

COLD OPEN

INT. WALMART - SPORTING GOODS SECTION - DAY (D1)
(JEAN, CLERK)

A SEEMINGLY AVERAGE SUBURBAN HOMEMAKER -- **JEAN OBERLEEN (LEAH REMINI)** -- PUSHES A CART, TALKING ON HER CELLPHONE.

JEAN

Yeah honey, I'm still at the store. I
got shampoo, cereal for the boys,
those work gloves you wanted, I just
gotta grab one more thing... I'll be
back before bedtime. Okay, love you.

SHE HANGS UP AND TURNS TO A **CLERK** (20) BEHIND A COUNTER
WEARING A "TREVOR" NAME TAG.

JEAN (CONT'D)

I'd like to buy that shotgun please.
The twelve gauge pump action with the
ventilated barrel. (EXPLAINING) It's
my anniversary.

CLERK

(DISINTERESTED) Congratulations. I'll
need to ask you a few questions first.

JEAN

Absolutely. I'm all for sensible
background checks.

CLERK

(RE: COMPUTER) Name?

JEAN

Jean Oberleen.

CLERK

(TYPING) And you're married.

JEAN

Twice. What do you think the gun's
for? (OFF HIS LOOK) I'm kidding.
Domestic violence: not funny.

CLERK

How many family members in the house?

JEAN

Me, two kids, spouse and ex-spouse.

CLERK

You live with your ex-husband?

JEAN

Technically he sleeps on a futon in
the garage but he calls it a guest
house. We still park the car in there.
He's a simple man. (CLERK TYPES) Why
are you putting that in?

CLERK

I'm just doing what the computer tells
me to do. Current husband's name?

JEAN

Wife. I'm married to a woman.

CLERK

But you were married to a man?

JEAN

(GROWING ANNOYED) Yes.

CLERK

So you're gay?

JEAN

No.

CLERK

Bi?

JEAN

No.

CLERK

What are you?

JEAN

I'm an American.

CLERK

I don't know what that means.

JEAN

It means I don't want to answer any
more questions, Trevor. Are we done?

CLERK

Just one more. (READING) How much do
you spend on groceries in a year?

JEAN

Why would the government need to know that?

CLERK

This isn't for the government. This is for
Walmart. So we can send you promotions for
products you might be interested in.

JEAN

I've been answering these questions
for *Walmart*?! I don't want promotions.
I want to give you money for the
things I came to buy. And then leave.

CLERK

That's not how it works.

JEAN

That's exactly how it works.

CLERK

But it won't let me complete the
transaction.

JEAN

The *money* completes the transaction.
As it has for a thousand years.

CLERK

I think I can override it if you just
give me your e-mail address.

JEAN

No. Not happening. I'm not giving you
my email address. I'm done. (LONG
STARE, THEN) So now what do we do?

CLERK

Not sure. This has never happened before.

JEAN

Well I guess we're blazing a trail
together then. I got all night.

CLERK

Look, I'm just doing what the computer tells me to do.

JEAN

I know you are, Trevor. That's the problem. We're all just doing what the computer tells us to do. So they can put us on a list, or make us join a club. Well, I don't wanna be in your club. I just want be a good citizen, buy my crap, and be left alone. Now sell me my gun, Trevor. Sell me my gun.

THE CLERK STARES AT HER. THEN TYPES INTO HIS COMPUTER.

JEAN (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

CLERK

I'm putting you on a different list.

JEAN

No. No. Don't do that. (HE STOPS TYPING) Level with me here, man. What if I asked you for your email address?

CLERK

Clever-Trevor@aol.com.

JEAN

You're not supposed to give it to me!

CLERK

Do you want your stuff or not?

JEAN

Yes!

CLERK

Then I need an emai--

JEAN

Fine! I give up. But I'm typing it in myself. I don't want you or any other prying ears around here to have it.

(GRABS KEYBOARD, TYPING) There.

Entered. Sent. Locked in. Happy? Now, can I leave with my gun?

CLERK

There's a ten day waiting period on all firearms.

JEAN

That's it! You've lost my business!

I'm out. Empty handed. But you know

what? I'm okay with it. Because I won.

I beat you, Trevor.

CLERK

How did you beat me?

JEAN STARES AT HIM. TREVOR'S PHONE DINGS.

JEAN

Congratulations, Clever-Trevor@aol.com.

You're in the club. Welcome to hell.

JEAN EXITS. TREVOR'S PHONE DINGS AGAIN.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING (N1)

(JEAN BERTIE, RICHIE, NICK, AUGGIE, PANCAKES)

CLOSE ON AN ENGLISH BULLDOG -- PANCAKES -- WATCHING TV. AN ALARMIST NEWS SHOW PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

WIDEN TO REVEAL BERTIE OBERLEEN (KAITLIN OLSON) STANDS NEARBY. SHE CALLS OUT THE OPEN BACK DOOR.

BERTIE

Richie, I think Pancakes is getting
too much screen time.

