

THE FIRSTS

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and

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FADE IN:

EXT. NORTHERN FLORIDA - SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

The street is lined with parked cars.

People come and go from a well kept two storey home.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A cremation urn sits on a table beside flowers and a picture of a woman, 69, youthful, smiling.

BILL MCCOY (69), retired, greyish hair, good shape, walks around his house, holding a Celebration of Life for his BETSY, of forty-five years. The woman in the picture.

Their daughters, BRENDA (42), a younger version of Betsy with her husband MIKE PACKARD (43) and BONNIE (40), strong and confident with her husband DENNIS HEDDERMAN (42), mingle with guests and making sure they have enough to eat.

Bill is consoled by his golf buddies, DEREK (70), NATE (70 - black), and ARLO (69) all in good shape for their age.

DEREK

She was a lovely woman Bill. We're really gonna miss her.

BILL

Thanks Derek. All the folks from the school were here today. She worked there longer than we were married.

ARLO

You just had your what, forty-fifth anniversary?

BILL

Yep. Guess that's all of me she could take. Forty-five years and I'm outta here.

NATE

I doubt that. You know we're here for you if there's anything you need. Don't be a stranger at the club.

BILL

Oh I won't. No worries there.
Thanks.

Bill's lawyer, KWESI ADDO (late 60s - Black) well dressed with grey hair, stops to talk to him before leaving.

KWESI

My condolences old friend.

BILL

Thank you Kwesi. Betsy always spoke highly of you.

KWESI

She was an excellent judge of character.

BILL

That she was.

KWESI

I have to head into the office but I wanted to leave this with you.

Kwesi hands him a small envelope.

BILL

You're giving me an invoice at my wife's celebration?

KWESI

You are an asshole. Betsy gave this to me in her last days. She told me to give it to you after she passed away. No delivery charge today.

BILL

My lucky day. Thank you Kwesi. You know you're family. Thanks for coming today.

KWESI

I appreciate that. Be strong my friend.

Kwesi leaves the gathering.

Bill puts the envelope in his suit jacket inside pocket and continues to move around the room receiving condolences from people.

The crowd begins to leave and the daughters and son-in-laws start cleaning up.

Bill sits in his favorite recliner with a glass of wine.

The kids finish putting everything away and get their coats to leave. Bill walks them to the door.

BILL

I can't thank you all enough. I couldn't have gotten through this without you.

BONNIE

Thanks Dad. It's gonna be ok.

BILL

I know hun. We'll get through this. It'll just take some time.

BRENDA

Well you have a lot of that now and you have us. We're here for you Dad.

BILL

I appreciate that. Thanks for letting me stay at your place during this. Drive safely.

The four leave and Bill waves to them as they drive away. He closes the door and moves into the living room.

Bill starts to remove his suit jacket and hears the envelope rustling in the pocket. He removes the envelope from his suit, opens the envelope and takes the letter out.

Bill pours himself another glass of wine and takes a sip. He walks around the room with the letter in one hand and the glass of wine in the other, reading the letter and smiles.

Bill puts down the glass of wine, puts the letter back into the envelope, and places the envelope inside a desk drawer.

He removes his tie, his shirt, his pants and drops them on the ground. He sits in his recliner in an undershirt and boxers with his glass of wine on the table beside him.

After a minute, Bill takes another sip of wine. He reaches for the stereo remote and powers on the system. He selects the CD - track six and turns up the volume. AC/DC - Back in Black blasts out of the speakers.

Bill gets out of his chair and starts dancing around the room, stopping at times to take a sip of wine, and return to dancing.

LATER

Bill walks out of the washroom and climbs into bed.

He lays on his normal side of the bed, then spreads out in the middle of the bed, taking over the whole bed.

The silence is broken by a loud and prolonged fart. Bill smiles and falls asleep.

INT. GOLF CLUBHOUSE - NEXT DAY

Bill's three golf partners arrive at the Clubhouse to pay for their round of golf.

NATE

Good morning young man. Here for our 8:15 tee time.

MANAGER

Good morning gentlemen. You're late today.

DEREK

Late? We still have twenty minutes before we tee off.

MANAGER

Your playing partner has been on the practice green for thirty minutes already.

ARLO

Playing partner? Who the hell did you throw into our group today?

The Manager points out to the practice green where the group sees Bill. They pay for their rounds and walk out to the practice green.

EXT. PRACTICE GREEN - DAY

NATE

What the hell are you doing here?
You just had your wife's
Celebration of Life yesterday.

BILL

What's your point? It's golf day.
Betsy would never want me to miss golf day with you guys.

DEREK

And you're early. You're never
early.

ARLO

Yeah you usually catch up with us
on the second tee.

FLASHBACK

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

We see Bill trying to leave his house on golf day but Betsy keeps asking him questions.

BETSY

Did you pack something to drink?

BILL

Yes Betsy.

BETSY

Do you want me to make you a
sandwich so you don't get hungry?

BILL

No Betsy.

BETSY

Make sure you bring a sweater, it
might get cool out there.

BILL

It's Florida - it's already eighty-five fucking degrees out there.

BETSY

Well excuse me for caring.

RETURN TO PRESENT

BILL

Well that's all changed. So, are we gonna play some golf? There's water out there just waiting for your balls.

NATE

Hey fuck you.

BILL
That's the spirit boys.

The group moves to the first tee with each golfer taking out their driver and tees off. Bill is last to hit and drives his ball twenty yards past their shots.

The group is in shock. Bill smiles.

BILL (CONT'D)
It's gonna be a good day.

They get back in their carts and drive down the fairway.

INT. CLUBHOUSE RESTAURANT - DAY

The group sits at a table with beer and Nate adding up the scores.

NATE
(to Bill)
Holy shit. You broke eighty. You
hardly ever break ninety.

BILL
You're my oldest friend Nate. We've
golfed together for decades. Have
you ever seen me strike it any
better?

NATE
Never. Why today?

BILL
Different mindset boys. Different
mindset.

ARLO
I wanna piss test. I think you're
juicing.

BILL
(laughing)
At this age I'll give you one every
half hour.

The group notices a new server behind the bar. KELLY (27),
beautiful blonde, tight top and pants.

ARLO
Who's the new girl?

DEREK

That's Eileen's neighbor's
granddaughter Kelly.

An older lady walks out from the kitchen toward the table -
EILEEN (66), looks younger, has no filter on what she says.

EILEEN

You better fucking tip her well.
She's still paying off college
loans.

THE GROUP

Yes ma'am.

Kelly smiles at the table. The group continues drinking their beer.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bill gathers up the table cloths and napkins from the celebration and loads them into the washing machine.

He loads the machine with detergent and starts the cycle.

The phone rings. Bill sees it's his daughter Brenda.

BILL

Hey honey. How are you doing?

BRENDA

Dad, where were you today? I tried calling all day.

BILL

It's golf day. I was out golfing with the boys.

BRENDA

Golfing? You just had mom's service yesterday and you went golfing today?

BILL

You don't think your mother would have wanted me to miss golf day, do you?

BRENDA

Well, I guess not. I don't know.
Are you ok?

BILL

I'm fine honey. I broke eighty today. You should have seen me. I was on fire. Hold on for a sec. The washing machine is making a weird noise.

He walks over to the washing machine. Suds explode from the top onto the floor.

BILL (CONT'D)

Oh crap.

BRENDA

What's the matter?

BILL

I may have used too much detergent in the washing machine. I have to call you back.

He hangs up, turns the machine off and looks skyward.

BILL (CONT'D)

Oh Betsy.

He finds a mop and starts cleaning up.

BILL (CONT'D)

I should have stayed at the club.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Bill grabs a shopping cart and pulls out a shopping list.

Looking confused, he pushes the cart up and down the aisles until he stops to ask for help from an attractive woman - Diane (40s) blonde.

BILL

Excuse me. Sorry to bother you.
Where would I find the ice cream?

DIANE

That would be in the freezer section.

BILL

They have a freezer section?

DIANE

(laughing)

Of course they do. Did you think
ice cream was in the meat section?

BILL

Well, no, but.

DIANE

You have been to a supermarket
haven't you?

BILL

Well, normally my wife always did
the shopping.

DIANE

And she didn't give you a GPS for
where to find everything?

BILL

She probably would have if she
didn't die.

DIANE

Oh shit. I'm so sorry. That was
terrible of me.

BILL

Oh don't worry. She didn't hear
you. I was looking up at the signs
for the aisles. They have a hundred
different items in each aisle but
only list like six on the sign. How
the hell do people find anything
here?

DIANE

Trial and error. Lots of wandering
around with a list in their hand
looking confused, waiting for
someone to help them.

BILL

Hey it worked.

DIANE

Lucky for you I have time so,
c'mon. I can show you where things
are.

BILL

I appreciate it.

DIANE

It's part of my court ordered
community service.

BILL

Really?

DIANE

No. Wow, you really are messed up
on your own aren't you.

BILL

Somewhat.

DIANE

Let's go. After this, you can buy
me dinner.

BILL

It's a deal.

Diane walks Bill through the supermarket filling up his cart
and checking off items on his list.

TWO MONTHS LATER

INT. GOLF CLUBHOUSE - NIGHT

Bill's birthday dinner with his daughters and son-in-laws. A
cake is brought out and they all sing Happy Birthday.

MIKE

No way I would ever think you're
seventy.

BRENDA

That's because he acts like he's
seven some days.

DENNIS

His average on a par four.

BILL

Ouch. Probably true.

BONNIE

You look great Dad. It's been
awhile since we've seen you smile
this much.

BILL

I love these quiet birthday dinners. Your mother loved having people over but it was never for her. Always for someone else.

FLASHBACK

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Bill and Betsy sit in their living room.

BETSY

Your birthday's in two weeks. We should have all our friends over for snacks and drinks.

BILL

Why? Can't we just have the kids over for dinner?

BETSY

You love having everyone over.

BILL

No. You love having everyone over. I like peace and quiet.

BETSY

It's one night. It'll be fun.

BILL

I can't wait until I'm ninety. You could hold my party at a booth at a Dunkin Donuts because everyone will be fucking dead.

BETSY

You are such a party pooper.

RETURN TO PRESENT

BRENDA

Mom loved throwing parties.

MIKE

Didn't you fake a case of the shits to leave one of them?

BONNIE

You did what?

BILL

Thanks Mike. That was our little secret.

BONNIE

You really were a party pooper.

Bill tilts his head, with a sarcastic smile.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Sorry. I had to go there.

Cake and coffee are done and the bill is being paid.

BILL

I can't thank you guys enough. This is my kind of birthday party.

BRENDA

You're welcome Dad.

BONNIE

It was our pleasure. We gotta get going. Early morning tomorrow.

