

UNWISE

By

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FADE IN:

INT. DD'S OLD HOUSE - MORNING

Light footsteps shuffle on a CREAKING wooden floor.

A wrinkled, but delicate, hand opens a cupboard and fumbles into a heap of undergarments. It yanks out a pair of stockings.

A HUMMING follows the footsteps toward an old bed.

DD, early 70s, cold and classy beauty, sits on the bed. She rolls up her stockings and slips her legs into them. Her toe gets stuck in a hole.

DD

Shoot!

She readjusts, gets up and straightens her dress to cover the hole.

She then heads towards the dressing table adorned with quaint objects -- Scarves and hats, turned yellow, slung around the mirror.

DD gazes at an old framed picture -- A portrait of her and HOWARD, her husband, in their wedding costumes. They both look young and attractive -- They smell rich.

EXT. DD'S PARENTS' HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY - FLASHBACK

The sun radiates on the majestic trees of the huge property. Food and beverages abound on long refined decorated tables. Servants stand at people's disposal behind the buffets.

SUPER: "Savannah, Georgia, 1955."

Hundreds of elegant guests congratulate the newlyweds, DD, 20, gorgeous, and HOWARD, 25, an alluring groom.

DD is beaming while Howard, grasping her hip, is ogling other beautiful girls. Among them, TESS, 20s, graceful, steps forward.

DD

Tess. A pleasure to have you with us.

DD and Tess hug.

TESS
Congratulations.

Then Tess hugs Howard.

Howard smiles at her and wraps his hand behind her back. This hasn't gone unnoticed by DD.

LATER

A bit farther, Howard looks busy talking to Tess -- he is grabby. STEVE, 25, toasts his glass to DD.

STEVE
What a perfect party. This is your night.

DD
Well, it doesn't look like it.

She motions her head toward Howard and Tess. Steve laughs.

STEVE
You have nothing to worry about -- Howard is only being polite to the guests.

DD
These men are all attracted to her like moths to a flame.

STEVE
DD, you're a woman every man fantasizes to wed. You've got to be a fool to let go of a perfect spouse.

DD mutters in Steve's ears. Steve giggles.

STEVE (CONT'D)
You're mean.

Steve walks toward Howard, pulls aside Tess and dances with her.

EXT. DD'S PARENTS' HOUSE - GARDEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

DD and Howard dance on the wooden dance floor.

HOWARD
Are you happy Mrs Marvyn?

DD

Who wouldn't be? It will take time to get used to wearing this name of yours. The most coveted Scullers' daughter caught in the net of the handsome Howard.

HOWARD

Suitors are to be left behind now Mrs Marvyn. This new name will add prestige in accordance with your beauty.

DD

This is the most beautiful day of my life.

HOWARD

I'm so lucky to have you.

Howard caresses her face and kisses her.

INT. DD'S OLD HOUSE - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

DD stretches out her wrinkled face with her hands, does facial exercises in front of the mirror. This sagging skin is annoying.

DD applies a lipstick, arranges her hair. There is still something classy about her.

She unlocks her old bag, pops some pills. Then she fumbles for some quarters in her purse. Nothing.

DD heads toward the --

KITCHEN

Turns on the coffee maker. Out of order. She lights up the gas burner on the stove, pours some water in the saucepan.

DD

What the hell.

She turns off the light, uncorks a jar filled with candies and yanks out an envelope tucked in. She unfolds it, a few dollars left. She pouts.

She draws a 10 dollar banknote and slips it into her purse.

DD steps towards the --

LIVING ROOM

It is small but neat. On the coffee table a bunch of dry flowers rest in a vase. The set gives an old-fashioned but chic look.

DD exits.

EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER - MORNING

A bird on top of a piling on Santa Monica Pier observes the waves breaking on the shore of the large sandy beach.

A few tourists along with joggers and bikers pass by.

The bird takes off and flies --

INLAND

Over the business district.

Below, garbage trucks and street sweepers clean in front of well-adorned shop windows. Some men decorate a big Christmas tree in the middle of the Promenade.

The bird follows a bus along its path. The bus stops near a street, people line up and get on it. DD is about to get on the bus.

The bird, now over the bus, dumps on DD's coat and leaves.

INT. BUS - DAY

Passengers rush to take their seats after they punch their tickets. DD stands way back, she cuts the line. Passengers grumble. The BUS DRIVER calls her out.

BUS DRIVER
Ma'am your ticket.

DD
I punched it.

The Bus Driver stares at her, skeptical. DD sighs, fumbles into her pocket.

DD (CONT'D)
Where did I put it?

Passengers grunt impatiently behind her. DD draws the banknote and hands it to the Bus Driver.

DD (CONT'D)
Here. I want my change back.

The Bus Driver counts out her change. The other passengers move around her.

DD starts down the aisle. A BLACK MAN, 60, with a sun hat, blocks the way. DD taps his shoulder.

BLACK MAN

Ma'am, we're no longer in the fifties -- get in line like everybody else.

DD

If my legs were better, I wouldn't be here shoving past you to get a seat.

BLACK MAN

My legs are as tired as yours.

The Black Man sneezes right in her face and grabs a seat. DD throws her head back with disgust, she yanks a handkerchief from her pocket and covers her mouth.

She looks around to get a seat, but they're all taken.

BUS DRIVER

Take a seat or hold on tight.

The doors are shutting. The bus jolts and rides. A few teenagers stand up next to DD. She eyes their mismatched clothes, piercing on their eyebrows and lips.

DD spots a GOTH GIRL sitting next to an OLD WOMAN. The Goth Girl chomps her gum. The Old Woman frowns and stares at her. The Goth Girl defies her and chomps more loudly.

DD

Can you give me that seat?

The Goth Girl gawks at her.

DD (CONT'D)

Cm'on, move.

The Goth Girl stunned, expects some reactions from the Old Woman, but she ignores her. She leaves her seat for DD.

DD (CONT'D)

(to the Old Woman)

Buses used to be neat and people more respectful...

DD pulls an old bottle of perfume from her bag and sprays on her and in the air. The Old Woman covers her nose with her hand.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DINING ROOM - DAY

The Homeless are slowly lining up with their trays to get served. Volunteers and retired people are the helpers.

BEHIND THE COUNTER

A STUDENT GIRL grabs a Man's tray -- RON's, 60s, stocky and manly. JOELLE, mid 60s, coquette, stands near and shoves The girl away from Ron.

STUDENT GIRL

Hey.

JOELLE

I'll get this. They need you at the food pantry.

The Student Girl grumbles and exits.

JOELLE (CONT'D)

Hi cutie, what's your pleasure?

RON

Well... You.

Joelle blushes.

JOELLE

Oh, you know how to talk to women.

RON

Beautiful women are always inspiring.

She fills up Ron's tray.

JOELLE

You've just made my day.

(simpering)

Anything else I can do for you?

RON

It's more than I expected.

JOELLE

A big stature like yours needs strength.

Ron leers at her with a sly grin and leaves. Joelle ogles his ass.

An ASIAN WOMAN next to Joelle shakes her head in disapproval.

ASIAN WOMAN

We won't be able to feed everyone
if you give in to every man's
smile. We're helping homeless
people here. Hello... It's not some
single's bar.

JOELLE

Aww, but look at his eyes, like
puppies'. Aren't they cute? The
guy's something.

ASIAN WOMAN

One ladle... That's it. We're
running out of food.

Joelle fills up another tray, glares at the Asian Woman.

JOELLE

Fourty years in catering, I know
something about quantity.

Joelle glances at her watch and looks for DD in the room.

EXT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

DD gets off the bus. She straightens her coat and gets the
bird dropping on her hand. She grumbles, and cleans it with a
tissue. DD walks to the front door, puts a smile on her face
and she revives.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DINING ROOM - DAY

DD walks slowly toward the counter like a queen. Everybody
greet's her. She answers back with a nod or with a hand wave.

An OLD HOBO, lunatic, eyeballs her, slobbers.

OLD HOBO

You're beautiful -- my queen.

DD stops near him, hugs him.

DD

Oh, you are so nice.

OLD HOBO
I want to fuck you.

DD walks away, ignores him. A man behind the Old Hobo slaps his head.

DD stands next to Joelle --

BEHIND THE COUNTER

She puts on an apron, a headband and gloves.

JOELLE
(to DD)
I didn't dare to hope anymore.

DD
On public transport it's always the
obstacle course to get here.

DD looks around her. Everything is a mess.

DD (CONT'D)
This place is complete cacophony.

DD starts wiping the counter.

JOELLE
Hey, you can't be in two places at
once.

DD
Being organized is obviously
something you can hardly manage.

JOELLE
Life would be so dull if everything
was clean and tidy.

Joelle smiles. Then her eyes turn to PAUL, 70s, gaunt. DD sighs.

DD
Come on, you're not that desperate,
are you?

JOELLE
He's got intense eyes. He's
intriguing.

DD
Tell me about it. I know all their
tactics and tricks.

Joelle and DD keep on serving the homeless.

JOELLE

Ah yeah sorry, you know everything
there is to know about men.

DD

Well, I went to the right school.
With my husband. I put up with him
for more than fifty years...

Joelle mouths the words along with her. DD catches her,
glares, and Joelle stops.

DD (CONT'D)

Anyway, it's all in the past, let
him rest in peace now.

Paul hands his tray, and Joelle serves him a ladder of meal.

PAUL

(to Joelle)

Don't we have double helping over
Christmas?

DD

You are ahead of time. We're not
there yet. Right now it's
rationing.

DD smiles. Paul leaves frowning.

JOELLE

You have a grudge against him?

DD

I just wonder why he is storing
food in doggy bags. I thought he
was on his own.

JOELLE

You've been very edgy lately. It's
high time you stopped being alone.

Joelle taps DD's shoulder, nods her head in the direction of
the kitchen.

GUY DE LA FLEUR, 70s, waves at DD to join him.

JOELLE (CONT'D)

Well, chance does things well, as
soon as said, it is done.

DD

Don't misunderstand me. Without him, the center wouldn't be running the way it is. It's just a matter of business.

DD removes her apron and gloves and walks toward him in the --

DINING ROOM

She walks past the Old Hobo who is sitting at a table, the latter keeps gazing at DD his mouth full of food.

DD (CONT'D)

The bearer of good news.

GUY

I hope that's not all you matter for.

DD

Of course not. It's always a pleasure to see you around.

Guy De La Fleur is very handsy to DD. They hug.

The Old Hobo grumbles.

Guy and DD hear a commotion behind them.

The Old Hobo cusses at Guy, hurls his tray on the floor and rises from his chair.

DD freaks out. Guy is about to interfere but DD holds him back.

Joelle rushes to stop the Hobo but Ron precedes her.

RON

Hey, what's wrong man? Call 911. This guy's sought after -- just fled from an asylum. It was on the news this morning.

Joelle dials the cops' number on the phone. The Old Hobo tosses some food in Ron's face, misses it -- and splatters Joelle's face instead.

The old Hobo rushes out but three men intercept him, they walk him out.

Joelle wipes out the food from her face. Ron hands her a glass of water.

RON (CONT'D)
For your face. Rinse it with some
water.

Joelle dips a tissue in the water and cleans her face. She
shivers.

RON (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Joelle nods.

JOELLE
Times have changed. People are
getting hostile.

RON
You should take a break. Go home.
The job you do is not easy.

Ron pats Joelle's shoulder.

JOELLE
That's good. I'm off now.

Joelle removes her apron and head band.

RON
Let me come with you so no one else
has to jump all over you.

JOELLE
It's very cavalier of you. I'm not
the kind of woman who gives in to
men's advances.

RON
I just feel worried about you,
these kind of incidents, when they
start -- happen again and again
throughout the day, but I don't
want to be obliging. My name's Ron.

JOELLE
Joelle.

EXT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - WAREHOUSE - DAY

An old Buick car is parked outside. Guy opens the door. DD
brushes her hand against the car.

GUY

It's the only little whim I allow myself. I have a weakness for old cars. They have a temperament.

DD

My father used to drive one -- 1951. A super Riviera.

