

CARLTON

Heights

Episode 05 -
"Promises In The Dark"

by
Bradley Jacobson

bradleyjacobson@yahoo.com

TEASER

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

AIDAN PALMER is seated next to a HOT YOUNGER GUY. The guy can't help but notice Aidan keeps smiling.

MAN

Are you excited about the trip?

AIDAN

I'm excited about everything. My whole life is about to change.

MAN

Congratulations. I'm Jim.

Aidan and Jim shake hands.

AIDAN

Jim, how would you like to share some of my excitement?

Jim smiles at Aidan's comment.

INT. BELFAIR HOTEL ROOM - SAN FRANCISCO - NIGHT

RONALD MITCHELL stretches out on the bed trying to look sexy. He tries a couple of different maneuvers.

He looks at the clock a few times before picking up his cell phone. He dials Aidan's number but only gets the voice mail.

RONALD

Aidan, I'm waiting for you. Where are you?

Ronald looks out the window into the night.

INT. AIRPLANE BATHROOM - NIGHT

Aidan and Jim are having sex. As they climax, Aidan screams.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - NIGHT

DYLAN and SCOTT IRVING come through the emergency room doors where they spot MARTY MITCHELL.

DYLAN

How are they? What's happening?

MARTY

I haven't heard anything yet. Larry and Zimmy are in with the doctor now.

INT. MOHAGANY BAY HOSPITAL - EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

DR. LINDA TEINENBAUM is examining DONALD and KELLY BUSTAMANTE as LARRY and ZIMMY BUSTAMANTE look on.

DR. LINDA
Have they been coughing or sneezing recently?

LARRY
Donald was sneezing this afternoon.

DR. LINDA
Any other problems? Anything strange in their breathing patterns?

LARRY
No. Everything was fine until this evening. They were both crying and then they had a fever.

DR. LINDA
The fever wasn't there earlier?

LARRY
No. I took their temperature and they were both over 103 so we rushed here. I thought it was teething.

DR. LINDA
How old are the babies?

LARRY
They'll be five months next Tuesday, at 4 PM.

DR. LINDA
It could be as simple as a minor form of the flu.

LARRY
At their age isn't that serious?

DR. LINDA
Don't worry, Mr. Bustamante, we will find out what's wrong. These babies are my top priority.

LARRY
Thank you Doctor.

END OF TEASER.

ACT ONE

INT. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - MORNING

SHERIFF MACKENZIE is on the telephone.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

It was a silly mistake I admit. I should've known it was something as simple as animal bones. I'm really sorry to have even caused such a ruckus about it. (pause) Okay, thank you.

BENNY, the deputy is sitting on the other side of the Sheriff's desk holding a pad of paper and a pencil.

The Sheriff hangs up the telephone.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE (CONT'D)

That's taken care of. Though the coroner's office probably thinks Carlton Heights is being run by a bunch of idiots.

BENNY

So when was the last time you saw the bones?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

The last time I saw them was after dinner. I accidentally bumped them when I tried to get a file out of the cabinet.

BENNY

And what time was that?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Around 8 PM. You know that, you were here.

BENNY

Right.

The policeman is writing down all the information.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

What are you doing?

BENNY

I'm taking a report.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Give me that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Sheriff takes the note pad from Benny.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE (CONT'D)
The more I think about it, the last time
anyone was around was during all that
commotion with Ruth Carlton.

The Sheriff grabs his car keys and heads to the door.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE (CONT'D)
Watch the fort Benny, I'm going up the
hill.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - DINING ROOM - MORNING

RUTH CARLTON is picking at a piece of toast when HALEY
OSBOURNE walks in carrying a bowl of oatmeal.

RUTH
What is this?

HALEY
It has fiber in it. You need it. It will
keep you strong.

RUTH
Are you ever going to feed me a normal
meal?

HALEY
If anything has too much flavor in it
you'll think I'm poisoning you.

RUTH
I know you're poisoning me, making me eat
this crap.

HALEY
Take your pill and drink your juice.

Ruth takes a pill and drinks down the juice.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Are you going to be okay all alone this
morning?

RUTH
What choice do I have?

HALEY
I'm sorry, but I really need to cover for
Marty. I just hope there isn't anything
seriously wrong with the babies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

You mean other than being raised by a couple of fruits?

Haley gives Ruth a stern look before taking the empty juice glass away.

Aidan Palmer comes barging in the front door.

Ruth can see him in the foyer which is off the dining room.

AIDAN

Grandmother! Oh Grandmother dear.

RUTH

Not this again. Quick, give me some real poison.

Aidan walks into the dining room.

AIDAN

There you are. Just the old witch I want to talk to.

RUTH

Don't make me get the Sheriff, Aidan.

AIDAN

Haley, could you excuse us for a second?

RUTH

Anything you have to say, you can say in front of the help. I have no secrets.

AIDAN

Oh but you do and I'm going to expose every single one of them.

RUTH

Your idle threats are really quite tiring Aidan. I'm an old woman and every little visit is just taking more and more out of my life.

AIDAN

Good. Then you'll be dead soon.

HALEY

Aidan. That's a horrible thing to say.

AIDAN

Don't even start with me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HALEY

I think you should leave.

AIDAN

I think you have your priorities screwed up little Miss Brit. I just came from San Francisco where I got a copy of my grandfather's will. The grandfather everyone here seems to believe is dead, but for some reason the people in charge of his money are all under the impression he's alive and well. Now why would that be?

RUTH

I certainly don't know.

AIDAN

Maybe it's because the lawyers don't have any death certificate on file. Maybe it's because there has never been any claim to his will. The real question is why would someone like you who has everything to gain from his death, keep his death a secret?

RUTH

Do you have a point, you little shit?

AIDAN

I do. You would keep his death a secret because you have nothing to gain if he's dead. Isn't that right?

HALEY

What are you talking about?

RUTH

He's talking out of his ass!

AIDAN

My grandfather IS dead. For all I know you killed him. But no matter how he died, he is dead and I'm going to prove it. When I do that will is going to go into effect and, wait let me see if I can quote it right, "That old bitch will not live in my house or get a penny of my money." I believe that was it. I think you know as well as I do, who that old bitch is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RUTH
Get out of here.

Aidan reaches for a piece of toast but Haley slaps his hand.

AIDAN
Haley, aren't you glad you stayed to
learn the kind of lying bitch you work
for?

Ruth tries to stand up using the table as her support.

RUTH
Get the hell out of my house now!

AIDAN
It's not going to be your house for long.
I'll be back to claim what's mine, and
I'll have Sheriff Mackenzie and his hick
boys drag your wheelchair bound ass to
the nearest old folks home.

Aidan walks out the door.

EXT. AVENUE SEA - CUL DE SAC - MORNING

Dylan is walking out of his house carrying a bag of clothing
when he runs right into CHIP CHANDELOR.

DYLAN
Oh, hello Mr. Chandelor.

CHIP
Please call me Chip.

DYLAN
Chip, I was just on my way out. Was there
something I could do for you?

CHIP
I hope so. I am in dyer need of a writer.

DYLAN
Oh.

CHIP
Our main reporter, okay our only reporter
is out with a broken arm and refuses to
get off the drugs and out of bed to do
his story. We have to go to press in two
days and I have to finish up the editing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

I'm sorry to hear all that, but I don't know how I can help you.

