

CARLTON

Heights

Episode 06 -
"Money For Nothing"

by
Bradley Jacobson

bradleyjacobson@yahoo.com

TEASER

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

LARRY and ZIMMY BUSTAMANTE are hovering over KELLY and DONALD BUSTAMANTE as DR. LINDA TEINENBAUM uses her stethoscope to test DONALD's breathing.

DR. LINDA

His breathing is back to normal and his fever is coming down.

LARRY

Why did this happen? He was having some kind of convulsion.

DR. LINDA

It was an allergic reaction to the anesthesia. It raised his fever again and the dramatic change in temperature is what set off the convulsion. I gave both Donald and Kelly an antibiotic for the fever. Just in case Kelly has the same type of reaction.

LARRY

Doctor, when are we going to know about the tests?

ZIMMY

Yes, when are we going to know what's wrong with the babies?

DR. LINDA

I'll have the results back from the sepsis test and the spinal tap tomorrow. Don't worry, they're going to sleep through the night. Just hold tight.

Dr. Linda leaves walking into DYLAN IRVING who was listening at the door.

DYLAN

Sorry.

Dylan, SCOTT IRVING and MARTY MITCHELL wait by the door.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Can we come in?

LARRY

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dylan, Scott and Marty walk into the room. Marty puts his hand on Larry's shoulder.

MARTY

We heard. At least they're doing better.
You'll know everything tomorrow.

LARRY

If I can make it through one more night.

DYLAN

Do you want us to stay with you tonight?

LARRY

No, don't be ridiculous.

ZIMMY

We'll be fine. It's only one more night.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

AIDAN PALMER is working on his lap top. He is looking up "death certificates" and "Edgar Carlton".

He finds some names and writes down the towns where the 'deceased' were.

His computer begins to flicker and a low battery charge appears. He hits the computer.

Then the lights begin to flicker and suddenly go out.

AIDAN

Damn it. Not now.

Aidan gets up and looks out the window. The street lights in the cul-de-sac are all on.

Aidan stumbles in the dark to a desk. He searches in the drawer for a book of matches.

He finds the matches and lights a candle.

He looks at his mail on the desk and finds the Past Due notice from the electric company.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Who do I have to sleep with to catch a
break in this town?

END OF TEASER.

ACT ONE

INT. MITCHELL LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Marty is walking to the door when RONALD MITCHELL comes down the stairs wearing his pajama bottoms.

MARTY
Are you going to get dressed today?

RONALD
I haven't really thought about it.

Ronald sits on the sofa and turns on the television set.

MARTY
There's plenty to do around here if you're bored.

RONALD
Like what?

MARTY
You could mow the lawn. You could clean out the garage. Isn't that what suburban husbands do on the weekends?

RONALD
We don't live in the suburbs. We live in a small boring town.

MARTY
You wanted to live here.

RONALD
Maybe it's time for a change.

Marty walks over to the sofa and in front of the TV.

MARTY
What kind of change?

RONALD
I don't know. Will you get out of my way. I'm trying to watch television.

MARTY
Fine. I'm going to the coffee shop.

Ronald begins flipping through channels as Marty walks out the door.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S HOUSE - DAY

Aidan is at his pool when he hears a noise coming from the side of his house. He walks through the garage and there is a tow truck. The TRUCK DRIVER is chaining up Aidan's convertible.

AIDAN
Hey! Wait! What are you doing?

TRUCK DRIVER
I have the paperwork to pick up the car.

AIDAN
That's my car.

TRUCK DRIVER
Not if you aren't paying for it, it's not.

AIDAN
What am I supposed to do without a car?

TRUCK DRIVER
I don't know. I'm just doing my job.

Aidan checks out the truck driver as he bends over to chain the car. Aidan walks over to him and stands behind him.

The truck driver turns around.

TRUCK DRIVER (CONT'D)
What is this?

AIDAN
I've been through a really bad time. I'm sure I can clear up this matter. You can give me some time can't you?

TRUCK DRIVER
I have my orders.

Aidan moves in closer and paws the truck driver's crotch.

AIDAN
If you could just give me some time. I can give you some time in return.

The truck driver smiles as Aidan falls to his knees.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS' ROOM - DAY

Dr. Linda has Larry and Zimmy sitting on chairs. She is holding some papers in her hand.

DR. LINDA
I have the results of the tests.

LARRY
And?

DR. LINDA
It's bacterial sepsis.

LARRY
Okay, what does that mean?

DR. LINDA
Luckily we caught it early so it's treatable. I've changed the twins' antibiotics and they're going to be fine.

Larry hugs Zimmy smiling.

LARRY
That's wonderful news. So what caused it?

DR. LINDA
I can't be positive as I don't have the birth mother's records but all signs point to the babies' being born with the group B strep virus.

LARRY
They were fine when they were born.

DR. LINDA
It obviously took a few months for it to develop but it did. Normally children not vaccinated would have problems and though Donald and Kelly were vaccinated they were due for another Hib vaccine.

LARRY
But they're not overdue.

DR. LINDA
No, but for some reason the first dose of the Hib vaccine didn't prevent their little bodies from reacting to the bacteria.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

So it wasn't my fault? Was it?

DR. LINDA

No. However, in their next immunization I've recommend not only another Hib vaccination but also a new vaccine called Prevanar. It will reduce any risk of the types of infections we were looking at.

ZIMMY

I didn't understand a word you said but the babies are alright?

DR. LINDA

Yes. They're fine.

LARRY

So we can take them home?

DR. LINDA

Actually, because of the potential severity of this illness, I'd like to monitor how the antibiotics are working. I'm going to keep them for a three day observation. But we're definitely out of the woods.

LARRY

That's fine. That's fine. As long as they're okay.

DR. LINDA

Your twins will be safely home before you know it.

Dr. Linda walks out of the room.

INT. STEPHEN MERRICK'S APARTMENT - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

The telephone is ringing when STEPHEN MERRICK walks out of the bathroom wet and covered in a towel.

He answers the telephone.

STEPHEN

Hello?

EXT. DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS - DAY

JOHNNY BELDUCCI is on his cell phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JOHNNY

Mr. Merrick, I have great news for you.

STEPHEN

What is it?

JOHNNY

All those files and papers were official.

STEPHEN

I told you.

JOHNNY

Our transaction is complete.

STEPHEN

Not quite. You still owe me some money.

JOHNNY

Like I said, I don't screw over my clients. The final installment will be in the usual place. Tomorrow at 5 PM. Can you make it to Carlton Heights by then?

STEPHEN

Do I have a choice?

JOHNNY

Not if you want your money.

EXT. AVENUE SEA - CUL-DE-SAC

Aidan is standing on his lawn waving as the truck driver leaves. Aidan's car is still in the garage.

Aidan walks to his garage.

From across the cul-de-sac, Ronald begins walking over.

Aidan gets into his car, backing up and almost hitting Ronald.

RONALD

Hey!

AIDAN

Oh, sorry didn't see you there.

RONALD

Why was there a tow truck here? New boyfriend?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN
What's it to you?

RONALD
You can't leave me hanging like this.

AIDAN
I'm not leaving you hanging. I think I made it pretty clear it's over.

RONALD
I don't want it to be over.

AIDAN
This was never about you wanted.

RONALD
I wanted you.

AIDAN
You had me and you'll always have the memories. Now I have things to do.

Aidan begins backing up again and Ronald backs up to avoid getting hit.

RONALD
Wait! There's got to be something I can do. Something to change your mind. We had something. I know it.