GUY

Classy. Today's cars are full of technology and lose their charm... But that's not why I'm here.

Guys gets in the car and hands her a small box. DD opens it. Strawberries.

GUY (CONT'D)

From France -- the Gariguettes.

DD

My favorite -- You shouldn't.

DD puts one strawberry in her mouth, relishes it. Guy stares at her with sparkling eyes.

GUY

I'm glad you like it.

DD

But you know, old cars are hard to rely on. They have been through so much and around for so long that they can be a real pain. They're relics. Just good to be showed off once in a while.

DD smiles at Guy.

INT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

There is a loud CLANGING coming from --

THE KITCHEN

Ron is under the sink fixing a pipe. Joelle stands right in front of Ron's legs. Her gaze is riveted on the man's crotch.

JOELLE

A little refreshment?

Ron pulls himself out of the sink. His face is all covered in dirt. He gets up with pain.

RON
Whatever you have is okay for me.

Ron writhes in pain, clutches his hip.

JOELLE
Are you okay?

Joelle hands him a beer. Ron gulps down some of it. He turns on the faucet, checks the drain.

RON
All fixed now.

Joelle grabs her purse from her bag.

RON (CONT'D)
Oh, no, no, no.

JOELLE
Well, then ... Thank you.

The door of the living room slams shut.

DD (O.S.)
Joelle, Joelle...

JOELLE
(to DD)
We're in the kitchen.
(to Ron)
It's DD.

DD enters the kitchen. She is startled.

DD
Oh.

JOELLE
See?

Joelle shows DD the sink.

JOELLE (CONT'D)
Finally... this is Ron and my friend DD.

RON
Yeah, I know who you are.

DD
(to Ron)
You handled the situation very well, with the guy.

Ron smiles shyly. He coughs a lot and limps toward the tool box, picks it up.

JOELLE

You are sick. We should take you to the doctor.

RON

No, no -- I move around a lot, I'm at friends' place and when things get too tricky, I look for another shed to crash... some places are really filthy and that's the result.

JOELLE

Oh, sorry to hear that.

RON

I am looking for a small shed. Something budget-friendly. If you know somebody...

He holds his belly, grimaces.

JOELLE

You're okay?

RON

And also this fucking pancreas -- But hey, I'm not going to play the sniveling game.

Ron limps to the door of the --

LIVING ROOM

DD and Joelle follow.

JOELLE

This house has got two rooms.

RON

Oh. No. I don't mean to intrude.

JOELLE

Why not help out when I can? There is so much misery out there. I'll have done my share of good.

DD

(to Joelle)

We should give him some time to think about it.

DD nods her head to Joelle in the direction of the yard.

JOELLE

(to Ron)

Can you check the bathroom? The tap
in there drips a little bit.

DD and Joelle leave the house.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

DD and Joelle stand on the porch.

DD

What are you doing? You hardly know
him.

JOELLE

Why not? I've two empty rooms just
waiting to be filled.

DD

The guy's sick and weak. He needs
help. Are you ready for this?

Ron gets out of the house with a seal in his hand.

RON (O.S.)

The seal's broken.

DD and Joelle jump.

JOELLE

Oh. I know where I can find one.

Joelle walks to the garage next to her house. DD and Ron
follow.

INT. JOELLE'S OLD GARAGE - DAY

The garage needs to be fixed and is cluttered.

DD

Wow. That space -- You could easily
turn this into another room and
rent it.

JOELLE

I haven't been back here since Jack
died.

Joelle looks around.

JOELLE (CONT'D)
You're right. This could be a guest house.

Joelle opens a tool box and fumbles in it.

RON (O.S.)
Let me handle that.

Ron stands close to Joelle, sweat is dripping from his muscles. Ron picks up a new seal from the box. He shows it to Joelle.

RON (CONT'D)
See?

Joelle ponders a little bit.

JOELLE
Could you do some home improvements here and turn this into a room?

Ron assesses the place.

RON
There is potential.

JOELLE
It could be a place where you could crash.

RON
Thanks. But I don't know how I can afford it. I don't have a steady job.

JOELLE
You can pay off the rent with the work you'll be doing here. We'll improvise the rest.

RON
It's something to consider.

INT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Joelle stands by the sink, looks out the window while sipping her coffee, gazes at Ron who carries lumber towards the garage.

The oven timer rings.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

DD sips tea at a small table in the garden. Joelle joins her with some cupcakes.

They hear HAMMERING in the garage.

DD

Things seem to be taking shape.

JOELLE

Yeah... Maud my neighbor was so intrigued that she finally asked him to check her plumbing too.

DD

That old bitch?

JOELLE

She can afford being a bitch. She often ignores me and as if by magic, I suddenly exist. She comes to talk to me.

DD

Ron will soon find a steady job after he finishes up here. It will allow you to rent this place to more reliable and creditworthy people above all...

Joelle gobbles up a cup cake.

JOELLE

Yeah. He is very skilled with his hands.

DD looks down on Joelle.

DD

You don't listen to me -- So far he has been lucky to find a generous person who can accommodate him.

Ron comes out of the garage sweating, he removes his T shirt and reveals his athletic body. Joelle is all aroused.

JOELLE

Want a little snack?

Ron limps towards them, and Joelle hands him a cupcake.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - LATER

Joelle, Ron and DD sit around a table.

JOELLE

Splits are always very difficult.
Overnight, you find yourself alone
and you're not used to it.
Everything falls apart suddenly.

RON

Absolutely. Two's easier. We're
better off.

DD

And how do you manage to get by on
a day-to-day basis?

RON

Day-to-day? It's ad-lib. Odd jobs
here and there.

DD

This little shed should help your
quality of living. Right?

Ron looks embarrassed.

JOELLE

It must be hard for you not to have
someone to lean on, no kids, no
nothing.

DD

Well, at least you have Joelle to
lean on.

JOELLE

DD! Stop...

RON

No. I understand.

(to DD)

I'm not one to take advantage of
people, let alone generous people
like you. But if I didn't have this
disease, I wouldn't care, I just
don't want to end up like a stray
dog, like my dad was. It's
horrible.

JOELLE

Poor you. DD is cruel, don't listen to her. How can you be so harsh like that?

DD

I didn't mean that. That's it. I'm the bad guy again. We don't know you. And we're two little old defenseless and moneyless ladies either. We have no guarantee what you're telling us.

Ron lowers his head.

RON

A few years ago, I took out several life insurance policies. Here's what I can do to prove you my bonafides... I'm willing to change the beneficiaries' names and put Joelle's name instead.

JOELLE

(surprised)

Oh!

RON

For the first time in my life, I'm considered, I exist. It's the only way I can show my appreciation.

Joelle stares at DD.

JOELLE

It's nice of you but... DD and I have always done everything together... And I don't want money to cause any problems between the two of us.

RON

When I mentioned you, I meant both of you. It's obvious.

DD

Well, that changes everything.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

The old garage looks new and is now a simple but decent guest house.

A truck stops in front of the gate. A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN gets out.

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN
That's what I found from my attic.
You may want them for the charity
fair.

The car is stuffed with old objects.

JOELLE
That's great, they could always be
useful for the needy -- There are
some pretty heavy things in
there... Ron. Ron.

No answer.

JOELLE (CONT'D)
He's not been very well these last
days.

DD
I'll go get him.

JOELLE
If he is indisposed, we'll manage
on our own.

DD walks towards the garage.

EXT. JOELLE'S OLD GARAGE - DAY

DD is about to knock at the door but it is half-open.

DD
Ron?

DD goes in.

INT. JOELLE'S OLD GARAGE - DAY

The interior is a neat small place, spacious enough for one person.

Loud music emanates from a small radio set. A curtain separates a room from the rest of the small flat. We can hear some GIGGLES.

DD draws the curtain back slightly and sees Ron naked, humping a woman. DD is speechless.

DD sneaks out.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Joelle and the Middle Aged woman are carrying a big bag. DD moves towards them.

JOELLE
Is he coming?

DD
In a few minutes I guess.

LATER

The garage door opens, Ron and the Woman exit. The Woman is MAUD 65, she smiles broadly. Joelle is shocked.

MAUD
You've got a lovely place here.

Ron holds his back, grimaces in pain.

DD
Did you make a wrong move?

RON
Let me carry this.

Ron grabs Joelle's heavy bag and carries it to the porch.

MAUD
I'd like to help, but I've got
something in the oven.
(to Ron)
Thanks, Ron... for the plumbing.

Maud leaves.

INT./EXT. CAB - NIGHT

It's gridlocked on Ocean Drive. DD and Joelle sit in the back of a cab.

DD
Well, today we got it all. Now the
traffic.

JOELLE

I can't take it anymore, a nice
little shower and back in bed,
that'll be enough to make me feel
better.

The CAB DRIVER, a fidgety man, HONKS the horn.

CAB DRIVER

Move, shit. Get the fuck out of
here.

The Cab Driver turns up the volume of the radio. It's Hip Hop
music.

DD

(grunts)

Could you turn this music down?

The Cab Driver ignores her. DD taps his shoulder.

DD (CONT'D)

The music.

The Cab Driver lowers the music a bit. DD looks at the meter.

DD (CONT'D)

Take this way. It's shorter and
it's less packed.

The Cab Driver grumbles and turns on a little street.

INT./EXT. CAB - LATER

The cab stops in front of Joelle's house. Light and music
pour out of the garage.

JOELLE

What the hell is going on? Come
with me.

DD hands the Cab Driver a bill and gets out of the car.

INT. JOELLE'S OLD GARAGE - NIGHT

A woman's bare feet swing to the rhythm of the music from the
small radio.

A toothless DRUNKARD, 60, guffaws and puffs a cigarette. He
then swills a bottle of beer.

A Blonde Woman, late fifties, sways on the floor shaking her loosened hair up and down.

On the other side of the room, Ron is slumped on a couch. An Old Hag, late fifties, wearing ragged shorts sits on his lap.

JOELLE (O.S.)

What the hell is going on here?

DD and Joelle stand in the room. DD turns off the radio. Ron shoves the Old Hag off him and stands up.

JOELLE (CONT'D)

What's all this? What do you think this place is?

RON

Listen...

JOELLE

Cut the crap. Everybody out. Now.

Everybody picks up their stuff and rushes out of the room.

DRUNKARD

Hey Ron. Call me.

OLD HAG

Yeah. Call me, Ron. We aren't done yet.

DD, Joelle and Ron stand alone.

RON

I know what you think. It just happened. It was totally unplanned.

JOELLE

Is this how you show your gratitude? Your personal life is none of my business, but I don't want you to make a brothel out of this place.

RON

The meds I'm taking are giving me side effects. It won't happen again, I promise.

DD

Listen, you promised to name us the beneficiaries on your insurance policy. What about it?

(MORE)

DD (CONT'D)
Better get moving otherwise, you'll
have to find another place to stay.

Ron ponders.

RON
Okay, okay. I'll fixed that.

INT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - LATER

Joelle stands in

THE KITCHEN

She pours some hot water in a cup, drops a herbal tea bag in
it.

Ron paces towards her house. A KNOCK on the door.

Joelle walks to the --

LIVING ROOM

With the cup of tea. She opens the door. Ron stands at the
door.

RON
Er, listen... I-I've been very
rude. I just came here to
apologize. I-I'm sorry.

Ron turns back and walks slowly to the garage. Joelle stands
there confused.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ron keeps on walking toward the garage. Behind him, Joelle's
figure appears in a pool of light from the window.

JOELLE
Ron.

Ron grins. He turns back.

JOELLE (CONT'D)
Would you like to have a cup of
tea?

RON
I'd like that.

Ron walks towards the house. From the other side of the street, DD stands there watching. The door closes.

INT. ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY - DAY

The place looks old. A WOMAN throws a thick file folder on JORDAN's messy desk.

Jordan, 35, pudgy and tousled hair, munches a snack.

JORDAN
It's my coffee break.

WOMAN
You're only supposed to have one
per day. You have claims to review
and a report to do on this car
accident.

The Woman motions to the boss' office.