CHIP

I really need you to do the story.

DYLAN

I wish I could. I really do. But I'm working on my own book and like I said, I was just leaving. I'm on my way to the hospital.

CHIP

The hospital?

DYLAN

Our neighbor's babies are sick.

CHIP

The Bustamante twins?

DYLAN

Yes. I wish I could help you out.

CHIP

I don't need you to do the interview until this afternoon.

DYLAN

It's an interview?

CHIP

Yes, very brief, very short. I just don't have time. Please, I'll pay anything you want. You're the only one I know who can do it.

DYLAN

Okay, what is it?

CHIP

It's a garden story, you'll love it.

DYLAN

Garden?

Chip pulls out a piece of paper.

CHIP

Here's the address. Today at 3. Don't be late. She can be crabby.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN

Who's this interview with?

CHIP

The Garden Queen of Carlton Heights,
winner of ten blue ribbons for her prized
begonias.

DYLAN

If you say Ruth Carlton you can take this
piece of paper and stick it up your..

CHIP

It's not Ruth. It's Gladys Tudrow. Thanks
a lot. I'll see you in two days.

Chip walks back to his car leaving Dylan slightly dazed.

Dylan is about to get into his car when he sees Aidan drive
into the driveway across the cul-de-sac. Dylan walks over to
Aidan's house.

EXT. AIDAN PALMER'S HOUSE - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Dylan opens the door for Aidan as he is getting out of his
car.

AIDAN

Thanks. To what do I owe this pleasure?

DYLAN

I thought you were out of town.

AIDAN

There aren't any secrets around here are
there?

DYLAN

It's just I knew you were with Ronald.

AIDAN

Well I'm not. See you later.

Aidan walks towards his house.

DYLAN

Wait. Everyone is at the hospital.

AIDAN

Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

Something's wrong with the twins. Marty is still there with Larry and Zimmy.

AIDAN

Zimmy's there too?

DYLAN

Everyone. Well, except you and Ronald of course.

AIDAN

Are they okay?

DYLAN

Nobody knows yet. I came back so I could get some change of clothes for Larry and Zimmy, and Scott had to go to the bank. Is Ronald back?

AIDAN

I wouldn't know. I'll see you later.

Aidan walks to his house.

DYLAN

Wait. Do you want to go to the hospital? You can ride with me.

AIDAN

That's nice Dylan. But I have some business to take care of. I'll give Larry a call and if he needs me I'll drive over there.

Aidan walks into his house.

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - MORNING

Haley is working behind the counter when Johnny walks in.

HALEY

Well hello!

JOHNNY

I'm here for some of that famous iced coffee I've been hearing about.

HALEY

Absolutely. Let me get you some.

Haley begins making the drink.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHNNY

I didn't know you worked the counter too.

HALEY

I'm a gal with a slew of talents, Johnny.

JOHNNY

I'm beginning to realize that.

HALEY

Actually, I don't normally work on this side of the counter but a friend of ours is at the hospital and Marty asked me to open up for him.

JOHNNY

I hope it's not serious.

HALEY

I do too.

Haley hands him the iced drink and Johnny takes a drink.

JOHNNY

This is really good.

HALEY

Thanks.

JOHNNY

Listen, since we did run into each other like this, how would you like to have dinner with me tomorrow night?

HALEY

Dinner?

JOHNNY

You don't have to work do you?

HALEY

No. Dinner?

JOHNNY

Yes, dinner.

HALEY

Like a date?

JOHNNY

Yeah, like a date.

Haley smiles.

INT. MOHOGANY BAY HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

Larry and Zimmy are with the twins. Marty is reading a magazine in the corner when Dr. Linda enters the room.

LARRY

Doctor, did you find out what's wrong with them?

DR. LINDA

Sometimes a cold can lead to an inner ear infection. This would cause the fever. But neither of the twins seem to be carrying a cold virus. So it's not the type of infection I had originally thought.

LARRY

I knew it, it's something terrible isn't it?

DR. LINDA

I need to ask you a few questions.

LARRY

Of course.

DR. LINDA

Most fevers if not the result of a cold are the result of a viral infection.

LARRY

A viral infection? Of what kind?

DR. LINDA

It could be just about anything. It doesn't happen often but sometimes a particularly virulent strain of bacteria can make its way into the bloodstream.

LARRY

You think there could a bacteria in their blood? What does that mean? How did it get there?

DR. LINDA

A blood infection can come from a cut in the skin. That could mean a staphylococcus Auerues which could in turn affect the respiratory tract.

LARRY

Oh my god.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. LINDA

Have they had any cuts in the past few weeks. Something that might have led to an infection?

LARRY

No. Nothing like that. I watch their every move. I would never forgive myself if they were to cut themselves.

DR. LINDA

It could also be some form of salmonella.

LARRY

Salmonella?

DR. LINDA

What are you feeding them?

LARRY

Oh my god, you think my cooking is killing the babies?

DR. LINDA

I'm going to assume they're not on breast milk.

LARRY

No. But the formula I use has all the same nutrients. I checked. Oh my god, Zimmy.

Zimmy holds Larry's hand.

DR. LINDA

I'm going to need a detailed diet plan of what you've had the babies eating. Also, are their immunizations up to date?

LARRY

Of course they are. What kind of father do you think I am?

DR. LINDA

It's not my place to judge. I want to cover all the bases. For now, let's get their immunization records. Who's their doctor in Carlton Heights?

LARRY

Dr. Stein at Carlton Heights Clinic. He's their pediatrician. Dr. Teinenbaum...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DR. LINDA
Call me Dr. Linda. Everyone does.

LARRY
Dr. Linda, you have to help my babies.

DR. LINDA
I'm going to do my very best.

The doctor walks out of the room.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - NURSE'S STATION - DAY

Dr. Linda walks up to the nurses.

DR. LINDA
Rose, can you contact Carlton Heights
Clinic and have them fax over the medical
records for Donald and Kelly Bustamante.

ROSE
Yes, doctor.

Rose begins looking through a rolodex for the number.

Linda walks around a corner and takes out her cell phone,
dialing a number.

DR. LINDA
Hey, it's me. I think we just caught
ourselves a lucky break.

INT. OLD COTTAGE OUTSIDE CARLTON HEIGHTS - DAY

Johnny walks into the darkened room followed by GERTIE
WINSTON.

GERTIE
It's not much but it's cheap.

Johnny looks around. The place is furnished in old "flannel".
There is one big room with a sofa and bed. On one wall is a
built in fireplace.

GERTIE (CONT'D)
It comes with all the furnishings.
There's a fireplace. It does get kind of
cold up here in the winter. Are you going
to be staying through winter?

JOHNNY
I'm not sure. How long of a lease are you
looking for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GERTIE

I'm looking for anything as long as you pay the bills and don't leave in the middle of the night.

JOHNNY

Don't worry about that Ma'am.

GERTIE

There's a full kitchen as well. Are you going to be here alone?

JOHNNY

Yes.

GERTIE

You're not married?

JOHNNY

No, I'm not married.

GERTIE

You won't be throwing wild parties up here will you?

JOHNNY

No. I'm looking for peace and quiet.

GERTIE

This is the place. Most people want to stay closer to town. I haven't had a renter interested in this place in years.

