

A STRAWBERRY RUNNER

Written by

Amanda Laney

163 Wingspan Way Chapin, SC 29036
803.546.5420
Amlaney1@yahoo.com

FADE IN:

INT. CAR - DAY

An older model sports car travels down a country road carrying two young ladies. VIOLET (VI) is the driver. She is an attractive African-American. KAT is the front passenger. She is an attractive white brunette with a blue streak in her hair.

KAT
(opening the wrapper of a
piece of chocolate)
Want one?

VIOLET
(messing with the radio)
Nah.

KAT
(reading the wrapper)
Keep them guessing.

VIOLET
(winking)
I agree.

Light from the sun shines in and blinds Kat. She braces herself, appearing to be scared. Violet looks in her direction, puzzled. Then Kat puts down the car visor and puts on her sunglasses.

KAT
(pushing the leg of her
overalls over her left
ankle)
Okay, so the family. My stepmother
aka Betty Crocker is Trudie. My
daddy's Walt. He's retired. Oh,
Trudie makes pies for a living.

VIOLET
What kind of pies?

KAT
All kinds.

VIOLET
Yum! I haven't had a pie in like
twenty years.

KAT
You're twenty-three, Vi.

VIOLET

I was three.

KAT

Anyway, my stepsister Nora is a real B, piece of work, that one. She thinks her sh, stuff don't stink. She just got divorced from Roy, and I hear she's staying here now. Nora's got twins, Lily and Dax.

VIOLET

Twins? How old?

KAT

Five or six maybe?

VIOLET

So, the B?

KAT

Trudie's daughter, older than me.

VIOLET

No more brothers or sisters?

KAT

Uh, Dean is my half-brother, and he's in high school. He's a sweetie.

VIOLET

How many people living here?

KAT

Too many.

(playing with her blue
streak)

How did I forget? My Aunt Lou is Trudie's sister. You'll love her!

VIOLET

She lives there too?

KAT

For right now, anyway.

VIOLET

You close with your daddy?

KAT

Yep. He had cancer a few years ago. He was in bad shape.

VIOLET
Kat, come with me!

KAT
(pointing to a flea market
on the side of the road)
You know I can't Vi. Girl, you're
in the deep south now, where sushi
is still called bait.

EXT. STRAWBERRY PATCH - DAY

The car pulls into the driveway with a strawberry patch next to it. A sign reads "The Patch."

KAT
(opening the car door)
Like strawberries?

Violet stops the car and Kat jumps out, running over to pick a strawberry. A rooster, COCKY, jumps out and scares her. She falls backwards and starts crawling away. ABEL, a young, attractive African-American man who looks to be in his late teens, runs out of the patch's tent toward her.

ABEL
(helping Kat stand up)
You okay? Cocky is kinda like a
guard dog. My name's Abel. I help
out Mama T round here.

VIOLET
Mama T?

KAT
Stepmom, Trudie.

VIOLET
Aren't you tall, dark and handsome?
But just a baby.

Abel looks away, embarrassed.

ABEL
Y'all live near here?

VIOLET
(shoving Kat)
She does.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Violet and Kat enter the house, walking into the kitchen. TRUDIE (MAMA T, T, NANNY) is drying her hands on a kitchen towel. She is a short, plump white brunette with natural gray hairs throughout, who appears to be in her mid-50's. She is wearing an apron that reads "You want a piece of me?" Above the sink on the wall a sign reads "Bake the World a Better Place." Another towel reads "Life is Better With Fresh Baked Pie." WALT is in the adjoining den watching a Western movie. Walt is a white haired white man with broad shoulders and a stocky build. He has a wide-brimmed hat resting on his right knee. He looks to be in his mid-sixties.

TRUDIE
(turning around and seeing
the young women)
Oh my! You're home! Gimme some
sugar!

Trudie hugs both girls, rolling her eyes at the sight of
Kat's blue hair.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
At least it's a pretty shade.

KAT
(pushing Violet towards
Trudie)
This is Violet, or Vi. We um, go to
school together. She's my
roommate.

TRUDIE
She's as pretty as a peach, she is.

VIOLET
I'm here for the pie!

TRUDIE
I just love your braids. I wish my
hair could do that.

KAT
I'm wanna say hey to daddy.

TRUDIE
He can't hear squat right now. He's
taken his hearin' aids out again.
But I think he's in the bathroom
anyway, probably sneakin' candy.

VIOLET

So I hear your specialty is
strawberry pie?

TRUDIE

Yes ma'am. If you put it on top of
your head, your tongue would beat
your brains out trying to get to
it.

VIOLET

Whoa, that'd hurt. Is that it over
there?

TRUDIE

(with a nervous chuckle)
That's chocolate strawberry pie.
It's not quite ready.

EXT. BACK PORCH - DAY

Trudie, Violet and Kat are sitting in rocking chairs,
watching LILY and DAX play with a hammock. Lily is pushing
the hammock while Dax hangs his head over the side, dragging
his hair through a mud puddle. Lily and Dax are short
curly, red-headed twins, that are six years old. Violet is
eating a piece of strawberry pie.

TRUDIE

Violet, that's my famous pie! It
makes you wanna smack your granny,
huh sugar pie?

VIOLET

I've never hit my grandmother.

TRUDIE

No. Smack like kiss. What are you
studyin' in school?

VIOLET

Education. I'll be a teacher. But I
want to travel some first.

TRUDIE

That's wonderful! Kat is our never
ending student. Lawdamercy, she
can't seem to settle on anything.

KAT

(twirling her blue streak
of hair)
Yep.

TRUDIE
I wish I'd had so many
opportunities.

VIOLET
(sipping some tea)
This is southern tea?
(puckering her lips)
Sweet. I should change my major. I
don't even like kids. I just want
holidays and summers off. But I
hear now that's not exactly how it
works. So who knows? I'll probably
change it.

Kat doubles over, laughing.

TRUDIE
(ignoring Kat)
I love watermelon but I can't seem
to get collard greens down.

VIOLET
(confused)
I'm sorry?

All three women look over at the kids who are screaming,
while they wrestle on the ground.

TRUDIE
Dax, Lily, what in tarnation y'all
doing?

VIOLET
Wrestling, I think.

TRUDIE
I think their Uncle Dean is
rubbin' off on 'em.

Dax and Lily start pulling each other's hair.

KAT
Trudie?

TRUDIE
Hmmm...

KAT
Maybe they need to stop?

TRUDIE
(turning away from kids
and back to Kat)
(MORE)

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
Ya know my mama used to have
episodes or seizures.

KAT
We're not even related, Trudie.

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Trudie, Violet and Kat are seated at a picnic table, eating barbecue chicken, potato salad, baked beans, and strawberries. Lily and Dax are jumping on a trampoline in which an oscillating sprinkler in the yard is watering it. They're shoving each other. Kat sees ROY working on a car outside Walt's workshop. She waves at him, and he starts to walk towards her. Roy is a tall, muscular, wavy haired, red-headed middle-aged white man.

KAT
Thought they divorced.

LILY
Nanny! Dax spit on me!

DAX
Nuh uh! She pushed me!

The two begin wrestling on the trampoline.

TRUDIE
If you don't stop that, I'll give
you somethin' to cry about!

Walt walks out of the back porch.

WALT
(to three women)
You girls stop gossiping, now!

TRUDIE
(touching her mouth)
You got something brown on your
mouth. What have you been into?

WALT
(wiping off his mouth)
Nothin'.

TRUDIE
Thought you had to go to the
bathroom, Walt.

WALT
(mischievously grinning
and winking at Kat)
I did. Kit-Kat, I like your hair.

TRUDIE
(turning to Violet)
Violet, I watched a documentary
about Cicely Tyson the other night.
I just love her.

VIOLET
(shrugging her shoulders)
I watched Roots.

Walt rolls his eyes and Kat looks at him bewildered. Violet gives Kat a puzzled look.

KAT
No idea.

TRUDIE
Shuky darn! I forgot the rolls.

EXT. DOCK - DAY

Violet and Kat are walking on the dock, toward DEAN, who is fishing off the end of it. Dean is a white teenager with dirty blonde hair. He has a lean, muscular build with average height. He appears to have a lot of energy.

DEAN
Kat! How the hell are ya? Who's
this b,b,b, beauty?

KAT
Vi. Hands off. She has a boyfriend
and is too old for you.

DEAN
I don't know about all that. She
might be interested in r, r,
robbin' the cradle once she knows
she's met the only wrestling state
ch, champion on the varsity team.

KAT
Wow! I'm so proud of you, buddy.

DEAN
Yep, I'm hot and I like older
women.

VIOLET
(smiling and looking
towards the rod and reel)
You catch anything?

DEAN
Not yet. Where's your phone, Kat?

KAT
The car. Why?

Dean picks her up and throws her into the lake. Then he lunges for Violet.

VIOLET
You know black people can't swim!

DEAN
Don't believe it.

VIOLET
(backing away)
I can maybe float.

Violet runs away and Dean chases her.

KAT
Get her Dean! She's lyin'! Used to
be on a swim team!

EXT. LAKE SHORELINE - DAY

Dean, Violet and Kat are sitting on swings of a child's swing set. They're wrapped in towels.

DEAN
Nora won't let him in the house. He
stays in the tent over there and
works on cars at Daddy's workshop.

KAT
Why?

DEAN
She thinks he cheated on her.

KAT
While they were married?

DEAN
Yeah.

KAT
Ya think he did?

DEAN
(throwing up his hands)
Don't think so. But I don't know.

KAT
Damn, a tent.

DEAN
He's about as confused as a fart in
a fan factory.

VIOLET
Come again?

KAT
Just means he's confused.

DEAN
(jumping up and throwing
the towel at Kat)
My ass is grass if I don't cut it!
You know Mama T don't play.

KAT
Vi, let's lay out on the dock and
get a tan.

VIOLET
No thank you. I'm perfect just like
this, with my milk chocolate self.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

An older model convertible is barreling up the driveway
towards the front of the house, where Violet, Trudie and Kat
are standing.

TRUDIE
The Black Widow, in the flesh.

LOU jumps out and runs over to Kat, throwing her arms around
her in delight. Lou is a slender white woman, who has clearly
had breast enlargement. Her hair is long and wavy, both brown
and blonde streaks. She has bleached white teeth, is wearing
too much make-up and has orange tinted skin from a fake tan.
She is wearing a tight t-shirt that reads "BOOBS R US." She's
also wearing tight jeans and red western boots.

LOU
It's so good to see you, baby girl!
Any men in your life?

KAT
No ma'am.

LOU
Ma'am? Don't you dare.
(cutting her eyes to
Trudie)
I'm not an old geezer yet.

Lou throws her hair back and puts a hand on her hip.

TRUDIE
(putting her hands on her
hips)
Lou, your pants are so tight that
if you fart, it'll blow your boots
off.

LOU
Good thing I don't have to fart.
Maybe shart, though.

TRUDIE
(shaking her head)
Oh, for heavens sake, Lou. We have
company.

KAT
This is Vi.

LOU
(interrupting)
Aren't you pretty as a picture.

VIOLET
Ummm...thanks. And you're
definitely something...

LOU
So how long you girls staying? How
about take me with ya?

TRUDIE
Yes, please.

LOU
Hey T, I pay you good money to hang
here and eat your fine food.

TRUDIE
Just until you find husband #5.

Lou pulls a wedding gown out of her car.

LOU
Ya never know when he might just
knock on my, I mean, your door.

VIOLET
(whispers to Kat)
She's been smoking weed, girl.

LOU
Shit, T! Those damn hellions are
weedin' your flower bed again.

Lily and Dax are pulling up flowers in a flowerbed.

TRUDIE
(running towards the children)
I'm gonna have me a pool sooner
than I expected with your mouth!

LOU
What? I didn't say anything.

TRUDIE
Two dollars! Two dollars you owe
me!

LOU
Wait, the kids only pay a quarter.

TRUDIE
But you should have some self-
control at your age!

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Trudie is carrying a quilt and pillow, while Kat carries a suitcase and duffel bag. They are walking down a hallway and enter a bright pink room with pink and white bed linens decorating the bed.

TRUDIE
Pepto bismol! You remember, Kat?

KAT
Yes ma'am.

TRUDIE
Pink still your favorite color?

KAT
Kind of grew out of that.

TRUDIE
(pointing to Kat's pant
leg)
Say, you want me to hem those
britches?

KAT
No ma'am.

TRUDIE
(motioning to the pink quilt on the
bed)
Ya remember me making that for ya?

KAT
I don't think you made that for me.

TRUDIE
Sure I did. Cause you were into
rainbows, and you wanted pink in
them.

KAT
If you say so.

TRUDIE
So, Lou's in here 'til she finds
another, another victim. You want
to sleep with her or you want the
fontoon?

KAT
The what?

TRUDIE
(pointing at a futon pushed against
the opposite wall)
Fontoon. Walt found it at the
thrift shop.

KAT
It's a futon, Trudie.

TRUDIE
Well, Lou is out on a date. No
telling when she'll get back. She
still ain't got a lick o' sense.

KAT
Where's daddy?

TRUDIE
Watching his Westerns.

A loud sound of something hitting the floor is heard,
followed by Lily and Dax crying.

WALT (O.S.)
Stop jumping on that bed! I told
you that was going to happen. I'm
telling Nanny.

DAX (O.S.)
I'm telling Nanny you're eating a
candy bar, Papa!

TRUDIE
(putting the quilt and
pillow on the futon and
quickly leaving the room)
I swear.

Kat looks over at the rainbow quilt.

INT. KAT'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Kat, at 8 years old, is seated beside a younger Trudie, on
her bed. Trudie is holding a child's drawing of a rainbow.

TRUDIE
So you want a rainbow with pink in
it, like this?

Kat nods yes.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
Yes ma'am.

