

GEORGIA

Written by

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"GEORGIA"

[1]

"You are only as sick as your secrets"

EXT. ADELAIDE, GA POP. 12K - DAWN

Picturesque small southern town.

On the white side - rolling lawns, sprawling plantation mansions, quaint town square, country club, soda shops, lawn jockies, junebugs, juleps and jubilee.

Shacks, crime, poverty, aggression, segregation, crab grass, cockroaches, jalopies, juke joints and jest on the black side.

EXT. JESSUP MANOR - DAWN

Plantation house. Old, civil war, cotton money. But it's neglected. Like a shut in lives there, or a witch - or both.

INT. JESSUP MANOR - MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

JOSEPHINE JESSUP (70) matriarch of the manor has skin so white it's blue and eyes as sharp as a cobra. She lies dying in her bed. The once vibrant totalitarian is now a barely breathing skeleton. Her white hair is stuck to her head in the cancer sweats.

Josephine's daughter, **HELEN JESSUP STANFILL (45)**, is a raven haired beauty with jewel toned eyes. Though the former debutante is starting to go the way of Little Edie Bouvier.

Helen has the demeanor of a pitbull blissfully waiting for it's abusive owner to die. Helen sits on the window sill in her dirty night gown, chain smoking Virginia Slims.

JOSEPHINE

You almost died in this bed once.
You will again.

HELEN

Not before you.

Impatient, Helen rises from the suicide windows and stands over her dying mother. She steps on the cord to the breathing machine. It loosens out of the wall. She kicks it. The breathing machine dies, but Josephine looks on.

JOSEPHINE

Do it. I fucking dare you.

Helen pulls a pillow from under Josephine's head and places it over her face. Josephine grips Helen's arms digging her nails in, drawing blood.

Josephine stops fighting and Helen exhales and long cloud of cigarette smoke. She fluffs the pillow and puts it behind Josephine's head. She smooths the sweaty bangs off her mother's forehead.

GERALDINE DELACROIX (60) - Josephine's hospice nurse - is so black she's blue. Her skin is smooth like a grand piano, her eyes are black with secrets. When she walks into the room and sees the unplugged machines, she says/does nothing.

HELEN

She died. Now get my son home.

Helen leaves the room and Geraldine sees Josephine's ghost standing on the other side of the room. In ghost form, Josephine is no longer, sickly pail and frail, but robust, angry, vile and fat.

GERALDINE

She couldn't have just waited you out?

JOSEPHINE

I would have done the same thing to my mother given the opportunity and inclination. You lied to me, Geraldine.

GERALDINE

I don't know what you mean.

JOSEPHINE

That baby - it did die.

GERALDINE

That baby lived.

JOSEPHINE

Your sins will right themselves.
The truth will come to light.

GERALDINE

It cannot.

JOSEPHINE

As stubborn as your whore sister.

GERALDINE

Don't you evoke Savannah into
existence.

JOSEPHINE

I won't be the only ghost you see,
but as a Delacroix, I'm sure you're
used to that.

Geraldine pulls some gray sand from her pocket and throws it
in Josephine's direction.

GERALDINE

(patois)

Touye te gen dis ou [death be unto
you].

Josephine fades away.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

A silver import flies down a the country road. Officer **CHANCE
BAXTER (25)** sits in his cruiser behind a billboard
advertising a restaurant that throws hot rolls at your head.
Chance is blond haired, brown eyed white boy with muscles
made of cornbread, grits and fried green tomatoes.

Chance fires up the cherries on his cruiser and pulls the
import over on general principal, never mind that its going
100 mph in a 40.

But Chance's mean mug turns into a dirty grin when the window
rolls down to reveal **AIDEN STANFILL (25)**. Aiden's that white
boy with a perpetually nice tan, olive-skinned, thick jet
black hair that shampoo ads are made of, eyes so blue that
ocean gets jealous.

AIDEN

Second Chance Baxter.

CHANCE

Aiden "White Horse" Stanfill.

AIDEN

You wouldn't be trying to give the
sheriff's son a speeding ticket
would you, Officer Baxter?

CHANCE

I'd give my best friend a ticket
for not returning my phone calls -

AIDEN
I text you back.

CHANCE
I'm not your one night stand
begging for seconds. You missed my
bachelor party!

AIDEN
To a girl you stood up at the
alter!

CHANCE
For not reciprocating the love and
admiration I have for him.

AIDEN
You are and will always be the
first person I call to bail me out
of jail, pick me out a hooker if I
become paraplegic and look at an
ingrown hair on my balls to tell me
if it's herpes.

CHANCE
Headed to Josephine's funeral?
You're quite late.

AIDEN
Then I'm right on time.

CHANCE
I'll give you an escort.
Lights, no siren. Wouldn't want
them to know you were coming.

AIDEN
(grins)
That's my boy.

Chance heads back to the souped up cruiser.

INT. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

There are no smiles today. Lily white faces fill the church
with two chocolate drops in the back - Geraldine in her
Sunday best and **JARED "JUNEBUG" DELACROIX (40)** - her stoic
nephew. Junebug is midnight black, basketball tall, football
fast, as hot and delicious as Idris Elba if he were the chef,
proprietor of the local soul food restaurant, Death by Pork.

Helen walks into church like she's trying to set it on fire
with her very presence.

Adorned in a tight, red, cleavage heavy cocktail dress and dark designer sunglasses her demeanor is downright chipper like she sucked the life force right out of Josephine to add a few more days onto her very life. Junebug can't keep his eyes off her.

GERALDINE

Your eyes are going to fall out of your head.

JUNEBUG

Not today.

Helen sits next to her husband, **SHERIFF PRESTON STANFILL (48)**, the working man and the socialite - there is no love lost between them.

The choir finishes up some somber hymn off key. **PASTOR JAMES EARLE TURNER (70)** - paunch, bald and earnest - looks out onto the congregation solemnly from the pulpit. He has a couple of false starts as he weighs his words carefully.

PASTOR JAMES

Josephine was a complicated woman. She angered many and liked very few. It would behove you to know that she wasn't always the way we have come to know her. In her youth, she was sprightly and jovial. Bitterness and hatred didn't find her until later in life, but once they did, it was all consuming. I pray her soul finds the peace in the afterlife that it so desperately needed in this one. May we all know such peace. And now, a few words from her beloved daughter, Helen Stanfill followed by a rousing rendition of the Lord's Prayer.

James takes a seat. In the back, Geraldine looks worried.

GERALDINE

The high road, Helen, let's take the high road.

JUNEBUG

Does she even know what that is?

Helen saunters up to the dais all butt wiggle, long stems and joie de vivre. She smooths out her red satin dress before addressing the sparsely populated Presbyterian congregation.

HELEN

Josephine Cole Jessup came a long way from being the daughter of a sharecropper and a maid, but wielded my father's family money like it was her birthright. She was as beautiful as Betty White in the 70s and as mean as a blind chihuahua. A cruel and staunch racist, she wasn't above a sordid day dream about Harry Belafonte and "that darling Sir Sidney Poitier" as she called him. A holder of grudges, she couldn't remember the day of the week, the current President or what time zone we were in, but she remembered Mr. Ferguson's dead dog, Chuckles, shit on our lawn in 1982 and could describe in great detail the make, model and aroma of said shit. A shut in this past decade, her only dear friends were Jerry Orbach and Mark Harmon, but that did not stop her from dressing in her Sunday finest bejeweled from head to toe as if the Queen of England were always on her way over for high tea. I won't bore you with tales of personal torment. Let's just say I hope that in the after life she is in her own personal hell of being naked with the lights on.

Helen steps off the podium and sits back in her seat. She pulls out a compact and touches up her lipstick.

SHERIFF

That was a lot nicer than I thought it would be.

HELEN

Well, I'm not a barbarian.

INT. CAR - LATER

Parked right in front of the church with the music blaring, and a cigarette dangling from his lip (ashes all over his chest), an asleep Aiden is awakened by an angry Helen.

She's all boobs and derision as she yells into the closed window. He turns down the music as he rolls down the window.

HELEN

You little shit. You're going to be late to your own funeral.

AIDEN

Hello mother. Hello mother's boobs.

He pokes one and watches it jiggle. She swats him away.

HELEN

Don't feel up your mother. We are not inbred hill folk.

SHERIFF

Son, would it have hurt you to be on time?

AIDEN

Physically or emotionally? The pain, I mean?

Helen rounds the car to the passenger side.

HELEN

I'm going to ride with you in this hideous German car to Sunset Gardens. This way I know you'll make it.

AIDEN

Or will I?

SHERIFF

Nice to see you haven't changed son.

AIDEN

For whom, father? Change, for whom?

Aiden takes off speedily kicking up rocks at the Sheriff.

[2]

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Junebug is manning the kitchen with his staff. His restaurant is catering the repass and the kitchen is a hub of platters of soul food being bussed too and fro.

Aiden and Helen walk in the back door and before he can get two words out, Junebug lifts him up in a bear hug careful not to let his hands touch any of Aiden's person.

GERALDINE

Put that boy down. He is not your personal rag doll.

JUNEBUG

Says who?

HELEN

Geraldine, please tell me you didn't leave those D.A.R. biddies in my house unsupervised. They're all lying kleptomaniacs. Pastor's wife stole a brandy snifter and a whole tea set the last time she was in the house.

GERALDINE

That was 1985. I am not going through the purses of your mama's friends.

HELEN

Must I do everything myself.

Helen leaves in a flurry. Geraldine and Junebug share a look between them. Neither gives the other a satisfactory answer. Aiden pretends not to notice the exchange. Geraldine scurries off after Helen.

AIDEN

It's weird seeing you here.

JUNEBUG

I try to stay out of this house.
It's full of ghosts.

AIDEN

Like me?

Junebug smacks Aiden on the back of the head with an oven mitt. They start to wrestle. He puts Aiden in a headlock, only then does Junebug allow himself to touch Aiden with his bare hand. Junebug's eyes roll back in his head; he's in another realm.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - TWILIGHT - FLASHFORWARD

Aiden (80) is hooked up to a bevy of machines. His breathing is labored. He's dying. He's surrounded by white skinned, blond-headed children (50s) and grandchildren (20s). He wheezes his last breath before heading out to great beyond in a blinding white light.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - DAY - PRESENT - CONTINUOUS

Aiden taps out. Junebug releases him and his eyes go back to normal.

AIDEN
You're getting old.

JUNEBUG
Lord willing.

Junebug goes back to chopping ribs. Aiden grazes on the food before him.

JUNEBUG (CONT'D)
New York City is making you soft.
You should chop some wood, barrel
out that chest.

AIDEN
I'll put that right on my list of
things not to do. I'm not as strong
as I used to be. I don't crew
anymore. How is mother holding up?

JUNEBUG
Your mother is really good at
ignoring things until they go away.

AIDEN
Does that really work?

JUNEBUG
No.

Geraldine walks back in a huff. She pulls 3 juice glasses from the cupboard and pours 3 shots of whiskey. She hands them out.

AIDEN
That bad out there?

GERALDINE
Helen is interrogating folks like
she's airport security.

The boys laugh.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)
It would be funny if half of those
old crones weren't packing pearl
handle .22s. I'm not trying to get
accidentally shot on purpose.

JUNEBUG
(nudges Aiden)
Go on out there. Smooth things
over.

AIDEN
How am I supposed to do that?

JUNEBUG
Smile and bat your eyelashes at
them. Pretend that they're their
pretty granddaughters.

GERALDINE
Just don't sleep with any of them.

JUNEBUG
Unless that's your thing.

Aiden grabs a bottle of scotch and head's into the lion's
den. Geraldine checks the pantry and hallway to make sure no
one's around.

GERALDINE
Did you touch him?

JUNEBUG
Yes.

GERALDINE
Don't play coy with me. What did
you see?

JUNEBUG
He won't die before he's old and
gray.

GERALDINE
How long do you think it will stay
that way?

JUNEBUG
How soon is he leaving Adelaide?

GERALDINE
Not soon enough.

INT. PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

Aiden enters the living room and the townspeople swarm like
locusts.

The minister's wife, **BEATRICE (70)** boozy, loud with a big behind plush with butter, **CLOZELL (70)** with hair like an orange brillo pad and **ALICE (70)** wiry string bean of a woman resembling a six-foot-tall skeleton descend on him like three witches.

BEATRICE

Aiden! We missed you at the funeral.

AIDEN

My plane was delayed.

CLOZELL

Not according to my eye-phone. My airline app said your plane was 30 minutes early.

AIDEN

Who gave you an iphone?

ALICE

The apple store young man.

BEATRICE

You sure turned out to be a looker.

CLOZELL

Just like his father.

BEATRICE

Which one?

The three ladies burst out into giggles just as **MAYOR JOHN BAXTER (48)** walks up - all whiskey breath and false promises.

MAYOR

Now, now don't go showing off your senility.

BEATRICE

Mayor Baxter. I thought I smelled something foul.

MAYOR

(to Aiden)

My dear Beatrice may be the first preacher's wife to go to hell.

HELEN

Put your fangs away Mayor.

CLOZELL

And your tail.

ALICE
And your pitchfork.

Helen caresses Aiden's face.

HELEN
Look at our boy, Mayor. He turned
out well, despite everything.

MAYOR
That he did. Chance didn't believe
you'd show up today. He owes me
\$100. How long are you staying in
town?

BEATRICE
Long enough to cause a ruckus.

CLOZELL
He'll be gone before the shit hits
the fan. That's his style.

HELEN
People do change.

ALICE
No, they don't.

AIDEN
While you two figure out who's
right, I'm going to go - out of
this room. If you'll excuse me.

HELEN
Don't wander too far.

Aiden kisses Helen on the cheek and walks over to Sheriff who
is so far in the corner he's almost behind the curtain.
Sheriff is feeding his feelings fried green tomatoes and
beer.

SHERIFF
Say what you want about Jared. The
man can cook.

AIDEN
What negative thing could you
possibly have to say about Junebug?

SHERIFF
Jared is a saint in a sinner's
body.

AIDEN

That still sounds like a compliment. Maybe I've been in New York too long.

SHERIFF

Maybe. Maybe not.

Sheriff takes another pull of his beer. They both watch as Helen drunkenly flirts with Mayor.

AIDEN

Something going on I should know about?

SHERIFF

(too rote)

Old friends. Harmless.

AIDEN

How good a friends were they?

SHERIFF

There are things the Mayor loves more than flirting with your mother.

AIDEN

Like what?

SHERIFF

His political career.

AIDEN

You could ask her to stop.

SHERIFF

When's the last time your mother heeded the request of anyone?

(he looks at Aiden,
serious))

Don't fall in love with the wrong woman. One path may lead to nirvana, the other oblivion.

AIDEN

How will I know which woman leads to which path?

SHERIFF

You won't.

Sheriff heads back into the kitchen. Aiden goes out the front door.

EXT. POND - DUSK

All abs and boxing shorts, Aiden runs off the pier and dives into the water with ease. He surfaces and does a few laps around the pond when he notices underwater bubbles come right for him. ALARM! He fights the entity blindly and ferociously before realizing it's a beautiful young girl who is equally fighting him back.

Aiden immediately backs away from **GEORGIA DELACROIX (18)** a cafe au lait skinned ballerina with doe eyes, pouty lips and hair like long amber waves of grain - who is pummeling the shit out of him. Their skin touches and she's immediately pulled into a vision.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - FLASHBACK 1989 - DAY

HELEN (20) bathes a baby boy in the kitchen sink. She sings him a song.

HELEN

I love you. A bushel and a peck. A
bushel and a peck and a hug around
the neck. A hug around the neck. I
do I do I - I do I do I do I - do I
do I do I I I I I I I I I do.

INT. POND - DUSK - PRESENT

Georgia is actively trying to get away from his touch.

AIDEN

Hey, hey, hey! Stop! Stop!

GEORGIA

You stop!!

AIDEN

I thought you were a gator.

GEORGIA

Do I look like a gator?

AIDEN

Bubbling under the water you do.

GEORGIA

It's called swimming. What are you
doing in Sheriff's pond anyway?

AIDEN
 Sheriff's my father. This pond is
 behind our house.

GEORGIA
 (side-eye)
 Oh.

She swims away from him.

AIDEN
 What does that mean?

GEORGIA
 That means I'm leaving. You mind
 turning around. I didn't bring a
 suit.

AIDEN
 I won't peek.

GEORGIA
 Yes you will.