The Boss, DIXON, a lean grey haired man in his 50's, crushes his cigarette butt in the ashtray and fans the smoke with his hand. He looks over at Jordan through his office window.

Jordan grabs the file folder and pretends to look busy.

RON (O.S.)
(English accent)
Would you mind showing me to the
restrooms? I've got serious matter
pending.

JORDAN
Straight ahead...

He raises his head.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
RON...

Ron, DD and Joelle stand beside him. Ron guffaws and opens up his arms wide.

RON
Hey buddy.

Jordan and Ron hug.

JORDAN
What brings you here this time?
Third time in a month. Can't get
enough of me?

RON

Let me introduce you to my new
beneficiaries. DD and Joelle.

Jordan looks at them, DD and Joelle smile.

JORDAN

Oh, er... Really? I don't think
we've even processed your last
changes yet. Let me check.

Jordan checks his computer.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Nope, not yet.

RON

I've made up my mind for good this
time.

Jordan giggles. He types on the computer, prints the new
forms. DD, Joelle and Ron sit around Jordan's desk.

JORDAN

On all five policies?

Ron nods.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Write down their full names and
then sign here.

(to DD and Joelle)

But you know you needn't be here to
do this.

DD

He insisted.

JOELLE

And we worry about his health.

Ron coughs loudly. Jordan giggles.

JORDAN

Crap. I've never seen him sick.
Live a healthy life and you'd feel
better.

RON

(embarrassed)

Jordan likes to nag me.

Ron fills out all five forms.

JORDAN

We missed you last night. Joe
bought a round in your honor.

Ron kicks Jordan's foot under the table. Jordan grimaces.

RON

Okay, It's all set. And don't
forget to process them this time.

JORDAN

I won't. Hey buddy, what are you
doing tonight?

RON

I've settled down now, we'll grab a
drink sometime.

JORDAN

Yeah, like the old days.

Ron checks his watch to show that he's in a rush, and he's on
his way out.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DINING ROOM - DAY

The room is packed. DD and Joelle stand behind the counter
serving lunch. Joelle has her mind wandering.

JOELLE

Why are they all so excited today?

DD

Can't you see? It's the special
menu... you all right? You don't
look fine. What's the other one
done to you?

DD pretends she doesn't know.

JOELLE

Nothing... I like this festive
atmosphere.

The Asian Woman next to DD and Joelle calls out.

ASIAN WOMAN

Don't forget girls, only one scoop.

DD

(to Joelle)

You're lying.

JOELLE
You're gonna yell at me again.

DD
No. I've always respected your privacy. But someday you're gonna tell me everything. So...

JOELLE
You won't like it.

DD
Who? This scrounger?

Joelle remains silent.

DD (CONT'D)
Don't tell me I didn't warn you.

Joelle's cell phone rings, she picks it up.

JOELLE
Oh, hi Mrs. Gulch.
(beat)
Yeah?
(beat)
What?!

Joelle hangs up.

JOELLE (CONT'D)
It's my neighbor. Something's going on at the house. I need you.

EXT. JOELLE'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Bells CHIMING as churchgoers make their way home. A WOMAN'S SHRIEK echoes in the distance.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

The Woman runs barefoot across the lawn. It's the Old Hag. She holds a cocktail in one hand and a cigarette in the other. She is drunk.

OLD HAG
You know what? You're a fucking man whore. What am I to you?

Ron chases her. She runs around the garden and laughs hysterically. She hurls her glass of alcohol at Ron. It splashes him in the face, and he wipes it off.

RON
Come here and shut the fuck up.

The Old Hag lifts her shirt and flaunts her bare chest. A YOUNG BOY stands watching on the sidewalk in his Sunday best.

YOUNG BOY
Cool.

The Young Boy's mother pulls him away by the ear.

YOUNG BOY (CONT'D)
Ouch.

The Young Boy's mother grabs her cell phone from her bag and dials 911.

Ron tries to restrain the Old Hag. She struggles, elbows him, and runs away. Ron clutches her shirt, and it tears off as she runs way and into the street.

RON
Come here, bitch.

INT/EXT. CAB - DAY

A few passersby stroll down the sidewalk. DD's and Joelle's cab arrives on the scene.

DD
Oh my goodness.

The Old Hag runs down the street, topless. Ron races after her in boxer shorts. He shoves the passersby out of the way and jumps over obstacles.

JOELLE
What?

DD
For someone who's sick, he's pretty in good shape.

The Old Hag trips and falls on the ground.

EXT. JOELLE'S NEIGHBORHOOD - STREET - DAY

Ron hoists her up. The cab stops in front of him. DD and Joelle get out.

RON
Shit.

Sirens wail in the distance.

EXT. JOELLE'S NEIGHBORHOOD - STREET - LATER

A cop questions Ron. Another cop covers the Old Hag with a blanket and escorts her to the squad car. Joelle chats with a cop, and he takes down notes. DD talks with a neighbor.

INT. DEL AMO RESTAURANT - NIGHT

DD and Joelle sit at a table. Two bottle of wines rest on the table. Joelle pours herself some wine.

DD

I think you've had enough.

JOELLE

Just stop for once... Why is this all happening to me?

DD

Things will be clearer in your mind when you are sober.

JOELLE

I married a jerk, and now I crush on a total jerk. I always attract the wacky ones.

Joelle sobs. DD hands her a napkin.

DD

Now you understand me.

JOELLE

You? Hold on. You spurn men's advances. You have the choice not to be single. Don't compare me with you. I need someone. I can't stand being alone.

DD

Better off to be alone than in bad company.

JOELLE

When you're too nice to men, they all turn into scums. We should have the guts to do the same.

Joelle pours the rest of the bottle in her glass, she's drunk.

JOELLE (CONT'D)
Men are like apples, the best have
been picked and the others the
fallen ones... Good to discard.
That is what left for us.

DD
You're drunk. C'mon let's go.

DD stands up and helps Joelle to the exit.

JOELLE
And what do we do with rotten
apples? We cook them and turn them
into compotes to feed the elderly.

Joelle sobs. Some customers stare at her, others snicker. DD
comforts her.

JOELLE (CONT'D)
What would I do without you DD?

DD
Shh. You're making a scene.

DD pats Joelle's head.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DD steps out of Joelle's house. She crosses the garden. The
garage is lit. Faint music plays on the small radio.

DD peers into the window. Ron is slumped on the couch,
snoring, alone. Empty bottles of drinks are scattered on the
floor.

A lit cigarette is smoking in the ashtray next to Ron's feet.

DD looks around and notices the gas oven. She tiptoes into
the garage.

LATER

DD steps out of the garage and locks the door. She walks
confidently to the fence and crosses the street.

As she walks away, the lit garage grows smaller in the
distance. DD stops walking, glances at her watch and

BOOM. The garage explodes.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - MUCH LATER

Cops, firemen and an ambulance car flock Joelle's front yard. Medical assistants carry a charred corpse on a gurney.

DD stands by Joelle and holds her by the shoulders. Joelle watches the scene, unabashed.

LATER

Joelle is still in shock.

JOELLE

What did we do? We're criminals.

DD

Don't feel guilty for those
assholes who made other people live
a shitty life. It'll pass.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

A CLAIMS INVESTIGATOR, 40's, scours the charred place for the slightest clue and scribbles on his notepad.

DD and Joelle stand anxious.

JOELLE

Do you have anything you want?

CLAIMS INVESTIGATOR

Well, it's quite difficult to check
whether this little shed was built
to code -- Did you keep the
receipts for the work?

JOELLE

The guy -- we helped him out. But
he built them up to code.

The claims investigator remains confused.

DD

The companies have agreed to insure
him.

CLAIMS INVESTIGATOR

But for the building costs, I'm
afraid you'll get nothing, if you
don't have the receipts.

DD and Joelle feel relieved.

JOELLE
We'll manage.

INT. ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY - DAY

Jordan stands near the window, watching some workers removing the Christmas decorations in the street.

A dog stops and takes a dump. The young woman gropes for her phone in her bag and scurries away with the dog leaving the dung on the sidewalk.

Jordan is about to dip his doughnut in his coffee. He expresses disgust and chucks the doughnut into the trash.

EXT. ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY - DAY

DD fumbles in her bag for some pills, swallows them. Joelle frowns at her.

DD
Arthritis. When the machine is worn out, it needs to be serviced --
Wait.

DD smooths Joelle's hair and dabs her mouth with a tissue to remove some lipstick.

DD (CONT'D)
Much better.

DD and Joelle stand at the entrance of the insurance building with some apprehension. They take a deep breath.

JOELLE
Let's go.

INT. ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY - DAY

DD and Joelle sit in front of Jordan.

JORDAN
Gosh, I can't believe he was so reckless. I couldn't see he was depressed.

DD
Depression is hard to see. He was a heavy boozier. That could explain.

JOELLE
He felt guilty about being
accountable to us.

DD
We told him he could stay as long
as he wanted but... you know.

JORDAN
Do you know anyone who held a
grudge against him?

DD and Joelle shake their heads.

DD
You think someone did this?

JORDAN
He'd never put his life at risk.
I'm sure about it.

JOELLE
We knew nothing about him. He was
cryptic -- That's what made him
popular among women.

DD
We're gonna miss him.

Jordan pulls himself together. He points at the files on the
desk.

JORDAN
Well, it's all settled -- Do you
mind if I drop by sometime to your
place, just to reminisce about his
presence?

DD
I'm not the one to ask.

JOELLE
You're welcome.

JORDAN
Have you heard of the boomerang
effect? What you sow always comes
back to you one way or another

Jordan looks up at them.

DD
The boomerang effect, huh?
Interesting.

JORDAN
I like to make up cues...

Jordan grins. They stand up.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Good luck.

JOELLE
Thank you.

EXT. ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY - DAY

DD and Joelle walk in a hurry on the sidewalk.

DD
Slow down.

JOELLE
You seen the guy? He knows. We're screwed.

DD
Relax. He's got nothing against us.
It's all gone up in smoke.

JOELLE
Guess you're right -- too late to back out now.

MONTAGE - DD AND JOELLE BECOME RICH

-- AT THE BANK -- DD and Joelle stand at the front desk. The bank employee turns his computer screen to them. Several figures show up before them. One million dollars. DD and Joelle's jaws drop.

-- AT JOELLE'S PLACE -- The workers are grinding their heels to get the garage fixed.

-- AT DD'S PLACE -- The workers are replacing the kitchen equipment and refurbishing the living-room.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

A cab pulls over. DD and Joelle get out of the cab with their hands full of groceries.

They both stare at the garage, it is well renovated but not in a blatant way.

DD
Neither too much, nor too little.
Perfect.

JOELLE
Yeah.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DINING ROOM - DAY

DD cleans up the tables. She watches PAUL, he is worn out and sits alone at a table.

DD
Are you meditating?

Paul smiles.

PAUL
Some days you just want to throw it
all away.

DD
Never hold back. Spit it out.

PAUL
Sometimes when we look at the
record of our lives, it's not so
glorious... Do you have any
children?

DD ponders.

DD
Is that what this is about? Enough
to say I've fulfilled my duty.

PAUL
Family is like a raffle, you can
have good kids, but you can have
lousy ones too.

DD
Do you know any perfect families?

FLASHBACK - DD REMEMBERS

Unkind faces of her son 40, her daughter 45 and her three
grand children parade before her.

DD (V.O.)
I have learned one thing...

DD is lying sick in her bed. She calls for help. Nobody responds. She feels lonely.

DD (V.O.)
We raise children, but they don't belong to you. Sooner or later, they change. We can't do anything about it. They are no longer the little ones you cuddled. And when these kids have children, you become a total stranger to them.

BACK TO PRESENT

DD is dreamy.

DD
I haven't seen them for a while.
And strangely, I'm okay with that.

Paul pours himself a glass of water, swigs it.

PAUL
Can't say I'm any better.

DD
Really.

PAUL
Everyone has had their share of hardships. Haven't they?

INT. PAUL'S MISTRESS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The room is dim. Paul is smooching his MISTRESS.