KAT
Yes ma'am.

TRUDIE
Okay then. You want to help me?

INT. HOUSE - KAT'S ROOM - SAME NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Kat walks over to the window and sees a battery-operated
lantern hanging from a tree. It lights up the area around a
tent. Roy hunches over and comes out of the tent. He looks at
the house, scratches his head and heads toward the workshop.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME NIGHT

Kat walks into the kitchen and observes Walt putting a dollar into a large glass jar tucked away on the counter underneath a cabinet. Kat and Walt are dressed in pajamas.

WALT

Kit Kat. What are you still doing up?

KAT

Hungry. What's that?

WALT

Oh, you mean the potty pool?

KAT

(eyeing a small white note
taped to it that reads
"Lou's I O U \$163")

Potty pool?

WALT

Oh, that's something your mama thought up.

Kat looks at him disapprovingly and puts her hands on her hips.

WALT (CONT'D)

I mean, Trudie.

Kat walks to the refrigerator and opens the freezer door. She looks into it for a few seconds.

WALT (CONT'D)

So ya put money into it whenever you cuss, hence potty word. She says we're saving for a pool.

KAT

(pulling out a tub of cool
whip)

Isn't that convenient?

WALT

(raising his hands in the
air)

She's been wanting one for as long as I can remember. She figures that jar serves two purposes, to stop the cussing and buy a pool.

KAT
It sounds like a place you take a
sh, poop. So, why are you having to
pay?

WALT
We were fighting about me taking
out my hearing aids.

KAT
When did you get them?

WALT
About six months ago.

Kat spies a piece of pie on the counter.

WALT (CONT'D)
But I gotta have a break now and
then. Imagine hearing her, like a
megaphone, all day long.

KAT
(picking up the pie)
No sir, I could not.

WALT
Nope, Nope. You best not eat that.
(throwing the pie in the
trash)
I meant to throw that away.

KAT
Why?

WALT
Not fit for eating. It's chocolate
strawberry pie. Your mama's, I mean
Trudie's chocolate strawberry pie.

KAT
Okay?

WALT
Let me put it this way. Don't eat
it unless you're constipated.
You'll notice there are a lot of,
what's that y'all call it? Um,
skidmarks in the commodes around
here.

Kat looks confused. Walt kisses her on her forehead and
leaves the kitchen.

Kat looks at a magnet on the refrigerator that reads "Stressed is Desserts Spelled Backwards." She scoops a huge spoonful of cool whip and puts it in her mouth.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Walt and Roy are sitting at the table eating breakfast, which is eggs, grits, sausage, and biscuits. Dean is also sitting, drinking a smoothie, looking at something on his phone. Roy keeps glancing at NORA, who's fixing plates for Lily and Dax. The children are on the floor hissing at TIGGER (large white cat), who's hiding behind the couch. NORA is an attractive, slender young brunette with a bob haircut and a larger than expected rear end. Trudie is looking for something in the cabinet. Kat walks in and tries to push her hair down, which is going in all sorts of directions. She's wearing overalls.

TRUDIE

Alright, here's some more hot sauce and apple butter.

(seeing Kat walk in)

Hey sleepy head! You still not a morning person? Early bird gets the worm!

KAT

(giving everyone at the table a slight wave)

Yep.

TRUDIE

Well, come on. Make a plate.

(turning to all seated at the table)

Did y'all say the blessing?!

NORA

(handing Kat a plate and looking at her hair)

Hey. When did you do that?

KAT

Hello to you too, Nora.

NORA

I mean, why?

KAT

Why not?

NORA

Some things never change.

KAT
(rolling her eyes)
No kiddin'.

TRUDIE
Honey? Dean, eat some food. Bless
your heart. You're just wastin'
away.

DEAN
I gotta stay l, lean, Mama. No, no
pain, no gain.

TRUDIE
(handing him a plate with
a piece of sausage on it)
Eat it.

DEAN
Yes ma'am.

Tigger runs out from behind the couch and pounces on Kat's
leg. Dax and Lily chase the cat outside. Trudie grabs them by
their pajamas before they run outside.

TRUDIE
(pulling Lily and Dax to
their seats)
Sit down, now.

Dax and Lily squirm but then settle and sit at the table.
Nora puts plates in front of them.

LILY
I don't want sausage!

DAX
I didn't want grits!

NORA
(switching their plates)
Here.

LILY
He breathed on mine.

DAX
No I didn't!

Tigger peeks in the storm door while Lily and Dax pinch each
other.

TRUDIE
You youngins quit hollering at the
table!

Trudie carries a piece of chocolate strawberry pie to the
door and Tigger runs away.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
(in Tigger's direction)
Oh come on now, Tigger.

ROY
Now, eat your breakfast Lily, Dax.
Your mama needs to eat.

NORA
(pointing to her butt)
What do you think Roy? Ya think I
need to eat?

ROY
Come on now, Nora.

Walt takes out his hearing aids and Dean puts in his ear
buds. Trudie picks up a jelly bean off of the floor.

TRUDIE
Who's been into the jelly beans?

Cocky jumps onto the window box. Trudie shakes her finger at
him.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
You want some pie too?

KAT
(to herself)
As good a time as any.
(to all)
I quit school!

INT. KITCHEN & FRONT PORCH - SAME DAY (AFTER BREAKFAST)

Trudie is washing the dishes, while Kat puts them away.

KAT
I'm full as a tick.

TRUDIE
(dropping a ceramic plate on the
floor)
Shuky darn!

Trudie picks up the broken plate and throws it in the trash. Trudie looks out the window and sees Lily and Dax riding in their kid-sized cars, still wearing their pajamas.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)

I just don't understand you, Kat.
Why? School is all ya had goin' for
ya.

KAT

Sorry for being such a loser.

TRUDIE

You're not, no, that's not what I
meant.

KAT

(to Trudie)

Trudie, are they supposed to be
outside in their pajamas?

TRUDIE

I swear! Those two better give
their hearts to Jesus 'cause their
butts are mine.

Trudie drops the dish rag in the sink and heads to the door.

TRUDIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Get on in here! Don't you Nanny me!

Trudie looks out the window to see Abel walking up the driveway towards the house, carrying a box of strawberries.

TRUDIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Abel, honey, can you carry some
pies to Hillee's for me? Walt's
coming down there to run the patch.
What's that? Thank you. Say, are
you listening to that music, rap?

Kat opens the door and leans outside.

KAT

Trudie, the dishes are done. I've
got a little headache, think I'm
gonna take a nap.

TRUDIE

K, you need anything? You not
having an episode, are ya?

KAT

No ma'am.

Lily and Dax run inside the house, almost knocking over Kat.

INT. KAT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kat is lying across Lou's bed. The door is closed. She has her phone on speaker.

KAT
You're at the airport right now?

VIOLET
(on phone)
Yep. Look out Brazil! Bonita Vi is coming for ya! That means beautiful Vi. I'm so smart.

KAT
You suck. I haven't told 'em.

VIOLET
(on phone)
You will, when you're ready, Kitty Kat.

KAT
Am just tired of being the black sheep.

VIOLET
(on phone)
If that's the case, you're in great company. My parents are not too happy with yours truly at the moment.

Trudie starts playing the piano and singing "Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there," off key.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
(on phone)
What in the hell is that?

KAT
She's supposed to sing it at church.

VIOLET
(on phone)
(laughing uncontrollably)
I think this is where I say bless your heart!

KAT

Daddy says she couldn't carry a
tune if she had a bucket with a lid
on it.

VIOLET

(on phone)

Your daddy is the best!

KAT

I think I'll keep him.

VIOLET

(on phone)

How are you doing with the other?

KAT

Which other?

VIOLET

(on phone)

Liquid diet?

KAT

Hanging in there.

VIOLET

(on phone, interrupting)

So proud of you! Gotta run, time
for me to board. Love you!

KAT

(to herself)

Still not living up to Betty
Crocker's expectations.

Kat kisses the phone and walks over to the chest of drawers.
She glances at the closed door and starts opening the
drawers. She notices sugar daddy (candy) in it and she zones
out...

EXT. PARK - DAY - FLASHBACK

Kat, as a 4-year-old, is riding her bike. The bike is
wobbling, as Kat is a beginner rider. Her mother, HAZEL, is
running behind her. Hazel, a petite, middle-aged white woman,
is wearing baggy jeans and a loose thin, long sleeve top. She
is wearing a head scarf.

KAT

Mama, Mama! Look at me! I'm doin'
it!

HAZEL
(out of breath)
I see baby! You're beautiful! Ride
the p-turkey outta that bike, baby
girl! I'm gonna get you that sugar
daddy for sure!

Kat begins to fall off the bike, as Hazel reaches for her.
Kat grabs Hazel's scarf and pulls it off as Hazel grabs her
waist. They both fall down, with Hazel pulling Kat onto her
front. Hazel lands on her back.

HAZEL (CONT'D)
Okay, you okay?

KAT
(getting up and picking up
the scarf)
Sorry mama.

Kat tries to put the scarf on Hazel's head while Hazel sits
up and dusts off her clothes. Kat begins to cry.

HAZEL
Don't ya worry about me! I think I
look better without it anyway. What
do you think, Kit Kat?

Hazel reaches for Kat, and Kat hugs her, helping her stand
up.

HAZEL (CONT'D)
We'll always take care of each
other, right?

KAT
Yes mama. 'Cause you're my one and
only mama.

HAZEL
And I always will be, beautiful.
Even when I travel out yonder.

Hazel points to the sky and Kat looks confused.

INT. KAT'S BEDROOM - SAME DAY - PRESENT DAY

Kat continues to open drawers.

KAT
(reaching deep into the
bottom drawer)
Lou, Lou, whatcha got?

Kat pulls out a wadded up handkerchief, opening it to find a bag of weed. Then she notices a pack of gum on the top of the chest of drawers. She starts looking back and forth at the two.

KAT (CONT'D)

Damn it. Why? Why not? Why? Why not? Why?

There's a loud knock on the door. Kat rolls the weed in the handkerchief and then shoves it back into the drawer, closing it. She puts the pack of gum in her pocket. Lastly, she opens the door and Lou walks into the room. Lou puts a plate with chocolate strawberry pie on the chest of drawers and then falls onto the bed. Kat looks puzzled at the pie.

LOU

I was given the famous chocolate strawberry pie for not comin' home last night. You think your mama will ground me too?

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT PORCH & DRIVEWAY - DAY

Kat walks off of the front porch, carrying an assortment of baskets. Abel is walking up the driveway, towards the house. Trudie is putting pies into a box on the porch.

TRUDIE

Kat, you feel better?

KAT

Sure. I mean yes ma'am.

Kat bends down to pet Tigger, who is rubbing against her legs. Tigger scratches her and runs off.

TRUDIE

Alright then. Quit lollygaggin then. Your daddy needs you. Send him back up here. I know he smells bad enough to gag a maggot.

Abel chuckles and cuts his eyes to Kat.

ABEL

(handing her his gloves)
Here, you're gonna need these.

Kat takes them, rolls her eyes and continues walking to the patch. Abel walks toward the house.

ABEL (CONT'D)
(waving to Trudie)
I'm coming Mama T!

TRUDIE
(yelling to Abel)
Did you know that Snoopy and Martha
Stewart are friends?

ABEL
(to himself)
Snoop Dog.

EXT. THE PATCH - DAY

One car backs away from the patch, while another pulls in carrying a family of four. Walt is sitting, eating chocolate and reading a newspaper in an old chair inside the tent. Kat walks in and unloads her arms onto a table of sparsely stacked baskets.

KAT
Hey daddy! I didn't know you still
got a paper.

WALT
(startled)
I only had one!

Kat looks puzzled.

WALT (CONT'D)
Thought you were Trudie, always
riding me about my sweet tooth.

KAT
I like those with the wrappers. Can
I have one?

WALT
Yes ma'am. I found these in your
mama's bedside table.

Kat stumbles when reaching for the chocolate. She quickly pulls her left pant leg down.

WALT (CONT'D)
I never known you for the overall
type, Kit Kat.

KAT
Yeah, well. Just trying to fit into
the country scene again.

(MORE)

KAT (CONT'D)
(sighs)
Can I have the funnies?

Kat takes the comic section of the newspaper and Walt warmly smiles at her as if he's had fond memories.

Kat and Walt are reading their papers when the family of four enter the tent.

WALT
(standing up and leaning
forward, with his hands
behind his back)
What's red, juicy, sweet and the
first fruit to ripen in the spring?

KIDS
(jumping up and down)
Strawberries!

WALT
Did you know strawberries are the
only fruit with seeds on the
outside? And that's about 200
seeds.

GIRL
Really?

BOY
Wow!

Kat stands up and hands each customer a small basket.

KAT
If you need any more or maybe a
larger one, just let us know.

The family walks toward the patch and then the kids sprint ahead.

KAT (CONT'D)
Daddy, I been meaning to ask you.
What's the deal with Trudie's weird
behavior around Violet and Abel?

WALT
(placing his hand on his
head)
She did one of those ancestor
things and it said she had a little
bit of African in her.

KAT
(popping a strawberry into
her mouth)
What?

WALT
Yeah, I don't know. She says she
wants to connect with black people
now, or African-American?

KAT
Vi wants to be called black. Some
like African-American though.
(long sigh)
Well, that's just wrong and it has
to bother them.

WALT
You know Trudie doesn't mean any
harm. She just wasn't raised around
many black people. Hell, neither of
us were. So she tends to believe
what she's heard. At first she was
shocked and now she's just
fascinated with the whole thing.

KAT
Has she told Abel this?

WALT
He doesn't pay her any mind. Don't
think it bothers him.

KAT
I don't know, Daddy.

Abel drives by the patch in a truck, entering the main road.
Kat stares at the truck, as if puzzled and then startled.