Georgia gets out in her white underwear.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)
 Let me know if you need someone to
 look under your bed for monsters.

AIDEN
 That won't be necessary.

She steals his towel and runs off into the woods.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

LYN DELACROIX (45) - Georgia's gorgeously misanthropic mother
 - is caught stuffing pie in her face by Aiden who is half
 naked and wet. They both look like a deer caught in
 headlights. When she looks at Aiden, he is bathed in a bright
 pink aura of love. To this she frowns. When he looks at her,
 he sees a milf eating ripe, peach pie.

AIDEN
 Hey.

LYN
 You're wet.

AIDEN
 I went swimming. It eases my mind
 when I get overwhelmed.

LYN
Get overwhelmed a lot?

AIDEN
Only when I come within a 12 mile
radius of this place.

LYN
You don't say.

AIDEN
I'm Aiden.

LYN
Good for you.

AIDEN
I don't think we've met.

LYN
Not that you'd remember.

AIDEN
Are you a friend of the family?

LYN
(laughs)
Friend? Not really.

She eats more pie. Looks at his aura, frowns.

LYN (CONT'D)
You're in love. Lust, anyway.
Anyone I know?

AIDEN
Know any alligators?

LYN
A few sharks, a fox, a wolf and a
weasel. No alligators.

Someone comes down the back stairs. Aiden ducks into the pantry. Lyn stands there eating pie. The Mayor appears in the kitchen and is surprised to meet ANYONE in the kitchen, much less Lyn. Her contempt for him is palpable.

Aiden tip toes up the stairs without the Mayor seeing. Mayor walks over to the counter near Lyn to fetch a glass of water. He's clearly invading her space, on purpose. She doesn't budge. She's not afraid of him. Through her eyes, his aura is jet black.

MAYOR

Wouldn't want pie to ruin that figure.

LYN

I thought you weren't allowed in the house.

MAYOR

I could say the same thing about you.

LYN

What would your constituents say if they saw you sneaking out the back door like a dog in heat?

MAYOR

Same thing they say about Sheriff I guess.

He gives her a greasy smile. She places her hand on the knife on the counter. He leans in close to her exposing his neck.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Man I bet that pie is sweet. I probably wouldn't be able to quit it after 30 years either.

LYN

Blood is so hard to get out of a starched shirt.

Sheriff walks in and doesn't like what he sees.

SHERIFF

Is there something I can help you with, Mayor?

MAYOR

No, Sheriff, I was just leaving.

Mayor gives him that greasy politician smile and exits out the back door. Sheriff pries the knife out of Lyn's hand and escorts her outside.

EXT. HELEN'S BACK PORCH - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

They watch Mayor's Cadillac pull off.

SHERIFF

Have you lost your mind? You and Helen haven't been in the same building without clawing each other's eyes out since 1995.

LYN

Maybe I came to extend an olive branch.

SHERIFF

You came to poke the bear. Any poison branches you want to extend can be done after Aiden's left town.

LYN

What are you afraid of him finding out?

SHERIFF

The truth.

LYN

Which version would that be?

SHERIFF

Any of the versions.

LYN

Maybe I need a man that's not afraid of the truth. Is Aiden single? He turned out to be quite the head turner. Maybe he's in need of a good woman.

Sheriff smacks the shit out of her. Lyn falls to the ground in shock and disbelief. Junebug steps out on the back porch all sweat, apron and butcher knife. He waits.

JUNEBUG

Everything alright out here?

SHERIFF

Do I have to worry about little brother fighting his sister's battles, Jared?

JUNEBUG

I'm not the one you should be scared of.

Lyn gets up slowly. She spits at Sheriff's feet.

LYN
(patois)
Death to your line.

JUNEBUG
You take that back right now!

LYN
It's a figure of speech.

JUNEBUG
Take it back!

LYN
No!

Lyn gets in her jalopy and accelerates out of there, her car backfiring all the way.

SHERIFF
What did she say?

JUNEBUG
Something she will regret.

Junebug goes back inside.

INT. LYN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lyn storms in the house pissed. She runs into Georgia fully dressed in club clothes.

LYN
Where are you going?

GEORGIA
Out.

LYN
With who?

GEORGIA
Marcus. He wants to blow off some steam before the audition.

LYN
That Aiden boy's in town. Give him a wide birth, little girl.

GEORGIA
Ain't nobody tripping on Aiden.

LYN

Wide. Birth. And just because
you're 18 doesn't mean you don't
have a curfew. Home by midnight.
Nothing good happens after
midnight.

GEORGIA

Nice shiner. And it's only 8:45.

Georgia storms out.

EXT. JUKE JOINT - NIGHT

Loud, lascivious and lawless. It's on a deserted street
tucked into a field of pussy willows and crickets. A lonely
neon sign in the dark night beckoning you inside with rowdy
lustful music. The parking lot is full of mismatched painted
cars from the 00s and 1 shiny silver import.

INT. JUKE JOINT - NIGHT

Chance is already at the bar harassing the bartender, **COOKIE THOMAS (25)**, when Aiden walks up and joins the fray. Cookie is the Hershey Milk Chocolate version of the girl next door. Smart, fun to be around who went away to school, came back to help the family and got stuck.

CHANCE

Cookie, I know you are not still
mad about junior prom. That was 10
years ago.

COOKIE

I am not, but I should be.

AIDEN

You threw up on her dress.

CHANCE

I still can't drink peppermint
schnapps.

AIDEN

Why would you?

CHANCE

What else am I supposed to drink on
Christmas?

COOKIE

Hey Aiden.

Aiden hands out a twenty, which Cookie takes with a smile. He leans over the bar and kisses her cheek.

CHANCE

You'll take money from this Judas!

COOKIE

This Judas kept his food down all senior prom night.

AIDEN

And into the morning.

CHANCE

I rest my case, Escariot.

AIDEN

Two long islands.

COOKIE

That kind of night, huh?

Cookie goes off to make drinks. Aiden turns around and survey's the crowd. The place is jumping, the dancing is as dirty as the floor.

The moody and broody **BROCK HOFFSTEDDAR (25)** saunters over to Chance and Aiden. Brock looks like he was going to grow up big and handsome, but stopped growing. Brock eyes Aiden like he's some dog shit he just discovered on his shoe.

AIDEN

Hoffsteddar, who invited you?

CHANCE

Be nice.

BROCK

Still failing upward, Stanfill?

AIDEN

All the way to the top.

BROCK

Officer Baxter.

CHANCE

(without looking in his
direction)

Brock.

BROCK

You boys getting into some trouble tonight?

AIDEN
Most likely.

BROCK
Want some company?

CHANCE
Nope.

BROCK
Let me know if that changes.

Brock eyeballs Chance really hard before leaving. Aiden thinks it strange, but Brock is strange.

AIDEN
What was that all about?

CHANCE
Who knows.

The drinks arrive and Aiden focuses his attention to the middle of the dance floor where Georgia is dancing with **MARCUS (18)** - her hot, chocolate dance partner. They are really something on the dance floor, in sync. Georgia and Aiden lock eyes. She starts to put on a show. It's very clear who for.

AIDEN
Do you know that girl?

CHANCE
What girl?

Chance looks in the crowd and shakes his head "no" violently.

CHANCE (CONT'D)
No no no. I know nothing about that ornery, do-gooding puritanical jail bait. She is not for you.

AIDEN
So, you do know that girl.

BROCK
(on his way to dance floor)
Georgia just turned 18.

CHANCE
Not helping!

AIDEN
Georgia. I like that.

CHANCE

No, you don't. You don't like that.

Aiden walks toward Georgia.

CHANCE (CONT'D)

Damnit! Cookie, two shots of tequila.

AIDEN

Save a dance for me?

GEORGIA

Is this you apologizing for trying to drown me?

AIDEN

Maybe. What do you say? Unless, your boyfriend -

GEORGIA

He's not my boyfriend.

AIDEN

Does he know that?

She takes Aiden's hand.

GEORGIA

Think you can keep up?

She's schooling him, but he's keeping up. Barely. Chance & Brock drinks their cocktails.

CHANCE

Why did you do that? You know who she is.

BROCK

Because fuck him. That's why.

EXT. JUKE JOINT ALLEY - NIGHT

Aiden sits outside alone puffing on weed when Georgia walks out. He's more than a little high. She takes the joint from his hand and takes a puff.

AIDEN

You may be out of my league.

GEORGIA

May be?

(laughs)

Where'd you get this weed?

AIDEN

Chance.

GEORGIA

He is the worst cop ever.

AIDEN

My grandmother died today.

GEORGIA

I know. The whole town knows.

AIDEN

She was not a very nice person.

GEORGIA

We know that too.

AIDEN

You live here all your life?

GEORGIA

Lives even.

AIDEN

I'm not much older than you. Seems weird that we've never met.

GEORGIA

Not in the same social circles I guess.

AIDEN

You must have the most beautiful parents in the world.

GEORGIA

They're alright.

AIDEN

This is a nice little vacation from my real life.

GEORGIA

New York that bad?

AIDEN

Do you ever feel like running away?

GEORGIA
All the time.

AIDEN
What would happen if you stood
still - in one place for more than
a moment?

GEORGIA
I'd die.

Aiden takes her in his arms. His face gets really close to hers. He moves his lips toward her lips. Their eyelashes brush. Junebug steps out for a smoke, sees them and yanks Georgia by the arm. Georgia has a vision.

JUNEBUG
Georgia Eloise Delacroix, what do
you think you're doing?

INT. KITCHEN - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

A Young Junebug (15) - delivering the baby of a Young Lyn (18).

YOUNG JUNEBUG
Oh my god, don't make me look down
there.

YOUNG LYN
Just do it!

EXT. JUKE JOINT ALLEY - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

She wrenches her arm free.

GEORGIA
Minding my own business.

AIDEN
Delacroix?

JUNEBUG
She's my niece.
(to Georgia)
Let's go. I'm taking you home.

GEORGIA
I didn't do anything!

JUNEBUG
Tell it to your mama.

AIDEN

Niece? I thought you were an only child.

JUNEBUG

Yeah, well, you think a lot of things. Call me before you leave town.

Chance walks out the back door of the club with BBQ ribs. Sauce is all over his face. Junebug and Georgia go around the building to the parking lot.

CHANCE

Damn you just got cock blocked by Django.

Aiden takes a rib.

AIDEN

Shut up.

INT. JUNEBUG'S CAR - NIGHT

Junebug and Georgia sit in his car outside her house. Neither of them moves. If he's waiting for her to speak first, he'll be waiting forever.

JUNEBUG

What do you think you're doing?
He's Papa's son, Georgia. His son.

GEORGIA

Aiden is no more Papa's son than you are.

JUNEBUG

What's that supposed to mean?

GEORGIA

You know EXACTLY what that means?

JUNEBUG

You can't be with him! You need to stay away from the Stanfills.

GEORGIA

Ditto, lover boy.

She gets out and slams the door. He's pissed.

[3]

EXT. TOWN - DAWN

Clad in a Harvard tee and running short, Aiden runs around town - through the town square, past the poor black side of town right back around to the rich side with the sprawling lawns and stately Colonials.

EXT. HELEN'S BACK YARD - MORNING

Lyn unloads all of Sheriff's belongings onto the lawn without ceremony. It's raining slacks and boxer briefs. Sports trophies, photo albums, humidors, the works.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Helen watches Lyn from her kitchen window in her robe with her morning bloody Mary and laughs as she drives away. Sheriff walks in.

SHERIFF

What are you doing?

HELEN

Watching your girlfriend dump all your worldly possessions on my lawn.

SHERIFF

Fucking hell.

HELEN

I'm surprised they aren't on fire.

SHERIFF

What if Aiden came home right now?

HELEN

Do what I do. Lie.

He quickly tries to get them in the house.

EXT. PEACH STREET - MAYOR'S MANSION - MORNING

This neighborhood is all old money and Georgian Colonials. Mayor's house is smack dab in the center. Aiden's running right at him. Mayor is on his porch drinking coffee reading the paper fully dressed. Mayor's face beams with pride.

AIDEN

You're up with the chickens.

MAYOR

Early bird catches the worm, son.
How is the big city treating you?

AIDEN

Holding my own.

MAYOR

Ever thought about coming back
here? Be a big fish in a small
pond.

AIDEN

A shark would drown in an inch of
water.

MAYOR

I've managed to survive. It'd be
nice to groom an heir to the
throne. Even if the only thing on
your resume is being a red coat
lawyer and putting honest factory
folk out of a job.

AIDEN

Chance would make a fine Mayor.

MAYOR

No man that sleeps until noon and
breaks more laws than he enforces
will ever have a long political
career without his last name being
Kennedy.

AIDEN

Or Bush.

MAYOR

The people of this town would
follow you off a cliff. Hell, even
propel you to the governor's seat.
Further.

AIDEN

Not before you got there first. Is
that right?

MAYOR

(smiles)

Well, what kind of leader would I
be if I didn't lead by example.

AIDEN

No thanks Mayor.

MAYOR

Just think about it, son. Join the polo match today. No one's taken your number, you know. Couldn't fill your riding boots, I guess.

AIDEN

Maybe.

Aiden backs up off the lawn and runs away full speed. Mayor watches him go. Chance steps into view on the second story window above the porch. He watches Aiden run away before turning back into the bedroom.

INT. CHANCE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chance walks past a body sized lump in the bed to the shower. His polo uniform laid out on the chaise.

EXT. HELEN'S FRONT PORCH - MORNING

OLIVIA VAN HOUTEN (30) - Aiden's WASPy, opinionated, New York, boho chic fiance - knocks on the front door and Helen answers half asleep in a dressing gown. When Olivia moves in for air kisses, Helen recoils like a snake fleeing a house cat.

OLIVIA

I hope you don't mind me showing up like this. I was so worried when he didn't answer his cell. Is it always hot like this? The humidity alone reeks havoc on one's blowdry. You do have a blowdry bar within a 10 mile radius, correct? This is only the South not 1940s Russia. I shouldn't be concerned about flying cockroaches should I? I saw a special on Discovery that gave me nightmares for weeks. You don't mind if we continue this conversation in your luscious aircon. I believe I'm starting to "schvitz" as the Jews say.

HELEN

Honey, Jesus is my Lord and Savior and no amount of Watch Tower reading is going to change my mind.

OLIVIA
 You think I'm a Jehovah? (laughs)
 I'm Protestant. From Connecticut.
 This is Hermes.

Helen looks unimpressed. Olivia turns around in circles.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
 Is this the right house? Are you
 Helen Stanfill? Aiden's mother?

HELEN
 Last time I checked.

OLIVIA
 I'm Olivia. Van Houten. Aiden's
 fiance.

HELEN
 Fia-what?

Helen looks up into the sunlight. She seems disoriented.
 Helen grabs the door jamb. Olivia catches her and escorts her
 inside.

OLIVIA
 Please don't die on me. I know
 nothing of medicine. I flunked out
 of Vassar!

INT. LYN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Georgia - in her ballerina leotard - sneaks in and sees open
 drawers and a closet half empty. She rummages through Lyn's
 jewelry drawer and after careful deliberation touches a cameo
 and is pulled into a vision.

EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - GEORGIA'S VISION - FLASHBACK 1977 - DAY

Lyn (8) walks up the walkway with **SAVANNAH (38)** - her broken
 spirited, dark chocolate skinned mother. Savannah looks like
 Grace Jones - if Grace Jones was a six foot tall hooker from
 Louisiana. Lyn and Savannah are both in their Easter finest.
 Little white lace dress for Lyn, bright orange
 polyester/spandex mini dress with a gaudy gold belt for
 Savannah.

Josephine (45) is on the porch flanked by a young trinity of
 church ladies - Beatrice (45), Clozell (45) and Alice (45).

JOSEPHINE
 Not you. Just her.

SAVANNAH

I won't throw her to the wolves,
Josephine.

JOSEPHINE

You don't have a choice.

LYN

Mommy, I don't want to go with the
white ladies.

SAVANNAH

I don't want you to either, but
that's the deal I made. Easter and
Thanksgiving.

Lyn begins to cry. Savannah takes a cameo off and places it
around her neck.

SAVANNAH (CONT'D)

Don't cry. I'll be back after
church.

BEATRICE

Your mama can't step foot inside
the church house without it
bursting into flames dear.

SAVANNAH

How is the Pastor? Still a snorer.

ALICE

She's lying Beatrice.