AIDAN
Unless you suddenly became as rich as my grandmother, there's nothing more you can do for me.

Aidan backs up the car and drives off.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS' ROOM - DAY

Dylan and Scott walk into the room. There are several visitors cooing over the twins.

LARRY
Hi guys. Come on in.

DYLAN
I see everyone's heard the news.

LARRY
It's been like this since we found out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

We brought you those things you asked for.

Larry gleefully takes the bag.

LARRY

Thank goodness. It's my knitting needles. I still have three days here but at least I won't be a nervous wreck anymore.

Larry's cell phone begins to ring.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Oh, you'll excuse me.

DYLAN

Where were all these people when we were schlepping back and forth to Carlton Heights?

SCOTT

Shh.

DYLAN

Just a question.

LARRY

Hello? Yes (pause) Thank you. (pause) Yes, isn't it wonderful? (pause) Oh my goodness. How could I forget? (pause) You shouldn't have to cancel. (pause) A replacement? Can you hold a second?

Larry looks at Dylan.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Dylan, my very dearest Dylan.

DYLAN

Whatever it is, I'd love to but I have to finish my interview for Chip and I'm working on my book.

LARRY

Good, so you have time. It's really important, you see I volunteer at Sister Sadie's Retirement home.

DYLAN

Of course you do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LARRY

It's their Summer Kickoff Party and I volunteered. I can't leave and they can't find anyone to fill in for me.

DYLAN

Larry, I don't know. I really have a lot..

Larry goes back to his call.

LARRY

Yes, I found someone. (pause) Oh, I'll tell him. You'll love him. Bye bye.

Larry ends his call.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I hope you like Bingo.

SCOTT

I guess the twins aren't the only ones feeling better.

DYLAN

I think I'm starting to get sick.

Scott nudges Dylan while still smiling at Larry.

INT. MARTY'S MAYHEM - DAY

Marty is at the counter reading a book.

HALEY OSBOURNE walks in, carrying some dry cleaning.

HALEY

'Allo, allo.

MARTY

Haley, what are you doing here? You're not going to rehearse are you?

HALEY

No, you're not so lucky I'm afraid. I had to come into town and do some errands while Mrs. Carlton is getting her physical therapy.

MARTY

Someone has to touch that woman?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HALEY

Bertha Heizenthal at Sister Sadie's. She's probably the only person who intimidates Ruth Carlton.

MARTY

Just the name intimidates me.

HALEY

Normally, Bertha drives her big VW van up the hill and works with Mrs. Carlton at home, but today the old gal insisted I take her to Sister Sadie's instead. If I didn't know better I'd say she was up to something.

Marty pours Haley a cup of coffee and Haley sits at the counter.

HALEY (CONT'D)

I heard the good news about the twins.

MARTY

Yeah, something good finally happened in this town.

HALEY

It's not the only good thing. I'm still dating my new beau.

MARTY

The guy from the other night? The fan?

HALEY

Yes, the fan. I want you to meet him.

MARTY

I have met him.

HALEY

I mean, sit down and talk to him.

MARTY

Send him in here, it's not like I'm running around serving coffee.

HALEY

I thought something more intimate. Like dinner tonight. Me and Johnny and you and Ronald?

MARTY

I don't think so Haley.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HALEY

Come on. You and Ronald are getting along aren't you?

MARTY

We're getting along the same way we always have. Listen, he just got back from San Francisco. I don't think he's really up to spending time with anyone.

HALEY

What was he doing in San Francisco?

MARTY

The question is who was he doing in San Francisco.

HALEY

You don't still think he's cheating on you do you?

MARTY

No. I don't THINK he's cheating on me, it was pretty much shoved in my face when he took Aidan to San Francisco with him.

HALEY

You're joking?

MARTY

Do I look like I'm telling a joke?

HALEY

I'm sorry Marty I had no idea. Maybe I should talk to Aidan for you.

MARTY

That's not necessary. It seems Aidan found their little honeymoon together as boring as mine was. He came back without Ronald. My guess is Aidan and Ronald are over.

HALEY

Then let's not dwell on bad things. It's a new start. For me and Johnny and for you and Ronald. We'll celebrate. Tonight at 7 at Jimmy's.

Haley smiles brightly before sipping her coffee.

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

Dylan is at the front of the room calling bingo numbers as the old people sit at the tables dawbing their cards.

DYLAN
A-36, B-12, C-18

GRETТА, an old white haired woman in her 70s leaps up.

GRETТА
Bingo! Bingo!

DYLAN
It looks like we have a Bingo. Gretta Goldfinch, right?

GRETТА
That's right, I'm Gretta and I got Bingo!
Stick that in your hat Bernice Benatar.

Another old woman BERNICE pushes her card away while Dylan brings Gretta her prize money.

DYLAN
It looks like you won today's jackpot.
Five dollars worth of dinner vouchers.

GRETТА
Just what I wanted. Ha! Bernice. Ha!

DYLAN
It's nice to know you're all such good sports. Well guys and gals, that's the last game for today.

The room starts clearing out and Dylan walks through the room.

Bernice is helping another OLD WOMAN walk as they pass by Dylan. The old woman stops.

OLD WOMAN
You did a wonderful job up there. I hope you don't mind me saying but you are the spitting image of your grandfather. He was a looker too.

BERNICE
Don't mind her. She's crazy as a loon.
You don't look anything like him.

Dylan looks questionably as Bernice walks away.

EXT. SISTER SADIE'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY - DAY

Scott walks to the front door as RUTH CARLTON is making her way to the door.

SCOTT
Hello, Mrs. Carlton.

RUTH
Oh, Irving right?

SCOTT
Yes, Scott Irving. How are you today?

Ruth turns her scowl to a smile.

RUTH
I was just thinking of that hu-hus, Dylan Irving. I was just thinking how sorry I am the two of you had to go through that whole bones fiasco. Such a pity.

SCOTT
Thanks for your concern. Has there been any news on who they belonged to?

RUTH
Haven't you heard? Those bones were stolen right from the police station. Personally, I blame all the strangers who keep coming to town. No offense of course.

SCOTT
Of course.

Ruth reaches for the door.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
Oh, here allow me.

Scott is about to reach for the door when Dylan comes barging through it, knocking Ruth to the ground.

Dylan rushes to her before realizing who it is.

DYLAN
Oh my god, I'm so sorry.

Dylan sees Ruth and screams.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Aaah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUTH
You!

DYLAN
You!

A NURSE runs outside as Scott tries to help Ruth up.

RUTH
Get your hands off me.

NURSE
Mrs. Carlton are you alright?

RUTH
No, I'm not alright. These people are trying to kill me!

DYLAN
I'm sorry I didn't know it was you.

RUTH
If it was someone else you wouldn't be sorry?

DYLAN
That's not what I meant.

RUTH
Say what you mean then.

The nurse helps Ruth to her feet.

DYLAN
Fine. I am sorry. I'm sorry I didn't push the door harder.

RUTH
You have a lot of nerve.

SCOTT
He didn't mean it. We're really very sorry Mrs. Carlton.

Scott leads Dylan away while the nurse helps Ruth into the building.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

INT. SISTER SADIE'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY - OLD WOMAN'S ROOM - DAY

Ruth uses her cane to steady herself as she walks into the room. It's the same room Aidan has visited.

RUTH
Hello?

Ruth sees the OLD WOMAN at the window.

RUTH (CONT'D)
There you are.