WALT
You okay, honey?

KAT
I'm fine. I must have looked at the
sun, saw stars.

Walt hands her a water from the small refrigerator behind
him. He sees Trudie walking toward the patch with her hands
on her hips.

WALT
(removing his earing aids)
Lord, give me strength. I don't
wanna deal with her right now.

KAT

My fault. She wanted you to go back
up to the house. I'm supposed to
take over for you.

WALT

I'm coming, I'm coming.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Kat and Trudie are preparing pies in the kitchen. Walt is in the adjoining room watching a Western movie. Nora walks through the kitchen, wearing a nurse's uniform. She gets a glass of water and purposefully knocks a chocolate strawberry pie on the counter to the floor.

NORA

(smiling at Kat)

Oops!

KAT

Nora! What the?

NORA

Gotta get to work, sorry.

TRUDIE

Missy, I expect to get some of that
paycheck. Your kiddos have been
using up all the hot water 'round
here.

Kat bends down to pick it up. Trudie drops another pie but on accident.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)

Shuky darn! Looks like we've got
the dropsies today.

KAT

(looking down at the pie
on the floor)

Trudie, what is in this famous
chocolate strawberry pie anyway?

TRUDIE

It's a secret. Walt, turn that tv
down!

Walt doesn't move a muscle.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
He can't hear a daggum thing! He
pulled out those aids.

Kat walks over to Walt and points at the hearing aids on the table beside him. He rolls his eyes and puts them in, as Kat turns down the volume of the t.v.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
Heavens to Betsy, where's all my
whipped cream? Walt, you been
stealing the cream?

WALT
Nope.

KAT
How many pies you makin' today?

TRUDIE
Need to make only seventeen today.
My hottest seller is always the
strawberry pie.

KAT
What about the chocolate strawberry
pie?

TRUDIE
That's only for family. Cause it's
very special.

Kat wipes her forehead and exhales loudly.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
You okay?

KAT
Must be going through the change
with these hot flashes.

TRUDIE
If you can't take the heat, get out
of the kitchen, I say!

Trudie giggles and puts four pies in the oven.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
You wanna learn how to make chicken
'n dumplins?

KAT
No ma'am. Kinda tired.

TRUDIE

Well, I know that's your favorite.

Kat opens the refrigerator, pulling out a container.

KAT

Mac and Cheese? Burnt on top?

Trudie nods her head yes.

KAT (CONT'D)

Mmm! My belly wants! Maybe not.

Kat reluctantly puts the container back in the refrigerator and leans against the counter.

TRUDIE

You're not feelin' funny are you,
no bright lights or stars?

KAT

I'm fine. Think I just need a
little nap on that fontoon.

The front door flies open. Dax, Lily and Cocky run through the house. Kat jumps back and falls, hitting her left knee on the floor. Walt takes out his hearing aids.

TRUDIE

That damn bird!

KAT

Bird? Those hellions need a
whoopin.

Trudie sees something that looks like a piece of black plastic hanging out under Kat's left pant leg. Kat quickly covers it up.

KAT (CONT'D)

You better get those kids to clean
this mess up.

Trudie looks puzzled. Kat limps down the hallway.

TRUDIE

(putting a dollar in the
potty pool)

I haven't had to pay you in awhile.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Trudie and LYDA MAE are loading pies into the trunk of Lyda Mae's car (LTD). Kat walks out the front door, drinking a cup of coffee. Lyda Mae is an attractive 80-year-old white female, with solid white hair and wearing a green dress with white heels. Kat is wearing her pajamas.

LYDA MAE

Well, there she is! Miss America!

KAT

Well, there she is! Miss busy body!

TRUDIE

Kat, no ma'am!

KAT

I remember when you said I was going to always be a problem child. Guess I proved you right, ma'am!

LYDA MAE

Trudie, ya hear that! So disrespectful! A pistol? And you called her a pistol. I can think of some more fitting ungodly words that I will not allow my lips to repeat.

KAT

Why not? You repeat everything else.

TRUDIE

Now Kat, Lyda Mae, don't say such ugly words. We all three of us have our faults.

LYDA MAE

(to Kat)

I'll just add you to our prayer requests in sunday school, Katherine.

KAT

Well, I'm certain that you've been added to many prayers around this town, Lyda Mae!

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Kat is weeding a flower bed. Lily is riding her bike around the yard. Dax is shooting flies with a salt gun. Kat feels a large puff of air through the top of her hair and turns around to Dax pointing the yellow, plastic gun at her.

KAT

Dax, what are you doing?

DAX

You had a fly on your head.

KAT

Come here.

Dax walks over to Kat. Kat grabs the gun and points it at him.

KAT (CONT'D)

Think you might have a fly on you too.

Dax runs away.

KAT (CONT'D)

Hey! Where'd your sister go?

Dax shrugs his shoulders.

KAT (CONT'D)

Lily!

Kat looks around frantically. She notices a bike racing down the dock with Lily on it towards the lake.

LILY

Swimmin' time!

KAT

(running towards the dock)

Lily! No!

EXT. BACK YARD - SAME DAY

Kat, Lily and Dax are leaning over an ice cream churn. Lily is soaked from her head to her toes.

DAX

Peach ice cream?

LILY

I don't like peaches.

KAT
You'll get over it.

DAX
Can't we have strawberry?

KAT
Not today.

LILY
Where's Nanny and Papa?

KAT
Nanny had to take Papa to a
doctor's appointment.

Lily and Dax look at Kat with concern.

KAT (CONT'D)
Nah, he's fine. Just a check up.
Ok, Lily, you pour in some ice.

Kat helps Lily pour it in the churn.

DAX
What about me? Why does Lily get to
do it?

KAT
Cause you're going to pour in the
rock salt.

Dax claps his hands. Kat helps him pour the salt into the
churn.

KAT (CONT'D)
Great job, you guys!

Dax throws some salt on Lily and runs off.

KAT (CONT'D)
I swear, I'm gonna whoop your
asses, you little shits.

LILY
You owe the potty pool!

DAX
For two wordy dirties!

Cocky and Tigger appear on either side of Kat. She shoos them
away. Cocky nips at her and Tigger hisses. Lou walks toward
Kat, waving both of her hands at them.

LOU
 Get on outta here, you damn
 critters!
 (to Kat)
 Wanna take a ride?

Kat points to Dax and Lily running towards the trampoline.

LOU (CONT'D)
 Hell, that's their daddy's job.

Lou turns to find Roy in front of the workshop, working on a kid sized car.

LOU (CONT'D)
 (shouting to Roy)
 Roy, your turn!
 (to Lily and Dax)
 Y'all want some doughnuts?!

Lily and Dax fall getting onto the trampoline and nod in agreement.

LOU (CONT'D)
 Well, you're not getting any!
 (to Kat)
 About time, someone says no to loud
 Lily and dirty Dax.

Lou holds her hand up for Kat to hit it. Kat gives her a "five."

INT. LOU'S CAR - DAY

Lou is driving her car, while Kat rides in the passenger seat, putting her hair in a ponytail.

LOU
 You miss drivin'?

KAT
 Sometimes, like when I'm wantin'
 freedom from walls.

LOU
 So you can't drive for six months
 when you have a seizure?

Kat nods and exhales.

LOU (CONT'D)
 Wow! I think I'd be breaking the
 law.

Kat looks away into the woods and notices empty beer bottles at the edge of the woods.

KAT
Mess out here.

LOU
Someone should clean it up, like
the scouts? As long as it's not me.

LOU (CONT'D)
I need some beauty make-up so I can
catch my future husband.

KAT
Kinda like fishin' Lou?

LOU
Except I don't release, if they're
yummy.
(pauses)
Your daddy wants some doughnuts.
Don't tell T.

Kat salutes her. Lou pulls out a cigarette and lights it.

LOU (CONT'D)
So I heard you quit school? What
are you gonna do now?

KAT
Not a clue. Trudie won't quit
riding me, though.

LOU
That's what mamas do, I guess.

KAT
Lucky me.

LOU
Hell, Trudie thinks she's
everybody's mama, even mine. Well,
I might need some advice from the
elderly sometimes.
(pausing)
My mama wasn't much of a mama. She
was loving every man that wandered
her way. We all have different
daddies. Trudie took on the role of
mama for me and our brother. You
remember Dale? He died about 5
years ago of a bad liver.

Kat nods her head yes, watching Lou's face turn solemn.

LOU (CONT'D)

(singing)

Mama was lookin' for love in all
the wrong places!

(pausing)

I gotta joke, Kat. What did one
saggy booby say to the other? If we
don't get a lift soon, people gonna
think we're nuts.

KAT

You gettin' a lift?

LOU

These babies have already had one!
Are you blind?

EXT. CAR - SAME DAY

Lou and Kat are sitting on the hood of the car, that is parked on the side of the road. Lou is eating a doughnut and Kat is spraying whipped cream into her mouth. An old but well-preserved truck pulls over and CLAY steps out. He's a solid, tan, sun kissed, brown-haired young man wearing jeans, a camouflage t-shirt with brown work boots and a baseball cap with a fish on the front.

CLAY

Anybody need a lift?

LOU

(hopping off the car)

More than you know! Ain't you a
treat for my well-deserved eyes!

Clay chuckles and looks in Kat's direction as she gets off the car with whipped cream above her lip.

CLAY

What seems to be the problem,
ladies?

KAT

Ran out a gas.

CLAY

Now Ms. Lou, how did that happen?

LOU

I was just singing away and forgot
to fill 'er up!

CLAY

Okay, lemme give you a ride to
Hillee's for some gas.

The three of them walk to the truck and get in.

LOU

Wanna doughnut?

CLAY

(taking one)

Sorry there's no A/C. Haven't
gotten around to fixing it.
Besides, I don't mind it much.

LOU

If you wanna carry ladies around,
you best take care of that.

CLAY

(nods and looks in Kat's
direction)

I'll keep that in mind, ma'am.

LOU

(putting her hand around
Kat's chin)

No ma'ams allowed, now mister. Now
this is our lovely Kat. Hard to
believe she's Trudie's daughter,
right?

KAT

Stepdaughter.

CLAY

How do you do, Kat? Kit Kat's my
favorite chocolate bar.

LOU

My, my. You don't say?

EXT. SIDE OF HOUSE NEXT TO WOODS - DAY

Kat is spray painting a metal table and chairs yellow. Tigger jumps out of the woods with a snake hanging out of its mouth. It's still moving around. She stumbles and falls onto the chair. She then rubs her hand on her hair and ends up with splotches of yellow in it. Trudie walks outside and over to her.

TRUDIE

Ya got yellow and blue hair now.

KAT
I meant to do that.

Trudie notices Walt sitting in a chair on the dock, eating something.

TRUDIE
Diabetes!

Walt doesn't move.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
He took out those aids. What's he eatin'?

KAT
Looks like maybe. I don't know.

They both hear laughter from the backyard. Dean and MISTY are in a swing inside a gazebo. Dean has his arm around her and is smiling at her. Misty is a petite, cute blonde with small features.

TRUDIE
I don't like her.

KAT
Who's that?

TRUDIE
Little girl that Dean's got a crush on. I think she's trouble.

Trudie glances over at the workshop, seeing Roy standing beside a car with grease on his face and arms, drinking water. He looks in Dean and Misty's direction.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
Will you look at that? Snake in the grass.

KAT
Why do you say that?

TRUDIE
He ran around on your sister with that girl's mama.

KAT
How do you know that?

TRUDIE
Nora, herself, saw him give her a ride to the grocery store.

(MORE)

TRUDIE (CONT'D)

Then she followed them back to that woman's house. He was in there for a good while, Nora said.

KAT

That doesn't mean anything.

TRUDIE

(disregarding Kat's
comment and reaching for
Kat's pant leg)

Those britches need to be brought up.

Kat and Trudie hear Misty laughing and look in her direction. Dean stands up and turns toward Misty.

DEAN

I'm getting s, s, sp, speech therapy now. I, I think I'm gettin' better. Don't ya think, Misty?

Misty giggles and covers her mouth. Dean looks at the floor. Trudie's fists tighten and Kat bites her nails.

MISTY

(standing up and walking toward her car in front of the house)
I gotta go!

DEAN

(following her)
I'll see, see ya later then.

MISTY

Um, maybe.

Misty walks faster, and Dean continues to follow her.

KAT

Why's he putting up with that?

TRUDIE

He wants a girlfriend so bad.

Trudie runs into the house and back out with a chocolate strawberry pie. She runs over to Misty who is getting into her car. Kat walks slowly over to them. Dean eyes the pie and walks quickly to Trudie.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)

(handing the pie to Misty)
Hey there sugar! When life goes awry, have a piece of pie, I say.

MISTY

Yummy, Miss Trudie! And I can bring you some deer meat. My daddy went huntin' last week and shot a twelve-point buck.

Trudie gives Misty a weak smile. Dean takes the pie away from Misty.

DEAN

I'll help y, you with that.

Dean pretends to accidentally drop the pie on the ground. It hits the ground upside down and some of the filling splatters on Kat's leg.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Sorry.

KAT

(dismissing it)

You're just addin' to the paint is all.

EXT. WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Roy is working on a truck, while Kat comes out of the workshop holding a large sign that reads "Roy's Repairs." Kat clears her throat and Roy turns to her.

ROY

(sighs heavily)

One of these days, I'm gonna open up a shop.

Kat leans it against the workshop and pulls a bag of beef jerky out of her pocket. She gives some to Roy.

ROY (CONT'D)

(walking into the workshop)

Wanna beer?

Kat looks surprised, looks around, and then looks down to the ground.

KAT

Better not.

Kat hears the refrigerator door close. Roy walks out with a beer in one hand and a water in the other.

ROY
(handing Kat the water)
I knew a guy. He couldn't drink any
kind of alcohol or he'd get a
seizure.

