

CARLTON

Heights

Episode 11 -
"Open Arms"

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TEASER

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - DAY

SCOTT IRVING is sitting on the sofa reading an unbound manuscript as DYLAN IRVING walks back and forth in the room.

Scott puts the last page down on the table.

DYLAN

Well? What do you think?

SCOTT

It's good. It's very funny.

DYLAN

But informative right?

SCOTT

Yes, very informative.

DYLAN

You're not just saying that are you?

SCOTT

Would I lie to my talented husband?

DYLAN

So you think it's good enough to send to Ginnie?

SCOTT

Oh, you're going to send it to the editor like this?

DYLAN

What's wrong with it? I thought you said it was...

SCOTT

I'm just kidding. I think it's great.

Dylan sits down on the chair next to the sofa relieved.

DYLAN

What was your favorite part?

SCOTT

Well, let's see.

Scott begins going through the papers when the door bell rings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN
You decide what's best while I get the door.

Dylan gets up and answers the door.

HALEY OSBOURNE is at the door.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Hi Haley, come on in.

HALEY
Before I come in, let me just say how sorry I am.

DYLAN
Sorry? For what?

HALEY
For this.

Haley steps to the side revealing RUTH CARLTON standing behind her.

DYLAN
Oh my god!

RUTH
It's nice to see you too Mr. Irving.

DYLAN
What are you doing here?

RUTH
We have some things to discuss. May I come in?

DYLAN
Uh, sure I guess.

Dylan steps back opening the door for Ruth and Haley.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Scott, we have (pause) guests.

Scott sees Ruth walk in and stands up.

He walks to Ruth extending his hand.

SCOTT
Mrs. Carlton what a surprise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RUTH
I'll bet.

SCOTT
Can I help you to a seat?

RUTH
Thank you, I knew one of you had to have manners.

Dylan watches as Scott leads Ruth to the chair.

Haley stands next to Dylan.

HALEY
Like I said, I'm ever so sorry.

Dylan walks to Ruth and Scott and takes a seat on the sofa.

RUTH
I haven't been to a gay household in quite awhile but isn't it customary for you to offer your guest something to drink? Or is that only what normal people do?

DYLAN
Of course, what can I get you? A little hemlock, a nice glass of bleach?

RUTH
Oh, you and that humor. It's nice to see it isn't only reserved for your dime-store novels.

DYLAN
What do you want Ruth?

RUTH
It really pains me to no end to tell you that I have proof that your husband is stealing from the bank.

SCOTT
What?

RUTH
From my dear friend Gertie Winston no less. In the past four months, not a single one of her deposits has made it into her account.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SCOTT

That's ridiculous. I wouldn't have anything to do with something like that.

RUTH

You can tell that to the judge. But for now I think Sheriff Mackenzie will be interested enough to check into your bank accounts and see if you've made a few deposits of your own.

DYLAN

Go ahead. You aren't going to find anything.

RUTH

It's like I've always known, you can't trust the fags. The minute your back is turned (beat) they'll screw you.

DYLAN

Get out.

Dylan stands up.

RUTH

Excuse me?

DYLAN

Hobble yourself out of my house before you have to leave on a stretcher.

RUTH

Well, I never. I was only trying to help you. If you confess now, we can get you out of town and into the prison system where you belong.

Dylan grabs Ruth's cane and holds it up.

DYLAN

If you don't leave now, you old bitch, I will beat you to death.

Haley intercedes and helps Ruth out of her chair.

SCOTT

Mrs. Carlton, I assure you, I've done nothing wrong.

DYLAN

You don't have to explain anything to her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Ruth and Haley walk to the door.

RUTH

If I were you I'd start packing. Your days are numbered Sunshine.

DYLAN

Get out.

Ruth and Haley walk out the door and Dylan slams it behind them.

Scott gets up and grabs his brief case.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

SCOTT

I'm going to the bank. I'm going to find out what's going on before that bitch has me carted off to jail.

DYLAN

Well what should I do?

SCOTT

Use those investigative skills of yours to clear your husband.

Scott walks out the door.

Dylan leans against the door and huffs in exasperation.

DYLAN

I hate that woman.

END OF TEASER.

ACT ONE

EXT. AVENUE SEA - THE CUL-DE-SAC

A mail truck DRIVES into the cul-de-sac and parks.

MEL the elderly mailman, gets out of the truck and begins putting mail into the mail boxes of the residents of Avenue Sea.

He gets to the Irving's and puts the mail into the mailbox.

As MEL walks back to his truck, Dylan runs out of the house carrying a package.

DYLAN

Mel! Mel!

MEL

(without turning around)

I don't have any packages for you Mr. Irving. You must be weaning yourself off of Ebay.

DYLAN

Actually, Scott put his foot down, but I have a package for you.

Dylan gives the package to Mel.

MEL

New York, huh?

DYLAN

That's right. It's my new manuscript and it has to be on my editor's desk ASAP. You will take good care of it won't you?

MEL

Of course.

DYLAN

Thanks Mel, oh and here. A little something for your trouble.

Dylan pulls out a small bottle of booze from his pocket.

MEL

Thanks, Mr. Irving. Your manuscript is safe with me.

Mel gets into his truck and drives off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dylan turns to go back into his house when he sees RONALD MITCHELL come around the side of the Mitchell house.

Dylan watches as Ronald looks through the living room window and goes to the front door.

Dylan walks over to the Mitchell house.

EXT. MITCHELL HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Ronald is trying to bust through the front door when Dylan approaches.

DYLAN
Having trouble?

RONALD
Marty changed the locks and I need to get in. You don't have an extra key do you?

DYLAN
No. You know maybe Marty changed the locks for a reason. Maybe he doesn't want you in the house.

RONALD
I don't care what Marty wants.

DYLAN
That's pretty obvious.

RONALD
Do you know where my husband is?

DYLAN
He's at the police station with Zimmy and Larry. And Stephen Merrick.

RONALD
For what?

DYLAN
There was a lead in the kidnapping. Marty's helping out.

RONALD
I'll bet that will mean a whole hell of a lot. Look, if you're not going to help me why don't you go on home.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

I'm not going to help you break into Marty's house but I'm not going home until I ask you a few questions.

RONALD

About what?

DYLAN

I'd like to know why you're stealing money from Gertie Winston.

RONALD

What?

DYLAN

Ruth Carlton hobbled herself over to our house this morning accusing Scott of stealing from Gertie. You know as well as I do that my husband would never do anything so dishonest. You, on the other hand...

RONALD

Now wait a minute, just because you don't like what happened between me and Marty doesn't mean you can accuse me of something like this.

DYLAN

I know Scott isn't guilty and that leaves you. I'm a fairly mild mannered guy and so is Scott but if you don't fix what's going on down at the bank, you're going to get more than just legal trouble. Nobody takes of advantage of us. Nobody. Fix it.

