

FOR THE TAKING

by

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May 9/2016

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Characters

ALICE
MORRIS
SEAN
MAGGIE
ARTIE
FATHER

NOTE:

ARTIE AND FATHER TO BE PLAYED BY SAME ACTOR

SCENE 1

A vintage factory office. Say from the late 30s. Everything remotely new is in the furnishings and equipment. All the rest is as it was in the beginning.

Alice Greene is on a couch working her laptop and talking on her cell. She is in her 40s.

ALICE

(into phone)

No not yet. Well the man was always late for everything, so that probably hasn't changed... I don't know. I guess I'll just see what he wants and take it from there... I'm not against him seeing her. It depends... On whether he's grown up at all. You think just because he's seven years older that means he's--

A knock on the door.

ALICE (CONT'D)

That's probably him now... Yeah I will... Yeah as soon as he leaves. Promise...

She disconnects.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Come in.

No response.

ALICE (CONT'D)

It's all right. You can just come on in.

No response.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I said...come...in!

(to herself)

So he's gone deaf? As if he didn't already have enough problems...

The door opens a bit and Morris sticks his head in. He is 44.

MORRIS

Is it okay if I come in?

ALICE

You didn't hear me?

MORRIS

(off ear piece)
I knocked, and then I got a call.
So I guess I got distracted. Sorry.

(entering)
Well look at this. Nothing's
changed. Nothing at all.

ALICE

Why would it?

MORRIS

Well I thought after your dad died
that maybe--

ALICE

I like it the way it is.

MORRIS

Sure. I get it. You're sort of
keeping his memory alive....

ALICE

My memory.

MORRIS

What?

ALICE

It's my memory I'm keeping alive.
He's dead.

MORRIS

Right.
(looks out the office
window down onto the
factory floor)
Not much new down on the floor
either.

ALICE

It's all new.

MORRIS

Well relatively new, you mean. The
really new machines are half that
size.

ALICE

But are they better?

MORRIS

Yes. They are.
(looks at her)
So how are you?

ALICE

I'm fine. How are you?

MORRIS

I'm not sure actually. I thought I was doing pretty well until I got your email but--

ALICE

It wasn't my decision. She came up with that plan all on her own.

MORRIS

Really. Just out of the blue she decides she doesn't want to spend summers with me anymore.

ALICE

All her friends are here.

MORRIS

They always were.

ALICE

They're teenagers now. They want to do things together. When she visits you she feels...out of the loop.

MORRIS

Is that so bad?

ALICE

It is to her.

MORRIS

Come on, she thinks she's going to miss some special activity? Some really great concert or something?

ALICE

Maybe.

MORRIS

I want you to help me convince her it's important to spend time with me.

ALICE

How much time?

MORRIS

I'm sorry?

ALICE

Well last year you were working a lot, and Leah got stuck with Maggie.

MORRIS

What's that mean, got stuck with her?

ALICE

Well how many times can a fifteen year old go to the nail salon before she--

MORRIS

Hey. Don't be cruel. They also went to the gym on a regular basis.

ALICE

Well but what can I say, she's not into doing two hours a day on a treadmill either.

MORRIS

I joined them for dinner almost every night.

ALICE

Really. That was gracious of you.

MORRIS

How's your mother?

ALICE

She's a widow.

MORRIS

Yeah, right. But--

ALICE

She lost her life partner, Morris. She's suffering quite a bit because of that.

MORRIS

Still?

ALICE

I beg your pardon?

MORRIS

Well it's been two years, right.

ALICE

Yeah. And...I'll let her know you think she should be over it by now.

MORRIS

No I was just--

ALICE

How's your little thing?

MORRIS

My what?

ALICE

Maggie.

MORRIS
Don't call her my little thing.
That's just--

ALICE
Has she broken a hundred yet?

MORRIS
In what? Like sit-ups or something?

ALICE
No in pounds.

MORRIS
That's not funny, Alice.

ALICE
Not even a little?

MORRIS
She had an eating disorder.

ALICE
Really. You told me she was trying
to get on a tv series.

MORRIS
It was actually an eating disorder.
She was too embarrassed to tell me
so--

ALICE
At least I won't suffer.

MORRIS
I'm sorry?

ALICE
When you die. I won't feel
anything.

MORRIS
Where did that come from?

ALICE
The thought just popped into my
head. So this visit is just about
your...visiting rights?

MORRIS
Not really. There's something else
I'd like to--

Sean enters. He is wearing a sports jacket, no tie. He is
twenty-four.

SEAN
Hey. I was wondering if--
(sees Morris)
Oh...excuse me. I'll just...

He starts out.

ALICE
Wondering what?

SEAN
(stopping)
Sorry?

ALICE
You wanted to know if...?

SEAN
If you wanted to...

Looks at Morris.

ALICE
Wanted to what?

SEAN
(to Morris)
Mr. Woodruff?

MORRIS
Yeah...

SEAN
Sean Barnes. I used to work here in
the summers.

MAGGIE
When he was in high school.

MORRIS
Yeah...in maintenance, right.

SEAN
Shipping...

They shake.

MORRIS
Right. So whatya do here now?

ALICE
He runs the place.
(to Sean)
Get a drink?

SEAN
What?

ALICE
You wanted to know if I'd like to
join you after to work for a drink?

SEAN
Yeah...ah...yeah.

ALICE
Good. Say around seven?

SEAN
Yeah. Sure. Great.
(to Morris)
Nice to see you again.

MORRIS
Yeah...

Sean leaves.

MORRIS (CONT'D)
What's that mean, he runs the
place?

ALICE
He replaced Wally Sampos.

MORRIS
What are you talking about? No one
could replace Wally Sampos. We used
to say it would take five men to
replace him.

ALICE
We were wrong.

MORRIS
So he's your business manager, your
sales supervisor, your--

ALICE
What is it?

MORRIS
What is what?

ALICE
The other reason you're here.

MORRIS
Well it's-- Do the twins know about
him?

ALICE
Know what about him?

MORRIS

That he replaced Wally Sampos. That he's fifteen years younger than you are. That you're having a thing with him...

ALICE

No.

MORRIS

No what?

ALICE

No they don't know any of that. And why should they?

MORRIS

Well they might be worried about his competence. They own two-thirds of this business.

ALICE

A business they've never shown the slightest interest in.

MORRIS

Until now.

ALICE

What?

MORRIS

They want to be more involved.

ALICE

Really.

MORRIS

Yes.

ALICE

And you know this because...?

MORRIS

They want me to be the conduit for their involvement.

ALICE

Which means exactly what, you asshole?

MORRIS

Okay, don't get--

ALICE

What's it mean?!

MORRIS

I have their proxies. We're taking over the business.

ALICE

Sure you are.

MORRIS

They have a right. They're your father's siblings, and when he was alive they let him have his way with this company, but now they think it's time for them to assert themselves.

ALICE

Assert themselves. Is that what they told you? Those are the words they used.

MORRIS

More or less.

ALICE

They're tired of playing gin rummy and fiddling in their garden, are they? They're interested in new challenges? New things to occupy their unhealthy little minds?

MORRIS

Yes. Except you make it sound--

ALICE

Frivolous?

MORRIS

They want a life-style change. What's wrong with that?

ALICE

And taking over a business they know absolutely nothing about is the first thing they thought of.

MORRIS

They're serious about this, Alice.

ALICE

And that's why you're here? To help them? Not to see Leah...

MORRIS

No. I mean sure to see Leah but also--

ALICE

Get out.

MORRIS
We need to talk.

ALICE
(approaching)
Get the hell out!

MORRIS
Okay. I get it. You need time to
process this but--

ALICE
If you don't get out of here right
now, Morris, I'm gonna go for your
throat.

MORRIS
My throat? Jesus. What's wrong with
you?

ALICE
Get out!!!

Morris turns and leaves quickly.

Alice inhales. Exhales. Goes back to couch. Sits.

She begins to work on her laptop, stops suddenly. Stands.
Throws her laptop through the glass top of the door.

Blackout

SCENE 2

Alice and Maggie are standing a fair distance apart, just looking at each other. Maggie is stylishly dressed, holding a briefcase. She is ten younger than Alice. And very toned.

ALICE

You look okay.

MAGGIE

(smiles)

Thanks...

ALICE

Better than okay, actually. You look pretty great.

MAGGIE

Thanks again.

ALICE

Normal weight. No dark circles under the eyes. And the eyes themselves...they're almost sparkling.

MAGGIE

Alice, what's this all--

ALICE

I heard you'd developed an eating disorder.

MAGGIE

Oh. No. I was just trying to get on a television show.

ALICE

A television show...

MAGGIE

Yeah...

ALICE

A television show about anorexics?

MAGGIE

Flight attendants.

ALICE

Oh. Well anyway you look--

MAGGIE

Morris wanted me to drop off some papers for you. He said you probably didn't want to see him again for awhile. Is that right?

ALICE
Yes. As long as his definition of
"awhile" is never.

MAGGIE
(opening briefcase)
I'll just leave them on the desk.

ALICE
Sure. Or you could just take them
with you.

MAGGIE
I think you should have a look at
them. This is going to happen
whether you agree to it or not.

ALICE
Just like you.

MAGGIE
Sorry?

ALICE
I didn't agree to you happening,
but here you are anyway.

MAGGIE
You better start taking this
seriously, Alice. He's got his
ducks in a row about this thing.

ALICE
And are you one of those ducks,
Maggie?

MAGGIE
We're working together now, yes.

ALICE
Together as in?

MAGGIE
We're business partners.

ALICE
Really. So you're not going to be
acting anymore. Do you think the
world can deal with that? I mean
the shock could cause--

MAGGIE
Knock it off. Just read the papers.
Sign them. And get prepared to move
on.

ALICE
Move on?

MAGGIE

Well I guess you could stay, but you'd be under Morris.

ALICE

Oh I've had more than enough of that experience. And now that he's put on all that extra weight...

MAGGIE

Clearly you regret the end of your marriage on some level, and that's why you're so hostile to us both, but--

ALICE

Please. Never mistake my contempt for regret, okay. And by the way, stop taking my daughter to the gym. It's the kind of obsessive narcissistic endeavour I don't want her to have any part of.