KAT
Who knows? Haven't figured it out
yet.

Roy takes a sip of his beer and glances toward the tent.

ROY
On nice nights like this, I don't
mind sleeping outside.

KAT
Roy, did you cheat on Nora?

Roy chokes on his beer and spits it out.

ROY
No ma'am. I did not.

KAT
You sure?

ROY
Positive.

KAT
What about that Misty's mama?

ROY
Colleen? Hell, we've been friends
since high school.

KAT
And?

Roy pauses a long time. He opens the tailgate of the truck
and hops into the back of the truck.

ROY
Listen Kat, I haven't told nobody
this. Colleen asked me not to.

Kat jumps in the truck and drinks about half of the water
bottle at one time.

ROY (CONT'D)
Really?

KAT
Tough job at the office, dear.

ROY
She has lupus. She don't want no
body to know yet. Colleen just
needs a little help from time to
time.

KAT
Why didn't you tell Nora?

ROY
She believes I've been runnin'
around on her with women all over
town.

KAT
Have you?

ROY
Kat!

KAT
(holding her hands up)
Sorry, sorry. Just testing you.

ROY
Nora thinks she's gained weight and
I'm looking elsewhere. Listen, I
love my wife dearly. I wouldn't two-
time her.

Kat stares intently at Roy.

KAT
Hmmm. Colleen's little sister,
Sandra, was my only friend when I
first moved here with Daddy.
(after a long pause)
But Roy, Trudie says if your lips
is movin', you're lyin'. So...

Roy swats at her. She dodges it, while laughing, and falls
out of the truck.

EXT. WORKSHOP - DAY

Kat walks to the door of the workshop.

KAT
(peering inside)
Roy? You in there?

Kat walks around the workshop. She sees Roy down on the end of the dock, fishing. She walks into the workshop. Kat opens up the small refrigerator door slowly and then closes it. She turns to walk away and then turns around toward the refrigerator. She stares at it, and then finally opens it again. As she reaches into it, Cocky runs in squawking at her with its wings spread out.

KAT (CONT'D)
(running out of the
workshop)
Damn bird!

EXT. THE PATCH - DAY

Abel is taking money from a customer, while Kat is putting stickers that read "W & T Farms" on the small plastic containers of strawberries. The customer smiles at Abel and leaves.

KAT
Abel?

ABEL
Uh huh.

KAT
Abel, is Trudie saying weird stuff
to you?

ABEL
Weird stuff? It's Mama T, what do
you think?

KAT
No, like she was acting odd around
my friend Violet when she was here.

ABEL
Awww. I see what you mean.

Kat walks over to the small refrigerator and pulls out a can of whipped cream. Abel looks puzzled.

KAT
Been cravin' it.

ABEL
Mama T know you got that?

Kat shrugs her shoulders.

ABEL (CONT'D)
She, um, I think she's just
curious. She treats me well, pays
me good.

KAT
But, doesn't that bother you?

ABEL
Well, I mean it can. I believe its
ignorance. I'd rather her be that
then scared. When that happens, bad
things follow.

Kat sprays some whipped cream into her mouth and puts the can
down. Abel picks it up and does the same thing.

ABEL (CONT'D)
That is sweet! I just look at it as
educating her. She doesn't feel
threatened.

KAT
I just think it's uncalled for.

ABEL
It is, but what did your friend say
about it?

KAT
Nothing, really.

ABEL
I hope she eventually sees that a
stereotype is just that. She'll
come around.

KAT
It's like me thinking all Asians
are smart.

ABEL
(winking)
Aren't they? Hey, I'm not Mexican,
but my mama makes some delicious
burritos.

They both laugh and look over at a black mother with her two
children picking strawberries.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Trudie is cooking pies. Kat is pouring herself a glass of tea. Walt is in the adjoining room watching a Western movie. He's eating jelly beans slowly, turning around to look for Trudie right before he puts some in his mouth. Kat then opens the freezer door.

TRUDIE

What are you looking for?

KAT

Nothing.

TRUDIE

Well, quit letting the cold air out.

KAT

(pulling out a watermelon)

What the? Somebody put a watermelon in here.

TRUDIE

Bet it was Lily. She's been wanting to freeze everything lately.

KAT

Well, I'm gonna carry it outside to thaw.

TRUDIE

Yeah, yeah, okay then.

Kat starts to carry the watermelon outside when Nora comes barreling inside.

NORA

I'm about to lose my mind!

Kat tries to avoid Nora, as they do a little dance. But loses her grip on the watermelon. She falls trying to catch it.

NORA (CONT'D)

I knew it!

TRUDIE

Walter!

INT. BACK PORCH - DAY

Kat is groggy and lying on a wicker couch with an ice pack across her forehead.

Her left leg is exposed, with a large bandage above the ankle monitor. Trudie is taping up her middle finger. Walt is sitting in a chair next to Kat's head. He's stroking her hair. Nora is pacing back and forth.

NORA

Uh huh! That's an ankle thang, a monitor! What in the world have you done now? A seizure, my ass.

WALT

Take it easy there, Nora.

TRUDIE

Kat, sweetie, you awake?

Kat slowly sits up pushing her left hand down on the couch, yelling out when the finger touches the fabric.

KAT

(looking down at her
finger sticking straight
up on a splint)
Ya gotta be kiddin' me.

WALT

Now ya gotta free pass to walk
around shooting a bird at
everybody.

KAT

Where'd this come from?

TRUDIE

I have everything one might need in
my first aid kit.

KAT

Of course you do.

NORA

So what did you? I mean, what is
that on your leg, Kat?

Kat looks around at everyone and then touches the monitor with her right hand.

KAT

This is my best friend right now.
We are stuck with each other for
awhile.

NORA

What did you do this time?

KAT

Well, Nora, not that it's any of your business.

(pausing)

I made another poor choice.

(pausing)

Imagine that.

Trudie and Walt look at each other and then back at Kat.

TRUDIE

Okay.

NORA

Really? That's all! Y'all are gonna let her get away with that?

KAT

I know, I know, but once the black sheep, always the black sheep. They're not surprised.

TRUDIE

Why don't you go back inside, Nora?

Nora stomps her feet and walks begrudgingly back inside the house.

KAT

So we all done here?

WALT

Kit Kat, it's time. Tell her.

TRUDIE

You knew about this, Walt?

KAT

He helped pay for my lawyer.

TRUDIE

Lawyer! What are y'all talking about? I mean, I mean what is going on here?

KAT

Don't worry, Trudie. I'll pay him back, eventually.

(pausing)

Basically, I hit a pole with the bug, third DUI. Totaled it. I have to wear this for awhile to avoid jail. It registers if I drink anything.

TRUDIE
Alcohol.

Kat and Walt nod in agreement.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
Well, it runs in the family.

Trudie cuts her eyes toward Walt, who looks away.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
I mean, my brother was an
alcoholic.

KAT
Trudie, we're not related.

TRUDIE
Okay, whatever!

KAT
Listen, I know I'm a
disappointment. I just needed a
place to stay since I can't drive
and Vi was traveling for a bit.

TRUDIE
What? Of course you can stay here,
as long as you want. We love you,
we miss you. Don't you remember the
time I found that marijuana in your
room when you were in high school?

Kat slowly shakes her head yes.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
I never told your daddy.

WALT
Come again?

KAT
Maybe you should have.
(long pause)
I might not have gotten into
alcohol if somebody had jerked a
knot in my tail.

TRUDIE
(shrugging her shoulders)
Maybe so, but...

Walt puts his hand on her, reassuringly.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
I know I'm not your mama. But I'd
like to think, I mean I hope you
care...

Trudie gets chocked up and looks at Walt.

WALT
We just want you to know you are
always welcome here, baby.

TRUDIE
(standing up and walking
to the inside door)
Let me get you a wash cloth for
your face. It's a mess.
(walking through the door
and talking to Nora)
Oh, leave her alone. Think you're
perfect? Where should I start young
lady?

NORA
How does she always get away with
everything, mama?

WALT
She's been a part of your life for
ten years now, Kit Kat. Don't ya
think she deserves a break?

TRUDIE
(walking back outside with
a cloth in her hand)
And I thought, when I guess you
went to help Kat, that you had a
girlfriend.

WALT
Lord, woman, I can't handle two!
You're enough for any man.

Trudie swats him with the cloth, and Walt pops her behind.
She jumps and Kat covers her mouth with her hand, exposing
the "bird."

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Kat is washing her hands in the sink of the bathroom, being
cautious with her wrapped finger. Nora is banging on the
other side of the door.

NORA

Kat, get out! Other people in this house need to use the bathroom!

KAT

Use the other one.

NORA

I can't! Somebody already stunk it up!

KAT

I'm coming, I'm coming.

Kat takes the roll of toilet paper off of the roller, and she looks under the sink to find another roll, taking that one. She puts them under her shirt and briskly walks out of the bathroom.

NORA

(pushing Kat aside as she runs into the bathroom and shuts the door)

Where's the toilet paper?

KAT

Should be some under the sink!

NORA

Can't find any! Kat, get me some!
I'm on the commode already!

KAT

Okay! Hold on just a minute.

Kat catches Lily as she runs down the hallway.

KAT (CONT'D)

(whispering to Lily)

Your mama needs some toilet paper.

Kat winks at her and walks off, turning around and giving the bird towards the bathroom door with her broken finger. Lily then catches Dax running down the hallway.

LILY

(giving toilet paper to Dax)

Here. Give it to mama.

NORA

Kat! Hurry up!

Dax runs down the hallway holding the toilet paper.

DAX
Snowball fight!

EXT. BACK YARD - NIGHT

Walt, Trudie, Kat, and Nora are seated at the picnic table, eating watermelon. Dean, Roy, Lily and Dax are playing cornhole.

TRUDIE
(getting up from her seat
and putting left over
watermelon rinds in a
bucket)
Cooking is like life, Kat. You
learn only when you make mistakes.
Am I right?

Walt takes Trudie's hand and kisses it.

NORA
Is everybody just gonna keep
pretendin' nothing happened?

TRUDIE
Enough.

NORA
Why mama? She coulda killed
somebody.

KAT
Why don't you just mind your own
business, Nora. What did I ever do
to you?

NORA
Ha! Choices, choices! Always makin'
poor choices, Kat! But yet somehow,
ya always get off!

KAT
I promise you I didn't get off!

TRUDIE
I believe Kat is dealing with her
own consequences. You stay out of
it. Worry about your own self.
That'll keep ya busy, enough.

NORA
But, but.

WALT
(interrupting)
This conversation is over.

Nora starts to say something but then looks down to the ground, putting her bare feet back into her sandals.

DEAN
Dax, that's ch, cheating!

Dax picks up a bean bag and throws it at Dean. Then Dax throws it at Lily.

TRUDIE
(to Nora)
You need to do something about those kids.

Nora gasps and gives Roy a mean look.

NORA
(to Roy)
Ya hear that? Ya need to do something about those kids!

ROY
Me!

DEAN
(to Nora)
Shut up! Y, you yell at him when he tries to! Y, you know they're s, sp, spoiled!
(to Lily and Dax)
You know it, right, right?

Lily and Dax tackle Dean. Kat, Walt, and Trudie pick up everything on the table and walk towards the house. Nora stays and looks at her chipped, pink fingernails. Roy starts putting away the cornhole game.

NORA
Dax! Lily! Get off Uncle Dean!
Dammit!

LILY
I'm telling Nanny you said that!

EXT. DOCK - DAY

Kat and Dean are sitting on the end of dock, fishing. Kat is wearing shorts.

DEAN
Nothing much bitin' today.

KAT
How's therapy going?

DEAN
Real g, good.

KAT
You sound great.

DEAN
Thanks, Kat.

KAT
Ya know, you wanna be careful who
you, who you hang around.

Dean looks at her puzzled.

KAT (CONT'D)
I mean girls, man. Don't settle.

Dean looks at the ground.

DEAN
I know what you m, mean. I, I
thought she was nice, but...

Kat puts her arm around Dean and pats him.

KAT
That someone special, she's out
there. I just know it.

DEAN
(pointing to the ankle
monitor)
That thing hurt?

KAT
Not really. My foot goes numb
sometimes. And I trip more now.

DEAN
Well, you've always been clumsy.

Kat shoves Dean, and he almost drops the rod and reel. A fish
pulls on the line, and Dean furiously reels it in.

KAT
(biting at Dean)
Looks like something's bitin' now!

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Lou and Kat are walking along the driveway. They are both carrying small hand weights and wearing running shoes.

LOU
(out of breath)
Baby cakes! I don't believe I can
handle much more of this. Slow
down!

KAT
We've only walked halfway down the
driveway, Aunt Lou.

LOU
(throwing her weights at
Cocky)
I know, but I'm not a spring
chicken anymore.

KAT
At least finish the driveway, Lou.

LOU
Nope, nope. I haven't pooped in 3
days. This is very uncomfortable.

KAT
Oh no! Maybe try a little bite of
Trudie's chocolate strawberry pie?

LOU
I did, about twenty minutes ago.
T's pie could kick in any time. So
I need to be near a toilet.

Lou waddles back to the house. Kat stops to watch her and then continues her walk.

KAT
(to herself)
Maybe I should pick up the pace?

Kat starts to jog.

KAT (CONT'D)
(to herself)
This is nice. I feel the blood
pumping.

Kat starts to get winded.

KAT (CONT'D)
(to herself)
Maybe I need a break.

Kat turns around at the mailbox. Tigger is sitting beside it and hisses at her. She shoots her the bird with her broken finger. Cocky jumps out from behind a bush and starts squawking and chasing her, with its wings flapping. She starts running back to the house.

KAT (CONT'D)
Damn bird!