Dylan walks away from the house leaving Ronald on the front steps.

INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - DAY

LARRY BUSTAMANTE, ZIMMY BUSTAMANTE, MARTY MITCHELL and STEPHEN MERRICK are standing at a counter.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE and BENNY, the deputy are behind the counter.

LARRY

What are you going to do about this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I am doing my best Mr. Bustamante. I have put out flyers with this woman's picture on them.

MARTY

Oh that's wonderful, maybe if someone smashes into a phone pole the picture will fall on the windshield and they'll recognize the cocoa making baby napper.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Is that sarcasm?

MARTY

I don't know this sarcasm of which you speak.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Look, you haven't really given us much to go on. We have a picture of the woman you think is from the hospital cafeteria.

LARRY

I don't think it's her, I know it.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Why would she suddenly show up in Carlton Heights? She must know everyone is looking for her.

MARTY

Who's looking for her? You certainly haven't done anything for us and the FBI hasn't been any help either. We're on our own and we're running out of time.

At Marty's last statement, Larry begins to tear up. He makes an audible choking sound.

Zimmy puts his arms around him.

ZIMMY

Sheriff, this is tearing us apart. Can't you see what it's doing to Larry?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I promise all of you that we're going to find this woman.

Stephen's cell phone rings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEPHEN

Excuse me.

Stephen walks out of the room while Zimmy tries to comfort a very distraught Larry.

MARTY

Sheriff, isn't there any way you can get some extra help? I mean with this footage maybe the FBI will finally step in?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I wouldn't count on it. This town has been off their radar so long, they don't care what happens here.

MARTY

But this is a kidnapping. This just isn't right. What about the District Attorney or the Mayor? Somebody must be willing to help us.

Stephen walks back into the room.

STEPHEN

That was Greg, I sent him the photo and he's doing a search through the FBI files to see if he can find a match.

LARRY

Oh, Stephen, do you think he'll find one?

STEPHEN

It's worth a shot.

MARTY

And see Sheriff that's how you handle this kind of situation.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

AIDAN PALMER is walking to the front door wearing only a pair of skimpy red shorts.

He opens the door to find Ronald Mitchell there.

Aidan tries to shut the door on Ronald but Ronald puts his foot to stop the door from closing.

RONALD

I only need a minute.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN
I don't want any.

Ronald pushes the door open and walks into the house.

RONALD
I have some news for you.

AIDAN
Make it quick.

RONALD
I wanted to let you know that we've finally got a way out of this little money mess. Your grandmother was just at the Irving's and she's convinced it's Scott who stole the money.

AIDAN
But it wasn't Scott it was you. Only you I might add.

RONALD
It's just as easy to trace the money to Scott as it is to trace it back to you. Those transfers were done on your laptop.

AIDAN
Look, I had nothing to do with any of this and I don't care who gets the blame or goes to jail, I just know it won't be me. So if that's all you had to say, you can go now.

RONALD
You know I can still make this pretty ugly for you.

AIDAN
It can't get any uglier than you've already made it. Now go.

RONALD
Fine, I'll go but one day very soon you're going to be coming back to me. I know we made a great team.

AIDAN
I don't think your wifey would agree.

RONALD
Marty seems to be doing just fine. He locked me out of the house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AIDAN

Aw, you poor thing. You know you're not staying here right?

RONALD

Not yet, but you'll ask me back. I know you will.

Ronald walks out the door.

An OLDER MAN with grayish hair walks out from the other room. He is the same man who has been working with Aidan.

OLD MAN

You shouldn't have done that.

AIDAN

Why? He can't do anything to me. I have Ruth and her deep sense of propriety on my side.

OLD MAN

I'm not worried about you, but you can't let him frame Scott Irving like that.

AIDAN

Why not?

OLD MAN

It's not what your grandfather would want.

AIDAN

Well he's not here is he?

OLD MAN

No, but that's the ONLY reason you're here. You want what's coming to you and until we either find your grandfather or his body, you won't get anything. And no matter what happened to my dear Edgar, he would want Dylan to be protected at all costs. So, you're going to convince that little worm Ronald Mitchell to take the fall.

AIDAN

Right. I've told you all about him. Does he seem like the kind of guy who would just suddenly confess and endure his punishment?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

OLD MAN
Then we play his game.

AIDAN
How?

OLD MAN
He's not the only one who knows about
computers. Where's your lap top?

AIDAN
Over there.

The Old Man walks over to the laptop and opens it up.

Aidan walks over to the man and looks over his shoulder.

AIDAN (CONT'D)
What are we going to do?

OLD MAN
I'm going to fix this problem and you're
going to go over to Dylan and offer help
any way you can. Confess your part in the
thing if you think it will convince Dylan
you're on his side.

AIDAN
Are you insane?

OLD MAN
No, but if you don't take directions
you're going to end up back on the
streets where I found you.

AIDAN
Fine, I'll go, but what are you going to
do?

OLD MAN
The same thing Ronald did to you.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dylan is vacuuming the living room, though he is not very
graceful.

There is music playing while Dylan sings along with the
stereo.

He pushes the coffee table with the vacuum and struggles
moving items.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We hear the doorbell ring though Dylan doesn't hear it right away.

Dylan continues vacuuming and dancing to the music and ends up pulling the cord out of the wall.

Dylan hears the doorbell at that moment.

DYLAN
Just a minute.

Dylan walks to the door and opens it.

Aidan is there.

AIDAN
Hi neighbor.

DYLAN
Hi, what can I do for you?

AIDAN
Aren't you going to invite me in?

DYLAN
Sure, come on in.

Aidan sees the vacuum cleaner.

AIDAN
Were you...

DYLAN
Yes, my husband is having some problems and I want to help in any way I can.

AIDAN
So you're vacuuming?

DYLAN
You don't understand the dynamics of our relationship. Vacuuming, grocery shopping and actually cooking a meal for Scott would mean more to him that you can ever comprehend.

AIDAN
You're right, I don't understand. (Under his breath) or care.

DYLAN
What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AIDAN

It's actually Scott's problems that brought me here.

DYLAN

How do you know what his problems are?

AIDAN

Let me guess, my grandmother stopped by because she found out there was money missing money from Gertie Winston.

DYLAN

Maybe.

AIDAN

And she came here because she thinks Scott took the money, right?

DYLAN

Maybe.

AIDAN

I know that's what happened. But more importantly, I'm here to help.

DYLAN

How can you help?

AIDAN

I know Ronald is the one who really took the money.

DYLAN

Thanks Aidan, but I actually know that as well.

AIDAN

But I can convince my grandmother that it's Ronald she should be going after and not Scott.

DYLAN

Do you have proof to show that old bitc...I mean your grandmother.

AIDAN

Don't worry I'll get proof to show that old bitch.

DYLAN

Why would you do this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AIDAN

What?