JOHNNY

I like it.

GERTIE

Good. Then we have a deal.

JOHNNY

We have a deal.

GERTIE

That's wonderful. It will be so nice to have someone up here watching the place. I get so scared thinking it is just going to ruins.

JOHNNY

Don't worry, I'll treat it like it's my own.

INT. SISTER SADIE'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY - LOBBY - DAY

Aidan is walking past the nurse's station and looks to see if anyone notices him. When he is sure no one has seen him, he walks into a room.

INT. SISTER SADIE'S - PATIENT'S ROOM - DAY

Aidan walks into the room where an ELDERLY WOMAN is looking out of the window.

Aidan walks up to her and stands so she can see him.

Aidan grabs a chair and moves it closer to the woman.

Aidan picks up the woman's hand.

AIDAN

How are we doing today? I'm sorry I haven't been around very much but I've been so busy. I know, you can never be too busy to visit. Isn't that what you always say?

Aidan notices some flowers in a vase on the other side of the room.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

I see you got my flowers. I thought they might brighten up the place. You're looking good. I'm sure it's just a matter of time until you get over this. You were always one tough broad. When you get out of this, we're going to have the best life. I finally have something on that old bit..., on that grandmother of mine. We're going to have everything that was denied us, and she's going to pay for everything she did to us.

Aidan takes the woman's hand and kisses it.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

You'll see. It's going to be fine.

Aidan and the woman look out the window together.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ruth is on the telephone.

RUTH

I really appreciate this Phillip. You always do the best work for me. This one shouldn't be too difficult. I mean it's one old lady and a couple of documents. Neither of which can move too quickly. (pause) You're so sweet. Yes I am rather mobile but not everyone can be me now can they? (pause) You'll let me know the minute you hear anything. (pause) Thank you so much.

Ruth hangs up the telephone.

She hears a car outside and looks out the window.

EXT. CARLTON MANOR - DAY

Sheriff Mackenzie gets out of his squad car and walks up the big front steps to Ruth's front door.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ruth sees the Sheriff.

RUTH

Shit!

Ruth hears the knock on the door and wobbles to the foyer.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Just a minute! I'm an elderly woman!

INT. CARLTON MANOR - FOYER - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Ruth opens the door slightly, poking her head around the corner.

RUTH

Oh Sheriff. I'm so glad it's you. I thought it might be some kind of murderer or pervert. I'm here all alone and I'm so frightened.

INT. SISTER SADIE'S - OLD WOMAN'S ROOM - DAY

Aidan is sitting with the old woman when a woman walks into the room and sees Aidan. The woman is ROMA ROTHSCHILD, the administrator of Sister Sadie's.

ROMA

Mr. Palmer, the nurses thought they saw you sneak in.

AIDAN

I slipped by, I didn't sneak in.

ROMA

We haven't seen you in a while.

AIDAN

I've been busy.

ROMA

When you're through with your visit, I really need to speak to you in my office. It's very urgent.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS ROOM - DAY

Dylan walks into the room with a bag of clothes. Marty, Larry and Zimmy are around the twins.

DYLAN

Hi. This is a nice room.

Larry grabs the clothes from Dylan.

LARRY

Dylan, thank you so much.

DYLAN

No problem. There's some clothes for all of you in here. Are you sure you don't want me to get you anything else? Some food? Have you had lunch yet?

LARRY

No, I couldn't eat anything.

DYLAN

Zimmy, would you like anything?

ZIMMY

No thanks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN
Still no word?

ZIMMY
No.

LARRY
They still have a fever. They've been trying to keep it down but they're afraid to give them anything that could make it worse. They don't know what they're doing and I don't know what to do.

MARTY
Don't worry. I'm sure they're doing their best.

LARRY
They're best isn't good enough. If you had children you would understand this. No one knows what we're going through.

Dylan and Marty look at each other.

ZIMMY
Larry.

LARRY
I'm sorry.

MARTY
Don't worry about it. Let it out. Scream, yell, cry! Do what you have to do. We're here for you.

Larry hugs Marty and wipes a tear from his eye.

LARRY
Someone tell me some good news please.

MARTY
I'm afraid I'm out of good news at the moment.

DYLAN
Actually, I do have some news. I'm going to be interviewing Gladys Tudrow tomorrow.

LARRY
Gladys? For what? Surely not your new book.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DYLAN

No. For the newspaper. It looks like I'll be writing about gardens after all.

LARRY

That's great Dylan, really great.

DYLAN

The only problem is the interview is today at 3.

LARRY

What problem? You don't have to stay. Neither of you do. I really appreciate all you two have done. But there's no reason for you to stay here with us. Zimmy has Angelo taking over the restaraunt so he'll be with me.

DYLAN

Are you sure?

LARRY

Yes.

MARTY

You'll call us if you hear anything.

DYLAN

Or need anything.

LARRY

Of course. Go, go.

Larry hugs both of his neighbors and sends them off.

INT. SISTER SADIE'S - ROMA'S OFFICE - DAY

Aidan is seated across the desk from the Roma.

AIDAN

Is she still on all that medication?

ROMA

Yes.

AIDAN

Is any of it helping her? I haven't noticed any change in her.

ROMA

She's about the same I'm afraid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

She's been like this for over six months.

ROMA

We never can be too sure in these types of cases.

AIDAN

That's what you keep telling me.

ROMA

Mr. Palmer, I've told you before this may not be the best place for her.

AIDAN

She likes it here. I can tell.

ROMA

In any case, it's not her condition that I wanted to speak to you about.

AIDAN

Then what is this about?

ROMA

I'd like you to fill out this paperwork.

Roma hands Aidan some papers.

AIDAN

What is this?

ROMA

It's the Medicare application.

AIDAN

I told you we were taking care of the bills on our own.

ROMA

Mr. Palmer, we haven't received payment in two months. Here are the bills.

Roma hands Aidan the file folder.

AIDAN

This doesn't make any sense. I have payment arrangements from an outside source. I'm sure this is just some oversight. Don't worry I'll take care of it.

EXT. SISTER SADIE'S - DAY

Aidan is standing outside with his cell phone. He dials a number ferociously.

AIDAN

It's Aidan. I need you to call me back right away.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ruth is sitting on the sofa as the Sheriff takes a seat across from her.

RUTH

I'd offer you some tea but as I've said Haley is running all over town. Actually, I wouldn't know the first thing about making it, even if I could make it to the kitchen in my condition.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

That's alright Mrs. Carlton.

RUTH

So what can I do for you?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I wanted to make sure you were alright. After your incident last night.

RUTH

That's kind of you. I wish my own caregiver was so thoughtful.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I'm beginning to think you're pretty capable of taking care of yourself.

RUTH

Oh.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

The bones we found on your property

RUTH

Yes. Did you find out who they belonged to?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

No. They were stolen. From the police station.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

How embarrassing for you. Imagine, stolen right from under your nose.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I've tried to pin point the exact time this could've happened and for some reason it just keeps going back to when you and Gertie were outside.

RUTH

Isn't that strange? You're sure that's the time frame you're looking at?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Mrs. Carlton I wish you would stop playing games with me.