MAGGIE

It's actually just about muscle tone.

ALICE

Her muscle tone is fine. She's fifteen.

MAGGIE

It's also good for her mental health. It takes her mind off things.

ALICE

What things?

MAGGIE

You.

ALICE

I'm sorry?

MAGGIE

You trouble her. Your unhappiness upsets her deeply.

ALICE

She says that?

MAGGIE

She describes your behaviour. From that I conclude--

ALICE

That I'm unhappy.

MAGGIE

And bitter. Not just about the divorce. Your entire situation. The state of the business, the irregularity of your personal life--

ALICE

What's that mean? The irregularity of my-- I'm worried about my mother. That's what she's picking up from me. I'm concerned about my mother's state of mind.

*

MAGGIE

Leah knows that. So is she.

ALICE

Right. But what I'm saying is that most of my...*behaviour* can be explained by that. So there's no need to be concluding that there's anything else--

MAGGIE

Morris told me you have a new man in your life.

ALICE

He did?

MAGGIE

Actually a new *young* man. What's that about, Alice?

ALICE

I like him. We just...clicked. Not that it's any of your business.

MAGGIE

Does he know about me?

ALICE

Does he know what about you?

MAGGIE

My age.

ALICE

Your mental age?

MAGGIE

So he doesn't. Which means he has absolutely no idea that you're exploiting him.

ALICE

Is exploiting the word you actually meant to use?

MAGGIE

Yes. It is.

ALICE

Well then you're an idiot.

MAGGIE

Use, utilize, exploit...deploy.

ALICE

Deploy. Like a weapon...

MAGGIE

Exactly. Or are you saying it's just a coincidence.

ALICE

Yes. And speaking of coincidences, just the other day I was thinking about how you should probably stop acting. I saw that little made for tv movie you did last year. You know, the one about the drug running hooker who was also a martial arts expert. Yikes!

MAGGIE

Go to hell.

ALICE

I'm sorry. Was that a special experience for you or something?

MAGGIE

It's the only kind of thing I was getting asked to do, okay.

ALICE

Sure that's what I meant when I said you should quit. Who could hold on to their self respect under those conditions?

MAGGIE

That's what you meant? Really?

ALICE

No. But having heard you explain it so eloquently I guess that's what I *should* have meant. Sorry.

MAGGIE

No you're not. You don't know. You just don't know.

ALICE

You're right. Know what?

MAGGIE

What it's like to be an attractive woman actor of a certain age.

ALICE

And limited talent. No I don't. Not anymore than you know what it's like to be a reasonably presentable middle-aged woman with a business she's trying to keep afloat. So what?

MAGGIE

(starting out)

Read those papers. Like I said, you'll need to be prepared.

ALICE

What are they planning for the plant? An entire modernization?

MAGGIE

(stopping)

No. An entire demolition. It's the property that's valuable. Not the business.

ALICE

(makes her way to the desk)

They're going to tear it down?

MAGGIE

There was some talk of trying to include the building in the new project, but that wasn't feasible. Besides it's not exactly a heritage sight.

ALICE

It is to me.

(looking at papers)

He's selling it to a developer?

MAGGIE

It was his idea. But the twins are totally on side.

ALICE

Just because of the money.

MAGGIE

What's wrong with that? You and your mom are going to do very well from the sale too, so--

ALICE

We have 23 employees.

MAGGIE

Non-unionized.

ALICE

They didn't need a union. They were always well treated.

MAGGIE

Which was great. And also fortuitous. Not to worry. I'll be as fair as I can with their termination.

ALICE

Jesus...

MAGGIE

I assume there'll be some blowback.

ALICE

Blowback. They're going to be totally devastated actually.

MAGGIE

I mean from the community. Condo towers aren't that popular anymore.

ALICE

So they've put you in charge of all that. The termination. The... blowback.

MAGGIE

It's a role I felt I could perform well in.

ALICE

A role. So you're going to *act* it?

MAGGIE

I didn't mean that kind of-- But yes. I guess I will be acting it in a way. Isn't that what everyone does? Don't you act being the boss in some way?

ALICE

No. I actually *am* the boss. I oversee production. I deal with cash flow. I--

MAGGIE

Yeah, right. Look I have to go.

(starting out)

I'm meeting up with Morris and the developer. Any message you want me to give him?

ALICE

Yeah. Tell him it's not going to happen.

MAGGIE

That's it?

ALICE

No. You can also tell him I think he's a deceitful, cowardly, cold-hearted scumbag.

MAGGIE

I'll try to remember that word for word.

ALICE

Well just make sure you get scumbag in.

MAGGIE

(leaving)

Sure.

ALICE

(putting her head out the broken window)

No actually say it all. Deceitful, cowardly cold-hearted scumbag!

She cries. Sits. Lowers her head.

Blackout

SCENE 3

Alice and Sean on the couch. Eating burgers.

ALICE

They think we're having an affair.

SEAN

Who? The staff?

ALICE

No. My ex-husband and his new wife.

SEAN

Because?

ALICE

Because I kinda suggested that we were.

SEAN

Why'd you do that?

ALICE

I wanted to show them, especially him, that I was still in the game. Or at least that I was still game to be in...the game.

SEAN

And that's important to you because?

ALICE

He is. Or at least he thinks he is. His new wife is a lot younger.

SEAN

Than you.

ALICE

Than both of us. Him *and* me. And she's very...

SEAN

Very what?

ALICE

You know, very... Look here's the truth. I wanted to show them something about myself they didn't know. Because I'm sure they think I'm pretty pathetic. But also, I wish we really were having an affair.

SEAN

So you could *really* show them something?

ALICE

So we could have sex on a regular basis.

SEAN

I thought we agreed even that one time was a mistake.

ALICE

I think maybe the mistake was thinking it was a mistake. I mean I'm feeling pretty vulnerable about the business and everything, and that might make me kind of needy but--

SEAN

You should talk to a lawyer.

ALICE

When I was younger I had sex with a couple of lawyers.

SEAN

No I meant-- At the same time?

ALICE

Yeah. And even then it wasn't that great. They kept trying to one up each other.

(off his look)

Oh you meant about the business.

SEAN

Maybe there's some legal thing you can do.

ALICE

I don't think so. The twins are in Morris's pocket, and they're two-thirds owners, so...

SEAN

The twins?

ALICE

My father's brothers.

SEAN

And you couldn't reason with them?

ALICE

Reason? No. That wouldn't be... You see, the problem is they're not...well, normal. They've spent every day of their 64 years together, and I'd be surprised if they've exchanged more than a few dozen words. All of them in this weird language they made up when they were two years old. Some of it stumbles out of their mouths even when they're talking to other people.

(shudders)

I've never been able to spend more than five minutes in a room with them without wanting to rip my ears off.

(looks at him)

Aren't you going to say anything?

SEAN

About the twins?

ALICE

No about it being or *not* being a mistake. That one time.

SEAN

I never thought it was a mistake. I thought it was pretty great. But you said--

ALICE

I know what I said. Why didn't you disagree with me.

SEAN

Well because... you're the boss. Or maybe I just deferred to your age. I mean to your concerns about *my* age. You seemed to be pretty hung up about it.

ALICE

Yeah. But...

SEAN

You're over that now?

(She leans in to kiss him.
He leans forward then
backs away)

SEAN (CONT'D)

Are you sure.

ALICE
Of course not.

She kisses him.

SEAN
Is this really about something else. I mean if we get together will that be about showing Morris.

ALICE
Not entirely.

SEAN
But partly.

ALICE
Well he messed me up pretty badly when he hooked up with the vanishing woman, so sure. I'm just being honest here. He was never that confident in his sexuality, so all I really have to do is let it drop that you're very well endowed and that should be enough.

SEAN
Enough for what?

ALICE
Well I'd really like him to kill himself. But the best I can hope for is a long period of impotence.

SEAN
That's pretty childish, Alice.

ALICE
He started it. I mean he opened the door to the possibility--

SEAN
Of what?

ALICE
Of you. I mean the possibility of a younger man.

SEAN
I think we have some stuff to work out before we dive back into this thing.

ALICE
Why don't we just dive back in now and work things out later. I need a diversion. I really do.

SEAN

A diversion?

ALICE

Okay. You don't want to be called a diversion. I get that. But come on, isn't that what relationships are. I mean basically Just something that helps you...get through.

SEAN

Get through...a divorce.

ALICE

No. Life. Well if divorce is part of your life than that too, obviously.

SEAN

Say *that* then. Say you need help. At least that's--

ALICE

Okay. I need help. Can we get naked now?

SEAN

Are they in their right minds?

ALICE

Who?

SEAN

The twins. Can their decision to sell the building be challenged on that basis?

ALICE

I don't know. Maybe. Did you bring that up to avoid having sex with me?

SEAN

No. But I would like a little more time to think about what I'm getting involved in. I mean *who* I'm getting involved *with*.

ALICE

Because if we just did it now, you know, had great sex, you still might feel used?

SEAN

I might, yeah. Do you understand?

ALICE

No.

SEAN

Try. Think about it, and try to understand where I'm coming from. Go for a walk or something.

ALICE

A walk?

SEAN

Yeah. I'll be here when you come back. I'm going to call a lawyer friend of mine about the situation.

ALICE

Does that mean you're planning to sue me for sexual harassment?

SEAN

(smiles)

No. I thought I'd talk to him about the twins.

ALICE

Oh. Okay, sure...

(leaving)

Tell him they have 18 cats. And a parrot named Humemeehond Ho Teh.

SEAN

What?

ALICE

"Hold my hand, okay?" It's something they say to each other when they're afraid.

SEAN

And they still say it at their age?

ALICE

Oh yeah.

She leaves.

Blackout

SCENE 4

Alice and Morris can be heard fighting as they approach the door.

MORRIS

A lawyer, Alice? Really? What the hell were you thinking?

ALICE

I was thinking it was time to protect myself from the slimy bastard who used to be my husband!