DYLAN

Not to sound ungrateful or anything but you don't strike me as the kind of person who offers to help others just for the heck of it. I mean you are responsible for breaking up the marriage of my best friend.

AIDAN

You have me all wrong Dylan. I didn't break up that marriage. That thing was doomed before I ever walked through the door. As for helping you and Scott, I have to admit seeing Ronald squirm on his way to the po po has its advantage but really I just don't think it's fair that you guys should have to pay for someone else's crime. I'm not the demon seed your pal Marty has made me out to be.

DYLAN

I never meant to imply that.

AIDAN

Doesn't matter. You tell that hot husband of yours not to worry, I'm taking care of everything.

Aidan walks to the door.

DYLAN

Thanks.

Dylan closes the door as Aidan walks out.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

My hot husband, yeah, you're trust worthy.

Dylan bends down to find the cord for the vacuum. He pulls the cord out from under the desk and it brings a file folder into view.

Dylan bends down and picks up the file with the name "CARLTON" written on it.

Dylan flips through the pages and then closes it quickly, smiling.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

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

Stephen and Marty drive into the cul-de-sac.

Stephen parks in front of the Mitchell house.

MARTY

Now what we do?

STEPHEN

We wait. Hopefully we'll find a match and we will be able to actually identify this woman.

MARTY

And then what? I mean we know this Linda Teinenbaum actually stole the babies and no one seems able to track her down.

STEPHEN

It's just a matter of time. I have full faith that we'll find the twins.

MARTY

You seem pretty confident. Almost like you know more than you're letting on. (beat) Stephen, I have to ask you something. Something kind of personal.

STEPHEN

I figured. I want to apologize. I'm sorry I put my arm around you like that the other night. I didn't mean it.

MARTY

I'm not talking about that. But (pause) you didn't mean it?

STEPHEN

Umm, well I guess I did mean it, I mean

MARTY

You either meant it or you didn't.

STEPHEN

I wanted to but I shouldn't have.

MARTY

I think I should go. It's been a long morning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHEN

Yeah.

MARTY

By the way, I hope you're serious about helping find the twins. I'm beginning to think I might have a flair for this kind of thing.

STEPHEN

I think you have a flair for everything.

Marty smiles and Stephen leans in to kiss him.

Marty turns his head and opens the car door.

MARTY

Okay, I'll see you later then.

Marty gets out of the car and walks to his house while Stephen drives away.

As Marty approaches the door, he sees it has been broken into.

He turns around to see if Stephen is still there but he is already turning from the cul-de-sac.

INT. MITCHELL FOYER - DAY

Marty slowly pushes the door open and walks into the house.

He opens the closet door and pulls out an umbrella.

He steps into the living room looking from left to right.

In the background, Ronald comes down the stairs wearing a towel.

He sees Marty prowling and walks up behind him.

Ronald taps Marty on the shoulder and Marty jerks around swinging his umbrella.

Ronald gets the umbrella away from him.

MARTY

What are you doing?

RONALD

I was seeing how well you handle a burglary. Not too well, I guess.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY
Did you break in?

RONALD
Well my key didn't work.

MARTY
There's a reason your key didn't work.
You don't live here anymore.

RONALD
Ah but you're wrong, I do. My name is on
the mortgage.

MARTY
This is my house.

RONALD
This is our house and I'm selling it.

MARTY
What?

RONALD
I need some extra cash and fast. Besides
once we get divorced, we have to sell it
anyway. Community property.

MARTY
I'll buy you out. It was my money that
got us the down payment to begin with.

RONALD
It was your Daddy's money.

MARTY
Yeah it was and as I recall it was also
his money that put you through college
and bought our first car.

RONALD
He's more generous than his son.

MARTY
You can't stay here. I'll have Sheriff
Mackenzie make you leave.

RONALD
On what grounds? We're still married, and
we both own the house. Besides do you
think he's going to take your side
knowing you spent the night with Stephen?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARTY
I was helping him.

RONALD
I hope you help him better than you help me. Marty, I don't really care about your life or what you do, but I don't like you coming home with some other man. It doesn't look good. What will everyone say?

MARTY
Look at what you've been doing!

RONALD
That's different.

MARTY
How is that different?

RONALD
Because that's me.

MARTY
You're disgusting.

RONALD
Aw, you do know how to keep the home fires burning don't you?

MARTY
I'm going to the coffee shop and when I get back you'd better be gone.

Marty walks out the door.

INT. M&A BANK - DAY

Scott is at his desk working on the computer.

He is going through papers from files and matching them with accounts on the computer screen.

On his list of files are the accounts of GERTIE WINSTON and RONALD MITCHELL

ALICE, the teller walks over to him from her side of the bank.

ALICE
Scott, can I get an approval on this?

Scott looks up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

What?

ALICE

An approval?

SCOTT

Oh, sure.

Scott takes the check and signs on the back. The teller looks over his shoulder to see what he is working on.

ALICE

What are you doing with these?

Scott closes one of the folders.

SCOTT

Alice, has Ronald ever asked you to put money into any accounts for him?

ALICE

You mean deposits?

SCOTT

I mean other deposits or transfers. From other accounts.

ALICE

Are you asking me if Ronald had me shift money from one account to his?

SCOTT

Maybe. Yes, okay yes I am.

ALICE

I've worked at this bank for a long time and I've worked with Ronald Mitchell for 6 years.

SCOTT

I get it. I'm sorry.

ALICE

You didn't let me finish. He hasn't asked me to do anything like that but if you want to know if I think he would do something like that on his own then yes, I do. So just keep looking for what you need.

Alice picks up Scott's approval and walks back to the counter.

EXT. AIDAN PALMER'S HOUSE - DAY

Dylan walks up to the house carrying the file folder he found in his house.

He takes a deep breath and rings the doorbell.

When he doesn't get an answer he knocks.

He is about to knock again when Aidan opens the door.

AIDAN

Dylan, you know when I said I was going to help that didn't mean we should be best buddies.

DYLAN

I have to ask you something.

AIDAN

I'm a bottom.

DYLAN

What? No, ew, that isn't what I want to know. I found something and well, I don't know how exactly to go about this.

AIDAN

I don't have time for all this. If you have a question just ask.

DYLAN

I found this file folder. Will you look at it?

Dylan hands the file folder to Aidan. Aidan looks at it.

AIDAN

What is this?

DYLAN

It's an adoption record from that lawyer who worked with Larry and Zimmy.

AIDAN

That yummy Stephen?

DYLAN

No, the other one. The old man from town, Hollingsworth. He did adoptions for a bunch of families over the years.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

So? What do I care? What do you care for that matter.

DYLAN

Look at that name, look at the date.

Aidan thumbs through the file folder nonchalantly.

AIDAN

Carlton, go figure. So what.

DYLAN

That's your mother right?

AIDAN

Yeah, so?

DYLAN

How old are you?

AIDAN

Never mind bitch, how old are you?