EXT. THE PATCH - DAY

Kat is handing a pie to a customer. Walt has a cookie hanging out of his mouth while he is trying to fix his chair. The customer leaves. Walt sits in his chair and it collapses, sending him to the ground.

WALT
My favorite chair.

He puts that chair on the outside of the tent and then pulls another one to the original seating area. He finds another one, places it beside his chair and motions for Kat to sit down.

KAT
(sitting down)
Thank you, Daddy.

WALT
The most beautiful women are
chipped, stained and with jagged
edges. Remember that.

KAT
Think so?

WALT
I know so.

KAT
What about men?

WALT
Hell, I don't know the answer to
that one. That's your department.
(pausing)
Did I ever tell you about my
drinking problem?

KAT

You?

WALT

Your mama, Hazel, had kicked me out a few times. It was too much on her. But then she'd take me back. The last time she warned me if I messed up I wasn't coming back, So I didn't...

KAT

(interrupting)

You left?

WALT

No choice. Hazel didn't let me return until you were almost three years old. Your mama stuck to her guns. I had been sober for almost a year. I laid down the bottle and have been clean for twenty-three years now. That's how come Trudie don't allow alcohol in the refrigerator.

KAT

How come you never told me that?

WALT

Never came up. The great John Wayne said, "Tomorrow hopes we have learned something from yesterday."

KAT

Never had a weak moment?

WALT

Ya better believe it.

KAT

Never slipped?

WALT

Almost. But Trudie hid the keys so I couldn't go to the store and get some. She's a hand full, that one.

KAT

Where'd she hide them?

WALT

Well, she forgot where she hid the truck keys.

(MORE)

WALT (CONT'D)

So I couldn't drive it for oh, half a year.

(pausing)

Freezer.

KAT

In the freezer?

WALT

In the bottom of the freezer in the garage, under all the meat. You know how many meals we had to eat to get to the bottom of that thing?

KAT

Oh no, Daddy!

WALT

Your mama, um Trudie, decided that she'd give the rest of the deer to Roachel Hillee. Otherwise, we'd a never seen those keys again. Your mama won't fess up, but she had forgot where she hid those dadgum keys.

KAT

Holy crap!

Walt shoves a cookie into his mouth and a large crumb falls into his lap. He picks it up and throws it into his mouth. There's a scuffle in the woods by the driveway. Walt and Kat watch as Cocky chases Tigger out of the woods and into the driveway. Then they collide and Tigger chases Cocky back into the woods.

WALT

Always up to some kind a foolishness.

Nora walks up with a glass of iced tea and gives it to Walt.

NORA

Mama says be careful with that on account it's glass.

KAT

Why didn't she put it in a plastic cup?

NORA

(to Kat)

You look like you've gained weight.

KAT

Isn't that the pot calling the
kettle black?

NORA

Ya know, you shouldn't be mad at
me. I mean, if it wasn't for me,
none of your mess woulda come out.
You coulda had to deal with that
all by yourself. You shoulda told
everybody first thing.

KAT

I suppose I should thank you then?

Nora does a curtsy.

WALT

(spitting out a sip of
tea)

Where's the sugar, Nora?

NORA

Unsweetened tea, Daddy.

WALT

Who do you know drinks unsweetened
tea?

NORA

I do. I put some of that artificial
sweetener in mine.

(to Kat)

I can get rid of that blue hair if
you want.

KAT

Ya know, that sweetener isn't good
for you either.

NORA

(turning around and
stomping off)

I need to go put on my uniform or
I'll be late for work. Kat, keep an
eye out for Lily and Dax.

KAT

Which one?

NORA

Both of them.

KAT
No, which eye?

NORA
(disregarding Kat's
comment)
Lily has gotten really good, well
too good at this wrestlin' move
Dean taught her. She keeps
threatenin' to use it on Dax. It
looks like she'll cut his wind off
if she gets it right.

Walt pours the tea out of the glass onto the ground.

NORA (CONT'D)
Daddy, that's going to attract
ants!

WALT
How? There's no sugar in it.

INT. BACK PORCH - DAY

Walt is looking out at a boat crossing the lake, while
rocking in a chair. Dax and Lily are pretending to fight with
swords, but using plastic baseball bats. Kat is stretching on
the porch floor, while watching yoga on her phone.

WALT
Kit Kat, what do ya call that,
sweetie?

KAT
Yoga

WALT
Yoga, wasn't that the name of that
little guy in Star Wars?

KAT
No sir, that was Yoda.

WALT
I liked him. He talked funny. So is
that exercise?

KAT
(patting belly)
Yes sir.

WALT

What are you talking about? There's nothing wrong with your belly.

Kat pats it and giggles.

Trudie walks past them and outside the porch, carrying two popsicles. She holds her arms out, and the kids throw their bats down and run to her, taking popsicles from her hands. She walks back into the porch.

TRUDIE

Easy! Those hands are connected to Nanny.

WALT

Where's mine?

TRUDIE

You don't need one, Walt.

WALT

And they do?

TRUDIE

Fine. Just hold on.

Trudie walks inside the house. Walt crosses his arms and winks at Kat. Trudie walks out of the house and over to Walt.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)

(handing Walt a yogurt bar)

A yogurt bar.

WALT

What the hell is this?

TRUDIE

It's strawberry. No sugar. Kat, you want one? You can have either kind.

KAT

(holding back a laugh)

No thanks.

WALT

Woman.

TRUDIE

(emotional)

Do you want to die, Walter?

Trudie covers her mouth and rushes back inside.

WALT
Honey, we're all going to die,
someday.

KAT
Hey Dax! Lily! Y'all come here!

Dax and Lily run to the porch.

KAT (CONT'D)
You wanna trade treats with papa?

The kids contemplate the idea.

KAT (CONT'D)
Go on. It's ice cream. We won't
tell Nanny.

Both kids reach for it.

KAT (CONT'D)
Wait! Each of you tell me why you
should get it.

LILY
I didn't kill Dax today.

DAX
I didn't steal money from the potty
pool.

Kat and Walt look at each other, trying to make a decision.

KAT
What do you think, Papa?

WALT
Dax. I believe I'd like a pool one
of these days. I can see myself
relaxing in one of those floats
with my feet in the water. Might be
kinda nice.

Lily stomps her foot, and Dax reaches for the yogurt bar.
Walt pulls it back.

WALT (CONT'D)
Me first.

Dax hands Walt the ice pop and then Walt gives Dax the bar.

KAT
(to Dax as he runs back
outside)
Manners!

DAX
Ma'am, sir, please, thank you,
you're welcome, excuse me!

Kat and Walt double over, laughing.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Walt is watching a Western movie in the attached room. His hearing aids are on the table beside him. Trudie is tying an apron on Kat. It reads "Born to Bake."

TRUDIE
You remember giving me this?

KAT
No ma'am.

TRUDIE
It was for Mother's Day when you
were in high school. But I bet your
daddy picked it up for you.

Kat bites her lip and looks nervously around the kitchen. Trudie walks to Walt and picks up the t.v. remote. She turns the volume down and walks back into the kitchen. Walt puts his hearing aids back into his ears.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
Okay, Kat! So you want to help with
supper. I'm so excited! What do ya
want?

KAT
I don't know. What about chicken 'n
dumplings?

Trudie raises her arms and jumps up and down, celebrating the request. Lou rushes in through the door from outside.

LOU
The party has arrived!

TRUDIE
Quit makin' such a ruckus. I'm
about to teach Kat how to cook.

LOU
Lucky her.
(pausing)
Y'all, my boyfriend ran off with a
bartender, 25 years old! I'm so
depressed.

Lou throws a large sequin covered handbag on the kitchen counter. She pulls out three cannisters of whipped cream. She gives one to Trudie, one to Kat and sprays one in her mouth.

LOU (CONT'D)
(to Trudie)
You needed it.
(to Kat)
You wanted it.

TRUDIE
Lou, did you steal those?

Lou shrugs her shoulders and walks over to Walt.

LOU
(rubbing Walt's head)
Now this is a man.

Walt takes her hand off of his head, puts a hat on, and looks at Trudie.

TRUDIE
Quit flirtin' with my husband! You
make me madder than a wet hen!

LOU
Awww, Mama T's gonna have a hissy
fit.

Trudie puts her hands on her hips. Kat backs up against the refrigerator. Walt removes his hearing aids.

TRUDIE
Now listen here, Louisa!

INT. LOU AND KAT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lou is sitting on the bed in a silk robe, painting her toenails. Kat is wearing pajamas, sitting on the futon, rubbing vaseline on her feet.

KAT
Who told you about this?

LOU
Baby cakes! I've done it. Now put
your socks on.

KAT
(making an unpleasant
face)
Feels weird, Lou.

LOU
Haven't you heard that beauty don't
make much sense?
(pausing)
I'm telling you your feet will feel
as soft as a baby's bottom tomorrow
morning when you peel off those
socks. Of course, that depends on
how bad those calluses are.

Lou paints a nail and sits up, then inhales and exhales
heavily.

LOU (CONT'D)
Damn. It's a workout for me to just
paint my toenails nowadays. Lemme
tell ya, don't ever get old. I
mean, older.

Kat walks over to Lou, sits on the bed, takes the polish, and
starts painting the nails for her.

LOU (CONT'D)
Ya know I didn't kill any of my
husbands, right?

KAT
I mean, I believe ya Lou.

LOU
They were broken men.

Kat looks up, confused. Lou points at Kat's broken finger.

LOU (CONT'D)
Can't change anyone, Kat, except
yourself. As hard or as much as you
want to, it's not happenin'.

KAT
Isn't everyone a little broken?

LOU
True. All dealin' with somethin.'
Life, just the way it is. Still a
beautiful miracle though, ain't it?

KAT
Hell, I wish I'd figure out what I
want to do with mine.

LOU
I still don't know what I wanna be
when I grow up, child!

Lou motions to Kat to open a drawer in the chest of drawers.
Kat goes straight to the marijuana and pulls it out.

KAT
(handing it to Lou)
This what you're looking for?

LOU
How did you know about my herbs?
(pausing and shrugging her
shoulders)
Well, I quit smoking my camels.

Kat notices a piece of chocolate strawberry pie sitting on
Lou's bedside table.

LOU (CONT'D)
T told me I was bein' naughty, like
I'm stupid enough to touch that
shit.

KAT
Why are you living here, Lou?

LOU
I don't like living by myself. I
got plenty of money, and I damn
sure can't cook. So I'd say they
need me or my money here.

Lou laughs, moves her foot by accident, and Kat struggles to
fix the smeared nail polish. Both hear Trudie singing off key
and playing on the piano, "Take your burden to the Lord and
leave it there."

LOU (CONT'D)
Bless her heart.

KAT
Amen.

Lou and Kat look out the window and see Cocky chasing Tigger, with Tigger chasing Dax and Lily. They shake their heads in disbelief.

LOU

I declare.

KAT

So where did that rooster come from anyway?

LOU

Don't know. Just showed up one day and never left.

EXT. THE PATCH - DAY

Abel is walking with CAMILLA and JOEL while Joel picks strawberries. Camilla is a young, African-American teenage girl. Joel is a short, chubby eleven year old African-American boy.

JOEL

Did you know that strawberries are native to North America? The Indians, I mean Native Americans, used them in lots of recipes.

ABEL

How did you know that, Joel? You look up strawberries before Camilla brought you out here?

JOEL

And another kind of strawberry was discovered in Central and South America.

ABEL

Did you know that strawberries are members of the rose family?

CAMILLA

They sure smell as sweet as they taste.

Abel winks at Camilla.

KAT

(walking up to the trio)
There are 103 species of strawberries.

ABEL

Oh, hey Kat! This is my brother,
Joel.

(grabbing Camilla around
the waist)

This is my beauty, Camilla. He
kisses her on her cheek. Joel puts
his finger in his mouth as if he's
going to gag himself.

KAT

Nice to meet you two. Abel, I'm
supposed to pick enough
strawberries for five pies.

ABEL

You know how much to pick?

KAT

(embarrassed)

Um, I will if.

ABEL

(interrupting)

Two quarts per pie.

JOEL

Ten quarts!

All turn to see a truck pull up to The Patch.

ABEL

That's just Clay. Kat, you wanna
get him? Joel, why don't we help
her pick those strawberries?

(to Camilla)

Now only pick ripe ones. You know
the strawberry is ripe when its tip
is red.

Kat mouths "thanks" while she rolls her eyes at Abel and
walking towards Clay, who's coming her way. He winks at her,
and she looks away.

CLAY

Hey Kat. You workin' the patch
today?

Kat stops and stares at him while the sunshine hits his green
eyes, unable to say anything.

CLAY (CONT'D)
Okay then. I'm gonna pick some
strawberries then. I need some
overripe ones for preserves.

KAT
Preserves?

CLAY
You okay?

KAT
Right.

CLAY
Would you, um Kat, man I'm rusty.
You wanna go out sometime?

KAT
No.

CLAY
I mean, it doesn't have to be a
date. Just to hang out?

KAT
Can't.

CLAY
Why?

KAT
I'm a, uh, alcoholic.

CLAY
Well that's okay. We don't need
that to hang out.

KAT
I'm engaged.

CLAY
Nobody told me that.

Clay begins to walk away, waving at Kat.

CLAY (CONT'D)
I'm gonna get a basket.

KAT
We broke up!

Clay stops and turns back to Kat, giving her a wink.

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

Kat and Clay are eating wings, sitting on the dock. Kat's feet are in the water.

KAT
Good wings.

CLAY
Thanks. One of the few things I can cook.

KAT
Well, we won't work out.

CLAY
Should we call it a night then?

KAT
After we eat the wings. Don't want them to go to waste.

CLAY
Love hearing bush crickets.

KAT
Me too.
(pointing to fireflies lit
up across the lake)
And lightnin' bugs always bring
back memories. Always make me feel
like a kid again.