DENNIS

Can we give you a lift home?

BILL

No that's ok. Thanks. I think I'll stick around for a nightcap and Uber it home afterward.

BRENDA

Uber? Look at you Mr. Independent.

BILL

That's me alright. Thank you again. I love you girls, and you guys.

BONNIE

We love you too Dad. Happy Birthday.

BRENDA

Enjoy the rest of your night.

BILL

Will do. Straight home now.

The four leave the clubhouse. No other people in the clubhouse.

Bill walks over and grabs a seat at the bar where Kelly is working the nightshift.

BILL (CONT'D)
Good evening young lady. How are you doing?

KELLY
Hi Bill. Happy Birthday. How was dinner?

BILL
Thank you. Always a good meal here. Eileen working tonight?

KELLY
She was here earlier but it wasn't busy so she left and the new girl gets to close up. What can I get you?

BILL
Oh let's see. How about a glass of the Cabernet. Whichever is open is fine by me. You are the low one on the totem pole.

KELLY
You got that right.

Kelly pours a glass of wine and slides it over to Bill.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Seventy? Did I hear that right?
Seventy?

BILL
(sipping the wine)
Yep. Seventy. Fucking seventy.

KELLY
No way I would have guessed seventy. Maybe mid-50s.

BILL
(chokes on the wine)
You are being too kind.

KELLY
Oh not at all. You look amazing.

They gaze at each other.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bill, wearing nothing but his boxer shorts, is pushed back onto his bed. Kelly, wearing only a bra and panties, falls on top of him and begins kissing his neck and working her way down his body. She removes his boxer shorts.

Bill closes his eyes and smiles as Kelly continues moving down his body. All of a sudden, Bill's eyes open wide with a shocked look on his face.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Bill, Nate, Derek, and Arlo are at the tee box. Bill tees up the ball and slices it.

BILL

Damnit.

Next shot by Bill goes into the water.

BILL (CONT'D)

Fuck.

Next shot by Bill goes nowhere. He looks down the fairway to see where it went.

NATE

Um. Bill.

Nate points to the ground where the ball remained.

BILL

This fucking game.

Bill lashes out and hits the ball toward the green and gets into the cart and they all drive up to the green.

INT. GOLF CLUBHOUSE - DAY

The foursome sit at a table with beer while Nate adds up the scores.

NATE

Wow. A hundred and five. Now that's more like it.

ARLO

You must have lost a dozen balls today.

BILL

Yeah well, I almost lost two more
last night.

DEREK

What's that mean?

BILL

I had a um, a date last night.

NATE

A date?

DEREK

You had a date?

BILL

Yes.

ARLO

You?

BILL

Yes.

NATE

How much did she cost?

BILL

Fuck you.

ARLO

Who was it?

BILL

Doesn't matter. But it was wild.

DEREK

What do you mean wild?

NATE

Skip the bullshit and just get to
the good stuff.

ARLO

Yeah we're not getting any younger.

BILL

Well. She pulled my boxers off and
then.

NATE

Yes.

BILL
(whispering, looking
around)
She put her tongue up my ass.

DEREK, NATE, ARLO
What?

BILL
She put her tongue up my ass.

ARLO
No way.

DEREK
Are you serious?

NATE
What did you do?

BILL
I fucking froze. I've never had
anything like that before. Then she
flipped around on me. It was wild.

NATE
Betsy never did anything like that?

BILL
Are you kidding? Betsy's version of
wild was missionary with the lights
on.

ARLO
That's sad.

BILL
Tell me about it. I have to say it
was the perfect ending to my
birthday.

DEREK
Oh shit it was your birthday
yesterday?

DEREK, NATE, ARLO
Happy Birthday Bill.

BILL
Yeah thanks.

NATE
So, sixty-nine at seventy.

Bill spits out some beer.

NATE (CONT'D)
Nice.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Bill has Brenda and Bonnie over to the house.

BILL
Thanks for coming over. You know where everything is around here so help yourself to something to drink if you want.

BRENDA
It's ten o'clock in the morning Dad.

BILL
What's your point?

BONNIE
(laughing)
What are we doing here Dad?

BILL
I want you to go through your mother's stuff and take whatever you want. If it's clothing or jewelry or plants or some other keepsake, please, take it. I want to bring any remaining clothing to the women's shelter.

BRENDA
That's a beautiful thing to do.

BONNIE
You don't want to keep anything?

BILL
I might keep a plant and a ring but none of her clothes fit me.

BONNIE
You are something else. You sure you want to do this so soon?

BILL

Yeah. You can't move forward by being stuck in the past and I know your Mom would approve of us donating whatever we can.

BRENDA

No doubt about that but, it hasn't been that long.

BILL

I know but the longer I wait, the harder it's gonna be. I'll be holding on for the sake of holding on and that's not good for anyone. Why do that when there are others who can benefit from your mother's semi good taste.

BONNIE

She always looked good. Ok, we'll go look at her stuff and see what we want to keep. We'll bag everything else.

BILL

Thanks girls. Have at it.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

The girls pull clothes off hangers and hold them up to themselves for sizing.

BONNIE

Ugh. She must have had a coupon for this one.

BRENDA

I'm guessing this was in style, in the sixties. Oh Mom, what were you thinking keeping this.

BONNIE

Some of this stuff should be in the Smithsonian.

Brenda pulls out a sweater with a cat on it.

BRENDA

I remember this one.

FLASHBACK

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Brenda is seven years old and there's a lightning storm going on outside.

Brenda is afraid and cuddled up in Betsy's arm.

Betsy is wearing the sweater with the cat on it.

BRENDA (V.O.)

I was so scared that night. The lightning and thunder. It was shaking the house. Dad was out working. You were passed out. You could sleep through a war. Mom was wearing this sweater. She took it off and wrapped it around me and told me.

BETSY

Don't worry sweetheart. It's just your grandpa in heaven bowling strikes.

RETURN TO PRESENT

BRENDA

Your grandpa in heaven bowling strikes. I had no idea what she meant but she made me feel so safe.

BONNIE

That's a keeper for you.

BRENDA

Yeah. This one's definitely coming home with me. What's in that big box in the back corner?

Bonnie crawls under dresses hanging in the closet and pulls out a box covered in dust.

BONNIE

Whatever it is, it hasn't been dusted in a long time.

Bonnie takes the lid off to see art work by the girls from Grade School.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

BRENDA

What it is?

BONNIE

Well. It's a lot of shitty art.

BRENDA

What?

BONNIE

Mom saved our drawings from school.

BRENDA

You gotta be kidding.

BONNIE

Nope. They're all here. Wow, we had absolutely no artistic abilities.

Brenda holds up a picture of an animal she painted.

BRENDA

What the hell did I draw here?

BONNIE

That looks like the endangered Dalmatian Pig. Rarely seen in public.

BRENDA

I can't believe she had this all this time and we never knew.

BONNIE

Maybe that's a good thing. Some of this stuff should only be displayed at the Museum for the Blind.

BRENDA

We're not.

BONNIE

Oh no. We're not keeping that. Burn it. Don't even shred it. Just burn it all. Mom had that butterfly brooch.

BRENDA

The one she always wore when she was looking very prim and proper.

Bonnie opens the jewellery box on a dresser and searches for it.

BONNIE
Here it is.

BRENDA
That's really pretty. That screams
you.

BONNIE
Are you ok if I keep this?

BRENDA
It's yours. That's a beautiful
keepsake.

Bonnie, holding the brooch, starts to tear up.

Bill enters the room.

BILL
How's it going up here?

BRENDA
We're good. I think we're done.

BILL
Ok. I'll bag up the rest and donate
it. I'm glad you found some things
to keep.

BRENDA
She had a lot of sweaters for
Florida.

BILL
If it dropped below 80 she'd break
out a sweater. She loved the warm
weather.

BONNIE
She did not look forward to a
change in seasons.

The girls take their keepsakes and leave the room.

Bill pauses, takes a couple sweaters and places them back in
the closet on a shelf, leaving the rest to be bagged for
donation.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Bill rakes leaves on his front lawn and chats with neighbors.

A car drives by and honks.

Eileen waves at Bill. He waves back.

She stops and rolls down her window.

EILEEN

I saw your approach shot on
eighteen the other day. You suck.

Eileen drives away laughing.

NEIGHBOR

Who was that?

BILL

The Devil. Pure evil that woman.

INT. HOME DEPOT STORE - DAY

Bill looks at wine fridges with the help of a store associate.

BILL

Will it hold both red and white
wines?

STORE ASSOCIATE

It will. It has dual zone
temperature controls. Put the
whites up top and the reds down
below.

BILL

Perfect. I'll take it.

Bill loads it into the back of his car.

INT. WINE STORE - DAY

Bill walks around the wine store with a shopping cart. He's approached by a WINE ASSOCIATE (40s).

WINE ASSOCIATE

Can I help you with anything?

BILL

Yeah. I just bought one of those
two zone.

WINE ASSOCIATE

Dual zone?

BILL

That's it. Dual zone wine fridges
and I need to fill it up.

WINE ASSOCIATE

Are you looking to age the wines?

BILL

Are you joking? I'm seventy son.
I'm the one aging. Not the wines.

WINE ASSOCIATE

Totally understand. Ok. Let's look
at some that are good to open now.

Bill walks around the wine store loading up his cart with red
and white wines.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bill sets up the wine fridge and loads the wines into it.

BILL

Oh look. We have one too many.
Guess we'll just have to sacrifice
you for the sake of the others.

He opens the bottle and pours a glass.

He sits in his recliner watching sports. He nods at the urn.
Tears well up in his eyes.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A week before Thanksgiving. Bill puts up decorations.

The tv is on in the living room. A commercial plays for the
local Humane Society.

He finishes the decorations.

BILL

That'll do turkey. That'll do. Ha.

He looks around the house and realizes it's very quiet and
he's all alone.

EXT. HUMANE SOCIETY PARKING LOT - DAY

Bill pulls into the local Humane Society parking lot and
exits the car.

INT. HUMANE SOCIETY - DAY

He enters the Humane Society. An Associate takes him to the back to see the dogs.

A medium-size mutt sits staring at Bill as he walks by and catches his eye. He stands up in a "sit pretty" stance.

BILL

That's the one. He's practically
begging to come home with me.

ASSOCIATE

That's George. He's been here
awhile. We love him.

BILL

What's his story?

ASSOCIATE

His owner died and his wife moved
away. She couldn't take him with
her into a home. He's a sweetheart
of a dog.

BILL

(looking at George)
Well buddy. I feel your pain.
Today's both our lucky day. Do you
sell collars and leashes here?