RUTH

Well, Patrick, oh, I'm sorry I mean Sheriff Mackenzie, I wish you would stop coming around and accusing me of things that I am not capable of doing. Look at me, I'm practically immobile.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I know you had something to do with this. I know you and Gertie were in on it.

RUTH

How do you think we pulled off this great caper? You were with us the whole time.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I don't know who you had steal them.

Ruth begins to laugh.

RUTH

Have you taken this theory to the mayor? Have you told him how bones got up and walked out of the police station?

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

Mrs. Carlton, listen.

RUTH

No, you listen, this is the last time I want you coming here and accusing me of these kinds of horrible actions.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE

I'm responsible for this town's safety.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RUTH

There wouldn't be a town to keep safe if it wasn't for me, Patrick Mackenzie. I guarantee, you come around here any more asking me questions or accusing me, I'll have your badge taken away so fast you'll be left spinning in that kilt. Now, I'm tired, so you will have to excuse me.

Ruth gets up and waits for the Sheriff before showing him the door.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I expect the next time we see each other you will have the good sense to be a little more pleasant.

Sheriff Mackenzie sheepishly walks out the door and Ruth shuts it behind him, leaning up against the door and letting out a sigh.

EXT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - DAY

Marty is getting into his car when Aidan Palmer drives in.

Marty walks over to Aidan as Aidan gets out of his car.

MARTY

What are you doing here?

AIDAN

Hello to you too. I'm here to visit the twins.

MARTY

What are you doing in town? If you're here, where's Ronald?

AIDAN

Marty sweetie, if you can't keep tabs on your husband how do you expect me to?

Aidan walks into the hospital.

Marty takes out his cell phone and dials.

INT. BELFAIR HOTEL - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

Ronald is looking out the window when his cell phone rings.

He answers in a panic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RONALD
Aidan?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

MARTY
Sorry to disappoint you. It's your
husband.

RONALD
Hi.

MARTY
I thought I'd let you know that the twins
are in the hospital.

RONALD
What's wrong with them?

MARTY
They're not sure yet. But we're all
keeping vigil. When are you coming home?

RONALD
I'm not sure. I'm having a bit of an
emergency.

MARTY
Oh? Did you lose something?

RONALD
What?

MARTY
Are you missing something? Like maybe a
certain boy toy?

RONALD
What do you know?

MARTY
I know that Aidan isn't with you. Even if
you hadn't answered the phone in such a
subtle way.

RONALD
Do you know where he is?

MARTY
Yeah. He's here at the hospital. So if
you were planning on filing a missing
slut report you can forget about it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RONALD

The first plane back there leaves in a couple of hours. Can I count on you to pick me up at the airport?

MARTY

I am the doting husband aren't I?

Marty hangs up the phone.

EXT. GLADYS TUDROW'S HOUSE - DAY

GLADYS TUDROW is on her knees pushing dirt back into place around a newly planted sapling.

Dylan walks through the white picket fence gate and down the sidewalk.

DYLAN

Hello, Mrs. Tudrow?

Gladys looks up.

GLADYS

Who the hell are you?

DYLAN

I'm Dylan Irving. I'm supposed to interview you for the Daily Gazelle.

GLADYS

I thought that God awful Chip Chandelor would be coming around.

DYLAN

He was supposed to interview you?

GLADYS

That's how it usually works.

DYLAN

What about the other reporter. The one with the broken arm?

GLADYS

There aren't any other reporters on that damn rag. So are we going to do this or not?

Gladys gets up and moves to a small table on the veranda with Dylan following her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

You certainly do have a lovely garden.
It's no wonder you won the blue ribbon.

GLADYS

Tenth year in a row.

DYLAN

You wouldn't happen to be Toddy's mother
would you?

GLADYS

Why yes I am. I am the very proud mother
of Toddy. Do you know him?

DYLAN

He was helping me out a great deal at the
library.

GLADYS

So you're the young man he was helping.

DYLAN

Yes. I haven't seen him in weeks.

GLADYS

We were in Aruba, it was lovely.

DYLAN

So he's back in town?

GLADYS

No. He decided to stay a few extra weeks.
I had to come back for the Garden
Ceremony.

DYLAN

When you hear from him, tell him I said
Hello.

GLADYS

I'll do that. Why don't you have a look
around and I'll get us some nice cold
lemonade. I think we might have a lot to
talk about.

Gladys walks to her back door.

GLADYS (CONT'D)

Oh, Mr. Irving, don't touch anything.

From the second story of the house, a silhouette is seen
looking through the window down at Dylan.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS ROOM - DAY

Larry is standing over the twins looking at them while Jimmy is off to the side reading a magazine.

Dr. Linda walks into the room.

LARRY

Doctor, do you have any news at all?

DR. LINDA

All the immunizations are up to date and the antibiotics I gave the twins seem to be working on the fever. But...

LARRY

But what?

DR. LINDA

But we still aren't in the clear. I'm fairly certain what we're dealing with is a bacterial infection.

LARRY

Oh my god.

ZIMMY

How do we find out if it's this bacteria?

DR. LINDA

There's a series of tests I need to run.

ZIMMY

Tests? What kind of tests?

DR. LINDA

We're going to take a blood sample to check for sepsis.

LARRY

What if it is this sepsis? What then?

DR. LINDA

Bacterial sepsis can be treated with antibiotics, but it also can be lethal if it's not caught early enough.

LARRY

Lethal. They could die?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. LINDA

It's very rare, particularly in babies who are up to date on their immunizations.

LARRY

But you have to be sure.

DR. LINDA

We have to weigh all options.

LARRY

So how long until we know something?

DR. LINDA

The sepsis test takes 24 hours.

LARRY

24 hours!

ZIMMY

What do we do in the meantime?

DR. LINDA

There's other tests I need to take.

LARRY

You're already taking their blood. What more are you going to do to them?

DR. LINDA

We'll have to insert a catheter to get a urine sample to check for a urinary tract infection.

LARRY

A catheter. Oh my god, Zimmy.

DR. LINDA

We will also have to do a spinal tap to test for bacterial meningitis.

LARRY

A spinal tap! On my babies?

DR. LINDA

It may seem extreme but it's only a few moments of discomfort for them and it's really the only way to know what's wrong.

Linda hands some papers to Larry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DR. LINDA (CONT'D)

I can make the arrangements for tomorrow but I'll need your consent. I can guarantee not doing these tests could have far worse consequences. Believe me the babies won't suffer at all.

LARRY

How can you know what my children feel?

DR. LINDA

If you would like to take a few moments.

Zimmy takes the papers from Larry and signs them.

DR. LINDA (CONT'D)

I'll get started right away.

Linda begins to set up to take blood from the twins while Larry holds his children's hands.

EXT. GLADYS TUDROW'S HOUSE - DAY

Dylan and Gladys are sitting on a veranda in the garden drinking lemonade. Dylan has his yellow note pad out and is taking notes while recording Gladys.

DYLAN

You don't mind the tape recorder do you?

GLADYS

Of course not. I've always liked the sound of my voice. I was a singer once.

DYLAN

Really? I can hear that, your voice has great resonance.

GLADYS

Thank you.

DYLAN

So you've won this event ten years in a row. Does it ever get tiring?

GLADYS

There are only a few things I truly love in this world, my son and my garden are at the top of that list. Though I'm afraid this may be the last year I enter.