RICHIE OBERLEEN (ROB RIGGLE) ENTERS CARRYING A TRAY OF COOKED HAMBURGERS.

RICHIE

Yeah, I was thinking that too. He
seems really stressed out recently.

BERTIE

He's watching the news. It's so
depressing and horrible. I'm sure his
anxiety is at a ten.

RICHIE

We should at least change the channel.

BERTIE

Jean's not gonna like that. You know
how much she loves seeing stories that
anger her.

RICHIE

Yeah but maybe we convince her to
branch out a little.

(MORE)

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Maybe watch something that makes her
feel, you know... good.

BERTIE

Yeah, that's not gonna work. But what
if we tried this...

SHE TURNS OFF THE TV.

RICHIE

You're playing with fire, kid.

BERTIE

I'll take my chances.

NICK (15) AND **AUGGIE** (8) ENTER. AUGGIE DUMPS SOME SMALL ROCKS
ON THE TABLE AND INSPECTS THEM.

NICK

Bertie, Dad -- I have to talk to you.
I'm too old to be sharing a room with
Auggie. Besides -- (COVERING AUGGIE'S
EARS) he's bizarre.

BERTIE

He's not bizarre. (COVERING AUGGIE'S
EARS) He's eccentric.

NICK

He talks to rocks.

RICHIE

He doesn't talk to rocks.

ANGLE ON AUGGIE WHISPERING TO ONE OF THE ROCKS.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Ah. He does appear to be talking to them. (RICHIE COVERS AUGGIE'S EARS) Is this something we should be concerned about?

BERTIE

(THINKING) Well, maybe they talk back and we just can't hear it.

RICHIE

Let's go with that.

BERTIE LOOKS AT A SCHEDULE ON THE FRIDGE.

BERTIE

Ooh. Richie, I just noticed on the pick up/drop off schedule that Nick has a baseball game tomorrow but I have to be at the salon until four.

RICHIE

Okay, I'll do drop-off and go in early. If you could get Auggie and pass him off to Jean I can swing by and grab Nick, so you can head back to work.

NICK

I have a solution to this incredibly complex sequence of events. How about Auggie and I go to the same school?

RICHIE

Because we can't afford to send you
both to private school.

NICK

So I have to go to the bad one?

BERTIE

It's not that bad.

NICK

It's a war zone. My geometry teacher
carries a hammer in her belt.

RICHIE

Nick, that's ridiculous. You'd never
bring a hammer to war. You'd get
slaughtered.

WE HEAR THE FRONT DOOR OPEN OFF-SCREEN.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

There's mom. Let's go give her a hand
with the groceries. She's going to
have a ton of bags.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS (N1)

RICHIE, BERTIE AND NICK ENTER. JEAN HAS NO BAGS.

BERTIE

Where are the groceries?

JEAN

I left them in protest. That place
ruined your anniversary present.

(MORE)

JEAN (CONT'D)

And Sweetie, it was so special. I spent weeks researching it. It was perfect.

BERTIE

(STARES AT HER CONSIDERING, THEN)

Jean, I don't want a gun. No guns in the house. We decided this. It was two against one.

JEAN

Richie, we both grew up with guns! We used to have one when we were married! Why are you taking her side?!

RICHIE

She makes a very convincing argument. Also, she doesn't yell at me when she makes it.

BERTIE

Growing up we didn't need guns for protection. Granted, The Troutdale Estates was a safe, classy place where we didn't even lock our doors.

JEAN

The Troutdale Estates was a trailer park. And the reason you didn't lock your doors was because there was nothing to steal!

RICHIE

There's that yelling again.

BERTIE

Either way, I grew up believing that the world is a wonderful place full of wonderful people.

JEAN

That's because you're a hillbilly rube from the backwoods of Oregon. And it's probably the main reason I fell in love with you. But it's also the reason I hate you right in this moment.

NICK

This is awesome relationship modeling. I'm glad I get to be a part of it.

THEY ALL MOVE TOWARDS THE KITCHEN.

JEAN

Look, the reality is that the world is a dangerous place full of terrible people. We need to be able to protect ourselves.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS (N1)

THE FAMILY ENTERS.

BERTIE

No guns, sweetie.

JEAN

You do realize that you're ruining what
could be an amazing first anniversary.

JEAN KISSES AUGGIE ON THE HEAD.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Hey honey. (TO RICHIE) He still
talking to the rocks?

RICHIE

Yeah.

JEAN

It'll pass.

RICHIE

Hey, speaking of your anniversary, am
I supposed to get you guys a present?
I'm not sure what's appropriate in
this situation.

BERTIE

You don't have to get us anything.

JEAN

It would be nice if you got us
something, yes. (NOTICING, VERY
CONFUSED) Wait, why is the TV off?

BERTIE

Okay, Jean, before you freak out -- I
turned it off. Me and Richie were
discussing it and--

JEAN

Oh, you were discussing it? Congress was back in session! I don't appreciate it when you two team up on me like this. I feel very bullied.

BERTIE

We team up because you're the bully!