CLOZELL

Like the devil is wont to do.

SAVANNAH

Leans a little to the left Little
Pastor does. Cries when he cums.
The man, not the penis.

Beatrice clutches her pearls in fear.

JOSEPHINE

That's enough theatrics for today
Savannah.

Savannah leans over and whispers in Lyn's ear.

SAVANNAH

Don't mind the witches stirring the
shit in their cauldron.

(MORE)

SAVANNAH (CONT'D)

Don't lose the necklace. They can't hurt you if you have it on.

INT. LYN'S BEDROOM - PRESENT

Georgia pulls her hand away and gets caught by Lyn who storms in winded, riled up and muttering to herself.

LYN

You done looking into people's past?

GEORGIA

I wasn't - I just needed a hair clip.

Lyn hands her a hair clip, but Georgia doesn't want to touch it. Lyn pens Georgia's hair with it.

LYN

I got it at the dollar store. No history there. Not mine anyway. I can't promise you won't see some poor Chinese factory worker's life story. (Georgia takes it.) You can get out now.

Georgia leaves sheepishly.

INT. PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

Olivia sets Helen on the settee. Helen has taken in Olivia's bedazzled appearance and becomes chronically aware of her own bed clothes. Quick to put on airs, Helen does her very best Vivien Leigh impression.

HELEN

Fetch me some seltzer would you?
There should be a Pellegrino in the cupboard. In a glass, with ice.
This isn't a tailgate party.

Olivia fetches the water and hands to Helen who drinks it slowly using the time to give Olivia a very thorough once over disapprovingly. She stretches on the chaise like a stray cat and closes her eyes.

OLIVIA

Are you okay? You collapsed back there like Scarlet O'Hara.

HELEN

Nothing a nap won't cure. So, you are engaged to my son?

OLIVIA

(holding out her hand like
a Queen being received)
I thought you knew.

HELEN

That is a lovely lust sized rock.
You must be a talented gymnast.

OLIVIA

Gymnast? No, I did some tumbling in
primary school.

HELEN

Vassar, huh? Is that how you meet
my Aiden?

OLIVIA

Oh no. We met on a bus. In Prague.
The driver was trying to swindle
him out of his zloty's.

HELEN

Aiden's always been quite the
adventurer. Down with the people
and all that, though I do not know
where he gets it. Can't imagine you
on a bus ...

OLIVIA

I like to mix it up with the
locals. It keeps your senses sharp.
Rich people tend to be passive
aggressive wolves in waiting.

HELEN

That must be a Northerner thing.

OLIVIA

I saw him again on a ferry in
Denmark. To be honest, I don't
think he truly realized I was the
same person. But when I see
something or someone, **I have to
have it.**

HELEN

I'm sure you're used to the
indifference of a man.

(MORE)

HELEN (CONT'D)

I personally wouldn't know, but you can tell me all about it one day ... when I'm bored to stitches and there's no more topics in the universe to discuss. When do you plan on marrying my indifferent son?

OLIVIA

Soon. I'd like to be a young mother. My mother died when I was in high school.

HELEN

To have been fortunate enough to have my mother die while my breasts were at their best, you clearly don't know a blessing when you see one.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Aiden noisily walks in the front door. He kicks off his shoes in the foyer.

AIDEN

Mother, I just had the weirdest conversation with the Mayor. I swear that man dreams and schemes. And I'm almost certain all of his coffees are Irish.

INT. PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

Helen winks mischievously at Olivia before Aiden walks in, sweaty, out of breath.

HELEN

Oh the tales I could tell you about your dear old, Mayor. But perhaps those stories are for another time. I'm sure there are more pressing things you need to tell me.

AIDEN

Mother you know everything about me there is to know. You're like Jessica Fletcher, the way you snoop.

Aiden's stretching his legs when he sees Olivia sitting across from his mother - stops him in his tracks.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Olivia.

In a show of put on affection, Olivia glides to him all kisses and flare. Aiden is frozen like a statue as if life is happening to him and he is merely a spectator.

OLIVIA

My love.

Helen is not buying Olivia's act for a moment.

HELEN

Aiden, didn't you want your family and dearest friends to know you were engaged to this Yankee Wasp from new money? Olive Van Hootenpoof?

OLIVIA

Olivia Van Houten.

HELEN

That's what I said.

AIDEN

Our engagement wasn't a secret, Mother.

OLIVIA

Actually, we made Page 6.

HELEN

Of what? Highlights Magazine?

OLIVIA

Of the New York Post.

AIDEN

She knows exactly what that is. Mother, I asked Olivia to marry me. I'm sorry you missed our engagement party.

HELEN

You mean the one I wasn't invited to and knew nothing about?

AIDEN

Your invitation must have gotten lost in the mail.

Helen feigns fainting on the couch. Olivia tries to rush to her side. Aiden holds her back.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
She's fine.

HELEN
Have you set a date for this
fictitious wedding?

OLIVIA
Not yet.

AIDEN
There's really no rush.

HELEN
But you're so in love and Olive
wants to pop out babies soon. And I
so DESPERATELY want to be a
grandmother.

AIDEN
You HATE small children. You said
having grand children was like
slavery. Great in theory and horrid
in reality.

HELEN
One can't continue a legacy with
adopted black babies from Cameroon.
I don't care what trend those
elderly actresses are trying to
set.

There is some rustling in the next room over.

HELEN (CONT'D)
Sheriff is that you?

SHERIFF (O.S.)
Who else would it be?

HELEN
Just making sure I'm not getting
robbed. I've had enough excitement
for the day.

SHERIFF
Who would rob this house? Anything
of value Beatrice stole and
Josephine buried in the back yard.

Sheriff walks into the parlor and is stunned by the audience.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
You could have told me we had a guest.

HELEN
What fun would that have been? Have you met Aiden's fiancée?

SHERIFF
Fiancée?

HELEN
Pardon the Sheriff. He's taking parrot lessons.

Olivia stands and extends a hand. Sheriff shakes it with trepidation. He looks from Helen to Aiden for a guided appropriate reaction and receives none.

OLIVIA
Olivia van Houten. Pleased to put a face to a name.

SHERIFF
Charmed I'm sure.

HELEN
Olive's from Connecticut - the land of white collar crime and legacy rapists.

AIDEN
It's Olivia mother.

HELEN
Isn't that wonderful?

SHERIFF
I am definitely full of wonder.
If you'll all excuse me, I'm late for work.

EXT. JUNEBUG'S PORCH - DAY

Modest house in a poor neighborhood. Junebug stands there drinking his coffee when Geraldine comes out of the house next door in her nurse scrubs and heads to the car.

JUNEBUG
(patois)
Death to your line.

GERALDINE

Excuse me?

JUNEBUG

That's what your girl said to Sheriff. Death to your line.

GERALDINE

And she immediately took it back.

He shakes his head no.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

She wouldn't do that to Georgie - to ... we've got to fix this.

JUNEBUG

You've got to fix this.

GERALDINE

Talk to your sister.

JUNEBUG

And tell her what?

GERALDINE

Not to damn her own children.

JUNEBUG

Who needs to do that when they've got you.

GERALDINE

How could this day possibly get any worse?

She gets in her car.

JUNEBUG

Please don't challenge the universe.

INT. AIDEN'S BEDROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Aiden walks in with Olivia's bags. Olivia is hot on his trail and she is less than happy.

AIDEN

I can't believe you showed up at my parent's house. I told you not to come.

OLIVIA

They didn't even know who I was until I stood on their front porch. I thought your mother was going to pull her shotgun out of the grandfather clock and tell me to get off her land.

AIDEN

We broke up!

OLIVIA

Temporarily. Everyone needs a good break. Makes the relationship stronger.

AIDEN

You are like a fungus I can't get rid of.

OLIVIA

You not setting a date for our wedding is no reason for me not to be here for your grandmother's funeral.

AIDEN

You didn't come here to support my family. You came here to meet them. You're forcing your way into this like you do everything else.

OLIVIA

If you weren't as cagey as a Paris sewer rat, I wouldn't have to. You threw away your mother's invitation to our engagement party didn't you. You never intended to marry me. Your own mother doesn't think that you're ready to marry. I think she's right.

AIDEN

If I didn't want to marry you, I wouldn't have asked. We'll get married.

OLIVIA

When?

AIDEN

When I say! Currently, you're not even my girlfriend.

Aiden jumps in the shower.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - DAY

Georgia and Marcus rehearse their ballet piece for their dance audition. They dance flawlessly. He stops the music.

MARCUS

You dance like that, we'll both get into Juilliard.

GEORGIA

Getting in is the easy part. How in the hell are we going to pay for it?

MARCUS

Getting in is not the easy part. Don't get complacent. Don't lose your fight. That's when you make mistakes. Get sloppy.

GEORGIA

Ok coach.

MARCUS

Speaking of sloppy. You and that white boy. Slop-city. I don't approve.

GEORGIA

Lucky for me you aren't my father. So, I don't need your approval. I'm not interested in him anyway. It was just a dance.

MARCUS

Good. You need to focus, but if you do want a distraction, I know someone your own age that can measure up.

GEORGIA

Pass.

Georgia turns the music back on. They start to dance.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Aiden walks in with a duffle. Chance is suiting up in his Polo gear.

CHANCE
Damn, I owe him another hundred.

AIDEN
Stop betting against me.

CHANCE
Stop acting against your very nature and I could have my money. You ready to kick some ass today or has New York made you soft and weak?

Brock walks in stark naked from the shower, towel in hand.

BROCK
Yeah, you ready, Stanfill?

AIDEN
Why am I looking at your slitherin?

CHANCE
Dude, put on some pants.

BROCK
That's not what you said last night.

CHANCE
Ha, ha, ha.

AIDEN
Your jokes are as corny as ever.

Aiden puts on the jersey and he and Chance head for the door. Aiden walks ahead and Chance hits Brock in the arm really hard.

BROCK
Didn't mean to embarrass you in front of your boyfriend.

CHANCE
You're walking on thin ice with me.

EXT. POLO MATCH - DAY

Olivia and Helen sit in the stands. Helen with a big ole hat on. Mayor starts to approach them.

HELEN

Alright, van Hooten. I'm going to need you to be the best version of yourself.

OLIVIA

Who is that?

HELEN

The Mayor.

Olivia sits up straight and reapplies her matte red lip.

MAYOR

I do declare I know not who is the fairest of them all.

HELEN

You better know.

MAYOR

Helen, my queen, who is this young delight you have brought as your companion to the match?

HELEN

Aiden's fiance.

MAYOR

Fiance? Of pedigree?

HELEN

Vassar. Old Connecticut money. Manhattan socialite that had a predilection to dating celebrity chefs and aging rock stars until our Aiden cleaned up her reputation.

OLIVIA

So, you do read page 6.

HELEN

Religiously - 75 words and no picture does not an engagement announcement make.

MAYOR

Does she believe in God?

OLIVIA

If he believes in me.

MAYOR

Taxes?

OLIVIA

The less the better.

MAYOR

Ethical treatment of animals.

OLIVIA

You can play catch with cows if you want to as long as it ends up as a tartar on my plate.

MAYOR

And legacy? Do you want to have children?

OLIVIA

By the gaggle.

MAYOR

How do you feel about Aiden running for political office?

OLIVIA

I feel I would look stunning in an inaugural gown - or 3.

MAYOR

She may be quite the catch.

HELEN

So it would seem.

All three of them sit back and watch Aiden and Chance have a ball riding horses, swinging mallets and glowing in the sunshine. Even moody, weird Brock is in on the fun.

INT. DEATH BY PORK - BBQ JOINT - DAY

Guy Fieri's wet dream. Junebug Delacroix's greasy spoon. Gingham table clothes, mason jars, kitsch salt and pepper shakers. Aiden and Olivia walk in and sit at the counter next to Geraldine. He kisses Gerry on the cheek and hands Olivia a menu who takes one look at the menu and crinkles her nose.

OLIVIA

This is a heart attack waiting to happen. Why didn't we just eat at the club?

AIDEN

Because Junebug makes the best food in town.

OLIVIA

Junebug? I hope that's not his Christian name.

JUNEBUG

Christian name's Jared. But only my mother called me that, and she's dead.

AIDEN

This is Olivia.

JUNEBUG

The fiance. Everyone in the county knows who she is. It's a pleasure to be insulted in person. Didn't know you existed until this morning.

OLIVIA

That seems to be a theme.

GERALDINE

Good for you. Get married. Go back to New York. Live.

OLIVIA

I love it when the townsfolk get to weigh in on my relationship.

AIDEN

Olivia, this is Geraldine. My real mother.

GERALDINE

Such things you say.

OLIVIA

(whispers to Aiden)

You're not black are you?

Aiden giggles which makes Olivia even more nervous.

GERALDINE

Not that he's aware of, honey. I was his nanny before I became a nurse. I wiped his butt, kissed his boo-boos and scared the monsters away.

OLIVIA
Now, I do that.

JUNEBUG
(takes the menus away)
Well, isn't that something.

OLIVIA
How am I supposed to order?

AIDEN
He's going to bring us something
delicious. Relax.

Georgia walks into the restaurant in a huff because she's late. Aiden tenses up. Olivia already tracking the beautiful girl with her eyes.

GEORGIA
I don't want to hear it.

JUNEBUG
You're late, little girl.

GEORGIA
Rehearsal ran over.

JUNEBUG
Don't you be wafting your ballerina
stink on my good food.

GEORGIA
Ballerinas don't stink.

GERALDINE
Can I get an iced tea from the
stinky ballerina?

GEORGIA
Diabetic nurses don't get sweet
tea. You'll get a water with lemon
and you'll like it.

Georgia puts on an apron and starts manning the counter. She makes her way over to Olivia and Aiden's section of the counter before realizing who they are.

OLIVIA
I don't think I want a stinky
ballerina serving my food.

GEORGIA
Your waitress is freshly showered
hence her tardiness. Aiden?

AIDEN

Georgia.

OLIVIA

You two know each other?

GEORGIA

Yes.

AIDEN

Not really.

Olivia extends her bejewelled hand which Georgia let's hang there like it has poo on it.

OLIVIA

I'm Olivia. His fiance.

GEORGIA

Fiance?

JUNEBUG

It's French.

Georgia looks Olivia up and down then looks to Aiden who looks down sheepishly. She looks back to Olivia.

GEORGIA

I assume you ordered?

AIDEN

Junebug took our menus.

GEORGIA

Who pissed him off? (Aiden looks to Olivia) I guess you eat what he cooks you.

OLIVIA

Is this like Ed Debevics? Are we supposed to be insulted on purpose? Is that the schtick of the restaurant?

AIDEN

Yes.

GERALDINE

What's an Ed Debevic?

JUNEBUG

No clue.

Georgia tends to her other tables. Olivia watches Aiden watch Georgia walk away.

OLIVIA
You're smitten with that child.

AIDEN
She's 18.

OLIVIA
Is she now? I'm a little worried
that you know that.

GERALDINE
Me too.

[4]

INT. DRESS SHOP - AFTERNOON

Lyn indiscreetly watches Olivia and Aiden walk down the sidewalk toward her store. They stop to fight outside her window. She eats chips like it's a show. Through her eyes, Olivia's aura is a sickly brown while Aiden's a sparkly gold.

EXT. DRESS SHOP - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Olivia spots a wedding gown in the window of a dress shop and stops, smitten. Aiden's face turns stern with anxiety and anger.

OLIVIA
It's so pretty.

AIDEN
I'm not going in there.

OLIVIA
Just for a minute.

AIDEN
We're not even back together and
you want to look at wedding
dresses.

OLIVIA
Please.

He walks away. She goes in.

INT. DRESS SHOP - DAY

Olivia walks in a bit dejected. She touches the dress in the window gently.

LYN
Getting married?

OLIVIA
One day.

LYN
(pointing out the window)
To the guy that's running away?

OLIVIA
Yes.

LYN
Does he know that?

Lyn walks over to her with a stiff shot of whiskey.

OLIVIA
It's only 3 o'clock.

LYN
Party girl's never had a drink at
3?

OLIVIA
Technically it's 8 in London.

They down the shot. Olivia's aura changes, becomes less stormy.

LYN
Brown back to red. You feel better
already. One more shot, just to be
sure.

OLIVIA
Are you psychic? I had a psychic
once. She looked at me like you're
looking at me now. Like she knew
things about me that she didn't
want to say.

LYN
I don't know anything about you
that you don't already know. And
I'm not psychic.