MORRIS

Yeah...but a lawyer in a hospital room? Your young...friend took him right to his bedside for godsake.

ALICE

Well we needed him to hear it from Sam directly. And then we could decide what needed to be done.

MORRIS

What needed to be done was offering a dying man some comfort.

ALICE

(entering)

I was intending to do that after I got him to sign that power of attorney.

MORRIS

(following)

It was inappropriate.

ALICE

Right. I should have done it before he went into the hospital like you did. How'd you manage it anyway? Liquor them up?

MORRIS

They don't drink.

ALICE

Of course they drink, you idiot. They just do it when no one else is around. Cocktails at high noon and all the rest is a blur.

MORRIS

They were totally sober when they agreed to do this.

ALICE

Right. With no thought of the history of this place. A business their father started from nothing. No feelings at all about the legacy.

MORRIS

Legacy. It's a soap company, Alice.

ALICE

But the ingredients my grandfather used were way before their time. He was a visionary.

MORRIS

Who made soap...

ALICE

It doesn't matter what he made. It's how he made it.

MORRIS

(gestures around)
Where is he?

ALICE

Who?

MORRIS

Your boyfriend. He's not in the factory. I guess he doesn't bother to put in normal hours since you started banging him.

ALICE

Knock it off. And don't call him my "boyfriend."

MORRIS

You don't like the term?

ALICE

At my age? Not much, no.

MORRIS

Well what do you call him? You know when you introduce him at parties.

ALICE

We don't go to parties.

MORRIS

Never?

ALICE

That's right.

MORRIS

Because you're ashamed?

ALICE

No because he doesn't like large gatherings. Ashamed of what?

MORRIS

His age. What else?

ALICE

Were you ashamed of Maggie's age?

MORRIS

A little. But twelve years younger is not twenty-five years younger.

ALICE

No. It's not.

MORRIS

It's less than twice that.

ALICE

Well what can I say. Except... Yippee!

MORRIS

Does our daughter know?

ALICE

His age?

MORRIS

About your relationship. I think you should be considering her feelings.

ALICEW

Did you?

MORRIS

Eventually. And Leah likes Maggie a lot now.

ALICE

Leah tries very hard to like everyone. I wonder how she'll feel about her when she finds out she's your hatchet woman.

MORRIS

My what?

ALICE

She told me she'd be the one doing the firing.

MORRIS

Yes. But that's only because--

ALICE

She played an HR exec on tv once?

MORRIS

No. Because she has a high degree of empathy.

ALICE

She does?

MORRIS

Well if you'd ever given her a chance...

Maggie bursts in carrying a file folder.

MAGGIE

Okay here's the deal. According to this agreement, Louie is Sam's sole heir and he--

(to Morris)

Sam passed away two hours ago.

MORRIS

Ah. Too bad.

ALICE

What? Just out of the blue he--

MAGGIE

Didn't you tell her?

MORRIS

I was going to, but she went off on some tangent, and I--

ALICE

Our daughter. Our daughter was the tangent.

MORRIS

Yeah but it still made me forget to tell you that Sam had another stroke. Probably brought on by that visit from your lover and your lawyer.

ALICE

Oh please.

MORRIS

Anyway it looked like he was going to pull through but--

MAGGIE

But he didn't. Anyway, about their agreement.

ALICE

Whose agreement?

MORRIS

The twins.

(to Maggie)

Louie gave you a copy?

MAGGIE

Well he's keen to get things moving, so--

ALICE

What things?

MORRIS

(to Maggie)

I thought you told her.

MAGGIE

I did.

(to Alice)

So?

ALICE

So... what? Oh, you're talking about the destruction of the family business. You think this is the appropriate time to initiate that, do you.

MAGGIE

Yeah. And so does Louie.

ALICE

Before his brother is even buried?

MAGGIE

That's what he told me.

MORRIS

Sam and Louie didn't like each other much, Alice. You know that.

ALICE

"Like" didn't have much to do with it. They were...

MAGGIE

Weird. They were weird and pathetic. All that strange baby talk, their life in that little cottage with all those cats and turtles and that damn parrot.

MORRIS

That was mostly Sam's fault. He refused to grow up. Louie had to humour him all those years.

ALICE

Says who?

MORRIS

Louie.

ALICE

Since when?

MORRIS

Since Sam's stroke.

MAGGIE

We think Lou felt liberated.

MORRIS

That feeling should increase now that Sam's actually dead.

MAGGIE

It already has. Louie was very clear about getting this thing here done asap.

Sean comes in.

SEAN

Hey...

ALICE

Where have you been?

SEAN

You didn't come back, so I went looking for--

(a bit shocked to see
Maggie)

Hi...

MAGGIE

(smiles awkwardly)

Hi...

(recovers)

Yeah... hi...

MORRIS

What's wrong?

MAGGIE

Nothing.

ALICE

Do you know each other?

MAGGIE/SEAN

No/Yes.

ALICE

Which is it?

MAGGIE/SEAN

Well...

SEAN

Not now. We don't know each other
now.

ALICE

But...you did?

SEAN/MAGGIE

Yeah/No.

MAGGIE

Well we did. But--

SEAN

That was a long time ago.

MORRIS

How long?

SEAN

We were in school together.

MORRIS

Together? How could that be?
(to Maggie)
You're a lot older than he is.

MAGGIE

He didn't mean together.

SEAN

I had her in high school.

MORRIS

What?

SEAN

As a teacher. I had her as a
teacher...

MORRIS

(to Maggie)
You taught high school?

MAGGIE

I was a sub.

SEAN

A permanent sub.

MAGGIE

Yes...it was supposed to be just for a month or two, but the teacher I replaced decided to retire, so they asked me to--

(to Sean)

So how've you been, Sean?

SEAN

Okay? And you?

MAGGIE

Fine.

SEAN

Good. So...

ALICE

So...what?

SEAN

Nothing. Just...so...

They all look at each other.

MAGGIE

Okay. Well the lawyer says it's a simple case of inheritance, and Louie is--

ALICE

Hold that thought, will you.

Alice leaves the office to make a call on her cell.

MAGGIE

(to Morris)

You know, I don't think she actually believes this is going to happen.

SEAN

She doesn't. There's no way she's going to let you do what you're planning.

MORRIS

She told you that?

SEAN

Why wouldn't she?

(to Maggie)

We're...together.

MORRIS

They're having a fling of some kind.

SEAN

Well it's more than that actually.
I'm kinda serious about her.

MAGGIE

Really?

Morris look at her.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I mean look at the age difference.
She's old enough to be his mother.
Actually she might be too old to be
his mother.

SEAN

That's rich coming from you.

MORRIS

Why?

MAGGIE

He's talking about *our* age
difference.

MORRIS

(to Sean)

Are you?

MAGGIE

Of course he is.

(to Sean)

Right?

SEAN

If you say so...

MORRIS

What's that mean?

MAGGIE

It doesn't mean anything.

MORRIS

I asked *him*.

SEAN

(off her look)

Yeah...it meant nothing. I was
just--

Alice steps back in putting away her cell.

ALICE

(to Lou)

I told my mother about Sam.

MORRIS

How'd she take it?

ALICE

She was pretty upset actually.

MORRIS

That can't be true. She never liked him.

ALICE

She didn't like the way he treated my father.

MORRIS

Your father didn't like him either.

ALICE

He just wanted both his brothers to do their fair share in the company.

MAGGIE

Louie told me your father was a real jerk. If he'd been nicer to him and Sam maybe they wouldn't have sided with Morris.

MORRIS

They're with us because they liked my plan.

ALICE

They liked the money they'd get out of your plan.

MORRIS

So what? They wanted to retire to a nicer climate.

ALICE

How could they retire when they'd never actually worked? They just lived off the profits of my dad's labour.

MAGGIE

A little respect. Try to remember that you're talking about your dead uncle.

ALICE

Sure. Just one more thing.

(to Morris)

My mother wanted me to ask you about Artie.

MAGGIE
(to Morris)
Who's Artie?

ALICE
Their son.

MAGGIE
What do you mean *their* son? He's
someone they adopted?

MORRIS
No. They were both bedding his
mother. It was never established
who the actual-- It doesn't really
matter. They both loved him very
much.

ALICE
Does Louie still love him very
much?

MORRIS
Of course.

ALICE
When was the last time he visited
him?

MORRIS
I'm not sure...

ALICE
Does *never* sound about right?.

MORRIS
Well it's very expensive to get
there.

SEAN
Get where?

MORRIS
Chile.

MAGGIE
His mother was their housekeeper.
When she'd had more than enough of
their unique lifestyle, who knows
maybe it was the cats, she took
young Artie back to her native
land.

MORRIS
It was heartbreaking for both of
them.

MAGGIE

Alice, what's the point of all this?

ALICE

Well if Artie is Sam's heir, he's now a partner in the business, and his wishes have to be considered. I mean in regards to what happens to the business...

MAGGIE

Yeah. Got it. But if he's Louie's kid--

MORRIS

Then Louie's still got control of two thirds of business and we can proceed.

SEAN

We're going to need a paternity test.

MAGGIE

This is none of your concern.

MORRIS

Yeah stay out of this. It's family business.

SEAN

A family you're no longer part of.

MORRIS

Look you're starting to really annoy me.

SEAN

Like that matters in any way. I only care that Alice is treated fairly.

MORRIS

And you'll be the judge of that, I suppose

(to Maggie)

Listen to the guy. Was he like this in high school?

MAGGIE

I barely remember him.

ALICE

Oh I think you remember him just fine.

(to Sean)

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

She's the teacher you told me about, isn't she?

MORRIS

What teacher.

ALICE

The one who raped him.

MAGGIE

Whoa!

SEAN

I never said she raped me.

MAGGIE

Yeah that's just...

MORRIS

Just what?

MAGGIE

An...exaggeration.

SEAN

She definitely seduced me but--

MORRIS

Who did?

SEAN

The teacher.

ALICE

Maggie. Maggie was that teacher.

MORRIS

Were you?

ALICE

She was.

(to Sean)

Wasn't she?