DYLAN

Why? Are you ill?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GLADYS

I'm fine. It's the garden. I have a feeling next year it may not be as bountiful as it has been.

DYLAN

I'm sure you can revive any problem.

GLADYS

You're sweet. But alas all things must end. Do you like the lemonade?

DYLAN

Yes, it's very good.

GLADYS

I have a confession to make Dylan Irving. I do know who you are.

DYLAN

Oh.

GLADYS

You seem to have Ruth Carlton on the edge of her wheelchair.

DYLAN

Can we get back to the article?

GLADYS

Of course. But only under one condition.

DYLAN

What's that?

GLADYS

You and that husband of yours join me for dinner tonight.

DYLAN

Oh, I don't know.

GLADYS

I know you're doing a job for that awful rag but I suspect there's other questions you're dying to ask me. Dinner seems more appropriate for those kinds of questions don't you think?

Dylan looks at Gladys who has a gleam in her eye.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

INT. M&A BANK - LOBBY - DAY

Scott is at his desk when Gertie Winston walks in. She walks past him on her way to Ronald's office.

SCOTT

Mrs. Winston? Can I help you with something?

GERTIE

Sorry Mr. Irving. I didn't see you there. I can't see a thing without my glasses. I'm here to see Ronald Mitchell.

SCOTT

He's out of town for a few days. Can I help you with something?

GERTIE

I have a deposit. I just rented out one of my properties. Ronald always helps me with all my money. I can't make any sense of what I have coming or going.

SCOTT

I'm sure I can help you.

Gertie walks over to Scott and leans into him.

GERTIE

(whispering)

I don't want anyone else to touch my money.

SCOTT

I'm capable of depositing your money.

GERTIE

I'll be back when Ronald is here.

Gertie walks out the door while Scott shakes his head.

EXT. MAHOGONY BAY AIRPORT - EVENING

Marty is waiting as Ronald gets off the airplane. Marty approaches Ronald to give him a kiss but Ronald turns to grab his bag.

MARTY

I see a few days away put you in a good mood.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RONALD

You have to start the minute I get off
the plane?

Ronald turns and starts walking to the door. Marty stays
back. Ronald turns around.

RONALD (CONT'D)

What? Are you coming?

MARTY

You could show a little appreciation. I
had to leave Larry to come and get you.
He really needs us now and all you can do
is complain.

Ronald walks up to Marty.

RONALD

Are you trying to make a scene? These
people know us.

Ronald looks around and grabs Marty's arm.

RONALD (CONT'D)

Now shut up and let's go.

MARTY

You think I don't know what's going on?
Your little slut ditched you and now
you're trying to take out your
frustrations on me. I'll be damned if I'm
going to be your whipping boy. Now let go
of me or I will make a scene.

Ronald lets go of Marty's arm and Marty walks to the door
leaving Ronald fairly stunned.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - HALEY'S ROOM - EVENING

Haley is wearing a cocktail dress and is putting her long
black hair into a braid when Ruth drives past the room in her
wheelchair.

Ruth sees Haley and backs the wheelchair up.

RUTH

If it isn't Cinderella.

HALEY

I'm going to say thank you and leave it
at that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

What are you all gussied up for? We don't dress for dinner.

HALEY

I do. I have a date.

RUTH

A date? Who or what would date you.

HALEY

You're not going get me tonight, old woman. I'm in high spirits.

RUTH

So who is this date with?

HALEY

A bloke I met. He's new in town.

RUTH

You know how I hate strangers. What do you know about this guy?

HALEY

Nothing. That's why I'm going on a date. To get to know him.

RUTH

Well what's his name? He does have a name doesn't he?

HALEY

Yes, his name is Johnny.

RUTH

Johnny what?

Haley thinks about it and laughs.

HALEY

You know I don't even know. See we'll have a lot to talk about.

RUTH

I don't know any Johnnys. I did know a Johnny once in grammar school. He always had food in his teeth. I wonder what ever happened to that stupid kid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HALEY

Please don't be having an Alzheimer's moment right now. I don't want to be late.

RUTH

Well, if he asked you out on a date at least he isn't one of those cock sucking fags.

Ruth wheels herself out of the room.

INT. GLADYS TUDROW'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan, Scott and Gladys are sitting at the table eating.

SCOTT

Mrs. Tudrow, this is very good. What was it again?

GLADYS

It's an old family recipe. Tudrow Surprise. But don't let the name scare you. It's actually just a chicken and broccoli casserole.

SCOTT

Dylan comes from the land of casseroles.

GLADYS

Oh.

DYLAN

Wisconsin. We like our casseroles.

GLADYS

I had no idea you were from the Midwest. I was under the impression you were both natives of Los Angeles.

DYLAN

That's where we met. I haven't been back to Wisconsin in a while.

GLADYS

Do you have family there?

DYLAN

Yes. All my family actually. In fact, I hope you don't mind me saying but you remind of my grandmother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GLADYS
That's sweet.

There is a light bang noise from upstairs.

DYLAN
What was that?

GLADYS
Oh, one of the cats. You know us old ladies and our cats. Why don't we go into the living room for some brandy. I have something I want to show you.

INT. ZIMMY'S BISTRO RESTARAUNT - NIGHT

Haley and Johnny are having a candlelit dinner.

JOHNNY
So Haley Osbourne tell me about yourself.

HALEY
There's not much to tell really. I work for Mrs. Carlton and help out at the coffee shop but I'm really only biding time until my singing career takes off.

JOHNNY
Your singing is quite incredible.

HALEY
Thank you. I always appreciate a fan. If it weren't for the fans I may have given up long ago.

JOHNNY
Have you thought of moving somewhere where you might have a better chance of a career?

HALEY
I couldn't leave Carlton Heights. Not now, anyway. Mrs. Carlton really needs me. I have to think about her before my dreams.

JOHNNY
That's very noble.

HALEY
So what about you Johnny? I don't even know your last name.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHNNY
Belducci.

HALEY
Johnny Belducci. Italian?

JOHNNY
Yes. And where does Osbourne come from?

HALEY
My father of course.

JOHNNY
Are you close to your family?

HALEY
I'm afraid not. And you, do you get on
with your folks?

JOHNNY
I don't have much of a family either.

HALEY
I guess we have that in common.

JOHNNY
Two loners who found each other.

HALEY
Well done you. I could use that in a
song.

JOHNNY
As long as I get some credit.

HALEY
Suggested by Johnny Belducci. My new
inspiration.

Johnny puts his hand on Haley's and she blushes.

JOHNNY
Does this make you uncomfortable?

HALEY
No.

She clumsily pulls her hand away.

JOHNNY
I'm sorry. (pause) This is a lovely
restaraunt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HALEY

It's the best in town. It's owned by my friend Zimmy. I was telling you about him.

JOHNNY

Friend?

HALEY

In hospital.

JOHNNY

Right. How's he doing?

HALEY

Well it's not him really. It's his children. He and his husband have twins and I'm afraid they're not quite sure what's wrong with them.

JOHNNY

I hope they'll be alright. Losing a child is the worse thing a couple can go through.

Haley looks at Johnny as he takes a drink of wine.

INT. MAHAOGNY BAY HOSPITAL - TWIN'S ROOM - EVENING

Larry and Zimmy are holding each other and looking at the twins.