OLIVIA

Oh you must be really psychic if
you don't want me to know.

(perusing the dresses)

These gowns are exquisite, not what
I'd expect in some podunk town in
Georgia, no offense.

LYN

I bet you say "no offense" a lot
without ever actually meaning it.

OLIVIA

(smiles)

There aren't any price tags.

LYN

You can afford them. That dress in
the window doesn't suit you. It's
for a young girl whose beau is
sure. I have a dress that may be
for you, but you can only have it
if you'll love it.

Lyn pulls out a big white box with a big satin bow. She
places it on the coffee table and opens it gingerly. The
dress inside is wrapped in delicate paper. Olivia is afraid
to touch it.

OLIVIA

Who's dress is this?

LYN

Someone who doesn't need it
anymore.

OLIVIA

I don't want a cursed dress.

LYN

(offended)

It's not cursed. Just unneeded.

OLIVIA

It's beautiful.

LYN

Try it on.

Lyn glides over to a dressing suite and pulls back the
curtain. Olivia does as she's told. Something catches
Olivia's eyes. Lyn catches her staring at her face in the
mirror.

LYN (CONT'D)

What?

OLIVIA

It's none of my business...

LYN

Most things aren't. That doesn't really stop you though does it?

OLIVIA

I can still see it.

LYN

See what?

OLIVIA

Your eye. I used to put a spoon in the freezer ... it's better than ice.

LYN

Aiden?

OLIVIA

No. Another man. Before.

LYN

It was an accident.

OLIVIA

I want to believe you.

LYN

I don't need you to believe anything.

SHERIFF (O.S.)

Lyn. Lyn?

There's a commotion at the back door. Lyn pulls back the curtain and disappears into the back of the store.

EXT. DRESS SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Lyn pushes Sheriff out the back door, careful not to let Olivia hear them.

LYN

Goddamn it. You have the timing of toddler. You can't be here.

SHERIFF

I need to talk to you.

LYN

I don't have shit to say to you,
Sheriff?

SHERIFF

So, it's Sheriff, now? Don't do
that. (Pause) I'm sorry.

LYN

For what? Turning into your father?

SHERIFF

I am not him.

LYN

I can't tell.

SHERIFF

Don't act like you've never hit me!

LYN

IN THE FACE?!!

SHERIFF

I'm sorry.

LYN

Sorry. That's all I've heard for 30
years. **You're sorry that you picked
class and race over me. You're
sorry that you picked appearances
and truth over me. That you picked
comfort and lies over the love you
have - for me!** You're sorry. Yes.
Yes, you are. I agree. You're so
very sorry. Why did I accept your
sorry ass?

SHERIFF

I love you.

LYN

That boy is your son. Blood or no.
And you've chosen to perpetuate
that lie than validate our love and
life in the light of the sun.

SHERIFF

For. Our. Daughter! For her future.

LYN

For yourself. I have clients and dresses to make.

She opens the back door. He takes the hint. He leans over to kiss her cheek before he leaves. He kisses her eye instead. Lyn turns around and sees Olivia looking at her from the front of the store. Olivia pours two fingers of whiskey in two glasses and locks the front door.

OLIVIA

I think I know how you got that eye.

INT. HELEN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Geraldine gives Helen a check up. They interact more like mother and daughter or best friends.

GERALDINE

Your breathing is labored. You're jaundiced. Lethargic.

HELEN

I know this already, Gerry.

GERALDINE

It won't be that much longer.

HELEN

Months. Dr. Hoffstedder told me. Where's my Bloody Mary?

GERALDINE

That's not helping.

HELEN

It's medicinal! Lubricates the harshness of reality. Plus it has vitamins. What do the ghosts say? The angels. The demons. Fuck em all. What do they say?

Geraldine is quiet.

HELEN (CONT'D)

That bad? I'll ask them myself when I get there. Then I'll tell you what's what you old voodoo woman.

GERALDINE

Why don't you take a nap? You're talking crazy.

HELEN

The hell I am. I just want to keep up this one good lie, Gerry. Just this one before I go. That my son's existence was a part of a perfect plan born out of the love his parents had for each other. It's been 25 years. What's 3 more months? Someone should have an unbroken view of their parents. Why not my son?

GERALDINE

Indeed.

EXT. DEATH BY PORK - ALLEY - EVENING

Georgia comes out the back door to dump some french fry grease. Aiden is waiting for her, smoking a cigarette.

GEORGIA

June, they're rats in this alley.

JUNEBUG (O.S.)

Shoot em.

GEORGIA

If only.

AIDEN

I didn't want you to find out that way.

GEORGIA

How did you want me to find out?

AIDEN

I didn't.

GEORGIA

You're a piece of work.

AIDEN

We broke up. Olivia and I. Before I left New York. We broke up.

GEORGIA

Does she know that?

AIDEN

She won't accept it.

GEORGIA
Make her.

AIDEN
It's complicated.

GEORGIA
Let me un-complicate it for you.

Georgia goes back inside.

[INSERT SCENE 5/1/15 ... of what? 4/18/16]

INT. JUNEBUG'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Geraldine keys into Junebug's house uninvited.

GERALDINE
I don't care who you stickin and
movin in there. Get out here before
I come in there.

JUNEBUG (O.S.)
Goddamn it.

Junebug comes out of his bedroom pulling up pants.

GERALDINE
Don't Cookie have her own bed to
sleep in?

JUNEBUG
What do you want devil woman?

GERALDINE
Nothing. Everything.

JUNEBUG
How's Helen?

GERALDINE
You know. Not good.
(gesturing toward the
bedroom door))
How do you get away with touching
that one?

JUNEBUG
She dies in her sleep at 90. I can
touch her all day long. That shit
don't change.

GERALDINE

We should all be so lucky. Did you get a chance to lay hands on the dragonlady?

JUNEBUG

Touched her when I sat her plate down yesterday. (shakes his head) Suicide. .38 Special.

GERALDINE

Bless her heart. How long?

JUNEBUG

Seven years. Eight ...

GERALDINE

Junie, I need you to take the gloves off. Touch them again. Both of them.

JUNEBUG

No.

GERALDINE

But they're falling in love.

JUNEBUG

Tell them the truth! Then they won't. They can't.

GERALDINE

I can't do that, and you know it.

JUNEBUG

You won't do that. Then just leave it alone. Everybody got a right to live they life. You meddling for "what's right" just makes shit worse.

GERALDINE

I've got to fix this.

JUNEBUG

You broke it! Just let it stay broke.

GERALDINE

No!

JUNEBUG

Then you have to tell Lyn.

GERALDINE

Never. It'll break her heart.
She'll never forgive you.

JUNEBUG

She barely likes you now! The
longer Aiden stays in town. The
more she will see. You have to tell
her something.

GERALDINE

She's volatile and impulsive.

JUNEBUG

You mean hard to control.

GERALDINE

Same thing.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

[flesh this out]

Olivia drives erratically. She gets pulled over for drunk
driving by Chance.

OLIVIA

Well, Hello Officer.

CHANCE

Olivia Van Houten in the flesh.
Chance, your fiance's best friend.

OLIVIA

He's mentioned you in passing.

CHANCE

Good things I hope.

OLIVIA

Not really. He doesn't like to come
home. He hates it here.

CHANCE

Does he now.

OLIVIA

Yup. Says it gives him bad dreams.

CHANCE

You don't say.

He opens her door and she spills out.

OLIVIA

Nightmares really. Always about the people in town. Like the earth is trying to tell him something, but is afraid to say while he's awake. The longer he stays the more the dreams make sense, the more he doesn't want to know what they mean.

CHANCE

Alright drunkie. Let's get you home. I don't want to arrest the golden boy's intended for a DUI and speaking out of turn.

INT. LYN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lyn's drunk, lying on her couch staring at the ceiling when Geraldine bursts in.

GERALDINE

Did you curse Sheriff?

LYN

What if I did?

GERALDINE

Take it back.

LYN

No.

GERALDINE

You don't know what you've done.

LYN

Relax. I put a binding spell on Georgie when she was a baby. She's protected.

GERALDINE

She would have been if you didn't just curse her father's line. His LINE!

LYN

That's not who you're worried about. He's not his son!!!

GERALDINE

Lyn...

LYN

No! Everyone knows it but him.

GERALDINE

Take it back.

LYN

Not unless you give me a reason not to. A real one.

Lyn looks at Geraldine's aura. It's black.

LYN (CONT'D)

Do you have a real reason, Gerry?

GERALDINE

No.

Geraldine flees into the night.

INT. AIDEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Olivia slips into bed with Aiden. He pretends to be asleep. She's a bit sloppy drunk and spoons him despite his coldness.

OLIVIA

You're not asleep.

AIDEN

Not anymore.

OLIVIA

I love you. You know that.

AIDEN

I do.

OLIVIA

And if ... there's no way, that you could ever love me back ... you know, the way that I love you. I just want you to tell me. Don't string me along. Just end it right now before. Because I love you too much. And if you don't, can't - just end it now. No hard feelings. But if you lie, and say you do ... even though you don't ... and end it later. I won't survive. Won't recover.

AIDEN

That's a lot of weight you just put
on my shoulders.

OLIVIA

The truth is not heavy. The truth
is light as a feather. Pride is
heavy. Pride will suffocate you.
Bury you into the ground. Just tell
the truth.

AIDEN

I do love you.

OLIVIA

Enough?

AIDEN

Where is this coming from?

OLIVIA

Everywhere. Nowhere. Have you met
Lyn?

AIDEN

The pie eater?

OLIVIA

What? She owns that dress shop.
She's lovely. And broken and
haunted. And she's in love. With a
man who doesn't give her what she
needs - all that she needs.

AIDEN

O, I'm tired.

OLIVIA

How's your parent's marriage? I
mean how much do you know about it.
How do they love each other?

AIDEN

That's none of my business.

OLIVIA

The hell it isn't. How they
interact is your template for all
your relationships. It affects you,
US!

AIDEN

You're freaking me out.

OLIVIA
I saw them. Fighting.

AIDEN
You saw who fighting.

OLIVIA
Two people in love.

AIDEN
Stop talking.

OLIVIA
I don't want to tell you, but I
will - if you want me to.

AIDEN
You don't know what you're talking
about. You're drunk. Go to sleep.
I'm sure it's nothing.

OLIVIA
Right, nothing.

INT. HELEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sheriff makes a palette on the floor of Helen's bedroom.

HELEN
Apology didn't go over that well,
eh?

SHERIFF
I don't want to talk about it.

HELEN
If you start snoring, I'm
smothering you in your sleep.

SHERIFF
Ditto.

INT. BALL ROOM - NIGHT - DREAM

Masquerade ball in full swing. Aiden is the band leader really putting on a show. There is old timey group dancing going on where everyone switches dance partners. Helen and Lyn are there. They start off dancing at opposite ends of the room. The closer they get the tension mounds. Helen dances with Sheriff politely. He is trying to make his way closer to Lyn. Lyn starts off dancing with Mayor. They are quite hostile toward each other.

Mayor is trying to make his way toward Helen. Junebug, the rogue, shows up and throws a Monkey wrench into the dance. He grabs Helen and does a tango in the middle of the waltz. Aiden changes to keep up. Geraldine sings a song about love being grand. It's chaos that ends in a crescendo of noise and sound.

[5]

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Helen is in the kitchen making a drink when Junebug enters from the back door. He looks around for Aiden, then pulls her into the pantry.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN PANTRY - CONTINUOUS

Their body language is intimate and hostile.

JUNEBUG
Throwing yourself at the mayor.
Really? How retro.

HELEN
What do you care?

JUNEBUG
I don't! What does the doctor say?

HELEN
Another year. Three even.

Junebug grabs her face to glimpse her future and his face drops when he sees her death.

EXT. POND - FLASHFORWARD - DAY

Helen walks into a the pond in full wedding gown white, bald as an eagle, thin as Skeletor and pulls an Awakening drowning herself.

INT. PANTRY - CONTINUOUS

Junebug pulls his hands back and freaks.

JUNEBUG
Liar. Have you been going to your
treatments?

HELEN

They make me feel sick.

JUNEBUG

You are sick!

HELEN

They make me feel worse ... and they're not helping. You don't think. I mean all those times I ... if I would have had them.

JUNEBUG

That's not how it works.

HELEN

Promise? (tears up) I should have had our children. I should have had them all.

Junebug gets choked up. Helen embraces him and he leans on her and she pulls him into a passionate kiss. Junebug allows it until he pushes her away overcome with grief.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Aiden comes down the stairs still half asleep and sees his mother kiss Junebug on the lips and the subsequent crying. They see him catch them and emerge from the pantry.

HELEN

It's not what you think, honey.

AIDEN

I hope not.

JUNEBUG

A friend of mine is dying. No one knows her like I do. I'm late for work.

Junebug leaves.

AIDEN

Any more you want to add to that.

HELEN

Get dressed.

INT. MAYOR'S KITCHEN - DAY

Chance walks into the kitchen in underwear and bedhead and fixes a bowl of cereal. Mayor by comparison is fully dressed with toast, coffee and the newspaper.

MAYOR

We dress for breakfast in this house son. I don't need to see your morning glory. This isn't boy's town.

CHANCE

I'm due for a vacation.

MAYOR

What you do in your private time is your business? What the town knows about it is mine.

CHANCE

What do you care where I put my dick? You're grooming Aiden to be your successor!

MAYOR

I can't have two?! I care because you're a Baxter. You want to be the bad boy rogue? Don't run Aiden back to New York with those thousand yard stares of yours. We need him here in Adelaide. Don't weird him out with talks of you two opening up a bed and breakfast in Vermont.

CHANCE

You're such an asshole.

MAYOR

That's all you people think about.

INT. DRESS SHOP - DAY

Lyn is working on a wedding dress when Junebug stumbles in upset. She looks up at him and through her eyes, he is bathed in a bright pink aura.

LYN

Go away. I'm busy.

JUNEBUG

Helen's sick.

LYN

She's been sick for a while. I can smell her cancer stink a mile away. You're still in love with her.

JUNEBUG

She's dying. It won't be long.

LYN

I don't care!

JUNEBUG

It's not a good thing to know when you're dying. It changes you.

LYN

When are you going to kick the bucket?

JUNEBUG

None of your damn business. I should touch you so you know when death is coming for you.

LYN

Don't you dare.

JUNEBUG

Maybe you'll stop being so damn mean if you know when and how the Reaper wants his debt paid.

LYN

Get away from me Jared. I mean it. When I get done with you, your brain will be so scrambled that the only person you're attracted to is your damn dog. Your girlfriend wouldn't like that, Big Willy. Either one of them.

JUNEBUG

Fuck you.

LYN

Ditto.

He lunges at her and they fight like brother and sister. Real wrestling match. His skin finally touching hers, his face relaxes into a vision.

INT. KITCHEN - FLASHFORWARD - 10 YEARS LATER

Lyn (50) grabs her chest and collapses to the floor. Heart attack in this very kitchen. Bacon frying on the stove.

INT. KITCHEN - PRESENT DAY - CONTINUOUS

Junebug, satisfied with the result of his vision, he releases Lyn. Calmly gets up to leave. He points at her sternly.

JUNEBUG
Stop eating bacon.

LYN
YOU give me bacon!

JUNEBUG
Not anymore!

He storms out the door.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Aiden and Helen sit in a field in full hunting gear with rifles laying in the grass, looking at the sky waiting for geese.

HELEN
It's such a nice day isn't it?

AIDEN
We haven't been hunting since I was 12.

HELEN
You know June makes this wonderful goose dish with a cherry sauce I have been craving. I'm glad you came home. Lately I've only wanted to be surrounded by my favorite things.

She rubs his cheek.

AIDEN
Was sheriff ever one of your favorite things? I can't really picture you two together.

HELEN
I've known Preston all my life. We grew up together.
(MORE)

HELEN (CONT'D)

In high school, we were friends of sorts. He was in love with this girl that I wasn't particularly fond of and I was dating his obnoxious best friend. They were inseparable. So, we spent a lot of time together.

AIDEN

And you started to fall for each other?

HELEN

We started to lean on each other.

AIDEN

That's not romantic.

HELEN

Both of our relationships were far more complicated than our teenaged selves could handle. So, we sought refuge in our platonic relationship.

AIDEN

I was conceived out of plutonium.

HELEN

You were conceived out of the purest love there is. Passion and laughter fades.

