.

DYLAN

I found out something the other day. Something about Stephen.

MARTY

What is it?

DYLAN

I'm not supposed to tell anyone. I shouldn't have brought it up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARTY

But you did bring it up. What is it?

DYLAN

I got my hands on a bunch of adoption records that Johnson Hollingsworth handled. He was one of the lawyers working with Larry and Zimmy. His widow told me that Stephen came by to get the records about the twins.

MARTY

That makes sense. I told you he's been investigating. He wants to find them.

DYLAN

He took the files months ago. Long before the twins were even missing.

MARTY

What are you saying? That he had something to do with the kidnapping?

DYLAN

I don't know. But he did know where the birth mother was. No one else seemed to have that kind of knowledge. In fact from what I understand all of the twins' records are missing.

MARTY

All of them?

DYLAN

All of them.

SCOTT

(V.O FROM LIVING ROOM)

Dylan, Stephen's here. Come on, we're ready to start!

DYLAN

We're coming. Come on, let's watch my big debut.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Dylan and Marty walk into the living room and put their trays on the coffee table.

Dylan sits on the sofa next to Scott. Next to them are Zimmy and Larry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Marty takes a seat across from Stephen and looks at him.

DYLAN  
Here we go.

Scott hits the play button on the remote and the commercial begins.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS - INTERCUT - TELEVISION

On the television, Dylan is in front of the crowd walking to the camera.

DYLAN  
(on TV)  
Hi, I'm Dylan Irving. You may have read my bestselling novel "Is He A Cheating Bastard? 10 Ways To Find Out". But I'm not here today to talk about my book. Instead I'm here to talk about this peaceful little town, a town not much different than yours. A town known for its hospitality and loving nature.

INTERCUT - IRVING LIVING ROOM

DYLAN  
This is where the old coot tried to ruin us.

SCOTT  
Shh.

DYLAN  
Hey!

INTERCUT - TELEVISION

DYLAN  
This is Carlton Heights. But something terrible has happened here recently. Two six month old infants were kidnapped, right out of the loving arms of their parents. Those parents are a loving and giving gay couple named Zimmy and Larry Bustamante and they're here with me today.

As Larry and Zimmy walk into the picture, the camera pans the crowd.

INTERCUT - IRVING LIVING ROOM

Larry leans closer to the television.

LARRY  
Hold it.

DYLAN  
What?

LARRY  
Pause it.

Scott pauses the video.

Larry runs up in front of the television set.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Now rewind, slow.

Scott begins rewinding in slow motion.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
There. Pause it right there.

Larry looks closer at the television.

DYLAN  
Larry what is it?

LARRY  
It's her. It's Lita.

Larry points to a woman on the screen.

The woman is in the crowd, almost hidden behind someone.

Larry looks at the guests in the living room.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
From the hospital cafeteria. She's the  
one who helped Doctor Teinenbaum steal  
the babies. She knows where they are!

The camera freeze frames on the image of Lita in the crowd.

FADE OUT.

THE END.