SEAN

It was quite awhile ago.

ALICE

Does that mean you can't remember.

SEAN

No but--

MAGGIE

Well even if he *can* remember I'm denying it.

SEAN
Denying what?

MAGGIE
That I seduced you.

SEAN
What would you call it then?

MAGGIE
I wouldn't call it anything...
because it didn't happen.

SEAN
It happened all right.

MORRIS
Was it you, Maggie? Did you seduce
him when he was one of your
students.

MAGGIE
Not really. I mean he wasn't really
one of my students. I was just a
sub.

SEAN
Full-time sub. And not a very good
one.

MAGGIE
Yeah? Well you were a full-time
asshole.

(to Morris)
I was very vulnerable. My acting
career was going nowhere and he
took advantage of that.

SEAN
(to Alice)
She threw herself at me.

MAGGIE
You should have just said no.

ALICE
Oh right.
(to Sean)
How old were you?

SEAN
Sixteen.

ALICE
Yeah. And sixteen-year-old boys say
no to sex all the time,

MAGGIE

They do if they know a person has certain issues. I was obviously deeply insecure.

MORRIS

I don't feel very well.

ALICE

Oh be quiet. You thought she was a virgin?

(to Maggie)

You're quite the gal, aren't you?

MORRIS

(pointing to Sean)

I blame him!

(to Sean)

It sounds to me like you took advantage of her. I bet you stayed late for special help.

SEAN

Because she asked me to.

MORRIS

I bet you were always looking at her body. Touching it whenever you could.

SEAN

Looking, yes. Touching, no.

MORRIS

Looking is enough!!

He attacks Sean. Sean defends himself and they fall to the floor entwined.

ALICE

Oh for godsake.

(to Maggie)

Do something about that.

MAGGIE

Why me?

ALICE

Exactly. Why you indeed. Jeez.

Alice leaves.

Maggie moves towards the ball of men.

MAGGIE

Okay that's enough. Morris? Just stop. Please.

They ignore her.

Blackout

SCENE 5

Alice is on her cell. She is dressed in an appropriate funeral frock.

ALICE
 (into phone)
 Are you sure you don't want to come
 to the funeral?

A knock on the door.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 Come in...
 (into phone)
 I didn't like the way they treated
 Dad either but--

Another knock.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 I said come in!
 (into phone)
 Yeah she said she was coming...

Another knock.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 Hey! Turn the handle. Open the
 door, and just come in, okay!
 (into phone)
 Well he was her uncle... No but
 when she was a kid both Lou *and* Sam
 were pretty nice to her so--

A very loud knock.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 Oh for godsake!
 (into phone)
 Look I gotta go. I'll call you
 later.
 (disconnects, starts to
 door)
 Listen I don't know what your
 problem is but--

Just as she gets to the door it opens quickly inward and slams into her head. She falls back on the floor, unconscious.

Artie enters the room slowly. He is wearing a cheap suit and carrying an old suitcase. He approaches Alice's body cautiously. Looks down.

ARTIE
 (all in Spanish)
 Oh my God. What have I done. Hello?
 Are you dead? Oh dear God.
 (MORE)

ARTIE (CONT'D)
(goes to door)
Help! Help me! Please!!

Blackout

SCENE 6

Artie and Alice sitting on the couch. Artie is holding a can of Coke against Alice's forehead.

ALICE

Why didn't you just come in when I told you to?

ARTIE

(slightly accented)
I was still thinking in Spanish. Sometimes my brain has a hard time making the switch.

ALICE

Seriously?

ARTIE

Oh yes.
(taking in her clothing)
So...you are dressed for my father Sam's funeral?

ALICE

Well actually--

ARTIE

I missed it?

ALICE

No. No it's this afternoon. But it's not just for Sam. It's also... for Louie.

ARTIE

My father Louie is also dead?

ALICE

Yes. He....poisoned himself two days ago. We think he was afraid to be alone.

ARTIE

(in Spanish)
Motherfucker! When will my life of shit and pain give me a break? I want to die! Strike me down now, you pitiless God!!

ALICE

Are you okay?

ARTIE

This is very upsetting news.

ALICE

Yes. Of course.

ARTIE

(opens the Coke can,
drinks)

I missed them both very much, but I
always held on to the hope of a
reconciliation.

ALICE

Between your mother and your...
fathers you mean?

ARTIE

Yes but my mother made several
serious...miscalculations in her
life which made that pretty much
impossible.

ALICE

Such as?

ARTIE

First she fell in love with a crab
fisherman and we moved to Punta
Arenas on the southern-most tip of
Chile to be with him. Shortly
thereafter he was killed in a
boating accident, and my mother was
forced to turn to prostitution in
order for us to survive. That was
how she met my stepfather. He was
the son of a Nazi war criminal. A
brutal secretive man whose family
was supported by the military
government at the time, but shunned
by just about everyone else.
Especially by the people in the
profession I had chosen to enter.

ALICE

Which was?

ARTIE

Celebrity journalism. I had an
ambition to be the leading source
in my country of all news about
famous people. With a special focus
on Mariah Carey.

ALICE

Really?

ARTIE

Oh yes. I love her very much.

ALICE

Okay. But because of your step-
father's family...?

ARTIE

It became impossible. Yes.

Sean enters in overalls. Covered in grease and soot.

ALICE

What's wrong?

SEAN

The extractor's broken.

ALICE

How broken?

SEAN

I don't know. I'll have to call
someone.

(to Artie)

Hi...

ARTIE

Hello.

ALICE

This is Artie. He's the son of--

SEAN

I know.

ALICE

Morris asked him to come...for the
funeral, but failed to meet him at
the airport.

ARTIE

I'm sure that's only because he has
a lot on his mind.

SEAN

No. It's because he's an unreliable
turd. Does he know about Louie?

ALICE

Yes...

(to Artie)

What is it that you think Morris
has on his mind?

ARTIE

Well the future of...

(looks around)

...all this. I'm sure that's
troubling him. He told me he was
trying to secure the best future
for me and your daughter...ahh...

ALICE

Leah...

ARTIE

Yes...he was trying to secure Leah's future, but there were certain obstacles in his path.

ALICE

Yes. That would be me.
(off his look)
I'm the obstacle. Me and my mother.

SEAN

Look I better get on that extractor problem or we're screwed.
(to Artie)
I'm sorry for your loss....es.

Sean leaves.

ARTIE

Did my fathers like that man?

ALICE

They never met.

ARTIE

I only ask because of his skin tone.

ALICE

His what?

ARTIE

What are his origins?

ALICE

Part Irish. Part Greek.

ARTIE

It must be the Greek then. They both had a problem with the darker hues. It was one of the many issues my mother had with them.

(off his own skin)

As you can tell from my pigment, she's partly descended from both the aboriginal and the formerly enslaved elements on our continent. Personally, I think time will wash away all this racial nonsense. The future of our planet will eventually be totally in the hands of black people. The white man is doomed to extinction.

ALICE

Well here's hoping.

A commotion in the hall. Morris comes in.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Hi. We were just talking about you.

MORRIS

You better tell loverboy to stay out of my way, or next time he might really get hurt.

(making his way to Artie)
Artie?

ARTIE

Yes.

MORRIS

I'm so sorry about the mix-up at the airport.

(extends a hand)
I'm your cousin Morris.

ALICE

No you're not.
(to Artie)
We're divorced.

MORRIS

That doesn't mean--

ALICE

Yes it does.
(to Artie)
He's nothing to you.
(to Morris)
Put your hand down, Morris. He doesn't want anything to do with you.

MORRIS

(to Artie)
Did you tell her that?

ARTIE

I'm not really--

ALICE

(to Morris)
He thinks you're doomed to extinction. And we both think it's about time. Don't we Artie?

ARTIE

Not him specifically.

ALICE

Why not?

MORRIS

Well for one reason, I could still be of use to some people.

(to Artie)
(MORE)

MORRIS (CONT'D)

Did you get a chance to read my proposal?

ARTIE

On the plane, yes. And it was so kind of you to pay for my ticket.

MORRIS

It was nothing.

ALICE

Exactly. Compared to what he's going to make on the sale of this property it was indeed, nothing.

MORRIS

What are you talking about? You know I'm only doing this for our daughter and...Artie here too, of course.

ALICE

Right. Plus your commission.
(reaching into her desk drawer)
Don't real estate agents still take a commission?

MORRIS

Of course, but I'm not a--

She is waving a certificate in the air.

MORRIS (CONT'D)

What's that?

ALICE

Guess.

MORRIS

Where'd you get it?

ALICE

Leah found it in your desk.

MORRIS

You asked our daughter to spy on me?

ALICE

It was her idea actually. She doesn't trust you any more than I do. Sad, isn't it?

(hands it to Artie)
His realtor's licence.

ARTIE

I don't understand.

MORRIS

I was just taking precautions. I only took the course to make sure I could protect you in whatever transaction we--

Sean and Maggie can be heard approaching. And arguing.

SEAN

Give it a break, okay! You're living in the past, woman.

MAGGIE

And you're living in a dream! *Her* dream! You're just a sexual toy.

SEAN

But you and your husband...that's different, right?

MAGGIE

We're partners. And you're just the janitor!.

SEAN

I told you! I was fixing the--

Just outside the door now.

MAGGIE

Do you also do her gardening for her?!

SEAN

She lives in a condo!

MAGGIE

(entering)

I was talking about up at her hobby farm.

(to Alice)

So you haven't introduced him to all your country neighbours yet.

ALICE

I would have eventually...

(to Sean)

But I've decided to sell it.

SEAN

To avoid having me meet your neighbours?

ALICE

No, to pay for the legal costs of fighting off these vultures.

Artie is moving slowly toward Maggie.

MAGGIE
(to Artie)
Who are you?

MORRIS
That's Artie.

MAGGIE
Oh. It's nice to-- Why are you
looking at me like that?

ARTIE
Marguerita? Are you... Margeurita
Channing? The heroine of The Flesh
is God?

MORRIS
What?

ALICE
(to Maggie)
You were in a movie called the
Flesh of God?