AIDEN

Ever afraid you married the wrong man?

HELEN

No. I know I married the wrong man.

AIDEN

Why?

HELEN

Aiden, I have cancer.

AIDEN

What?

HELEN

I'm dying. I only ever vowed to live longer than your grandmother. And I did that.

AIDEN
What kind? What stage?

HELEN
Ovarian. Four.

AIDEN
But I just go here.

HELEN
Then you're right on time.

Aiden's eyes begin to well up. Helen holds his hand and stares at the sky.

HELEN (CONT'D)
Marry that girl. I don't like her,
but I don't have to hang out with
her either. She's rich, beautiful
and loves your dirty underwear. You
could do a lot worse.

The tears really begin to come.

HELEN (CONT'D)
Knock her up. Produce me an heir. A
viable heir. Continue our line.
Don't let us die out. Promise me
that.

AIDEN
I promise.

Helen raises her gun and shoots at a flock of geese screaming across the sky. One drops to the ground. Tears stream down his face as he raises his gun. Pow.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY - LATER

Aiden and Helen ride in a beat up red pick up truck in silence. The back of it is full of dead geese. Aiden's eyes are still red. They see Georgia on the side of the road in a white romper. She has a broken bicycle with a basket and a paper bag full of melting groceries.

HELEN
What do we have here?

Aiden pulls over. Georgia is excited to get a ride until she sees who from.

AIDEN
Need a ride?

GEORGIA
Not from you.

Aiden starts to pull off.

HELEN
You can't leave a pretty girl
stranded on the side of the road to
die by the elements and the
rapists.

Aiden stops, sighs and gets out of the cab. He walks toward Georgia who starts throwing ripening peaches at him - which he dodges with no amusement. He catches the last few and puts them back in her bag.

AIDEN
Have you lost your mind?

GEORGIA
You're engaged!

AIDEN
Quiet down Pippy Longstocking.

GEORGIA
En-gaged! That's not some regular
girlfriend. What was that the other
night?

AIDEN
I don't know.

GEORGIA
You're a lying, cheating dirty old
man.

AIDEN
I'm only old enough to be your
brother. And we didn't do anything.

GEORGIA
I hope they write that on your
tombstone, "Aiden Stanfill: He
didn't do anything."

AIDEN
You want a ride or what?

GEORGIA
Or what!

AIDEN

Too bad. Mother said I couldn't
leave you out here to die. Though
that's rapidly looking like a fine
idea to me.

Aiden picks up her bike and groceries and puts them in the
back. Georgia stands there arms crossed, defiant.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Get in the truck little girl!

GEORGIA

No!

INT. TRUCK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Aiden gets in the truck and starts to drive away slowly.

HELEN

What are you doing?

AIDEN

I'm not going that fast. She can
catch up.

HELEN

You've been here 2 days. How could
she possibly know you well enough
to be that mad at you?

AIDEN

She doesn't.

Georgia starts walking toward the truck, then running.

GEORGIA

Stop!

Aiden does. Georgia catches up to the truck and climbs in the
back.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

You know you can't hunt those geese
for another month.

AIDEN

Who are you? The wildlife
authority?

Helen smooths the hair out of Georgia's face.

HELEN

When's the last time a Stanfill
played by the rules?

They ride off in silence.

EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Helen gets out. Georgia gets in the truck but sits as far away from Aiden as possible. She's damn near hanging out the window. Helen tries not to laugh.

HELEN

Take Georgia home. See if Junie
will clean those ducks for me. If
he's busy, sweet talk Pudding Pie
into doing it. Dollars to donuts
she knows how.

AIDEN

Yes, mother.

GEORGIA

I'm not cleaning his geese.

HELEN

He'll pay you and there's nothing
wrong with a little walking around
money.

Helen kisses Aiden on the cheek and whispers in his ear.

HELEN (CONT'D)

A **viable** heir. I don't want
grandchildren with 2 heads and the
intelligence of a beaver. Don't be
too long. Olivia will be wondering
where you are.

Aiden pulls off.

EXT. LYN'S BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Aiden and Georgia are cleaning ducks. He's starting to get the hang of it. Georgia starts packing the meat in cellophane and sitting them in ice. There are feathers everywhere.

GEORGIA

Don't butcher the breast meat.

AIDEN

The way you make me feel ... I
can't breathe. I can't think. I
dream strange dreams.

GEORGIA

Is that the line you used to snag
Olivia?

AIDEN

Sometimes you head down a path
because it seems easy. Your
favorite flowers are on that path.
The views are beautiful, the food
bountiful, it doesn't hurt your
feet. By the time you realize you
may not want to go where the path
is headed, you're already lost in
the woods. Understand?

GEORGIA

No. Not really.

Georgia starts hosing off the deck of duck blood and
feathers.

AIDEN

Have you ever been in love?

GEORGIA

(shakes her head, no)
What does it feel like to be in
love?

AIDEN

I don't know.

GEORGIA

Why would you marry someone you're
not in love with?

AIDEN

Because she looks good on paper.

GEORGIA

That's the saddest thing I've ever
heard.

AIDEN

What do you know.

GEORGIA

You think I'm just a girl who knows nothing of the world or the things in it.

AIDEN

I didn't say that.

GEORGIA

I know you don't marry someone because you're too lazy or scared to break up with them. I know you don't deny your own happiness because you're afraid to disappoint your family. I know the path that you're on is the road to suicide.

AIDEN

You know nothing of my relationship with Olivia.

GEORGIA

I know you don't want to hitch your wagon to a woman who's sole purpose in life is to be kept.

AIDEN

What about you? What makes your grass greener? What does your future hold?

GEORGIA

Travel, rich foods, torrid love affairs ...

AIDEN

You're psychic then, huh?

He takes the knives and cutting boards inside for a wash.

INT. LYN'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Aiden drops everything into the sink. His mood is sour again. She stands next to him, impossibly close. He ignores her though his body is very much aware of her presence. He turns around and she kisses him.

Aiden and Georgia get hot and heavy. He hoists her onto the sink. His mouth is on hers, his hands are up her dress; she moans in anticipation and desperation.

INT. BACK SEAT OF TOYOTA CAMRY - FLASHBACK 2007 - NIGHT

Aiden and Cookie Thomas are making out heavily. He's in a tux, she's in a prom dress.

COOKIE
Do you have a condom?

AIDEN
No.

COOKIE
No?

AIDEN
I didn't think the night was going to this well.

COOKIE
(laughs)
His best friend and his prom date?
Chance will never forgive us.

AIDEN
You. He'll never forgive you.

INT. LYN'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON - PRESENT

Georgia pulls her mouth away from Aiden's - weirded out by her vision of him with Cookie.

GEORGIA
That's just wrong.

AIDEN
What?

GEORGIA
Nothing. This.

Lyn bursts in to see Georgia and Aiden mused about.

LYN
What's going on here?

GEORGIA
Nothing.

AIDEN
Nothing.

Both of their aura's are bright red.

LYN

Nothing my ass. Escort your
boyfriend out of my house little
girl. I am not in the mood today.

Aiden leaves and Georgia follows him outside.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Georgia and Aiden load the cleaned ducks into the truck.

AIDEN

I can take a guess at what love
feels like.

GEORGIA

What?

AIDEN

A panic attack, a heightening of
the senses and a series of
irrational thoughts.

GEORGIA

That sounds horrible. Grass isn't
just green, Aiden. You have to
cultivate it, water it, make it
grow. Otherwise it just dies.

She kisses him deeply before he pushes away.

AIDEN

I can't.

GEORGIA

Or won't.

AIDEN

The result is the same.

GEORGIA

I know what they're going to write
on your new tombstone.

AIDEN

What?

GEORGIA

He looked good on paper.

Aiden leaves and she watches him go.

INT. LYN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Georgia walks in with a stank attitude. Lyn is begrudgingly tossing all the junk food out.

GEORGIA
What are you doing?

LYN
None of your damn business.

GEORGIA
You don't have to be rude.

LYN
Yes, I do. You're in love with that boy.

GEORGIA
No, I'm not.

LYN
Don't fuck that boy. I mean it little girl. This is bigger than you.

Georgia storms off to her room, slamming the door.

[6]

INT. HELEN'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Helen is at the table in a formal dress alone when the Sheriff walks in and sits at the opposite in. There's clanging in the other room where Olivia is burning dinner.

SHERIFF
Does she even know how to cook?

HELEN
Doesn't sound like it.

SHERIFF
I'm keeping up my end of the bargain. I hope you plan on keeping yours.

HELEN
I do.

SHERIFF
This rouse is going on longer than we both anticipated.
(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I hope you take that into consideration if I have to ask you for incidentals.

HELEN

We're only 1 day over and you're already asking for more money.

SHERIFF

I'm not asking for anything.

HELEN

If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Aiden walks in on Olivia cooking (horribly). His mood is apologetic and guilty.

OLIVIA

Oh you're home. I hoped you'd take the front door, but why would you. I just wanted to make a meal for you. An olive branch, but I've burnt it. Please don't read anything into that.

AIDEN

Why do you love me?

OLIVIA

What do you mean? What's happened?

AIDEN

Why do you love me? What is it about me that you love? What do I do to deserve that love?

OLIVIA

I love the way you look when you think no ones looking. When you're lost in thought trying to piece the world together. I love the way you put your hand on my back guiding me through a door, your fingertips brushing the hair off my face, your leg across my waist when we're curled up on the couch watching TV. I love the way you smell. It's like a symphony. I love -

AIDEN

Ok. Ok.

OLIVIA

What ... what, do you love about me?

AIDEN

You're beautiful. Tenacious. Come from a good family. Not a nice family, but a good one. You're the life of the party.

OLIVIA

That description could be my old terrier.

He pulls her too him. Hugs her as not to see her face.

AIDEN

I love that you came here to support my family even though I told you not to. I love that you're there for me even though I don't deserve it. I love that you love me blindly with no cause or reason.

OLIVIA

That doesn't sound like love at all.

AIDEN

I love that you look good on my arm and when we're together people don't stop and stare. I love that you will be a great wife and a wonderful mother.

OLIVIA

Do you mean that?

AIDEN

I do. Marry me.

OLIVIA

Are you sure you're ready?

AIDEN

As I'll ever be.

OLIVIA

We can wait.

AIDEN
My mother's dying.

OLIVIA
What ... when?

AIDEN
Months. Days. Soon. Let's stay the
summer. Get married here.

OLIVIA
Are you sure? We'll need to send
out save the dates like, yesterday.

AIDEN
Do it.

OLIVIA
I don't even think your mother
likes me.

AIDEN
She does. More than you know.

OLIVIA
Ok. If that's what you want.

AIDEN
It's what's best.

He kisses her and goes into the dining room. She looks very
worried.

INT. HELEN'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aiden walks in and the dining room table has already been
set. Sheriff sits patiently waiting on the food with closed
eyes. Aiden is disheveled and dotted in duck blood.

AIDEN
Praying for rain.

SHERIFF
Peace.

AIDEN
World?

SHERIFF
Of mind.

AIDEN

We're getting married. Olivia and me.

SHERIFF

So, it would seem.

AIDEN

No, seriously. At the end of the summer. I've decided to stay.

SHERIFF

She told you - about the cancer.

AIDEN

Why didn't you tell me?

SHERIFF

Not my place.

AIDEN

I don't know if I'm making the right decision.

SHERIFF

Well, you're making A decision and that's half the battle. The whole summer you say.

AIDEN

You have a problem with me being around that long?

SHERIFF

Your mother will love it.

Helen waltzes in wearing a flowing sundress.

HELEN

What will I love?

SHERIFF

Planning a wedding all summer with Olivia.

HELEN

Why would I do that?

SHERIFF

Your son is getting married. He's staying the summer with us.

HELEN

Well, wonderful. I don't have to be
sober all summer do I?

AIDEN

Not even remotely.

HELEN

Good thing I quit chemo. I'm going
to need hair for this wedding.

Sheriff downs his scotch. Olivia walks in with a plate of
burnt food.

HELEN (CONT'D)

I guess congratulations are in
order.

(looks at food)

Oh honey, if we're going to have
this wedding here, you cannot cook
the food.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - THEATER - NIGHT

Marcus tries to put his arm around Georgia in the middle of
the horror flick they're watching. Georgia moves away.

MARCUS

Something wrong?

GEORGIA

I'm just trying to watch the movie.

MARCUS

I can't put my arm around you?

GEORGIA

I don't want anyone getting the
wrong idea.

Marcus looks behind him. Only Brock and Chance sit in the
back row. They look guilty like they were making out heavily
and stopped abruptly. They are the only two other patrons
save two movie geeks sitting way too close to the screen.

MARCUS

No one's here!

GEEKS

Shhhhh!!

GEORGIA

Marcus.

MARCUS
It's that guy. Sheriff's son.

GEORGIA
We're just friends.

MARCUS
I bet you are.

GEORGIA
Just because I don't want you to
paw me doesn't mean I'm sexing
every dude in the county.

MARCUS
I'm your dance partner. I've
touched you in more intimate places
than I can count. And you freak out
when I touch your shoulder at the
movies?

GEORGIA
I can't do this right now.

Georgia gets up to leave.

MARCUS
That's my popcorn.

She throws the bucket at him. He eats it off his shirt.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Bye.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Georgia stands on the sidewalk cursing her dead cell phone.
Chance exits the theater like a fox exiting a chicken coup.
[BEFORE & AFTER beats redundant]

CHANCE
Trouble in paradise?

GEORGIA
Don't you have a date to go back
to?

CHANCE
I'm sure you don't know what you're
talking about.

GEORGIA
Right.

CHANCE

If you're not in love with the ballerino, who are you in love with?

GEORGIA

I'm not in love with anyone.

CHANCE

He doesn't want you.

She tries to walk away. He grabs her arm hard.

INT. BROCKS BEDROOM - 10 YEARS AGO - DAY

Chance (18) shirtless in his boxers vigorously masturbating to Aiden's (18) high school yearbook photo. Chance is almost to completion when Mayor walks in.

CHANCE

Dad, get out!

MAYOR

Son, if you are disgracing one of my Playboys, you will be heading down to Hoffsteddar's Pharmacy to get me another one!

He closes the door and Chance throws a soiled sock after him.

END OF FLASHBACK

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - PRESENT

Georgia wretches away from Chance. Her eyes are wide and wild.

GEORGIA

Don't. Touch me. Ever.

CHANCE

You're in love with him aren't you.

GEORGIA

No, you are!

Georgia starts running down the street. He doesn't bother to follow.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

After dinner, Helen and Olivia sit at the table with this massive wedding binder splayed out on the table. There are dirty dessert plates, saucers of coffee and half drunken glasses of red wine.

OLIVIA

How long have you had this binder?

HELEN

Since he was 12. I think Labor Day weekend is your best bet. Let's send a save the date Evite. Tacky, I know. But time is of the essence.

OLIVIA

Everyone will think I'm pregnant.

HELEN

Let them! Don't you want to be?

Olivia throws back her glass of wine.

OLIVIA

Desperately.

HELEN

(grabs Olivia's glass)

Then you leave the wine drinking to me.

OLIVIA

Why are you helping me push this wedding along?

HELEN

Because you love my son as much as I do. I know you'll take care of him. And he needs that.

OLIVIA

You two remind me of my father and I ... before he married my step monster. Now we barely speak.

HELEN

He let a trophy wife come between him and his child?

OLIVIA

No, I think it was the drugs,
dropping out of school, a Puerto
Rican jail sentence and an annulled
Vegas marriage that got to him.

HELEN

Checkered past makes for a colorful
biography my father used to say.
And honey, he would know.

OLIVIA

Wasn't your father the Mayor of
this town?

HELEN

The most liked and respected one in
history. Ended in a hellfire of
flames and shame.

OLIVIA

Aiden didn't tell me that.

HELEN

That's because he doesn't know.
People don't speak ill of the dead
around here. At least, not in front
of their family.

OLIVIA

What did he do if you don't mind me
asking? Gambling, corruption?

HELEN

No, nothing as safe and forgivable
as that. He simply fell in love
with the wrong sort of woman. She
had this bewitching hold over him.

OLIVIA

And he chose this woman over you.

HELEN

Something like that. Ghosts under
the bridge. Wear your scars like a
badge of honor and no one will be
able to use your past against you.
Own it. It's a part of who you are.

OLIVIA

I could have used a mother like
you.

HELEN

You just do your part to make this wedding a shotgun one.