ASSOCIATE

Absolutely. C'mon. We'll get you
set up.

EXT. HUMANE SOCIETY PARKING LOT - DAY

Bill loads George into the backseat of his car and straps him in.

INT. PET STORE - DAY

Bill pushes a cart through the store with George in the cart.

BILL

Let's see. What do we need? A bed.
You want a bed to sleep on?

GEORGE

Barks.

BILL

Great. We'll get you a bed.

They walk down the toy aisle.

Bill grabs a toy of a girl doll.

BILL (CONT'D)

How about this one? You like this toy?

GEORGE

Growls

BILL

They didn't tell me you were gay.
Ok. How about this one?

Bill holds up a tug of war rope.

GEORGE

Barks

BILL

Perfect. Let's go get you some food and snacks and those bags to pick up your shit.

A mother with a young child (3) walks by Bill and George.

Bill gives the child a wink.

The child points at the rack of doggie poop bags.

CHILD

Shit.

Bill laughs, grabs a few packages of bags, and walks away.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bill sits in his recliner with a plate of cheese and crackers in his lap and a glass of wine to his side, watching sports.

Dog toys all over the living room floor.

George lays in the bed beside Bill's chair, looking up at him.

BILL

You want a piece?

GEORGE
Barks.

He feeds him a piece of cheese.

BILL
Here you go. Bet you never got this
at the shelter.

George gobbles down the cheese.

Bill finishes his piece of cheese.

Both Bill and George burp loudly.

BILL (CONT'D)
(laughing)
We're gonna get along just fine.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Thanksgiving Day. Bill is cooking dinner at his house,
wearing an apron.

Bill's daughters and son-in-laws arrive carrying wrapped
bottles of wine and a bouquet of flowers.

Football is on the tv in the background.

BRENDA
Happy Thanksgiving Dad.

She gives him a kiss on the cheek.

BONNIE
Happy Thanksgiving Dad.

Also a kiss on the cheek.

BILL
Hey folks. Happy Thanksgiving.
Thanks for coming early.

BONNIE
Wow Dad the place looks great. I've
never seen it this decorated for
Thanksgiving.

The girls look around and notice toys on the ground.

BRENDA
Dad. Why are there dog toys in the
living room?

BILL

Oh yeah. I got a dog from the
shelter.

MIKE

You got a dog?

DENNIS

What made you get a dog?

George walks into the room and stands beside Bill.

BILL

I don't know. The house was pretty
quiet. He's great company. He loves
watching sports and this guy is a
chick magnet on walks.

FLASHBACK

EXT. WALKING TRAIL - DAY

Bill walks George on a trail and is stopped by women joggers
who want to pet him.

INT. HOME DEPOT - DAY

Bill takes George through Home Depot and is stopped by women
shopping.

RETURN TO PRESENT

BILL

I get stopped by a lot of women.

BONNIE

Ok.

BILL

Already got him trained to go
outside to do his business. I just
have to get him to stop licking his
balls all day.

BRENDA

Dad.

BILL

Kinda jealous actually. I'd never
leave the house if I could do that.

BRENDA

Thank you. A little too much
information there.

MIKE

He's a good looking dog. What's his
name?

BILL

George.

BONNIE

George? His name is George?

BILL

Yeah. That was his name at the
shelter. That's actually your great-
grandfather's name so, I thought, I
guess this was meant to be. I was
gonna name him Jack.

BONNIE

Why Jack?

BILL

So that when he was on the couch
and I wanted him to get down I
would have to say -

BRENDA

Ok. We get it.

MIKE

That's hilarious.

BONNIE

Don't encourage him.

The group walks into the kitchen where Bill has set out pre-dinner snacks, a charcuterie board, bottles of red and white wine, and glasses.

BRENDA

Dad, this is amazing. I am very
impressed.

BONNIE

Yeah. Great job old boy.

BILL

Thank you. I wanted to make it
special for you this year.

DENNIS

You have exceeded expectations.

BILL

Wait until you taste dinner before
you say that.

The guys pour wine for everyone and pass it out.

GROUP

Cheers.

BRENDA

I noticed the new wine fridge and
it looks pretty stocked up. You've
never had that much wine in the
house.

BILL

Your mother wouldn't let me keep
more than a bottle or two in the
house. (imitating Betsy) If guests
come over they usually bring
something with them. You can just
serve that.

BONNIE

I never knew that.

MIKE

That's just, weird.

BILL

Tell me about it.

DENNIS

So what are you doing to keep
yourself busy these days?

BILL

I go out for dinner and coffee with
folks.

FLASHBACK

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Bill sits across the table from a beautiful redhead (50).

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Bill sits across the table from a beautiful brunette (52).

Their dogs sit beside each other.

RETURN TO PRESENT

BRENDA

That's good. How are Uncle Nate and the boys doing?

BILL

He loves it when you call him that although it does get some strange looks in public. They're all good.

Bill takes the guys over to show them the wine fridge and play with George.

The girls stay in the kitchen talking.

BONNIE

Ok, is it just me, or has Dad changed a lot since Mom passed away?

BRENDA

I was just gonna say the same thing. He seems almost, happier.

BONNIE

Yes. This is really weird.

Bill and the boys return to the kitchen.

Bill checks the food in the oven. Everything appears ready.

Bill pulls the turkey out of the oven.

MIKE

That looks delicious.

Bill grabs the long carving knife and begins carving the turkey, placing slices on a platter.

The girls help taking the potatoes and other vegetables out of the oven, while the guys move the bread, gravy, and drinks to the table.

BONNIE

Dad, au gratin potatoes? Not mashed?

BILL

I always wanted to do those. Your mother was stuck on mashed year after year because they were easier. She'd use a pound of butter. They were delicious but I swear she was trying to kill me with her potatoes.

Everyone sitting around the dinner table with food everywhere.

BILL (CONT'D)

No matter what life throws at us or wherever we go, this house of love is the magnet that brings us all back together. I am so grateful for you all. It's been a tough time. I love you guys. Happy Thanksgiving. Cheers.

BRENDA

That was beautiful Dad. We love you too.

GROUP

Cheers.

They clink glasses and begin eating.

MIKE

Wow. This turkey is delicious.

DENNIS

And moist. Like, really moist.

FLASHBACK

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Bill and Betsy in the kitchen checking the turkey.

BILL

Is it ready?

BETSY

No. Another half hour.

BILL

How do you know?

BETSY

The skin has to be a golden brown color all around. We do this every year. I'm trying to teach you and you never learn.

BILL

I was a horrible student in school too.

BETSY

Lucky for me. That's where I spotted you in detention.

BILL

And the rest was history, which I failed as well.

RETURN TO PRESENT

BILL

I used a Butterball cook from frozen. Easiest thing to do and works perfectly. Your mom fussed all over a fresh turkey but it was hit and miss.

BONNIE

She tried Dad.

BILL

She did. She was a great cook, if there was a phone nearby.

The girls help clear the plates.

Bill brings out the large pumpkin pie.

BRENDA

That is huge. Good job Dad.

BILL

I can't take credit for it. Thank Costco for this. Desserts were your mother's doing. That she did very well.

BONNIE

Her baking skills were amazing.

Bill slices the pie and puts whip cream on each slice and passes them out.

BRENDA
Forgive us Mom.

Puts a piece in her mouth.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Not bad. Not Mom's but, not bad.

BONNIE
You did great Dad.

BRENDA
How are you doing? You seem pretty
happy. Don't you miss Mom?

BILL
Oh honey. We made the best of the
time we had. I was lucky to be by
her side as we went through life
together. She made my life richer
and easier. We helped each other
with work. We traveled everywhere
and we had two pretty great
daughters. She was an amazing
woman. We made great memories. We
missed nothing together and I have
no regrets. Regret is a waste of an
emotion. You have to move on.
Remember my old friend Kyle?

BRENDA
No. I don't remember that name.

BILL
Exactly. His wife passed away. Kyle
fell into a deep depression.
Started drinking to fill the void.
Went to counseling for help to get
over his grief. Saw a doctor who
put him on pills he got addicted
to. He's now in a home and he's a
mess. Everyone chooses a different
path how to deal with it. You never
forget what you had, but you have
to move on or you get stuck in the
past and I'm getting too old for
that. I'm doing just fine. Thanks
for your concern.

DENNIS
That's a healthy way to look at
things.

BILL
George is my Psychiatrist.

George raises his head when he hears his name and everyone laughs.

LATER

Bill stands at the front door and waves goodbye to everyone as they drive away.

Bill returns to the kitchen and loads the dishwasher.

He grabs a bottle of dish washing detergent. Stares at it, then the dishwasher.

BILL
Oh no, no, no.

He takes out his cell phone and clicks the YouTube icon.

BILL (CONT'D)
I'm not going through that shit again.

CELL PHONE VOICE
Ok, so for those of you new to your dishwasher, let's get started.

He looks skyward.

BILL
I'm learning Betsy.

INT. BILL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bill turns all the lights off and climbs into bed laying on his side with George on the bed at his feet. A tear falls from Bill's eye.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Bill cuts his front lawn on a hot, sunny day. He chit chats with his neighbor.

BILL
I might just put down artificial grass. Plant a bunch of silk flowers. A fake tree. Sprinkle fake leaves on the lawn in the Fall to confuse people.

NEIGHBOR
I like the way you think Bill.

Bill stops the lawnmower and grabs a paper bag for the grass clippings.

He bends over to remove the collector bag from the mower and collapses on his lawn.

The neighbor sees this and runs over to help Bill. He calls 911.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

EMS Workers hook Bill up to an IV and monitors. One checks for a pulse.

EMS WORKER 1
No pulse.

Another EMS Worker pulls out the Defibrillator and charges it.

EMS WORKER 2
Clear.

They deliver a charge to Bill and his body is jolted.

The monitor shows a heartbeat.

EMS WORKER 1
Ok he's back. Let's get him to the hospital.

The ambulance speeds through traffic to the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Bill is wheeled into Emergency and surrounded by hospital attendees checking on his vital signs.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM

Bonnie and Brenda wait for news on their father.

BONNIE
What's taking them so long? I thought we'd hear something by now.

BRENDA
Well. No news is good news.

BONNIE

I hate that fucking line.

BRENDA

Me too.

Doctor Hoskote (50s), Indian, walks into the Waiting Room wearing a long white coat.

DOCTOR HOSKOTE

Hi. I'm Doctor Hoskote. I did the assessment on your, father I'm assuming?

BRENDA

Yes our father. Thank you doctor.

BONNIE

How's he doing? What happened to him?

DOCTOR HOSKOTE

Your father has what we call Tachycardia or a fast heart rate. It can cause dizziness and passing out. His heart actually stopped in the ambulance but they shocked him and he seems to be ok now. Luckily we caught it in time.