LARRY

I'm not sure about this doctor. I called Dr. Stein this morning.

ZIMMY

Why? Dr. Linda seems to know what she's doing.

LARRY

I want a second opinion. He's been their doctor since, well since I had them. I can't handle this not knowing anything.

ZIMMY

It'll be alright.

LARRY

How can you say that? How can you know that? If anything happens to Donald or Kelly I'll just die. I'll die!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Larry begins to sob and Zimmy wraps his arms around him.

ZIMMY

Larry, please. We'll get through this.
We'll all get through this.

LARRY

How can you be sure?

ZIMMY

Because you taught me to be sure. You taught me how to love and those babies are a result of the love we have. Now who or what could take that away from us?

Larry hugs Zimmy.

LARRY

Oh Zimmy.

ZIMMY

Come on, where's that enthusiasm that I fell in love with?

LARRY

I don't know if I have any left.

ZIMMY

Larry, I want you to know when this is all over, I'm going to be the best husband and father I can be.

LARRY

You're already those things.

ZIMMY

Okay, I'm going to be better than that. I'll be the best husband and father in the whole world.

Zimmy hugs Larry.

ZIMMY (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I promise.

An older gentleman knocks on the door. He is DR. STEIN, the twins' pediatrician.

DR. STEIN

Hello.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LARRY

Dr. Stein. Come in.

DR. STEIN

I hope I'm not interrupting.

LARRY

You don't know how happy I am to see you.

DR. STEIN

I got here as soon as I could get away. I had to see how my favorite patients are.

LARRY

I don't know how they are. You have to help us. Can you examine them?

INT. GLADYS TUDROW'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan, Scott and Gladys walk into the dimly lit room carrying glasses of brandy. Gladys claps and the lights come on.

There are pictures covering every wall.

DYLAN

Oh my god. This is great.

Scott and Dylan start looking at the pictures.

SCOTT

It's a pictorial history of Carlton Heights.

GLADYS

It's my other hobby. When I'm not gardening.

DYLAN

Look it's Chip from the paper.

GLADYS

Yes, I have everyone and everything. Whether I like them or not.

DYLAN

I see Ruth is just about everywhere.

GLADYS

She always has been.

DYLAN

Look at this one. She looks so young and happy. Who would've thought?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

Is that Edgar Carlton next to her?

Gladys looks over the picture.

GLADYS

Yes, that's him. They were a happy couple once.

DYLAN

So what happened? Actually don't tell me. As thrilled as I am that you're showing me these pictures. I'm trying to stay out of everyone else's business.

SCOTT

Dylan is turning over a new leaf.

GLADYS

Where is the fun in that?

DYLAN

I've been through enough trouble in the past few months.

GLADYS

Oh yes, the trouble. You had one run in with the wicked witch of the town and you found some bones. What's the big deal? To me, it seems you should be asking questions, not running from them.

SCOTT

I think we should get going.

GLADYS

Of course. It is getting late. I'll walk you out.

As Gladys walks the Irvings out of the room, the camera pans over to the far left of the wall where there is an empty frame hanging on the wall.

EXT. CARLTON MANOR - NIGHT

Johnny's car pulls up to the front of the house. He gets out of the car and opens the door for Haley, extending his hand to help her out.

Haley gets out of the car and they walk to the front door.

HALEY

I had a very enchanting evening.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHNNY
So did I. I find you really fascinating
Haley.

HALEY
I blush.

JOHNNY
I mean it. There's something about you.
Something (pause) pure.

HALEY
Johnny, that's so nice.

JOHNNY
So we can see each other again?

HALEY
Of course. I would like that.

JOHNNY
I'll call you then.

HALEY
Okay.

Johnny and Haley stare at each other awkwardly for a few seconds. Haley moves in for a good night kiss and Johnny extends his hand shaking Haley's hand.

JOHNNY
Good night Haley.

Haley is left dumbstruck.

HALEY
Good night, Johnny.

Haley watches Johnny leave before walking into the house.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - FOYER - NIGHT

Haley walks in and Ruth steps out of the shadows from the living room.

HALEY
You scared me.

RUTH
I'd be more scared of that loser I just
saw you with.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HALEY

Johnny's a very nice man.

RUTH

I saw. I don't trust a guy who doesn't try to molest you on the first date. And if you had any brains you wouldn't trust him either.

HALEY

Thank you for your concern. Now let's get you to bed.

Haley helps Ruth up the stairs.

EXT. AVENUE SEA - CUL-DE-SAC - NIGHT

Aidan drives into his driveway where Ronald is waiting on the curb.

Aidan gets out of his car and pretends he doesn't see Ronald.

RONALD

Are you just going to ignore me?

Aidan is at his door ready to unlock it. He rolls his eyes and turns around, putting on a fake smile.

AIDAN

Ronald, I didn't see you there.

Ronald gets up and walks to Aidan.

RONALD

Don't act like I'm an idiot. What happened to you?

AIDAN

I apologize for leaving you in the lurch, but I had to get back to see Larry and the twins.

RONALD

Don't give me that shit. I talked to Marty, you didn't even know about the twins until you got back to Carlton Heights. What's really going on?

AIDAN

Fine, you want it. Here it is. It's over.

RONALD

Just like that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN

Yeah, just like that. It wasn't really going to work out anyway. You had to know that.

RONALD

I know we made some promises to each other.

AIDAN

Like the ones you made to Marty when you married him? You guys are all alike. You think you can have everything but you can't.

RONALD

Is that what this is about? I'll go over there right now and tell Marty I'm leaving him if that's what you want.

AIDAN

Why bother? I don't want you anymore than he does. Just say good night Ronald.

Aidan turns to walk into his house when Ronald grabs his arm.

RONALD

You can't do this to me. I did everything for you.

Aidan pulls his arm away from Ronald.

AIDAN

I appreciate everything you've done for me. But there's nothing more I need from you.

RONALD

You used me.

AIDAN

Yes, I used you. But you used me too.

RONALD

What are you talking about?

AIDAN

Come on. I gave you some cheap thrills for a couple of months. It did your ego good knowing someone like me would want you and you used that to every advantage. So don't think for a second you weren't using me just as much as I used you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RONALD

You're forgetting I know all about your little schemes. I could go to Ruth right now and tell her about the will.

AIDAN

She knows. I went to her the minute I found out what was in my grandfather's will.

RONALD

You have the will?

AIDAN

I just needed you to point me in the right direction.

RONALD

What about the Irvings?

AIDAN

What would you tell them? That I asked you to have Scott transferred here? You only have the information I gave you. You don't have anything on me. Now go home to your husband. We're through here.

Aidan walks into the house.

INT. MITCHELL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ronald walks into the house and walks to the stairway leading to the second floor. Marty is standing at the top of the stairs.

MARTY

Where do you think you're going?

RONALD

I'm not in the mood Marty. I'm going to bed.

MARTY

Not up here you're not. There's your bed.

Marty nods towards the sofa

Marty throws a a pillow and a blanket at Ronald and walks up the stairs.

END OF ACT THREE.

ACT FOUR

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS' ROOM - DAY

Dr. Stein is looking over the twins while Jimmy and Larry look on.

Dr. Linda walks into the room.

DR. LINDA
Hello. What's going on here?