MISTRESS
Oh yeah honey.

Paul's WIFE barges in and finds them on the couch half naked.

PAUL'S WIFE
Don't fucking bother asshole.

PAUL
It's not what you think.

Paul's Mistress covers her body and runs away.

PAUL'S WIFE

You treat me like an imbecile. What about these phone calls? Is it for your business?

Paul's wife tosses his phone bills at him.

BACK TO SOUP KITCHEN

DD is all ears.

PAUL

Our relationship was already on shaky ground but it was the last straw when she showed up at lily's place.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Paul's Wife hurls the dishes against the wall.

PAUL'S WIFE

You just can't keep your dick shit under control.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

DD is all focused.

PAUL

It went haywire that day.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Paul punches his wife in the face. She falls to the floor.

Then Paul grabs his wife's hair and pulls her up, he drags his wife to the living room. His two Boys stand there, watching the scene horrified.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

DD listens horrified.

PAUL

I had a bit of a rough hand that day... And you know the rest, it went on a downward spiral.

A silence.

ACCOUNTANT (O.S.)
DD? Can you come for a moment?

An ACCOUNTANT, a man with glasses, stands at the end of the room. DD waves goodbye at Paul.

Paul smirks and ogles her as she walks away.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - OFFICE - DAY

Joelle stands by the window. She notices a man MAX, 70, charming, eating alone at a table.

Max stands up, pats his belly, looks around. He looks at Joelle through the window. He waves at her. Joelle gets embarrassed, she waves back.

DD and the Accountant sit at a table examining the accounting books.

ACCOUNTANT
The going gets rough this time. We can make it through April, and then it's over. We'll have to shut down the centre.

DD
It's like that every time of the year, and we always manage to get through it.

ACCOUNTANT
We can't only rely on mister de la Fleur for his generosity. We need to have some leeway so we don't always get grabbed by the throat.

JOELLE
Guy's got contacts, maybe he can hook us up with some new connections. What do you think DD?

Through the window DD spots Paul, he crosses the street, then vanishes.

DD
Huh? Why me?

INT. WAN ASIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Paul gobbles up food like a starving man.

DD

Slow down. You're gonna choke to death.

PAUL

I'm stockpiling and the day there's nothing to peck at, well, it'll draw from my stashes.

JOELLE

That explains the doggy bags.

PAUL

That? No. It's for my buddy Ollie... Hey, why don't you guys come see where I'm holed up?

DD

You're not a fugitive?

PAUL

Nah. There's a living room, a bedroom big enough for two and a washroom.

JOELLE

Wa can't wait to see your cozy little shed.

EXT. DEAD-END STREET - LATER

A cab pulls over in front of the street. The street is a gloomy one at the back of a restaurant. Big garbage bins line the side of the wall. Stray, mangy dogs are roaming around looking for any food.

PAUL

My dream estate... Ollie...

Paul kicks his friend, slumped on pieces of unfolded cardboard. OLLIE, 60s, awakes with a yawn. Paul hands him a doggie bag.

OLLIE

We have company. Sorry. I dozed off... Have a seat.

Ollie starts eating in the doggie bag with a crooked fork.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
People dump all kinds of things in
the trash.

DD and Joelle sit on the boxes and look around with dismay.

Paul shows a wall and a faucet.

PAUL
Bathroom break there -- Every two
days the garbage trucks pick up the
trash, and once in a while the
employees of the restaurant go over
the corner with water. We get new
boxes with each delivery.

OLLIE
And when our stomachs grunt to
much, Paul stocks up on you.

DD and Joelle look at each other with a spark in their eyes.

DD
Don't you fancy moving to a new
location?

PAUL
What? Dorms? Stuff like that? No.
We value our privacy.

JOELLE
Not at all. A home like you've
always dreamed of.

OLLIE
We're kinda used to it from our
little corner, we've got our little
habits -- our buddies, the cooks,
Dixon and Clarinet.

DD and Joelle frown.

PAUL
The dogs.

DD
Ah... I mean a safe place where you
can crash, without having the fear
of being assaulted or disturbed
late at night...

PAUL
You mean the two of us together?
Like a couple? No... Sorry Ollie,
but I like being alone.

DD
We might have a solution for your
request.

Joelle gives her an inquiring look.

JOELLE
Think of wintertime... the cold.

OLLIE
She's got a point Paul.

PAUL
Well, it would be inappropriate to
be finicky.

EXT. JOELLE'S GUESTHOUSE - DAY

Paul watches the new place with excitement.

PAUL
I can't afford to pay you rent.

JOELLE
Money, money -- That's not all that
matters. You can live here as long
as you wish.

PAUL
Nobody's has ever been nice to me
before. Why are you doing this?

Joelle is coyly moved. She sighs.

JOELLE
This place is endearing to me. Some
time ago I lost someone who lived
here. I rebuilt it in his loving
memory and I like it when there's
someone around.

PAUL
Well, I don't know what to say...
Thank you.

Joelle yanks life insurance documents out of her purse, moves
them around in front of him and opens them where they need to
be signed.

JOELLE

I'll just ask you to sign here,
these are insurance documents in
case there are any glitches and
just to cover me too.

PAUL

I don't want to have to deal with
the authorities.

JOELLE

Don't worry. It's just to comply
with the law.

Paul signs several pages. Joelle smiles.

JOELLE (CONT'D)

You're home.

INT. NEIGHBORLY NEST APARTMENTS - DD'S APPARTMENT - DAY

The place looks like motel rooms. It is small, simple and
decent. Ollie signs the insurance documents. DD hands him the
key.

DD

Take good care of it. Don't worry
for the rent. It'll be paid
monthly.

OLLIE

I'm beholden to you for life.

DD smiles and leaves.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - TERRACE - DAY

DD and Joelle are sipping tea and munching muffins. They look
at the guest house.

DD

He's a quiet one. No ruckus, no
furry chicks scampering around the
yard. It's off to a good start.

JOELLE

I'm kinda miss it when things are
lively... How about yours?

DD

I believe he'll adjust quickly.

JOELLE
Shouldn't give them too many bad
habits.

Dd jumps. Jordan steps in the yard.

JORDAN
Hey... I was passing by... How are
you?

DD
Fine. Well. For a surprise, it is.

JOELLE
Hello there.

Jordan looks at the newly rebuilt guesthouse.

JORDAN
It's an emotion-filled moment,
knowing my buddy was living here.

Jordan moves closer, looks through the window.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Someone's in there.

The door opens. Paul gets out with a WOMAN, 50's. Paul looks
at Jordan intrigued, then he sees DD and Joelle. He
introduces ANNA. Paul looks embarrassed.

PAUL
Anna... She's just visiting... And
my benefactresses.

JOELLE
You're free to do whatever you
want. I'm not going to snoop around
your life.

JORDAN
You're crashing here?

PAUL
Yeah, well, thanks to Joe and DD,
they've been nice to us.

JORDAN
Us?

DD
Let's not bother Paul any longer,
he's got other fish to fry, hasn't
he?

Joelle takes Jordan aside. Paul leaves with Anna.

JOELLE

It's so good to see you again. I made some muffins, you'll tell me about it.

JORDAN

No. I'm fine thanks. I was just popping by. I'm in a hurry.

DD

What a shame. I hope you stay longer next time.

JORDAN

I will.

Jordan leaves.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DINING ROOM - DAY

DD and Joelle stand behind the counter and serve the homeless. Max hands the tray to Joelle. Joelle smiles at him.

JOELLE

You're new to the neighborhood?

MAX

I'm from Brooklyn. Too cold over there. I jumped off at the bay area, then skipped here. People are rude towards us in San Francisco.

JOELLE

Oh. I'm sorry to hear that. Here you'll find lots of kind and smiling people.

Max picks up his full tray and leaves smiling at her. Joelle is charmed.

INT. DD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Someone's knocking at the door. DD rushes to open the door. Guy stands there handing out a bunch of flowers.

DD

Hello Guy... Oh, they're beautiful.

She takes the flowers. They hug. Guy enters. He looks at the pictures of DD and her husband on the wall.

GUY

This place is your reflection --
plain but elegant.

DD

Thank you. Make yourself at home.
I'll be right there.

DD puts the meals on the table in the

DINING-ROOM

LATER

There is not much left of the meal. Guy sits satiated.

GUY

You have all the qualities to be a
good wife. It was scrumptious.

DD

That's what my husband used to say.
I'm glad you liked the meal.

GUY

But this is not a date. Is it?

DD smiles.

DD

Let's just say that... the team is
concerned about the future of the
centre... Given that we will soon
no longer be able to provide the
necessities for the homeless.

GUY

What do you suggest?

DD

Well, er, I don't know. You're the
specialist.

Guy laughs.

GUY

You're adorable... I'll do what's
best for you, because it's a place
dear to me... and also that's where
I met a special person...

Guy puts his hand on DD's hand. She withdraws it swiftly. But
Guy won't admit defeat.

GUY (CONT'D)

Come on, DD. We're not kids anymore. What keeps you from having a companion in your golden years?

DD

I don't know. An abusive husband, con man or womanizer maybe.

GUY

We're not alike.

DD

That's what they all say. And I enjoy my freedom, even if sometimes... it's hard. But that said, nothing's static, people can change, you know.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - GUESTOUSE - NIGHT

Paul steps outside the Guesthouse and meets Ollie. They both walk and chat. A small sedan car follows them.

The car stops a little further on. Jordan gets out of the car and walks Paul's way. He comes across Paul and Ollie.

JORDAN

Hey. How are you? You're the one who lives at Joelle's guesthouse?

PAUL

Er, yeah.

JORDAN

You two live there?

OLLIE

Nope.

PAUL

We're late. The center is going to close. We're gonna miss dinner.

JORDAN

I'll take you out, how about it?

OLLIE

Well, that's even better. Let's go.

INT. ABE'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It's a simple restaurant that doesn't look like much. Food and bottles of whisky lay on the table. The two stooges are fuddled.

OLLIE

Come on. Let's raise a glass to Jordan.

They toast and gulp down the drink.

JORDAN

How did you get to know DD and Joelle?

PAUL

I'm a regular guest at the soup kitchen. That's how we met. Except this schmuck, he was too slack to go, so I brought him food every night.

OLLIE

Yeah, but you gotta admit... You can't get enough of your buddy.

Paul and Ollie hug.

JORDAN

And that's how she offered you a place to live?

They nod.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

That's it? Just like that?

Jordan serves them another round of drink. They gulp it. Jordan throws the booze down.

PAUL

We signed a paper... To comply with the law, like an insurance policy.

OLLIE

Yeah, right. But what the fuck? I've got a roof over my head, they give me free food. What more can you ask?

INT. GUESTHOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bottles of booze are strewn across the floor. On the bed Paul and Anna lie naked.

Paul straps her hands to the sides of the bed. Anna giggles. He leans over her and grabs her face too hard. It hurts her.

PAUL
I'm on fire.

ANNA
You're hurting me.

PAUL
You like it, my little skank. Don't
lie to me.

He slaps her. Anna screams. He slaps her again, but harder.

ANNA
Please, no... Let me go. Let me...

He smothers her with his hand and RAPES her. Anna cries.

EXT. GUESTHOUSE - LATER

Anna sneaks out and closes the door. As she's walking down the street, Joelle calls out to her.

JOELLE
What's going on? I heard noises in
the house.

Anna lowers her head, hides her face. Joelle lifts her head and is horrified to see Anna's swollen face.

JOELLE (CONT'D)
This son of a bitch. I'm gonna kick
him out.

ANNA
No. Please. Don't do that. It's
just a game between us. He is
violent. It's his nature.

Joelle looks at Anna and has an idea in mind. She strokes Anna's face.

JOELLE
Go home. And don't come back.

Anna leaves in the middle of the night.

EXT. BAYAN DOCKSIDE - NIGHT

Ollie roams the docks with a bottle of booze in his hand. He runs into Three homeless people behind the containers.

HOMELESS MAN #1
Hey, you wanna share a bottle?

OLLIE
What do you have?