DYLAN

Were you adopted? Are you in your thirties?

Aidan starts laughing.

AIDAN

I think you need some bifocals if you think I'm in my 30's. This isn't me.

DYLAN

I didn't think so.

AIDAN

Is that it?

DYLAN

No, do you think it's possible your mother had another child? One older than you who she gave up for adoption?

AIDAN

It's possible but she's dead so who knows.

DYLAN

So you don't know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AIDAN

No, I don't know. What's more I don't care. If there's another bastard running around with my mother's genes then he can work out those demons on his own. I have my own problems, so go home and vacuum some more. Maybe you'll find the Lindbergh baby under the sofa.

Aidan gives the file back to Dylan and closes the door.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Aidan closes the door and turns around. The older man is on the sofa drinking a cup of tea.

AIDAN

I assume you heard all of that.

MAN

I did. You did a fine job.

AIDAN

So what happens now? It's obviously just a matter of time until Dylan figures it all out.

MAN

Don't be too concerned about your money. You'll get exactly the amounts we talked about. Your grandfather wanted all of this and he made certain that everyone would be taken care of.

AIDAN

What should I do?

MAN

Nothing. I'll take care of Dylan Irving.

INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - DAY

Larry and Zimmy are still sitting in the waiting room when Haley and Ruth walk in.

Deputy Benny is at the desk.

RUTH

I want to see the Sheriff.

BENNY

He's in the office, on the phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

Well get him off the phone. This is a matter of life and death.

BENNY

Oh my god, what is it?

RUTH

I want to see the Sheriff.

Sheriff Mackenzie walks out of the office and sees Ruth.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Mrs. Carlton what can I do for you?

RUTH

There is a criminal in our midst.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I know, we're doing everything we can to find this woman Lita.

RUTH

Who? What the hell are you talking about? I'm referring to that shit-hole Scott Irving.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Scott Irving. He had something to do with the kidnapping?

RUTH

I don't give a flying shit about those babies. I'm talking about Scott Irving stealing every cent Gertie Winston has. He's been stealing from her for months and I want you to go to that bank and arrest him!

Ruth leans back on her cane as she takes a breath while Haley tries to hold her up.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Mrs. Carlton, please.

Sheriff nods towards Larry and Zimmy in the corner.

Haley and Ruth look over at the visibly shaken Larry, with Zimmy holding him.

HALEY

Nice going lady.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Ruth perks up with a smile and wobbles over to Larry.

RUTH

Oh Larry, you know I didn't mean that about those sweet twins of yours. I'm just at my wit's end with the rubbish coming through this great town of ours.

ZIMMY

Mrs. Carlton, we understand.

LARRY

(whispering)
No, we don't.

RUTH

What was that dear?

LARRY

I want to go home.

Zimmy helps Larry up off the chair.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I don't need your help! I just want to go home.

RUTH

You do look a tad tired you poor thing.

ZIMMY

Sheriff please let us know the minute you hear anything.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

We're working on it Zimmy. I promise we'll find her.

Zimmy helps Larry out the door and Ruth turns back to the Sheriff.

RUTH

Jesus, is he a mess. Those babies may be better off wherever they are.

HALEY

You have such a flair for compassion.

RUTH

That's what they used to say at the orphanage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Ruth turns to the Sheriff.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Now, are you going to go arrest Scott
Irving or do I have to take matters into
my own hands?

INT. M & A BANK - DAY

Scott is still going through papers and computer screens to
find the missing money and its deposits.

Ronald walks into the bank and waves to Alice before walking
past Scott and into his office.

Scott and Alice look at each other.

INT. RONALD'S OFFICE - DAY

Ronald quickly turns on the computer and looks through the
files to see what Scott is looking at.

He picks up the telephone and dials a number.

RONALD

Hey, Clarence! It's your favorite son-in-
law. Oh yeah I know, your only son-in-
law. Listen, I didn't really want to have
to do this and well you know Marty
(pause) Yeah, I have to confess I thought
his gambling days were over but he's
really made a mess out of our financial
situation. I promise you I am going to
work my butt off getting it back to you
but we really need the loan. (pause) No,
no we couldn't. A gift?

Ronald leans back and smiles.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dylan is dusting the mantle when the telephone rings.

Dylan walks over cleaning products and trips over the vacuum trying to find the cordless telephone.

He finds it and answers.

DYLAN

Hello?

INTERCUT: AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM/IRVING LIVING ROOM

OLD MAN

May I speak with Dylan Irving please?

DYLAN

Speaking.

OLD MAN

Dylan, from the community service spot?
About the twins?

DYLAN

(excitedly)

Yes, yes, do you have information on the kidnapping?

OLD MAN

I'm afraid not. But I do have some very important information for you of a different nature.

DYLAN

Oh.

OLD MAN

I'm an old friend of Edgar Carlton's.

DYLAN

You're kidding.

OLD MAN

No, I'm not. You see he and I have had a long, long relationship and it's my understanding you may have a few questions about him.

DYLAN

I do. But how did you know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OLD MAN

You could say I've been following your progress in this matter.

DYLAN

Who is this?

OLD MAN

My name is Sam Cissell.

Dylan makes an inaudible screech holding the phone to his chest. Dylan smiles ear to ear and gets back on the phone.

DYLAN

Sam Cissell you say.

OLD MAN

Yes, perhaps you've heard

DYLAN

Oh I've seen your picture. Look, I would love to talk to you. I have a ton of questions regarding Mr. Carlton and this town.

OLD MAN

Including a certain adoption I'm sure.

DYLAN

How would you know about that?

OLD MAN

Gladys and I go way back, my friend. How about a meeting tomorrow?

DYLAN

That would be great. Umm, we could meet at my friend's coffee shop. It's in downtown Carlton Heights.

OLD MAN

Oh I'm afraid that won't work, you see I'm in Neptune, California and I'm only here for a couple of days. I really can't come to you.

DYLAN

Oh I see.

OLD MAN

If you'd rather not meet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN

No, no, I can get to Neptune. Umm, when?
Where?

OLD MAN

Write this down.

Dylan finds a piece of paper and begins writing.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Aidan walks in the room after having a run.

Aidan sees Sam on the phone and sits down next to him, wiping the sweat from his brow.

INTERCUT - IRVING LIVING ROOM/AIDAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

DYLAN

Okay, I got it. I'll see you tomorrow.

SAM CISSELL

I'm looking forward to it.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sam hangs up the phone.

AIDAN

Who was that?

SAM CISSELL

That was Dylan Irving.

AIDAN

What are you doing?

SAM CISSELL

Setting up a meeting.

AIDAN

A meeting?

SAM CISSELL

Yes, tomorrow night, Dylan Irving is going to be making a new friend.

Sam gets up and walks toward the other room while Aidan is left wiping his brow.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - DAY

Marty is at the counter reading a book when Stephen walks in but Marty doesn't look up.

