

RHÔNE RIVER COWPOKES

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. COLORADO CATTLE RANCH HOUSE - NIGHT

COLT CARLSON (28), a tall, handsome cowboy, enters the front door with muddy cowboy boots, filthy clothes, and a shit-eating grin. He wears a big silver belt buckle.

The western ranch house includes a photo of Colt riding a bull on the fireplace mantle and photos of Kate teaching 4-H classes.

KATE CARLSON (28) is a pretty woman who looks a few years older than she is from exhaustive work. She turns from a spreadsheet on an old desktop computer, shocked to see her husband toss his cowboy hat towards a coat rack only to miss it by several feet.

KATE

Looks like y'all were assaulted,
kidnapped, and forced to drink two
pitchers of beer at Jake's Saloon
again.

COLT

(smiles, tipsy)
That's where y'all are wrong,
sweetie pie. It was buy two
pitchers and get one free later on
at Jake's, so we got one coming to
us...

Kate interrupts him but helps him off with his boots.

KATE

I don't drink beer, remember, for
the past ten years?

COLT

I don't recall...

Colt struggles to stand up and walk

KATE

Jake knows you're going to forget
about collecting your free pitcher
of beer too, but come here to the
couch. I have a surprise for us.

Colt barely makes it to the couch. He's almost asleep as Kate reads an email from Magazine Publishers Sweepstakes. She can barely restrain herself.

KATE (CONT'D)

We won! We won! Second prize of the Magazine Publishers Sweepstakes. A first-class all-expenses paid trip to Paris France and an 8-day river cruise down the Rhone River starting in Lyon.

COLT

Lion?

KATE

No Lyon.

COLT

I mean, are y'all lying? We can't go! Who would watch the ranch and all them cattle?

Kate pops up and paces angrily.

KATE

Y'all watched your worthless older brother's ranch next door whenever he took two-week vacations to the Bowling Museum in Reno, Rustic Acres RV resort in Pennsylvania, and clear out to Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee! He sure as Hell can watch our ranch when we take a 10-day vacation to France.

She looks up as if in a dream.

KATE (CONT'D)

I've entered every sweepstakes on Earth since we got hitched. Never did give me a honeymoon, and no, bass fishing in the Ozarks don't count.

Kate looks out the window as if in a trance.

KATE (CONT'D)

Since I was a youngin', I always dreamed of going on a deluxe cruise and meeting the man of my dreams.

Colt snores.

Kate turns to see Colt asleep and smiling.

KATE (CONT'D)
And we're gonna go on my honeymoon
if it kills ya!

EXT. DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Colt and Kate each have a small backpack and old roller carry-on suitcases.

Colt holds up a guidebook of France and sounds like an overconfident expert.

COLT
Kate, you did a great job booking a
non-stop flight from Denver to Gay
Pair-ee.

KATE
I don't think they call it...

She notices his puffy jeans below his big belt buckle.

COLT
We'll fly all night and land just
before noon tomorrow.

KATE
What do y'all have on?

COLT
(smugly)
That Depends. My guidebook says
it's over a nine-hour overnight
flight, and I don't want to wake up
every hour to pee so I got me some
over-the-counter sleeping pills.

He pats his butt. Kate is angry.

KATE
Y'all are wearing a diaper?

COLT
Like I said, that Depends! I'll be
totally rested when we land in Gay
Pair-ree!

Kate shakes her head in disgust.

INT. AIRPORT IN FRANCE - NOON

Kate waits at the end of the jet bridge as Colt waddles slowly and painfully toward her. His backpack looks too heavy for him and he drags his old wheeled carry-on bag like a dead body. He's bowlegged, groggy, and embarrassed.

A female Airline Gate ATTENDANT (30s) looks on in horror and whispers to Kate in a French accent.

ATTENDANT

I hope you got some sleep on that long flight.

KATE

I didn't sleep a wink. He slept the entire flight!

ATTENDANT

He looks awful. Does he require a wheelchair?

Kate smiles at the Attendant and laughs.

KATE

That Depends!

Colt trudges on.

INT. PARIS HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Colt sings in the shower as Kate sleeps sideways on the bed.

COLT (O.C.)

What say we stroll around town and grab a beer, some French bread and a burger and French Fries?

SILENCE

COLT (O.C.) (CONT'D)

I'm really getting in the mood for this honeymoon thang, Sweetie Pie.

Colt steps out into the room with a small towel around him. He sees Kate is fast asleep.

COLT (CONT'D)

You can rest. I have an errand to run.

EXT. CARTIER'S JEWELERS - LATE AFTERNOON

Colt wears his best Western clothes, hat, and boots, but this time with his leather jacket. His nose is in the guidebook and walks right past the jewelry store.

He walks past the store in the other direction, as an Elderly Parisian (70s-80s) watches Colt. He (or she) can see Colt is holding a guidebook.

The third time Colt walks in front of the building with his nose in the guidebook, the Elderly Parisian stands in front of him.

Colt points to the guidebook that says "Cartiers."

The Elderly Parisian looks at Colt sadly and points to the store a few feet away.

Colt tips his hat and steps into the store.

INT. CARTIER'S JEWELERS - CONTINUOUS

Colt enters like a bull in a china shop and leaps to the first JEWELER (60s) he sees.

COLT

I need a wedding ring for my wife
of almost 10 years, 'cause she
never got one of her own, except
for the one her mama gave her the
day we got married, but it was from
the drugstore in town.

The Jeweler studies Colt and whispers.

JEWELER

Our wedding bands start at \$2600.

Colt chuckles as he reaches into the pocket of his leather jacket.

The Jeweler takes a step back with a worried look.

Colt pulls out a wad of low-denomination bills held together by a rubber band and plops it down on the glass countertop.

COLT

I hope they end somewhere closer to
\$735 'cause that's all I got!

The Jeweler looks back at his Manager who smiles and gives the Jeweler a slight wink and nod meaning "okay."

COLT (CONT'D)
She'll just die when she sees
y'all's ring from Cart-ee-er!

The Jeweler's eyes open wide.

EXT. CARTIER'S JEWELERS - CONTINUOUS

Colt exits the store with a big smile and a classic red-velvet Cartier ring box.

He slips the ring box loosely into his leather coat pocket, opens his guidebook, and walks away (in the wrong direction).

Seconds later, he turns and walks in the opposite direction.

INT. PARIS HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Colt enters the hotel room tired and tipsy with a single small sandwich in his grasp.

He HEARS the shower running and yells to Kate, laughing and slurring a few words.

COLT
I'm back! I grabbed a sandwich and
a few beers on the way back.

Kate doesn't answer.

Colt takes off his leather jacket. We SEE the jewelry box sticking out of the coat's pocket before he throws his coat on a chair.

Colt sits on the chair and strips down to his wife-beater T-shirt and boxer shorts.

Colt collapses across the bed face down. He sounds exhausted.

COLT (CONT'D)
I picked you up a sandwich from the
convenience store on the corner.

Colt hears the shower turn off before he passes out.

Kate exits the bathroom with a small towel around her.

Her eyes open wide in anger when she sees Colt.

KATE
This was our only night in Paris!

She throws on her best dress and leaves Colt a note that reads: "Going to bar downstairs. You suck!"

She stomps out of the hotel room.

INT. PARIS HOTEL ROOM - MID-MORNING

Colt and Kate wake to the horribly loud wake-up alarms on their smartphones that they can not immediately find in their room. They yell at each other in frustration.

COLT

We're late! We can't miss that
train at 8 AM to Lion!

KATE

It's Lee-own!

COLT

Y'all are the one who came back a
few hours ago?

They find their phones and shut off their alarms. The time on both their clock reads, 7:30 AM.

KATE

We were supposed to wake up hours
ago. These alarms were for an
emergency backup!

COLT

It is an emergency. If we miss that
8 AM train, we'll miss our river
cruise that boards from 10 to 11!

BEGIN SERIES OF SHOTS

-- they pack their bags quickly.

-- Colt grabs his leather jacket with the ring box partially
sticking out.

-- they race out of the room with their backpacks and
suitcases.

-- they toss their keys on the registration desk and run out
the the street to hail a cab.

EXT. PARIS HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Kate sees an ELDERLY CAB DRIVER (60s-70s) with an empty cab,
and she and Colt hop in.

Colt shows the driver the photo of the High-Speed Train (Trainline), pointing at the photo several times while speaking, each time louder.

COLT
Train to Lyon. Train to Lyon. Train
to Lyon...

The elderly cab driver pulls away very slowly.

INT. CAB - CONTINUOUS

The cab driver is the slowest in Paris.

He drives so slowly that cars and trucks HONK frequently and ZOOM around him.

Kate and Colt agonize and check their watches.

Colt and Kate sit at the edge of their seats and beg the man to drive faster.

COLT
Faster, please. Faster.

KATE
We can't miss this train or we'll
miss our river cruise! Hurry!
Merci!

More cars and trucks pass them.

The cab driver stops at a red light. He grabs a loaf of bread on the seat next to him and takes a bite.

As the light changes, the driver is slow to take off.

Two more bicycles pass the cab.

COLT
Maybe we should have rented
bicycles.

KATE
Or walked.

They turn sad.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - AFTERNOON

The Elderly Cab Driver pulls into the station. Two Extras walk faster than the cab as the driver slowly parks it.

They hear the TRAIN WHISTLE and race out of the cab, tossing extra money in his lap.

They RACE to the train, shaking their heads in disgust.

INT. HIGH-SPEED TRAIN - LATER

Kate and Colt are in "Second Class" seating. Kate is by the window, Colt is by the aisle wearing his leather jacket with the red Cartier ring box sticking out a bit from his pocket.

Kate stares out the window and marvels at the countryside.

KATE

I got us second-class seats so we wouldn't fall asleep. I missed all of Paris. I don't want to miss one minute more of France!

She turns to glance at Colt to see he's asleep.

She elbows him in the side.

KATE (CONT'D)

You wake up and enjoy all y'all's vacation!

Colt stirs for a second and then pulls his cowboy hat over his eyes.

KATE (CONT'D)

Are we ever going to be on the same sleep schedule again?

Kate shrugs and turns to the window.

In less than a minute, she's fast asleep.

EXT. LYON TRAIN STATION - LATE MORNING

Colt steadies Kate as she stumbles to wake up outside the train station at Lyon. They have their backpacks and old suitcases. The red velvet ring box remains in Colt's coat pocket.

KATE

At least we're in the same time zone now.

COLT
(laughs)
There's a first for y'all. Let's
get to that riverboat.

Colt hails a cab.

A speedy Cab Driver pulls up.

KATE
Where were you earlier today?
They hop in the cab and RACE away!

EXT. LYON RIVER CRUISE DOCK - CONTINUOUS

Kate and Colt exit the cab and stare in wonder at the
luxurious river cruise ship. We see the red jewelry box
sticking out of the pocket of Colt's leather jacket.