Helen types in a bakery website on her iPad. Love-fest over, all business.

INT. LYN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Geraldine and Junebug sit at Lyn's kitchen table looking at each other in silence - nervous. Lyn pours them two fingers of whiskey before taking a seat herself. Through Lyn's eyes, Geraldine and Junebug's aura's are a very deep green w/ swirls of brown.

LYN

What's this about? Your damn auras are brown with lies.

GERALDINE

I only speak the truth.

Her aura gets greener. Lyn shakes her head.

LYN

I ain't got all night for bullshit.

JUNEBUG

We're trying to keep Aiden and Georgia a part. It ain't working.

LYN

What do you want me to do?

JUNEBUG

Help! Their pheromones -

LYN

I can't manipulate love.

GERALDINE

They can't be together.

LYN

The more you interfere, the more you push them together. Just leave it alone and they'll drift apart.

GERALDINE

I can't chance it.

LYN

Why not?

Geraldine and Junebug look at each other.

LYN (CONT'D)

So, a couple of cousins kiss. Who gives a shit? Cousins can still get married in this state.

A 4th person joins the table. It's Savannah (45) in gold lame hot pants and a halter straight out of the 70s. She's been dead a while. Savannah addresses the only person who can see her - Geraldine.

SAVANNAH

Are you going to tell her what you've done dear sister or shall I?

GERALDINE

(patois)

I'd like to see you try.

SAVANNAH

Would you?

She smiles deviously and gets up from the table.

LYN

It just got as cold as witch titties. Know you're lying if ghosts are showing up.

JUNEBUG

(shivering)

Who's here?

GERALDINE

No one.

SAVANNAH

No one? Just the woman who gave them life. Pulled them dripping and stinking from her womb. But you wouldn't know anything about that would you dear sister? Womb as dry as your potato salad.

GERALDINE

(patois)

Shut up.

Savannah gets close to Lyn's ear.

SAVANNAH

What if I told her what you've done?

(MORE)

SAVANNAH (CONT'D)

What my son aided you in doing?
Whispered in her ear every night
like a lullaby until her dreams
turned to nightmares?

GERALDINE

(patois)

Be gone devil woman!

JUNEBUG

It's mama isn't it?

LYN

You're just going to piss her off
calling her a devil woman.

SAVANNAH

What if I told my baby girl how you
damned that innocent soul? My own
sister.

Geraldine stands up from the table and holds her hands out
and conjures a great wind that enters the kitchen. Junebug's
eyes get big, but Lyn just pours another drink.

LYN

Don't you be conjuring in my
kitchen old lady.

GERALDINE

(patois)

May the wind blow you, wandering
ghost and clear the world of the
living...

SAVANNAH

There's the witch I know and love.

GERALDINE

(patois)

Turn you to where you belong,
disappear without a trace.

SAVANNAH

God, you're so easy.

Savannah vanishes. The lights blink. Lyn gets up from the
table taking the whiskey with her down the hall to her
bedroom.

LYN

You know it's rude to kick
someone's mama out they own house,
Aunt Gerry. Just Rude.

JUNEBUG
(calls after Lyn)
Georgia!

LYN (O.S.)
You'll make it worse.

The phone rings and she slams the door on them.

INT. HELEN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Sheriff turns on the bath faucet and whispers into his cell phone. He stands near the open window.

SHERIFF
Hello ... are you there?

LYN (O.S.)
Barely.

SHERIFF
You've been drinking.

LYN (O.S.)
What do you want?

SHERIFF
I want to come home.

LYN (O.S.)
You are home.

Lyn hangs up.

EXT. HELEN'S BACK PORCH - NIGHT

Aiden falls asleep. He hears snippets of Sheriff's conversation to Lyn. Aiden lays on the porch watching the fireflies. He drifts off to sleep listening to Olivia and Helen talk cake.

[7]

EXT. CAROUSEL - DREAM - DAWN

Aiden dreams that he is on a fancy merry-go-round with ceramic horses and golden poles and ornate mirrors. He's chasing a woman in a white dress. The woman has golden blonde hair but every time he catches up to her and she turns around its Georgia's face he sees and her flaxen hair turns to brown curls.

Aiden smiles in surprise and as he moves in to kiss her, he catches a glimpse in the mirror and it's sheriff's face he sees. Georgia runs away, her brown curls blow in the wind. Aiden gives chase and when she turns around it's Olivia.

Olivia kisses him desperately and her soft face turns to stubble. She's still blonde and still white, but when Aiden pulls away from her face it's Chance he sees in a white tuxedo.

CHANCE

Hey lover.

EXT. HELEN'S BACK PORCH - MORNING

Aiden wakes up and Chance is leaning over him, brushing the hair out of his face. Aiden pushes him off abruptly. He feels violated.

AIDEN

What are you doing?!

CHANCE

Just checking to see if you were breathing? Why are you asleep on the porch?

AIDEN

(relieved it was just a dream)

Olivia snores like a freight train.

CHANCE

Don't let princess and the pea hear you say that. Put on your tennis whites. I got us a court in 30 minutes.

AIDEN

I'm not going anywhere with you without fear of getting molested.

CHANCE

Or you can get stuck on the wedding planning parade with moms and Bridezilla.

AIDEN

How do you know about that?

CHANCE

Helen has put in calls all over town.

(MORE)

CHANCE (CONT'D)
You're getting married Labor Day
Weekend by the way. Whole town's
invited.

AIDEN
Jesus Christ. I'll be right back.

Aiden pauses in the doorway.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
If you wanted to kiss me, all you
had to do was ask.

CHANCE
Good to know.

Chance stretches out on the couch just as Sheriff comes
outdoors with his fishing gear.

SHERIFF
You've been in love with him a long
time, son. You'd be wise to know he
does not feel the same.

CHANCE
Your girlfriend pressing charges or
is she into shiners? To tell you
the truth, she seems the type to
stab you in your sleep.

SHERIFF
If you're trying to tell me to mind
my own damn business, message
received.

CHANCE
If I were to send a message, it
wouldn't be so subtle.

SHERIFF
Wolf in wolf's clothing you are.
Wolf in wolf's clothing.

Sheriff moseys on to work.

INT. TENNIS COURT - MORNING

Aiden and Chance are in full competitive mode. They're
drenched in sweat.

CHANCE
Do you love this girl? Olivia.

AIDEN

Of course I do.

CHANCE

Enough to marry her. To spend the rest of your life with her.

AIDEN

I think so.

CHANCE

So no.

AIDEN

I want a happy marriage. A happy life. I want to be sure the person I'm marrying is the one for me. I don't want to have regrets.

CHANCE

That does not sound like Olivia.

AIDEN

I want to be married to a woman that actually loves me, will love me forever. Not one whose love burns bright then wains. A wife that will lose interest and I have to seek love outside my relationship for validation.

CHANCE

What are you talking about?

AIDEN

I saw my mother kiss Junebug.

CHANCE

Two old friends. I kiss you all the time.

AIDEN

What? No, you don't! Listen, Sheriff doesn't know where anything is in the house. Half of his clothes are in boxes. His presence and his smell aren't there. The man cave is a tea parlor. Sheriff doesn't really live there does he?

CHANCE

Sure he does.

AIDEN
Don't lie to me, Chance.

CHANCE
You've been having those dreams again, haven't you. The confusing ones where you don't know what they mean until they come true.

AIDEN
No.

CHANCE
Who's the liar now? (pause) Look, he does live there ... when you're home.

AIDEN
And when I'm not -

CHANCE
You really want to open this can of worms ... you know with your mom?

AIDEN
Where?!

CHANCE
The Delacroixs.

AIDEN
(confused)
Geraldine? Junebug?

CHANCE
Lyn.

AIDEN
How long has this been going on?

CHANCE
How long ago did they first ship you off to boarding school?

Aiden throws down his racket in anger.

CHANCE (CONT'D)
Don't do anything stupid.

AIDEN
Is punching your father in his lying mouth stupid?

INT. MAYOR'S KITCHEN - NOON

Mayor is eating lunch when Chance runs in.

CHANCE
Your girlfriend is cheating on you.

MAYOR
What are you on about?

CHANCE
Helen. She hasn't been alone all these years. I always wondered about that. She keeps her body pretty tight, and she ain't been screwing you.

MAYOR
I'm sure the last person to touch that body was probably me.

CHANCE
(laughs)
You can't hold a candle to the man who's been keeping her warm at night.

MAYOR
(laughs)
Sheriff? They hate each other. Always have.

CHANCE
No.

MAYOR
Who?

CHANCE
Jared Delacroix.

Mayor is shocked and appalled. He drops in his seat.

MAYOR
That jigaboo bastard.

EXT. POND - DAY

Sheriff is fishing minding his own business. Aiden shows up on the dock in his tennis whites radiating anger.

SHERIFF

What do you want son? Fishing is sacred on my day off, you know that.

AIDEN

How long have you been cheating on my mother?

SHERIFF

Are you drunk? Go home.

AIDEN

How long have you been breaking the vows that you stood before God to uphold?

SHERIFF

I mean it before I get angry.

Sheriff starts rowing away. Aiden dives into the water and swims to the boat. He climbs in.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ. What are you doing?

AIDEN

Preventing you from running away.

SHERIFF

Leave well enough alone. You'll be gone soon. She will too. What's the use in blowing up the charade now? Let her go out with our masks still in tact.

AIDEN

Did you ever even love her?

Sheriff doesn't look like he's going to answer, but Aiden is content to wait him out. Aiden, hysterical, gets in Sheriff's face whose quiet anger is on the verge of spilling over like a typhoon.

SHERIFF

No. Not like you should love your wife.

AIDEN

And me?

SHERIFF

Not like a father should love a son.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

A father who always wanted a son,
but only viewed him as a tether.

AIDEN

You shipped me away to boarding
school the first chance you got!

SHERIFF

That wasn't me.

AIDEN

You never let me come home. I spent
holidays with my host family!

SHERIFF

You only know what we allow you to
know!

AIDEN

I want to know the truth!

SHERIFF

No you don't.

Sheriff pushes him off the boat and starts rowing to shore.
Aiden swims back to shore. Sheriff is tethering the boat.
Aiden punches him in the face.

Sheriff punches him back. Aiden tackles him. Aiden starts
kicking the shit out of the Sheriff who takes it for a while
until he lands a haymaker. Aiden goes down like a
prizefighter in his last bout. Sheriff stands over him
emotionally drained.

AIDEN

I didn't do anything to you.

SHERIFF

You existed!

(beat)

I loved you. But I didn't treat you
like I should have. I failed in
that. But you can't kill me for it.

Sheriff arrests Aiden and puts him in the back of the squad
car.

INT. SQUAD CAR - CONTINUOUS

Sheriff gets in and looks at his face in the rearview mirror.
He eyes Aiden with sympathy.

SHERIFF

Marry that girl and get as far away from here as you can. This place will rot you from the inside. When your mother dies, run. Don't ever come back.

Aiden is defeated and spent. Sheriff speeds off.

INT. POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

Chance is sitting at his desk in his police uniform. Sheriff walks in with Aiden in cuffs and throws him in a cell.

SHERIFF

Officer Baxter, you open that door to let him out, you may as well replace his body with yours.

Sheriff looks Aiden in the eye.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I'm going home.

AIDEN

To which one?!

SHERIFF

(To Brock)

Call Geraldine. He probably has a concussion.

(To Chance, leans in close, whispers)

You don't know the world of shit you have just brought down. This will not end well.

Chance watches the Sheriff leave.

CHANCE

What the fuck did you do?

AIDEN

Punched him in the face.

CHANCE

It looks like you're the one that took all the punches.

AIDEN

I landed some body shots.

CHANCE

You're an idiot. He's still the Sheriff. We don't have father's that bail us out. I'm going to get my PS4 and some cheeseburgers. It's going to be a long night.

BROCK

Y'all want me to stay?

BOTH

No.

Aiden reclines on his bunk. Chance leaves.

INT. HELEN'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Helen convalesces in her silky nightgown, reading a romance novel and drinking an old fashion. Sheriff storms in and packs all his stuff.

HELEN

What are you doing?

SHERIFF

I'm going home.

HELEN

But Aiden's still here!

SHERIFF

He knows.

HELEN

What does he know?

SHERIFF

He knows this marriage is a sham. He probably always knew. I'm kind of glad he pushed us all out of the closet.

HELEN

What about our deal?

SHERIFF

Deals off. Tell him whatever you want. Just keep me out of it. And um ... he's in jail.

HELEN

Sheriff!

SHERIFF

He punched me in the face. You can get him in the morning when he's cooled off.

INT. LYN'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Lyn cooks dinner. Georgia helps. There's a knock at the door. It's Sheriff.

SHERIFF

I told them. I told them both. Let me come home.

LYN

No.

SHERIFF

(on the verge of tears.
Spent.)

Please.

LYN

You can sleep on the back porch.

SHERIFF

Until when?

LYN

Until you earn your way out the damn dog house. Finally come clean after 25 years and now you want a damn cookie.

Sheriff goes into the living room with his head hanging like a wounded dog. Georgia follows him.

INT. LYN'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Georgia brings Sheriff a drink and a bag of frozen peas for his busted up hand and they curl up on the couch and watch TV. She touches Sheriff's hat.

EXT. FIELD - FLASHBACK 1969 - DAY

Preston (5) walks through a field of cotton basking in the sunshine. He approaches an old shack where his GRANDFATHER (70) sits on the porch like an old field hand. He dons a big cowboy hat. Upon Preston's approach, Grandpa Stanfill takes his hat off and puts it on Preston's small head.

GRANDPA STANFILL
You don't want to get dark like a
little nigger.

INT. LYN'S LIVING ROOM - PRESENT

Georgia snatches her hand back. Sheriff puts his hat on top of the lamp shade and strokes her head and she lays on his chest.

SHERIFF
Racist old bastard. Don't you mind
him.

He kisses her head.

INT. HELEN'S PARLOR - NIGHT

Helen's drinking in the dark with a Sade record playing.
Olivia comes bumbling in.

OLIVIA
Aiden's been arrested!

HELEN
I know.

OLIVIA
You know? Let's go get him.

HELEN
He hit his father. Let him stew.

OLIVIA
So, he knows.

HELEN
Knows what?

OLIVIA
About Sheriff and Lyn.

HELEN
Well, aren't you the busy beaver.
What do you think you know about a
philandering father?

OLIVIA
A thing or two.

HELEN

Oh honey, a bigger philanderer was never made than the great John Jessup. He was the best. Have a seat. Let me tell you a story.

[8]

INT. LABOR & DELIVERY ROOM - DAY - DREAM

Aiden runs down a hospital hallway into the delivery room. Geraldine is present as his nurse. She gives the stats on two patients who have gone into labor at the same time. They are in two rooms right across from each other. In one opulent room lies Olivia. She is adorned in jewels and excess. The room reflects her status. Despite her pain, Aiden is cold and mechanical toward her. He delivers the healthy white baby boy. Olivia is ecstatic, but Aiden is repulsed by it. Just looking upon it's sweet face makes Aiden sick to his stomach. He runs from the room to avoid being sick. Geraldine catches him in the hallway and pushes him into the other room. In the other room lies Georgia. This room resembles a slave shack. Everything is weathered and worn but Aiden is visibly more comfortable. He is loving and attentive to her. She pushes out a child and it resembles an alien. Georgia freaks out, but Aiden is drawn to it. He dotes on it with affection despite it having three eyes and four arms. It is truly grotesque. As Aiden goes to kiss it, he wakes up in a cold sweat.

End Dream.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Aiden wakes up in jail in a cold sweat - completely freaked out. Chance is in the adjacent cot.

CHANCE

Bad dream.

AIDEN

They're getting worse.

CHANCE

You've been here too long.

AIDEN

I've got to get out of here. Can I get my phone call now?

CHANCE

Jail or town?

EXT. HELEN'S DRIVE WAY - DAY

Olivia - hungover - gets into Aiden's rental and backs into Georgia on the way out of the driveway. Knocks her clean over, rhubarb pie all over her pretty white dress. She looks like a gunshot victim. Olivia gets out of the car in hysterics.

OLIVIA
Oh my god. Are you okay?

GEORGIA
You hit me with your car.

OLIVIA
Shit.

Olivia helps her up and takes her inside.

INT. AIDEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olivia takes off Georgia's red-stained, cotton sundress and wipes her vigorously with a towel. No blood, all rhubarb. Olivia sighs relief. Georgia is still a bit dazed.