JEAN

Well the "bully" won Game Night so the "bully" controls the TV. You took my guns but you're not taking my remote.

BERTIE

We make a lot of family decisions based on who wins "Game Night." Are you sure that's a healthy way think about household matters?

JEAN

Yes, I do. It's a good lesson for the kids. Winners get things. And in this case, the winner got the remote. Hand it over please.

BERTIE RELUCTANTLY HANDS THE REMOTE TO JEAN.

NICK

If we're going to watch something can't we just all use our phones so we can at least watch what we want?

JEAN

No, this is the problem with modern
life. We're not all gonna sit watching
five different screens all lost in our
own world. We're gonna do it like the
good old days, the five of us watching
one screen, together, like a family.

JEAN TURNS ON THE TV. APOCALYPTIC NEWS PLAYS.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Let's eat!

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE B

INT. OBERLEEN HOME - LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY (D2)
(JEAN, BERTIE, RICHIE, NICK, AUGGIE, PANCAKES)

BERTIE WATCHES AUGGIE PLAY. JEAN APPROACHES.

BERTIE

Jean, I'm worried about Auggie.

JEAN

What's going on?

BERTIE

He's biting his nails.

JEAN

That's it? He's biting his nails?

BERTIE

You don't find that alarming? He's eating his own body.

JEAN

I think that's an extreme way of looking at it. You never bit your nails when you were a kid?

BERTIE

Oh, no. Back in the Troutdale Estates having nails was a point of pride. We flaunted them like peacocks.

JEAN

Why?

BERTIE

Mainly to distinguish ourselves from the people of Troutfarm Estates who couldn't grow them, on account of the inbreeding. He's gonna want those nails if we ever visit my family.

JEAN

I'm not worried about that, sweetie.

RICHIE AND NICK (IN A TORN, DIRTY BASEBALL UNIFORM) ENTER.

BERTIE

Who won the game?

RICHIE

Canceled.

NICK

Turns out two gang leaders called dibs on the field for a place to brawl.

JEAN

Why didn't you play somewhere else?

NICK

Our starting pitchers were the gang leaders.

JEAN

Oh. Well... who won the *fight*?

RICHIE

The other team.

JEAN

You'll bounce back. It's a long
season.

ON AUGGIE FEVERISHLY CHEWING HIS NAILS. NICK EXITS UPSTAIRS.

RICHIE

(RE: AUGGIE) Wow. He's gnawing on that
hand like a cob of corn.

JEAN

Yeah, you're right. He might lose a
finger.

BERTIE

We were just discussing what we should
do about it.

RICHIE

Hm. What if got him something else to
chew on?

JEAN

Like what?

RICHIE

A plastic dog toy?

JEAN

(CONSIDERS, THEN) I don't hate it.

BERTIE

I'd rather have him chew on that than
his own body parts. But for some
reason, it seems wrong too.

JEAN

Because he's not a dog.

BERTIE

Right.

JEAN GRABS NICK'S BASEBALL GLOVE.

JEAN

How about a baseball glove?

RICHIE

Leather is durable.

BERTIE

And organic. I like it.

RICHIE

Me too.

JEAN

Done. See? Co-parenting. (TOSSING THE
GLOVE) Auggie chew on this.

AUGGIE

Okay.

NICK ENTERS DOWN THE STAIRS HAVING CHANGED.

RICHIE

Good. You look ready for game night.

NICK

I don't want to play. Can I sit this
one out?

JEAN

No. It's forced family fun time. What
are the stakes this week?

BERTIE

All Pancakes-related duties.

REVEAL PANCAKES SITTING ON THE COUCH WATCHING TV.

JEAN

The dog doesn't move. How hard could
that be?

RICHIE

Oh it's a tremendous responsibility.
Poor little guy is up every night
pacing around the house. You gotta
calm his nerves or he goes berserk. He
likes when you sing him to sleep.

JEAN

(TO BERTIE) And you wonder why I take
game night so seriously?

RICHIE

Ladies, would you mind if we got
started early? I have a date with
Cassandra.

BERTIE

Cassandra. Is that the one with the
demon tattoos?

NICK

No, she's the one with the missing
tooth.

RICHIE

We're thinking of getting back
together.

JEAN

Didn't she run you over with her car?

RICHIE

Just my foot.

NICK

What a peach. I hope one day she too
can be a part of this super great, non-
dysfunctional family.

RICHIE

Women are tricky. You'll learn that
someday when you grow up and get a
girlfriend of your own.

BERTIE

Or boyfriend. We're not sure what
you're into.

RICHIE

Right. Boyfriend, girlfriend,
whatever.

NICK

To be clear -- I'm into girls.

JEAN

Well, either way we don't have to
worry about it for a loooong time.

RICHIE

That's true. He's moving slow. God
bless him.

NICK

I'm not moving slow. I'm moving at the
appropriate speed!

BERTIE

We've been calling you "the turtle."
It's cute.

NICK

It's not cute. And you're wrong
because, actually, I do have a
girlfriend!