MAGGIE
The Flesh *is* God. It's something I
made a few years before I--

Artie screams. Looks at her. Screams again in absolute,
unexpected, uncontrollable joy.

ARTIE
This is the best day of my life!!

He wants to hug her, but he is afraid.

ARTIE (CONT'D)
I am in a room with the one and the
only Marguerita the Goddess
Channing!!

He screams again. Bends over.

ARTIE (CONT'D)
Oh no. I think I have gone poopoo
into my pants.

Blackout

SCENE 7

Alice and Sean. Alice dressed as before, but more unbuttoned and with shoes off. Sean in t-shirt and sweats.

ALICE

They had identical DNA. There's no way to prove which one was his father. They're going to ask a judge to give Artie both their shares.

SEAN

Based on what?

ALICE

An element of doubt, I guess. My mom thinks our argument should be that one of them was just his uncle. Just like he was Leah's uncle. So they should split his share.

SEAN

And that would make it even.

ALICE

Yeah...

SEAN

So how do you resolve *that*?

ALICE

Might not have to. If we tie it up in court long enough, Morris will probably just move on to his next scheme. He doesn't have a great attention span.

SEAN

So...the business will just stay open.

ALICE

Yeah...

SEAN

And you're sure that's what you want?

ALICE

What do you mean?

SEAN

That extractor is basically shot. The repair guy said what he did would give it another month or two at the most.

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

Plus, I'm not sure they're even making parts for our conveyor belt anymore.

ALICE

Okay so we'll--

SEAN

There are problems with some of the other machines too. What's your contingency fund look like?

ALICE

I don't have one.

SEAN

Cash flow?

ALICE

It flows in, makes a sudden u-turn and flows right back out again.

SEAN

Maybe it's time then...

ALICE

Time for what?

SEAN

Look if you let Morris go ahead with his scheme you and your mother can just take your share of the sale--

ALICE

And do what?

SEAN

I dunno. Whatever you want.

ALICE

I want to do *this*. This business is my--

SEAN

You could start over then. You keep the name, the product, start again somewhere else.

ALICE

And the building?

SEAN

Is just a building.

ALICE

That's not true.

SEAN

Yes. It is. You want to keep your grandfather's business alive this might be your only shot. But you'll need to diversify.

ALICE

Diversify. You mean make other soap products?

SEAN

No. Nuclear submarines. Come on, Alice, I've talked to you about this before...

ALICE

Did I appear to be listening? Because my grandfather--

SEAN

Is dead.

ALICE

Jesus. Yes. He's dead. Got it. But this place isn't. Not just the business. The building too. It's a huge part of my life. It's basically all I have.

SEAN

You have your daughter.

ALICE

She'll be gone soon enough,

SEAN

You have me.

ALICE

I do? In what way is that true?

SEAN

Well it's a possibility if you show me I can trust you.

ALICE

I'm sorry?

SEAN

Why didn't you invite me to the funeral?

ALICE

Did you want to come to the funeral?

SEAN

Not particularly.

ALICE
So what's the point?

SEAN
Nothing. Forget it.

ALICE
Are you still on about not being invited to my farm?

SEAN
Not even *knowing* about your farm, you mean.

ALICE
Man, that little idiot really got to, eh.

SEAN
Hey. You think I don't know she's full of shit. Doesn't mean there can't be an element of truth in what she's saying.

ALICE
Come on. We're talking about someone who--

Sean's cell phone goes off. He answers it.

Alice's phone goes off. She answers it.

SEAN
(into phone)
Yeah?... How bad?

ALICE
(into phone)
Hi, Mom. Look I can't really talk now. I'll call you back.

Sean looks and sees that Alice is not paying attention.

SEAN
(into phone)
...No they're not coming back... Well it didn't look like we'd be back up any time soon, so I gave them all the rest of the day off... you should go too. No. Now. Just go home!

He disconnects.

ALICE
Who was that?

SEAN
Belinda...

ALICE
From packaging? What's going on?

SEAN
(heading for the door)
She said she got a call. Come on...

ALICE
(standing)
A call about what?

SEAN
Someone saying there was a--

Sean has opened the door. An explosion. The blast throws him back into the room against Alice. And knocks some stuff off the walls and the desk.

Sean is unconscious. Alice struggles to her feet. Looks down at Sean, around the office and finally at the smoke gathering outside the office door.

She collapses.

Blackout

INTERMISSION

SCENE 8

Alice sits against the couch in a daze. She is trying to focus on Maggie giving Sean mouth to mouth.

ALICE

Hey... Excuse me... Hey!
(of Maggie's look)
What are you doing?

MAGGIE

Trying to save his life, what's it look like?

ALICE

He's not breathing?

MAGGIE

Not very well.

ALICE

And you think sticking your tongue down his throat is gonna help him do it better.

MAGGIE

I'm trying to get his lungs to full capacity.

ALICE

What the hell are you talking about. Is this something you picked up on that stupid medical show you were in? Just leave him alone, okay.

MAGGIE

You think I'm doing this because I'm enjoying it, don't you?

ALICE

Yeah I do. So knock it off!

MAGGIE

The man is injured.

ALICE

But breathing! You don't do mouth to mouth on someone who's already breathing!

MAGGIE

That's a common misconception. Look I'm a happily married woman so don't--

ALICE

You've got another husband somewhere?

MAGGIE

I'm sorry?

ALICE

Well there's no way you can be talking about your union with Morris.

MAGGIE

He's all the man I need.

ALICE

Really? He was less than half the man I needed.

MAGGIE

Yeah. I guess you've had your eye on Sean here since he was a teenager cleaning out the company toilets.

ALICE

That's not what his job was!

Maggie continues with the mouth to mouth.

ALICE (CONT'D)

And I told you to knock that off!

MAGGIE

I can't!

Morris comes rushing in.

MORRIS

Oh my God. Is everyone okay?

ALICE

(struggling to her feet)
I think your wife is in shock.

MORRIS

(to Maggie)
You were here when it happened?
You could have gotten killed. I told you I'd meet you at--

MAGGIE

No.

MORRIS

No what?

MAGGIE

I wasn't here.

MORRIS

Oh. Good.

MAGGIE
I'm worried about the people down
in the factory.

MORRIS
No they all evacuated, thank God.

MORRIS (CONT'D)
(off Sean)
Is he okay?

ALICE
He's breathing.

MORRIS
Really?
(to Maggie)
So why were you applying mouth to
mouth?

ALICE
She says she wants him to
breathe... *better*.

Sean stirs.

MAGGIE
He's waking up.

SEAN
What happened?
(to Maggie)
What were you doing?

MAGGIE
Saving your life.

MORRIS
Maggie. Are you...still attracted
to this man?

MAGGIE
I can't believe you're asking me
that question.

ALICE
Why not?

MORRIS
(to Maggie)
I've seen the way you look at men
like him on the street.

ALICE
He means younger men.

MAGGIE
I know what he means.
(to Morris)
(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I don't look at younger men any differently than I look at other men.

ALICE

I find that hard to believe.

MAGGIE

What about you? You probably look at them as prey.

ALICE

As something to eat, you mean? Sometimes, yeah.

SEAN

Excuse me. A bomb went off. Why are we talking about this now?

MAGGIE

She didn't like the way I was trying to save your life.

ALICE

And she suggested I've been stalking you since you were a teenager.

MAGGIE

I was just trying to get to the root of the problem.

SEAN

What problem?

MAGGIE

You and her. It's too much. It shouldn't be happening. It's just a revenge thing on her part. And if you think being with her is your only way up the ladder you are not living up to the potential I was sure you had.

MORRIS

What potential?

SEAN

(to Maggie)

What about you? What about your own situation.

MAGGIE

My situation is under control. My situation is confirmed and regulated.

SEAN

What's that mean?

ALICE
I'm sure it just means that she
loves him.

MAGGIE
I *do* love him.

ALICE
Which is what I just said.

MAGGIE
You said it without meaning it. I'm
saying it from my heart. Morris and
I have a real marriage that allows
me to have--

ALICE
A fair share of whatever *he* has.
(to Sean)
Like she said, she's "confirmed and
regulated."

MORRIS
(to Maggie)
What potential?

ALICE
Well obviously there was more to
their relationship than just a
quickie against the blackboard.

MORRIS
(to Maggie)
Is that true?

SEAN
Yes.

MORRIS
I was asking *her*.

SEAN
But she won't tell you the truth.
She told me she loved me.

ALICE
Wow...

SEAN
She told me she loved me and always
would. And she kept in touch to
prove it. She texts me. And...

ALICE
And what?

SEAN

Well up until she married him we were meeting every couple of weeks.

ALICE

Really?

MAGGIE

(to Morris)

I couldn't bring myself to cheat on you.

ALICE

I think that might mean that she tried.

MAGGIE

Shut up. Will you just please shut up. This is very hard for me.

(to Morris)

Sean was my first real love.

MORRIS

He was? But...he was your student. And he's ten years younger than you are. What's wrong with you?

MAGGIE

I'm sorry?

MORRIS

Well come on, that's pretty--

MAGGIE

What's wrong with you?

MORRIS

It's different with me.

MAGGIE

Why?

ALICE

He's a man. He was duty bound to have his second wife be a lot younger. I mean imagine the shame if she was even close to my age. Or weight.

MAGGIE

I thought you were going to keep quiet.

ALICE

What made you think that, you pathetic little tramp.

SEAN

Wait a minute... Shouldn't we be looking to find out if people are hurt somewhere?

MORRIS

The damage was contained, thank God.

ALICE

There's that thank God again. What have you done, Morris?

MORRIS

Are you implying something?

ALICE

Yeah. I am. I think you--

MORRIS

Be careful now...

ALICE

I think you caused that explosion.

MORRIS

I told you to be careful, Alice. That's a reckless accusation.

ALICE

Oh I'm the reckless one. People could have gotten killed. But you put all that aside just to try to scare me?

MORRIS

No. It was probably an accident. But if it convinced you...

ALICE

Convinced me of what?

SEAN

Of how unreliable the equipment is.
(off her look)
He approached me.