OLIVIA
It's all pie.

GEORGIA
Rhubarb. It was a piece offering.

OLIVIA
To whom?

GEORGIA
Aiden.

OLIVIA
For what?

GEORGIA
I don't really know anymore.

Olivia sizes her up literally and figuratively.

OLIVIA
Here wear this.

She gives her an expensive new dress to wear. She peels off Georgia's dress to put it on her. Georgia balls up her hands as not to touch the garment - or Olivia.

GEORGIA

I can't.

OLIVIA

You can. I almost killed you with a pie.

GEORGIA

And a sedan.

OLIVIA

I'll tell Aiden you stopped by. You can bring a replacement pie if you want.

GEORGIA

Don't mention it.

OLIVIA

You know, when I was 19, I had a crush on my college professor.

GEORGIA

And you got over it.

OLIVIA

And he left his wife and bought me a car. We had a very nice summer affair until his wife found out where I lived and cut my brake lines. I crashed that car into an oak tree to get it to stop.

Olivia pulls up her bangs and gets close to Georgia's face.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Eighteen stitches. I learned a very valuable thing that summer.

GEORGIA

Park in the garage?

OLIVIA

Don't take things that don't belong to you.

Georgia squeezes past Olivia who stands like an ice statue. Helen comes in in her nightgown and takes Olivia's keys.

HELEN

Aiden'll find his way home and I won't have a dead body in my driveway.

INT. GEORGIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Georgia sets out her ballet clothes and duffle full of street clothes. She tries to take off Olivia's shirt without touching it. She fails and is pulled into a vision.

INT. NYC UPPER EAST SIDE APARTMENT BEDROOM - FLASHBACK 5 YEARS AGO - DAY

Olivia (25) is wearing the dress. She is standing in a huge closet accessorizing when her step-mother, BLAIR (35), comes in and catches her in her clothes.

BLAIR

Why are you in my closet? Get out of that dress! I'm tired of you stealing my clothes!

OLIVIA

If you're going to spend my inheritance, I'm going to wear it.

Blair tries to take the dress off her.

BLAIR

Junkie whores don't deserve an inheritance.

Blair starts choking her. Olivia is about to pass out until her FATHER (60) walks in and pulls Blair half-heartedly off his daughter.

FATHER

That's enough.

BLAIR

Deal with this.

Blair walks out.

FATHER

O, what'd you do to Blair to provoke her.

OLIVIA

She almost killed me!

FATHER

I think it's time you moved out. Found your own way. I'm going to take her out to dinner. Calm her down. I think it's best that you be gone before we get back.

He leaves Olivia on the ground. She cries a little before taking Blair's Louis Vutton luggage and cleaning out her closet.

END FLASHBACK

INT. GEORGIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Georgia comes to when her phone rings telling her it's Aiden. She answers.

GEORGIA
Hello.

AIDEN
You're his daughter. Sheriffs.

GEORGIA
Yes.

AIDEN
Why wouldn't you ... you let me ...

GEORGIA
It's more complicated than that.

AIDEN
Un-complicate it.

GEORGIA
He's my father, not yours.

Aiden hangs up.

EXT. HELEN'S FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Lyn is standing there with pot brownies.

LYN
Divorce my boyfriend.

HELEN
Gladly.

Helen lets her in.

INT. PARLOR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Helen lays down on the couch. Lyn riffles through the cabinets for the good whiskey. Helen eats a brownie.

LYN

So, we're not putting on clothes today?

HELEN

Mayor wants to marry me. **[Is there a scene where he actually asks?]**

LYN

After all these years? I take it he doesn't know your prognosis. Why don't you tell him he's trying to romance a corpse?

HELEN

Because fuck him.

LYN

Keep it classy.

HELEN

You know he would be Aiden's age now. Your son. Do you ever think about him?

LYN

Every day.

HELEN

I will take care of him when I get to the other side.

LYN

Keep him away from my mother.

Helen sees Josephine lurking in the corner.

HELEN

I'll keep him away from *my* mother.
(beat)
I don't want to die.

LYN

No one does.

Aiden walks in spent. They are high as kites.

HELEN

You've met my sister, Lyn, right?
[Is there another Aiden + Lyn scene?]

LYN

Charmed I'm sure.

AIDEN

Your sister? You two hate each other. And I saw you kiss Junebug.

LYN

They're my siblings. They aren't related to each other.

HELEN

My father loved me, but he loved Lyn's mother more. That puts a strain on a sisterhood. Until 3 weeks ago. We hadn't spoken in decades. I never actually thought you'd meet her.

AIDEN

Why didn't you just let them get married?

HELEN

I was in love with a man who decided to marry someone else. I married the next best thing. His best friend. Problem was he was already in love. I thought he would get over her especially after she moved to New York.

AIDEN

But she moved back.

HELEN

That she did, and it was over. Don't hate your father. He loves his children.

AIDEN

Do you even know who my actual father is?

[why not reveal that here?]

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Let me go to my room before my head explodes.

Aiden storms off.

LYN

(to Helen)

I'll add revisionist historian to your resume.

INT. ATLANTA DANCE STUDIO - NIGHT

Georgia and Marcus wait for their audition. Then they dance beautifully. They hug excited about their victory. That hug turns into a kiss. He pulls away.

MARCUS

I'm sorry.

GEORGIA

Don't stop.

She allows herself to be kissed.

INT. AIDEN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Aiden is in the tub soaking in milk and honey drinking wine. Olivia comes in and gets in the tub fully clothed.

OLIVIA

Are you okay?

AIDEN

You're not my cousin are you?

OLIVIA

No.

AIDEN

Sister? Aunt?

OLIVIA

No. You're scarring me. What's happened?

AIDEN

Nothing. **[say something else?]**

He kisses her. They make love.

[9]

MONTAGE - the Passage of Summer

Aiden and Olivia pick out cakes with Marcus at his family's bakery.

Geraldine tends to a very sick Helen and helps her mask her symptoms with makeup.

Georgia and Marcus go roller skating.

Aiden and Chance go fishing.

Georgia and Marcus bake cakes at the bakery.

Junebug & Helen lie together snuggled in bed watching the sunset.

Olivia and Lyn tailor her wedding dress.

Helen, Olivia, Aiden and Junebug go over the menu for the wedding.

Georgia, Sheriff and Lyn go bike riding.

Aiden steals away alone time to sulk and grieve.

INT. JUKE JOINT - NIGHT

Chance, Brock, Junebug and Aiden whoop it up for his bachelor party. Debauchery complete with strippers. Aiden drunkenly calls Georgia and leaves a horrible message.

AIDEN

If you weren't my sister. I'm sorry
- cousin. I would ... I don't know
what I would do. I don't know that
I wouldn't, now that I do know. I
love you. No, I don't. Yes, I do.
Oh shit. How do you hang up?

INT. GEORGIA'S BEDROOM

Georgia listens to the message while practicing her dance steps in the mirror. She gets half way before turning off.

INT. MAYOR'S SUN ROOM - NIGHT

Mayor turns on his back porch light & Aiden is passed out on his couch. Helen steps out from the shadows. Helen snuggles with Aiden on the couch. He allows himself to be stroked and coddled.

MAYOR

I found him like that. I figured
you'd want to know where he was. I
didn't know Olivia's number.

HELEN

Thanks, John.

MAYOR

Why don't you just tell him? He
knows almost everything anyway.

HELEN
Did you tell Chance?

MAYOR
No. That's a bit more complicated.

HELEN
Tell him after I die.

MAYOR
That'll be years.

Helen smiles. Exhausted, Helen gets up to leave. She kisses Mayor on the cheek instead of answering his question.

HELEN
Let's just get him to the church on time.

Helen leaves. Mayor turns out the light on a sleeping Aiden.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT - DREAM

Junebug drags a heavy mansized sack to a graveyard. Inside that sack is Aiden. He's yelling and screaming the whole way.

AIDEN
I'm not dead! I'm not dead!

JUNEBUG
Yes, you are! I burred you once.
I'll bury you again.

AIDEN
(confused)
People only die once.

JUNEBUG
You're not who you think you are.

He throws Aiden into the grave and starts throwing dirt on him.

INT. SUNPORCH - DAY

Aiden wakes up in his own bed drenched in sweat. Mayor is off screen singing and cooking bacon. Aiden gets a text from Olivia: We need to pay for the wedding cake. Aiden sneaks out the back door.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Aiden shows up at the station. Sheriff is behind the counter. The whole room gets tense.

AIDEN
Sheriff.

SHERIFF
Son.

Aiden places an envelope on the counter.

AIDEN
I know our relationship is not perfect. And we're not blood, but you're the only father I've ever known. Come to my wedding. I want you to be there. If it's easier for you, bring your family. Everyone in town knows anyway. What does it matter now.

Sheriff takes the invitation gingerly.

INT. BAKERY - AFTERNOON

Marcus and Georgia are at a corner table looking at their Juilliard letters.

MARCUS
This is it.

GEORGIA
I don't want to know.

MARCUS
The hell you don't.

They open them.

GEORGIA
(dazed)
I got in..

MARCUS
I got in!

Marcus runs in the back to tell his mom. Aiden walks in out of the rain. He sees Georgia and comes over to her table.

AIDEN
How are you?

GEORGIA

Fine.

AIDEN

I've been thinking about you. Well, not like that - well ... You can see things can't you. When you touch them. You see things. That's why you don't like touching things, people.

She looks around before nodding.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

What do you see when you touch me?

GEORGIA

Your childhood.

AIDEN

Ex-girlfriends?

GEORGIA

(smiles)

I see the people you love or who have hurt you. But you don't let people in like that. It's easy to touch you. All I see is Helen and Sheriff and Geraldine and Junebug and...

AIDEN

You.

She smiles.

GEORGIA

And Chance.

AIDEN

I've seen Junebug do it to. Not touch people. He'll pull a whole pig a part with his meaty paws, but try to shake his hand and he wants to leave the room.

GEORGIA

He doesn't see what I see.

AIDEN

What does he see?

She doesn't say anything.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Don't do that. If you don't want to tell me, then say that. Don't pretend you don't know things you do. Don't.

GEORGIA

You don't want to know what he sees.

AIDEN

What about your mom? She touches things all the time.

GEORGIA

Her gift doesn't work through touch. She sees auras. Love, lust, lies.

AIDEN

And Geraldine.

GEORGIA

Ghosts, but you knew that.

AIDEN

If Delacroix's all have gifts, then somehow I must be a Delacroix.

GEORGIA

(laughs)

But you're not.

AIDEN

I dream. Always have. I'm afraid to go to sleep. I think my dreams are real. They tell me things I don't want to know. They get worse when I come home. When I'm around Junie, Aunt Gerry - you. They are more frequent, stronger here. Amplified.

GEORGIA

I'll be your shield.

AIDEN

Can you really do that?

GEORGIA

No.

AIDEN

Will you come. To my wedding.

GEORGIA
Do you want me to?

Marcus walks in. Aiden hands him a check before turning to leave.

AIDEN
For the cake.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Helen and Junebug are sitting at the table. Helen is holding court. Junebug is taking notes.

HELEN
And a live band.

JUNEBUG
Zydeco?

HELEN
Jazz. And tapas and mini desserts.
No potluck buffet. Top shelf
liquor.

JUNEBUG
But of course.

GERALDINE
The weddings all set. Please don't
tell me you guys are making
changes.

HELEN
Nope. We're planning my funeral.

Geraldine kisses her on her forehead.

GERALDINE
Dead people don't get to have their
way.
(to Junebug)
Take her to bed. Our boy's getting
married in the morning.

Junebug escorts a weak Helen up the stairs.

[11]

INT. HELEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Helen ties Aiden's bowtie for his wedding.

AIDEN
Mayor's my father isn't he? He was
Sheriff's best friend? THAT'S why
they hate each other.

HELEN
(sighs)
Among other reasons.

AIDEN
You are a piece of work. Does
Chance know?

HELEN
I have not a clue.

AIDEN
Don't tell him.

HELEN
Wasn't planning on it.

INT. CHURCH RECTORY - DAY

Lyn dresses Olivia for the wedding.

OLIVIA
Stay.

LYN
I don't think it would be right.

OLIVIA
There's 300 people out there.
You're my only friend here. Stay.
For me. Who's going to notice?

Lyn downs a glass of champagne.

LYN
Maybe in the back.

Olivia shrieks happily.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The wedding. Chance & Junebug stand on one side. Aiden stands
at the alter looking like he's suffering from PTSD. Georgia
sits in the back next to Lyn and Geraldine. The music starts
and Olivia is escorted in by her father. She looks beautiful.
Even Aiden puts on a pained smile. **[Add in Wedding shit, do a
full wedding]**

PASTOR JAMES

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to watch the union of two souls. Marriage isn't something you should entire into lightly. Head into marriage with a full heart and open eyes. ...

Fast forward to the bride and groom exchange their vows.

OLIVIA

I, Olivia van Houten, vow to love you with all of my heart until the end of days. I vow to never leave you wanting for support or affection. I vow to be your biggest cheerleader, a faithful wife and a loving mother to your children.

AIDEN

I, Aiden Stanfill --

Aiden gets choked up and almost faints. Sheriff is there to hold him up.

SHERIFF

Keep it together son.

AIDEN

Vow to love one woman, cherish the very thought of her, wish her nothing but happiness, success and peace of mind and may her children go farther in life than her parents ever did.

PASTOR JAMES

Okaaaay. And now, the rings.

The Pastor tilts his head as if that's the strangest vow he's ever heard.

PASTOR JAMES (CONT'D)

With power vested in me by the Almighty God and the state of Georgia, I know pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss your bride.

Aiden and Olivia seal their vows with a kiss and Georgia dies on the inside.

EXT. HELEN'S BACKYARD - EVENING

Reception in full swing. Olivia dances with her dad. Junebug stands next to Aiden who only has eyes for Georgia.

JUNEBUG

Those vows were ... moving. I'm proud of you Aiden. I mean that. I love you like a brother, a son.

AIDEN

Me too.

Junebug puts his arm around Aiden's shoulder and sees Aiden's death: a shot to the heart.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

What's wrong? What do you see?

JUNEBUG

Nothing.

AIDEN

I keep dreaming about you.

JUNEBUG

Good things i hope.

AIDEN

I dreamt you tried to kill me.

JUNEBUG

No, not me.

Junebug hurries off to find Geraldine who is hiding and drinking heavily. When he finds her, he tries to help her up and inadvertently touches her bare skin. A host of ghosts rip her soul from her body and he recoils.

JUNEBUG (CONT'D)

Jesus.

GERALDINE

What's wrong?

JUNEBUG

Something's changed.

GERALDINE

How do we change it back?

JUNEBUG

I don't know.

Aiden and Lyn have a touching moment at the dessert station. He toasts her champagne.

AIDEN

To the aunt who's fucking my fake dad.

LYN

To the nephew born on the day of my son. Helen's right. You do kind of look like me.

AIDEN

What would Olivia think if I had a half black mom?

LYN

She wouldn't marry you.

AIDEN

Georgia's going to make someone a hell of a wife.

LYN

Just not you. We aren't hill folk.

AIDEN

(downs his champagne)
Right.

Off in the distance, Brock tries to corral a drunken Chance to no avail. Couples join Aiden and Helen on the dance floor. Chance walks up and pours booze into Georgia's punch glass.

GEORGIA

I don't drink.

CHANCE

You do today. The love of our life just got married to neither one of us. Let's go inside where we don't have to fake happiness.

INT. JESSUP MANOR - PARLOR - LATER

Aiden finds Chance and Georgia in the parlor doing shots.

AIDEN

Shots, really? She's a 100 pounds soaking wet.

CHANCE

Our beloved just married a Yankee!

They down two more shots. Chance starts lining them up again. Aiden grabs a Perrier and puts Georgia over his shoulder.

CHANCE (CONT'D)
Where are you taking her?

AIDEN
For a little purge session before
you give her alcohol poisoning.

CHANCE
I need my drinking buddy.

AIDEN
You need some cake.

Aiden takes a bottle of ginger ale and a tonic water from the liquor cart and leaves Chance alone.

INT. GUEST BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aiden positions Georgia on the floor and puts her head over the toilet.

GEORGIA
I don't feel sick. I just feel
woozy.

AIDEN
Just wait for it.