MARTY
Sit anywhere you want.

Stephen walks up to the counter and sits.

STEPHEN
Is this seat taken?

Marty rolls his eyes and looks up.

MARTY
Oh, it's you. What are you doing here?

STEPHEN
I have some news.

MARTY
Did they find Lita?

STEPHEN
We found out who she is.

Stephen pulls out a note pad with writing on it.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
Our cocoa cook really is a Lita. Lita Miller, originally from New York but she's been a regular resident of West Virginia for the past 13 years.

MARTY
What the hell was she doing here?

STEPHEN
Here's where we get the goods. Greg did a run of her name through data bases of hate crimes and the like.

MARTY
She's some kind of terrorist?

STEPHEN
Not really but she does belong to a lot of anti-gay, anti-abortion type of groups including one called NOFAGS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

No Fags, no shit huh?

STEPHEN

Yeah. They're one of the more powerful hate groups in the country. Though they'd never consider themselves a hate group.

MARTY

Of course not.

STEPHEN

The board of directors includes Linda Teinenbaum and her husband, the Senator. You'll never guess the identity of one of their biggest benefactors.

MARTY

Kelly Ripa?

STEPHEN

No, older, much older. Ruth Carlton.

MARTY

Do you think that Ruth had something to do with kidnapping the twins?

STEPHEN

I don't know. Do you think she would do something like that?

MARTY

Umm yeah.

Marty walks around the counter and grabs his keys.

STEPHEN

Where are you going?

MARTY

We have to tell Larry and Zimmy.

INT. M&A BANK - DAY

Sheriff Mackenzie walks in.

Scott is at his desk and sees the Sheriff.

SCOTT

Sheriff, can I help you?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I need to see your boss. Is he in?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT
Yes, I'll get him.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE
Don't bother. I'll let myself in.

Sheriff Mackenzie walks to Ronald's door and opens it.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE (CONT'D)
Ronald, how are you?

Sheriff smiles at Scott before walking into Ronald's office.

Scott walks back to his desk.

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

Sheriff Mackenzie walks in as Ronald walks around his desk and shakes hands with him.

RONALD
Sheriff how nice to see you. I hope there isn't any trouble.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE
I sure hope not.

RONALD
Have a seat. What can I do for you?

Ronald walks back to his desk and sits down.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE
How well do you know Scott Irving?

INT. M&A BANK - DAY

Scott is at his desk going through files on the computer when he suddenly leans up.

He looks closer at the computer.

Scott gets up, grabs some files and walks to Ronald's office just as Sheriff Mackenzie and Ronald walk out.

RONALD
Thanks for coming by Sheriff.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE
No problem. If you could come up with those items as soon as possible I'd really appreciate it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RONALD
I'll do what I can.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE
Scott.

SCOTT
Sheriff.

Sheriff Mackenzie walks out of the bank and Ronald walks back into his office.

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

Ronald is at his desk when Scott walks in.

RONALD
Scott what do you need?

SCOTT
What was that all about?

RONALD
It's nothing. Don't worry about it.

SCOTT
It wouldn't have anything to do with you laundering money and setting me up to take the fall would it?

Ronald smiles.

RONALD
What are you talking about?

Scott puts the files on Ronald's desk.

SCOTT
It's all there. You just have to know where to look.

RONALD
Umm okay.

SCOTT
I don't know how you planned on getting away with it and I really don't know how you planned on blaming it on me but I do know I've figured it out. I know where all the money came from and where it went.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RONALD

Scott, it's like you're speaking a foreign language.

SCOTT

I like you Ronald, I do. You gave me this job, you're my next door neighbor, but what you've done here is wrong. I don't want anyone to get into trouble but I need you make it right.

RONALD

Where are you going with this?

SCOTT

I'll give you the chance to do the right thing, but if you don't fix this and make it right I have no choice but to turn you in.

Scott picks up the files from Ronald's desk.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Maybe I'd better hold onto these.

Scott walks out of the office.

INT. IRVING DINING ROOM - EVENING

Scott walks into the room where there is candlelight and a beautifully set table.

Dylan walks out of the kitchen carrying two plates.

DYLAN

There's my man.

Dylan kisses Scott on the cheek as he sets the plates down on the table.

SCOTT

Who are you having dinner with?

DYLAN

You.

SCOTT

This is for me?

DYLAN

Yes. Here let me take your jacket. You sit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Scott lets Dylan take his jacket and hesitantly sits at the table.

SCOTT
Is this Chicken Parmesan?

DYLAN
Yes.

SCOTT
You cooked?

DYLAN
And cleaned.

SCOTT
Alright, where's my husband?

Dylan sits at the table.

DYLAN
Funny. Can't a guy just make his husband
a nice meal after he's worked so hard?

SCOTT
A guy could, but Dylan Irving doesn't.

DYLAN
I knew today was a hard day for you so I
wanted your evening to be nice.

Dylan pours two glasses of wine and hands one to Scott.

SCOTT
Thanks.

DYLAN
So did you bust that cheating bastard
yet?

SCOTT
I don't have all the proof but I think I
have enough to prove he's been stealing
the money and putting into his account.
Though I think it's pretty strange he'd
be dumb enough to put it all into his own
account.

DYLAN
Maybe somebody else put it there.

SCOTT
Like who?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN

Aidan came to see me today. He said he'd help us in anyway he could.

SCOTT

So you think he would frame Ronald?

DYLAN

Not frame him, just put all of the blame on him. He's just as big of a creep as Ronald. Though I do feel a little sorry for him.

SCOTT

Ronald or Aidan?

DYLAN

Aidan.

SCOTT

Have you been drinking this afternoon?

DYLAN

No, it's just that being from the messed up Carlton family must have done a lot to his head.

SCOTT

Good point. And good food.

DYLAN

It was a busy day. Not only with the cleaning, cooking and Aidan but I also had the most interesting phone call today.

SCOTT

Oh yeah? From who?

DYLAN

Sam Cissell. You know the guy that's in the picture with Edgar Carlton.

SCOTT

Really.

DYLAN

Yes, he's in Neptune, California and he wants to meet with me.

SCOTT

How does he even know you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DYLAN

He saw me on television. On the public service announcement about the twins. He wants me to meet him tomorrow night.

SCOTT

You're not really going to meet him are you?

DYLAN

Well, yeah. Why wouldn't I?

SCOTT

First of all you don't even know who this man is. He could be some kind of stalker or something. He may not even be Sam Cissell.

DYLAN

Oh I think he's Sam Cissell alright.

SCOTT

Well at least meet him in public where people can see you.

DYLAN

I am. We're meeting at a bar, Daniel's in Neptune.

SCOTT

You're not going.

DYLAN

What do you mean I'm not going?

SCOTT

I mean you're not traveling 8 hours to meet some perfect stranger at a bar.

DYLAN

I am too. I'm an adult you know.