ALICE

He what?

MORRIS

I was looking for advice.

SEAN

So he...approached me.

ALICE

For advice...

SEAN

That's what he said. But he was really just looking for information about the state of things. The condition of--

ALICE

The business?

SEAN

The machinery.

MORRIS

I was trying to determine if you'd be interested in...that is, if you were in a position to--

ALICE

To what?

MORRIS

Continue. And if you weren't, or if you couldn't...what could I offer you to...stop.

ALICE

Did you tell him we didn't want to stop.

MORRIS

What do you mean "we"?

SEAN

She means her and me. We don't want to stop. At least not without--

MAGGIE

You might not have a choice.

ALICE

(off Morris)

That's not what he thinks.

MORRIS

I don't know what I think. That's why I was asking for advice.

ALICE

Advice on what to think?

MORRIS

Advice about what to do... about what you're thinking.

ALICE

I'm thinking you're a saboteur.

MAGGIE

Stop being an idiot. Why would he have to do anything to your machinery when he knows he's got Artie on his side.

ALICE

He's sure about that?

MAGGIE

Definitely. Because Artie thinks this is the right thing for all of us. And he wants to do the right thing.

ALICE

Why?

MAGGIE

Why does anyone want to do the right thing?

ALICE

Because they get bribed?

MORRIS

That's so cynical, Alice. How did you become so cynical?

ALICE

I'm inclined to blame you for that.

MAGGIE

That's typical.

ALICE

Of what?

MAGGIE

Women your age...in your situation.

ALICE

Which is...

MAGGIE

Divorced.

ALICE

Divorced. But not alone.

(off Sean)

And quite satisfied. Extremely satisfied. Satisfied at least twice a day.

MORRIS

There's no need for exaggeration.

ALICE
No there isn't.
(to Maggie)
What did you offer Artie anyway?
Come on, I'll find out eventually.

MORRIS
Tell her. It might help her
understand why I didn't need to
blow the place up.

MAGGIE
(shrugs)
Okay... Me. I offered Artie full
access to *me*.

ALICE
You mean you're gonna be his bitch?

MAGGIE.
No. I'm going to be his star.

MORRIS
He's going to be her exclusive
press agent.

MAGGIE.
It's a big deal.

ALICE
To him you mean.

MAGGIE.
To everyone.

MORRIS
She means to everyone in his
country who worships her.

MAGGIE.
Which Artie says is actually just
about the entire male population.
Including the gays.

MORRIS
But there's a problem.

MAGGIE.
I might have to do more films.

ALICE
That would only be a problem for
anyone forced to watch them.

MAGGIE.
I'd have to be nude sometimes. And
I'm no longer comfortable having men
ogle my body.

ALICE
Or what's left of it.

MAGGIE.
Are you ever going to stop
insulting me, Alice?

ALICE
I honestly don't have an answer for
that question.

MORRIS
Anyway it might not be necessary.

ALICE
For me to stop insulting her?

MORRIS
For her to return to that kind of
work. There's a legal precedent for
when two men have identical DNA and
there's a legitimate possibility
that either could have been part of
a...conception.

ALICE
Yeah? And what is it, this
precedent?

MORRIS
Well simply put it's that...both
men should be considered a legal
parent.

SEAN
And that means that Artie will get
both their shares?

MAGGIE
That's what we think. It was my
idea to look into it.

SEAN
And you're proud of that?

MAGGIE
I was doing my job.

SEAN
Your job is kinda disgusting.

MAGGIE
Well at least I have one. You're
just banging your boss and hoping
it pays off one day.

MORRIS

I made the same mistake with
Alice's father.

ALICE

You slept with my father?

MORRIS

No. And what a ridiculous question.

ALICE

It sounded like that's what you
were saying.

SEAN

She's right.

MORRIS

He promised me the moon if I'd--

ALICE

Sleep with me?

MORRIS

Marry you.

ALICE

And you expect me to believe that,
do you?

MORRIS

Well that's how I interpreted what
he said.

ALICE

That he was desperate for me to get
married...

MORRIS

Well not desperate per se. But he
was definitely worried about
your...dating habits.

SEAN

Her what?

MORRIS

He thought she was becoming a
little too slutty. I mean she's
clearly inclined in that direction.

SEAN

Shut up.

MORRIS

No you shut up. I hate you.

SEAN

You hate me?

MORRIS

Yes. I hate you. I've always hated you. The way you look, the way you talk. The way you...stand. And now I hate you even more because I know you've screwed both my wives.

SEAN

Except neither of them was your wife at the time. So get over it!

MORRIS

(crying)

I can't!

MAGGIE

No, honey. It's okay. He's nothing to me now.

MORRIS

I don't believe you.

ALICE

Neither to I. But getting back to my father's deep concern about my sex life... If you agreed to sacrifice yourself and make me "an honest women" there'd be a handsome reward coming your way? Is that what you're saying?

MORRIS

Well again, that's what I assume--

ALICE

What was it? What was this reward.

MORRIS

I don't know. I never got it.

ALICE

You got a job.

MORRIS

I thought there'd be more. I guess I was tricked

ALICE

Wow. Tricked... So you didn't love me.

MORRIS

Sure I did. I just wasn't ready to make a commitment.

ALICE
(approaching him)
Asshole.

MORRIS
Don't get worked up, okay. That's
all water under the bridge.

ALICE
No this is entirely new water. This
is--

SEAN
Pathetic. He's just trying to hurt
you.

ALICE
It's kind of working.

MORRIS
Why would I want to hurt you,
Alice?

SEAN
Jealousy sometimes makes people
lash out. And you're really messed
up about Alice and me, aren't you?

MORRIS
No. I just think it's not real.

SEAN
Not "real" like you and
"Marguerita" here.

MORRIS
Yeah. Or like Alice and I were.

MAGGIE
What?

MORRIS
Well we had something pretty
special at one point.

ALICE
Except, apparently we didn't. You
were just looking for a piece of
the action. And when it became
clear my father wasn't going to
give it to you--

SEAN
You went out and found yourself an
impressionable little idiot to
comfort you.

MAGGIE

Hey. I knew what I was getting into.

MORRIS

What's that mean?

ALICE

It means she's a despicable opportunist just like you.

MAGGIE

I loved him.

MORRIS

(to Alice)

Let's just say Maggie and I both wanted something from each other. What's wrong with that?

ALICE

What's wrong is that, what she wanted from you was actually mine. That settlement you got from me to keep you from going after a part of the business must have made you look like quite a catch

MAGGIE

No. It wasn't about anything except love. We loved each other.

(to Morris)

Right?

MORRIS

I had my shot at "love." And look where it got me. What we have is much better.

MAGGIE

It is?

She sits. Thoughtful and confused.

MORRIS

(to Alice)

I deserved that settlement. I put a lot into this company.

SEAN

Well, you spent a fair amount of time here, but I don't remember you actually doing anything.

MORRIS

What would you know? You were just a charity case.

SEAN

A what?

MORRIS

Your, he... her dad hired you as a favour to your mom.

SEAN

What a bunch of--

ALICE

(to Morris)

It doesn't matter why he was hired. He was a valuable member of the workforce.

SEAN

Not really. I was a go-fer.

ALICE

But a good one.

MORRIS

(to Sean)

What? You think you should have been a manager trainee or something?

SEAN

Okay, got to hell.

MORRIS

You go to hell. I don't even know why you're here. This is family business.

ALICE

Again, no longer *your* family.

SEAN

Right...

(to Morris)

And I'm here because I got knocked unconscious in an explosion that you set.

MORRIS

Okay that's libel.

SEAN

You mean slander.

MORRIS

Don't tell me what I mean. I know what I mean.

MAGGIE

So what did you mean when you said that thing before?

MORRIS

What thing?

MAGGIE

The thing about us just needing something from each other.

MORRIS

What are you talking about?

ALICE

She's disillusioned. Apparently she thought you had a soul connection.

MAGGIE

Shut up, Alice.

(to Morris)

We don't?

MORRIS

Don't what?

ALICE

Have a soul connection.

(to Maggie)

No. You don't. Sorry.

(to Morris)

Also she's upset about you thinking you and I had something special.

(to Maggie)

That's just in his head.

MAGGIE

I told you to shut up.

ALICE

Yeah I know.

MAGGIE

(approaching)

So why aren't you? Why aren't you just keeping your wrinkled old yap closed.

ALICE

Now that was just nasty. You're too close, by the way. Back off.

MAGGIE

I don't wanna back off. I wanna smash you in the mouth!

ALICE

Good thought!

Alice belts her in the mouth.

MORRIS

Jesus...

Morris goes to intervene.

SEAN

(grabbing him)
Stay out of this!

MORRIS

Hey. Watch the suit.

MAGGIE

(in martial arts position)
Okay. Okay! You've been asking for
this! Now get ready for some pain!!

Maggie launches a kick which Alice easily avoids.

ALICE

That's it? That's the incredible
Marguerita Channing in action?

Maggie hollers. Another kick, another miss. But this time
Alice retaliates with a kick of her own and sends Maggie
flying. And unconscious.

MORRIS

Jesus, Alice. Where'd you learn how
to do that?

SEAN

From me.

Sean kicks Morris and propels him into a wall.

MORRIS

(sliding down the wall)
Okay...now you're...in trouble.

Morris passes out.

Sirens. Lots of them.

ALICE

What's that?

SEAN

(at the window)
Fire department...police....an
ambulance or two.

ALICE

(smiles)
Must be serious.
(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

Oh right, the bomb. Well they sure took their time...

Alice looks for her bottle of scotch.

Blackout

SCENE 9

Alice and Sean are on the couch. Maggie is in a chair covered in a blanket. She looks cozy,

Artie enters.

ARTIE

Oh good. You're here. I was very worried for you.

ALICE

That's nice.

ARTIE

Those people downstairs wanted me to tell you that the investigation is so far...inconclusive.

ALICE

Who said that, the police or the fire department?

ARTIE

Both... Where's Morris?

SEAN

Ambulance took him away.

ARTIE

Was he injured in the accident?

SEAN

I guess...