After 2 seconds, the vomit starts to flow.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
There it is. Looks like someone hit
the shrimp cocktail pretty hard.

Aiden puts her hair in a bun. He gets up and makes her a cold wash cloth. He puts it on her forehead.

GEORGIA
Drinking is bad.

AIDEN
Drinking Chance style is. Most
definitely.

Aiden stands her up and hands her a cup of Listerine. She gargles. He does too for good measure. He hands her a glass of Perrier which she sips slowly.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Spare bedroom that looks like a time machine. It's all white and undisturbed. Georgia sits down on the bed. She looks a bit better. Aiden stands in the bathroom doorway framed by the light. The moon comes in through the window.

GEORGIA

I'm just going to sit here for a while. Don't leave me.

AIDEN

Never. (beat) You wore white to my wedding.

GEORGIA

In protest!

He sits next to her on the bed.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

Did you know this is the only room in the house no one has died in.

AIDEN

I do now. You didn't know either. Whether we were brother and sister. You weren't sure.

GEORGIA

I only know what objects show me. I don't know if they are true.

AIDEN

But you knew about our mothers. That they are sisters.

GEORGIA

Lyn used to live in this house. She's all over it. Your room is her old room.

AIDEN

But you kissed me anyway.

GEORGIA

I tried not to.

AIDEN

How hard did you try?

GEORGIA

Real hard.

He kisses her deeply as she unbuckles his pants. They make sweet, sweet love in complete nude splendor on top of the covers with the door unlocked and the music of the reception playing setting the rhythm and the tone.

INT. JESSUP MANOR - GUEST BEDROOM - LATER

Aiden buttons up her dress. They are both melancholy.

GEORGIA

Once we step out that door. The moment is over.

AIDEN

It doesn't have to be. We don't have to keep making the mistakes of our parents. Our grandparents. We can break the cycle. We can choose us.

GEORGIA

You couldn't come to that conclusion 2 hours ago.

AIDEN

You want me to wait 20 years for you and come and disrupt your life and your family then?

GEORGIA

You'll have to get a divorce.

AIDEN

I'll get an annulment. Those vows were for you.

GEORGIA

She's going to take all of your money.

AIDEN

I don't have any. My trust doesn't kick in until I'm 30.

GEORGIA

What if Helen changes it before she dies?

AIDEN

Then we'll be poor. Or I'll live off you. You can be my sugar mama.

GEORGIA
Be serious.

AIDEN
I'll get another job!

GEORGIA
And you'll move? To whatever
company I'm dancing for? London?
Toronto? Russia?

AIDEN
I don't know about Toronto, but I
love to ski drunk on vodka.

GEORGIA
Where will we go now? Half of New
York knows who you are. We'll be
all over the gossip papers.

AIDEN
Paris. Until school starts.

GEORGIA
And the dust settles.

AIDEN
That too.
(he kisses her softly)
Go get your passport. Meet me at
the car in 20 minutes.

GEORGIA
I can't pack in 20 minutes.

AIDEN
I'll buy you new clothes.

GEORGIA
This is wrong.

AIDEN
No. The way they lived their lives
is wrong. I'm making this right.

He heads upstairs to pack his bag. She heads toward the front
door.

EXT. HELEN'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Aiden looks for his mother when the DJ announces the couples
first dance. Aiden and Olivia have a first dance. She studies
his face.

OLIVIA
Babe, where have you been?

AIDEN
Baby-sitting Chance. Have you seen him? He gave me the slip.

She narrows her eyes.

OLIVIA
If you're going to run away with her, just go.

AIDEN
What?

OLIVIA
If you're going to leave, do it quietly. Don't make a scene. Don't stop the party. Everyone's so happy.

AIDEN
I'm just looking for my best friend.

OLIVIA
Chance is fine.

AIDEN
A drunk Chance is a destructive Chance.

She smiles sadly and kisses him with a closed mouth.

OLIVIA
Just say goodbye before you go.

AIDEN
I'm not going anywhere.

OLIVIA
Don't forget.

Olivia walks away. Unnerved, Aiden downs a couple of glasses of champagne and asks around for Chance. No one has seen him. He goes off looking, though he's really looking for Georgia. No one has seen her either. He checks his watch.

INT. PARLOR - NIGHT

Chance is stinking drunk. Georgia wanders in with a duffle bag looking for Aiden. Chance looks at her like a snake looks at a mouse.

CHANCE

I never thought you would do it. I never thought you would go through with it. I thought YOU had some sense.

GEORGIA

What do you mean?

CHANCE

You fucked him!

GEORGIA

You left me alone with him.

CHANCE

Are you serious? He's your fucking cousin!

GEORGIA

It's not like we grew up together.

CHANCE

You were the decoy. The red herring. The shiny toy that he would grow tired of. You were the distraction to make Aiden realize that he didn't really love Olivia. You were supposed to be a dalliance at best, not Juliet.

GEORGIA

Calm down.

CHANCE

He was supposed to fall in love with me. You are the rebound. I'm the true love.

GEORGIA

He's your brother! You're in love with your brother.

CHANCE

No. I refuse to believe that. We grew up side by side, slept in the same bed. Played doctor as kids.

GEORGIA
Mayor is his father.

CHANCE
No! He's not. I would have known.

GEORGIA
Yes, he is.

Chance grabs her by the throat.

CHANCE
Shut up. No, he's not!

Chance strangles her until she is unable to breathe. Her body limp in his hands he recoils at what he has done.

CHANCE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

He lays her body behind the couch and covers her with the throw.

EXT. LYN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Aiden pulls up in his rental car into the driveway with the headlights off. He looks around, knocks lightly on a few doors and windows, but no one is there. It's locked up tight and Georgia's room is quite tidy and her suitcase in the corner untouched and passport is sitting in a bowl. He gets paranoid and jets off looking for Chance. He blows up his cell phone.

INT. MAYOR'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Chance bursts into the kitchen a crying mess. Mayor is fixing himself a cocktail.

CHANCE
She's dead.

MAYOR
Who's dead?

CHANCE
Georgia.

MAYOR
The Sheriff's daughter is dead.
How? Why?

CHANCE

She fell.

MAYOR

(looks at the marks on
him)

Son, are you sure it was an
accident?

CHANCE

She said you're Aiden's father.
That he's my brother. You're not.
He's not.

MAYOR

Oh, Chance. What did you do?

CHANCE

What did you do?!

MAYOR

I told you not to be in love with
that boy!

CHANCE

Tell me the truth.

MAYOR

Helen was my high school sweetheart
you know that. I knocked her up in
high school. Your mean old granny
wanted me to abort him, but we
couldn't. Aiden's my son.

CHANCE

No.

MAYOR

Go get your passport, take my keys,
drive to Doc Rustin in Charleston.
He'll charter a boat to the
Caribbean. Take my leather
weekender in the hall closet. It's
my getaway bag. It's already got
cash and sundries. Let's just say
you're not the first Baxter to have
roughed up a girl.

CHANCE

Dad, I -

MAYOR

Just go.

Chance flees in Mayor's Cadillac. Mayor dials Doc.

EXT. HELEN'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Sheriff, Junebug and Geraldine are seated at a table shooting the shit.

SHERIFF
Where's Georgia?

He teeters off looking for her. Geraldine sees Georgia's ghost standing in the doorway to the house.

GERALDINE
Oh, she's standing right there.

Junebug is instantly alarmed. He sees nothing.

JUNEBUG
Standing right where?

GERALDINE
Oh shit.

They scramble to look for her body.

EXT. TWO LANE COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Aiden sees Chance's car and starts following him. When Chance sees Aiden in the rearview, he speeds up. Confused, Aiden revs his car and gets on the side of Chance.

AIDEN
Pull over!

Chance rams Aiden's car and speeds off. So, now Aiden is not only confused, but pissed.

EXT. BRIDGE

Aiden rams Chances car and Chance blows a tire on the bridge. Chance gets out of his car and starts to run. Aiden pulls over and runs after him.

AIDEN
Chance, what's going on?

CHANCE
Stay back.

Chance draws his gun on Aiden. Chance backs up to the bridge railing. Aiden advances and Chance shoots and tags him in the arm.

AIDEN
You fucking shot me!

Aiden charges Chance while he's climbing over the railing. Chance drops his gun, slips and falls trying to catch it. Aiden reaches out for Chance and catches him just in time.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

CHANCE
Why are you running away with Georgia and not me?

AIDEN
I can't be your lover. You know that.

CHANCE
But when we were kids -

AIDEN
A phase. And we didn't know. [**Is there a Aiden + Mayor moment??**]

CHANCE
I've fucked up.

AIDEN
You tried to shoot me!

CHANCE
I fucked up real bad.

AIDEN
What did you do?

Chance shakes his head and starts to cry.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Chance, where's Georgia?

CHANCE
I didn't mean to hurt her. I was just so mad. And she was screaming these things. I thought she was lying.

AIDEN
No.

CHANCE

She didn't know what she was saying. I don't know my own strength.

AIDEN

You didn't.

CHANCE

The light left her eyes so softly. So beautifully.

AIDEN

No.

CHANCE

You can still go back to Olivia. Have a normal life.

AIDEN

No.

CHANCE

I'm so sorry.

Aiden hesitates for moment before releasing his grip on Chance. He watches him fall all the way down. A storm is rolling in. The wind is picking up. Aiden walks back to his car and sees that Sheriff is standing on the bridge. He saw Aiden drop Chance over the side and he's drawn his gun.

INT. PARLOR - NIGHT

Geraldine and Junebug frantically look for Georgia. Junebug finds her behind the couch and yelps. Geraldine walks over.

GERALDINE

Oh Georgie.

JUNEBUG

How did you know?

GERALDINE

Get Brock. I'll stay here with her. Keep everyone out of this room.

JUNEBUG

I'm staying too.

GERALDINE

No! You go. Find him. Find the other one. Save the other one. You don't have much time.

Junebug backs out of the room scared. Geraldine locks all the doors. She pours herself a scotch and sits on the couch. Georgia's ghost lies on the couch and rests her head in Geraldine's lap. Geraldine strokes her hair.

EXT. BRIDGE

Sheriff and Aiden are in a stand off. Sheriff is alarmed. Aiden is scared.

SHERIFF

What are you doing son?

AIDEN

He fell. I was just going to call you.

SHERIFF

Didn't look like that to me.

AIDEN

What are you doing out here?

SHERIFF

Looking for Georgia. She's not down in that creek with your brother is she.

Aiden shakes his head slowly.

AIDEN

No.

SHERIFF

But you do know where she is?

AIDEN

Chances knows.

SHERIFF

And he's not talking.

AIDEN

No, Sheriff. He's not.

Brock show's up.

SHERIFF

Get out of here Hoffsteddar. This doesn't concern you?

BROCK
You need to get back to the house
Sheriff.

SHERIFF
Why?

BROCK
Maybe you should put your gun away.

SHERIFF
Spill it, Hoffsteddar.

BROCK
It's Georgia.

Sheriff walks toward Aiden with purpose with his gun drawn out.

SHERIFF
What did you do?

AIDEN
It wasn't me. It was Chance.

SHERIFF
He had no motive.

AIDEN
Me! The motive was me!

SHERIFF
Not everything is about you, Aiden!

BROCK
Sheriff, she's not wearing
underwear.

SHERIFF
Was that Chance too?

Aiden looks guilty. Sheriff raises his gun. Aiden turns to run. Junebug pulls up on the scene. His car still running as he jumps out. He runs to Aiden.

JUNEBUG
No!

Sheriff shoots Aiden in the back. Aiden falls to the ground. The sky opens up and begins to weep. Junebug scoops him up in his arms. Rocks him back and forth slowly.

JUNEBUG (CONT'D)
No no no no no no no no no.

Sheriff collapses to the ground.

EXT. JESSUP MANOR - 1990 - FLASHBACK

THUNDERCLAP.

Title card: 1990.

INT. JESSUP MANOR - HELEN'S BEDROOM - 1990 - NIGHT

A YOUNG HELEN (20) is in an alive Josephine's (45) bedroom with a YOUNGER GERALDINE (40) about to push out a baby.

INT. JESSUP MANOR - KITCHEN - 1990 - NIGHT

A YOUNG OFFICER STANFILL (20) is in the kitchen, drinking booze at an alarming rate.

INT. GERALDINE'S KITCHEN - 1990 - NIGHT

A young, very pregnant Lyn (20) knocks on Geraldine's back door and a teenaged Junebug (16) answers.

JUNEBUG

What are you doing back in Georgia?
And why are you pregnant?

There's a rainstorm outside something ugly. Lyn barely makes it into the kitchen before collapsing in contractions.

INT. JESSUP MANOR - HELEN'S BEDROOM - 1990 - NIGHT

Helen pushes her baby out and its still born.

JOSEPHINE

That's a blessing in disguise.
Those coward Baxters should have
been on their hands and knees
begging to procreate with this
line. Gerry, get rid of it.

HELEN

Geraldine, save my baby. Please.

GERALDINE

I'll see what I can do.

Helen is on the edge of hysterics. Geraldine takes the baby downstairs to perform CPR.

INT. GERALDINE'S KITCHEN - 1990 - NIGHT

Lyn has had her baby. Junebug looks like he's about to pass out.

LYN
What does he look like?

JUNEBUG
Pasty and quiet.

LYN
Is something wrong with him?

JUNEBUG
I don't know. He's just looking at me. Isn't he supposed to cry?

LYN
Is he breathing?

JUNEBUG
I think so.

LYN
Go get Geraldine. Take him with you.

JUNEBUG
He's so little.

LYN
Don't break him.

Junebug wraps him in a blanket and runs off into the night.

INT. JESSUP MANOR - KITCHEN - 1990 - NIGHT

Geraldine is in the kitchen trying to resuscitate this baby. Junebug shows up with Lyn and the future Sheriff's son. Sheriff is passed out at the table.

GERALDINE
What's that?

JUNEBUG
Lyn's baby.

GERALDINE
Lyn's what?!

Geraldine smacks the future Sheriff on the back of the head.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

Preston must have snuck his ass up
to New York.

Junebug puts the baby on the kitchen table.

JUNEBUG

He looks white.

GERALDINE

He is a quadroon. Maybe sometimes
they come out that way.

Geraldine lays Helen's baby on the table next to Lyn's.
Junebug jumps back like Geraldine just said Beetlejuice.

JUNEBUG

Why is that baby blue?!

GERALDINE

Because it's dead.

Geraldine wraps the blue baby and hands it to Junebug.

JUNEBUG

Whatchu want me to do with this
dead baby?

GERALDINE

Bury it.

Geraldine picks up the live baby and heads back upstairs.

JUNEBUG

Whatchu doing with Lyn's baby?

GERALDINE

Giving it a chance at life.

JUNEBUG

You can't give Helen, Lyn's baby.

GERALDINE

I'm leaving Lyn's baby to be raised
by it's father and it's rich step
mother. Maybe Lyn'll take her ass
back to Parsons and come back
successful if she no longer has
ties to this place.

JUNEBUG

And when that baby turns chocolate?

GERALDINE
The jig is up, I guess.

JUNEBUG
And what if he doesn't?

GERALDINE
What a charmed life he'll lead.

Geraldine goes upstairs.

JUNEBUG
I hope you know what you're doing.

Junebug goes back out into the storm leaving a sleeping Officer Stanfill none the wiser.

INT. BLACK CHURCH - PRESENT DAY - DAY

Funeral:

Close up on Geraldine's face. Pull out to reveal it's Georgia's funeral. Black church, singing, loud crying, Sheriff center row with Lyn along with Junebug. Marcus and his family are also there.

INT. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DAY

Across town in the Presbyterian church, is Aiden's funeral with Helen looking gaunt and about to die. The entire town turned up to stare and gawk.

INT. HOFFSTEDDAR FUNERAL HOME - DAY

At the funeral home is Chance with only the Mayor in attendance representing relatives. Looks like political people gathered. Small and intimate.

INT. BLACK CHURCH - DAY

Back to Georgia's funeral. Junebug slides in next to Geraldine.

JUNEBUG
So, I guess this dies with us.

GERALDINE
To the grave.

Geraldine looks on, but she isn't looking at Georgia in her casket. She's looking past her casket to Georgia's ghost who's staring back at her in disappointment. Georgia is joined by Aiden, Savannah, Josephine and John Jessup. Geraldine looks haunted and very ready to flee as seasoned black women sing gut wrenching gospel music at a growing crescendo.

FADE OUT.