SCOTT

I'm in the middle of a crisis Dylan. Something a little more serious.

DYLAN

Than my career?

SCOTT

What does this have to do with your writing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DYLAN

The book.

SCOTT

Oh THE book, the one about Carlton Heights. You're right that is more important than me going to jail.

DYLAN

You're not going to jail. You just told me you have proof it's Ronald behind the missing money.

SCOTT

I could still be in trouble. I need you here.

DYLAN

I'll be back the very next day.

SCOTT

This is ridiculous. Just reschedule until this is taken care of.

DYLAN

I can't reschedule. He's only there for one day. Then he goes back East.

SCOTT

Then go back East, just don't do it now.

DYLAN

But he wants to talk to me now.

SCOTT

You know I've humored you in this little mystery you've created and

DYLAN

Humored me? And I did not create any mystery. There is something to all of this. Someone is trying to get me to find out about something and I want to know.

SCOTT

Do you hear yourself?

DYLAN

Yes and it sounds totally

SCOTT

Insane

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Dylan gets up and grabs the file folder from his desk. He puts it in front of Scott.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

What's this?

DYLAN

It's an adoption record. Elizabeth Carlton, Ruth's daughter gave birth a few years before she had Aidan and gave the baby up for adoption.

SCOTT

Where did you get this?

DYLAN

Toddy Tudrow. I think his mother wanted me to see it. I think somebody wants me to find this child. That's what the pictures were about, that's what the baby blanket is. And now Sam Cissell enters the picture.

SCOTT

So you think it's all up to you to figure out this stuff. Years and years of town secrets that have been buried until Dylan Irving arrives in town to uncover them and put everything right.

DYLAN

There's no need to be sarcastic.

SCOTT

I don't know what else to be. You have to realize how ridiculous all of this is.

DYLAN

What I think is ridiculous is you and your complete lack of support.

SCOTT

I'm done. I can't talk to you when you're like this.

Scott gets up and walks out of the room.

DYLAN

When I'm like what? Making sense? You didn't finish your dinner!

Dylan heaves a sigh and crosses his arms.

INT. BUSTAMANTE LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Zimmy opens the door to Marty and Stephen.

ZIMMY
Hi, come in.

Marty and Stephen walk in.

MARTY
Where's Larry? We have some news.

ZIMMY
Good news?

MARTY
Well not great but it's something.

ZIMMY
Larry! Larry, Marty's here.

Larry walks out of the kitchen carrying a bottle of wine.

Larry sits down on the sofa with his bottle.

LARRY
I'd offer you a drink but we're fresh out.

ZIMMY
So what's the news?

LARRY
You don't have my babies in your arms so you'll excuse me if I don't get too excited.

STEPHEN
My friend Greg in the FBI did some research and they matched up the picture of the woman from the video to that of a Lita Miller from West Virginia.

Larry sits up.

LARRY
They know who she is?

STEPHEN
She's not a huge player but she does belong to a group of gay bashers in West Virginia. The same group that lists the Teinenbaums on their Board of Directors.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

So that means they can arrest her? They can arrest her and get her to tell us where my babies are right?

STEPHEN

Yes, I mean as soon as they find her.

ZIMMY

Is the FBI looking for her now too?

STEPHEN

No, I'm afraid not. They still aren't deeming this particular case of any urgency.

MARTY

But that doesn't mean we can't find her. She was obviously here in Carlton Heights and our police and the police in Mahogany Bay are looking for her. And you have us.

LARRY

Well, wake me up when you find them.

Larry leans back on the sofa.

ZIMMY

He hasn't really been feeling very well.

MARTY

Larry, we'll find Donald and Kelly. You just have to stay strong.

LARRY

Right. Of course you're right. I just have to stay strong. Some crazy bastards from West Virginia come to my town and steal my children from a hospital of all places. A fucking hospital where they're supposed to take care of people. I mean why would I even consider falling apart?

Larry grabs his bottle of wine and walks up the stairs to the second floor.

ZIMMY

I'm sorry.

MARTY

There's no need to apologize. I know this is tearing you guys up, but we will find your kids.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ZIMMY
What do we do now?

MARTY
Maybe we should talk to Ruth.

ZIMMY
Ruth?

MARTY
Yeah, she's part of that group as well.

BUSTAMANTE STAIRCASE - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Larry is on the steps listening to the conversation.

He takes a big swig of his wine.

EXT. CARLTON MANOR - EVENING

A car comes driving up the driveway at a very accelerated pace.

It skids to a stop and almost hits the front porch.

INT. CARLTON MANOR FOYER - EVENING

Haley opens the banging front door to a very drunk Larry.

HALEY
Crikey, Larry. Have you gone mad?

Larry stumbles in the door.

LARRY
Where is she?

HALEY
She's not home.

LARRY
Yeah right. I want to talk to her.

Larry walks past Haley and into the living room.

INT. CARLTON LIVING ROOM - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Ruth is on her sofa drinking tea when Larry stumbles in.

LARRY
You! You stole my babies!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH
I beg your pardon?

LARRY
I know all about your group and this Lita
and that doctor. You're all in this
together. You took my babies!

RUTH
I don't know what you're sniveling about.

LARRY
Don't act stupid with me.

RUTH
Haley, can you leave us alone a moment?

HALEY
Fine, but if you get conked on the head
with a bottle I won't be here to laugh.

Haley walks out of the room.

LARRY
I want those tapes back.

RUTH
What tapes?

LARRY
You know the tapes. The tapes from
Jimmy's grandmother. The ones that tell
all of your dirty little secrets.

RUTH
All this trauma is going to your head.

LARRY
Donald and Kelly are the only things that
ever mattered to me, and you gave them to
me and then took them away as if (beat)
as if they were rag dolls. They're my
children, Mrs. Carlton, my children!

Larry takes a deep breath.

RUTH
Do you feel better now that you've gotten
that off your chest? (pause) Good.

Ruth grabs for her cane and wobbles to her desk. She takes
out a pile of papers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RUTH (CONT'D)

This is the report so far from the private investigator I've hired.

Ruth hands the papers to Larry.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I don't care what people think of me, and I will not make any apologies to you or anyone else for the things I've done but I do not go back on promises.

LARRY

What are you saying?

RUTH

I am telling you that I'm working harder than those morons on our police department to get those babies back to you. I don't steal children. I know what it feels like to have a child taken from you.

LARRY

I'm sorry. I don't know what to say.

RUTH

You'll keep your end of our original bargain?

Larry holds back a sob but nods in agreement.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Good. Now go home and rest easy. I am doing everything I can to get those children back to you. I'll have Haley drive you home.

Larry walks towards the door.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Oh and Larry, do try to refrain from the booze. It's unbecoming.

Larry nods and walks out the door.

Ruth leans over the desk and cups her hands in contemplation.

END OF ACT THREE.

ACT FOUR

INT. MITCHELL BEDROOM - MORNING

Marty is asleep in the bed when the telephone begins ringing.