Homeless #2 yanks two joints out of his pocket. Ollie smiles.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
That will do.

CUT TO:

INT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Three glasses of wine clink in the air. DD, Joelle and Paul drink. Paul is tipsy. He chortles.

PAUL
I feel so lucky to have you in my life. Six months ago, I was drifting aimlessly. And now... I am reviving... Thanks to you.

DD and Joelle smile.

DD
Let's not get emotional. We're here to celebrate your birthday.

Joelle brings a small cake with a lit candle in it. They all sing happy birthday. Paul blows the candle.

PAUL
Thank you.

DD cuts the cake, hands Paul and Joelle a piece of it. They all grab a bite. DD opens a bottle of champagne. She serves everyone a glass of it.

DD
Now for the best part.

PAUL
Wait, wait. I've got something for you.

Paul turns round and fumbles in his pocket. Joelle DROPS SOME POWDER into Paul's drink. Paul hands them two pieces of trinkets, a bracelet and earrings.

JOELLE
Oh. That's nice of you.

PAUL
I'm glad you like it.

DD looks at the bracelet.

DD
You shouldn't -- Let's toast.

Paul swigs the whole glass. They all look at each other.

LATER

PAUL
I may want to go to the bathroom.

JOELLE
At the end of the hall on your right.

Paul leaves.

A few minutes later, they hear a THUMP on the floor.

DD
Paul? You're okay?

DD and Joelle head towards the

BATHROOM

Paul is slumped on the ground, inert. DD and Joelle both carry him. They stumble.

DD (CONT'D)
That shit bag is heavy.

JOELLE
We've fed him too much.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

DD and Joelle lift Paul, his arms resting around their shoulders. Paul snores.

DD
He's not dead.

JOELLE
It's just a matter of minutes. We
should have gagged him.

DD
Shut up. We're almost there.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - STREET - NIGHT

A clunker of a car is parked on the street. Joelle holds Paul
against the car. DD struggles to unlock the door, finally.

DD
You could have chosen a more modern
car.

JOELLE
I thought you liked classics.

They tuck him in the back seat. DD and Joelle get into the
car and tear away.

INT./EXT. BAYAN DOCKSIDE - NIGHT

The clunker drives beside stacks of shipping containers.

DD
Let's leave him here.

JOELLE
Are you sure?

DD
The perfect place.

EXT. BAYAN DOCKSIDE - BEHIND THE CONTAINERS - NIGHT

Ollie and his new friends are totally stoned.

HOMELESS MAN #3
Shh.

HOMELESS #2
What?

HOMELESS MAN #1
A car's coming. Let's move.

OLLIE
Hey. Are you leaving me?

HOMELESS MAN #1

They patrol a lot around here. Beat it.

The three homeless men scamper off. Ollie plays nosy. He heads towards the dockside.

INT./EXT. BAYAN DOCKSIDE - NIGHT

DD gets out of the car and pull Paul's body out. He's balled up, and DD straightens him. She gets back inside the car.

Joelle sits behind the steering wheel and revs the engine. As they pull away, DD looks back. Paul moves.

DD

Shit. He's still alive. Back up.

JOELLE

Give me the bottle.

DD

What are you doing?

She opens up a bottle of alcohol, chugs a great deal of it.

JOELLE

Oh hell.

The car backs up fast. BAM. It runs over Paul's body, then pulls forward and rolls over it again. Backward and forward.

The door of the car opens up. DD strides towards Paul, takes his pulse and gets in the car.

DD

This time it worked.

Joelle glances at the rearview mirror. A few yards away, the figure of a DRUNKARD walks near the body.

The car brakes.

The car turns round and speeds toward the Drunkard. Startled, he drops his bottle and scoots.

Joelle rolls down the window and yells at the Drunkard.

JOELLE

Hey.

DD

It's Ollie.

JOELLE

Shit, wait. We need to talk.

Ollie looks back, his feet tangle in a rope, he falls, his head hits on a piling. DD gets out of the car and goes to Ollie.

DD

He's dead.

JOELLE

How do you know?

DD pushes him with her foot off the edge of the dock. Ollie falls in the sea.

DD

Just a guess.

DD gets into the car, and they speed away.

BEHIND A SHIPPING CONTAINER

A HOODED MAN, 50's, witnesses the scene. He gulps some alcohol from his bottle and scoots in the dark.

INT. DD'S AND JOELLE'S CAB - DAY

DD and Joelle get in the cab, separately. They snap their fancy handbags and smile.

Images of Paul and Ollie's dead bodies are superimposed with pouring cash.

EXT. SAINT SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

Two cabs stop. DD and Joelle get out of their cabs.

DD

You got a new dress?

JOELLE

Yeah, I went crazy.

DD

Looks cheap on you.

They enter the soup kitchen.

INT. ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY - DAY

Jordan treads the alley to his desk, picks up some newspapers and slumps down on his chair.

He grabs a bite of doughnut, sips his coffee and flips through the first pages of the newspaper.

An article calls his attention: "Two homeless men found dead on the Bayan docks", with photos of the victims. Jordan nearly chokes. He recognizes the faces of Paul and Ollie.

He spatters some coffee on the newspaper.

JORDAN

Shit.

He wipes it off with some tissue. He reads the article softly.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Two men were found dead on the docks, the first appears to be a victim of a hit-and-run. Tire tracks were found near his body. The body of the second was recovered from the sea nearby. Pending claims from the families of the victims, an investigation will be conducted to see if there is a possible link between the two victims or not.

Jordan folds the paper, convinced it's a low blow by the two women.

INT. SAINT SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

DD and Joelle are cleaning the tables. They turn around and startle when they see Jordan.

Jordan tosses the newspaper on the table.

JORDAN

You killed them.

DD and Joelle glance at the newspaper. They contain their fear.

DD

What happened to them is sad -- but we didn't kill them.

JOELLE
You came all the way down here to
tell us that?

JORDAN
I know it's you. This is the
perfect place to con those poor
wretches.

JOELLE
You're making a scene. Keep your
voice down.

Everybody is looking at them.

JORDAN
I'll show you I'm right.

Jordan leaves. DD and Joelle stare at each other and
understand they need to be calm. They resume their work.

INT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - MORNING

KITCHEN

Joelle is sitting at the table drinking coffee. Someone
knocks at the door. She heads towards the

LIVING-ROOM

She opens the door. A STOUT COP, 50's, stands at the door.

STOUT COP
Mrs. Lamar Joelle? A search warrant
for you.

The Stout Cop and two other cops barge into her house, turn
the place upside down to find any clue.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - GUESTHOUSE - MORNING

They head towards the guest house.

LATER

The two cops are back.

COP #1
Nothing, officer.

JOELLE
What's all this about?

STOUT COP

A complaint filed against you in reference to the murders of Paul Ducast and Oliver Nollier..

JOELLE

Murders? I took in Paul but I didn't kill him.

STOUT COP

We'd like to ask you a few questions. Follow us.

INT. DD'S HOUSE - MORNING

Two cops are searching clues all over the place. DD stands watching.

YOUNG COP

Please come with us ma'am.

DD follows them.

INT. POLICE STATION - WILSON'S OFFICE - DAY

DD, Joelle and Jordan are sitting around Officer WILSON's desk. Officer Wilson is the Stout Cop.

JORDAN

Trust me, officer, these two women are homicidal, they killed my buddy and his friend to get the insurance money back.

OFFICER WILSON

We have no grounds to charge them. Everything's legit, we've been through the insurances, nothing.

JORDAN

All of them? There are thousands of them.

Officer is Wilson is pissed by Jordan's attitude. DD and Joelle keep a low profile and act all fragile and scared.

DD

All I can tell you, Officer, if I may, is that Jordan hasn't stopped stalking us, he's snooping on us, he's making trouble at the center.

JOELLE

We take them in, so what? We're not monitoring what they do at night, we're not watching their back.

Officer Wilson stares at DD and smiles.

OFFICER WILSON

You remind me of my mother. She passed.

DD

Oh. Sorry to hear that.

OFFICER WILSON

Okay. Enough. Case closed.

He stands up. Jordan leaves irritated. Officer Wilson accompanies DD and Joelle to the door.

OFFICER WILSON (CONT'D)

Sorry for the trouble. We used to know the guy, Ron, he was a troublemaker in bars, it was bound to happen sooner or later. So it's kind of the same with these guys.

JOELLE

Oh. We sure learn things. Goodbye sir.

INT. DOLLAR PANTRY SUPERMARKET - DAY

DD roams about the aisle of the supermarket. She stops in front of cans of fruit, takes one, examines it.

GUY (O.S.)

What a coincidence. I was about to give you a call.

DD turns back, nobody. She peeks between the cans to the aisle on the other side of the shelf.

An alluring woman approaches Guy with her cart, she's ARIELLE, 70's, stylish.

Arielle is very handsy, and Guy loves it.

ARIELLE

Funny. I was pretty sure I'd find you here.

GUY
Are you stalking me?

ARIELLE
Well, you're the kind of guy that
every woman would like to stalk.

They walk away laughing. Arielle holds Guy's arm.

DD puts the can back and leaves the supermarket without the cart.

EXT. DOLLAR PANTRY SUPERMARKET - DAY

DD walks towards a cab. Another cab stops by, and Joelle opens the car window.

JOELLE
Hey.

Guy and Arielle walk by, holding grocery bags. DD quickly opens the door of the cab, slips into it.

INT./EXT. CAB - DAY

DD lowers her face and closes the car window.

JOELLE
What?

DD
(to the cab driver)
Go, go.

The car revs up. Joelle notices Guy with Arielle.

JOELLE
(to the cab driver)
Slow down.

The cab rolls toward Guy and Arielle.

DD
No. Ugh.

JOELLE
Remember DD, San Sebastian needs
you. If Guy gets mad at you, he has
no reason to provide more food for
the charity. Be nice. I know you
like him.

DD
It's embarrassing.

Joelle opens the window.

JOELLE
(to Guy)
What a small world.

Guy looks at Joelle bemused. DD sits up embarrassed and waves hello.

GUY
You rushed out.

DD
I didn't want to hold Joelle up.

DD looks at Arielle.

GUY
Arielle. This is DD and Joelle.

They exchange looks, grin.

ARIELLE
I was trying to convince Guy to
come with me to Vegas. It would be
a lot of fun...

GUY
I'm so busy right now.

DD
To hell with that. Go and have fun
for once. You deserve it.

DD and Guy lock their eyes. Arielle notices it and grabs
Guy's arm.

ARIELLE
See? Even your friends want you to
go. Listen to them.

DD
(taps the cab driver's
shoulder)
C'mon. Let's go.

DD waves goodbye. The cab drives away.

INT. CAB - DAY

DD pulls out a mirror from her bag. Joelle sighs.

JOELLE

Arielle is beautiful. Wonder how long Guy will spurn her advances.

DD

Don't boss me around. Besides Arielle seems the perfect fit for him -- devoted, fancy, extravagant... Everything he hates.

JOELLE

You push Guy to the limit. You could ruin the feelings he has for you.

DD

Patience is the best proof of love. A man has to deserve a woman.

JOELLE

It is no longer true now. People have changed. There will be other Arielles, and Guy will give in one day. And you'll be alone with your pride.

DD looks at herself in the mirror.

EXT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

Max carries a big shoulder bag. Joelle meets Max, and they chat.

INT. PARTY BOWL RESTAURANT - DAY

DD, Joelle and Max sit around a table, eating. Max drops his shoulder bag on the seat.

MAX

I live like a gypsy. Every day life gives you presents -- I met you.

JOELLE

Carpe diem.

DD

How can you live an aimless life?

MAX

You can't because you're too hooked on material things. My existence is summed up in this bundle.

INT. JORDAN'S CAR - DAY

Jordan watches them with his binoculars.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Max leaves the house and jogs away. Jordan leaves his car and follows him.

EXT. MAIDPOND GARDENS - DAY

Max sits on a bench feeding the birds. Jordan walks towards him. The birds fly away.

MAX

You just scared them away.

JORDAN

Sorry. I didn't mean to.