CLAY
Life was so much simpler then, huh?

KAT
I almost had to go to jail.

CLAY
Really?

KAT
(picking up her leg to
give Clay a better look)
Yeah, they decided an ankle monitor
was the way to go.

CLAY
Cuz?

KAT

Third DUI. Almost hit a lady and her kid. Thankfully, a power pole jumped out in front of me.

CLAY

Wow. You're full of surprises girl. So anything else you wanna lay on me?

KAT

I was engaged for about a year.

CLAY

And?

KAT

We always had fun, well we worked because we were party partners. I should say, we did work.

CLAY

And you don't party now, so...

KAT

So he found a new party partner.

CLAY

How about an adult beverage?

KAT

(standing up irritated)
Think it's about time to call it a night.

CLAY

(trying to give Kat a drink)
Nah, ya ever had cheerwine?

Kat takes it, smiles and sits back down.

INT./EXT. WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Kat is sneaking into the dark shop, oversensitive to every sound and movement. She's making her way to the refrigerator.

KAT

(whispering)
Maybe just one. Just one. Only one.
One, one, one.

Kat opens the refrigerator. It's empty.

ROY
(turning on the light and
walking in)
Mama T laid the law down for you,
missy. No alcohol around here or we
ain't allowed on this here
property.

Kat and Roy walk outside, where Dean runs up and tackles Roy
to the ground.

DEAN
Someone must have gotten in
trouble! Sk, sk, skidmarks in the
commode!

ROY
What are you looking at me for?

DEAN
Just cuz you were the last one, one
in there!

ROY
Boy, you are getting too big for
your britches! Let me show you how
it's done.

DEAN
I'm a man!

Roy and Dean wrestle. Kat notices Trudie and Walt holding
hands, while they walk to the gazebo.

EXT. GAZEBO - NIGHT

Walt and Trudie are holding hands while they swing.

TRUDIE
We have a slice of heaven here,
Walter.

WALT
We do that, yes ma'am.

TRUDIE
How are you feeling?

WALT
Feelin' fine.

TRUDIE
Stop that.

WALT

What? I am.

TRUDIE

You're pushin' yourself too hard.

WALT

No ma'am.

TRUDIE

Why don't you ever listen to me?

WALT

What would be the fun in that?

Walt stands up and picks up an empty cup off of the railing. He walks towards a green hose, with water still running out.

TRUDIE

What are ya doin'?

WALT

Looks like the kids left the water
runnin' 'gain.

He bends down and puts the hose over the cup, filling it with water.

WALT (CONT'D)

(taking a sip of water)
Gravy was on the salty side
tonight.

TRUDIE

That's because you put salt in it.

WALT

I put salt on all my food.

TRUDIE

I'd already added it. That's why I
tell you to taste your food first.
One of these days you're going to
learn, you stubborn...

WALT

(interrupting and walking
away)
Maybe.

TRUDIE

Where are you going?

WALT
Turn the water off.

TRUDIE
(standing up)
Sit down, Walter. I'll do it.

WALT
I got it, sweetheart.

TRUDIE
(following Walt)
You're tired.

WALT
(putting his hand up to
Trudie)
Woman, sit back down.

TRUDIE
(trying to pass Walt)
Don't you woman me, old man.

Walt grabs Trudie around the waist and pulls her to him.

WALT
Alright now, that's enough, that's
enough. Let it go, baby. Let me be.

Trudie reluctantly stands still. Walt gives her a peck on her lips and continues to walk away.

INT. LOU'S CAR - DAY

Kat is sitting in the cranked car, with the top down. She turns the A/C as high as possible and puts the top up, closed. Then she begins to squirt whipped cream into her mouth. A fly starts to buzz around and around, driving her crazy. She swats and swats, and finally gives up. So she puts down the window. The fly leaves and two more come inside. One lands on the whipped cream cannister. She squirts cream out the window to get rid of the fly. Then the other gets stuck on the cream hanging out of the can. So she throws the can out the window and puts the window back up. She relaxes and lays her head against the seat. She awakens to Tigger and Cocky going nuts outside the car. She throws her hands up, confused.

KAT
What now? What is y'all's problem?

Kat sees what they see, a snake on the dashboard right in front of her.

KAT (CONT'D)
(looking at Tigger and
Cocky)
Help.

Kat slowly reaches for the door handle. As she opens the door, Tigger jumps in and pounces on the snake. Kat falls out of the car and runs to the house, while Cocky squawks at the car.

EXT. LOU'S CAR - SAME DAY

Kat is holding a limp Tigger. Kat hands her to Walt. Trudie pets her.

TRUDIE
We gotta get her some help.

WALT
No, no.

KAT
But daddy, you said it was a
copperhead.

WALT
Yes, I did.

TRUDIE
You sure it's dead?

WALT
Yes. She's tired. Time for her to
sleep.

TRUDIE
(walking back to the
house)
I can't watch this mess.

WALT
(to Tigger)
You did good, you did real good.

KAT
She saved me.

WALT
Tell her.

KAT
You saved me, Tigger. Thank you.

As Walt pets Tigger, she turns her head to him, licks his hand and then closes her eyes. Kat leans down and kisses Tigger on her head and then wipes the hair off her lips. Cocky walks up slowly to see Tigger, lowers his head and walks away.

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Kat is lying on an rickety outdoor lounge chair, wearing a bathing suit. She puts on sunscreen and her sunglasses and then rubs her belly. She picks up a sandwich and takes a bite. When she puts her arm down beside her chair, still holding the sandwich, Cocky runs up and snatches it from her.

KAT

Shuky darn! Cocky, get back here!

Cocky is running around in circles with a sandwich hanging out of his mouth. He then stops and stares at her. He drops the sandwich and squawks at her.

KAT (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. I know you're upset.
I'm worn slap out. I ain't chasing
you today.

Cocky starts squawking again and walks closer to Kat. Then the two stare at each other.

KAT (CONT'D)

I know you miss her. Tigger was
your friend.
(pausing)
I'm sorry she died because of me.
She was very brave. Forgive me?

Cocky walks over to Kat and drops the sandwich. Kat reaches for Cocky, but Cocky runs away.

EXT. THE PATCH - DAY

A large van full of kids pulls away from The Patch. Kat is leaning against the table under the tent with a wet rag on the back of her neck. She kicks her shoes off and sits in a chair next to Walt. Walt is sitting in a chair reading the newspaper.

WALT

Busy day.

Kat gives him a thumbs up and stretches to get a bottled water from the refrigerator.

KAT

Want one?

WALT

No thanks.

(holding up the comics)

Want 'em?

KAT

Maybe later.

Lily and Dax run toward The Patch.

LILY

Peter Piper picked a peck of
pickled peppers. A peck of pickled
peppers Peter Piper picked. If
Peter Piper picked a pick, I mean
peck...

DAX

(interrupting)

Ahhh! Swig of sauce, Lily!

Lily takes the hot sauce from Dax's hand and shakes a little
into her mouth. She coughs and coughs.

DAX (CONT'D)

Burn baby, burn!

LILY

(wiping her eyes and nose)

Your turn.

DAX

Peter Piper picked a peck of
pickled peppers. A peck of pickled
peppers Peter Piper picked. If
Peter Piper picked a pick, a
pick...

LILY

(interrupting)

Yes, yes! Awesome sauce!

Dax grabs the sauce from Lily and pours the rest of it on the
ground. She chases him up the driveway, towards the house.

WALT

Hot stuff.

KAT

Okay, I'll take the funnies now.

Walt tries to pass the comics to her, but they fall. He leans to pick them up and the chair falls over. Kat jumps out of her chair and helps Walt up.

WALT

I'm feeling tired. I think my bed's calling my name. You okay holding down the fort, Kit Kat?

KAT

Yes sir. Lemme walk you up to the house.

WALT

Now you're making me feel like an old man. You shut her down whenever you want. You've earned your keep and then some today.

Walt continues to walk toward the house, turning around to glance at Kat every so often.

WALT (CONT'D)

(to himself)

The man, the myth, the legend.

Kat is perplexed. She kicks a rock, forgetting she's shoeless. Walt hears her yell out and he whips around quickly. Then he loses his balance and falls. Abel sees him as he drives the truck toward the house.

ABEL

Mr. Walt!

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Kat and Walt are seated in the living room at a small, fold out table, putting together a puzzle.

KAT

Daddy, you sure you don't want to lay down?

WALT

Nah, I wanna put together this here puzzle with my baby girl.

Dean enters the living room. He wanders over to Walt and puts his arm around him.

DEAN

So y, ya ain't feeling so well, huh?

WALT

I'm alright. Just wore out.

DEAN

You need t, t, to train up Kat! Let her run The Patch for ya.

WALT

Son, what are you wearing?

DEAN

Ya like it?

WALT

The mosquitoes either gonna love you or hate you.

DEAN

It's called L, Lady Killer.

KAT

Well Dean, it's liable to do just that.

Dean swats at Kat and leaves the room. Kat puts her hand to Walt's forehead.

KAT (CONT'D)

You gotta fever.

Trudie walks into the living room, carrying 3 moon pies. She pulls up a chair to the table and sits down with Walt and Kat.

WALT

(taking Trudie's hand in his)

I'm hot for this one.

TRUDIE

I got moon pies. You best not drop anything on my floor.

Walt and Kat look surprised.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)

They were on sale at Hillee's and I had a weak moment.

Trudie passes them out. All three open up the wrappers and start eating them. Trudie picks up the last piece of the puzzle and places it in its place.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
Now that is one big ass strawberry.

Walt chuckles and Kat gasps.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
Hush your mouth! It's in the Bible!
Mary rode an ass.

Kat spits out a piece of the moon pie, laughing, but she catches it. Walt puts down his pie and shakes his head back and forth.

WALT
I declare, Trudie. That's one way
of puttin' it.

TRUDIE
Oh Walt, really. Your mind's in the
gutter.
(looking over at Kat)
And yours too!

Trudie starts picking up and playing with the wrappers.

KAT
(talking to Walt)
Ya gonna tell me what's going on
with you?

WALT
No big deal.

TRUDIE
(getting up from the table
and leaving the room)
Huh. I'm gonna practice my song.

WALT
I just. Well, Big C has paid
another visit.

Walt swallows his last bit of moon pie. Kat puts the rest of hers on the table.

WALT (CONT'D)
Ya gonna eat that?

KAT
(offering it to Walt)
And?

WALT

Doc says it's not leaving this time. It's too comfortable.

Kat's eyes fill up with tears.

WALT (CONT'D)

No, now. I've lived a good life. I cried a little, laughed some here and there and loved more than many. No complaints. Heck, John Wayne died of it, K, Kit Kat.

Walt rests a hand on the puzzle.

WALT (CONT'D)

Strawberries. How your mama loved those red beauties.

KAT

Trudie still does, I think.

WALT

Hazel.

KAT

Oh.

WALT

I think Trudie did some crop dusting. It sure is rank in here.

KAT

Shame. I'm gonna tell her ya said that!

They both laugh. Kat puts her hands over her face. The piano starts and Trudie sings. Walt takes out his hearing aids.

EXT. THE PATCH - DAY

Walt is seated in a chair beside the refrigerator, under the tent. Kat is wiping down the tables and arranging the baskets. A couple is picking strawberries. Walt pours a packet of peanuts into a coke.

WALT

You remind me so much of your mama, Hazel.

Kat turns a fan on high in front of her. She gets a tub of whipped cream out of the refrigerator and sits down in a chair.

KAT
Gotta spoon?

Walt shakes his head no. Kat shrugs and digs into the tub with her finger.

KAT (CONT'D)
Yeah? From what I hear, she had her life together.

WALT
She had her ups and downs. Heck, we all do from time to time. Just sometimes, people do a good job hidin' it.

KAT
I believe everyone knows about my downs.

WALT
So? Trudie puts it best...but by the grace of God, there go I...

Kat kicks off her shoes.

WALT (CONT'D)
The one that gets up after a fall is so much stronger than...

KAT
(interrupting)
Well I can't seem to keep my balance.

WALT
Just means you're a little bruised. You'll heal. Your compassion for others in pain grows.

The couple, MAN and WOMAN, walk into the tent with their baskets, ready to check out.

MAN
Hey Walt, you doin' okay? It sure is a hot one.

WALT
Yes sir. Just chewing the fat with my baby girl, Kat.

The man and woman give a slight wave to Kat.

WOMAN

Can we trouble you for some
strawberry pie?

Kat and Walt stand up.

KAT

(to Walt)

You sit down.

(to customers)

Yes ma'am. My mama, I mean, Trudie,
puts a lot of love in those pies.

The customers smile and take the pie. They pay Kat and walk
to their car. Walt salutes the man, and the man salutes him
back.

KAT (CONT'D)

Thanks for paying us a visit!

WOMAN

Nice to meet ya!

WALT

(to Kat)

You're allowed to love her. Ya know
Hazel would want it.

Kat picks up the whipped cream and offers it to Walt.

WALT (CONT'D)

(pointing to his coke)

In the mood for somethin' sweet and
salty right now. I don't remember
you likin' that so much when you
were a kid.

KAT

They say your taste buds change.

TRUDIE

(walking down the driveway
toward Kat and Walt)

Supper time!

KAT

We'll be there in a minute!

TRUDIE

Hurry up!

KAT

God, that woman! I don't know how
you put up with her.

WALT

Now Kat, I love you honey. But I've 'bout had it with you refusin' to see anything good in Trudie. She loves you, and she's been tryin' to show you for years. But you've got this wall built up.

(pausing)

You don't even know the half of it.

KAT

What?

WALT

Let me just tell you about times when she stepped in for you.

KAT

What are you?

WALT

(interrupting)

Hush up now. It's my turn. Remember when Colleen, I think that was her name. Remember when her little sister befriended you?

Kat nods yes, slowly.