Ruth hobbles her way to the old woman.

RUTH (CONT'D)
How have you been? (pause) How do you like it here? (pause) How's the weather?

Ruth waves her hand in front of the woman's face and she still doesn't respond.

Ruth sits down on the chair next to the old woman.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Well Verna Palmer, or is it Emily Martin? I believe that's what they think your name is around here. But we know the truth, don't we dear? Well, maybe you don't anymore. I have to wonder how long you've been right here. Under my nose. I have to say I'm a little disappointed. I came in here expecting a big fight and here I find out, there's no fight left in you. It's really quite heartbreaking. Particularly for that grandson of ours I'll bet. Don't worry I'll take care of him. I came by to see if you could look over some paperwork but I guess I don't need your help after all. It was so good to see you Verna. So good.

Ruth gets out of her chair and walks out of the room running into BERTHA, a giant man shaped woman.

BERTHA
There you are, Mrs. Carlton.

Verna is still looking out the window but her finger nails are digging into the arms of the chair she sits in.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DOWNTOWN CARLTON HEIGHTS - DAY

Dylan and Scott are having lunch on an outdoor patio.

A WAITER brings them menus and Scott looks through it while Dylan clicks his glass of water with his fork.

SCOTT

Are you writing a song for Haley to sing?

DYLAN

No. I'm just so angry. I can't go one day without that woman screwing with me. I mean, what the hell was she doing there anyway? I think she's following me.

The point of view changes as someone is watching Dylan and Scott from across the street.

SCOTT

I'm sure it's all in your head.

DYLAN

That's what you said about everything else. The affairs, the photo, the bones.

SCOTT

Mrs. Carlton told me the bones were stolen.

DYLAN

See. Are you even surprised?

SCOTT

Not really. But what do we care? Whatever happened happened a long time ago. What good will it do us to find out about it?

DYLAN

I know you're right. I do. But it's like some weird karma. Every time I try to go the straight and narrow, something happens that puts me right back in the middle of drama.

Dylan sees someone walk into the restaraunt and tries to look around Scott to see the person.

SCOTT

What? Who is it?

DYLAN

Toddy? Toddy Tudrow?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dylan stands up.

TODDY TUDROW looks at Dylan. He is wearing blue jeans, a flannel shirt and a baseball cap. He walks over to the couple.

TODDY
(very butch low voice)
Hello.

DYLAN
Toddy, I thought that was you. When did you get back from Aruba?

TODDY
Yesterday.

DYLAN
Oh. We had dinner with your mother the other night.

TODDY
Really? That's odd. She didn't mention it.

DYLAN
It was a lot of fun, wasn't it Scott? Oh Scott this is Toddy Tudrow. Toddy, this is my husband Scott.

Scott holds out his hand but Toddy doesn't take it.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Would you like to join us? You could tell us all about your trip.

TODDY
No, I have to go.

Toddy walks away.

Dylan sits back down at the table.

SCOTT
I thought you said he was a big queen.

DYLAN
He was.

Dylan watches Toddy as he takes a seat by the counter.

INT. FBI AGENCY - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

FBI Agent GREG GELLER is sitting at his desk.

Stephen walks in and throws some files on the desk.

GREG
What's this?

STEPHEN
These are the conversations I've had with him.

GREG
I didn't ask for this.

STEPHEN
Did you listen to the tapes?

GREG
Yes, I listened to them.

STEPHEN
Do you believe me now?

GREG
There isn't anything on there I can really use.

STEPHEN
What are you talking about?

GREG
If anything it sounds like you're the one who's been doing illegal activity. Are you confessing?

STEPHEN
That's not funny. He made contact again. He wants me to meet him in Carlton Heights to collect the rest of the money. We have to make our move soon.

GREG
There isn't anything I can do. You don't have any solid proof anything is going to happen. I don't know what the guy looks like and you don't even know who he is.

STEPHEN
He calls himself Johnny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG

Oh, well then.

STEPHEN

Don't you see that's precisely why I need you to come with me to Carlton Heights. You can photograph him. I can get him to say something. Incriminate himself. We can arrest him for extortion.

GREG

You really want to do that? What about what you've done?

STEPHEN

I'll worry about me later. For now, I want to help my friends.

GREG

I don't know about this Stephen.

STEPHEN

Come on. How long have we known each other?

GREG

What does that have to do with it?

STEPHEN

I need your help. As a friend. To help other friends.

GREG

I could lose my job if anyone found out.

STEPHEN

But if we arrest him, think of the praise.

GREG

That's only if any of this is true.

STEPHEN

You won't know unless you come with me. You can wire me and we'll get him.
(pause) Greg, whatever's going to happen is going to happen soon.

Greg leans back in his chair thinking about Stephen's request.

EXT. CARLTON HEIGHTS PARK - DAY

Johnny is sitting at a park bench watching some children play. A person stands in front of him blocking his view. Johnny puts his hands up to cover the glare and sees it's Dr. Linda.

JOHNNY
Shouldn't you be at the hospital?

DR. LINDA
A person can't work day and night. I've saved the twins from near death with my own loving hands. I deserve a day at the park.

Dr. Linda sits on the bench next to Johnny.

JOHNNY
I got the house.

DR. LINDA
Good. And the girl?

JOHNNY
We're having dinner tonight (pause) with some of her friends.

DR. LINDA
Friends. That's good, that's very good Johnny. Things are moving more swiftly than originally planned so be ready at a moment's notice.

JOHNNY
I don't understand why I can't go with you.

DR. LINDA
We've gone over this a million times. I need you to stay here and monitor their activities. I want to know what kind of action will be taken. And what better way to do that than for you to blend into the community. It will not only get us the information we need but it will keep you off the suspect list. After all, if you're dating the nursemaid to Ruth Carlton, then surely you must be innocent of any type of wrong doing.

JOHNNY
I just wish...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. LINDA

Enough. You want to ruin months of preparation, not to mention years of ground work just to satisfy your own personal wishes? God would not like that.

JOHNNY

I'm sorry.

DR. LINDA

You should be. Now don't worry, you'll be back with us before you know it.

Dr. Linda gets up and walks away.

INT. MITCHELL LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Ronald is on the sofa watching television.

Marty, dressed in a suit and tie, walks down the stairs and goes to the front closet.

He pulls out a suit jacket and throws it at Ronald.

RONALD

Hey, what's this?

MARTY

It's your gray suit jacket.

RONALD

Thanks. Do you want a medal for actually doing something around here? I wanted it two days ago.

MARTY

I don't want a medal. I want you to put it on.

RONALD

Why?

MARTY

We're having dinner with Haley and her boyfriend.

RONALD

I don't feel like having dinner with that crazy broad. I'm staying right here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

I didn't ask you what you felt like. I said we're having dinner with Haley and her boyfriend. Now put the jacket on.

Marty goes to the mirror and primps watching Ronald's reaction through the reflection.

INT. DAILY GAZELLE NEWSPAPER - CHIP CHANDELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

CHIP CHANDELOR is at his desk when Dylan walks into the office with a brief case.

Chip gets up from his desk and shakes Dylan's hand.

CHIP

Dylan, hello. It's so good to see you.

DYLAN

I have your interview completed. I hope I'm not too late. I got hung up this morning with volunteer work.

CHIP

You're just in time. So the old bird didn't give you any trouble.

DYLAN

No. Not at all.

Chip sits back down behind his desk.

CHIP

Please, have a seat.

Dylan takes the printed paper and a computer disc out of his brief case.