BERTIE

Oh my GOD! Really?! That's great news!

RICHIE

Hey! When do we get to meet her?

NICK

Uh, never. I don't want her anywhere
near you guys.

JEAN

Well I don't like you being amorous
with some floozy that I haven't met.

BERTIE

Jean, they're fourteen. It's innocent.

JEAN

Richie, were we innocent at fourteen?

RICHIE

No we were not.

NICK

That's because you didn't have parents
all over you, all the time.

RICHIE

No we did not. It was chaos. (THEN)
Super fun though.

JEAN

Very fun. Way more fun than Nick's
life. But also why I got pregnant at
nineteen.

RICHIE

Which Nick won't have to worry about,
if he's dating a dude.

NICK

A girl. She's a girl.

BERTIE

Are you sure? It's all very fluid
these days. She could be a boy.

RICHIE

And they could adopt. Or get a
surrogate.

BERTIE

True. There's all sort of options. Our
job is to show love and acceptance.

RICHIE

Right. Nick, we'll support whatever man you wind up with.

BERTIE

If he's good enough for you, he's good enough for us.

NICK

IT'S A GIRL. I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND. WHO IS DEFINITELY A GIRL. I AM NOT INTO GUYS. I AM INTO GIRLS.

AUGGIE

Methinks he doth protest too much.

NICK

Huh? The kid doesn't say anything in a week and then he quotes Shakespeare?!

JEAN

Wow, he really does go to a great school.

NICK

I wanna learn Shakespeare.

JEAN

Nick, don't change the subject. We wanna meet this new guy of yours as soon as possible. And in the meantime don't get pregnant. (THEN) Now, who's ready to play!

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. OBERLEEN HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER (D2)
(JEAN, BERTIE, RICHIE, NICK, AUGGIE, PANCAKES)

THE OBERLEENS ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF CHARADES. JEAN AND BERTIE
ON ONE SIDE. RICHIE, AUGGIE AND NICK ON THE OTHER.

JEAN

Monkey! Monkey Man! Gun! Hand! Cold!

Cold Dead Hand!? I have no idea.

AUGGIE

Chance to steal!

RICHIE

Charlton Heston!

BERTIE

He's right.

SHE PULLS A TAB FROM A POSTER BOARD REVEALING: CHARLTON
HESTON.

JEAN

Dammit! Bertie! Be better!

RICHIE

Okay. So third and last clue! First

was "Exterminators." Second was

"Charlton Heston." Go!

BERTIE LAUNCHES IN AGAIN.

JEAN

Sounds like... nachos, NACHO! Next

word... hot? Fan? FAN! NACHO FAN.

Candy? CANDY! Last word... Drink!

(MORE)

JEAN (CONT'D)

Water! Soda! Beverage? BEVERAGE!

Sounds like Nacho Fan Candy Beverage?!

RICHIE

Chance to steal! Sounds like 'Nacho
Fan Candy Beverage'.

NICK

Macho Man Randy Savage!

BERTIE

That was it.

JEAN

No! We can't lose to them!

BERTIE STARTS TO WELL-UP.

BERTIE

I'm sorry Jean. I'm letting you down.

JEAN

No. Don't start crying.

BERTIE

I'm sorry. It's just very
overwhelming.

JEAN

You have to keep it together, Bertie.

I need you to focus.

JEAN MOTIONS TO PANCAKES WHO WATCHES NEARBY.

JEAN (CONT'D)

I will not be singing a dog to sleep.

RICHIE

And don't forget about the bathing. If you don't get into those folds with a proper cleaning implement god help us all. The smell would clear the block.

JEAN

I'm not getting into his "folds!" This is a nightmare.

RICHIE

Time's running out!

BERTIE

We should just give up. I'll clean his folds.

JEAN

No. Never, ever, ever, ever give up. We can do this. You can do this. I believe in you!

RICHIE

You can still sweep the board for the win! Name the category! What do all these people have in common?

NICK

Exterminators, Charlton Heston, and Macho Man Randy Savage?

BERTIE JUMPS IN AGAIN.

JEAN

Pants?! You're pointing to pants!

Tire? TIRES! Sounds like: *People Pants
Tires?!*

NICK

Exterminators, Charlton Heston and
Randy Macho Man Savage! What do they
have in common?!

JEAN

People Pants Tires! Not pants. Jeans?
Jeans! JEAN! People Jean Tires! (THEN)
PEOPLE JEAN ADMIRES!!!!

BERTIE

YES!!!!

JEAN

(TO BOYS) You lost!

BERTIE

More positive!

JEAN

We won!!!

THEY HUG, CELEBRATING, LAUGHING FULL OF JOY.

ACT TWO

SCENE D

INT. GARAGE - LATER (D2)

RICHIE'S DRESSED UP, COMBING HIS HAIR OVER A SHOP SINK. JEAN ENTERS, HOLDING SOME PAPERS.

JEAN

Hey, Richie. I know you're headed out
but I just wanted to drop off some
literature.