KATE
She's the most beautiful thing I've
ever seen.

Colt's eyes wander to the gorgeous and ever-smiling French
Cruise Director, SIMONE DUBOIS (25), who greets passengers at
the top of the gangway.

COLT
I'll say! Let's load up!

A Crew Member, PIERRE (21), comes to take their bags. Colt
tugs at his suitcase handle to get it back. Colt studies the
man's name tag, "Pierre."

COLT (CONT'D)
Where y'all takin' 'em, Pie-err?

PIERRE
To your stateroom, Sir.

COLT
How do y'all know what state we're
from?

KATE
(whispers)
He means our bedroom, Colt.

Pierre begins to take the old suitcases.

From the top deck of the cruise ship, the CAPTAIN (55) looks
on and smiles.

Colt pushes Kate toward the gangway, but a tight group of four elderly women is ahead.

Colt and Simone make eye contact, checking each other out.

Colt's cowboy-boot heel catches on a raised footing on the gangway and he falls on his face, taking Kate down with him as he falls.

Pierre drops their bags and races up the gangway to help them up.

Simone chuckles at the sight before returning her attention to elderly women passengers.

Simone greets each passenger with a sexy smile and charming French accent. Each passenger hands her a boarding pass.

SIMONE

Bienvenue à bord, Welcome back,
ladies.

ETHYL (65), wears a nice pantsuit with a Boston Red Sox-type baseball cap. Her ponytail sticks out of the back of the cap.

ETHYL

I'm Ethyl. Remember me, darling.

SIMONE

Oui, Mademoiselle. And I see you
brought my favorite Bleue-Hair
Bandits with you again.

ETHYL

(laughs)
Best poker players this side of the
Atlantic!
(winks)
We only steal from each other.

RUTHIE (70s), a Latina beauty from modest means, MADHU (70s) Indian-American in a beautiful traditional Indian gown, and WILMA (69), a wild German woman, all giggle with Simone.

RUTHIE

It's my turn to win at cards.

MADHU

(to Ruthie)
You never win at cards.

Wilma glances back down the gangway to see GRANVILLE PALMER (50s), a James Bond-type in a white suit and silk ascot.

WILMA
I will win a rich husband.

ETHYL
Would that be number three or four?

The ladies laugh as they walk to free glasses of Champagne.

WILMA
(snickers to Ethyl)
I count husbands like you count
cards!

Simone turns to joke with the ladies.

SIMONE
I'll see you all at our 6:30 AM
Yoga class.

ETHYL
(yells)
Not!

Simone chuckles as Kate hands her a boarding pass.

Simone glances at Kate but is smitten by Colt in his western jeans, cowboy hat, and cowboy boots.

SIMONE
Bienvenue à bord, Welcome aboard,
Madame Carlson. I hope you and your
husband are okay.

Kate is disarmed by Simone's delightful accent and sincere concern.

Colt nudges closer to Kate nudging her close to Simone.

KATE
I warned him not to wear them new
boots of his on a boat.

Simone and Colt are eyeing each other again, which Kate sees.

SIMONE
(seductive to Colt)
You look fine to me, Monsieur
Carlson.

Kate elbows Colt and warns him.

KATE
You'd better watch your step, Colt,
and I don't mean with them boots.

She pulls Colt away as Granville Palmer flirts with Simone as he hands her a boarding pass.

GRANVILLE

I can see I'm going to enjoy this cruise already.

SIMONE

Welcome aboard, Monsieur Granville Palmer.

Simone nudges Granville toward the Champagne and reaches to meet THERESA MAY (65), a black banker in a black pantsuit, who looks sad.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

Bienvenue à bord, Welcome aboard, Madame Theresa May. I hope you enjoy the cruise.

THERESA

Merci.

(looks away)

I lost my husband last month and the south of France was our favorite place on earth.

Simone moves in for a hug.

SIMONE

I'm sorry for your loss. You picked the perfect way to celebrate his life.

The Captain looks on from above and smiles compassionately.

INT. CARLSON STATEROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate and Colt enter their tiny stateroom on the lower deck.

Colt's Cowboy hat hits the doorframe on the way in.

They struggle to squeeze between the drawers and the bed to get to the small window high on the bulkhead.

They squeeze back around the bed and Kate pulls Colt down on it.

They giggle and gaze into each other's eyes.

KATE

Finally, a honeymoon!

Kate wraps her arms around Colt.

KATE (CONT'D)
I'm going to set your sails
tonight!

COLT
I can't wait, Darling!
(glances to the shower)
The room barely holds the two of
us, I imagine the shower might be
too small for two for--

KATE
Oh my God, our tour of the boat is
starting.

COLT
It's a ship.

KATE
(laughs)
Not what I've seen so far, y'all!

Kate pulls Colt out of the stateroom.

INT. DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

A handsome Italian LORENZO RICCI (25), has an eye for fine wines and attractive women. He uses his heavy Italian accent as a weapon.

Kate pulls Colt's arm to Lorenzo's tour group which includes the Bleue-Hair Bandits, Granville, and Theresa.

Lorenzo speaks to the group, but eyes Kate the entire time.

LORENZO
I am Lorenzo Ricci, the ship's
highest-ranking wine steward and
bartender. I'm originally from the
same small hometown as Leonardo da
Vinci.

He pauses to see the blank expressions.

LORENZO (CONT'D)
(excited)
Anchiano, Italia! You must know
this for trivia night!

Kate swoons but Colt doesn't notice.

Colt looks around until he spots Simone leading the group ahead of them leaving the dining room.

COLT

(anxious)

The dining room looks very nice, we should probably move on.

Lorenzo ignores him.

LORENZO

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are created by the region's top chefs, so manga, manga, manga! Eat, eat, eat!

(glances at Kate)

With some of the finest wines in all the land served with lunch and dinner.

(directly to Kate)

With unlimited refills if you know the wine steward.

Lorenzo winks at Kate. Colt doesn't seem to care.

COLT

Great. Moving on.

LORENZO

Your menus are delivered the night before and your food and beverage preferences are as important to us as they are to you.

ETHYL

(proudly)

This is where we play poker between meals.

COLT

Poker?

ETHYL

Texas Hold 'em. Join us sometime, Cowboy!

The Bleue-Hair Bandits giggle.

Colt tries to move the group forward.

COLT

Long as y'all got beer.

Lorenzo shoots a glare at Colt.

LORENZO

I'm most proud of our full-service bar with cocktails made to order, mocktails for the young and young at heart, soft drinks, juices, and pure water on demand.

(smiles insincerely at Colt)

And next, we'll visit the lounge.

Lorenzo leads the group slowly away and Colt uses his arms to herd the group faster. Everyone is bunched up close together and Granville is right behind Colt but looking away.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

(whispers to Colt)

They're not cattle.

COLT

(whispers back)

Could have fooled me.

Kate elbows Colt in the gut and steps between him and Lorenzo.

KATE

Do you bartend in the lounge too?

LORENZO

Bartend sounds to course. I prefer to think of myself as a mixologist.

SERIES OF SHOTS

During the entire tour of the ship, Colt lightly bumps into many people in their group and into a dozen Extras (various types).

INT. LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Lorenzo leads the group through the lounge, waving his arms as he smiles and speaks. Colt appears impatient.

INT. EXERCISE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lorenzo rushes through this room. The others try to keep up.

INT. HOT TUB AND THEATRE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

LORENZO

The hot tub is open 24-7 except
when the theatre hosts a movie
night, Karaoke night, Trivia night,
or Game Show night.

Colt leads the way out, looking ahead for Simone.

We no longer see the red velvet ring box in Colt's jacket
pocket.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. TOP DECK - CONTINUOUS

Lorenzo rests in a lounge chair.

LORENZO

It's important to wear sunscreen,
and I volunteer to reach your
back... legs... and the difficult-
to-reach lower neck areas.

The Bleue-Hair Bandits giggle.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

(to everyone)

Seriously, folks, we pride
ourselves on safety and

(to Kate)

Service.

(to everyone)

So let us know how you feel or what
we could do better.

Lorenzo starts to say goodbye, and his tour group begins to
disperse before he yells.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

And I've been known to sing in the
piano lounge from time to time so
if you like Adriano Celentano, the
most famous Italiano singer of all
time, or less-famous Italian-
Americans such as Frank Sinatra,
Dean Martin, and Tony Bennett, come
see me in the lounge tonight!

Kate pulls Colt back to their stateroom.

KATE
Y'all embarrassed me back there.
What's gotten into y'all?

Colt hangs his head and follows Kate.

Colt sees Simone waving goodbye to her tour group on the far side of the ship.

She sees Colt and waves to him with a smile, which Kate doesn't see.

Kate turns to see Colt waving, but he looks back and turns his wave to Lorenzo.

COLT
(Softly)
Thanks for the tour, Lorenzo.

Kate glares at Colt and pulls him to their stateroom.

INT. CARLSON STATEROOM - AFTERNOON

Colt flops onto the bed face up.

Kate stands at the foot of the bed angry.

KATE
Y'all got a lot of makin' up to do.

Colt reaches out and grabs her hand and pulls Kate on top of him.

COLT
(seductively)
Oh, I know all about makin' up!

They kiss, and things progress quickly with Kate stripping off her top.

Colt secretly reaches into his leather jacket pocket for his jewelry box.

His eyes open wide in SHOCK.

He pops off the bed, throwing Kate to the side, and searches his other pocket.

Kate sees Colt's look of concern.

KATE
What's the matter?

COLT
It's gone!

Colt retraces his steps in the room looking around in panic.

KATE
What's gone!

COLT
I bought you a gift in Paris and
it's gone!

Colt looks out the door and down the hall.

COLT (CONT'D)
It's not there!

KATE
What kind of gift?

COLT
I can't tell y'all. It's a
surprise.

Kate looks suspicious.

KATE
Y'all buy me the first romantic
gift in ten years and y'all lost
it?

Colt frantically begins to race out the door.

COLT
Maybe it fell out of my pocket!
I'll retrace my steps. Back in a
few.

SERIES OF SHOTS

We follow Colt around the ship retracing the tour.

He runs awkwardly in his cowboy boots and almost falls
several times.

Kate follows Colt at a slower pace.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Colt begins to look under every table while Kate takes a seat
at the bar and holds up two fingers to Lorenzo.

LORENZO
A fine wine for the lady?
(glances at Colt)
What is up with your husband?

KATE
He says he lost something

She leans into Lorenzo and whispers.

KATE (CONT'D)
White, red, or pink? Can't be no
worse than the boxes we get on the
ranch.

Lorenzo is stunned.

KATE (CONT'D)
What do y'all recommend, Lorenzo?

Lorenzo can't hold back his laughter as he smiles and flirts.

LORENZO
One of each, Madame.

In front of Twenty Passengers, Colt glares at Lorenzo.