BRENDA

So this heart attack was a good thing?

DOCTOR HOSKOTE

It wasn't really a heart attack but people think it is. If untreated, Tachycardia can lead to a heart attack or a stroke or worse.

BONNIE

Holy shit.

DOCTOR HOSKOTE

Yes. Holy shit is a good way to put it. As I said, luckily we caught it and with the proper medication and regular exercise, we should be able to control it.

BRENDA

Will he be ok?

DOCTOR HOSKOTE

He's going to be fine. He's in great shape for seventy. I hope I look that good when I hit seventy. Has he experienced a lot of stress lately?

BONNIE

Our mother died months ago but he seems to be handling that ok. He got a dog and walks it every day.

DOCTOR HOSKOTE

That's good. A pet can be very calming. I want to keep him in the hospital for a couple days to monitor him. Maybe we can figure out what's stressing him out.

BRENDA

Thank you Doctor. We appreciate that. When can we see him?

DOCTOR HOSKOTE

Give it another hour and he'll be in a room. You can see him then. He's actually sleeping right now. We'll be checking on him to make sure he's ok and if all is good, he should be able to go home in a couple days. We'll monitor him as well over the next month to make sure there are no other issues. If issues persist, we may have to consider a pacemaker but for now, I think medication will work.

BONNIE

I know he's going to ask us about golfing.

DOCTOR HOSKOTE

Oh yes. I did hear him mention something about golf. I think he asked if he could get a mulligan for this incident.

BRENDA

That sounds like our dad.

DOCTOR HOSKOTE

Rest for a week and start back slowly.

(MORE)

DOCTOR HOSKOTE (CONT'D)
As long as he doesn't overdue it,
he should be good to get back to
his game. It's good exercise too.

BRENDA
Thank you Doctor.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Bill starts to wake up.

Bonnie, Dennis, Brenda, and Mike by his side.

BONNIE
Hi Dad.

BRENDA
Hey Dad. We're right here for you.

MIKE
Hey there old-timer.

Bill smiles.

BRENDA
How are you doing Dad?

BILL
I saw Elvis.

DENNIS
You saw Elvis? Like, the movie or
the person?

MIKE
Did he offer you a peanut butter
and banana sandwich?

BRENDA
You're such an ass.

BILL
My chest hurts.

BONNIE
You had a heart issue. They had to
shock you.

BILL
Shock me? Never had that before.
Wait'll the guys hear about this.

DENNIS

They asked if you were under any stress lately. Your heart was beating pretty hard they said.

BRENDA

Any reason for that? Everything ok?

BILL

No. I mean yes, everything is good. No idea why my heart would be doing that.

BONNIE

Well they got to you in time and the doctor said they'll monitor you over the next couple days in here. They'll start you on beta blockers and that should help. You should be feeling better when you leave. Don't be cutting grass for a bit ok.

BILL

Isn't that what son-in-laws are for?

DENNIS

Thanks Bon.

BRENDA

Ok Dad. We're gonna go and let you get your rest. We'll be back tomorrow.

BONNIE

You scared the shit out of us. Please don't do that again.

BILL

I'm sorry girls. I'm not trying to die.

BRENDA

We know Dad. Just, take it easy and, before you ask, the doctor said you can get back to golf in a week or so but you have to take it slowly at first.

BILL

Other than being alive and you guys being here, best news I've had today. Thank you for being here. I love you guys.

BONNIE

Love you too Dad. Sleep well.

The four leave the room as Bill drifts off to sleep.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Brenda, Mike, Bonnie, and Dennis walk toward Bill's room and hear a lot of women talking and laughing.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The four enter Bill's room to see three attractive women in their fifties standing around Bill's bed.

BRENDA

Dad? What's going on here?

BILL

Hi gang. Ladies, these are my daughters and son-in-laws.

DIANE

Hello there. Your dad has talked about all of you.

BONNIE

I'm sorry, who are you?

DIANE

I'm Diane. I helped your father with his shopping at the supermarket one day. He had no idea where anything was.

BILL

These are friends I've had dinner with.

CAFE WOMAN

(laughing)

Dinner. Yes, dinner.

The women all laugh.

BRENDA

Nice meeting you all and thank you
for visiting our father but I
think, for his heart, he's going to
need his rest.

DIANE

She's right ladies. I think it's
time for us to leave.

The women gather their things and start to leave.

RESTAURANT WOMAN

You take care Bill. Feel better
soon.

BILL

Thank you all for coming. I
appreciate it. See you again.

MIKE

(to Dennis)

Bill's a fucking stud.

Dennis nods his head in bewilderment as the women leave the room.

BONNIE

Dad? What the hell?

BILL

What?

BRENDA

Well now we know why your heart was
racing. Jesus Dad.

BILL

Oh stop it. Those are very nice
women that helped me get through a
tough time. One of them is a golf
teacher.

MIKE

Did she help you with your stroke?

BRENDA

Really? You had to go there.

MIKE

He teed it up. Ha, another golf
reference.

BONNIE
Dad.

BILL
Girls. Stop your worrying. I'm not dead. I'm not dying. I'm living my life the way I should at my age. I could walk across the street and get hit and killed by a car. Would you rather have me sit in my house and never get out and be depressed?

BONNIE
No. We wouldn't want that but.

BILL
But what?

DENNIS
I think what they're trying to say is maybe you should slow down a bit. This heart thing may have been a wakeup call for you.

MIKE
Maybe stop dipping your candle at both ends.

BRENDA
It's burning your candle at both ends.

MIKE
I know.

BRENDA
You're impossible.

BONNIE
We're concerned for you Dad. If you're going through a tough time, you can always call us. We're here for you.

BILL
I know you are and I can't thank you enough. Maybe I'll just walk the course with the boys for exercise.

BRENDA
That's a great idea. See. There you go. Maybe they'll let you take George with you.

BILL

Maybe. That would be good.

BONNIE

Ok. Looks like you've had a full day already. We just wanted to check on you to make sure you were doing well.

MIKE

Turns out, you've been doing very well.

BRENDA

We're leaving now. I think your boys are stopping by tonight to see you.

BILL

Gotta get their round of golf in first. I respect that.

BONNIE

Enjoy your visit with your gang. Get your rest. We'll see you tomorrow.

BILL

Thanks for stopping by. Love you guys. Thanks for taking care of George for me.

BRENDA

Anytime. He's no trouble at all. See ya Dad.

The four leave Bill's room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Derek, Nate, and Arlo enter Bill's room.

NATE

Well you old hound dog.

DEREK

C'mon Nate. Don't be cruel.

ARLO

The man can't help falling in love.

NATE

Well it's now or never.

BILL

They told you about Elvis didn't they?

DEREK

No. What gave you that idea?

ARLO

We heard they walked in on you and your harem.

BILL

They did. Boy did I get the third degree. All that was missing was a hot lamp and thumb screws.

Derek notices a box of gloves, takes one out and puts it on his hand.

DEREK

Arlo, guess what day it is?

ARLO

(laughing)

Not again.

Nate walks around the room playing with devices. He puts on a stethoscope and puts it to his heart.

NATE

Just as I thought. I'm dead.

A nurse walks into the room with a bouquet of flowers and places them on a table. She gives the card to Bill who reads it.

NATE (CONT'D)

Who are the flowers from?

BILL

Not you fucking guys that's for sure.

ARLO

Well, we have penises, so.

Bill hands the card to Derek.

DEREK

They're from Eileen.

ARLO

Well, there you go.

NATE

Eileen doesn't have a penis?
Shocking. What's it say?

BILL

Read it out loud.

DEREK

(laughing)

This won't get you out of paying
your tab. Feel better. Eileen.

ARLO

She's a pisser alright. When are
you getting out of here?

BILL

The doctor wants to monitor me for
a couple days. He has me on meds to
control this racing heart.

NATE

And golf?

Arlo takes out a tongue depressor from a container and walks over to Derek.

ARLO

Derek, open your mouth and say
awww.

DEREK

No thanks. I've seen that movie
before.

BILL

No golf for a week or so but I can
walk the course with you and give
you lessons along the way.

ARLO

That'll be the day.

DEREK

That's Buddy Holly you idiot.

ARLO

Shit.

BILL

I just need to slow down a bit
that's all. But these women. All
they wanna do is have sex.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)
Where were they when I was in my
twenties and I could go all night?

NATE
Hiding.

BILL
I'm so happy you guys are here to
cheer me up.

ARLO
That's what friends are for.

DEREK
Dionne Warwick Arlo.

ARLO
Oh goddamnit.

NATE
Let's let this big teddy bear get
his rest.

DEREK
And we're back on track.

BILL
I appreciate you stopping by. I
feel so much worse now.

NATE
Don't get all shook up over this.

BILL
Ok. You can all fuck off now. Thank
you.

ARLO
Feel better Bill. See you in a
couple days.

BILL
Thanks guys. You're the best.

NATE
See ya buddy.

DEREK
Take care Bill. Hey anyone seen my
blue suede shoes?

BILL
Security.

The group leaves the room.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

A car pulls into the driveway and parks.

Dennis gets out of the car and runs around to help Bill get out of the car.

Dennis grabs a bag from the backseat and helps Bill into his house.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

George is barking, grabs a toy, and meets Bill inside the front door. His tail is whipping around with happiness.

BILL

Hello there George. I missed you boy. Come here you.

Bill hugs George.

BONNIE

He certainly missed you. He's been moping around since you've been gone.

BILL

Well I'm home now and we are gonna go on lots of walks. Yes we are. I can't thank you guys enough for everything you've done. Thanks for the ride home too.

DENNIS

No problem Dad. Glad we could be here for you. You get your rest and have fun with your buddy there.

BILL

I will thanks. I'll give it a day or two and then maybe I'll take him to the course for a long walk.

BONNIE

That'll be good for both of you. Take your time. Don't forget to take your medication. We picked you up some groceries, fruits and salads as well.

(MORE)

BONNIE (CONT'D)
You can start eating better, at
home, with George.

BILL
Yeah. Yeah. I will. Thank you for
that. You guys go. We'll be fine
here. Love you guys.

BONNIE
Love you too. Talk to you soon.

Bonnie and Dennis head out the door.

BILL
Well George. I guess it's just you
and me again.

Bill heads to the refrigerator and makes himself a salad.

BILL (CONT'D)
Great. Low fat Ranch Dressing.
They're trying to kill me George.

George barks.

Bill opens a bottle of red wine and pours a glass.

BILL (CONT'D)
(to George)
Fuck the studies. Red wine is good
for the heart.

Bill takes the salad and wine to the living room.