RICHIE

(GRABS PAPER, READING) "Deranged Psycho
Stopped by Granny with a Gun."

JEAN

Lotta nuts out there. But at least she
was able to protect her family. I also
included some statistics on home
invasions, police response time and a
copy of the United States Constitution.

RICHIE

(RE: PAPERS) You really went balls out
with the highlighter.

JEAN

I just want you to make an informed
decision. (LOOKS AROUND) I haven't
been out here in a while. You're
making good use out of this coat rack.

JEAN EXAMINES A COAT RACK HEAPED WITH CLOTHES.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Who needs a closet right?

BERTIE ENTERS.

BERTIE

Hey, partner. Nice work tonight. That
should butter Jean up for a while.

RICHIE

Bertie--

BERTIE

Honestly, we should just do that every
week. It's better for everybody.

JEAN EMERGES FROM BEHIND THE COAT RACK.

JEAN

Do what?

BERTIE

Jean! You're here.

JEAN

I'm everywhere. Please continue. What
did you guys do?

JEAN STARES THEM DOWN. RICHIE LOOKS AT HIS SHOES. BERTIE
BREAKS:

BERTIE

We...uh... We rigged game night.

JEAN

What do you mean you rigged game
night? I won.

BERTIE

We wanted you to win. So we picked a category we knew you would get. I had all the clues ahead of time--

JEAN PROCESSES THIS, REELING.

RICHIE

Dear God. Why would you tell her?

BERTIE

I can't lie to her. We had vows!

RICHIE

I had vows with her too. She broke every one of them.

JEAN

Don't change the subject!

BERTIE

Go ahead. You can yell at us.

JEAN

I'm not gonna yell at you! I'm too disgusted to yell!

RICHIE

You're screaming at the top of your lungs.

JEAN

Oh, I can get a lot louder than this!
It all makes sense now. The loser has to take care of Pancakes? You love taking care of that dog. You treat him like a baby.

RICHIE

In a lot of ways he is like a baby.
Wrinkled, gassy, you have to wipe his
butt every time he poops. Poor guy
can't get around to clean it. Also,
you have to do the weekly swaddle to
calm his nerves.

JEAN

Swaddle?! We didn't even swaddle Nick!

RICHIE

And look how he turned out.

BERTIE

(TO JEAN) For what it's worth, we did
it to make you happy.

RICHIE

Yeah, you were so worked up about the
gun thing, we thought this would
settle you down a bit.

JEAN

Oh, you made me happy to control my
mind? That makes it better. This is
beyond collusion. This is some deep
state crap. There's a whole shadow
government in place in this house. I
feel like the Manchurian Candidate!

RICHIE

We were just trying to make everyone's
lives easier.

JEAN

Maybe you should stop worrying about
my life, Richie. Maybe you should get
one of your own.

BERTIE

Jean--

JEAN

Maybe living alone on a futon in your
ex-wife's garage isn't a recipe for
greatness.

RICHIE

I don't live alone. I live with my
family. I *sleep* in the guest house.

JEAN

It's a garage! It's not a guest house!
I would never make my guests sleep
next to a weed whacker!

RICHIE

(LAUGHS) That's true I guess.

JEAN

You're not supposed to find my insults
charming! Your innocent optimism is
driving me insane.

RICHIE

Oh. Sorry.

JEAN

Stop apologizing! (TO BERTIE) And that goes for you too. Stop being so sweet. And being best friends. And ganging up on me. Something needs to change in this household or I'm going to explode with the force of a thousand suns!

BERTIE

Ooh, okay. Let's take a breath. In Troutdale, when we'd lose our tempers we'd go swimming in the creek, and somehow you'd just forget what you were upset about. Later we found out it was a toxic waste runoff and we were actually experiencing light brain damage. Either way, it worked.

RICHIE

Don't question results.

JEAN

I'm storming out!

JEAN EXITS.

BERTIE

She is cute when she gets all worked up. Have a good date, Richie.

RICHIE

Thanks, Bertie.

BERTIE EXITS. RICHIE MOVES TOWARDS THE SINK. HE HAS TO PUSH
THE WEED WHACKER OUT OF THE WAY. HE LOOKS AT HIMSELF IN THE
MIRROR...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE E

INT. JEAN AND BERTIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (N2)

JEAN AND BERTIE LIE ASLEEP. JEAN'S ON HER SIDE, RELAXED. BERTIE'S STIFFLY POISED, WEARING A HAIR WRAP, SLEEP MASK AND MOISTURIZING GLOVES THAT SHE HOLDS ABOVE THE COVERS. **SFX:** WE HEAR A LOUD SCRATCHING NOISE OFF-SCREEN. JEAN STARTLES AWAKE.

JEAN

(NUDGES BERTIE) Honey, wake up.

BERTIE PULLS UP HER SLEEP MASK.

JEAN (CONT'D)

You hear that noise?

SFX: SCRATCH. SCRATCH. THUMP. THUMP.