COLT
I'm warning you! Stay away from my
wife!

Colt exits as Kate smiles at Lorenzo.

KATE
Call me Kate.

EXT. TOP DECK - CONTINUOUS

Colt runs around the top deck looking for the red jewelry
box.

He trips on his cowboy boots and falls flat on his face. His
cowboy hat flies off his head.

He lifts his head up slightly and sees Simone's beautiful
legs.

SIMONE
Those boots were made for walking,
Monsieur Carlson?

Colt looks up and is stunned by Simone's accent and beauty.

COLT
I lost something important to me.

SIMONE
Madame Carlson perhaps?

COLT
No. Something else.

Simone helps Colt up and they stand kissing close.

Colt uses his hands to describe the size of the ring box, but Simone is so close that her breasts are in the way.

COLT (CONT'D)
It's a small red box.

Simone is sad and compassionate as she inches closer to Colt.

SIMONE
Every stateroom has a safe, and I
am afraid the ship is not
responsible for lost or stolen
items.

Colt's eyes open wide.

COLT
That's it! It was in the pocket of
my coat. Anyone could have picked
my pocket!

SIMONE
We should report it to security.

Colt softly grabs Simone's arms and pleads with her.

COLT
No. That would tip off the thief.

Simone's eyes open wide.

SIMONE
Do you want to catch this thief
yourself?

COLT
(looks away, thinking)
No. Kate will help. She watches all
those crime shows and movies on the
TV.

Simone spots Kate walking toward them and steps back from Colt, looking disappointed.

SIMONE

I'll leave you to it then. Let me
know how your investigation goes,
Monsieur Carlson.

Colt smiles softly at Simone as Kate closes in from behind.

COLT

Call me Colt.

Kate glares at Colt.

INT. DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The dining room is serving a light lunch on the first day.
The table for eight in the corner includes their boat tour
group (the Bleue-Hair Bandits, Granville, Theresa, Kate and
Colt).

Kate and Colt join the table late and look distracted.

ETHYL

We ordered, so you'll have to flag
down a waiter.

Before Kate sits down, Lorenzo is pulling out her chair.

LORENZO

I'd be happy to pass on your order,
Madame Kate.

The Bleue-Hairs giggle.

COLT

(laughs)
Good thing we-all studied the menu
in the stateroom.

Kate mispronounces her menu choice,

KATE

I'll try the Penis all Hairy-
betcha.

LORENZO

Penne all' Arribbiata.

KATE

That's the wiener.
(sarcastic)
And my adventurous husband will
have the cheeseburger and fries.

COLT
Hey, they're French fries, ain't
they? Oh, and a cold beer if ya got
any. Mercy.

LORENZO
(to Colt)
It's Merci, Monsieur.

Lorenzo exits while Colt tries but fails at French.

COLT
Mercy, Mon-sure.

The Bleue-Hairs giggle. Ethyl pats Colt's hand.

ETHYL
As long as you're trying, they'll
love you.

MADHU
You look distracted, Colt. Did you
lose something besides your wife to
that Italian stallion?

Colt looks away.

COLT
A small present disappeared from my
coat pocket.

All eyes are on Colt except for Ruthie who looks away.

GRANVILLE
When did you see it last?

COLT
Hard to say. I think when we was
commencin' to canoodle in our
bedroom.

Everyone but Kate looks perplexed.

KATE
Starting to make out in our
stateroom.

The others nod.

WILMA
So it was lost or stolen on our
tour where we ran into everyone
onboard!

RUTHIE

And went everywhere onboard. It could be anywhere! What does it look like?

COLT

(whispers)

A little red velvet jewelry box from Cartie-ers.

ETHYL

Cartier's in Paris.

COLT

That's the place.

The mood sours as they get served their food by Two Crew Members, and Lorenzo serves the wine.

Lorenzo sees the sad faces.

LORENZO

These look like the faces of passengers who just saw their recent credit card statements.

They eat in silence.

Lorenzo exits, perplexed.

COLT

I'd appreciate it if y'all could keep an eye out for the box until we find it.

ETHYL

Did you report it lost or stolen to the Captain?

KATE

He doesn't want to tip off the thief.

MADHU

What if they hide it in their safe?

THERESA

Or walk out with it whenever we dock? They could pawn it, or sell it on the black market.

Everyone stares at Theresa.

THERESA (CONT'D)
It's just called the black market!
They're not all black!

They all nod like they understand.

COLT
(sadly to Kate)
Either way, if I don't find it, I'm
screwed.

Kate looks away and mumbles

KATE
Quite the opposite!

INT. CARLSON STATEROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Kate lays on the bed propped up with pillows.

Colt paces in the tiny room until he has an epiphany.

COLT
I got it. The two people onboard
who run into the most people are
y'all's Italian Stallion--

KATE
And y'all's French femme fatal.

Colt's French linguistics are perfect here.

COLT
I think you mean, femme fatale.

KATE
No. I said it right. If she touches
you, I'll kill her!

COLT
What I'm saying is we should cowboy
and cowgirl up to them later
tonight and see if they can help us
identify the thief!

Kate hops off the bed and she and Colt are kissing close.

KATE
(impressed with Colt)
That's a great idea!

COLT
When do we dock next?

KATE
Tomorrow afternoon.

COLT
Let's go hunt for the thief! Yo
take Lorenzo. I'll take Simone.

Colt waves his arms.

COLT (CONT'D)
That didn't sound right.

KATE
(angry)
No, it did not!

They race out of the stateroom.

INT. LOUNGE - HAPPY HOUR

Kate holds a glass of wine and wanders through the crowd of nicely dressed Passengers (20 Extras) pretending to "accidentally" bump into them so she can feel their coat pockets.

She bumps into one man.

KATE
Excuse me. Must be the waves.

The Passenger is appalled, thinking Kate is coming on to him.

KATE (CONT'D)
Sorry, it's the wine walking, I
mean, talking.

She bumps into another man.

KATE (CONT'D)
Still getting my sea legs, y'all.

She continues across the lounge.

EXT. TOP DECK - SAME TIME

Colt stares suspiciously at everyone. He moves like an eavesdropping detective.

In a cowboy hat and boots, he stands out like a sore thumb. He pushes up his leather jacket collars which make him look more conspicuous.

He sees Granville drinking a Martini and speaking to Theresa sipping a glass of red wine. Theresa wears a spy-like trench coat. Granville remains in his white suit and ascot.

Colt tries to sneak over to them but notices everyone is staring at him.

GRANVILLE
Are you still looking for the
thief?

COLT
Is it that obvious?

Granville and Theresa nod yes.

THERESA
I'm drinking away my sorrows. You
should try it.

COLT
I've lost a wedding ring and I'm
losing my wife to a bartender. I
can't afford to lose my footing
too.

Granville leans to whisper to Colt.

GRANVILLE
Theresa here says we have a bigger
mission.

Granville and Theresa nod yes.

Theresa opens one side of her trench coat, to reveal a jam jar filled with ashes. A name on the jar reads, "Robert May."

COLT
What's that?

THERESA
(whispers)
That's my husband. But there are
strict laws here that prohibit the
dispersal of human remains in the
national waterways.

GRANVILLE
She could get the guillotine!

COLT
They still do that?

Granville and Theresa break out laughing.

THERESA

No, just messing with ya.

GRANVILLE

But her husband's last wish was for his ashes to be spread in the south of France.

THERESA

Technically, that was his second-to-last wish. He wished that I could help him to the toilet right before he died a horrible death.

Colt is stunned.

COLT

Really? That's awful!

Granville and Theresa break out laughing again.

THERESA

No, just messing with ya. It wasn't technically a wish, and his death wasn't so horrible. He was a practical joker who faked like he was having a heart attack every week or so 'til he finally did.

GRANVILLE

(to Theresa)

Tell Colt about the time--

Colt interrupts as he stomps away.

COLT

Sorry, I don't have time for this. I have to find that jewelry box.

THERESA

(yells to Colt)

But I would like to invite you and your wife to his service as long as you're not as late as he is.

(laughs)

Get it? My late husband.

Granville and Theresa break out laughing again.

THERESA (CONT'D)

Thanks for cheering me up, but I have to put my husband back into my safe.

Theresa heads off.

Colt heads to the lounge. He doesn't see Simone secretly following him.

INT. LOUNGE - EVENING

Colt steps into the back of the lounge during a round of mild applause from twenty patrons. He sees Kate with a large glass of red wine at a table with an attractive couple, BLAIR and ELIZABETH SMITH (50s). All are eyeing Lorenzo.

At another front table, the Bleue-Hairs look unimpressed by Lorenzo, often shaking their heads in disgust.

Lorenzo stands by the Karaoke machine and glares at Pierre who struggles to cue the next song. Lorenzo has a tall cocktail glass on a table next to him.

He looks at Blair and Elizabeth Smith as though he recognizes them, but can't put a name to their faces. He looks back at the Karaoke machine.

Lorenzo is the epitome of a smarmy lounge singer as he works the crowd.

LORENZO

My next song is the French song "La Mer" popularized by Bobby Darin in 1959. You know it as "Beyond the Sea" which I only sing after everyone in the lounge is beyond the legal driving limit.

(glares at Pierre)

If Pierre can ever get the song to play!

Lorenzo takes a big gulp of his cocktail as the song starts. He swallows quickly and jumps to the karaoke screen to read the lyrics.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

(singing poorly)

Somewhere beyond the sea, Somewhere waitin' for me, My lover stands on golden sands, And watches the ships that go--

Lorenzo grabs his throat and collapses to the floor.

The crowd GASPS (but not as loud or as long as Lorenzo would have liked).

Pierre jumps to his side.

PIERRE
I think he's dead.

Lorenzo raises his head for a moment and the crowd GASPS LIGHTLY again before Lorenzo's head hits the floor again.

KATE
Somebody, help him!

Colt pushes his way through the crowd like an emergency responder. He bends down next to Pierre.

PIERRE
(whispers to Colt)
We should take his pulse.

COLT
(whispers)
Never learned how.

PIERRE
Me neither.

Colt touches Lorenzo's Adam's Apple as he looks into his ear.

Simone grabs her radio and pushes her way to Lorenzo.

SIMONE
Emergency. Lorenzo collapses in the lounge. Call the doctor.
(to Colt and Pierre)
Begin CPR!

They see white foam coming from Lorenzo's lips and the crowd gasps again as Colt and Pierre back away.

The crowd keeps drinking as a DOCTOR (60) arrives in pajamas and a white plush robe.

DOCTOR
He's a goner.

The Doctor turns to leave.

KATE
Who would have wanted that poor man dead?

The Bleue-Hairs are the first to raise their hands. The crowd starts to raise their hands, but they look around and drop them in respect for the dead.

The Doctor's hand is held high as he exits the lounge with the Bleue-Hairs, who chuckle with the Doctor.

SIMONE
(to the crowd)
Please return to your cabins. And
remember, yoga is at 6:30 with
breakfast at 7.

Simone, Colt, Kate, and Pierre stand and stare at Lorenzo as the Captain walks in with an angry face.

INT. EXERCISE ROOM - MORNING

Kate wears baggy sweatpants, an old T-shirt, and tennis shoes, and Colt wears tight jeans, a wife-beater T-shirt, and cowboy boots as they enter the exercise room.

Colt begins to remove his cowboy boots.

Kate whispers to Colt.

KATE
Stay in the back row, shut up, and
don't embarrass me.

Kate looks down to see holes in Colt's socks.

KATE (CONT'D)
Too late.

The Bleue-Hairs are waiting in nice leotards.

Simone stretches seductively in the front of the room. She wears the sexiest workout suit ever made.

Kate glances at her outfit and glares at Simone's outfit, while Colt's eyes are locked on Simone's stretching.

Colt doesn't listen until Kate elbows him in the gut.

Colt GROANS as Simone glances in their direction. Kate pretends to be rotating her elbows while spreading her legs.

SIMONE
Nice of you to join us after the
tragic events of last night.

KATE
Did they find out what killed
Lorenzo?

ETHYL

Or who? We want the scoop!

SIMONE

The Doctor said this morning that it was a heart attack.

KATE

Huh? Foaming at the mouth and spontaneous defecation are both signs of cyanide poisoning.

MADHU

No doubt.

WILMA

Just ask Agatha Christie.

RUTHIE

We all smelled him immediately.

The Bleue-Hairs wrinkle their noses.

Colt bites his tongue as Kate glares at him to keep quiet.

COLT

(mumbles jibberish)

Mmmmm. Mmmmm. Mmmmm.

Simone glances at Colt and then glares at Kate.

SIMONE

The Captain has decided it was a heart attack with no need to alarm the passengers.

KATE

(angry)

It was murder! We'll see about this! I demand to see the Captain immediately.

SIMONE

We've spent the early morning interviewing passengers who were in the lounge last night.

Simone gazes at Colt.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

It doesn't look good. Several passengers heard you threaten to kill Lorenzo.

Colt's eyes open wide, but Kate is there to put a hand over his mouth.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

Someone told the Captain and me
that you told Lorenzo, "Go ahead.
Make my day!"

KATE

That's from a Clint Eastwood movie!
He never--

SIMONE

Another told us you said, "So, from
now on, you better be lookin'
behind you when you walk. 'Cause
one day you're gonna get a bullet
in your back."

KATE

That was from "Back to the Future,
Part III!" He never--

SIMONE

The last one we interviewed told us
you said, "I'll get you, my pretty,
and your little dog, too!"

KATE

(angrier)

That's from the Wizard of Oz!" I
was there! He told Lorenzo--

KATE & COLT

I'm warning you! Stay away from my
wife!

KATE

I want to see the Captain now!

SIMONE

Fine! The yoga class is canceled.

Simone storms out with Kate right behind her.

Colt struggles to put on his cowboy boots and falls over.

The Blue-Hair's chuckle.

COLT

Yoga is tougher than I thought.

EXT./INT. CARLSON STATEROOM - DAY

Simone guides Colt and Kate into the stateroom with a stern look.

SIMONE

Captain's orders, Monsieur Colt.
You are confined to your stateroom
until the Captain decides
otherwise. Your meals can be
ordered like room service, and you
can keep your smartphone. You just
can't leave the room.

KATE

Where do I sleep?

SIMONE

Grab your things. You'll be given
Lorenzo's stateroom until the
Captain and I sort things out.

KATE

Lorenzo's room?

SIMONE

He's been taken to the morgue.

KATE

I don't like this one bit. We're
all being bamboozled!
(to Colt)
Don't worry, Colt. I'll save y'all.

Kate gathers her things and follows Simone.

EXT./INT. LORENZO'S STATEROOM - LATER

Pierre stands outside Lorenzo's stateroom with a passkey as
Simone and Kate arrive.

PIERRE

I moved Lorenzo's things into
storage in the ship's hold.

SIMONE

Thank you, Pierre.

Pierre hands a magnetic key to Kate.

PIERRE

This is your key.

SIMONE

You may come and go as you please.

KATE

Can I visit my husband?

SIMONE

You may phone or video-call him but no visiting until all the evidence is gathered.

KATE

What evidence?

SIMONE

Your cabin and safe have been searched. We didn't find any cyanide or other poisons.

KATE

(sarcastic)

Shocker! Colt didn't kill him!

SIMONE

We may check his phone for email or text threats to Lorenzo. Pierre is our technical specialist.

KATE

(smirks)

Yes, we saw him work his magic with the Karaoke machine.

PIERRE

(laughs)

I'm right here. I heard that!

Simone begins to walk away.

SIMONE

Show her the stateroom, Pierre. I have to get back on the case.

Simone exits.

Kate makes eye contact with Pierre.

KATE

I'm so sorry, Pierre. I'm so stressed out that my husband is a suspect. I watch a lot of murder mystery shows that have taught me one thing: the first suspect arrested is never the killer!

Pierre opens the door to a fabulous stateroom.

INT. LORENZO'S STATEROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate's jaw drops at the luxurious stateroom with glass doors to a patio, a seating area, and a huge bathroom and shower.

KATE

I miss my husband, and our marriage may be over, but this stateroom is absolutely luxurious!

Pierre follows her inside.

PIERRE

I watch the same murder-mystery shows. No offense, but your husband does not seem the mastermind type.

KATE

Mastermind? He's not the mini-mind-type, but he's a good honest man, and they are hard to find.

PIERRE

Yes, Madame Carlson.

KATE

Call me Kate.

(paces)

How did Lorenzo swing a room like this?

PIERRE

I wondered the same thing. I'm on the bottom level you two.

KATE

Exactly! Who was he screwing to get a place like this?

PIERRE

I would like to help you solve this case... Kate, if you could help me with one small problem.

KATE

Name it, Pierre.

PIERRE

The Captain promoted me to Chief
Wine Steward, Bartender, and Lounge
Singer after Lorenzo died, and I
can do none of those things.

They shake hands.

KATE

Deal.

PIERRE

The Captain is interviewing the
four elderly...

KATE

The Bleue-Hairs.

PIERRE

I'm going to go listen in and
report to you.

KATE

Won't they see you?

Pierre laughs as he exits.

PIERRE

No one sees me. The help are
invisible.

Kate smiles.

Pierre exits and Kate looks around the room and thinks.

KATE

My two-timing husband doesn't know
what he's missing! But I supposed
I'm obligated to save his ass!

INT. CARLSON STATEROOM - LATER

Colt lays on the bed in his underwear eating a cheeseburger
with fries, and drinking a beer.

There is a light KNOCK on the door.

COLT

(whispers)

Kate?

He hops up and answers the door.

Simone, dressed in her sparkling Cruise Director uniform steps in and shuts the door.

SIMONE
We have to talk.

Colt is perplexed and a bit excited.

COLT
Should I get dressed? Are you
lettin' me go?

SIMONE
No, but the Captain has assigned me
the case.

COLT
The case of my stolen jewelry box
or the case of the guy with the
heart attack?

Simone shakes her head briefly.

SIMONE
The Bleue-Hairs are an observant
group. They told the Captain that
Lorenzo was... how do you
say...hitting on your wife, but
that you didn't appear concerned.

COLT
She's a married woman.

Colt points to the Silver belt buckle on his jeans on the
bed.

COLT (CONT'D)
To me! I won the Morgan County
rodeo bull-ride two years in a row
and work my own cattle ranch.

Simone eyes Colt's body.

SIMONE
Yes, quite that catch, as we say--

COLT
Hey, we say that too.

SIMONE

I came to tell you that the Captain has disapproved of Lorenzo's womanizing for some time, and he suspects there may be more passengers who wanted to kill him.

Colt steps closer to Simone.

COLT

I didn't want to kill him. I don't want to kill anybody. A rattler now and then if he's in the woodpile.

SIMONE

The Blue-Hairs were convinced Lorenzo wanted to get into your wife's woodpile, but he was also hitting on a couple of passengers from London, Blair and Elizabeth Smith.

COLT

(baffled)

Why would Lorenzo be hitting on a couple?

SIMONE

That's what I'm going to find out. We have their passports on file. But the Captain wants you confined to quarters until I complete my investigation.

Simone takes another good look at Colt's body before she starts to leave.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

You should try some of our healthier culinary choices and a nice bottle of wine.

She exits.

Colt stares at his cheeseburger before smiling and taking a big bite.

INT. SHIP'S HOLD - AFTERNOON

Pierre unlocks a door at the bottom of the ship and leads Kate inside a walk-in storage area.

PIERRE
I could get in big trouble for
this.

KATE
We have to know more about Lorenzo
to catch his killer.

PIERRE
I put all his clothes and personal
items in a laundry bin.

Pierre spots them.

PIERRE (CONT'D)
Over here.

Kate races over and sifts through them.

KATE
We need his phone and his laptop
computer if he had one, or a
calendar, note...

Kate picks up a notebook as Pierre picks up a smartphone.

KATE (CONT'D)
That's it. Back to his room.

PIERRE
Isn't this stealing? I could lose
my job.

KATE
I'll swear I found it in a drawer
like you didn't see it.

PIERRE
You are so smart, Madame Kate.
(looks at his watch)
Lunch! I have to serve wine at
lunch. What do I do?

KATE
Find the three cheapest bottles of
red, white, and pink, which is
called a rosé. Or, ask the Bleue-
Hairs for wine recommendations.

PIERRE
Thank you, Madame Kate.

KATE
(smiles)
I was going to say, call me Kate,
but I kinda like the sound Madame
Kate.

They sneak away.

INT. DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Pierre leaps to the dining table containing the Bleue-Hairs, Granville, and Theresa. He carries two open bottles of wine under his armpits (red and white wine) and a bottle of rosé in his hands.

Ethyl laughs first and then everyone whispers trying to be helpful.

ETHYL
A promotion, Pierre. Good for you.
We like you.

MADHU
Never carry wine with your armpits.

WILMA
Use a tray.

RUTHIE
What are you suggesting today?
We'll help you.

Pierre shows them the three bottles of wine.

Granville stares at the white wine.

GRANVILLE
Lorenzo always had a special
connection with cheap wines and
gasoline.
(everyone eyes Granville)
May I suggest the 2023 Louis Jadot
Macon-Villages Chardonnay that
pairs well with today's shellfish
and goat cheese?

PIERRE
Merci, Monsieur Palmer.

ETHYL
Then ask the passenger to select
from the wine list on every table.

PIERRE

Merci, Madame Ethyl.

(leans and whispers)

Madame Kate sends her best. She's dining in Lorenzo's room, while Monsieur Colt is confined to quarters.