MAX

It was their lunch time. They come here at the same time, everyday, waiting for me.

Jordan is embarrassed.

JORDAN

I'm Jordan.

Max remains indifferent. Max calls the birds. Jordan sits next to him.

MAX

What do you want?

JORDAN

You're new here?

MAX

Did I do something wrong?

JORDAN

No. I've just seen you coming out of a property... I had a friend who lived there -- Ron.

MAX

I'm refurbishing the property.

Max tosses some bread on the ground, and a few birds come and pick it up.

JORDAN

There used to be a shed in the yard. My friend lived in it for a while, but then it burnt down with him inside.

Max doesn't respond.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

He was a good friend... It must be difficult to live in a place where a tragedy occurred. I always worry that events will repeat themselves.

MAX

Like a curse? That's karma. Nothing is accidental. Everything happens for a purpose.

JORDAN

I guess Ron redeemed himself by making those women rich... He gave up his life insurance policies to them.

Max listens with one distracted ear.

MAX

Good for him.

Jordan gets confused and shifts subjects.

JORDAN

I don't know why, you remind me of my dad, Woodstock generation hippie style.

MAX

Yeah, so what?

JORDAN

I'm just saying -- If I were you, I wouldn't trust these women.

MAX

Thank you, but I wasn't born yesterday. I see the potential in people. But I'll keep that in mind.

Max realizes he hasn't been very friendly with Jordan.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm max.

He reaches out to him.

MONTAGE - JOELLE AND MAX GET ACQUAINTED

-- AT THE PARK -- Max teaches Joelle how to play football. They have fun.

-- AT JOELLE'S HOUSE -- Max is on the roof, nailing on tiles, Joelle throws him a wrapped sandwich. Max smiles.

-- AT THE PARK -- Max and Joelle, on a bench, feed the birds. Several birds come around them. Joelle shows some disgust. She shoos them away.

-- AT SANTA MONICA'S MARKET -- Joelle and Max stroll about, feeling the vegetables and fresh fruit at a farm stand.

-- AT SANTA MONICA PIER -- Max offers a piece of fruit to a homeless man.

EXT. SANTA MONICA - PALISADE PARK - MORNING

Max in a lotus position, meditates. His T-shirt is tied around his head. Joelle stands behind him. She enjoys an ice cream cone. A gust of wind upsets her hair.

JOELLE

Ooh.

MAX

Shhh.

Joelle sits next to him, taking in the fresh ocean air. She slurps her ice cream. Joelle waves her hand in front of Max, but he doesn't react.

MAX (CONT'D)

Your mind is restless. Connect with nature.

Max inhales and exhales deeply.

JOELLE

I find balance with this ice cream.

She slurps it. Max opens his eyes.

MAX

We have lost contact with nature
and forgotten the invisible part
that surrounds us.

Joelle stares at him in awe.

JOELLE

And what does this invisible part
have to do with our lives?

MAX

It inspires you, elevates your
soul, teaches you... To finally
find peace and freedom.

JOELLE

How can I find that?

Max laughs.

MAX

In you. Get rid of everything that
hampers you, focus.

Joelle closes her eyes and tries to meditate in vain.

JOELLE

I can't.

Max moves behind her and puts his hand on her belly.

MAX

Learn to breathe. Feel the air...
exhale. See?

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - KITCHEN - DAY

DD and Joelle wash the dishes. Joelle inhales and exhales.

DD

What are you doing?

JOELLE

Trying to learn how to breathe, the
way the babies do. See, breathe
from the belly like this.

Joelle shows her belly rising and falling. DD shrugs and
sighs.

JOELLE (CONT'D)
You should try it. It might make
you more... Likeable.

DD
One of mister junkie's madcap
ideas.

JOELLE
Max? You're wrong about him.

DD opens her eyes wide.

DD
Of course. He's just another mooch.
But I know a way to make him
contribute to the society.

Joelle grins.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Max stands in front of the house with a glass of wine in his
hand.

MAX
This place is looking good.

DD
And what next?

Max puts his finger in his mouth and raises it to the air.

MAX
The wind will show me the
direction.

JOELLE
You could stay here.

DD
We can offer you comfort. Every man
needs a nest to settle down and
find peace.

MAX
I'm a gypsy, remember? Besides I've
got nothing to give you back.

DD
We have an interesting offer to
make you.

EXT. BAYAN DOCKSIDE - NIGHT

A small sedan car slows down. The windows are down. Jordan is checking the scene of the crime.

He steps out of the car, kneels down and searches for clues. Nothing.

He notices a HOODED MAN lurking behind the shipping containers, the same one who witnessed the scene. He heads towards him.

JORDAN

Hey. Excuse me. You often hang around here?

The Hooded Man remains silent. He looks high.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Did you see an accident last time you were here?

The Man still looks at him.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Okay, forget it. You can't talk.

HOODED MAN

How much are you gonna give?

Jordan reaches into his wallet and gives him a 20-dollar bill.

HOODED MAN (CONT'D)

We see a lot of stuff here, killings, accidents, people screwing...

JORDAN

Two women who bumped into a guy?

Silence. Jordan gives him a hundred dollar bill.

HOODED MAN

I couldn't see their faces, but I did see the guy who got hit by the car.

JORDAN

Doesn't help me much if you haven't seen the drivers.

HOODED MAN
But the car was a yellow ford
fairmont 1980. It was dented on the
rear left side.

Jordan frowns, wonders how the hell he can remember that even
wasted.

HOODED MAN (CONT'D)
If there's one thing I am not wrong
about, it's cars, even in the dark
I can identify them by the noise.

JORDAN
Thank you.

Jordan gets into his car.

EXT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Max zones out. He glances at the garage.

MAX
I need to ask my guides first. To
see if they feel good about that.

DD
Your guides?

Max exhales deeply with his hands moving down his body.

MAX
Yeah. About your offer. I need to
go to a spiritual retreat. Anyone
would like to accompany me this
weekend?

DD
Joelle would love to.

Joelle grumbles.

INT. JOELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joelle is packing up. DD comes in.

JOELLE
Thanks for sending me to
Dullstown... Why do we have to do
this again? We should take it easy.

DD
Money in your account is worth a
little retreat.

JOELLE
Max is different.

DD doesn't believe a word of it.

DD
This will be the last time, and
you'll have the rest of your life
to play society woman.

Joelle grumbles.

DD (CONT'D)
Trust me okay?

EXT. KARMA SPIRITUAL CENTER - YARD - DAY

Several participants are gathered in circle holding their hands. Max and Joelle join the group. They all chant and dance.

INT. KARMA SPIRITUAL CENTER - CANTEEN - LATER

The participants are seated, well disciplined, on long tables. Food is served. Joelle looks at the few carrots and peas in her dish and makes a face.

INT. KARMA SPIRITUAL CENTER - BIG ROOM - LATER

Yoga class. The participants adopt different postures and breathe deeply. Max is well trained but Joelle struggles. Joelle sits up.

JOELLE
I give up. I can't take it anymore.

Max looks at her. The TEACHER, a handsome middle-aged man, comes forward. He lays his hand on Joelle's forehead and invites her to lie down.

TEACHER
Shh. Relax. You're tense.

Joelle obeys. The Teacher rests his hand on Joelle's belly and presses it softly.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Breathe with your belly.

Joelle does.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
There you are. Inhale. Exhale
softly.

The Teacher presses more on her belly again, and Joelle
MOANS. Everybody looks at her. The teacher keeps on pressing
her belly. Joelle moans louder.

Joelle has an ORGASM. Max looks delighted.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Let it go. Don't fight.

Joelle convulses and then calms down. She sits up and looks
at everybody, embarrassed.

LATER

Joelle is ecstatic.

JOELLE
I've never felt anything like that
before.

TEACHER
Tell us what you saw.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
I saw a kaleidoscope of colors. I
saw light.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
(To everyone in the room)
Ladies and gentlemen, Joelle has
reached the highest level of
meditation, the nirvana. Let's give
a hand to Joelle.

Everybody stands up and applauds. They greet her.

EXT. KARMA SPIRITUAL CENTER - ZEN GARDEN - DAY

Max and Joelle contemplate the plants in the garden. Joelle
leans her head on Max's shoulder.

JOELLE
I'm good here. The worries seem so
distant now.

MAX

I'll sign your papers -- in
exchange, you attend my meditation
sessions.

JOELLE

Seems fair to me.

MAX

I don't want your mind wrapped up
in these trivial matters.

Joelle smiles at him. They kiss.

EXT. BUDGET STAR CAR DEALER - DAY

The car dealership specializes in vintage American cars. From
a distance we can see Jordan walking up to a salesman. The
salesman nods his head in denial.

As Jordan's leaving, a young car cleaner points him in a
direction. Jordan shakes his head satisfied.

EXT. KING MECHANIC - DAY

Jordan's car pulls up in front of the garage. It is small-
scale, homemade kind of thing. A lot of old car wrecks are
strewn around. Three MECHANICS are working on cars.

Jordan steps out of the car and heads towards a MECHANIC in
dungarees, 30s, who's draining a car on a bridge.

JORDAN

Excuse me sir, er, sorry to
inconvenience you, I'm looking for
an '80 ford Fairmont car wrecked on
the left side. The corner
dealership directed me to you.

MECHANIC

You're the police?

JORDAN

No, I'm a hoarder. My dad had one.
They're great cars.

The Mechanic comes up to him.

FLASHBACK

The yellow Ford Fairmont storms in. DD steps out of the car.

MECHANIC (V.O.)
The last one was two weeks ago.

DD chats with the Mechanic.

JORDAN (V.O.)
Do you remember who sent it to you?

A deal is made. They shake hands. The Mechanic hands her a wad of cash.

MECHANIC (V.O.)
A quite old lady, she needed to get some cash out of that car.

A Hydraulic compresses the car.

MECHANIC (V.O.)
The car was such in a bad shape, we sold it for parts.

BACK TO PRESENT

JORDAN
Got the name of the woman?

The Mechanic finds Jordan a bit intrusive.

MECHANIC
Don't remember.

JORDAN
Don't worry. Thanks.

Jordan leaves.

EXT. DD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DD stands on the porch of the house and unlocks the door.

JORDAN (O.S.)
I have evidence -- enough evidence now.

DD gets scared and steps back.

DD
What are you doing here? Leave.

Jordan steps up to her face to face.

JORDAN

I'm gonna bust you both, I've got witnesses, they're gonna testify.

Jordan leaves.

INT. JOELLE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

DD butters her slice of bread. Joelle stands at the sink.

JOELLE

Shit. I told you. You won't listen to me.

DD

Calm down. He's got nothing against us. He's pulling our leg.

JOELLE

You should never have started all this. You should have stopped at the first guy.

DD bites into the bread.

DD

You were part of this too, till the end. Look at now. You can bring all your hookups to this lovely house.

Joelle is shocked.

DD (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to.

JOELLE

I can't be like you, acting like nothing wrong happened

DD

Jordan is the problem. Let's get rid of him, and we can get it all right.

JOELLE

You're not listening to me. I'm sick of all this. And I have the right to choose what I want... I told Max not to sign the papers.

DD

You're making a mistake.

JOELLE
I'm done with this crap.

Joelle stands by the door and shows DD the way out. DD drops the bread, wipes her mouth and leaves the room.

INT. DD'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

DD is struggling to sleep, she's fidgeting in bed. The alarm clock reads 1:00 a.m.

She picks up a book on the bed table, but there is nothing she can do about it, she puts it back. The clock shows 1:30 AM.

She grabs a photo album from the cupboard, gazes at the old pictures of Joelle and her.

She swallows a sleeping-pill and turns off the light.

INT. BUS - DAY

The bus is packed. DD sits by the aisle. In the middle of the standing crowd, she stares at a WOMAN. She looks just like Joelle.

DD stands up, excited, shoves her way to reach Joelle, but people in front of her block the way.

DD
Joelle. Joelle.

Everybody turns their head toward her. DD asks a man to tap the Woman's shoulder. He does it. The Woman turns back. She's not Joelle.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DINING ROOM - DAY

DD is cleaning the tables. She spots Max sweeping the floor.