BERTIE

(GARBLED) Pfwhut?

JEAN WAITS AS BERTIE CAREFULLY REMOVES EARPLUGS AND TAKES A TEETH WHITENING TRAY OUT OF HER MOUTH. **SFX:** A CACOPHONY OF SCRATCHES AND THUMPS.

BERTIE (CONT'D)

It sounds like someone's building a tree-house.

JEAN

I suppose that's one possibility.

SFX: THERE'S A CRASH, THEN FOOTSTEPS.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Eh, Richie's probably stumbling around drunk from his date.

BERTIE

(CHECKS WINDOW) His car's not there.

JEAN

(LISTENS, THEN) Break-in! Break-in!
Someone's breaking into our home!

BERTIE

Oh my God, what do we do?!

JEAN

Get the gun! Wait, we don't have one!

BERTIE PANICS. JEAN LOOKS FOR A WEAPON.

ACT TWO

SCENE F

INT. LIVING ROOM - STAIRS - MOMENTS LATER (N2)

THEY CREEP DOWN THE STAIRS IN DARKNESS. BERTIE HOLDS A BROOM, JEAN HAS AN IRON. WE HEAR SOMEONE SHUFFLING AROUND IN THE BACK ROOM. JEAN FLASHES TACTICAL HAND SIGNALS TO BERTIE, WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN. THE FOOTSTEPS GET CLOSER. JEAN LEAPS OUT, WIELDING THE IRON.

JEAN

HEY!

BERTIE SPRINGS IN FRONT OF JEAN, WAVING THE BROOM LIKE A LUNATIC AND SCREAMING AT THE TOP OF HER LUNGS.

BERTIE

GET-AWAY-FROM-HER-YOU-BASTARD-I'LL-
KILL-YOU!!!!!!

NICK

Ah! It's me! It's Nick!

THEY TURN ON THE LIGHTS. IT IS NICK.

JEAN

What the hell are you doing?

NICK

Pancake's was flipping out. I had to lure him into the closet with a trail of potato chips.

JEAN

You're cleaning that up, pal.

NICK

Thanks for appreciating my efforts.

You're focused on the right things.

SFX: PANCAKES YOWLS FROM THE CLOSET.

BERTIE

Poor little guy.

JEAN

I'm calling Richie. This is his
department. (DIALS PHONE, THEN)
Richie, where are you? The dog's going
ballistic... You what? When?... Wow,
okay, uh, congratulations.

SHE HANGS UP, SHOCKED.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Richie and Cassandra got engaged.

BERTIE

He's getting married?

JEAN

Yeah, that was quick.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE G

INT. CASSANDRA'S BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY (D3)

JEAN AND BERTIE WALK DOWN THE HALLWAY OF A GRIM APARTMENT COMPLEX. JEAN CARRIES A DUFFEL BAG. BERTIE'S UPSET.

JEAN

We're just gonna drop off the ring and then leave. It doesn't have to be a whole thing.

BERTIE

I'm trying not to be emotional. It's just all happening so fast. When is he moving out?

JEAN

He's already moved out. (RE: DUFFEL BAG) This is his stuff.

BERTIE

This is the move?

JEAN

Yeah, we're the movers.

BERTIE

Jesus, this is happening fast!

JEAN

Look, maybe it's a good thing.

BERTIE

How is your ex-husband moving out of our marital home a good thing?

JEAN

If I have to answer that out loud I
really don't know what to say.

ACT TWO

SCENE H

INT. CASSANDRA'S PLACE - MINUTES LATER (D3)
(JEAN, BERTIE, RICHIE)

THE STRANGE APARTMENT OF SOMEONE WHO LIVES HARD AND HAS UNUSUAL TASTE. RICHIE OPENS THE DOOR, WIPING HIS HANDS.

BERTIE

Congratulations! (HUGS HIM, THEN,
BREAKING DOWN) I'm gonna miss you.

RICHIE

Thanks. I'm gonna miss you, too.

JEAN

He's not going off to war, he's moving
in with a woman. We can see this
building from our porch.

BERTIE

(RECOILING FROM RICHIE) You smell
terrible.

RICHIE

Sorry, I was just feeding the eels.

JEAN

Eels?

RICHIE

Cassandra has pet eels.

JEAN

Of course she does. Well, we don't want to interrupt this fairytale for too long. (SETS BAG DOWN) Here's all of your possessions.

RICHIE

Thanks. I am gonna miss the futon. We've been through a lot together.

JEAN

You can say hi to it when you take out the trash.

RICHIE

I'm not gonna take out the trash. That's your trash now.

JEAN

Bertie and I can't carry those cans. They're like five hundred pounds.

RICHIE

It's all the chardonnay bottles.

BERTIE

We're wine lovers. It's our passion.

RICHIE

I'll write down instructions for the baby, too. Again, swaddling's your best friend.

JEAN

I'm not swaddling a dog.

BERTIE

I'll give it a shot.

JEAN

You've got nails like Wolverine.
You'll gouge his eyes out. No, Richie
takes care of Pancakes.