DYLAN

Here you are.

Chip takes the items and puts them off to the side.

CHIP

That's splendid. Just splendid.

DYLAN

Are you going to look them over?

CHIP

Not right now. I trust you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

Well then I should be going.

Dylan smiles and gets up to leave.

CHIP

You didn't have any questions for me?

DYLAN

Questions? About what?

CHIP

I don't know. I thought maybe...

DYLAN

You thought maybe I'd like to know why I was sent to do the interview? Well, I have more important things to worry about. Ruth Carlton is hell bent on ruining my life, Toddy Tudrow, the town's brightest burning flame is now a butch lumberjack and I still have my own book to write.

CHIP

I sent you to do the interview because I knew you were a great writer.

DYLAN

There's more to it. You lied to me. You said the original interviewer had a broken arm and wasn't able to do it. But Gladys Tudrow told me there is no other...

A MAN WITH A BROKEN ARM walks into the office.

MAN

Sorry, Mr. Chandelor I didn't see anyone. I'll come back later.

The man walks back out of the room.

CHIP

You were saying.

DYLAN

I was saying, I have a lot of questions. Can you point me in the direction of the archives? I'd like to do a little research.

INT. ZIMMY'S BISTRO - EVENING

Ronald, Marty, Haley and Johnny are having dinner.

MARTY

Haley tells us you just moved to town.

JOHNNY

A few months ago. I've been staying at the Shady Grove motel but I just rented a little house.

MARTY

Really? Where?

JOHNNY

Up in the woods. It's a little off the beaten track but I'm not a big fan of the loud city.

MARTY

Are you talking about downtown Carlton Heights?

JOHNNY

I know it's small but I still like the atmosphere away from people.

MARTY

I could use some time away from people myself.

INT. ZIMMY'S BISTRO - LOBBY - EVENING

Aidan walks in and ANGELO is at the front desk.

ANGELO

Mr. Palmer we have your dinner ready. I'll just run back and get it.

AIDAN

Thank you Angelo. Oh, Angelo. Zimmy hasn't shown up yet has he?

ANGELO

Sorry Mr. Palmer.

Angelo leaves and Aidan looks around.

He sees Haley, Johnny, Ronald and Marty.

INT. ZIMMY'S BISTRO - DINING ROOM - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

From the table, Ronald is not listening to any of the conversation as he watches Aidan.

HALEY
Johnny is from back east. Aren't you from back east Ronald?

RONALD
What?

HALEY
You're from back East right?

RONALD
Yeah, Boston.

MARTY
We met in college at Mass State.
(sarcastically) It was love at first sight.

RONALD
Yeah, if that's what you call it. I met Marty macking on some frat dude and figured it was an easy score. You'll excuse me.

Ronald gets up and walks to the reception area.

Haley tries to laugh off the remark.

HALEY
These two are a cut up aren't they?
They're always acting like this.

Haley drinks from her glass of wine.

INT. ZIMMY'S BISTRO - LOBBY - EVENING -CONTINUOUS

Aidan is sitting on a bench when Ronald walks up.

RONALD
Hello.

AIDAN
This town really is too small isn't it?

RONALD
I can't stand this. I've been a nervous wreck all day. I need you back Aidan. I really need you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ronald grabs at his crotch and moves to stand directly in front of Aidan. Ronald tilts his head towards the men's room.

Aidan looks in the direction of the men's room and smiles.

Angelo comes up to the desk with Aidan's food, wrapped to go.

ANGELO

Your Shrimp Fra Diavlo, Mr. Palmer.

Aidan maneuvers around Ronald.

AIDAN

Thank you Angelo. Oh don't forget...

ANGELO

Of course sir, it's billed to the house.

Aidan smiles, walking past Ronald and out the door.

Marty walks to the lobby of Jimmy's.

MARTY

How's your little friend?

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS' ROOM - EVENING

The room is dark except one low lit lamp. Larry is sitting in a chair next to a lamp reading a book about child development.

Zimmy is at the crib watching the babies sleep.

LARRY

It says here that some infants can move around upright while holding onto furniture as young as six months. They call it cruising. Isn't that cute?

Larry looks at Zimmy.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Zimmy, did you hear what I said?

Larry gets up and walks over to Zimmy and the twins.

Larry looks into the crib.

LARRY (CONT'D)

They're so beautiful.

ZIMMY

They are. (pause) So are you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Larry touches Jimmy's arm.

ZIMMY (CONT'D)

I want you to know I would never do anything to hurt you or the kids.

LARRY

I know that. What a strange thing to say.

Zimmy begins to tear up.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Zimmy, what is it?

ZIMMY

I may have done some things in the past that I shouldn't have, that I didn't mean to do but I never meant...

Larry hugs Jimmy.

LARRY

Oh Jimmy. Whatever it is you've done or whatever you think you might've done, it doesn't matter. We're together and we have our babies.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S HOUSE - EVENING

The telephone is ringing as Aidan walks into the house carrying his bag of food from Jimmy's.

Aidan misses the call. He walks to the kitchen when the telephone begins ringing again.

Aidan runs back to the living room and answers the phone.

AIDAN

Hello? (pause) I'll be there.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aidan walks into the room where Ruth is sitting at her desk.

AIDAN

You requested my presence. I assume you have something for me.

RUTH

Yes I do. Why don't you have a seat. I'm just reviewing some paperwork.

Aidan takes a seat across from Ruth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDAN
What's it about? This paperwork?

RUTH
You of course.

AIDAN
Of course.

RUTH
We've had a strange relationship haven't we? I mean it seems like just yesterday you showed up on my doorstep staking a claim to the Carlton fortune.

AIDAN
I deserve that money.

RUTH
I thought you did too. I didn't want to give it to you but I really thought it was rightfully yours. Unfortunately, the law disagrees. Have a look at this.

Ruth hands the papers to Aidan.

Aidan looks them over but he seems confused.

AIDAN
I don't understand this. What is this?

RUTH
They're adoption papers.

AIDAN
Whose?

RUTH
Yours.

AIDAN
What are you talking about?

RUTH
I realize all that sick perverted gay sex has probably killed off most of your brain cells but if you read the actual document. Oh, can you read?

AIDAN
Yes, I can read.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RUTH

Good. Then you'll see that the old woman, the one who raised you after my daughter left you all alone...

AIDAN

My grandmother.

RUTH

Yes, your grandmother. The loving and doting Verna Palmer. How is she these days? Oh, never mind it doesn't matter to me. You probably have her locked up in some home. Anyway, it seems once she realized your momma and daddy weren't coming back from that music tour, she thought it best she take legal guardianship of you.

AIDAN

So?

RUTH

It doesn't surprise you?

AIDAN

A little. But it doesn't really mean anything to me now.

RUTH

Really? It means a great deal to me.

AIDAN

Is there a point to this?

RUTH

The point is California law decrees any person adopted has no legal claim to their birth parent's estate, particularly any kind of inheritance.

Aidan tries to rush over the desk and get to Ruth.

AIDAN

You bitch!

Ruth is in her wheelchair and hits reverse before he can get to her.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

EXT. CARLTON MANOR - NIGHT

Johnny and Haley pull up in front of the house in Johnny's car. Johnny gets out of the car and opens up the door for Haley.

HALEY

Thank you.

Johnny walks her up the stairs to the front door and she turns around.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Is everything alright? You've been silent all the way back. Is it something I've done?

JOHNNY

No, of course not. I guess I was just uncomfortable in the whole situation at dinner.

HALEY

I know there's some tension between Marty and Ronald. I can assure you they really are good people.

JOHNNY

I don't think so.

HALEY

What?

JOHNNY

I just don't understand those kinds of people. It kind of turns my stomach you know what I'm saying?

HALEY

No, I don't. Bickering couples upset your stomach? I think I might have some Pepto.

JOHNNY

No, never mind.

Johnny grabs Haley's hand and kisses it.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I enjoyed every moment with you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HALEY

That's such a sweet thing to say.

JOHNNY

Can I see you again tomorrow?

HALEY

That'd be lovely.

Johnny kisses her hand again and gets into his car.

Haley walks up the steps and opens the door hearing a huge ruckus from the living room as she walks in.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Haley runs into the room, where Aidan is on top of the desk trying to get to Ruth.

HALEY

Aidan! Stop!

Haley pulls Aidan from Ruth. Ruth backs up her wheel chair.

RUTH

My goodness you are a feisty one.

HALEY

What is this all about?

AIDAN

She's a selfish old bitch.

HALEY

Aidan, you should go.

AIDAN

This isn't over cunt!

RUTH

Ha! But it is you little shit. The next time you come near this house I'll have you arrested for trespassing.

Aidan walks out of the room and out of the house, slamming the door.

RUTH (CONT'D)

That went better than I expected.

Haley lets out a sigh and rolls her eyes.

INT. DAILY GAZELLE NEWSPAPER OFFICE - ARCHIVES ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan is sitting at a table in the archives section. There are shelves of newspapers and boxes all around the room. He is flipping through old newspapers.

Someone is watching Dylan from behind a stack of shelves.

DYLAN

They were right. It is only good news
isn't it?

Dylan grabs from a stack of newspapers. He begins thumbing through it, scanning each page.

The person watching makes a noise and Dylan suddenly stops what he's doing. Dylan looks around.

Dylan gets up and walks to the place where he heard the noise.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Hello? Is someone here?

Dylan hears another noise and runs back to the table. He grabs a stack of newspapers and his bag.

Dylan runs to the door and runs right into Scott.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Aaah!

Dylan hits Scott on the arm.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

You scared me.

SCOTT

You scared me. You aren't at home. You aren't answering your cell phone. Why are you still here?

DYLAN

I didn't realize how late it was.

SCOTT

Are you stealing those?

DYLAN

I'll bring them back. Let's get out of here. This place is creeping me out.

Dylan and Scott walk out of the room.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Someone is going through items on the bookshelves. Haley walks into the room and turns on the light.

We see it's Aidan in the living room.

HALEY

What are you doing?

AIDAN

That woman has my book and I want it back.

HALEY

She is likely to come down here at any moment.

AIDAN

I don't care. Let her call up that retarded Sheriff, I'll be gone before he gets into his kilt.

HALEY

She owns fire arms you know.

AIDAN

Will you just help me look for it?

HALEY

No, I won't. It's not here.

AIDAN

I'll keep looking.

HALEY

You can't do this Aidan.

AIDAN

I don't have any other choice. That book is all I have now. Didn't she tell you?

HALEY

Tell me what?

AIDAN

I'm adopted. So no matter what I find out about my grandfather or his will it won't matter because I don't get any of it. Now I want that book.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HALEY

You need to stop this right now or I will go to your grandmother and wheel her arse right down here!

AIDAN

Haley, you have to help me. I'm desperate.

RUTH (V.O.)

(from upstairs)

Haley, what are you doing down there? Where's my cup of tea.

HALEY

You better go.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - FOYER - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Ruth is at the top of the stairs.

RUTH

Do I have to do everything myself?

Ruth descends the stairs.

INT. CARLTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Haley is pushing Aidan towards the side door. Aidan walks out the door just as Ruth appears in the living room.

RUTH

What in the hell are you doing? The kitchen is on the other side of the house.

HALEY

I'm fully aware of where the kitchen is. I thought I heard something in here.

RUTH

Should I get my shotgun?

HALEY

No, it was just my imagination.

RUTH

Stupid girl.

HALEY

Come on, let's throw a little shot in that tea. Maybe you'll be more pleasant.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS' ROOM - DAY

Zimmy is playing with the twins while Larry sits on a chair knitting.

Zimmy bounces the twins up on each knee.

ZIMMY

Who loves their daddy? Who does? Who loves him?

Zimmy dances the twins on his knees.

LARRY

Maybe you should put them in their cribs. They've been through a lot.

ZIMMY

You're right. Come on guys, want to lay back down?

Zimmy takes the twins and puts them in their cribs.

ZIMMY (CONT'D)

But you're so cute and you love your daddy don't you?

Donald and Kelly both smile and giggle. Zimmy tickles them.

ZIMMY (CONT'D)

Daddy loves you too. Very very much. Thiiiiiss muuuch.

Zimmy holds out his arms.

LARRY

What do you think of this?

He holds up a baby blue stocking.

ZIMMY

I think you have the greatest flair for whatever that is.

LARRY

It's a stocking. And I agree, I do have a great flair. I'm going to do one pair in this color and another in fuchsia for Kelly. She responds well to fuchsia.

Larry sighs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY (CONT'D)

But I wish we were doing this at home.

ZIMMY

It's only another day, then we'll be home. Right guys?

Zimmy tickles the twins again before turning around and kissing Larry.

LARRY

What's that for?

ZIMMY

I love our family. I love you.

LARRY

I love you too. But you should probably get to the restaraunt.

ZIMMY

I don't have to go back. Not yet.

LARRY

Why let Angelo take all the credit for your recipes? Go, we'll be fine.

ZIMMY

Are you sure?

LARRY

Of course.

ZIMMY

I guess we should get back to normal.

LARRY

Exactly. The worst is behind us.

Zimmy kisses the twins again.

ZIMMY

Daddy will be back tonight.

He bends down and kisses Larry passionately, almost knocking Larry off the chair.

LARRY

I forgot how hot this can get.

ZIMMY

Daddy will be back for you too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LARRY
 (smiling)
 Go. We'll be here thinking of you.

Zimmy smiles and walks out of the room.

Larry watches Zimmy leave and smiles.

LARRY (CONT'D)
 That's our daddy.

EXT. CARLTON HEIGHTS FAMILY GROCERY - DAY

Johnny is walking down an aisle. He pulls a box of cereal off the shelf and Dr. Linda is on the other side of the aisle.

DR. LINDA
 Listen, we've moved the date. It's happening tonight. You know what that means?

Johnny looks around to see if anyone is paying attention to him.

JOHNNY
 What about Merrick?

DR. LINDA
 Haven't you met with him yet?

JOHNNY
 I'm not meeting him until this evening.
 Five o'clock.

DR. LINDA
 That's not enough time.

JOHNNY
 Why even give him the money? We already have everything we need.

Dr. Linda gasps.

DR. LINDA
 We don't go back on our word. We are Christians doing God's work.

A GROCERY STORE CUSTOMER wheels her cart past Dr. Linda so she pretends to check out the contents of a box.

When the customer walks by, Dr. Linda looks back at Johnny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. LINDA (CONT'D)

Drop the money off and leave it at the arranged spot. You need to get back in town as soon as possible. I need you to find that girl and get your alibi. Make sure everyone sees you with her.

JOHNNY

Should I call Merrick and rearrange?

DR. LINDA

No.

Dr. Linda puts two soup cans back on the shelf side by side.

Dr. Linda takes a can back down.