DD
Hi Max.

MAX
Oh. Hi DD. You're okay? Had a bad night?

DD
Yeah, full moon. It happens all the time... Joelle's around? I need her for the accounting.

MAX

She took a day off. She's having lunch with her friend.

DD

Ah.

MAX

She's totally excited. We're planning to move -- change life.

DD is startled.

DD

Oh. I know Joe. She can't stand any place other than California. She won't make it.

MAX

She looks determined. She feels she is no longer connected to California. Nothing's keeping her here.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - OFFICE - DAY

DD dials Joelle's number but it goes to voicemail.

DD

Hi, I hope you're okay, we need you here. Okay, call me then.

DD hangs up.

INT. DD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

TV is on in --

THE LIVING ROOM

DD watches TV from her sofa, wearied. She glances at a picture of Joelle and her on the coffee table. Grabbing the picture, she spills the vase of dried flowers.

She stares at the picture and smiles. She puts it back and then rearranges the dried flowers back one by one.

She paces to --

THE KITCHEN

Opens the fridge, spots one strawberry in the basket, the last one. It's almost dry. She cuts off the rotten part and eats the other one. She grimaces, spits it back in the sink. She pauses, stares at the strawberry, and then at the dried flowers in the living room.

She opens a drawer, takes a notebook, reads it and puts it back.

INT. DD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

DD dials her phone.

INT. MIGHTY BARREL BAR - NIGHT

Jordan chugs beer. His FRIENDS stand around him jeering. The telephone vibrates in his pocket. He picks it up and looks at the screen. No number.

Over the ruckus in the room, he answers.

JORDAN
Hello? I can't hear you. Wait.

He moves to a quieter area.

FRIENDS
Hey Jordan. You aren't done yet.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JORDAN
I'm sorry, who is this?

DD
It's DD.

JORDAN
Oh. Hey.

DD
We need to talk. I was thinking about our last conversation. You're right.

JORDAN
Good then. What do you plan to do?
Go to the police?

DD

I can't tell you on the phone.
Come over to my place tomorrow
night. I'll be alone. Joelle and
I... Well, we no longer share the
same interests. Things have
changed.

JORDAN

Okay.

Jordan hangs up.

EXT. GINA'S HOUSE - TERRACE - DAY

DD walks up on the porch of the house and knocks on the door.
GINA, 50s, with a bandana on her head, is a fortune teller.
She opens the door and hands her a small pouch of dry powder.

GINA

I don't have time. I've got
someone. Take care.

DD smiles.

INT. DD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DD dials her phone. She gets Joelle's answering machine
again.

DD

Joelle... Just to let you know.
Don't worry about anything. I'll
handle it. Everything will be back
like it was before. I miss you. You
are my support, and I'm lost
without you.

LATER

LIVING-ROOM

Jordan is sitting, scanning around the place, analyzing
objects, photographs, details that reveal a lot about the
character.

He looks uncomfortable. DD is nervous but is cool and
collected.

JORDAN

And how did you kill Ron?

DD stands up and heads towards

THE KITCHEN

DD

But before I get into it, I'll get you a glass of wine.

JORDAN

I don't drink.

DD

It's not an option, or you won't know anything about it. It helps loosen up. You're not here to kill me, are you?

She uncorks a bottle of wine and pours a little into each glass.

JORDAN

Of course not.

DD

Ron was temperamental, charming at first, but soon toxic. And then by a stroke of fate he was there, asleep, with a cigarette in his mouth... Cigarette and gas -- it's an explosive mixture, you know.

DD spills some powder in one of the glasses.

LIVING ROOM

Jordan observes DD's every move through the little mirror above her. He SEES HER SPILLING POWDER in the glass.

DD returns and hands the glass of poisoned wine to Jordan. She puts the other one next to her seat. Then she hops into the kitchen again.

JORDAN

What about the others?

Jordan SWITCHES the glasses and gives the poisoned glass to DD.

DD returns with two small dishes of berry crumble with spoons.

Jordan stares at the mouth-watering dishes with gusto. DD sits down.

DD
Human nature is malevolent
sometimes. . . Aren't you drinking?

Jordan raises his glass, and gulps the wine under DD's watchful eye.

DD (CONT'D)
Paul was abusive with his cohorts
and Ollie was a small-time sneak,
selling heavy drugs.

JORDAN
And that's why you killed them?
Because they were bad?

DD drinks her glass of wine.

DD
When we examine the natural
environment around us, all waste is
either destroyed or absorbed in a
natural way... Society is
structured on the same pattern. We
have only sped up the process.

Jordan grins.

JORDAN
It's heinous.

DD
Wine makes me say awful things
sometimes. I don't realize it.

DD stands still for a moment.

JORDAN
Not feeling well?

DD
I-I... I feel dizzy.

JORDAN
I saw your trick. I switched the
glasses.

Jordan grabs the dish of crumble and devours it with satisfaction. Then he raises his glass of wine and finishes it.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
That wine and crumble were actually
a good idea.

DD stands up and heads to her bedroom which opens onto the living-room.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Here's what I offer you, and you'll have to figure it out fast -- your life depends on it. 70% of what you collected, and I'm taking you to the hospital, which is right around the corner.

BEDROOM

DD opens her dressing table drawer, rummages through it and picks up a bottle of antidote. She swigs it. She gasps a little, she feels better.

DD

My father always told me...

EXT. DD'S LARGE ESTATE - DAY(FALSHBACK)

The scene takes place in the 30s.

DD, 7, and her father, 30s, an elegant man, ride horses. They stop and admire their property.

GEORGE

My girl -- Put it in your head -- in life, always have a plan B, and if that doesn't work out, a plan C and so on.

INT. DD'S HOUSE - NIGHT(BACK TO SCENE)

Jordan stands up. He feels dizzy. His stomach gurgles.

JORDAN

What did you put in the cake?
What's that vial?

QUICK FLASH

DD sprinkles some poisonous powder on half the crumble. She scoops the poisonous part to Jordan and serves the healthy part for her.

BACK TO SCENE

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Give me this.

Jordan rushes towards her and snatches the vial.

DD

No.

He staggers. He has a terrible headache.

Jordan is about to open the vial, but DD yanks it from his hand. The vial lands under the bed.

Jordan crawls under the bed, grabs the vial and pulls out his head.

BAM. DD hits his head with the hand mirror. Jordan collapses on the floor. Glass splinters scatter across the floor.

DD grabs the vial and drinks the rest of it.

A hand clasps her foot. DD screams and falls on the floor. Jordan climbs on top of her and strangles her.

DD gasps for air. In an ultimate effort, Jordan bangs her head on the floor several times.

DD fumbles for something around her, reaches a shard of glass, and SLASHES Jordan's throat. Blood spills on DD's face.

Jordan collapses on her. DD pushes him away, pants and passes out.

LATER

POUNDING on the front door. DD blinks. She glimpses female feet approaching, although her vision is blurred.

JOELLE (O.S.)

DD.

Blackout.

DREAM SEQUENCE

EXT. DD'S PARENTS' HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

The scene takes place in the 50s.

A colonial house with a magnificent garden. DD, 20, sits with her two younger sisters PHOEBE and JANE in the garden.

Phoebe takes a flask of whiskey from under her dress and pours some in her juice. Jane is shocked.

PHOEBE

What? Matt is coming. It calms me.
Otherwise, I look too nervous.

Phoebe gulps her drink.

JANE

Believe me, right now, you look
horny.

PHOEBE

Says the virgin girl. You're gonna
end up single.

JANE

I'm waiting for THE one -- just
like DD. She found hers.

DD smiles.

PHOEBE

(to DD)

You look nervous too. Oh, I see.
You're waiting for prince
charming...
How was it the first time?

DD blushes.

DD

Oh. You can't tell.

PHOEBE

You're in love. Men certainly know
how to make women hooked on them.
And Howard is good at it.

DD

He's my husband. I'll do my best to
make it work.

PHOEBE

Trust me. Never give power to men.
Restrain yourself.

JANE

You see evil everywhere. You're a
pervert.

PHOEBE

Matt has a big... Huge bank
account.

The three sisters laugh.

A fancy car arrives in the distance.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)
Oh, here he is.

Phoebe stubs out her cigarette, sprays her neck with fragrance and chews a mint candy. She rushes to the car.

DD
I don't see Howard with him.

JANE
Was he supposed to come with him?

Phoebe gets up and moves toward the car.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

MATT, mid 20's, athletic, gets out of the car.

DD
Where is Howard?

Matt holds Phoebe by the hips.

MATT
I just dropped him at the rose garden. He's chatting with Melody.

DD
Melody's here? Great.

DD rushes to --

THE ROSE GARDEN

HOWARD, 25, buries his face into MELODY's bosom and strokes them.

HOWARD
Hmm they look so great. I want to fuck you now.

Melody giggles.

MELODY
(falsely shy)
Stop it, no.

Melody spots DD. She pushes Howard away.

MELODY (CONT'D)
Stop it now.

Howard notices DD. He is embarrassed.

HOWARD

Hi baby.

Howard holds DD in his arms. DD struggles.

DD

Don't touch me, you stupid
fucktard.

DD kicks him in his balls. Howard screams.

END OF DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. SANTA MONICA HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

DD is lying in a hospital bed with a bandage on her head. Her feet wriggle, and her hands bat the air.

DD

You scum. Piece of shit.

JOELLE

She is coming to her senses. It's
me Joelle.

DD opens her eyes and calms down.

JOELLE (CONT'D)

You okay?

DD

What happened?

MAX

Hi DD.

DD

Oh.

MAX

I'll go get a coffee outside. You
want some?

Joelle shakes her head. Max leaves.

JOELLE

The police have made their report
and determined the facts. You're
safe.

DD

Thanks.

DD holds Joelle's hand.

JOELLE

Did you kill him?

DD

It was an act of self-defense.

DD closes her eyes and sleeps.

EXT. SANTA MONICA HOSPITAL - DAY

A MAN is heading to the entrance with a bunch of flowers.

INT. SANTA MONICA HOSPITAL - DAY

Patients in wheelchairs loiter and joke with other patients.

IN THE ROOM

DD is sleeping. A Man's hand takes DD's hand. DD opens her eyes.

DD

Oh. Guy.

GUY

Hello.

DD

I'm happy to see you.

Guy hands her the bunch of flowers. DD straightens up in bed.

DD (CONT'D)

Lovely. I'm such a mess.

Guy puts the flowers in a vase, then sits on a chair by the bed.

GUY

What happened was dramatic but to be expected.

Guy looks at her body and the bruise on her face.

DD

Don't worry, I've handled worse in my life.

GUY

You can no longer afford living alone DD. This wouldn't have happened if you had someone.

DD

But I thought you were in Vegas with your friend.

GUY

Arielle? I declined the invitation, I'd rather go in better company.

A knock on the door. Joelle comes in.

JOELLE

Oh, I'll come back.

GUY

I was about to leave anyway.

JOELLE

I was just wondering when she would be leaving.

DD

I'll give you a call.

She waves Joelle goodbye.

DD (CONT'D)

(TO Guy)

Thanks. I'll think about it.

Guy leaves.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN SOUP KITCHEN - DINING ROOM - DAY

Several homeless people line up to get some food. Behind the counter, Joelle and Max ladle food into the trays. Guy stands near DD who places some fruit on the trays.

ASIAN WOMAN

Guy, thank you for your contribution and thanks for those who have been involved.

The Asian Woman looks at DD.

DD

I had nothing to do with this.

Guy winks at the Asian Woman.

LATER

Guy leaves. Joelle sits near DD.

JOELLE

He's about to propose to you, he's
boiling hot right now.

DD is silent, she is thoughtful.

JOELLE (CONT'D)

First at the hospital, then here,
these are signs, he's showing you
attention... DD?

DD

I know... I'm thinking about it.
But it's not an easy decision, and
what's he gonna get me? If it's to
be a nanny or a pampering mom in
his old age, no.