THERESA

We will be honored to help Kate in her investigation, but be careful. The Captain and the Cruise Director are looking into that suspicious British couple.

Theresa points to Blair and Elizabeth in the far corner.

PIERRE

(winks at Granville)

I'll offer them the 2023 Louis Jadot Macon-Villages Chardonnay and see what I can learn.

Pierre smiles and bounds off with a smile, while the Bleue-Hairs keep whispering.

ETHYL

Theresa, nice work. What do we know about the Londoners.

RUTHIE

They say they are brother and sister, but they're sharing a stateroom.

They GASP (including Granville).

MADHU

No wedding rings.

WILMA

They don't hug or kiss, ja. But my husbands didn't either!

They all chuckle.

ETHYL

We must pass our intel to Kate.

Granville stares suspiciously at Pierre offering wine to the British couple.

GRANVILLE

I bet Madame Kate already knows
more than we know.

INT. LORENZO'S STATEROOM - SAME TIME

Kate enjoys a nice bottle of Escherndorfer Lump Silvaner, a white wine from Germany, and a salmon and fresh vegetable plate that looks amazing.

She stares at Lorenzo's smartphone and has an epiphany.

KATE

If they haven't unloaded Lorenzo's
body yet, his face is still
onboard.

She gobbles down the food and chugs the wine before staring at the wine bottle.

KATE (CONT'D)

Who knew the Germans made wine too?
This shit is really good!

Kate grabs Lorenzo's phone and races out.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate peeks into the dining room to see Simone speaking with the Londoners, and the Bleue-Hairs secretly waving Kate over to their table.

Kate sneaks over to the Bleue-Hair's table.

KATE

Afternoon, y'all.

Ethyl puts a finger to her lips and whispers.

ETHYL

Simone is assigned to find the
killer, and she's asking everyone
questions about the cowboy and the
Londoners.

KATE

So she still thinks Colt is
involved.

RUTHIE
He hasn't been ruled out, but more
people are... what do you call
them?

KATE
Persons of interest.

WILMA
Ja! We think Madame Simone should
be on the list.

Kate is stunned.

KATE
What? Why?

MADHU
Rumor has it Lorenzo had a big...

KATE
Stateroom. Yes. I'm in it.

ETHYL
No. A big...
(points at her crotch)
You know.

The Bleue-Hairs giggle but Granville looks away.

RUTHIE
Eiffel Tower big.

The Bleue-Hairs giggle.

KATE
I need you to stall Simone while I
steal Pierre away for a few
minutes.

GRANVILLE
You got it.

Granville gets up and heads over to Simone as Kate pulls
Pierre out of the dining room.

EXT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate hands Pierre Lorenzo's phone.

KATE

They probably stored Lorenzo in a walk-in refrigerator. I need you to unzip his...

PIERRE

(jumps back)

Zipper?

KATE

No, the body bag they put him in and unlock his smartphone with his face.

PIERRE

What if someone sees me?

KATE

Tell them you ran out of cold bottles of Chardonnay.

PIERRE

(excited)

Louis Jadot Macon-Villages Chardonnay.

KATE

Or the German white I had for lunch was good too, the Escherndorfer Lump Silvaner.

Pierre looks perplexed.

KATE (CONT'D)

And peek, you know...

Kate points down to Pierre's crotch.

PIERRE

No, no, Madame Kate. I heard all about the Eiffel Tower.

Pierre holds up the phone as he races away.

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

Granville guides Simone over to the Bleue-Hairs table where Simone is peppered with questions.

ETHYL

Our Yoga class was interrupted this morning and we don't think you appreciate how long it takes for us to get into our leotards.

WILMA

Ja. My Spandex doesn't span what it used to.

RUTHIE

My Lycra doesn't like me anymore.

MADHU

Will you be offering a makeup class this afternoon?

THERESA

I don't like yogurt. Give me rocky road ice cream any day.

GRANVILLE

(a little to loudly)

You see what I mean, Madame Cruise Director, everyone is thrown off by this entire murder investigation.

SILENCE

Everyone in the dining room freezes and stares at Granville and Simone.

Simone's phone BUZZES with a text message. Caller ID reads Captain. The message reads, "Coroner. Kitchen. Walk-in."

SIMONE

(to the Bleue Hairs)

I have to go.

Simone RACES frantically through the dining room toward the kitchen.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

It was a heart attack. Nothing to worry about. Use sunscreen on the top deck. Karaoke tonight in the Lounge at 8. Yoga tomorrow morning at 6:30.

INT. WALK-IN REFRIGERATOR - CONTINUOUS

Pierre shakes with fear as he zips up the body bag containing Lorenzo.

He HEARS footsteps approaching.

The Captain and Simone enter the walk-in fridge.

They see Pierre holding a case of wine.

PIERRE

We were running dangerously low on the Louis Jadot Macon-Villages Chardonnay. It's not oaky, so it captures the true taste of the grapes.

Simone and the Captain appear slightly unconvinced as Pierre pushes past them with the case of wine.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

Some passengers prefer the Escherndorfer Lump Silvaner, a white wine from Germany, but many passengers find the French wines are superior.

The Captain and Simone nod approvingly and do not see that Lorenzo's phone is on and sticking out of Pierre's back pocket.

CAPTAIN

I'm glad to see Pierre is taking his promotion seriously.

SIMONE

I hope he can sing.

The Captain and Simone make eye contact and share a moment.

CAPTAIN

The Coroner will be here any minute to collect Lorenzo. We've done our job.

SIMONE

I would have preferred a burial at sea.

CAPTAIN

We'll see what your investigation reveals. But it will be our secret, qui?

Simone moves in for a kiss.

SIMONE

Qui, my Captain.

INT. LORENZO'S STATEROOM - LATER

Kate is examining all of the photos on Lorenzo's phone. Many are selfies with female passengers, which she skips through quickly.

INSERT PHOTOS (Lorenzo selfies with female passengers)

Kate shrugs, disappointed until she comes to a photograph of Lorenzo and Granville. Granville is gazing at Lorenzo like a man in love.

Kate looks at the plate-glass doors to the small patio and carefully matches the background of the selfie to the stateroom.

Kate looks at the trees in the far background of the photo to see the fall colors in the trees where the present trees are green.

Kate nods her head.

KATE
Eiffel Tower, indeed.

Kate selects and airdrops several photos to her smartphone.

Kate begins to examine the text messages on the phone. Some are in English but most are in Italian.

INSERT TEXT MESSAGES.

We SEE a few references to "Gran," and "Simone," but the Italian and French messages are confusing.

She takes screenshots of select text messages and airdrops them to phone.

She is deleting the airdrop text message photos on Lorenzo's phone when she HEARS POUNDING on the door.

KATE (CONT'D)
Just a minute.

The POUNDING continues.

She finishes deleting the photos on Lorenzo's phone, stands, and puts Lorenzo's phone in the back of her pants as she answers the door to see Simone glaring at her.

KATE (CONT'D)
(sweetly)
Won't y'all come in?

Simone storms in the room and quickly surveys it. She picks up the bottle of Escherndorfer Lump Silvaner wine and glares at Kate.

SIMONE
Pierre knew of this wine.

KATE
Maybe he is a kind-of-sewer of fine wines.

SIMONE
(angry)
Connoisseur. And you can drop the... how you say... country pumpkin act.

KATE
Country bumpkin, and I don't know what you're talking about except Colt called to tell me you practically ripped his clothes off in our room.

SIMONE
He is as delusional as you.

Simone begins opening and checking all the drawers in the room.

KATE
I haven't had time to put my things away in my deluxe suite. You evaded my question last time. How did Lorenzo swing such a nice stateroom?

SIMONE
That is none of your concern, madame.

Kate disappears to the bathroom while Simone rips off the covers of the bed.

Kate returns with Lorenzo's phone (powered off).

KATE
This was in a bathroom drawer. I was about to bring it to the Captain. Easy to miss it.

Simone rips the phone from Kate's hand.

Simone powers it up but sees that facial recognition or a passcode is needed to open the phone.

She stomps her foot down angrily.

SIMONE

Bon sang.

Kate acts surprised.

KATE

Darn it all, anyway. Is that phone
of his locked and passcode
protected?

Simone glares at Kate with a look that could kill her.

KATE (CONT'D)

And I bet that nice Coroner removed
the body already.

Simone barely holds her temper as she turns to stomp out with the phone.

KATE (CONT'D)

Thanks for the nice room. I love
looking out at the Rome River.

SIMONE (O.C.)

(angrier)

It's Rhône River!

Kate smiles as she shuts the door.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

After dinner, the dining room is empty except for the Bleue Hair's and Granville playing Texas Hold 'Em at a dimly lit table in the corner. They use poker chips.

GRANVILLE

So does three-of-a-kind beat a
straight?

The Bleue-Hairs giggle.

ETHYL

We'll teach you as we go.

GRANVILLE

And the chips are worth how much
each?

MADHU

Way more than Ruthie has and far,
far less than Wilma has.

Wilma carefully moves three chips into the pot. We see her expensive rings and jewelry.

Blair and Elizabeth Smith stroll by the poker players and secretly glance at Wilma's jewelry. Madhu sees them looking at Wilma's jewelry.

WILMA

I'll raise everyone three.

Ruthie folds.

RUTHIE

Too rich for me, Wilma. You still
have my bracelet from the game
after lunch.

Everyone giggles but Wilma looks compassionately at Ruthie.

WILMA

You'll win it back. Besides, with
your figure, you've got nothing to
worry about, Süßes Mädchen.

Ruthie smiles. They share a quick moment.

ETHYL

(whispers)

Any news on the case? We all saw
Lorenzo carted away by the Coroner.

WILMA

I've got nothing.

ETHYL

What? You were tailing the
Londoner's all afternoon.

Wilma laughs and tosses down her cards.

WILMA

No, I mean I got nothing. I fold.

GRANVILLE

She can do that?

Everyone giggles.

They don't see Theresa looking sadly from the far side of dining room. She slips out the back of the room.

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

Kate, the Bleue-Hairs, Granville, and Theresa take the seats at the bar with Pierre nervously mixing drinks behind the bar.

PIERRE

What goes in a gin and tonic?

ETHYL

Tall glass, ice, a jigger of gin,
fill with tonic water, and a lime
wedge.

PIERRE

Merci, Madame.

Pierre prepares to make two gin and tonics.

Kate shows Pierre her phone while he's pouring in the gin.

KATE

Pierre, what does this French text
say?

Suddenly Pierre's glass is half-full of gin.

PIERRE

It says, "Meet me at our regular
place."

Ethyl laughs at the drink Pierre is making.

ETHYL

They are going to love hearing you
sing.

Pierre serves the drinks to the two Londoners who grab their drinks and slip away.

KATE

Does anybody here read Italian?

No one raises their hand until Theresa does.

THERESA

My husband, Robert, loved Florence.

Kate passes her phone down the line to Theresa.

THERESA (CONT'D)

Unfortunately, he also loved a secretary named Marsha, a teller named Patricia, and a housecleaner named Bernice.

Everyone chuckles as Pierre comes back with a question for the group.

PIERRE

Martini, neat?

GRANVILLE

I got this one. Neat means straight out of the bottle – no ice, no mixers, no other ingredients. Just ask Vodka or Gin.

PIERRE

There's a difference?

The group chuckles but Pierre waves them off like he is joking.

THERESA

(serious whisper to Kate)

"Non pagherò, non pagherò. È finita" means, "I won't pay, I won't pay. It's over! Signed R.M."

Everyone's eyes open wide and whispers ensue.

ETHYL

Who sent it?

KATE

R.M. I don't know.

RUTHIE

It's kind of important.

KATE

I know. I didn't have much time.

MADHU

What will you do now?

KATE

How the blazes would I know?

Kate sees they are all staring at her and behind her.

Kate turns to see Simone in a sexy "little black dress."

Simone puts an arm around the Bleue-Hairs sitting at the bar.

SIMONE

Look at all of you here in the lounge instead of playing Texas Hold 'Em in the corner of dining room. What's all the whispering about?

MADHU

We're here to support Pierre's first night singing.

RUTHIE

He's a little nervous.

Pierre returns with a martini for Granville with Simone watching them closely.

PIERRE

Here is that martini, neat, like you ordered Monsieur Granville.

GRANVILLE

(smiles)

It looks perfect, Pierre.

PIERRE

May I get you ladies something to drink?

WILMA

Gin and tonic.

ETHYL

Me too, thanks, Pierre.

Simone watches Pierre like a hawk as he makes two perfect gin and tonics.

WILMA

(to Simone)

He makes the best gin and tonics I've ever had.

SIMONE

I've never seen you drinking one on previous cruises.

ETHYL

Lorenzo could never remember the recipe.

The Bleue-Hair's laugh as Simone angrily starts to exit.

SIMONE
(to Pierre)
You'd better get ready to sing! And
you better be good!
(to Kate)
I'd better check on our prisoner.

Simone seductively strolls away.

KATE
Theresa, I need my phone to warn my
husband.

MADHU
Did you sneak him my book?

KATE
He's got it. He's probably on page
2.

Everyone chuckles.

INT. CARLSON STATEROOM - CONTINUOUS

Colt is fully dressed with all the pillows fluffed up behind his back. He wears socks without holes, tight jeans with the big Silver belt buckle, and a wife-beater T-shirt. He reads a thick copy of "Don Quixote" by Miguel Cervantes.

He HEARS a light tap on the door and acts surprised.

COLT
Who is it?

SIMONE (O.C.)
It's Simone. I wanted to be sure
you were comfortable.

Colt opens the door a crack and peeks out.

His eyes open wide when he sees Simone's little black dress and holding a bottle of Breckenridge Port Cask Finish from Colorado.

COLT
Wow! That's a world-class bourbon
from my home state of Colorado.

She hands him the bourbon and Colt gazes at the bottle.

Simone enters and shuts the door. We HEAR it lock.

SIMONE

That's it? You are excited by the bourbon?

COLT

Not just any bourbon. It's distilled at 9,600 feet in the Rockies. It's 90 proof and it's on awards all around the world! I only tried it once.

Simone's voice is soft and seductive.

SIMONE

You should try everything more than once.

Colt backs up and lays back on the bed. He covers his crotch with his book folded open to page 200 or so.

Simone fills two small glasses with the bourbon and hands one to Colt who chugs it down.

Simone sips her bourbon and sees a room service tray and an empty bottle of 2023 Louis Jadot Macon-Villages Chardonnay.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

(suspicious)

Huh. How did you like the wine selection?

COLT

I found it non-oaky and yet obtuse.

Simone tilts her head like she doesn't understand.

COLT (CONT'D)

Complicated and unpredictable, but with a refreshing finish. It paired well with the Norwegian whitefish.

Simone sees the thick Don Quixote book.

SIMONE

Are you enjoying your book?

COLT

(sounding professorial)

Ah, Don Quixote by Miguel Cervantes. The sweet story of an aging man and his squire trying to prove that chivalry is not dead. and aspiring to be heroes.

Simone sits at the far edge of the bed.

SIMONE
I read it at Cambridge.

COLT
Then you're familiar with its
themes unrequited love and sanity.

Simone wants to derail the topic.

SIMONE
Qui, the old man with much younger
woman, Aldonza --

COLT
Aldonza Lorenzo.
(excited)
What a coincidence. Her last name
was Lorenzo, like the lounge singer
who died of cyanide poisoning.

SIMONE
(Hiding her anger)
It was a heart attack.

COLT
Then why am I confined here?

Simone turns up the seduction and crawls slowly on the bed to
Colt to pour him another full glass of bourbon.

Colt sips the bourbon this time, sensing trouble.

SIMONE
You are not to worry. You could be
free by tomorrow morning.

COLT
Tomorrow morning? Is your case
moving along well?

Simone rubs Colt's shins and removes the book from his lap.

Colt tenses up so he sips more bourbon.

Simone's hand moves up his leg.

SIMONE
Tell me more about that silver belt
buckle.

Colt gazes at Simone's hypnotic eyes and little black dress.

INT. LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Pierre stands by the Karaoke machine, about the same spot where Lorenzo last stood. He looks like a deer in the headlights.

The table to his left is taken by Kate, Ethyl, and Madhu. The table to his right holds Wilma, Theresa, Granville, and Blair and Elizabeth Smith.

All of the Bleue-Hairs are drinking tall Gin and tonics. Granville holds another martini, neat. He's tipsy.

Twenty additional patrons sit and stand behind them.

The Captain tries to sneak into the back of the Lounge but Granville spots him immediately.

Granville gives a sideways thumb sign to the others pointing to the back of the room.

Kate glances at the Captain but pretends she didn't see him. She stands and makes her way to the Karaoke machine. Pierre has no songs listed as ready.

Kate makes a selection, "Sweet Caroline," by Neil Diamond.

Pierre's eyes open wide as he eyes the Captain in the back of the Lounge.

Kate stares at the Bleue-Hairs.

KATE

Come on, girls. We're the
background singers.

Wilma, Madhu, and Ruthie hop up immediately and join Kate. The crowd cheers.

Wilma looks at all the diamond jewelry she's wearing and whispers to Kate.

WILMA

I'm racing to my stateroom to put
my bobbles in the safe.

KATE

Join in when you get back!

Wilma exits.

Kate sweetly looks at Theresa.

KATE (CONT'D)
Come on Theresa, get in here!

Theresa fights back tears as she joins the group. The crowd cheers louder.

KATE (CONT'D)
(whispers)
You're one of us!

Granville looks away, which Kate sees.

KATE (CONT'D)
Oh, what the hell. Get your ass up here, Granville.

Tipsy Granville walks to the girls like he won the Miss America contest.

The crowd goes wild as Kate yells to the crowd.

KATE (CONT'D)
Let's hear it for Pierre Leblanc, everybody!

The crowd goes wild as Pierre begins to sing softly at first, and then with more confidence as the song goes on.

PIERRE
Where it began, I can't begin to
know when But then I know it's
growin' strong.
Was in the spring And spring became
the summer Who'd have believe you'd
come along?

The expanded Bleue-Hair Bandits provide background "oohs" AS Pierre belts out the song.

PIERRE (CONT'D)
Hands, Touchin' hands, Reachin'
out, Touching me, touchin' you.
Sweet Caroline.

ALL
Naa naa naa.

PIERRE
Good times never seemed so good.

The crowd joins in. The Captain is amazed!

ALL
So good, so good, so good.

PIERRE
I've been inclined.

ALL
Naa naa naa.

PIERRE
To believe they never would.

CUT TO:

INT. WILMA'S STATEROOM - NIGHT

Wilma enters her stateroom but doesn't exit.

BACK TO:

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

The crowd goes wild for Pierre and his background singers.

Kate looks around for Wilma and panics.

She whispers to Pierre.

KATE
Wilma never came back. We need to
check on her.

Kate and Pierre race out as Granville loads up a Karaoke song
"Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime" by Dean Martin.

Granville's singing is horrible and the crowd lets him know
it!

GRANVILLE
Everybody loves somebody sometime,
Everybody falls in love somehow,
Something in your kiss just told
me,
My sometime is now.

The crowd is merciless but Granville keeps singing.

EXT./INT. WILMA'S STATEROOM - NIGHT

Kate pounds on the door.

KATE
Wilma, It's me, Kate!

No answer.

Pierre uses his passkey.

Kate opens the door and turns on the light to see Wilma lying face down on the bed.

Kate races to her.

Pierre sees the safe is open and empty.

KATE (CONT'D)
(yells)
She's dead! Call the Captain and
Doctor! Now!

Pierre makes the calls on his radio.

The remaining Bleue-Hairs, Granville, and Theresa, gather outside the door in shock.

The Captain arrives and pushes through the silent, stunned crowd.

CAPTAIN
(yells)
All of you. Return to your rooms
immediately.

Kate and Pierre ignore the request.

The Captain checks Wilma's pulse.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
Oh my, God. She's dead.

The Captain sees the open safe and is stunned. He gets on his radio and calls Simone. When she fails to respond, the Captain's face turns red with anger.

His hand shakes. He turns to Pierre in a stern voice.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
Find her!

Kate's and Pierre's eyes open wide. They RACE off.

The Doctor arrives in his pajamas.

EXT./INT. CARLSON STATEROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate KNOCKS on the door.

No answer.

Pierre used his passkey, but Kate pulls him back.

Kate walks in and turns on the light.

Simone is passed out on the bed in her little black dress.
The bottle of bourbon is half gone. Colt isn't in the room.

Kate turns to look sadly at Pierre.

KATE
Get her out of here. I'll find
Colt.

Kate storms out.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Kate frantically looks for Colt all around the ship like
she's going to kill him.

INT. EXERCISE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Colt is nowhere to be found.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate sees the Bleue-Hairs, Granville, and Theresa mourning
and playing poker at a corner table but she runs past them.

INT. LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Blair and Elizabeth Smith sit at the bar drinking.

The Captain walks by with his radio in hand, in anger.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. TOP DECK - CONTINUOUS

Kate races to the top deck and searches from one end to the
other.

She spots a lounge chair with a blanket covering a person
with his knees bent.

Kate races to it and yanks off the blanket to see Colt
reading Don Quixote by flashlight.

KATE

What did you do with Simone? What
are you doing out of your
stateroom? And Wilma is dead!

She yanks Colt out of the lounge chair.

COLT

I can explain!

KATE

(yells)
I seriously doubt it!

EXT./INT. CARLSON STATEROOM - NIGHT

Kate and Colt arrive to see Pierre opening their door to pull
an empty laundry cart inside.

Pierre is in a panic.

PIERRE

You must help me!

(points to the laundry
basket)

We have to move her to her room. I
can't carry her supple thighs down
the hallway in that silky dress.
The Captain would fire me!

Colt and Pierre load the sleeping Simone into the laundry
basket.

Kate glares at Colt.

COLT

Nothing happened. Honest. She tried
to seduce me so I ran out. I didn't
care if the Captain caught me.

Kate grabs the bourbon bottle with a bathroom hand towel and
tosses it in the laundry basket.

PIERRE

We must get her to her room before
the Captain gets there!

KATE

Colt, y'all stay here. We got this,
Pierre.

Pierre and Kate push the laundry basket down the hallway at
breakneck speed.

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

Kate, Ethyl, Ruthie, Madhu, Theresa, and Granville sit around a large table. Granville is still drunk.

Pierre is experimenting with bartending as the group laments Wilma's death.

Pierre brings out 6 shot glasses on a tray. The drinks are a strange purple.

ETHYL

Thanks, Pierre. What is it?

PIERRE

It's a mix of Cabernet Sauvignon and Saki. I call it a Cabernet Sayonara.

MADHU

(toasts everyone)
To Wilma.

ALL

Cheers.

They drink the shots but everyone hates it.

RUTHIE

Try something else, Pierre.

Pierre races back to the bar.

The Captain enters with Simone who is still drunk and sloppily dressed in her uniform. The Doctor saunters in wearing his PJs. The Captain, in dress uniform, sounds authoritative.

CAPTAIN

I'm glad you're all here. The home office advises me for insurance reasons to conduct a full inquiry into our two accidents. I'm videotaping this on my phone.

KATE

Is this the part where y'all gather all the suspects together and skillfully eliminate them one by one until the killer is revealed and arrested?

CAPTAIN

That's exactly what we'll do.

KATE
Y'all will need my husband for
this!

Colt appears in the back of the lounge.

COLT
That's why I'm here! Pierre, please
make mine a draft beer.

PIERRE
I think you'll enjoy my newest
creation, the Rum Runner.

Everyone turns to Pierre behind the bar.

COLT
What's a Rum Runner?

PIERRE
Rum and prune juice.

COLT
A beer is fine.

Colt takes a seat.

Simone stands with several plastic wrist restraints. She avoids eye contact with Colt as she stands and wobbles, and slurs her words.

SIMONE
Monsieur Colt Carlson, you're
coming with ush for the murder of
Lorenzo Ricci.

KATE
(to Simone)
I object! Colt was on the top deck
when Lorenzo was poisoned because
the Bleue-Hairs and I saw him enter
the Lounge late followed so close
by you it looked like you were
bucking like a steer!

The Captain glares at Simone who turns away.

SIMONE
(sheepishly)
I may have been following his
Western jeans.

DOCTOR
(laughs)
So you're his alibi?

Kate stands, angry.

KATE
And tonight, you went to his room
in that silky black dress to seduce
him into confessing to a crime he
could never have committed.

PIERRE
(puzzled)
Her supple thighs were a trap?

The Bleue-Hairs giggle.

CAPTAIN
(shocked)
Simone! Is this true?

SIMONE
(sadly)
I went to apologize for falsely
accusing him when I ran into
trouble.

COLT
She ran into a bottle of 90-proof
bourbon!

Simone hiccups.

CAPTAIN
(angry)
Who is our next suspect?

Simone regains her composure.

SIMONE
Madame Theresa May, you're coming
with ush for the murder of Lorenzo
Ricci.

Theresa and the others look stunned.

KATE
Based on what evidence? Because you
eliminated Colt?!

Theresa looks away.

CAPTAIN

We found emails on the ship's computer between Theresa's husband, Robert May, and Lorenzo who sold painkillers on the side.

GRANVILLE

And on the front and rear of the boat too.

KATE

(to Theresa)

The Italian text message! R.M.! Robert May was your husband.

Theresa stands defiantly.

THERESA

I didn't slip him the cyanide, but I did put laxatives into his drink.

RUTHIE

That explains to awful smell when he went.

The group nods in agreement. Kate stands like an attorney.

KATE

I object! Cyanide poisoning causes the same symptoms, and you've provided zero evidence that Madame May had anything to do with the cause of death!

Simone is wobbly as she takes a seat and puts away her wrist restraints.

COLT

Go, Kate! She watches tons of murder-mystery shows.

KATE

Did you search her room?

CAPTAIN

Of course, we did.

KATE

Did you find any cyanide?

SIMONE

No, but we found the jar of her husband's asses.

KATE
Her husband's ashes.

The Captain produces the ashes.

CAPTAIN
R.M. for Robert May? It's illegal
to dispose of human remains in
national waters. Arrest her.

KATE
(to the Captain)
I object. She has not disposed of
the ashes. You are holding the
proof!

DOCTOR
She has a point.

Theresa speaks sadly to the Captain as Pierre brings a
platter containing eight shot glasses, black coffee for
Simone, and one draft beer for Colt.

THERESA
My husband and I loved your river
cruise most of all. Maybe I carried
a small portion of his remains with
me to say goodbye.

The Captain shows compassion to Theresa.

CAPTAIN
And that's all he left you.

THERESA
(laughs)
No. He left me millions.

She grabs the jar of ashes from the Captain.

THERESA (CONT'D)
And unless you want a lawsuit for
false arrest, I suggest you leave
me and my friends alone.
(grabs a shot glass)
A toast to my cheatin' dead
husband. The drinks are on me!

They all drink. Simone drinks the coffee, sobers up a bit,
and has an epiphany.

SIMONE
Monsieur Granville Palmer, you're
coming with ush for the murder of
Lorenzo Ricci.

Simone pulls out the photo of Lorenzo and Granville in
Lorenzo's stateroom and tosses it in the middle of the table.

The Bleue-Hairs, Theresa, and Granville each glance at the
photo and shrug like "no big deal."

SIMONE (CONT'D)
We think Monsieur Granville Palmer
was having an affair with Lorenzo,
and killed him with cyanide.
(her index finger pounds
on the photo)
This photo was taken in Lorenzo's
private stateroom!

CAPTAIN
We also have evidence that Monsieur
Palmer was aboard the ship last
October when several priceless
jewels were stolen from passengers.

Simone pulls out the red velvet jewelry box that Colt lost.

SIMONE
(to Granville)
We found this in the safe of your
stateroom.

Granville looks away. The Bleue-Hairs GASP.

COLT
You son of a bitch!

Colt stands and punches Granville in the jaw.

Kate glares at Colt and points her finger at him.

KATE
No, Sir. Don't you ever use
violence to solve a problem!
(to Granville)
What do you have to say for
yourself?

Granville fights back tears.

GRANVILLE
I'm not a thief as much as an
opportunist.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. LYON RIVER CRUISE DOCK - CONTINUOUS

GRANVILLE (V.O.)

It was the morning we boarded the ship.

We see the red jewelry box sticking out of the pocket of Colt's leather jacket.

KATE

She's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen.

GRANVILLE (V.O.)

I couldn't wait to see Lorenzo again. He had given me a tour of the Eiffel Tower the previous October.

The Bleue-Hairs giggle in V.O.

GRANVILLE (V.O.)

I was several steps behind Kate and Colt when I saw Colt trip and fall on the gangway.

Colt's cowboy-boot heel catches on a raised footing on the gangway and he falls on his face, taking Kate down with him as he falls, and the jewelry box falls out of his coat pocket onto the gangway.

GRANVILLE (V.O.)

I saw a red velvet Cartier's jewelry box on the gangway before me. I didn't see whoever dropped it.

Pierre drops their bags and races up the gangway to help them up.

GRANVILLE (V.O.)

Pierre was running up to help him, so I bent down and picked up the box.

END FLASHBACK

COLT

Y'all could have called out about finding it, or turned it into Simone.

KATE

Then anybody could have claimed it.

GRANVILLE

(to Colt)

You didn't seem like the typical
Cartier's shopper, no offense.

COLT

Some taken.

Granville is sad.

GRANVILLE

I didn't bring a present for
Lorenzo, the love of my life, and
this ring fell into my hands.

SIMONE

Ah ha! You admit to being lovers
with Lorenzo and stealing the ring.

Granville picks up the photo and stares at it.

GRANVILLE

He didn't invite me to his cabin
this year.

(glares at Simone)

He moved on.

SIMONE

This photo proves--

KATE

The photo proves it wasn't taken
this year. The trees in the
background are in fall colors. And
Granville's face was thinner.

GRANVILLE

I've put on a few stones. And, I
was going to give the ring back
after I heard a rumor that Colt had
lost a jewelry box. I'm not a
thief, and I would never murder
anyone.

Everyone looks sadly at Granville.

KATE

Is there any evidence that links
Granville to either death, or the
theft of Wilma's jewelry!

Simone, the Captain, and the Doctor look away.

KATE (CONT'D)

Being in Lorenzo's stateroom wasn't a crime. There's no evidence that Granville was ever in Wilma's stateroom and he would have put her jewelry in his safe where Simone found Colt's ring. And if Colt doesn't press charges for the missing ring, there is no crime.

COLT

Sorry for belting y'all, Granville. Let's call it even.

Kate glares at Simone, the Captain, and the Doctor.

KATE

I'd say y'all's big murder reveal party came up empty!

The Doctor gets up to starts to leave.

DOCTOR

Empty. That's how I see it too!
(to the group)
And Madame Wilma died of natural causes.

ETHYL

We know that, Doc. Thanks.

The Captain is angry and defensive.

CAPTAIN

No one leaves the ship until we solve the theft and murder cases.
(to Simone)
Sober up so I can fire you in the morning after breakfast!

The Captain stomps away.

Pierre brings everyone black coffee, with two cups for Simone.

KATE

Thanks, Pierre. Just as we've planned.

Simone looks at Kate.

SIMONE
You planned this?

KATE
(to Simone)
Down to the minute. Y'all aren't
the first barfly to fall for my
husband.

Colt puts the jewelry box back into his jacket pocket.

COLT
You'll get the ring when you solve
the cases.

Kate smiles at Colt.

KATE
Let's get to work. Bring out your
phones for my suspects' board.

Ethyl pulls out her phone with photo of Lorenzo on it.

Kate puts it in the top middle of the table.

KATE (CONT'D)
What did we learn about Lorenzo?
(beat)
We know he lured Granville to his
stateroom last October.

PIERRE
For the tour of his Eiffel Tower.
(beat)
Not there's anything wrong with
that.

KATE
(to Simone)
How did he earn such a large
stateroom for a crew member?

SIMONE
I'm not sure.

GRANVILLE
Blackmail. He was blackmailing me.
He knew I didn't have much money so
he was using me for... favors.

KATE
Once a blackmailer, always a
blackmailer, but we have no bank
records to prove it.

Simone has an epiphany.

SIMONE

Only the Captain can assign
quarters.

Ruthie pulls out her phone with a photo of the Captain on it.

RUTHIE

I think he's cute.

ETHYL

Ewww!

Everyone chuckles.

KATE

Maybe Lorenzo was also blackmailing
the Captain, but he wasn't around
for Lorenzo's poisoning.

Kate pulls out her phone with a photo of Blair and Elizabeth
Smith on it. She places it to the left of Lorenzo's photo.

MADHU

The Londoners! I saw walk by our
poker table and glance at Wilma.

KATE

Or at her jewelry. And I saw them
leave the Lounge soon after Wilma
left for her stateroom the night
she died.

(to Simone)

Have they been on this cruise
before and were there any jewelry
thefts?

SIMONE

I could check that on my computer
tonight.

KATE

Two more favors, Simone, and all
will be forgiven.

SIMONE

Name them.

KATE

Tell the Captain you wish to resign
in front of all of us at the
breakfast table so we don't lodge
complaints about the cruise.

SIMONE

And two?

KATE

Bring the dates of any major thefts, and the dates that Granville and the Smiths were onboard.

SIMONE

You got it.

Simone chugs some coffee and races off.

Theresa looks sad.

THERESA

I have a confession to make.

All eyes are on Theresa. Kate pats her hand.

KATE

You don't have to say anything.

THERESA

My husband had bank records that showed monthly payments to Lorenzo Ricci. I didn't say anything--

KATE

Because it would have given you a motive for his murder.

COLT

(to Theresa)

You didn't go to the lounge that night. You said you had to put your husband's ashes back in your safe.

Kate has an epiphany.

KATE

Then you couldn't have poisoned Lorenzo.

THERESA

I gave him the laxatives at lunch.

Kate leans to Theresa and whispers.

KATE

Could you bring a copy of your husband's bank records to the Captain's table at breakfast?

THERESA

Will do... if you all join me for a quick ceremonial ash-dumping from the top deck.

They nod yes.

Kate turns to Granville.

KATE

What kind of stateroom, do you have Granville?

GRANVILLE

(laughs)

The lowest level and cheapest single they had.

Kate hands Granville a stateroom key.

KATE

Not tonight. I'm moving back in with my husband. You take Lorenzo's nice room for tonight. Just meet us in the morning at the Captain's table for breakfast.

GRANVILLE

(smiles)

With pleasure.

(winks at Theresa)

After the ceremony, of course.

Therese holds up the jar of her husband's ashes.

THERESA

To the top deck?

Kate grabs Colt's hand and starts to lead him away.

KATE

(to Pierre)

Thank you, Pierre, for everything. You're invited to the Captain's table for breakfast too.

(to the Bleue-Hairs)

We've got to catch up on a few things.

COLT

See you at breakfast for Kate's big reveal party.

(to Kate)

You have solved the murder, right?

KATE
(smiles)
Y'all won't want to miss it!

The Bleue-Hairs smile, stand, and follow Theresa to the top deck.

EXT. TOP DECK - CONTINUOUS

Theresa, surrounded by her new friends, looks around, laughs, and unceremoniously empties the jar contents overboard.

THERESA
Thank you all so much. I made
better friends onboard in a few
days, than I made in the past ten
years at home.

They take turns hugging Theresa.

All but Colt and Kate leave.

Colt and Kate lay on two side-by-side lounge chairs on the top deck devoid of passengers.

COLT
Can you ever forgive me?

KATE
Wow. You're serious. You didn't
even say, "y'all."

COLT
Neither did you.

KATE
I guess we're adulting.

COLT
Speaking of which, now's the time
to give you the present I got ya.

Colt pulls out the red velvet box and hands it slowly and romantically to Kate.

She smiles and opens the box slowly to reveal the bottom-of-the-line wedding band from Cartier's.

She's stunned and her eyes open wide as she gazes at the ring.

KATE
It's the most beautiful ring I've
ever seen.

COLT
(bragging)
Biggest one they had in the store.

KATE
(turns her head)
What?

COLT
(humble)
For the money that I had.

Kate leans and kisses Colt softly on the lips.
She stays on her side, facing him.

KATE
What did that French tart due to
y'all?

COLT
(laughs)
That's my Kate!
(serious)
She drank bourbon and rubbed my
lower leg.

Kate reaches under Colt's blanket and rubs his lower leg.

KATE
Wearing that silky skinny black
dress of hers. It must have driven
you wild.

COLT
Then she kept drinking the bourbon,
and pretty soon she was rubbing my
upper leg.

Kate rubs his upper leg.

COLT (CONT'D)
Yes, sir. So I sat up taller, while
she drank more bourbon. Ya know,
trying to distance myself.

Kate rubs higher, and giggles.

KATE
I saved you and our marriage!

Colt's eyes open up devilishly.

CUT TO:

INT. CARLSON STATEROOM - NIGHT

Colt pulls Kate as fast as she can run to their stateroom door.

Colt opens the door and picks Kate up to carry her across the threshold.

He kicks the door shut with his cowboy boots.

INT. DINING ROOM - MORNING

The Captain and Simone sit at the Captain's table with blank expressions.

Simone has her resignation letter in front of her face down with a pen beside it.

Granville, Theresa, Ethyl, Madhu, and Ruthie join them and take their seats.

CAPTAIN

This is highly irregular.

ETHYL

Kate told us to be here for
Simone's apology.

CAPTAIN

Resignation?

Kate and Colt arrive holding hands and sneaking little kisses.

Kate shows off her new ring.

KATE

My husband gave me this in honor of
our ten years together.

COLT

It's from Carti-errs in Paris.

The Captain begins to correct Colt but doesn't.

Pierre escorts Blair and Elizabeth Smith to the table, where they sit without speaking.

PIERRE
I'll serve the coffee.

Pierre dashes off.

Colt, Granville, Theresa, Ethyl, Madhu, and Ruthie pull out their phones to tape the breakfast.

KATE
I'd like to extend our thanks to the cruise ship company and its officers for this invitation to the Captain's breakfast table. The company will be accepting a resignation this morning, but it won't be Simone's.

The Captain's eyes open wide.

COLT
Go, Kate, go!

KATE
We know that Lorenzo Ricci was poisoned with cyanide.

CAPTAIN
Where is that Pierre with our coffee?

The Captain and the Smith's look around for Pierre but don't see him.

KATE
We have since discovered that Lorenzo was a blackmailer.

CAPTAIN
You can't prove that.

THERESA
Actually, we can.

Therese puts a file of bank statements on the table.

THERESA (CONT'D)
My husband's bank statements prove he was depositing \$2000 per month into Lorenzo's Swiss Bank Account and his diary told us why? Would you like to hear why, Captain?

CAPTAIN
No.

KATE

He was also blackmailing Granville for sexual favors, and he has some of Lorenzo's videos to prove it.

GRANVILLE

Would you like to see them, Captain?

CAPTAIN

No.

KATE

Simone, who is the only person aboard the ship to assign cabins and staterooms?

Simone smiles.

SIMONE

It's the Captain of the ship.

KATE

Captain, can you explain why Lorenzo was given such a luxurious stateroom, one far nicer than your second in command, your Cruise Director?

The Captain glares at Simone as the cameras roll.

KATE (CONT'D)

I thought so.

(glares at the Smiths)

This led me to wonder what else was going on aboard the ship, specifically, why did Lorenzo have to be silenced you paid the Smiths to eliminate Lorenzo.

The Smiths glare at the Captain, Kate, and then at each other.

BLAIR

The Captain gave us the cyanide and paid us to kill Lorenzo.

Pierre returns with two French Police Officers (30s-40s) who carry four evidence bags.

KATE

Thank you, Pierre, what did they find?

One Police Officer places handcuffs (behind their backs) on the Smiths.

PIERRE

Madame Wilma's jewelry, a bracelet belonging to Madame Ruthie that was in Madame Wilma's possession, Lorenzo's laptop computer, and a small vial of cyanide.

KATE

Oh, I bet that laptop contains many interesting bank records and videos of the Eiffel Tower, wouldn't you agree, Captain?

The Captain stands to walk away, but the other Police Officer places handcuffs on the Captain (arms in front).

Simone turns over the resignation letter she has in front of her and hands the Captain her pen.

The Captain signs the letter before being led away with the Smiths by the Police Officers.

The Crowd of Extras behind them cheer wildly, as do the Bleue-Hairs, Granville, and Theresa, but Colt is cheering the loudest!

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

The crowd is gone.

Ethyl deals cards to Granville, Theresa, Madhu, and Ruthie, as Colt puts his arm around Kate.

Pierre brings a fresh pot of coffee to serve, while Simone brings French pastries.

SIMONE

The company invited me to take part in their Captain's training program.

Simone smiles at Pierre.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

I said I'd take it if Pierre was promoted to Cruise Director.

Pierre and Simone hug.

PIERRE

All possible because of you, Madame Kate.

KATE

(looks at everyone)

I confess that I had a lot of help on this case.

ETHYL

I have a confession. Two actually.

Ruthie and Madhu place a hand on Ethyl's arm.

ETHYL (CONT'D)

Wilma was in terrible health for several weeks before she died.

RUTHIE

She never let on.

Ethyl fights back tears and she gazes on Ruthie and Madhu.

ETHYL

She made me executor of her will. As such, I have a copy of it. It names the three of us. She left a bit to Madhu and I, knowing we were well off, but she left her fortune to you, Ruthie, hoping that you would lead on the Bleue-Haired Bandits without me.

MADHU

(to Ethyl)

Without you? Are you... okay?

ETHYL

(laughs)

Couldn't be better.

(serious)

I know I promised to cruise the wild oceans and rivers with you until I passed away like Wilma, but I received a video call from my only daughter today, and she and my two sweetest grandkids in the world pleaded with me not to be a FaceTime grandma, but to be an in-your-face-time grandma and I couldn't say no.

Madhu and Ruthie hug Ethyl as Colt and Kate gaze into each other's eyes.

ETHYL (CONT'D)
I'll be flying home to Hawaii from
Paris.

She looks at everyone in the eyes.

ETHYL (CONT'D)
I think Granville and Theresa would
love to take the places of Wilma
and me at our poker table, and
you're all welcome to be my guests
in Hawaii whenever you can.

Granville and Theresa get up to hug everyone before they sit
back down for poker.

EXT. LYON RIVER CRUISE DOCK - MORNING

Kate and Colt walk down the gangway arm in arm.

Kate stops to admire her ring.

They smile, look back at the ship, and kiss long and hard.

EXT. RIVER IN COLORADO - DAY

SUPER: "One year later, South Platte River, Fort Morgan,
Colorado"

Colt and Kate, who is six months pregnant, float on two large
inner tubes.

They hold hands and kiss.

FADE OUT.

THE END