He reaches his hand out from under the blanket and takes the telephone under the blanket.

MARTY
(groggily)
Hello? (pause) Oh hi Dad. What's going
on? (pause)

Marty bolts up from under the blanket.

MARTY (CONT'D)
He did what! I can't even friggin'
believe it. (pause) Gambling huh? (pause)
No, I'll take care of it. (pause) Yes
(pause) Yes Dad, a divorce. (pause) I said
I'll take care of it. Goodbye.

Marty hangs up the telephone and gets out of bed.

INT. MICHELL UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Marty walks out of the room dialing the telephone.

He gets half way down the hall and stops.

Marty turns around and goes to the closed door to the room
across from his bedroom.

INT. MICHELL GUEST ROOM - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Marty walks into the room.

Ronald is lying in bed sleeping.

Marty walks over to Ronald and gets next to his ear.

MARTY
GET UP!

Ronald jumps up.

RONALD
What! What the hell!

MARTY
What do you think you're doing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RONALD
I'm trying to sleep.

MARTY
Get out of bed.

RONALD
Why? Is breakfast ready? Oh, wait I
forgot who I'm talking to.

Ronald rolls over away from Marty.

Marty grabs the blanket and pulls it off of Ronald.

Ronald is naked.

RONALD (CONT'D)
What is your problem?

MARTY
Why don't we start by finding out why you
asked my father for \$20,000 to cover my
gambling debts? Did you really think he
would believe you?

RONALD
Can I have my blanket back?

Marty looks at him.

RONALD (CONT'D)
Fine, would you rather just take care of
this?

Ronald looks down at his crotch.

MARTY
You're insane.

RONALD
Come on. I know how much you like it in
the morning.

Marty sits down on the bed with his back to Ronald.

Ronald leans over and puts his hand on Marty's shoulder and
begins kissing his neck.

MARTY
What do you need the money for?

RONALD
Do we have to do this now? I'm horny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARTY

You stole money from the bank so you and Aidan could run away together didn't you?

RONALD

Why would you say that?

MARTY

I'm a lot of things Ronald. A pushover maybe, a little blinded by loyalty, but I am not stupid.

RONALD

Fine. Yes I took the money for us. But I didn't spend any of it.

MARTY

If you didn't use any of the money why do you need Dad's money?

RONALD

Aidan spent some.

Marty stands up and stares down at Ronald.

MARTY

How stupid are you? I'm so glad I took care of this.

RONALD

What do you mean? Took care of it?

MARTY

I told Dad to forget it. We don't need the money. Oh and he was ready to hire some goons to come and fuck you up. But I took care of that too.

RONALD

If that money isn't back in the bank I could go to prison.

MARTY

Imagine going to prison for a crime you committed? That's a real injustice.

RONALD

I wouldn't be the only one who loses here. You would lose the house, the coffee shop. You'd have nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARTY

It might be worth it to be rid of you.

RONALD

You could also lose your best friend.

MARTY

What are you talking about?

RONALD

If I go down everyone is incriminated including your best friend's husband.

MARTY

That's not true. Is it?

RONALD

Ruth Carlton already thinks it's Scott behind it, and it's not too hard to implicate him in this.

MARTY

You're a bastard you know that?

RONALD

That may be true but you're the husband of a bastard. I'm sure your blind loyalty will help out, won't it?

Marty sits back down on the bed.

MARTY

Fine, I'll call my father.

RONALD

I knew I could count on you.

MARTY

I'll get you the money Ronald. But there's going to be some changes.

RONALD

Fine, I'll do what you want. You want me to stay here?

MARTY

You think I would want you? That I would want this? I want you to pack up whatever you have left that I didn't burn or sell, get the divorce papers in order, and get out of my life.

Marty stands up and walks to the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RONALD

Well wait, does that mean you aren't going to help me out here?

MARTY

You've jerked me around long enough, jerk yourself for a change.

Marty walks out of the bedroom.

INT. IRVING MANOR - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Ruth is at the dining table when Haley walks out carrying a silver platter of food.

RUTH

What is this?

HALEY

It's your breakfast.

RUTH

Is that squash?

HALEY

Do you like squash?

RUTH

I loathe squash.

HALEY

Then it's not squash.

The doorbell rings.

HALEY (CONT'D)

I'll get it. You eat your non squash or you'll have no non creamer with your coffee.

Haley walks to the foyer and opens the door.

Aidan walks into the room.

AIDAN

Grannie!

RUTH

I need to put up an entrance gate.

AIDAN

We have to talk about this money situation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

I told you that you aren't getting a damn dime from me.

AIDAN

Not that money. The money you think Scott Irving is stealing from Gertie Winston.

RUTH

How do you know about that?

AIDAN

I know that Scott isn't the one who stole that money.

RUTH

Really? Then who did?

AIDAN

Ronald Mitchell.

RUTH

And why would he do that?

AIDAN

So he and I could be together.

HALEY

Aidan, that is terrible.

AIDAN

I am having a conversation with my grandmother.

Aidan sits down at the table.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

So Grannie, what do you say. Why don't you and I grab the Sheriff, head to the bank and get rid of Ronald.

RUTH

And why would you want to do this?

AIDAN

The Irvings are upstanding people.

RUTH

Are you sleeping with them too?

HALEY

Not yet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AIDAN

I just think we should do the right thing, don't you?

HALEY

Who are you going to sleep with if Ronald is sent away to prison?

AIDAN

Speaking of prison, how is your boyfriend?

RUTH

That's enough. Fine, we'll get the Sheriff. Maybe we'll get lucky and the two of them are working together. I can kill two fags with one bank deposit slip.

Ruth begins laughing and starts coughing.

AIDAN

It's hard to believe people don't like you.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Dylan walks down the stairs with two bags.

Scott walks from the kitchen, dressed for work and walks to the door.

SCOTT

You're still going through with this?

DYLAN

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I wish you could support me.

SCOTT

All I do is support you. How about a little support for me?

DYLAN

That's not fair.

SCOTT

What's fair about our relationship? I work, I come home to your ramblings, I end up cooking and cleaning while you run around town sticking your nose where it doesn't belong.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

For some reason I thought we had a really good relationship.

SCOTT

Dylan you know I love you, but I need you here. I need to know I can count on you.

DYLAN

You can count on me. You know as well as I do this whole money business is going to be fine. You didn't steal any money.

SCOTT

I gave Ronald until this morning to make it right. I owed it to him.

DYLAN

You don't owe him anything.

SCOTT

He gave me this job. He helped us find the house.

DYLAN

He's a lying manipulative ass. I wouldn't put it past him to have spent all night rearranging items so it looked like you stole the money.

SCOTT

I guess we'll see. Oh wait, you won't be here.

DYLAN

I can't believe you trusted him. You did this just to keep me from going didn't you?