Bill sits back on the sofa with George laying beside him as
he flips through channels.

BILL (CONT'D)
Let's see what's on tonight.
Ugliest House in America. Let's see
if we're on there George.

Bill changes the channel to watch that show.

BILL (CONT'D)
Wow. You gotta wonder what outfit
she thought made her look stupid
before choosing that one hey
George.

George barks and they continue to watch the show.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Bill sits outside on his patio having a coffee with George.

Bill grabs his cell phone and calls Nate.

BILL

Hi Nate. Gotta favor I need to ask you for. The doctor told me I shouldn't lift anything large for a week and I need to go for a piss.

NATE

Fuck off.

BILL

(laughing)

I need help decorating my place for Christmas. I have a bunch of bins with stuff and I can't bring them up. Think you and the guys could help? I'll order pizzas. Shouldn't take but one night to get it all up.

NATE

Yeah no problem. We have no life. I'll check with them but, tomorrow night good for you?

BILL

I have less of a life so yeah. Tomorrow night would be great. Thanks buddy.

NATE

No problem. Meat pizza. None of that pineapple shit you like.

BILL

So much for something healthy. You got it. See you tomorrow.

Bill hangs up and looks at George.

BILL (CONT'D)

The boys are coming over tomorrow night George. This'll be your first Christmas after getting adopted.

George barks.

BILL (CONT'D)
And my first Christmas without
Betsy. So, yeah. Big changes.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Empty pizza boxes and beer bottles on the table.

Nate, Derek, and Bill are pulling Christmas decorations out of boxes while Bill directs them where to put things.

BILL
The reindeer go with the sleigh
Arlo and they go side by side not,
mounting each other.

ARLO
You take away all the fun.

Nate opens up a box and pulls out lingerie.

NATE
Is this for the angel?

BILL
Where the hell did that come from?

NATE
I don't know. It was in one of the
boxes. Is this what you do on
weekends?

BILL
That's not even my size or color.

DEREK
That's totally your color.

George barks.

DEREK (CONT'D)
Even George agrees.

The group starts putting the artificial tree together.

BILL
The big branches go on the bottom.

NATE
You sure about that?

BILL
(shaking his head)
Yes. Yes I'm sure about that.

NATE
It's your tree.

The group starts putting ornaments on the tree.

BILL
I always wanted to use as many as possible so feel free to use them all.

Arlo pulls up pasta ornaments.

ARLO
Macaroni Santas?

BILL
The girls made those when they were little kids. Ugly as they are, Betsy would never get rid of them.

DEREK
If we find a few more we could have dinner next time.

The rest of the decorations are put up around the house.

The tree is finished being decorated.

The boys have completed decorating and are leaving the house.

BILL
I can't thank you guys enough. The place looks great for a group that knows nothing about decorating.

NATE
Great supervision is the secret.

ARLO
Thanks for a fun night Bill.

DEREK
Get some sleep now.

BILL
Thanks guys.

The three friends laugh as they leave the house.

Bill walks around admiring the job the guys did and stops at the tree, noticing one ornament.

BILL (CONT'D)
Who the hell put an Elvis figure on the tree?

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - CHRISTMAS DAY

Brenda, Mike, Bonnie, and Dennis walk through the front door.

BRENDA
Hey Dad. We're here.

George barks and runs to greet them.

MIKE
Hey there George. Merry Christmas big guy.

The four stand in awe as the place is decorated to the hilt and Christmas music is playing.

BONNIE
Dad. The place looks amazing. I've never seen it look this good.

DENNIS
You're not supposed to be lifting all this this soon are you?

BILL
Merry Christmas. Settle down. I didn't do all this. I had a group of golfing elves help me. The boys came over to help put everything up.

BRENDA
They did an amazing job. I may need to hire them next year.

BILL
Cost me a bunch of wine and pizza but it was worth it.

BONNIE
Where did you get all this?

BILL
We always had this. They were in the basement but your mother wanted a softer look to the house.

FLASHBACK

BILL

Where are the rest of the Santas we have? And the window lights? And the table decorations?

BETSY

That's too much stuff to put out. You put all that out now and then in a month you have to take it all down again.

BILL

Yes, that's what Christmas decorations are for. You buy the decorations to put out the decorations. That's the most important part. Putting them out.

BETSY

I think we have enough out. The place looks nice.

BILL

The place looks like Black Friday shelves, after Black Friday.

BETSY

What do you know about decorating?

BILL

I know that if you have decorations you put them out and that's how you decorate.

RETURN TO PRESENT

BILL

I like this. This has a combination of her touch along with mine and that's what Christmas is all about, as well as family enjoying getting together and appreciating everything. Speaking of appreciating something, who wants a glass of wine? I opened a Caymus Cab and a Chateau Montelena Chard.

DENNIS

Oh I am all over the Caymus. Excellent choices Dad.

BILL

Help yourselves. Glasses are out.

BONNIE

The place smells amazing too. What are you cooking?

BILL

I'm doing a Virginia Ham in a brown sugar and ginger ale juice. I put some pineapple rings with cherries on it as well. Mashed potatoes with some lumps in honor of your mother and some other vegetables.

BRENDA

This is very different. Pineapples?

BILL

Well some losers, people, didn't want them on their pizza but they couldn't stop me from doing this. I've wanted to do this for a long time.

BONNIE

You are something else these days Dad. And I mean that in a good way.

BILL

Thanks honey. What's that Soap Opera your Mom watched all the time?

BRENDA

One Life to Live?

BILL

That's the one. That's all I have left too so, I'm gonna enjoy every moment I have.

Mike is in the kitchen.

MIKE

Holy shit you roasted chestnuts too. Best Christmas ever.

BRENDA

He doesn't get out much.

The group sits at the table with all the food on serving plates.

BILL

Normally I wouldn't do this but, I think this year is different.

Everyone bows their heads.

BILL (CONT'D)

We thank you for this gathering and the food we're about to share. I thank you for my family and the love we have for each other. We know there's an empty spot this year but we fill that with great memories. We have an angel looking over us and wondering, what the hell is that on the ham.

The group laughs.

BILL (CONT'D)

We miss you but we know you'll always be with us Betsy. Merry Christmas to us all. Amen.

GROUP

Amen. Merry Christmas.

Mike dives in to grab the ham.

BRENDA

Must you always be the first?

MIKE

Well, you snooze, you lose.

BILL

Go for it.

The meal goes on and the plates are empty.

BONNIE

I never, in a million years, would have thought pineapples would taste that good with ham.

BRENDA

Great idea Dad. That was a winner.

BILL

Thanks. Always good to try something new.

The group finishes dinner and moves to the living room where the tree and gifts are, with music playing and the fireplace burning.

George lays by the tree by a bag with his name on it.

BILL (CONT'D)
George, that's for later. Don't you touch your gift.

George moans.

BONNIE
Dad, we know you're at the age when you pretty much have everything you need and when you need something, you just go out and get it.

BILL
Guilty.

BRENDA
We thought we'd do something you probably wouldn't do for yourself.

BILL
You got me a Brazilian wax?

MIKE
I told you we should have got that for him.

BRENDA
Please, don't encourage him.

Bill opens his gifts.

BILL
Great. More golf balls to lose. You can never have enough of those. And more tees and a new glove. Always need those.

Derek reaches behind him and pulls out a long wrapped box.

DENNIS
This is something that should help even more.

Bill unwraps the gift and pulls a new driver out of the box.

BILL

Are you kidding me? This is the new
PXG Driver with an adjustable
hosel.

MIKE

Stiff shaft too.

BILL

(laughing)

I wish. I mean, perfect. Should
give me an extra ten yards on those
guys. This, this is an amazing
gift. Thank you.

BONNIE

There's one more thing.

BILL

This is more than enough.

BONNIE

Well, Dennis and Mike are going to
take you to play....TPC Sawgrass.

BILL

Get out. Are you serious?

MIKE

Yep. We may need more golf balls
for that island green but we're
going.

BILL

You guys golf? I didn't know that.

DENNIS

Not as often as you but yeah, we
golf.

BILL

I need to pay more attention to
these things.

MIKE

And, as an added bonus, we're
bringing your best friend Nate with
us when we go.

BILL

That's a bonus? Aw, that's great.
I'm sure he'll be thrilled. This is
something else.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)
Always wanted to play there. Thank
you. That'll be quite the
experience.

BONNIE
You're welcome Dad.

BILL
Well, not sure I can top that but
I'll try. This was an easy gift
because it wasn't my idea and I had
some help.

Bill reaches under the tree and pulls out two small wrapped
boxes and hands them to the girls.

Bonnie and Brenda start to unwrap the gifts.

BILL (CONT'D)
Your mother, God bless her soul,
knew she wouldn't be here for
Christmas. She wanted to get you
something special. A keepsake to
always remember her by.

The girls open the boxes to see a gold chain and locket.

They take them out.

BONNIE
Wow.

BRENDA
This is beautiful.

BILL
Open them up.

The girls open their lockets and start to cry.

Inside is an inscription and a picture of Betsy with each
girl as a baby.

BONNIE
With you always. Mom.

BRENDA
I can't believe she did this.

BILL
She did. She was always thinking of
you two. She loved you guys too
but.

DENNIS

We get it. Second fiddle and all.
No worries.

BILL

Hey I'm there with you. The girls
were her life.

Mike and Dennis open gifts of sweaters and wine.

BILL (CONT'D)

Ok George. You've waited long
enough. Good boy. Come here.

Bill grabs a bag from under the tree with tissue paper
hanging out of it.

George grabs the tissue paper and runs around with it hanging
out of his mouth. He starts to shred it, forgetting about his
actual gift.

BILL (CONT'D)

I should have just given him a bag
of tissue paper. George, come here.

George runs back to Bill as Bill pulls a stuffed animal out
of the bag just enough for George to grab it.

George reaches into the bag and pulls out his gift and shakes
it back and forth and runs around the room with it in his
mouth as everyone laughs.

BRENDA

I think he likes it.

The girls help Bill put away all the glasses and dishes from
the dishwasher while the guys clean up the mess of wrapping
paper.

BONNIE

What are you doing for New Year's
Eve Dad?

BRENDA

Yeah, any hot date that night?

BILL

No. The club does a nice dinner and
dance each year. I'm gonna head
over there for that. Maybe I'll
pick up someone there.

MIKE
(to Dennis)
Or something. Get the penicillin
ready.

BONNIE
You've never gone there before for
New Year's Eve have you?

BILL
No. Your mother always liked a
quiet New Year's Eve. She wasn't
into events with big crowds like
that. We'd stay home and order in
pizza or Chinese food. Play cards
or a board game. Watch a movie and
barely stay awake long enough to
see the ball drop. This year will
be different.

DENNIS
Good for you. Get out there with
your friends and have fun.

BRENDA
Sounds like a fun night.

BILL
You're more than welcome to join
me.

BONNIE
I think all those white belts in
one place would be blinding but
thank you.

MIKE
Do they set the clocks ahead a
couple hours to make you think you
made it to midnight?

BILL
(laughing)
That's not a bad idea.

The group put their coats on and start to head out.

BRENDA
Thanks for a great Christmas Dad.

BILL
Thank you all for that amazing
gift. Can't wait to play that
course.

BONNIE

We know it's been a tough time but,
you did great. We're proud of you.

BILL

Thanks Bon. I'm proud of all of you
too. Thanks for all your help.
Drive safely. Merry Christmas.

GROUP

Merry Christmas Dad.

BILL

Merry Christmas. Love you guys.

BRENDA

Love you too.

The group drives away with Bill waving to them from the front door.

BILL

Well George. It's been a long day,
for both of us. Time for bed?

George barks.

BILL (CONT'D)

C'mon boy. Let's go.

Bill and George walk up the stairs.

Bill stops and looks at the Christmas tree with the lights still on.

We see one wrapped gift left under the tree with a tag that reads, "To Betsy. Love Bill."

Bill continues walking up the stairs to bed.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Nate, Derek, and Arlo in their golf carts while Bill walks along with George on a leash.

NATE

Did Eileen say it was ok to bring
George on the course?

BILL

Eileen? She works in the kitchen.
She's not the Manager here.

DEREK

Wanna bet? The Manager shits
himself when he has to speak with
her.

ARLO

We should get moving before they
see us.

The three golfers tee off and Nate, last to hit, shanks his drive into the woods.

NATE

I'm gonna re-hit.

DEREK

Like fuck you are. Drop one up
there and let's get moving.

The golfers drive away in their carts while Bill walks with George.

On one hole, Arlo's approach shot lands in the bunker.

BILL

Beach.

ARLO

I can see that thanks.

George barks.

BILL

Don't laugh at him George.

Driving and walking up the ninth fairway, the discussion turns to New Year's Eve.

NATE

(to Bill)

You going to the New Year's Eve
Dinner here this week?

BILL

I am.

DEREK

What? What? You're actually coming
to one?

ARLO

I thought I felt Hell freezing
over.

BILL

Oh you're all so funny. Yes I'll be there. I hope I remember how to tie a tie.

As they approach the ninth green, they see Eileen standing outside the Clubhouse.

DEREK

Oh you're fucked now.

EILEEN

Did you take that dog for a walk on the course?

DEREK

(whispering)

Told you.

BILL

Yes I did for nine holes.

ARLO

(whispering)

Here it comes.

EILEEN

Good for you. That's good exercise.

NATE

What the?

BILL

Thanks. That's what I thought too.

NATE

Never expected that.

EILEEN

If I see any dog shit on the course, it's going in your next burger.

Eileen goes back into the Clubhouse.

NATE

And there it is.

DEREK

Oh she fancies you.

BILL

Yeah like a praying mantis does her mate.

The three golfers finish up on the ninth green and head toward the Clubhouse.

BILL (CONT'D)
George and I are gonna head home,
before he goes for a shit around
here. Enjoy your lunch boys.

NATE
See ya Bill. Get your rest.

DEREK
Bye George.

George barks.

BILL
See you in a few nights.

The golfers walk into the Clubhouse while Bill and George walk home.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bill stands in front of a mirror wearing a suit and fixes his tie.

BILL
Not bad. Not bad at all.

Bill turns to George.

BILL (CONT'D)
What do you think?

George barks and wags his tail.

BILL (CONT'D)
Thanks. I think so too. Not bad for
an old guy.

Bill grabs his phone, wallet, and keys.

BILL (CONT'D)
I won't be too late boy. I left the
tv on for you to watch the ball
drop.

George jumps up on the couch and watches the tv as Bill heads out the door.

INT. GOLF CLUBHOUSE - NIGHT

The Clubhouse is transformed into Times Square with Broadway Show signs and restaurant signs on the wall and a big silver ball hanging from the ceiling to drop at midnight.

Tables of famous NYC food everywhere including pizza, pastrami and corned beef sandwiches, Manhattan Clam Chowder, Nathan's hot dogs, black and white cookies, NY Cheesecake and drinks including Manhattans, Cosmopolitans, Martinis, and New York Sours.

The room is filled with Club Members and family dressed for a party wearing glitzy outfits, hats, and glasses.

A DJ plays music while people dance around and others sit at tables eating.

Bill enters the room, looks around, spots his buddies and walks toward them. Along the way, others stop him to say hello and wish him "Happy New Year".

NATE

There's our boy. He cleans up well.

BILL

Evening boys. Happy New Year.

ARLO

Happy New Year Bill. No date tonight?

BILL

Not tonight. Taking it easy these days. Wow they did a nice job in here.

DEREK

They do every year. Welcome to the party.

BILL

I see Kelly is behind the bar tonight.

NATE

Yep. Quite the outfit on her.

Kelly wears a sheer white top with a black bra showing through and a short black leather skirt.

BILL

Think I need a drink.

Bill walks to the bar.

KELLY

Bill. Happy New Year.

BILL

Hi Kelly. Happy New Year. You look amazing.

KELLY

Thank you. As do you. How are you doing?

BILL

I'm doing just fine. Thank you. Feeling great.

KELLY

Good for you. What can I get you? A New York Special or something else?

BILL

Just a glass of the Cabernet thank you.

KELLY

Coming right up.

Kelly pours a glass of red wine and hands it to Bill.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Here you go sir. Enjoy.

BILL

Thanks Kelly.

Bill puts five dollars into the Tip Jar and walks back to his friends.

BILL (CONT'D)

Yep. That is quite the outfit. Perfect for New Year's Eve that's for sure.

ARLO

She's a looker alright.

BILL

Yeah. I guess you can say that.

DEREK

How are you doing Bill? New year without Betsy.

BILL

You sound like my girls. I'm doing fine. Really. Better than you'd think. I'm enjoying life.

NATE

You know we're here for you if you need us.

BILL

I know and I appreciate it but trust me. I'm good. C'mon. It's a party. No depressing talk tonight.

DEREK

Anyone gonna hit on Kelly tonight?

ARLO

Yeah. Like she'd bang some old guys like us.

Bill chokes a bit on his drink.

NATE

You ok there Bill?

BILL

I'm good. I'm good. Think I'll grab a bite to eat.

NATE

That's a great idea.

The group walks over to the food table.

ARLO

This is truly a New York party. Look at this spread.

The group grabs plates of food and find a table to sit at.

The party continues and it gets closer to midnight.

The group stand at the back of the dance floor with their drinks.

The Golf Manager, Tom (45), dressed in a New Year's Eve shiny outfit, takes to the stage as the music lowers to a stop.

TOM

Good evening everyone. Thanks for coming out to another great New Year's Eve celebration.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

It's been a great year here at the club and we're so happy to have you all here. We're almost there. Grab your drinks and let's start the countdown.

Eileen walks out from the kitchen and stands beside Bill as the countdown starts. Bill turns and looks at her and smiles.

The room starts the countdown and someone on stage starts to lower the silver ball.

CROWD

Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one. Happy New Year.

Confetti flies around the room as people hug and kiss.

Bill high fives his friends and puts his arm around Eileen and pulls her in and kisses her on the head while everyone sings Auld Lang Syne and sways to the music.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

Bill lays in bed with his face close to the edge.

George walks up to Bill and starts licking his face while making crying noises.

BILL

Good morning George. You gotta go outside?

George barks.

BILL (CONT'D)

Ok. Guess it's time to get up.
Please don't piss on the floor.

Bill gets out of bed and throws on a robe and they go downstairs.

Bill opens the backdoor and George runs out.

Bill flips the switch on the coffeemaker and starts to get George's breakfast together. He looks over and sees George at the backdoor.

Bill lets George in and fills his water bowl and put his breakfast down for George to eat.

Bill takes out a pan and places it on the stove and turns it on. Bill takes out orange juice and two eggs from the fridge.

Bill puts two pieces of bread in the toaster and pushes them down.

Bill pours himself a glass of orange juice and then cracks the two eggs in a bowl and whisks them.

Bill puts some butter in the heated pan and then pours the eggs into the pan, moving the eggs around with a spatula and sprinkling salt and pepper onto them.

Bill grabs his coffee mug and pours himself a cup of coffee.

The toaster pops up his toast and Bill butters it and puts them on a plate.

Bill slides the scrambled eggs onto the plate with the toast.

Bill takes his coffee and plate and sits at the kitchen table while George finishes his breakfast.

Bill opens his newspaper and reads it while eating breakfast. George lays on the floor beside him.

Bill stops reading, looks up at the empty chair across from him, exhales and goes back to his paper and breakfast.

Not a word spoken.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bill calls his daughter.

BILL
Hey honey. It's Dad.

BONNIE
(laughing)
I know it's you Dad. I have call display.

BILL
Well then why do some of my calls go to your answering machine?

BONNIE
Because I have call display.

BILL
Ouch. That hurts.

BONNIE

(laughing)

What can I do for you Dad?

BILL

I'm giving you and your sister advanced notice because, well, you all have lives.

BONNIE

I appreciate that. What's going on?

BILL

I'd like to take you all out for dinner in a couple weeks.

BONNIE

I was wondering if you were gonna do anything.

BILL

I would never forget that.

BONNIE

We will definitely be available for you. Thanks Dad. I'll tell Brenda and Mike.

BILL

If they can't make it, tell them they're out of the Will.

BONNIE

Oh. That would leave just me. They might be busy that night. No worries. We'll be there.

BILL

Thanks Hun. Six o'clock. The usual place.

BONNIE

Yep. We know. Love you Dad.

BILL

Love you too Bon.

Bill ends the call, pauses for a moment, grabs a ball and walks out to the backyard with George.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Bill, his daughters and son-in-laws at a steakhouse, are seated in a booth.

BILL

Thanks for coming out tonight. Your mother hated celebrating her birthday. She didn't think people would come out. She never gave herself enough credit for being a good friend to others. People did love her. I can't name anyone right now but I'm sure there were some.

BRENDA

Stop it. You loved her.

BILL

Love's a strong word hun but it's close.

BONNIE

You are such an ass.

BILL

She was a wonderful woman. A great wife and mother. And she was loved by many even if she thought she wasn't.

A Server (30s) dressed professionally, approaches the table.

SERVER

Good evening everyone. Welcome back. Are we celebrating anything tonight?

BILL

My wife's birthday.

SERVER

Lovely. Is she in the Ladies Room?

BILL

She's dead.

BONNIE

Dad.

BILL

Well, she is.

SERVER

I'm so sorry to hear that.

BILL

Why? Did you have anything to do with it? Are you the guilty one?

SERVER

Excuse me?

BILL

I'm just kidding. She passed away last year.

SERVER

My condolences.

BILL

Thank you.

SERVER

Well, can I start you off with a drink of some sort?

BILL

We love our red wine so can we start with a Cakebread Cellars Cab?

SERVER

Absolutely. Excellent choice. I'll decant that for you.

BONNIE

Can I get a glass of water please?

SERVER

Of course. I'll bring that with the wine. Five glasses?

BILL

That'll be great.

BONNIE

Four glasses.

SERVER

Four glasses it is.

The Server walks away.

BRENDA

(looking at Bonnie)

No.

BILL

No what?

BRENDA

Don't tell me?

BILL

Tell you what?

BRENDA

Are you pregnant?

BILL

Are you pregnant?

BONNIE

Yes. We wanted to wait to know for sure but, yes. We're going to have a baby.

MIKE

That's amazing. Congratulations.

BRENDA

Oh my God. We're so happy for you. I'm gonna be an Aunt.

MIKE

I'm gonna be an Uncle.

BILL

I'm gonna be an old Grandpa. I'm so happy for you guys.

DENNIS

We're pretty excited about it. It'll be a big change.

BILL

It's life changing but it was the best two days of my life, the days you girls were born.

BONNIE

I know we did things a bit different than you and Mom, having a baby later in life.

BILL

It doesn't matter. As long as everyone is healthy, that's what counts.

DENNIS

So far so good. A bit of morning
sickness but it wasn't too bad.

BRENDA

For who?

BONNIE

Exactly. It's a horrible feeling
but I'm glad it wasn't too bad for
you darling.

MIKE

Forget it. You'll never win.

BILL

Wise words. Remember them Dennis.

The Server returns with a bottle of wine, a decanter, wine
glasses, and a glass of water and proceeds to open the bottle
and pour a bit for sampling for Bill.

BILL (CONT'D)

Perfect as always. Thank you.

SERVER

You're welcome sir. I'll go ahead
and decant it for you and then I'll
bring some bread while you look
over the menu.

BILL

That'll be fine.

After decanting the wine and pouring some out into each wine
glass, the Server leaves.

Bill raises his glass.

BILL (CONT'D)

I'd like to make a toast. On this
day we celebrate your mother's
birthday and, a great surprise, we
celebrate Bonnie and Dennis
expanding our family. We lose one
and we gain one.

DENNIS

God I hope it's only one.

BILL

It truly is the circle of life.

MIKE

That's Elton John, not Elvis.

BILL

Are we doing this again?

MIKE

Sorry.

BILL

Happy Birthday Betsy. You are missed by us all. You are loved by us all and you will never be forgotten. Cheers.

GROUP

Cheers.

BILL

And, as I've said many times, life goes on. Focus forward, not in reverse and that's what we're going to do with this new addition to the family later this year. We'll tell them all about Grandma and that they have an angel watching over them as they grow up. They will be loved by all of us here, as well as from above. I hope it's above.

BRENDA

Dad.

BILL

I'm sure it's above. From our angel on high to our angel to come, we are blessed. Cheers.

GROUP

Cheers.

BILL

Now, where's that bread and our Server. I'm starving here.

The Server appears with bread and butter and places them on the table.

SERVER

I'll give you a few moments to look over the menu. Today's specials are included as well.

BRENDA

Thank you.

DENNIS

What was Mom's go-to item here?

BONNIE/BRENDA

Chicken Parm.

BILL

Always, Chicken Parm. You wanna try something different tonight? No, I like the Chicken Parm.

BRENDA

What about a nice steak and baked potato? No, I like the Chicken Parm.

BILL

When you're married as long as we were, I guess you just like the same thing over and over again. It was comfort food for her. Drove me crazy.

BONNIE

Short drive most days.

BILL

True. I wish she hadn't been so vanilla. I tried but, she was comfortable in her own skin.

The Server returns to the table.

SERVER

Any questions or are you ready to order?

BILL

I think we're ready to order.

SERVER

Excellent. Ma'am (to Bonnie) what would you like?

BONNIE

In honor of our mother's birthday, I'll have the Chicken Parm.

SERVER

And for you ma'am (to Brenda)?

BRENDA

The same. Chicken Parm please.

SERVER

No problem. Just out of curiosity,
will any of the three gentlemen
have a different order?

BILL/DENNIS/MIKE

No.

SERVER

Alright then. You're making my job
easy. Five chicken parm dinners.
I'll bring out the salad to start.
Thank you.

BONNIE

(laughing)

We are pathetic.

MIKE

So Dad. Did you want to try for a
third kid and hope for a boy but
Mom shut you down?

BILL

Nope. We had two perfect girls. Why
temp fate with trying for a boy.
With my luck, he'd be a little
asshole like his dad. We were good
with these two. What about you Bon?
Just one or maybe another after
that?

BONNIE

Please. Let me just get through
this pregnancy before we think
about another.

BILL

Brenda?

BRENDA

Still thinking about it Dad. We'll
let you know if it happens.

BILL

I just wish your mother was here
for this.

BONNIE

We probably wouldn't be here if she was still here. We'd be back at your place.

BILL

True.

The Server brings a large bowl of Caesar Salad and begins to serve it out.

MIKE

Oh smell that. The garlic. Wow. That's birth control right there. No way she wants me close to her tonight.

BRENDA

You got that right.

Dinner continues and everyone is served their chicken parm and the dishes are wiped clean of sauce with the bread.

BILL

That was outstanding.

BONNIE

I'm almost stuffed.

BRENDA

Almost?

BONNIE

Hey. I'm eating for two. Leave me alone.

DENNIS

I don't think it takes much for the kid to be stuffed right now.

BONNIE

Really?

Restaurant Staff clear the table and bring out coffee to four of the five.

A large piece of ice cream cake is brought to the table with a lit candle in it and five spoons.

With tears in his eyes, Bill leans in to blow out the candle.

BILL

Happy Birthday Betsy.

The five quietly devour the ice cream cake.

DENNIS
Thanks for this Dad.

BILL
You're welcome. I wouldn't have
done this alone that's for sure.
Thanks for coming out.

MIKE
We should do this every year.

BILL
You mean so I can pay?

MIKE
Exactly.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Bill, Arlo, Nate, and Derek are on the golf course.

NATE
Wow. It's been a year already. That
time has flown by.

BILL
It hasn't been that bad.

DEREK
You're putting on a brave face.

ARLO
I think he's been enjoying life the
way Betsy would have wanted him to.

NATE
The man almost died from all the
sex he was having. You think that's
what she wanted for him? That would
be amazing if it was true.

BILL
I didn't almost die. It was just a
racing heart.

DEREK
Right. A racing heart. From all the
sex you were having.

BILL

Well I didn't say he was wrong
about that.

ARLO

What are you doing for your
anniversary coming up?

BILL

Betsy loved her rose garden in the
backyard. She would putter around
out there all the time. I think
that's where she would like to be.

NATE

You're gonna bury the urn back
there?

BILL

No. I think we'll spread her ashes
in the garden. If the girls want to
take some for their gardens, we can
do that too.

ARLO

That's a beautiful thing to do.

BILL

Yeah. I don't want the urn and
ashes sitting around the house.
That wouldn't be good for any dates
coming over. Oh what's that? Oh
that? That's my cremated wife.
Don't get creeped out. It's ok.

NATE

And there it is. You are something
else man.

BILL

It's just too weird for me to keep
it center stage. It's not how you
get on with your life. I've held
them for a year. It's time.

DEREK

I get it.

BILL

Hey, if I do a barbecue that day,
you guys wanna come over for it?

NATE

A barbecue, for your cremated wife?

ARLO

How ironic Alanis Morissette. Yes,
I fucking got that one right.

BILL

Guess I wasn't thinking about that.
Ok. Just the family.

Derek sticks his approach shot to within a few feet of the hole.

DEREK

I should get you guys to talk in my
backswing all the time.

The group gets in their carts and drives away.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Bill, his girls, and son-in-laws are at the house.

Bonnie is starting to show a bump in her stomach.

George is wandering around looking for ear rubs.

Brenda notices two laundry baskets by the stairs, darks in one, whites in another.

BRENDA

Dad, I'm proud of you. Look at
those neatly folded clothes. And
separated by color too.

BILL

I was becoming an expert with the
iron because I was jamming clothes
into drawers. YouTube's a Godsend.
Who knew?

He shows her the icon on his phone.

BONNIE

(smiling)

Impressive.

BILL

So. Today would have been our forty-
sixth anniversary. I swear most
couples these days don't last ten
years. Forty-five is an eternity.

Bill opens the fridge and pulls out sliced meat and starts to arrange it on a board on the island.

BILL (CONT'D)

We had a lot of good years. Had a lot of good times. Left nothing on the table when it came to our marriage. If I would have gone before her, there is nothing I would want more than for her to be happy. To get out and enjoy life. Maybe she wouldn't have dated anyone. She probably would have just traveled with you girls.

Bill opens the fridge and takes out a brick of cheese and begins cutting it into cubes.

BONNIE

I think we would have had to convince her to do that. She was a real homebody when she was done work. She had a few friends she was close with but her whole world revolved around you and us. I wish she was here to know about the baby.

Bill opens a cupboard and takes out boxes of crackers and bags of chips and pours them into separate bowls on the island.

BRENDA

I don't think you would have ever held your own child if she was still here. She was a mother. She knew what to do at all times when it came to us. I guess that's what a mother is for. They take care of everyone. She used to say, a mother can raise two kids but two kids can't raise a mother.

BONNIE

Boy was she right. More like three kids with Dad in the mix.

Bill walks over to the desk containing the note Betsy left him and takes it from the drawer and returns to the kitchen.

BILL

I'm right here you know.

BONNIE

She was definitely the glue that held it all together.

BILL

Before she passed, she told me her wish was to be with us and watch her grow. She was talking about her garden.

BRENDA

She loved her flower garden.

BILL

And that's where she's gonna go. I saved some of your Mom's ashes for each of you. I thought maybe you'd want to have her in your gardens as well.

BONNIE

That's beautiful. Thank you Dad.

BILL

I think it's time we put her where she wants to be.

Bill takes the urn and they all walk out back to the flower garden.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE - BACKYARD GARDEN - DAY

The group gathers in front of the flower garden. Bill places the urn on the ground.

BRENDA

You've done a nice job Dad keeping everything alive.

BILL

Let's see how long this lasts. I'm not the one with the green thumb. I may have to hire someone to keep this in good shape.