RICHIE

I'll take care of Pancakes when he's
here with the boys.

JEAN

The boys are coming here?!

RICHIE

On weekends or whatever. Cassandra
wants us to have a more traditional
arrangement.

JEAN AND BETTY SHARE A LOOK.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

She thinks us spending so much time
together is unhealthy.

JEAN

A woman who lives like this is in no
position to dictate what is and isn't
healthy.

BERTIE

(STEPPING IN) Okay, voice of reason,
we're taking a breath, we're calming
down, we're speaking like adults...

(MORE)

BERTIE (CONT'D)

I think what Jean is trying to say is that this is a more extreme change than we were expecting. We didn't realize we were gonna lose you.

RICHIE

Well, I'm sorry if you won't have me as a day laborer anymore --

BERTIE

Richie, it's not just that...

JEAN

No. You're a night laborer, too. That's the most important part.

RICHIE

Well, we're all gonna have to make some changes. Jean, you were right. I need my own life. I can't live my ex-wife's garage forever. The guys at work say that you got the girl and I got the motor oil. It's embarrassing. And now I have a chance to have what you have, a life with a woman I love. But Cassandra wants a different arrangement. You're going to have to live with that. Like normal people do.

JEAN

Normal people don't have more eels than teeth.

RICHIE

One tooth! It's one and she's very
self-conscious-- it doesn't matter.
Just gimme the ring.

BERTIE

I have it. (DIGS IN POCKET,
STRUGGLING) One sec, these are pants
are really tight. They're made for
fifteen year old girls. (FINALLY PULLS
IT OUT, WINDED) Yaah, there it is.
Richie, you're right. You're a grown
man, this is your decision. Here.

SHE OFFERS IT TO HIM. HE GOES TO GRAB IT. SHE TAKES IT BACK.

BERTIE (CONT'D)

But are you sure this is the person
you want to give it to?

RICHIE

Yes.

RICHIE GOES FOR THE RING. BERTIE PULLS IT BACK.

BERTIE

That doesn't sound very definitive.

RICHIE GRABS THE RING FROM HER.

RICHIE

If you'll excuse me, I'm being fitted
for my wedding leathers later and I
need to get some rest.

JEAN

Like Charles and Diana.

BERTIE

Please don't leave me alone with her.

RICHIE

Yeah, I'm really sorry about that.

Goodbye ladies. I'll see you around.

BETTY AND JEAN EXIT, DEFEATED.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE J

INT. OBERLEEN HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER (D3)
(JEAN, BERTIE, RICHIE, NICK, AUGGIE, PANCAKES)

***THIS SCENE IS STILL CHANGING BUT THE BASICS GIST IS THERE .**

BERTIE FOLDS LAUNDRY. JEAN CALLS UPSTAIRS.

JEAN

Guys, let's go. Dad's gonna be here
any minute!

BERTIE

It's weird they're not gonna be home
this weekend.

JEAN

Richie and Cassandra are taking them
to an amusement park.

BERTIE

That sounds fun.

JEAN

Super fun. They're making us look bad. We
have to do something crazy next weekend.

BERTIE

(THINKS, THEN) Let's snort Ritalin and
go skydiving.

JEAN

With the kids, BERTIE! With the kids!
We're in an arms race now and we gotta
up the ante to buy their loyalty.

BERTIE

Let's focus on the positive. We get to
be alone on our anniversary!

JEAN

That'll be fun. It just feels like
something's missing.

BERTIE

Yeah, I know. (HOPEUL) Pancakes will
be here.

JEAN

One of us will have to wipe his ass.

BERTIE

Hmm.

THE DOORBELL RINGS. BERTIE OPENS IT. RICHIE'S THERE.

RICHIE

Hey, Bertie.

JEAN

Hi, Richie. (TURNS, THEN) Why aren't
you coming inside?

RICHIE

I don't want to be rude. I don't live
here anymore.

JEAN

Oh please. What a drama queen. Fine,
stay out there.

BERTIE

Is this how it's gonna be?

NICK ENTERS FROM UPSTAIRS, HOLDING A MANGLED BASEBALL GLOVE.

NICK

He ate my baseball glove!

AUGGIE

Mom, Dad, and Bertie said it was okay.

NICK

So he can eat my things now? Where
does it end?

JEAN

We didn't tell him he could eat it. We
told him he could *chew* it.

AUGGIE

Well what do I chew on now?

JEAN TAKES OFF HER BELT AND GIVES IT TO HIM.

JEAN

Here. If you finish this go back to
your nails, we'll deal with it later.

BERTIE

No. We're dealing with it now. Richie,
come in. We're going to talk about
this as a family.

EVERYONE GROANS. THEY RELUCTANTLY TAKE A SEAT AT THE TABLE.

BERTIE (CONT'D)

Auggie, we've all just been telling
you to stop or giving you stuff to
chew on, but we haven't asked you *why*
you're doing it?

AUGGIE

I don't know why. I just do it.