LARRY
Dr. Linda, this is Dr. Stein, the twins' pediatrician.

Dr. Stein holds out his hand to Dr. Linda but she doesn't take it. Instead she walks over to the twins.

DR. STEIN
I was examining them. Larry and Jimmy asked me to take a second look.

DR. LINDA
How contentious of the Bustamantes. And your verdict?

DR. STEIN
You've done exactly what I would've done. You tested for the cold virus, inner ear infections, checked the immunizations setting off a red flag for bacterial infections.

DR. LINDA
I hope everyone is satisfied.

LARRY
So the spinal tap is necessary?

DR. STEIN
I'm afraid so. It's not as bad as it sounds.

DR. LINDA
Dr. Stein, may I see you in the hall for a moment?

DR. STEIN
I'll be right back.

Dr. Stein follows Dr. Linda to the hall.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Dr. Linda's bright smile turns to a scowl.

DR. LINDA

This is my hospital and those twins are my patients.

DR. STEIN

I realize that. I was doing this as a courtesy to the Bustamantes. I've known the family for years. Hell, I was Jimmy's doctor when he was a baby.

DR. LINDA

That's very quaint, but your Mayberry medicinal practices aren't needed here.

DR. STEIN

Like I said I was performing a courtesy.

DR. LINDA

Stay out of this case or the next patient you'll be treating may be yourself.

Dr. Linda turns her smile back on and walks into the twins room.

DR. LINDA (CONT'D)

Now let me see those gorgeous babies.

INT. IRVING KITCHEN - MORNING

Dylan is pouring a cup of coffee when Scott comes in. Scott kisses Dylan and heads to the table.

DYLAN

That was some evening wasn't it?

SCOTT

I was hoping you might forget about it.

DYLAN

I'm not going to do anything you think I'm going to do.

SCOTT

You're not?

DYLAN

No.

Dylan sits at the table as Scott pours some cereal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

I know I told you that your conspiracy theories made some sense.

DYLAN

You said I was right.

SCOTT

Right. Either way, I'm starting to like the new Dylan. The one who doesn't get me called away from work for one emergency after another.

DYLAN

You aren't bored?

SCOTT

No, I'm very happy living a quiet little life in a quiet little town with a

DYLAN

Quiet little husband?

SCOTT

Well, not so quiet. But I love my husband. As long as he stays out of trouble.

DYLAN

I will, but I just want to say...

SCOTT

Yes I know. I didn't see any cats either. But that doesn't mean they weren't there.

DYLAN

Alright Mr. Smarty Britches, what about Chip telling me his ace reporter was out with a broken arm when there isn't an ace reporter, broken bones or fully in tact.

SCOTT

I would say he sent you there because a)there is no love lost between he and Gladys and or b)he knew she would pique your interest. Either way, it's best left alone.

DYLAN

Are you going to leave it alone?

Dylan takes a drink of coffee, looking at Scott.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Haley is humming as she serves a cup of coffee to Ruth.

RUTH

What are you so happy about?

HALEY

Does a person have to have a reason to hum?

RUTH

Yes. Yes, they do. Does this strange behavior have anything to do with this Johnny character?

HALEY

Yes and he has a last name.

RUTH

Well tell me, I'm dying of excitement.

HALEY

Belducci.

RUTH

Belducci? What the hell kind of name is that?

HALEY

It's Italian.

RUTH

No shit. It sounds fake. Do you want me to look into his background for you? Check around and see if he's murdered anyone?

HALEY

I don't think he's a murderer.

Haley walks to the buffet and pours some juice. She sets it in front of Ruth.

RUTH

I don't think he's too normal if he's dating you.

HALEY

Drink your juice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH

Are you planning on leaving me all alone again today?

HALEY

I'm sure you were fine yesterday. In fact, I seem to notice a small glint of happiness in your eyes. Did you have a good day?

RUTH

It had its moments. Though I didn't have any dinner.

HALEY

What? A man from Meals On Wheels was supposed to deliver dinner. He didn't show up?

RUTH

Oh that's who that was. I saw a stranger and brought out my shotgun. I've never seen anyone drive down that hill so fast. (pause) You know now that I think about it. It was a great day.

The telephone begins ringing so Haley goes to it.

HALEY

Carlton residence. (pause) Yes, she is, who shall I say is calling?

Haley puts the phone to her chest and whispers.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Phillip Barton?

Ruth grabs for the phone.

RUTH

Phillip. I hope you have good news for me. (pause) Emily Martin? Here in Carlton Heights! Under my nose? That little shit.

Haley looks at Ruth and Ruth brushes her hand dismissing Haley. Haley walks into the kitchen humming again.

RUTH (CONT'D)

(whispering into the telephone)
There's someone else I'd like you to look into. This one may not be as easy.

INT. M&A BANK - LOBBY - DAY

Scott is at his desk when Ronald walks into the bank.

SCOTT
Ronald, you're back.

RONALD
My trip was cut a day short.

SCOTT
I didn't even notice you were home last night.

RONALD
We went to bed early. So what's been happening around here?

SCOTT
I've held it together. Nothing unusual. Although Gertie Winston came in wanting to talk to you. She wouldn't even let me near her deposit.

RONALD
Don't take offense, it took her four tries to get the corporate president to fly down here before she finally let me handle her money. I'll call her and tell her I'm back.

SCOTT
What happens if you ever leave?

RONALD
She'll probably be dead by then. I don't think I'm ever going anywhere.

Ronald walks into his office.

INT. THE COUTURE - DAY

Aidan unlocks the door and walks into his store. He turns on the lights and begins going through the mail.

In the pile of mail are more "Past Due" bill notices.

Aidan reaches for his cell phone and checks to see if he has any messages. He dials a number.

AIDAN
I told you this was urgent. My bills aren't being paid. Call me back!

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS ROOM - DAY

Larry and Zimmy watch helplessly as Dr. Linda does a spinal tap on the babies. They hold each other's hands trying desperately to stay calm.

LARRY
You're not hurting them are you?

DR. LINDA
They're under a small local anesthesia.
They're doing just fine.

Zimmy is about to pass out when Dr. Linda backs away.

DR. LINDA (CONT'D)
There we go, all done.

ZIMMY
It's over?

DR. LINDA
Yes, it's over. Now we wait.

Larry rings his hands in desperation.

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

Gertie Winston is sitting in front of Ronald's desk as he writes on a piece of paper.

RONALD
I think we're all set. Here's your receipt. Handwritten as you like it.

GERTIE
I appreciate this. You know I don't trust computers. I have the very same cash register at the thrift store I had when I opened up the place.

RONALD
I know.

GERTIE
If it wasn't for the interest I'm earning, I'd keep my money in a mattress like Daddy always suggested.

RONALD
That's not really the safest place Mrs. Winston.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GERTIE

Thankfully, you returned when you did or I would've had to stick it in my mattress. I don't trust that Scott Irving with my money.

RONALD

Your money is safe here Mrs. Winston.

GERTIE

Thank you.

Ronald and Gertie both get up and Ronald walks Gertie to the door.

Ronald goes back to his desk.

He opens up an account number on the computer and enters Gertie's information but he moves the money to a different account.

The camera pulls into the computer screen and over half of Gertie's deposit is put into an account with the name "Aidan Palmer."