WALT (CONT'D)

That was all Trudie. I said you'd be fine. But T insisted you get a little help with makin' a friend.

KAT

Well I'm sure I would've eventually been fine.

WALT

Another one then. Trudie made you chicken 'n dumplins when she was pregnant with Dean, even though it made her sick.

KAT

That's just silly.

WALT

Sure. And T took you to the doc every time you complained 'bout being sick or hurt. I told her there was nothin' wrong with ya, but she wouldn't listen to me.

KAT

I was fine. I just didn't like her getting your attention. Felt like she was replacing me, Daddy.

WALT

I know, I know ya did, Kit Kat. But ya know the truth.

(long pause)

Let's close up shop. Trudie's got chicken on the bone.

KAT

You're right, Daddy. That is some good eatin'. I got it, Daddy. You go on back to the house.

WALT

(walking outside the tent
and putting out his hand
to catch something)

It's gonna rain. I do love sunny rain.

KAT

Yep. It's unpredictable and gives you a little break from the heat.

WALT

(turning back towards Kat)

Yes ma'am. You stay here and take that break from the heat.

KAT

Home away from the world.

WALT

Don't waste another precious day with woulda, coulda, shoulda.

KAT

Yes sir.

WALT

Relax baby. Maybe take the patch over one day?

(pausing)

I been thinking about a tunnel house.

KAT

Greenhouse?

WALT
Kinda. We could plant a winter
berry.

KAT
Strawberries in the winter?

Clay drives up and parks his truck.

WALT
I'll see you in a little bit. Hold
off Trudie for ya.

KAT
Daddy.

WALT
Never turn a customer away, I say.
I'm old and slow. It'll take me
awhile to get back to the house.

KAT
Daddy.

WALT
I ain't doing nothin' but gettin' a
head start to some chicken. Happy
wife, happy life.

EXT. THE PATCH (EMPTY FIELD BESIDE IT) - DAY

Abel is helping a customer pick strawberries. He waves to
Kat, who is watching Dax and Lily fight over a kite.

KAT
If you two don't stop, there won't
be a kite to fly! Now Dax, go fetch
me the string.

Lily starts throwing the kite up in the air. Dax gets the
string and brings it to Kat.

KAT (CONT'D)
Just hold your horses, Lily!

Lily brings the kite to Kat. Kat attaches the string to it.

LILY
Let me, Let me fly it!

DAX
No, no, no me first!

Lily and Dax start making faces at each other.

KAT
Damn it!

Kat covers her mouth. Lily and Dax look at each other, surprised.

KAT (CONT'D)
Sorry, but...

LILY
We won't...

DAX
Tell.

KAT
I'm gonna fly it first. Have a problem with that?

DAX
Nope.

KAT
It's no, what?

LILY
Ma'am.

KAT
Okay then. We're gonna fly this thing. Lemme remember how to do it.

DAX
Where's Nanny and Papa?

KAT
Nanny had to take Papa to the doctor. Now we're gonna make 'em real proud when they see y'all flying this kite.

LILY
K.

Dean walks up to them.

DEAN
I see y'all flying my kite!

KAT
You got 'em this?

DEAN

Yep.

(winking)

Figured they could learn to work together.

KAT

(exhaling loudly)

Well, that was wishful thinkin'.

Walt pulls into the driveway in his truck, waving at everybody. He puts it in park, steps out and walks toward them, holding a small box. Trudie is sitting in the passenger seat, looking irritated.

TRUDIE

Not right now, Walt!

WALT

I gotta surprise!

He puts the box down on the ground and pulls out a white kitten. Trudie moves to the driver's seat, takes the truck out of park, and drives the truck towards the house. Lily and Dax run to Walt, waving, jumping, skipping, screaming.

WALT (CONT'D)

But not until I see y'all fly that kite. Cause I can return this ball of fur anytime.

EXT. LOU'S CAR - DAY

Lou is driving the car. Walt is in the passenger seat. Kat is in the backseat.

LOU

Walt, you gotta learn it's healthy to take a break from T away from the house. Don't get me wrong, I do love her. She just drives me crazy.

WALT

Yep.

LOU

(to Kat)

You wanna drive now?

KAT

I'll pass. I do miss my Gertie, though.

LOU

I remember when Trudie dragged your daddy all over tarnation tryin' to find ya the exact car you asked for, Gertie. Remember that, Walt? A yellow, convertible, volkswagen bug. Miss Nora was so jealous, oh my!

KAT

Why? Didn't she get the car she wanted?

LOU

Honey, she's always been jealous of ya!

KAT

Why? I mean, she's always been so wishy-washy.

LOU

Yep, that girl could start an argument in an empty house.

(pausing)

She's always been jealous o' you, sweetie pie!

KAT

Makes no sense.

LOU

Girl, ya stole her mama from her!

WALT

Now Lou, that's not true.

LOU

Well, not for real. But that's how she feels.

WALT

She was an only child for years.

KAT

I don't see it like that.

LOU

You can say that 'til the cows come home, but that's how she sees it.

Walt and Kat look at each other and Walt nods yes to Lou's statement.

KAT
Well it doesn't matter now, since I
wrecked ol' Gertie.

Lou and Walt look at each other, with Lou winking at him.

LOU
(to Walt)
Why aren't you gettin' some kind of
treatment?

WALT
Wanna enjoy what time's left.

LOU
Doggone it, I'm gonna miss you,
Walt.

Lou slows down, pulling in and parking the car in front of
Laney's Cream Palace.

KAT
Laney's Cream Palace. Don't their
milkshakes have whipped cream on
top?

Lou and Walt look at each other and smile. Lou winks at him.

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Walt, Lily, and Dax are seated at the picnic table. Nora,
Dean, Roy, and Trudie are carrying dirty dishes and leftover
food into the back porch. Kat walks back out with them. They
are empty-handed and she is holding a basket of muffins.
Everyone sits down at the picnic table but her.

KAT
Come on up here, Nora.

Nora joins Kat.

KAT (CONT'D)
(pausing)
Nora helped me make strawberry corn
muffins. She picked the best
strawberries. It's my own recipe!

WALT
(to Nora)
She gets that from me.

Everyone claps. Walt and Roy wink at Nora, who blushes and looks away. Then everyone takes one and bites it as Nora walks around with the basket.

DEAN
I could eat the north end of a
south-bound pole cat!

DAX
These are yummy!

LILY
Yes, yes, yes! Can I have 'nother?

DEAN
Mama, she's turnin' into a baker!

ROY
And Nora too.

Nora gives Dax and Lily another corn muffin. Dax starts to laugh and chokes. Kat does the Heimlich maneuver and he spits out part of the muffin. Roy gets up and hugs Dax.

NORA
(hugging Kat)
Thank you, Kat!

KAT
You're the nurse, Nora. You coulda
done it.

NORA
But you did.

Lily takes a big bite and chokes. Kat and Nora run to her. When she notices Nora there, she steps back and lets Nora do the Heimlich maneuver. Lily spits out part of the muffin. Nora slumps to the ground, and Kat helps her up. Roy runs to comfort Lily. Trudie quickly walks to Kat and Nora and kisses them on their cheeks. Kat gives Nora a high five and puts her hands on her hips.

KAT
I swoney, you two. Does everything
have to be done in pairs?

ABEL
(walking to the table)
What'd I miss?

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Kat and Roy are loading strawberries in small, clear, plastic containers into a large one in the back of the truck. The containers read W & T Farm.

ROY
So you and Clay? You two selling
strawberries at the Farmer's
Market?

Kat hesitantly nods her head yes.

ROY (CONT'D)
He's a good guy.

KAT
This is all Trudie.

ROY
He's barely hangin' onto his farm,
ya know? He wants to grow
strawberries some day. It's a good
buddy for his lettuce and spinach.

KAT
Ya don't say?

ROY
His partner stole most of the
farm's money and then ran off with
Clay's wife.

KAT
Ouch.

Kat walks over to the front porch and picks up a box of mason jars.

ROY
What's that?

KAT
Strawberry salsa. To die for.

ROY
Lemme at it.

KAT
There's an open jar in the fridge.

ROY
Ya tryin' to give Mama Trudie a run
for her money?

Clay drives up the driveway to the house. Cocky is squawking, running, and flapping his wings while he follows him. Clay gets out and walks towards Roy and Kat.

KAT

Get on!

Clay looks surprised and starts walking back to the truck. Cocky turns around and walks back down the driveway.

KAT (CONT'D)

(laughing)

No! Clay, not you!

Kat walks over to the front porch steps and grabs a cup of water. She falls off the steps. Clay helps her up. They stand and gaze at one another. Then they both look down and realize they're standing in a fire ant pile. They begin to dance around and pull off their shoes, while Roy grabs a hose. He throws it at them, and he runs to turn on the water. He has to use both hands because it's so tight. The water runs and Kat and Clay spray each other.

ROY

Fire ants are the worst! Well, I'm not a fan of mosquitoes either. So y'all look good. I'm gonna go work on some cars.

CLAY

Nothin' like a woman with dirty feet and messy hair.

KAT

What about wet?

CLAY

I ain't partial.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Kat is pulling a wagon full of strawberry pies to the patch. She sees Dax trying to pee behind a tree. Cocky starts to chase him and Lily laughs.

KAT

Serves ya right. Cocky!

Cocky walks over to Kat and follows her. Kat sees Abel listening to music with his ear pods and sharing them with Trudie, while he pours ant killer on a mound. Dean passes her in the truck, with a young girl in the passenger seat fixing her purple-streaked hair. Dean gives Kat a thumbs up.

When Kat gets to The Patch, Lou's convertible turns into the driveway. RUFUS is driving and Lou is in the passenger seat. The car stops, and Rufus gets out. He walks to Lou's door and opens it. Lou is wearing a sundress that falls to her calves and a pair of sandals, with small heels.

LOU
(stepping out)
Your mama made a gentleman!

RUFUS
You're sweet as cherry pie.

LOU
We're partial to strawberries
'round here.

RUFUS
(pausing and gazing at
Lou)
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare
with her. Proverbs 3, verse 15.

Lou rushes over to Kat.

LOU
Preacher. Guess I'll be going to
church. He's tighter than a bull's
ass at fly time, though. I gotta
loosen him up.

Kat gives Lou a high five.

LOU (CONT'D)
I hear ya doing a great job with
the berries.

KAT
From who?

LOU
You wouldn't believe me if I told
ya.

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Dean is trimming the bushes around the house. Kat walks out with a cup of water.

KAT
Thirsty?

DEAN
(taking the cup)
I gotta f, finish this t, t,
tonight or Mama T will have my
hide. I, I was late gettin' back
from m, my speech therapist.

Kat looks at Dean sideways.

DEAN (CONT'D)
She um...has a daughter that's r,
really hot.

Kat shoves Dean and he drops the clippers on his foot.

DEAN (CONT'D)
She's real n, nice to me, and she's
even got this p, pinkish purple
streak of hair. It's pretty cool,
reminds me of you.

KAT
Well then, I definitely approve.
Was she riding in your truck today?

DEAN
Yeah, yeah. She used to s, s, s,
stutter when she was little. So...

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Kat and Trudie are cooking in the kitchen. Walt walks in holding scissors, a spray bottle and a towel.

TRUDIE
Walt, honey, let's cut your hair
outside. We'll have little hairs
flying all over the house, not to
mention in the food.

WALT
Yes ma'am. Hey, I ain't had any
sweets today. Y'all proud of me?

TRUDIE
That just dills my pickle, Walter!

Kat gives him two thumbs up. Walt walks over to a pot and spoons out mashed potatoes, tasting the bite.

WALT

Mashed taters! That's what I'm talking about. You made these, Kit Kat?

KAT

I mashed 'em up and everything.

TRUDIE

Aren't you proud of her?

WALT

Why yes I am! Our baby girl is growin' up.

TRUDIE

Say, that potty pool jar is losing money, I can tell.

WALT

Don't look at me. I wanna pool.

KAT

(holding up her hands and wiggling her fingers)
Nope, no sticky fingers here.

TRUDIE

I bet those youngins been in there again.

(pausing)

Now Walt, don't you even think of putting salt and pepper in those potatoes before even trying them. I hate it when you do that!

KAT

Yeah, Daddy.

WALT

I just tried 'em. And they don't need a thing.

Walt walks toward the front door. Trudie turns him toward the back door. Kat looks confused and then falls to the floor.

TRUDIE

What in tarnation!

Kat sits up slowly and looks around.

KAT

I'm okay. Just think my hormones might be out of whack.

TRUDIE
Ya sure, honey? I bet that thing on
your leg is cuttin' off your
circulation.

Trudie and Walt help Kat stand up and sit down at the table.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
Nora, get in here! It's time for
you to learn to cook!

Nora walks in, looking annoyed.

NORA
What mama?

TRUDIE
Your sister fainted, so you're
gonna finish cookin' for her. And I
don't wanna hear any back talkin'
neither.

NORA
Please tell me y'all know she's
pregnant.

TRUDIE
Say what now?

WALT
Uh oh.

NORA
I thought everybody knew by now.

Kat presses her eyes closed and then opens them, looking at
the ground. She bites her lip and rubs her hands on her
thighs.

NORA (CONT'D)
Yeah, about that.

INT. HOUSE - TRUDIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kat, Trudie and Nora are lying in the bed, watching a horror
movie.

NORA
Mama, why do you watch these scary
movies?

TRUDIE
It's my one sin. I'm allowed.

Suspenseful music comes from the t.v.

KAT

Tell us something that nobody knows
about you. All of us will do it.

TRUDIE

Ummm...well...

KAT

I have a tattoo.

A scream comes from the t.v. Trudie gasps. Kat shows them
part of the flower hiding under the ankle monitor.

NORA

I do too.