ARTIE

And what's wrong with Maggie?

ALICE

She needed a nap.

ARTIE

Can I wake her up. I have some good news for her.

ALICE

Better if you just let her sleep. What's the news?

ARTIE

I've been getting many responses to my press release. I think she's going to be a very big sensation. Also, I've come up with a fantastic way to solve our family conflict.

ALICE

And that is?

ARTIE

Well we'll still make the very fine soap. But we'll also use the premises to produce a magazine for Marguerita's fans, for which I have many fabulous ideas... So what do you think?

SEAN

I think it's kinda nuts.

ALICE

He's right. It's pretty insane, Artie.

ARTIE

No it's just unique. *This* is insane.

He unzips and urinates on the floor.

ARTIE (CONT'D)

See the difference?

He continues to urinate as he spins around, dancing and humming.

Blackout

SCENE 10

Morris and Alice on the couch. She is filling his glass with Scotch and topping off her own. They are both fairly drunk

ALICE

What are you going to do now?

MORRIS

Well if the headache doesn't go away, I'll probably need a brain scan.

ALICE

Should you be drinking?

MORRIS

Absolutely not.

ALICE

I meant about Artie. What are you going to do about little Artie?

MORRIS

Oh. Well we'll wait for the psychiatric assessment and then--

ALICE

He's crazy.

MORRIS

He's eccentric.

ALICE

Yes. And he's also mentally ill.

MORRIS

Apparently these things he does... don't...prevent him from functioning normally most of the time.

ALICE

I'm sorry?

MORRIS

I called his mother.

ALICE

My mother?

MORRIS

His. His mother. And apparently he empties himself in public fairly often. Usually it's just a quick piss.

(laughing)

He only defecates when he's under extreme stress. Or if he becomes highly enthused.

ALICE

(laughs)

Enthused. Right.

MORRIS

She says, his mother says...that his life has been...difficult.

ALICE

Well if he keeps "emptying" himself on the sidewalk things probably won't get much better for him, will they.

MORRIS

I'm pretty sure she meant because of his, I mean her...

(a Nazi salute)

...connections. And also because of his obsession with celebrities. Apparently that's all he ever talks about. People there think he's ridiculous.

ALICE

Good for them.

MORRIS

She's hoping it won't be the same issue for him here. That people here will have--

ALICE

The same problem he does?

MORRIS

You mean with the emptying?

ALICE

No I mean with celebrity worship
(filling their glasses
again)

So...

MORRIS

What?

ALICE

I guess you'll just have to drop your plans. No court's going to grant that guy control over anything. Why don't you just go home, Mo. Ply your trade the way most other real estate agents do. Find people who actually want your services. Stop trying to destroy my life.

MORRIS

(gesturing around)
This is your life? I mean...is it really all you want?

ALICE

I feel like I'm making a contribution.

MORRIS

You're making soap.

ALICE

Damn fine soap.

MORRIS

Okay. But other people are making it just as well as you do.

ALICE

So that's a reason to stop? It's about the...continuity which a... family business brings to everyone *in* that family. Why can't you try to understand what that actually means?

MORRIS

Your family could be in the condominium business.

ALICE

Oh God...

MORRIS

Let me broker a deal between you and your mother and this developer I work with. You could all work together to turn this site into--

ALICE

You're just desperate, aren't you? About everything, right. Selling this place, your marriage...

MORRIS

Well I could really use the commission. Because money is a very big issue for us right now. But I wouldn't say I was... And I love my wife, by the way.

She just looks at him. Morris is fairly drunk.

ALICE

You're not going to make a pass at me, are you?

MORRIS

What are you talking about?

ALICE

Well you've had a few... And that's what guys say when they're about to take a shot at getting a little something on the side.

MORRIS

I was just... It's a real thing with me and Maggie, you know.

ALICE

As real as it gets for you, you mean.

MORRIS

What I mean is it's not like you and...

ALICE

Sean.

MORRIS

Right. It's not like that. He's just someone you're playing with.

ALICE

You're sure about that, are you. You're absolutely positive that's all it is.

MORRIS

It better be.

ALICE

And that means...?

MORRIS

Nothing.

ALICE

Come on.

MORRIS

No. You'll have to ask your mother.

ALICE

My mother? What the--

MORRIS

Does she know about the two of you?

ALICE

No. I haven't gotten around to mentioning it.

MORRIS

Mention it. See what she says.

ALICE

What do you think she'll say?

MORRIS

It's better coming from her.

ALICE

Morris. What the hell are you talking about?

He looks at her.

MORRIS

Okay but...this is only because I still have feelings for you, and I don't want you to get yourself any deeper into something that will--

ALICE

Morris. I mean it!

MORRIS

Okay... When we were going through our break-up--

ALICE

You mean when you left me...

MORRIS

Yeah--

ALICE

Left me because you knew that I was about to leave you...because I knew...knew what?

MORRIS

That I was an untrustworthy prick...or at least that's what--

ALICE

I said. Yeah. I said that.

MORRIS

Anyway...I was pretty confused about it all, and I went to see your mother and we started to talk--

ALICE

And drink. The two of you liked to have a few while you chatted, as I recall...

MORRIS

Yes. And she got a little wasted... and because...well I think she was trying to tell me how sometimes people can forgive...other people for what they've done, even though it looks impossible at the time--

ALICE

She was talking about me forgiving you?

MORRIS

Yeah...and also about her forgiving your father.

ALICE

Forgiving him for what?

MORRIS

He had a thing.

ALICE

A thing?

MORRIS

I meant a fling.

ALICE

Really.

MORRIS

A pretty big one. With an employee. Apparently it went on for quite awhile and there was--

ALICE

Which employee?

MORRIS

Okay here's where it gets--

ALICE

Who was it?

MORRIS

They had a kid.

ALICE
Who had a kid.

MORRIS
Your father and this--

ALICE
Who the *hell* was it?

MORRIS
Nina.

ALICE
Who?

MORRIS
Nina. Sean's mother.

ALICE
What?

MORRIS
And the kid is...

ALICE
No way! No, sir!

MORRIS
Yeah. Sorry. You're screwing your brother. Well, your half brother. Your much younger half brother. So it's not just wrong because you're only doing it to make some point about me and Maggie but also because well...I mean...yuk.

ALICE
My brother...

MORRIS
Yeah. Maybe I should have told you right away. But I was afraid you wouldn't believe me. And even more afraid of your reaction if you did. I mean sometimes you just lash out without...regard to whose fault it actually is... Sometimes you just do rash things because you're upset...

ALICE
Okay that's enough. Just be quiet for a minute...

She fills her glass. Downs it.

MORRIS
Can I have a little more?

She fills his glass to the brink.

MORRIS (CONT'D)
That's a little too much.

ALICE
Okay.

She takes his glass. Downs half. Hands it back to him.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Better?

MORRIS
Yeah...

She pours herself another one.

Blackout

SCENE 11

Morris is unconscious, Alice is in a mildly drunken stupor. Her father walks in wearing a suit and tie from the 80s. Carrying a briefcase from the same era. He looks a fair bit like Artie, but with lighter skin. And with grey hair. Alice focuses hard as she watches him go to his desk and look through the drawers for something.

ALICE
(tentatively)
What are you doing?

FATHER
I think I left my watch here.

ALICE
Why do you need a watch? You're dead.

FATHER
I was. But I didn't like it much.

ALICE
So you just decided to be alive again...

FATHER
Yeah.

ALICE
And...how did you manage that?

FATHER
Force of will. Just like everything else I accomplished in my life.
(to Alice)
Why don't you call your mother and tell her I'm back.

ALICE
Maybe later.

FATHER
Okay. So...what's new?

ALICE
Oh. I ah...just found out I have brother.

FATHER

You mean Sean?

ALICE

Yeah. I'm sorry? Are there others?

FATHER

From me? No. I just thought maybe your mother might have had one I didn't know about.

ALICE

Jesus...

FATHER

Yeah you're right. She would never have done something like that. She was steadfast.

ALICE

You mean stupid.

FATHER

Whatever. Anyway that's all in the past.

ALICE

Not really...

FATHER

(checks his watch)

Look I'd love to stay and talk, but I've got things to do.

ALICE

Like what?

FATHER

I'm not sure. But I always had things to do, so why should now be any different.

ALICE

Probably because...

(standing slowly)

...you actually are still...dead.

FATHER

Whatever that means.

He starts out.

ALICE

You deceitful prick. And with Nina. Was it even consensual? You were her sponsor. She was probably afraid you'd her sent back to Russia or wherever, if she didn't put out. You disgusting, evil--

FATHER

(stopping)

Hey come on. Get a grip.

(shrugs)

You know, I hoped you'd get that temper of yours under control one day.

(off Morris)

But apparently, you couldn't manage that.

ALICE

He's just...unconscious.

FATHER

Looks dead to me. And I'm the expert.

He leaves.

ALICEW

Expert. That was good...

(off Morris)

Yeah...he kinda does.

Alice sits down on the couch again. Feels Morris's pulse.

Sean enters.

SEAN

Hi...

ALICE

Yeah. Hi.

SEAN

(off Morris)

What's wrong with him?

ALICE

He might be about to pay for his sins.

(off the empty bottles)

He has a pretty low tolerance for alcohol. And he might be concussed, so...

SEAN

(a closer look at Morris)

How much of this did he drink?

ALICE

Way more than his fair share, the selfish prick.

SEAN

(taking out his cell)

Maybe we should get him to the hospital.

ALICE
(grabbing it)
No. I told you. It's possible he's
going to be paying.

SEAN
For what exactly?

ALICE
Well for one thing, he tried to
blow up the building.

SEAN
He said he didn't do that.

ALICE
What would you expect him to say?
You thought he'd just man up to the
truth? Never did anything like that
in his life, the desperate, pitiful
piece of shit. He knew about my
father. Bet he even knew at the
time.

SEAN
Knew what?

ALICE
And...he stole from me. Almost
right from the beginning. I let it
slide because of our daughter and
how disappointed she'd be in him,
but he took money from our joint
account. A little here, a little
there. But it added up.
(looks at him)
What do you know about your father?