DR. LINDA (CONT'D)

But you should leave a friendly thank you note with the money.

Dr. Linda puts the soup can back on the shelf and walks away.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dylan is sitting on the floor with newspapers all around him. He has a yellow note pad beside him and he is constantly writing things down as he goes through the paper.

Dylan sees a picture of Gladys Tudrow and a few other women standing around a dirt mound. The headline reads:

"Mrs. Gladys Tudrow plants the first community garden in Carlton Heights."

Dylan smiles and puts the paper in a stack by itself.

Dylan grabs from another stack of papers. He begins thumbing through it, scanning each page. Suddenly he stops.

There is a picture of Edgar Carlton with a horse standing in front of the horse stable.

DYLAN

Edgar Carlton and his prized mare, Ruth.

Dylan laughs.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Only that old bitch would make him name a horse after her.

Dylan looks at the date of the newspaper - August 11, 1954

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dylan reads the story to himself then flips to another page to find the rest. Dylan arches up and looks at the paper.

There is a picture of Edgar Carlton and a man standing in front of the horse stable with the horse. It is almost identical to the photo sent to Dylan.

Dylan scans the credits.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Edgar Carlton and horse trainer Sam
Cissell. Oh my God.

Dylan pulls the newspaper closer and reads it again.

EXT. AIDAN PALMER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Haley drives up to Aidan's house. She gets out of the car and walks to the front door.

The door opens and a MAN walks out wearing an unbuttoned "Carlton Heights Electric Company" shirt.

HALEY
Oh, excuse me.

The man smiles at Haley.

Aidan runs outside.

AIDAN
You forgot your hat.

Aidan runs out the door and right into Haley.

The man is buttoning up his shirt.

HALEY
Maybe I should come back.

AIDAN
Why? I settled up my bill, right?

Aidan reaches up and puts the hat on the man's head.

ELECTRIC GUY
Yeah, I'll take care of it right now.

The man takes out a walkie talkie as he walks to his truck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELECTRIC GUY (CONT'D)

Hey Bruno. Get me the billing department.
There's been some kind of mix up at 1765
Avenue Sea.

The man winks at Aidan as he gets into his truck.

Aidan walks back into the house leaving the door open.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Haley walks in.

HALEY

Are you so desperate you're sleeping with
the electric guy?

AIDAN

What's the big deal? He's good looking
and he was pretty electric.

HALEY

That's not what I mean. Are you whoring
yourself for electricity?

AIDAN

Everyone has certain talents. You use
those talents to get what you need.
Sometimes it's not pretty, but sometimes
it's the only way to get things done.

Aidan plops himself down on his sofa.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

You want to watch some TV? I should have
power back any minute now.

HALEY

No, I don't want to watch the telly. I'm
worried about you.

AIDAN

If you're so worried, give me some money.
It seems my wells are drying up.

HALEY

Maybe if you spent more time at your
store you could sell some clothes and
make some money.

AIDAN

The store is closed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HALEY

What?

AIDAN

Well, I'm pretty sure it's closed. If it's not now it's only a matter of time until the locks are changed.

HALEY

I didn't realize things were so bad.

AIDAN

Well they are. Now why are you really here?

HALEY

I heard that you and Ronald are no longer an item.

AIDAN

So you came here to tell me how happy you are? Look, if you're done gloating I have things to do.

HALEY

Don't be a bastard to me. I came here to show my support. Why would you even think I would be gloating?

AIDAN

Because you got what you wanted.

HALEY

What I wanted? I told you from the very beginning...

AIDAN

Yes, I know. Just give Ruth the book. Well now it's all over. Ronald and Zimmy are history, I'm adopted and all my money is gone.

HALEY

It does sound like you're in dire straights.

AIDAN

Why don't you go?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HALEY

All I wanted was for you to do the right thing. Or as close to the right thing you were capable of. I felt sorry for you when you came to me about your grandmother. That one, not this one. I offered you my help then and I'm offering my help now.

AIDAN

How do you plan on helping me?

HALEY

I know you don't really want to hurt anyone, all you want is money and as much as Mrs. Carlton protests I know that your Mother's diary means a lot to her and she'd do just about anything to get it.

AIDAN

Thanks for the update.

HALEY

I have a solution that will help you both.

AIDAN

The only thing that would help us both is if you knew...

HALEY

I know where the diary is.

Haley smiles sheepishly at Aidan.

INT. ABANDONED HORSE STABLE - DAY

SHERIFF MACKENZIE is looking around through the rubble. Jimmy walks in through the door.

ZIMMY

Sheriff?

SHERIFF

In here. What are you doing here?

ZIMMY

Benny told me you were out here.

SHERIFF

Shouldn't you be with the twins?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIMMY

Haven't you heard? They're going to be fine. Larry thought I should go back to the restaraunt for the night. He didn't want people to start going somewhere else because I wasn't cooking.

SHERIFF

Sounds like Larry is back to himself.

ZIMMY

We all are.

Zimmy picks up a small stick from the ground as he looks around the building.

ZIMMY (CONT'D)

Sheriff, have you found out anything about the bones?

SHERIFF

All I know is someone wanted to keep them a secret bad enough they had to steal them from me.

ZIMMY

Are you expecting to find them here?

SHERIFF

I'm expecting to find something.

Sheriff Mackenzie walks to Zimmy and puts his hand on his shoulder.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I know you want to know what happened to your grandfather, but we don't know those are his bones.

ZIMMY

I thought maybe I'd finally have some answers.

SHERIFF

Zimmy, you know better than anybody, this town never gives anyone answers, just more questions.

Sheriff Mackenzie walks out the door. Zimmy runs his hands through his hair in desperation. He kicks at the floor raising a loose board.

Zimmy bends down and tries to open the loose board.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He grabs his car keys from his pocket and picks at the end until he pulls the board out. He finds the diary.

Zimmy picks up the book and flips through its contents.

SHERIFF (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(from outside the door)
Zimmy, are you coming?

ZIMMY
Yes Sheriff.

Zimmy stuffs the diary down the back of his pants and walks out of the stable.

EXT. ABANDONED HORSE STABLE - DAY

Johnny is parked beyond the sight of anyone. He sees Sheriff Mackenzie and Zimmy drive away in their separate cars.

Once he is satisfied they can't see him any longer, Johnny drives into the road.

He parks in front of the stable and gets out of his car, carrying a brief case.

INT. ABANDONED HORSE STABLE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Johnny walks into the stable. He looks around for a place to leave the brief case. He walks to the corner of the room. He puts the brief case down and finds a plank. He puts the plank in front of the case to obscure, but not enough to be completely hidden.

Johnny begins to walk to the door and changes his mind.

He pulls out a small memo note pad out of his pocket and writes a note.

"Sorry, couldn't be here. Thanks and God Bless."

Satisfied with the note he folds it into the cracks of the brief case and walks out of the horse stable.

END OF ACT THREE.

ACT FOUR

EXT. ABANDONED HORSE STABLE - DAY

Aidan walks through the back door. He begins wading through the debris left from the "cave in". He walks to the left side of the building. He bends down and takes out a small knife. He begins pulling up a board. The board is loose so the exercise is simple. There is a hiding place below the board but there isn't anything there.

Aidan starts trying other boards, none of which will budge.

AIDAN

That bitch lied to me.

Aidan throws the knife and it sticks to the far wall. He walks back to the knife and sees a brief case hidden behind a propped up board.

Aidan walks to the brief case. He tries to pry it open with his knife but it doesn't work.