EXT. GLADYS TUDROW'S HOUSE - DAY

Dylan parks his car across the street from the house. He walks up the steps to the front door and knocks on it.

When there isn't an answer he walks around the side and through the white fence door to the garden.

DYLAN

Mrs. Tudrow? Gladys?

Dylan walks through the garden to the back door.

Realizing no one is there he walks back to the front and is about to cross the street to his car when he sees someone at the front door.

Dylan walks up to the front door.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Scott? What are you doing here?

SCOTT

Honey. Hi. There you are.

Scott hugs Dylan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I was worried about you. I knew you couldn't stay away.

DYLAN

How did you know I was here?

SCOTT

I saw your car. See, there it is.

Dylan just looks at his husband.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I wanted to see those pictures again?

DYLAN

You were going to spend your lunch hour with Gladys Tudrow looking at pictures?

SCOTT

She reminds me of your grandmother.

DYLAN

You never even met my grandmother.

SCOTT

She reminded you of your grandmother and I would like to get to know more about people who ... remind ... you ... of. Forget it. How do you do this all the time?

DYLAN

Believe me it's a lot of work. That's why I'm not doing anymore.

SCOTT

Right. We're not doing this anymore. But since we're here.

DYLAN

I already tried. Nobody's home. Come on, I'll let my husband buy me lunch.

Dylan and Scott walk down the steps.

From the second story window of Gladys' house someone is watching the Irvings walk away.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - EVENING

Zimmy is at the coffee machine. Aidan comes up behind him. He puts his arms around Zimmy's waist. Zimmy turns around quickly.

ZIMMY

How did you find me in here?

AIDAN

Larry told me you were in the cafeteria.
I offered to help you in any way I can.

Aidan puts his arms around Zimmy.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

And to see if you want to hop a cot for a couple of insatiable moments.

Zimmy backs away from Aidan.

ZIMMY

You should go home.

AIDAN

I haven't been able to get you alone for days. Come on, let's lighten up this place.

Aidan grabs for Zimmy's crotch but Zimmy pushes his hand away.

ZIMMY

Stop it.

AIDAN

Hey, I'm sorry.

Zimmy walks to a corner and Aidan follows him.

ZIMMY

This isn't going to work anymore.

AIDAN

What's not going to work?

ZIMMY

This. You and me. I can't do it.

AIDAN

You can't be serious.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIMMY

I owe every thing I have to Larry and the twins. If I didn't have them I don't know what I'd do. I can't risk losing them.

AIDAN

You're just upset about this whole twin business.

ZIMMY

Twin business? Those are my kids you're talking about.

AIDAN

I know they're your kids.

ZIMMY

I don't know what I saw in you.

AIDAN

You know exactly what you saw in me and what brings you back.

Aidan tries to grab Zimmy for another feel but Zimmy backs up.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

You're not thinking clearly. You're upset. Once this is over.

ZIMMY

I am upset but I'm also thinking clearly. Probably more so than I have in months.

AIDAN

Those kids of yours are going to be fine. And so are we.

ZIMMY

It's not going to be fine. Not until I know you understand that it's over.

AIDAN

You're breaking up with me?

ZIMMY

I don't care what you call it. Whatever it was, it's over. I made a promise to Larry and I'm keeping my word. I have to get back to my husband and kids.

Zimmy leaves Aidan alone in the cafeteria.

INT. MAHOGOANY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS' ROOM - EVENING

Dylan, Scott and Marty knock on the door to the twins room.

DYLAN
Hi. Can we come in?

LARRY
Certainly. Come in.

MARTY
We brought you dinner.

LARRY
Oh that's sweet but I know neither of you boys can cook.

MARTY
Don't worry. I took it from your freezer.
I can work a microwave you know.

Larry looks at Marty strangely.

MARTY (CONT'D)
Okay, Dylan can work a microwave.

SCOTT
It's true, I've seen it.

Larry lets out a little laugh.

DYLAN
There you go. A smile. We brought some clothes too. I didn't know how much longer...

LARRY
Thank you.

Larry takes the food and clothes and puts them on a dresser. He begins to unfold the clothes and put them away making sure there are no creases in the items. He carefully takes the food out of the bags. During this action, he is fighting back tears while talking:

LARRY (CONT'D)
You just missed Aidan and Zimmy. They're down in the cafeteria. If you would've been just a few seconds earlier, they could've taken the food down with them.

Larry's tears begin. Marty and Dylan both go to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY (CONT'D)

Blood tests, urinary tests. They've been running tests on them all day long and they still won't know anything until tomorrow. Every needle poking and (pause) They gave my babies a spinal tap.

DYLAN

Can they do that to someone so young?

LARRY

They can do anything but find answers.

SCOTT

I'm sure things will be alright.

LARRY

I'm so sick of hearing that. I don't want to hear that things are going to be all right. I want them all right. What the hell kind of doctors are these, they don't even know what the fuck is going on!

Larry puts his hands to his mouth.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Oh my. I've cursed. I've never cursed.

MARTY

Maybe you should start.

LARRY

Maybe. (pause)
(beginning quiet and getting louder)
Hell. Hell, hell, hell. Shit. Shit. Fuck.
Shit! Shit! Fuck! Fuck! Fuuuuck!

Larry lets out a huge sigh and looks over to his twins.

Suddenly, a look of fright covers his face.

DYLAN

Larry, what is it?

LARRY

Donald! He's having a convulsion.

MARTY

I'll get a nurse.

Marty runs out the door.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - NURSES STATION - NIGHT

Marty runs to the nurse's station.

MARTY
Nurse! Nurse!

The NURSE at the desk gets up and runs to Marty.

Zimmy, carrying two cups of coffee, comes walking up at the same time as Marty runs to the nurse's station. Zimmy drops his coffees and runs down the hall.

Marty, Zimmy and the nurse run into the twins room.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aidan walks into the dark house and turns on a light. He turns around and there is a MAN sitting on his sofa. The man is in his late 60s with gray hair, dressed expensively.

AIDAN
Oh my god.

MAN
Hello Aidan.

AIDAN
What are you doing here?

MAN
I got your calls. I understand you're having some money problems.

AIDAN
Why is that?

MAN
We had a deal Aidan.

AIDAN
Yeah, and part of that deal was to pay my expenses.

MAN
The deal was I would set you up and you would get me the information I needed. In three months.

AIDAN
It's taking a little longer than I thought. I need a little more time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAN

I gave you more than enough time.

AIDAN

Come on, just a little longer. You can do that for me can't you?

Aidan walks over to the man and puts his arms around him.

The man pushes Aidan away.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

You can't do this. If not for me, then for her. She could die.

MAN

You should've thought of that before you tried to take advantage of me. You were to take the diary and blackmail the old bitch until she tells you what happened to Edgar. It was simple but you failed and now it's over.

AIDAN

It's not over. I found his will.

MAN

I know you've seen the will. I know the diary was stolen, I know how you convinced not one but two of your neighbors to help you get what you wanted. What YOU wanted, not what I sent you here to get. This wasn't about money. This was about your grandfather.

AIDAN

You can't just cut me off.

MAN

I already have.

AIDAN

What am I supposed to do?

MAN

Go back to the street where I found you. Your days of using me are over.

Aidan is left stunned as the man walks out the door.

FADE OUT.

THE END.