SEAN
Nothing.

ALICE
You mother never talked about him?

SEAN
Not really. A little bit when I was
young. I think he came to visit
once.

ALICE
What did he look like?

SEAN
He was tall. Well I was only like
three or something so he seemed
tall...

ALICE
Was he like you?

SEAN

What do you--

ALICE

He was my father. My father is,
was...your father. Our father...

(off his look)

It's true, Sean.

SEAN

How do you know this?

ALICE

It doesn't matter.

SEAN

What the-- of course it matters.

ALICE

Why?

SEAN

Because maybe it's not true.

ALICE

It's true. We're related. Very...
closely related.

SEAN

Jesus...

Maggie comes in. Her skin is darker.

SEAN (CONT'D)

What the...

MAGGIE

It's just temporary. They're
expecting me to look like I looked
in that Kung Fu Goddess movie.

(off Morris)

What's wrong with him?

ALICE

(mimes drinking)

He's been a bad boy.

Maggie approaches Morris.

ALICE (CONT'D)

You look ridiculous by the way.

MAGGIE

That's only because you know the
way I'm supposed to look.

SEAN

No it's not. You should go
somewhere and wash that off.

MAGGIE
After the photo shoot.

SEAN
(to Alice)
Does she know?

ALICE
Beats me. Probably not.

MAGGIE
Know what?

ALICE
Oh what the hell. I'm surprised
Morris hasn't already told you.
He's my brother.

MAGGIE
What? Morris is your brother?

ALICE
(points at Sean)
No him. When I said before that you
probably didn't know, that's what I
was referring to.

MAGGIE
That he's your...brother?

SEAN
Half brother.

ALICE
Yeah. We have different mothers.

MAGGIE
But the same...? Wow, that's messed
up.

ALICE
Ya think?

MAGGIE
Yeah that situation, *your* situation
is definitely--.

SEAN
(off her face)
And what about yours?

MAGGIE
I told you, it's just temporary.
Artie's arranged a press conference
with some foreign journalists.

ALICE

How foreign? Are they from Mars?
Because anyone human is going to
take one look at you and-- Wait a
sec. He arranged this press
conference from the psych ward?

Morris is stirring.

MAGGIE

What's it matter where he was when
he arranged it? But yeah...

Morris is trying to focus. He looks around

MORRIS

They might have a point. The man
isn't all there, honey.

ALICE

Well welcome back.

MAGGIE

You okay?

MORRIS

I think so.

MAGGIE

What happened?

MORRIS

She intentionally got me drunk. She
knows I have a serious liquor
intolerance.

ALICE

Which you yourself forgot about?

MORRIS

I was vulnerable. You took
advantage of that.

(to Maggie)

She knows how much that real estate
deal means to us. She knows we're
sunk without it.

ALICE

(to Maggie)

I know because he told me.

MORRIS

Because you got me drunk.

(to Maggie)

I can't believe you've done this to
yourself.

MAGGIE

I had to do something. I mean I can get my career going again--

ALICE

Again?

MAGGIE

There were some parts of the world where I was very much appreciated.

MORRIS

You didn't need to do this. We still have a shot in court.

MAGGIE

He's her brother.

MORRIS

Yeah. Sick, eh. But what--

SEAN

I'll have a vote now, Morris.

(to Maggie)

That just occurred to me.

ALICE

(to Morris)

Yeah. Maybe you should have thought of that before you spilled the beans.

MORRIS

Right. Yeah. Well there goes that.

SEAN

Not necessarily.

ALICE

Excuse me?

SEAN

Speaking now, not as your friend, or your lover...but as your sibling and a stakeholder in the company--

ALICE

Holy shit. You're willing to sell?

SEAN

We've talked about it, haven't we.

ALICE

Not seriously.

SEAN

I think it's the best thing for the family to do.

(to Morris)

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

As long as we retain a share of any development that replaces this building.

ALICE

Holy shit.

MORRIS

(to Sean)

I think that can be arranged. So you went ahead on your own?

ALICE

Went ahead?

MORRIS

I mean he took what I said about the business to heart.

ALICE

And did...what?

SEAN

(to Alice)

There's no way this business can survive without a serious upgrade in the machinery...in the distribution deals...and without a very wide range of new products--

ALICE

It was you. You tried to blow the place up.

SEAN

Just the boiler. And just to show you how--

MORRIS

Vulnerable she was?

SEAN

It didn't work the way it was supposed to. It was a much bigger explosion than I thought it'd be... So it was good that I dismissed the workers before I--

ALICE

So you did it as a favour to me?

SEAN

Yeah. But now that we're--

ALICE

Family.

SEAN

Right, family.

MAGGIE

Jesus.

SEAN

Now that we're family we can take a more reasoned approach to the situation.

MORRIS

When you say "we" I assume you're including us.

SEAN

Not really. But we'll let you know what we decide in due course.

ALICE

I think he means you can leave.

MORRIS

Sure thing...

(taking Maggie's arm)

Come on... Let's go do something about...

(off her face)

...restoring you.

MAGGIE

No way. Not until after the press conference. I mean okay, we can fiddle with the colour a bit. Maybe I went a little too--

ALICE

Orange.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry?

ALICE

You look like a tangerine.

MAGGIE

Go to hell, brother-lover.

(to Sean)

And screw your due course. We won't need you after my career takes off.

They are leaving.

MORRIS

I think we should keep an open mind. You know, just in case.

MAGGIE

I need you to have faith in me, Morris. I've still got Marguerita's body. All I need to do is get her skin tone right, and we'll be set.

(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
I'll be the South American
Sweetheart.

They are gone.

ALICE
(to herself)
Idiot...
(to Sean)
I need to get that woman and her
clown husband completely out of my
life.

Alice fetches a bottle from her desk drawer.

SEAN
Maybe you've had enough of that
already.

ALICE
You gotta be kidding.
(takes off the cap)
So do you think you can help me
with that?

She takes a long drink from the bottle.

SEAN
What?

ALICE
Well I'm pretty sure we haven't
heard the last from those two...
(looks at him)
You want some?

SEAN
No... Are you suggesting that
we...?

ALICE
I am, if you think I am. So do you?

SEAN
Think you are? Yeah. I do.

ALICE
Okay...then?

SEAN
Well...to be honest...I was hoping
that one time would be enough.
(off her look)
Louie?

ALICE
Louie. You killed Louie?!

SEAN

It's nothing he wouldn't have done to himself eventually. I just got to thinking that with him dead there'd only be Artie to deal with. And that seriously narrowed the odds in our favour.

ALICE

Our favour.

(looks at him)

You know! You've known all along. I mean why wouldn't you know? Why wouldn't your mother have told you? She'd want you to have what was coming to you. I mean especially since my father basically raped her.

SEAN

That's not true. They loved each other.

ALICE

They did?

SEAN

Yeah. But she didn't want to make--

ALICE

A fuss.

SEAN

Right. So--

ALICE

So you were okay to just forget about it. Or go about getting your share some other way.

SEAN

What other way?

ALICE

Me. I was your road to--

SEAN

No. That's ugly. I'm not ugly. I just wanted--

ALICE

What? Wanted what?

SEAN

To be close. After she died I had no one. So I wanted to be close to you.

ALICE
A bit too close.

SEAN
I just put the other thing aside.
Kinda forgot about being...related
to you--

ALICE
Forgot about it?

SEAN
Kinda. Look what's it matter why I
love you. I just do.

ALICE
You do?
(another long drink)
Oh...okay...

SEAN
Listen, maybe you need time to work
this all out for yourself?

ALICE
Yeah. Time would be good. Maybe a
decade or two.

SEAN
I'll give you a week. We've got
some decisions to make. Okay?

ALICE
Well let's see what I have to deal
with here. You're not just my
lover. You're my brother. And
you're also a bomb maker and a
killer. And now you expect to be a
part owner in my business... Sure.
A week should be fine.

He approaches her.

ALICE (CONT'D)
What are you doing? You're not
going to kiss me, are you?

SEAN
Yeah. But not like that. Not now
that you know. I was just going to
give you a peck or something.

ALICE
A peck or something. Jesus. Last
time your mouth made contact with
me your head was between my legs,
Sean.

SEAN

Yeah. Sorry.

He leaves.

ALICE

He's sorry?

She sits. Drinks. After a moment her father enters in a fury.

FATHER

What a pile of steaming bullcrap. I had to listen to that guy go on for over an hour about his stupid golf swing, and then he makes me an offer that's so freakin' insulting I almost barfed.

ALICE

What guy?

FATHER

The...pen guy. I told you about him.

ALICE

I don't think so.

FATHER

Yeah last summer when you were home from school. The guy with the disposable pen idea. We had it all worked out, and then he goes and low-balls me. I showed him the goddamn conversion plans and everything and he just--

ALICE

Conversion plans for...?

FATHER

Well we can't make pens on the same machines we make soap on, can we!?

ALICE

You were willing to stop making my grampa's...?

FATHER

In a heartbeat. We're talking about something revolutionary here. A goddamn pen you can just throw away when it's empty. Come on. It'd be the most widely used product since the Model-T.

ALICE

But what about grampa's legacy?

FATHER

Legacy? What's wrong with you, girl? I'm talking about making millions... But there's no way I'm doing it as a very junior partner like he proposed. I've got my pride.

ALICE

No. You don't. I mean no you *didn't*.

FATHER

Don't... idn't. You're talking nonsense

ALICE

No. I just remembered. You did tell me about the pens. I thought you were just...

FATHER

Well whatever. It's not going to happen, is it.

ALICE

No. It's not, it didn't. But you were willing.

FATHER

Damn right I was willing. Look, it's just a business that was left to me. And the product could have been anything. It was just something I was supposed to sell. But sweet Jesus if you're gonna sell something, why not sell something that *everyone* needs. Okay screw the pens, I'll just come up with something else like that.

ALICE

Or you won't.

FATHER

Whatever the hell that means.
(off her bottle)
Can I have some of that.

ALICE

No.

Blackout

THE END