Aidan takes the brief case and walks out of the stable.

The note from Johnny falls to the ground.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Aidan walks in carrying the brief case. He goes into the other room to get something. He comes back with a screw driver.

He tries to unscrew the hinges of the brief case but it doesn't work.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S GARAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Aidan looks for something to pry open the brief case. He looks around the empty garage.

Suddenly an idea strikes him. He grabs his car keys out of his pocket and opens up his trunk. He pulls out a tire iron and runs back into the house.

INT. AIDAN PALMER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Aidan uses the tire iron to pry open the briefcase.

The brief case is opened and the case is filled with money.

Aidan smiles as he reaches in and pulls out the stacks of money.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Dylan is pacing the floor while Scott sits on the sofa. The newspaper is open on the coffee table, along side it is the original photo sent to Dylan.

DYLAN
So what do you think?

SCOTT
I think you stole a newspaper. One from 1954 even. Maybe it's worth something.

DYLAN
You're very funny.

SCOTT
What do you want me to say?

DYLAN
It's almost identical to the photo.

SCOTT
You're right it is. But now what?

DYLAN
I don't know. That's why I'm talking to you. What do you think it all means?

Dylan picks up the photo and flips it over.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
(reading)
Roses are red, violets are blue; if I
look familiar it's because I look like
you.

SCOTT
Re-reading it isn't going to make it any
more clear.

DYLAN
I just don't understand any of it. Who
sent the letter? Why did they choose that
picture? What does the poem mean? Looks
like who? Looks like me? Who does? Edgar?
Sam?

Dylan lets out a sigh and sits down next to Scott.

SCOTT
Are you done with the questions?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

No. Where is Sam Cissell now? Where is Zimmy's grandfather? I thought for sure that's who was in the picture. I just want to know what happened to all these people. I just. I just want to know. You know?

SCOTT

Yes, I know. But you don't even know these people. If no one who is related to them cares about what happened to them why are you so worried about it?

DYLAN

Geez, you make me sound so nosy.

INT. ZIMMY'S BISTRO - EVENING

As cooks prepare food, Zimmy is at a counter reading the diary.

EXT. ABANDONED HORSE STABLE - EVENING

Stephen is looking at his watch, waiting for Johnny to show.

Across the street, hidden by trees a van is parked. Greg Geller is inside.

STEPHEN

Can you hear me?

GREG

Yes. I've told you ten times. Now stop talking into the mic.

STEPHEN

I don't know where he is. He was supposed to be here.

GREG

I think we should wrap it up. He isn't coming.

STEPHEN

Just a little while longer.

GREG

It's been three hours. He's not coming. Face it, it's over. We're going back to San Francisco.

Stephen pulls the microphone out of his ear.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - LINDA'S OFFICE - EVENING

Dr. Linda is at her desk entering medical information for the twins.

She enters their immunization records and prescription needs. She copies the file onto a disc and puts it in her purse.

Dr. Linda takes the paper files and walks over to a shredder. She puts the papers into the shredder and dumps the contents into a bag.

Dr. Linda walks back to her desk and hits a button on the computer. The medical files of Kelly and Donald Bustamante are deleted.

Dr. Linda takes the bag of shredded paper and her purse and walks out of her office.

INT. MITCHELL LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Marty walks into the house carrying two bags of groceries. Ronald is on the sofa watching television.

RONALD

It's about time. Where have you been?

MARTY

I was at the grocery store.

Ronald turns his head to look at Marty.

RONALD

I didn't even know you knew what a grocery store was.

MARTY

You're just as witty as the day I married you. I thought we could grill out. It's a beautiful night.

RONALD

I don't feel like a cook out. Or being outside.

MARTY

Well can you at least help me? I have more bags outside.

RONALD

What is all this for? You know you aren't going to actually cook.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

I thought I'd give it a try. Are you going to help or not?

Ronald goes back to watching television so Marty takes the bags into the kitchen.

Marty walks back into the living room and watches Ronald for a moment. Ronald continues flipping channels.

Marty walks up to him and takes the remote control away.

RONALD

What are you doing?

MARTY

I want to know what's going on.

RONALD

I'm trying to watch TV and you took my remote, that's what's going on. What kind of question is that anyway? You're the one walking in here carrying grocery bags. If that isn't out of the ordinary nothing is.

MARTY

It is out of the ordinary. So is everything about us. I'm trying to fix whatever it is that's wrong.

RONALD

I've told you before what's wrong with us isn't going to be fixed by you learning how to cook.

MARTY

Then tell me, what will fix it? Tell me what's wrong? Tell me anything. Ronald, please talk to me.

Ronald reaches for the remote but Marty won't give it to him.

RONALD

Come on, Marty.

MARTY

No.

Ronald gets off the sofa to try and get the remote but Marty won't give it to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RONALD
Give it to me.

MARTY
(smiling)
No, I won't.

Ronald lunges for the remote but Marty puts it behind his back. Ronald comes after him so Marty runs around to the back of the sofa with Ronald chasing after him.

Marty bobs and weaves in front of Ronald while Ronald tries to grab the remote control. They are smiling and laughing as they play this game.

Ronald corners Marty on the back of the sofa and as Ronald tries to reach behind they both fall onto the sofa.

Ronald is on top of Marty and their laughter starts waning. Ronald moves in to kiss Marty. Marty closes his eyes and Ronald reaches around him, taking the remote.

Ronald sits up and starts flipping channels.

Marty's smile quickly fades as he looks at Ronald.

MARTY (CONT'D)
I'll go get the rest of the groceries.

Marty walks to the door.

RONALD
Did you get that ice cream I like?

Marty glares at his husband before walking out the door.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS' ROOM - NIGHT

Larry is watching the twins when Dr. Linda walks in.

DR. LINDA
They certainly are beautiful babies.

LARRY
Thank you.

DR. LINDA
I mean it. Just precious. You and your husband should be very proud.

LARRY
We are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. LINDA
Where is your husband?

LARRY
I sent him to the restaurant. We own a restaraunt in Carlton Heights, Zimmy's Bistro. Exquisite Italian food. Anytime you want to come in for dinner, you let us know. It's on the house.

DR. LINDA
That's so sweet.

LARRY
It's the least we can do to thank you. And we really do thank you.

DR. LINDA
I was only doing my job.

LARRY
I don't think that's true. I've seen the compassion in your eyes when you look at the babies. It's not just a doctor's oath. We are eternally grateful Dr. Linda. I don't know what I would've done had anything happened to them.

DR. LINDA
Luckily you don't have to worry about that. The twins are going to be fine.

Linda looks at Larry with compassion.

DR. LINDA (CONT'D)
But I am a little worried about you.

LARRY
Me?

DR. LINDA
Have you had any sleep in the last few days?

LARRY
No, not really.

DR. LINDA
Why don't you take a break? Get yourself a cup of coffee or a hot cocoa. Lita in the cafeteria makes the most delicious cup of hot cocoa I've ever had.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LARRY
That does sound tempting.

DR. LINDA
I always find cocoa to be so soothing,
particularly at this time of evening.

LARRY
You do? So do I.

DR. LINDA
There's nothing like it after a long day
of taking care of people.

LARRY
I can relate to that. It's almost like
we're kindred spirits, Dr. Linda.

DR. LINDA
You know, I believe we just might be.

LARRY
The twins ARE sleeping. Maybe I could
take a little break. Would you like to
join me?

DR. LINDA
I would love to.