Nora shows them a heart with the letter R inside, below her
panty line. Trudie covers her eyes.

TRUDIE

Oh Lord! That man's about as useful
as a steerin' wheel on a mule. Only
reason I let him 'round here is
y'all got kids together.

KAT

Nora, Roy didn't cheat on you.

NORA

(sarcastically)
Sure he didn't.

TRUDIE

How do you know?

KAT

He told me. So...just let it go.
(pausing)
And Trudie, stop putting laxative
in those pies. Enough is enough.
(pausing)
Oh, and I been eating all the
whipped cream around here.

TRUDIE

I knew that. Okay then, I don't
floss every day.
(patting Kat's belly)
You're gonna enjoy this.

NORA

Nuh uh...I threw up all during my second trimester.

TRUDIE

That's not what I mean. You'll think you're losin' your mind sometimes, but it's all worth it.

(cutting her eyes to Nora)

Well...

Evil laughter comes from the t.v. They hear a large bang and a child crying. Nora looks at Trudie.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)

Don't look at me, missy. They belong to you.

Nora gets out of bed and leaves the room.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)

You know what you are, Kat? A strawberry runner.

KAT

A what?

TRUDIE

A strawberry runner has a mind of its own.

(pausing)

It doesn't follow by the rules. It travels and grows wherever it chooses.

EXT. GAZEBO - MORNING

Kat and Walt are in a swing. Walt is covered by a blanket. It begins to slip, so Kat puts her arm around Walt, holding up the blanket.

WALT

Thank you.

KAT

Welcome. Daddy? I know this is nothing compared to what you're dealing...but I.

WALT

You wanna drink real bad?

KAT
Sometimes it's all I think about.
It like, consumes me.

WALT
That want may never end. But I
promise you, the longer ya stay
away, the easier it'll get.

KAT
K.

WALT
Proud of ya. Proud of ya.

KAT
Think I could drink socially, ya
know what I mean?

WALT
Nope. 'Cause you're too much like
your daddy.

Kat looks puzzled.

WALT (CONT'D)
When you do something, you do it
all the way.

KAT
No in between.

WALT
Question for ya. What is the real
reason you can't accept Trudie?

Kat shrugs her shoulders. Walt cocks his head to the side and
pushes the blanket to the floor.

KAT
Mama, um mama. I don't wanna betray
her.

Walt looks confused.

KAT (CONT'D)
She told me she was my only mama.

WALT
Kat. Your mama was afraid. She was
afraid you'd forget her. She
wouldn't want you to shut out
somebody that loved you, honey.
That was long ago.

(MORE)

WALT (CONT'D)

You were a little girl. Move on,
move on with life. Your mama never
left ya, baby. I promise ya she
wants you to live your life to the
fullest.

Walt hugs Kat and she drops her head to his chest.

WALT (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's make some boiled
peanuts. You wanna know what my
secret ingredient is?

KAT

Really?

WALT

Ya can never go wrong with that
sweet, red berry.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Abel is painting a bench. Trudie is standing next to him,
looking nervously around in all directions.

ABEL

Mama T, you gonna stand there all
day or do you have something to
tell me?

TRUDIE

Well, I was going to ask you about
what sport you played in high
school.

ABEL

Soccer.

TRUDIE

I thought it'd be football.

ABEL

I did actually play that too. I was
the kicker. But soccer's my
favorite.

TRUDIE

You surprise me everyday, Abel.

ABEL

Mama T, no disrespect here. But you
gotta stop.

Trudie looks confused and steps back.

ABEL (CONT'D)

I am a young black man. Yes, you, me and everyone else would point that out. But more importantly, I am a human being, a human being Mama T, just like you. Well, not just like you.

TRUDIE

I'm sorry, I know. I just...

ABEL

(interrupting)

You believe a stereotype? Why are you buying into that? I thought you were smarter than that.

(pausing)

You can't put me in a box. You can't put me, like a square peg in a round hole. You can't do that with anyone. Now, I know you have a good heart. But not everyone is gonna take to you kindly.

TRUDIE

But...

ABEL

(interrupting)

Now Ms. Trudie, I'm not done. Yes, I like rap, but I also listen to some country, some blues, some pop, some R & B, some gospel, some classical and so on...what about you? Do you listen to just one kind of music?

Trudie slowly shakes her head no.

ABEL (CONT'D)

So...

TRUDIE

Abel, there's nothing special about me!

Abel takes her hands and tries to comfort her.

ABEL

I've never met anyone like you!

TRUDIE

No, no, I dreamed I did one of those ancestor things and that it showed I had some African in my blood.

ABEL

It was a dream?

TRUDIE

Just a dream.

ABEL

(trying not to laugh)

Well I mean, who knows? Anything's possible. Maybe you should find out more about your ancestry. It's not so easy for me.

TRUDIE

You're just nothing like I thought. I'm so confused.

ABEL

Most people aren't Mama T. That's what makes them, well them. That's what makes you, you, don't ya see that?

Trudie gives Abel a hug.

ABEL (CONT'D)

You are too much. Everything is gonna be alright. Do you know how blessed you are?

TRUDIE

That is true.

INT. BACK PORCH - DAY

Walt is lying down in a lounge chair, while Kat is bringing out a pitcher of tea. She gives his cup a refill. It is sunny outside with pouring rain.

WALT

I could watch this sunny rain all day. So unpredictable, so refreshing.

KAT

(putting the pitcher on a table)

(MORE)

KAT (CONT'D)

Yes sir. Here's your tea. House wine of the south.

WALT

How I love me some sweet tea.
Reminds me, so did your mama.

(pausing)

I promised Trudie I'd go to church with her. Told her the Lord and I ain't never had any problems with each other. I know where I stand. I just don't like dressing up.

KAT

Me neither, Daddy. Maybe I'll go with y'all to give you some moral support.

Kat holds Walt's hand, and he squeezes it.

WALT

Listen to me now.

(pausing)

Show yourself, show yourself what you're made of. Don't worry 'bout anybody else. You'll make your world a more beautiful place than when you found it.

Walt looks outside.

WALT (CONT'D)

It's perfect. Don't ya think, Kit Kat?

KAT

It is...

Dean hesitantly walks out the house, into the porch.

DEAN

How ya doing, Daddy? You look good, I mean, ya, ya know.

Trudie peeks her head out of the house.

TRUDIE

Y'all need anything?

WALT

(voice shaking)

We're fine, honey. I can smell supper. Pork chops?

TRUDIE
Your favorite.

WALT
Can't wait, can't wait.

TRUDIE
(going back into the
house)
Okay then. Good to hear you're
getting your appetite back.

WALT
You two, how bout planting some
wildflowers out there by the lake?

KAT
Sure Daddy.

WALT
But Dean, watch 'em when you cut
the grass. They gonna look like
weeds, but they're just wild.

DEAN
Yes sir.

KAT
(pointing outside)
Maybe there, Daddy?

Walt looks as if he's drifting off to sleep. Dean shakes him
a little.

KAT (CONT'D)
(putting her hand on his
face)
Bye, Daddy. Love you.

Kat bends down to his ear.

KAT (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Say hi to mama for me.

EXT. BACK YARD - LAKE SHORELINE - DAY

Kat and Dean are digging small holes in the soil.

NORA
(walking up to them)
Can I help?

They nod yes.

KAT
How bout pour some of those seeds
in these holes?

Nora opens up a bag of seeds and begins pouring them. Trudie watches them from inside the back porch. She hesitantly smiles and then it grows to a larger one.

TRUDIE
We miss you, Walter, baby.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Violet pulls up the driveway in her car and parks in front of the house. Kat and Trudie come out of the front porch to meet her.

VIOLET
Ready baby girl?!
(pausing)
I spent so much money! How does it
go? I'm so poor I can't afford to
pay attention.

KAT
I'm impressed, Vi!

VIOLET
I heard it at the gas station in
town.

Trudie hands Violet a pie.

TRUDIE
Life is better with fresh pie.

KAT
What kind a pie is that?

TRUDIE
Just strawberry.

KAT
Any chocolate?

TRUDIE
Nope.

Violet looks confused and then she slowly puts the pie in the car.

VIOLET
(to Kat)
Safe?

Kat gives Violet a thumbs up.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Okie dokie.
(looking at Kat's
protruding belly)
You gotta baby bump!

Trudie gives Violet a hug. Violet hops in the passenger seat.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
You're driving right?
(moving to the driver
seat)
Kidding.

Kat gives Trudie a hug that is longer than a normal one.

KAT
Thanks for everything, Trudie.

TRUDIE
See ya soon?

KAT
Sure thing.

Trudie hands Kat a wrapped chocolate. Kat opens it up.

KAT (CONT'D)
(reading the wrapper)
If you live in the present, every
moment is a new beginning.

TRUDIE
That's the best one I think I've
heard.

KAT
I believe so.

Trudie blows Kat a kiss as she gets in the car. As the car
pulls away, Trudie starts to run behind it. The car stops.

TRUDIE
(handing Kat the bag of
chocolates)
I meant to give all of 'em to ya!

Kat gives one chocolate from the bag to Trudie, and the car pulls away. Trudie opens the wrapper.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)
(reading aloud)
Someone is thinking of you right
now.

Trudie pops the chocolate into her mouth and then presses the wrapper to her chest. She looks towards the driveway, and notices the car is stopped. Cocky runs to the car. Then the car begins to reverse, all the way to the front of the house.

VIOLET
I'm pretty good at that! Miss wishy
washy here.

Kat gets out of the car.

KAT
I forgot something.

TRUDIE
What honey?

KAT
You think I can stay a little
longer Tru, I mean Mama T? I mean,
ya might need some help with the
new crop.

Trudie looks shocked. She then covers her mouth.

TRUDIE
(patting Kat's belly
nervously)
You're going to be busy with your
own crop.

KAT
True. Is Abel going to be helping
you out?

TRUDIE
It turns out that your daddy left a
lot o' money he told nobody about.
And I'm gonna send Abel to college
in the fall. I think your daddy
would have wanted that. Did you
know Abel wants to do something
with astronomy? He's a smart boy,
ya know?

Kat nods yes.

KAT

Ya know, there's something I've
been wanting to thank you for...

TRUDIE

What's that?

KAT

For not serving me chocolate
strawberry pie.

TRUDIE

Would you like a piece? I didn't
mean to leave you out.

Kat hugs Trudie. A ladybug tattoo is exposed when the slit in
Trudie's dress uncovers part of her upper thigh. She quickly
pulls the dress down, so that no one sees it.

TRUDIE (CONT'D)

I believe this dress is too racy
for me.

(looking towards the
driveway)

Will ya look at that? What's Clay
doin' here?

KAT

Why's he here?

TRUDIE

(smiling)

Not sure. But he can stay as long
as he likes now that you're not
going anywhere.

KAT

Ya gotta be kiddin' me. Well, bye
Vi. I think it's safe to leave me.
Call ya later?

VIOLET

K, baby girl!

(looking at Clay pulling
in front of the house)

Don't do anything I wouldn't do!

(to herself)

My, my, my word. That boy's gonna
keep her busy.

(to Kat)

Any other beautiful bachelors in
this town, Kitty Kat?

Violet's car pulls away and speeds down the driveway, as she lets out a belly laugh.

TRUDIE

I like her.

(pausing)

Oh, now I remember. He wants to talk about growin' strawberries in the winter. He thinks he can keep the patch goin'.

KAT

With a tunnel house?

TRUDIE

Believe so.

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

Kat and Clay are sitting on the end of the dock, eating boiled peanuts.

CLAY

Mama T boil these peanuts?

Kat points at herself.

CLAY (CONT'D)

I'm impressed.

Kat licks her finger, touches her behind and makes a sizzle sound.

CLAY (CONT'D)

I guess you are hot stuff.

KAT

Daddy's recipe.

Kat starts throwing all of the empty peanut shells into the lake.

KAT (CONT'D)

What about blueberries in the fall?

CLAY

Maybe. What about borage?

KAT

What? Never heard of it.

CLAY

It's a herb, all around good guy.

KAT

Funny. That's what I heard about you.

(pausing)

And what makes it a good guy?

CLAY

Ummm...let's see. It helps strawberries resist disease. It attracts insects that help strawberries.

KAT

So I guess it is a good guy.

CLAY

I think so. It has these blue blossoms and it tastes like cucumber.

KAT

Well that's a bonus.

CLAY

Ya like cucumbers?

KAT

Pretty good, as long as I can put salt and pepper on 'em. But I really like the color blue.

CLAY

Okay then. Sounds like it might just do.

KAT

Okay then. The overall good guy has convinced me.

CLAY

Yep. But blueberries could work too.

KAT

They are blue.

Clay gazes at Kat.

KAT (CONT'D)

In case you haven't heard, I'm pregnant.

CLAY

No kiddin'? I figured you were just
eatin' too much strawberry pie.

Clay points out the small lighted fireflies across the lake.

CLAY (CONT'D)

You know some say they teach us the
importance of simple living. Their
light represents things like hope,
awakening, things like that. They
tell us to listen to our hearts.

KAT

Makes me appreciate them even more.

CLAY

(pointing to a jonboat
with motor)

Wanna go out on the boat?

KAT

Maybe something a little slower and
we can both drive?

CLAY

I'm all for equal rights. Like
what?

Kat points to a canoe sitting partially in water and the
other part on land. The kitten is taking a nap in the boat.

CLAY (CONT'D)

Looks like we'll have to wake up
TJ, is it?

Kat looks at the lightning bugs while Clay stands up. He
helps her up and continues to hold her hand.

CLAY (CONT'D)

Dock can be a little unsteady.

Kat sees movement near the shoreline. Trudie and Lou are
sitting in the swing, pretending to look at the lake. Trudie
gives Kat a slight wave. Lou lights up a cigarette and Trudie
swats it out of her hand.

FADE OUT.