SCOTT

That's right Dylan, I decided to give someone a chance just so it could hurt you. After all, this whole big world does revolve around your little blonde head doesn't it?

DYLAN

I'm going to meet Sam Cissell.

SCOTT

Fine, go. But I may not be here when you get back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN
What's that supposed to mean?

SCOTT
Just what I said.

Scott walks out the door.

INT. M&A BANK - DAY

Scott walks into the bank and walks to Ronald's office.

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

Scott walks into Ronald's office.

Ruth, Aidan, Haley and Sheriff Mackenzie are all seated across from Ronald's desk.

Ronald is standing at his desk.

RUTH
Well, look it's our thief.

SCOTT
What's going on?

RONALD
I called an emergency meeting.

SCOTT
Were you going to tell me about it?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE
Why don't you have a seat Scott. Mr. Mitchell was just going to shed some light on Mrs. Carlton's accusations.

SCOTT
You mean the *unfounded* accusations that I embezzelled money from an elderly woman?

RONALD
Just sit down Scott.

SCOTT
This is screwed up.

RUTH
You're the one who screwed up. I told that husband of yours a long time ago not to mess with me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ronald hands each person a piece of paper.

RONALD

I think this should take care of everything.

Ruth looks at the paper.

RUTH

What the hell is this?

RONALD

I did some research and it seems this whole thing has been a big mix up.

RUTH

There's no mix up, this fruit here has been stealing from the bank.

RONALD

If you look you'll see that Mrs. Winston's finances were in fact deposited. They were just deposited into the wrong account.

RUTH

Yeah, your ass man here, that's whose account it went into. Sheriff, why are we just sitting here?

RONALD

Mrs. Carlton, this is all my fault. I have a long standing, valued relationship with Mrs. Winston. She only trusts me with her money. Isn't that right Scott?

SCOTT

Yes, yes it is.

RUTH

Fine, so I had the wrong fag. Arrest this thief, Sheriff.

RONALD

There's no need for this. Look at the paper. All of Gertie's money was inadvertently put into her son's account. It was a computer error.

Everyone looks at the paper.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RUTH

This can't be right. Her son is dead.

RONALD

But the account was never closed. I'm terribly sorry for all the commotion this has caused. I've already called our main office to get the computer glitch fixed. So you see Sheriff, Mrs. Carlton, Scott is completely innocent of any wrong doing.

Ronald smiles at Scott while Ruth grunts her disapproval.

INT. M&A BANK - OUTSIDE RONALD'S OFFICE - LATER

Aidan and Scott are standing across from Ronald's desk.

AIDAN

That was some performance.

SCOTT

You just moved money around to another account. It doesn't change the fact you tried stealing money from Gertie.

RONALD

Look, the money's back. Mrs. Carlton is satisfied, the police have nothing more to gain by looking into this. And neither do you.

SCOTT

(to Aidan)

You were involved in all of this too?

RONALD

This was all for Aidan. We were going to live happily ever after on Gertie's money.

AIDAN

Shut up.

RONALD

I was willing to give up my career and even risk jail for him. Isn't that dedication?

AIDAN

I never wanted you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RONALD

It doesn't matter, I got everything I wanted. I have my career and Marty is divorcing me. It's all good.

AIDAN

You don't have me or the money.

RONALD

The money will come eventually. I can wait for that. As for you, you're a dime-a-dozen slut, there's more of you on every corner.

AIDAN

Fuck off.

Aidan walks out the door.

SCOTT

So that's it, we just forget this ever happened?

RONALD

You're lucky I don't fire you.

SCOTT

Fire me? I didn't have anything to do with this.

Ronald walks around the side of his desk and puts his arm around Scott.

RONALD

Don't worry, I'm kidding. How many people in your position would have given me the chance to come clean? Not many and that's why you need to stick around. I need a good guy on my side. How about a peace offering? Why don't we go get a drink?

SCOTT

I don't think so.

RONALD

Your loss. I think I'll head over to Uncle Randy's. There's a cute little bitch with a hot ass I've been meaning to tap for awhile now. See you tomorrow.

Ronald walks out the door.

EXT. M&A BANK - EVENING

Ronald walks out of the building and to his car.

He puts the key into the door to unlock it when two LARGE MEN approach him from behind.

One of the men sucker punches Ronald in the back. Ronald spins around winded. The other man is holding a bat and hits Ronald on the side.

Ronald falls to the ground.

Both men begin kicking him and punching him.

MAN #1

Mr. Lawrence doesn't want a divorce in his family. You will make up with Marty and apologize for everything you've done. Do you understand fuck face?

One of the men pick up Ronald by the collar.

Ronald, bleeding and cut and in severe pain; nods.

MAN #1 (CONT'D)

Good. And if you don't, we'll be back.

INT. DANIEL'S BAR & GRILL IN NEWPORT BEACH - NIGHT

Dylan walks into the crowded bar.

There is a WOMAN on stage. She is in her late 40s with blonde hair and an exquisite figure. She is dressed in a gold silk dress singing Journey's "Open Arms."

WOMAN

*And so I come to you with Open Arms,
nothing to hide believe what I say.*

Dylan finds an empty stool at the bar and sits down.

A BARTENDER spots him.

BARTENDER

What can I get you?

DYLAN

I'll have a Captain & Coke.

Dylan begins watching the woman on stage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WOMAN

*and I come to you with Open Arms hoping
you'll see, what your love means to me,
open arms.*

The song ends and the crowd, including Dylan applause.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Thank you so much. We'll be back in a
few.

The bartender returns with Dylan's drink.

The woman makes her way up to the bar, beside Dylan.

DYLAN

(to bartender)

I'm supposed to meet someone here
tonight. Do you know a Sam Cissell?

BARTENDER

Sorry.

WOMAN

Henry, can I get an Evian please?

The woman smiles at Dylan.

DYLAN

You're very good. I love that song.

WOMAN

Thanks. So you're looking for Sam?

DYLAN

Do you know him?

WOMAN

I know everyone around here. But I don't
know you.

DYLAN

I'm not from here. I live up North.

WOMAN

Up North? Where?

DYLAN

A little town called Carlton Heights. I'm
sure you've never heard of it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WOMAN

You'd be surprised what I know. (pause)
So how do you know Sam?

DYLAN

I don't actually. He knows me. I'm
writing a book and he has some
information for me.

WOMAN

You're a writer?

DYLAN

Yes.

The bartender returns with the woman's water.

BARTENDER

They want you back up there.

WOMAN

Dylan, why don't you stick around for
awhile? I think I might be able to help
you even more than Sam.

DYLAN

How did you know my name?

A MAN walks up on stage to announce the woman.

MAN

Ladies and gentlemen, Libby Carlton!

The crowd erupts in applause.

WOMAN

That's me.

Libby Carlton walks away from Dylan and up to the stage,
leaving Dylan in utter confusion.

FADE OUT.

THE END.