Linda puts her arm through Larry's and the two walk out the door.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Larry and Linda walk out of the twins' room on their way to the cafeteria when Linda suddenly stops and feels her waist.

DR. LINDA
I'm being paged. Can you believe it?
We'll have to have that cocoa some other
time.

LARRY
Darn, and my mouth was watering just
thinking of it.

DR. LINDA
Duty calls, but don't let that stop you.

LARRY
I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. LINDA
Go, get yourself something.
In fact, get me a cup and I'll be back to
enjoy it with you.

LARRY
Are you sure?

DR. LINDA
Yes, this won't take long at all.

Larry starts to walk away but turns around.

He walks back to Dr. Linda and gives her a hug.

LARRY
You're a wonderful person Dr. Linda.

Larry ends the embrace and Dr. Linda smiles brightly.

As Larry walks down the hall, Dr. Linda turns and her smile
turns to a deep scowl.

INT. IRVING KITCHEN - EVENING

Dylan and Scott are loading up the dishwasher. Scott has a
towel around his shoulder and they rinse off dishes as they
talk.

DYLAN
Tomorrow I'm going through more of those
newspapers. There has to be more about
Edgar and Jimmy's grandfather and this
Sam guy. I mean people don't just
disappear without a trace.

SCOTT
Sometimes they do. Incidentally, if
you're going to be doing all this
investigation when exactly are you going
to write your book?

DYLAN
I started my book. Believe me there's
plenty of affair inspiration going on
around here.

SCOTT
You're writing about our neighbors aren't
you?

DYLAN
Well maybe, a little.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Scott gives Dylan a look of concern.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

What? Is it my fault my editor won't let me write a work of fiction? That I have to use real life models for my pages? Is it?

The doorbell rings so Scott gives Dylan the towel.

SCOTT

I'll get it.

INT. IRVING LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scott walks to the front door and there is a DELIVERY BOY in his late teens holding a large box.

DELIVERY BOY

Hello Mr. Irving.

SCOTT

I'm sorry do I know you?

DELIVERY BOY

Everyone knows who you are.

SCOTT

So, is this for me?

DELIVERY BOY

It's for your husband. I asked to work late just so I could deliver it to him.

Dylan walks out of the kitchen and into the living room.

SCOTT

Dylan, you have a fan.

DYLAN

Oh?

Dylan walks to the door.

SCOTT

This guy is working late just for the opportunity to meet you.

DYLAN

Me? Well hi. What have you heard?

DELIVERY BOY

You're a crusader dude.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DYLAN

I am?

DELIVERY BOY

Man, my friends and I are still laughing at the way you trashed Ruth Carlton and how you found those bones. Your antics are legend.

Dylan smiles.

DYLAN

Well thanks, I guess. Is that for me?

DELIVERY BOY

Oh yeah. Can you sign here?

DYLAN

Sure. Thanks.

The delivery boy turns to leave.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Oh wait.

Dylan turns to look for some money.

Scott pulls out his wallet, handing the money to Dylan.

Dylan hands the money to the delivery boy.

DELIVERY MAN

Hey thanks. My friends are going to be so stoked when I tell them I was here.

Dylan takes the package and puts it at the side of the desk before heading back to the kitchen.

SCOTT

Aren't you going to open it?

DYLAN

A strange kid delivers a package at 8 o'clock at night ranting about how I trashed the town. I don't think so.

Dylan turns around again.

SCOTT

It's just a box.

DYLAN

Yeah right. Where's it from?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Scott picks up the box to look at the address label.

Dylan walks back to the living room.

SCOTT
Anonymous.

DYLAN
I'm going to bed. You can finish the dishes.

Dylan walks up the stairs.

SCOTT
I'm kidding.

Dylan stops.

DYLAN
So where's it really from?

SCOTT
It says "Winston House Carlton Heights."

DYLAN
That's not going to convince me to open it.

SCOTT
It's just a box. Open it.

DYLAN
You open it.

Scott grabs a letter opener from the desk and starts to open the box.

Dylan comes down the stairs and walks over to Scott.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
I know it's not going to be good.

He looks over Scott's shoulder as Scott opens the box.

Scott pulls out the patchwork quilt Dylan and Ruth fought over.

Scott holds the quilt up for Dylan to see but Dylan runs up the stairs.

SCOTT
What's wrong? I think it's nice.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Dr. Linda is with a patient who is breathing on a respirator.

DR. LINDA
How are you feeling tonight?

Linda looks at the chart to see the patient's name.

DR. LINDA (CONT'D)
Mr. Crowley, you seem a little pale tonight.

Dr. Linda looks over the patient and checks his breathing.

DR. LINDA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry to have to do this, but I'm sure you'll understand it's for the greater good.

Dr. Linda takes the patient's breathing tube into her hands and squeezes, cutting off the oxygen.

The machines he is hooked up to begin to bleep, sending an alarm to the nurse's station.

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

From the point of view we see Dr. Linda walk out of the patient's room.

The NIGHT NURSE sees the alarm at her station stating there is a problem in Mr. Crowley's room.

As the night nurse gets up and runs to the room, Dr. Linda has disappeared into the room across the hall.

INT. UNCLE RANDY'S ROOSTER RANCH - NIGHT

Haley and Johnny are sitting at a table in the crowded tavern. There are men dancing on the dance floor and go-go boys on the tables on each side of the room.

JOHNNY
When I asked you out tonight this wasn't what I had in mind.

HALEY
Uncle Randy's is the first place we saw each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHNNY

I know. But I didn't know what kind of place it was. I want you to know that.

HALEY

Well now you do know. It's a fun place.

JOHNNY

I was hoping to show you off.

HALEY

We're showing each other off. Believe me these guys are noticing us.

A go-go dancer stands on the table next to them and begins gyrating towards Johnny.

JOHNNY

This is making me a little uncomfortable.

HALEY

He's just looking for a tip. Go on, tip him. Here's a dollar.

Haley hands Johnny a dollar.

JOHNNY

What do I do with it?

The go-go dancer smiles and gyrates his crotch towards Johnny's face.

Johnny nervously takes the dollar and puts it in the go-go dancer's G-string.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I think I've had enough fun. Can we go?

HALEY

I'm sorry. Karaoke starts in half an hour. Can we stay for that? Please? We could do a duet.

JOHNNY

I don't sing.

HALEY

Then I'll sing for you. I'll stand up there for everyone to see and I'll sing you a song.

JOHNNY

Maybe a duet is a good idea.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Larry is waiting for his hot cocoas from LITA, the cafeteria employee standing behind the counter.

LITA

How are those cute babies of yours doing?

LARRY

They're doing wonderfully.

LITA

So you'll be leaving us soon?

LARRY

Tomorrow. You don't know how great it feels knowing we'll all be going home. This has been a real nightmare.

INT. MAHOGONY BAY HOSPITAL - TWINS' ROOM - NIGHT

Dr. Linda takes each of the twin's medical charts and sticks them into a duffel bag. She wraps the duffel bag around her arm.

Dr. Linda goes to Donald and picks him up.

DR. LINDA

Now we have to hurry, but don't cry. Everything is going to be alright.

With her other arm, Dr. Linda picks up Kelly.

DR. LINDA (CONT'D)

You two are going to bring your new family a lot of joy and happiness.

Dr. Linda opens the door to the hallway.

She can see the nurse is preoccupied with Mr. Crowley across the hall.

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

Dr. Linda takes the babies, walking swiftly past the nurse's station and out of the hospital.

FADE OUT.

THE END.