BONNIE

You do whatever it takes.

BILL

Your mom's the one who knew what to do out here. She wasn't just a plant them and forget them. She was a gardener. She loved being out here. This was her happy place. It's only fitting that she stays in her happy place, a garden.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

I hope you girls will do the same
with your gardens and her ashes.
That'll keep her close to you
always. When the flowers bloom, you
can tell people, that's my
beautiful mom right there.

Bill reaches into his pocket and removes the note from Betsy.

BONNIE

What's that?

BILL

I held off sharing this with you
until this day. This was a note
your mother left for me before she
passed away. I thought it would be
fitting for you to read it today.

Bill hands the note to the girls and the guys stand behind
them as they read it.

As the girls read the note, Bill begins sprinkling Betsy's
ashes across the flower bed.

As he does, he smiles as he sees her smile as the ashes fall.

BETSY (V.O.)

Dear Bill. If you're reading this
that means I am in a place where we
are no longer together. Know that I
am free of any pain and surrounded
by the love of those that went
before me. I want you to know that
you were the greatest gift I ever
had in my life. We left nothing
unfinished.

Bill crouches down and moves some petals away with his hand.

BETSY (V.O.)

I want you to promise me you will
keep moving forward, as hard as
that may be. Don't ever stop living
your life. Keep laughing, keep
smiling, keep loving. Finding
someone new will never take away
what we had. That will always be
carved into your heart.

Bill opens the urn and begins to pour out the ashes.

BETSY (V.O.)

Please let the girls know that being their mother was the proudest moment of my life. Watching them grow into strong, beautiful women is a dream I was able to live. Watch over each other. Be strong for each other and know that the love we have for each other will never go away.

As Bill finishes pouring out the ashes, he begins to tear up.

BETSY (V.O.)

I love you all. Forever and for always. Please lay me in your flower gardens and remember me with each bloom. Love Betsy.

BILL

Well Betsy. Welcome to your new home. The place you loved. You'll always be close to us here.

BONNIE

Thank you Mom.

BRENDA

Good job Dad. You were right. This is right where she wanted to be and she wanted us all to keep living and moving forward.

Bill hands the urn to the girls.

BILL

Thanks girls.

The group walks back into the house.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Bill has champagne glasses set out in the kitchen and pulls out a bottle from the fridge and begins to open it.

He pulls out a can of Ginger Ale for Bonnie and begins pouring Champagne for everyone else.

BILL

Here's to Betsy. May she live on
forever in the roots she's planted
in this house and those she'll
continue to nourish in her garden.
To Betsy.

They clink glasses.

GROUP

To Mom. Cheers.

The girls wipe the tears from their eyes and finish their drinks.

BILL

I ordered pizzas for lunch. I was
going to barbecue but, well, Nate
thought something else would be
better.

MIKE

Oh I get that. That's actually
pretty funny.

BRENDA

What's the joke?

MIKE

I'll explain it later.

Bill walks into the kitchen with pizza boxes.

BILL

Let's eat.

Plates are passed around, pizza boxes are opened, and everyone is reaching for a slice and getting into each other's way, fighting for a slice.

Bill stands back, watching the interaction, and smiles. He looks up, to Betsy, and mouths 'Thank you'.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

The four golfers are working their way up the eighteenth fairway.

DEREK

Arlo, this is the day you break
ninety. I can feel it.

ARLO
Well there it goes.

NATE
There goes what?

ARLO
He just fucking jinxed me.

BILL
Arlo, get it together. Stick it up
close, one putt, and you're there.
You got this buddy.

Arlo lines up a hundred yard pitching wedge. He takes his swing and it lands in the first cut off the green.

ARLO
What did I tell you. Jinxed.

DEREK
Shit. I'm sorry man but you can
still shoot ninety.

BILL
Pitch it close and drop the putt
and bingo, ninety.

NATE
Left to right break to the hole
buddy.

Everyone marks their balls on the green and stand back.

Arlo stands behind his ball and lines up his shot while Bill tends to the flag.

Arlo takes a breath and picks the ball clean and watches as it rolls toward the hole.

Bill pulls the flagstick out and watches as the ball drops into the hole.

ARLO
Holy shit. Holy shit.

NATE
Are you kidding me?

DEREK
That was the shot of your life.

BILL
Arlo. Eighty-nine. You did it.

ARLO
(raising his arms)
I fucking did it. Oh my God. I feel
like Tiger at TPC.

BILL
Better than most Arlo.
Congratulations.

ARLO
I might have to retire from golf
now.

The group surrounds Arlo and gives him high fives.

ARLO (CONT'D)
First round's on me.

NATE
Screw you. First and second. Let's
get outta here. Mark me down for a
one putt.

BILL
Yeah me too.

DEREK
You guys are insane. It should be
three putts but I'll give you two.

The group walk toward the Clubhouse.

INT. CLUBHOUSE RESTAURANT - DAY

The group settle into a table.

Kelly is behind the bar and smiles at Bill.

Eileen walks out to them from the kitchen.

EILEEN
What was all screaming and high
fiving out there? Derek finally get
a date with a human?

BILL
Arlo broke ninety for the first
time.

DEREK
Hey, I date.

EILEEN

Taking Bill's dog for a Puppuccino
is not a date.

BILL

She has a point there.

DEREK

Screw you Eileen.

EILEEN

Someone should. I'll try not burn
the shit out of your burger today.
Good job Arlo.

Eileen walks back to the kitchen.

NATE

She's a pisser alright.

DEREK

I'm not ordering a burger.

Arlo brings back the first round of beers.

Nate takes his pen and adds up the scorecard.

NATE

There it is Arlo. Eighty-nine. I'll
even sign it for you.

Nate signs the scorecard and passes it back to Arlo.

ARLO

This one's going in a frame. Thanks
boys.

BILL

Well earned Arlo.

Bill takes the pen and jots down a note on a napkin.

Lunch is delivered to the table.

DEREK

Chicken fingers and fries over
here.

The group eat their lunch and finish their first round.

Bill stands up from the table to go to the bar to get round
two of drinks.

BILL

I got this one Arlo. You deserve it.

Bill approaches Kelly at the bar who smiles at him.

Bill passes the note he scribbled at the table to Kelly, without others seeing him do it, and places a second round order.

Kelly, still smiling at Bill, slowly puts the note in her pocket and gathers the next round of drinks.

Bill takes the beer back to the table and the group finish lunch.

Bill looks over to the bar and Kelly smiles, nods, and winks at him.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bill is on the phone with his daughter.

BILL

Hey honey. How are you doing? How's our preppy prego?

BONNIE

Hardly preppy at this age Dad but definitely pregnant. I'm good thanks. The morning sickness seems to have subsided.

BILL

That's good news.

BONNIE

It is. I wanted to let you know that both Brenda and I sprinkled Mom into our flower gardens.

Bill nods his head and smiles and pauses for a second.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Did you hear me? I said me put Mom into our gardens.

BILL

I heard you honey. I'm very happy right now. It's a bit of closure for us all.

BONNIE

That's what I said to Dennis. She is completely in her happy place right now.

BILL

Yes she is. Thanks for letting me know. I appreciate it.

BONNIE

Thank you for allowing us to do that. What are you up to tonight?

BILL

Think I'll head back to the clubhouse for a drink. See who's there. Grab a bite to eat.

BONNIE

Good for you. Get out and enjoy yourself.

BILL

I'm gonna try. You have a good night and thanks for calling.

BONNIE

Oh yeah. Sit around here and rub my belly like I'm Buddha. Love you Dad.

BILL

(laughing)

Love you too Bon. See ya.

Bill hangs up the phone and goes upstairs, George follows.

We see Bill shaving and then we hear the shower water running.

Bill puts on a dress shirt and dress pants.

BILL (CONT'D)

What do you think George?

George barks.

BILL (CONT'D)

Thanks. Yeah not bad. I shouldn't be too late. I'll leave the tv on for you. I know you like that Animal Planet channel.

George barks twice and wags his tail.

Bill gets George up on the couch in front of the tv and gives him a bone and turns on Animal Planet.

George barks at the dog on the screen.

BILL (CONT'D)
He looks suspicious. Watch he
doesn't take your bone. I'll be
back later. Guard the house.

George barks.

Bill heads out to the golf course.

INT. CLUBHOUSE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Bill walks into the Clubhouse Bar area and sees Kelly working behind the bar.

KELLY
Well hello there handsome.

BILL
Hi Kelly. How are you doing
tonight?

KELLY
I'm good. Better now that a
friendly face is here.

BILL
Been busy?

KELLY
Nah. Just a few folks tonight. Arlo
was here earlier but left.

BILL
Probably still celebrating his 89
the other day.

KELLY
Hmmm. As opposed to your sixty-nine
last year?

BILL
(embarrassed)
Yes. As opposed to that.

KELLY
Well, that's just between us. No
worries.

BILL

Thank you.

KELLY

What can I get you?

BILL

The nighttime usual.

KELLY

Glass of Cabernet?

BILL

Please. Anything good just opened?

KELLY

As a matter of fact, that couple
ordered a glass of the Stag's Leap
Artemis.

BILL

Excellent choice. I'll take a glass
of that.

Kelly pours out a glass of wine and slides it over to Bill.

EILEEN (O.S.)

I'll take a glass of the Provence
Rose please.

Eileen walks toward the bar dressed like she's going out on a date with her hair and makeup all done.

BILL

Wow. Eileen. You look amazing.

EILEEN

Sometimes the old girl cleans up
nicely.

BILL

Yes you do.

EILEEN

How'd you do today and by that I
mean, how many balls did you lose?

BILL

Oh you're so funny. I'll have you
know my game is getting better each
week.

EILEEN
So you're down to only losing,
what, eight?

BILL
Nine today.

Eileen and Kelly laugh.

BILL (CONT'D)
Only seven the other day so,
average of eight but getting
better.

EILEEN
Sounds like it.

Bill and Eileen continue sipping their wine and chatting with Kelly.

The other couple in the restaurant finish up, pay their bill, and leave.

Bill and Eileen finish their wine.

BILL
Eight o'clock reservations. You ready to go?

EILEEN
Absolutely.

Eileen grabs her purse.

Bill helps her put a sweater on and they start to walk out.

BILL
Have a good night Kelly. Thanks for the wine.

KELLY
Anytime. Have a good night. Don't do anything I wouldn't do.

Bill laughs as they head to the door.

Eileen leans into Bill's ear.

EILEEN
So, I hear you like your ass rimmed.

Bill drops his head, shaking it, and keeps walking out with Eileen.

FADE OUT

DISPLAYED ON SCREEN

TO BE CONTINUED.....