JOELLE

It's hard at first. It breaks the
old maid routine, but then you get
used to it.

EXT. CHEZ LOULOU RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Guy's car parks near the restaurant. A VALET opens the door.

VALET

Hello sir.

Guy tips the Valet.

VALET (CONT'D)

Thank you sir.

DD and Guy walk toward the restaurant.

INT. CHEZ LOULOU RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The place is chic. The atmosphere is subdued. DD and Guy sit
at a table, sipping a glass of wine.

DD

I don't deserve this much
attention, unless you have
something in mind.

Guy is embarrassed.

The WAITER standing at the end of the restaurant keeps staring at them.

GUY

I can't hide you anything.

DD

I appreciate what you're doing.
You're full of kindness and caring.
I love being in your company. Why
do you want to take it a step
further? I feel comfortable like
that.

The Waiter carries a cake waiting for Guy's order. Guy looks at him and shakes his head. The waiter puts the cake back.

GUY

Then you agree to let me stick
around. I mean, hang out with you a
lot?

DD

We are free. If no one's going to
get in the other's way, then it's
fine for me.

Guy smiles and raises his glass to DD.

LATER

DD and Guy leave the restaurant. The waiter hands Guy a little bag. Guy opens it and finds a ring. He takes it and tucks it in his pocket.

It's clear the waiter feels sorry for Guy. Guy gives him a tip.

TIME LAPSE

A calendar scrolls at full speed and indicates that two months have elapsed.

INT. DD AND GUY'S NEW HOME - DAY

The house is small and simple, finely decorated with a feminine touch. New pictures of DD and Guy are here and there.

EXT. DD AND GUY'S NEW HOME - DAY

The front door opens. DD's appearance seems changed. She looks more peaceful and has a new hairdo. Guy, paunchy, stands behind holding a book.

DD
I missed you so much.

Joelle stands with Max. She holds a strawberry pie. DD beams.

DD (CONT'D)
Oh you shouldn't have.

They hug each other.

EXT. DD AND GUY'S NEW HOME - GARDEN - DAY

DD gardens. She plants some roses and gets jabbed by the thorns.

DD
Ouch.

DD sucks her finger. Guy sits at the terrace, sips a glass of juice.

GUY
I told you to wear gloves.

DD
You could pick up the dead branches
and help me plant these.

GUY
I can't stand the sun, and I don't
like gardening.

DD
What can you stand?

EXT. SANTA MONICA PARK - DAY

A group of elderly people practice Tai Chi. DD trains with them. Guy follows, but he is clumsy. He grunts.

DD
Stop complaining. Focus.

GUY
I hate sports.

DD
It's relaxation. It's slow Kung-Fu.

GUY
I'm French, and I believe in
relaxing with good wine and good
food.

DD shrugs. Next to her, Joelle and Max execute the movements
in perfect harmony.

INT. GUY'S CAR - DAY

The car stops by the coast of Morro Bay. Seals sun themselves
on the beach, and seagulls swarm over the bay.

GUY
This sight always fascinates me.
It's almost mating season.

DD doesn't give a damn. She knits a sweater.

DD
I'm having trouble with this
stitch.

Silence. Guy watches her.

GUY
Is there a problem?

DD
Absolutely not.

Silence.

DD (CONT'D)
Are we still spending Thanksgiving
with the Morgans?

GUY
You know it.

DD
We've been doing this for two
years. We could tell them we're
invited somewhere else.

GUY
You know Sylvia. If you tell her
we've changed plans, she'll be
pissed.

DD says nothing.

GUY (CONT'D)
Next year, we'll do something else.

DD sighs and keeps on knitting.

INT. DD AND GUY'S NEW HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY

DD brings two dishes of steak with vegetables to the table.
DD pours some wine in each glass. Guy watches a soccer match on TV, he screams, swears and grunts.

DD
It's ready.

Guy is not listening.

DD (CONT'D)
It's gonna get cold.

Guy grumbles, gesticulates on his chair during the match.

DD (CONT'D)
I'm eating now.

DD starts eating. Guy turns off the TV, sits at the table.

GUY
It was a match between France and Germany. They showed amazing landscapes of France. I miss my country so much.

Guy serves himself a glass of wine.

GUY (CONT'D)
We could go there, visit my family and taste some wine in gorgeous castles.

DD keeps eating.

GUY (CONT'D)
Have you ever dreamed of getting married in a castle?

DD
So romantic.

DD rolls her eyes. Guy eats, chomps, swallows loudly, breathes out and swills his glass of wine.

GUY

It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Everybody dreams of getting married in a castle. The Japanese pay a lot to have a wedding ceremony in a castle.

DD

Good for them.

Guy looks at the steak in his dish.

GUY

This is like rubber. You know I like it rare, and it's overdone.

He cuts a big chunk of meat.

GUY (CONT'D)

When you come to France, my family will teach you how to cook steak.

He puts the meat in his mouth.

GUY (CONT'D)

They will tell you...

Guy takes a strong French accent.

GUY (CONT'D)

After you've cooked it, You let it cool for at least five minutes.

He cuts another chunk, shoves it in his mouth, chews.

GUY (CONT'D)

Then the juice spreads all over the meat, dilates it.

He shoves another chunk in his already full mouth and chews.

GUY (CONT'D)

(Mumbling)

That makes the meat softer. And you must never, never eat it with vegetables. Only with French fries.

He swallows the chunks of meat, coughs, chokes. He holds out his empty glass to DD, points at the bottle of wine.

DD

What do you want?

Guy is choking, points again at the wine.

DD (CONT'D)
I don't understand.

DD pours herself some wine in her glass, relishes it, watches Guy struggle.

Guy's eyes are wide open. He gasps, motioning for some help.

DD watches the scene, unabashed. She starts to get up from the chair to help him but then reconsiders and sits back down.

Guy's eyes are bulging.

GUY
-- Bitch.

Guy collapses on the table. Dead.

DD stands up, gets a napkin, wipes up the wine that spilled on the table and takes the dishes to the sink.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

A WOMAN hands DD an urn. DD is sad, she is dressed in a simple black dress.

DD
Thank you.

WOMAN
My condolences.

Joelle hugs DD.

EXT. SANTA MONICA BEACH - NIGHT

The full moon glows on the beach. DD stands there with the urn in her hands. Joelle stands behind watching. DD opens the urn and empties it. The ashes fly over the waves of the ocean.

DD spends some time, meditating. Joelle takes DD by the shoulders. They both leave.

INT. DD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

DD checks her mail. She looks closely at an envelope. She sees the word "attorney" and opens it.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

The LAWYER, 60s, sits in front of DD. He holds a paper in his hand.

DD
Why am I here?

LAWYER
Your companion Mister de la Fleur
was a generous man.

DD opens her eyes wide.

DD
The least we can say is that he was
very unpredictable.

LAWYER
In his will he states that since he
doesn't want your mind to be
polluted with material things, he
has bequeathed his whole fortune to
the charity organization, San
Sebastian.

DD remains speechless.

DD
Are we talking about the same
person?

The lawyer nods.

LAWYER
That makes an amount in cash of
five million three hundred and
forty two dollars, plus the shares
he owns in several food companies
which would amount to a total of
twenty million dollars or so.

DD grunts.

LAWYER (CONT'D)
And so, you will be able to focus
all your energy on the homeless.
Here is a copy of the document with
all the details in it.

DD
Did you just summon me to tell me
that this scum has left all his
fortune to a charity organization?

LAWYER

Oh I forgot, he left you these two bottles of wine in recognition of the inspiration you gave him. Chateau d'Yquem, nineteen ninety six. An exceptional year. Very rare.

The lawyer hands her the two bottles.

DD

Oh how nice of him.

DD grabs the two bottles.

DD (CONT'D)

They will certainly help me drown my sorrows.

LAWYER

Please sign here to acknowledge that you understand and agree to the contents of this document.

DD signs the paper.

INT. DD AND GUY'S NEW HOME - DAY

Guy's belongings are scattered all over the floor. DD tidies up her cupboards and packs up Guy's stuff in a trunk. There is a knock on the door.

DD opens it. Joelle comes in, and they hug. Joelle looks at the house turned upside down.

DD

I'm getting rid of some clutter.

DD notices that Joelle is all dressed up.

DD (CONT'D)

What are you up to?

JOELLE

I just came to say goodbye.

DD

Oh. When will you be back?

JOELLE

We're settling down in New Mexico.
Max's brother offered to let us
stay with him. He has a big land.
We'll do some gardening.

Joelle giggles.

DD

Well... Great.

Silence. DD keeps packing up.

DD (CONT'D)

Actually I'm moving too. This place
is too big for me. I don't need
that much.

Joelle looks around and smiles.

JOELLE

Before I leave, could you tell me
what happened exactly with Guy?

DD

I told you, there is nothing more
to say. It was totally accidental.

Joelle feels relieved.

JOELLE

I knew it. I wanted to hear it once
again from you just to be sure.

DD

I'm no monster. I can control
myself. Even without you.

Joelle hugs DD.

JOELLE

Take care. I'll call you.

DD stands at the door. She watches Joelle leave and waves
goodbye.

INT. DD'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is small, simple and cozy.

Feet in slippers brush against the floor and move toward a
dressing table. Fine and simple jewels rest on it.

DD grabs a very nice hand mirror and holds it at the top of her head. She arranges her hair and puts some lipstick on.

DD opens the drawer. It displays several new stockings. She takes one and rolls it up her leg. DD hums.

DD is all dressed up, she glances at the apartment, draws the curtains and closes the door.

EXT. SANTA MONICA BUS STATION - DAY

The bus stops and people pour out. DD gets in, a bird dropping lands on her handbag. DD opens her handbag, messing up her fingers with the dropping.

DD

Shit.

DD gets a tissue, cleans up her hand and withdraws a bill from her wallet. She hands it to the driver.

INT. BUS - DAY

DD sits next to a TEENAGER, his headphones on. He listens to a loud jarring song. DD grimaces. The Teenager fidgets in his chair, taps his laps, hums.

The bus stops abruptly. An ECCENTRIC WOMAN, 65, with a leopard coat on, stumbles and falls on the Teenager.

TEENAGER

What the...

The Teenager removes his earphones.

ECCENTRIC WOMAN

Sorry, my legs are weak.

The Eccentric Woman moves back, but staggers.

DD

(to the Teenager)

Could you give her your seat? She can hardly stand on her feet.

The Teenager leaves his seat, and the Eccentric Woman sits.

ECCENTRIC WOMAN

Thank you.

Her cell phone rings.

ECCENTRIC WOMAN (CONT'D)
Hi. It's Eleanor. I'll be there as soon as I can. I'm stuck in a cab on highway five.

ELEANOR hangs up.

ELEANOR
(to DD)
Best way to get rid of these leeches.

Eleanor sprays some perfume on.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
There is always a strange smell on buses, don't you think?

DD
You'll get used to it.

ELEANOR
And I rarely take buses.

DD
Well you certainly can meet some weird people. That's the risk.

The bus stops. DD and Eleanor get off.

EXT. BUS - DAY

DD walks toward San Sebastian Soup kitchen.

ELEANOR
I'll walk a little way with you. The library is on the corner.

DD
Are you a librarian?

Eleanor laughs.

ELEANOR
Hell no. I'm a retired cop. I'm looking for novels about embezzlement, robberies... I'd like to write a book about a heist.

DD
Interesting subjects.

ELEANOR

What fascinates me is how people can screw the system. How about you? What are you into?

DD

Nothing interesting. I serve the homeless at a soup kitchen.

ELEANOR

I've learned by experience that there is always something interesting in every person. And you know what? Sometimes the most perfect people can be the most perverted.

DD

Hard to tell. I'm not as experienced as you.

ELEANOR

I'll teach you some tricks. What's your name?

DD

Aline, but people call me DD.

ELEANOR

Nice to meet you DD. I'm Eleanor. We should hang out one of these days.

DD

I'd love to.

DD and Eleanor keep chatting as they walk. At the crossroads, DD turns right, and Eleanor turns left.

FADE OUT.