JEAN

Because he's nine. And that's what
nine-year-olds do. Can we be done now?

BERTIE

(TO AUGGIE) Is there anything on your
mind? Anything you're worried about?

AUGGIE

(THINKS, THEN) Eating a pizza that has
blood as the sauce.

BERTIE

Oh. Alright, well, great news! You
don't have to worry about that.
Because it's never gonna happen.

AUGGIE

Okay, cool. Thanks!

EVERYONE SMILES AND GETS UP. PROBLEM SOLVED. THEN:

AUGGIE (CONT'D)

I also think about the world sometimes.

EVERYONE GROANS AND SITS BACK DOWN.

NICK

(SIGHS) What about it?

AUGGIE

Well, I read on Facebook that the world's on fire because everybody hates each other and there are all these huge storms and droughts and nuclear bombs and some people are rich but most people are starving and it's only a matter of time before we all kill each other or the planet does it for us.

EVERYONE IS BLOWN AWAY, NOT EXPECTING THAT.

AUGGIE (CONT'D)

Is that not true, too?

BERTIE

Well -- it's hard to -- I mean, it's not entirely *untrue*.

THEY ALL SIT WITH THAT. EVEN NICK IS RATTLED. FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE LOOKS TO HIS MOM FOR SOLACE.

NICK

But it's not *that* bad, right Mom?

JEAN STARES AT NICK, THEN AUGGIE, THEN HER FAMILY.

JEAN

Okay, look. I know it seems pretty scary out there. But as long we're together -- and we will still be together, just in a different way now -- there's nothing to be afraid of. Because we -- Bertie, your Dad, and me -- will always, ALWAYS keep you safe.

AUGGIE

Really?

JEAN

I promise. Now go get your things. Dad
and Cassandra have a really fun
weekend planned for you.

NICK AND AUGGIE EXIT UPSTAIRS, RELIEVED AND HAPPY.

RICHIE

Did you really mean all of that stuff?

JEAN

No, of course not. The world is
terrifying and society seems to be on
the brink of collapse. But the kids
don't need to know that. So we to lie
to them and take on the anxiety
ourselves. Enjoy the amusement park.

RICHIE

Actually, we're not going to the
amusement park anymore. (OFF THEIR
LOOKS) I broke up with Cassandra.

BERTIE

Already?

JEAN

It seemed like such a stable, mature
relationship. (THEN, SINCERE) I'm
sorry. What happened?

RICHIE

I told her I don't want to be with somebody who pulls me away from this family. I want to be with somebody who wants to join it.

BERTIE

How did she react?

RICHIE

She threw knives at me and urinated on the carpet. Then we had passionate goodbye sex in the alley behind our building.

BERTIE

Where did you *meet* this woman?

RICHIE

She's the guidance counselor at Nick's school. (THEN) Anyway, you still got room for me in the garage?

JEAN

(WARMLY) Yeah, I guess.

NICK AND AUGGIE ENTER DOWN THE STAIRS WITH THEIR BAGS.

NICK

I'm excited to see my new room, that I will share, not only with Auggie, but also a tank full of monstrous sea creatures.

RICHIE

About that. There's been a change of plans. Cassandra and I aren't getting married anymore. And I'm moving back in.

AUGGIE CHEERS AND HUGS HIS DAD.

NICK

You know, maybe the reason Auggie is eating leather goods isn't because of the world. It's because of the musical chairs we're playing with our parents.

JEAN

Nah. It's part of our charm.

BERTIE

This is great! We can celebrate our anniversary together!

RICHIE

Oh, right! Happy anniversary! I got you guys a gift. One you can unwrap.

RICHIE EXITS OUT THE FRONT DOOR AND RE-ENTERS WITH A GIFT.
JEAN UNWRAPS IT. IT'S THE TWELVE GAUGE SHOTGUN.

JEAN

Oh my god, Richie. I don't know what to say.

BERTIE

I can't believe this.

JEAN

BERTIE, I'll be careful with it. I'm a trained marksman--

BERTIE

No. Not that.

SHE REACHES BEHIND THE COUCH AND PULLS OUT A WRAPPED PRESENT.

BERTIE (CONT'D)

I got you the same exact thing.

NICK

Two shotguns!

JEAN

Well actually, I doubled back to
Walmart and gave them an email
address. I decided that our
anniversary was more important than my
pride. So we have three shotguns.

NICK

Wow, this is like a redneck "Gift of
the Magi."

JEAN

I have never loved two human beings
more than I love you right now.

NICK

Oh my God are you crying?

JEAN

It's just all so perfect.

NICK'S PHONE DINGS. HE LOOKS AT IT.

JEAN (CONT'D)

That'll be Walmart, Nick. You wanted
to know what it feels like to be an
adult. Welcome to the club. (TO ALL)
Now who wants to go to the amusement
park?

THEY ALL CHEER EXCITEDLY. THEN --

JEAN (CONT'D)

Great. You guys go do that. Mama's
gonna go to the gun range.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW