

# RATCHED

Written by

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*A prequel series to One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest.*

*Based on the character created by Ken Kesey*

WGA #1841381

## **TEASER**

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A stream of blood slithers along weathered hardwood floors as we hear the sound of RUNNING WATER.

STILL FOLLOWING before it puddles up against a pair of PRISTINE WHITE LOAFERS.

As we move our way up the tan stalkings, we see the trim of the neatly pressed white NURSE'S UNIFORM.

STILL RISING, we finally see the face of MILDRED RATCHED (28)-no makeup, thin lips, her face faintly scarred from bouts of acne as a child.

Flustered, she scrubs her hands that are stained in BLOOD. The water in the sink has turned completely crimson.

There's a KNOCK on the door. Mildred freezes and quickly shuts off the water. The only sound the HUFF OF HER BREATH and the THUMP of her rapid heartbeat.

Another KNOCK, KNOCK.

PEG (O.S.)

Dr. Hanover? Are you in there?

Mildred carefully moves toward the door.

She steps over what we now see is the body of a TAN MAN with his throat slit. A bloodied letter opener lies just out of reach of the lifeless hand.

As she steps over him the floorboard CREAKS. Mildred freezes.

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

Dr. Hanover? Is everything okay?

The handle JIGGLES, but it's locked. Then the sound of KEYS on the other side of the door.

Mildred leaps to it as the handle starts to turn. She clasps her hand on the knob and grips it with all her might.

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

Who's in there?! I demand you open this door at once!

Mildred's face is pressed against the grain, terrified, and unsure of what her next move is.

**END TEASER**

ACT ONE

INT. 1945 CADILLAC - DAY

MOANING.

Soft, milky white legs twisting out of a polka-dot skirt.

PANTED BREATH.

A MAN'S face buried into the BLONDE WOMAN's neck, suckling as she purses her pouty red lips.

Her fingernails dig into the sweaty, swollen muscles of the burly man.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

We now see their 1945 CADILLAC. Their hands pressed against the fogged windows.

PULL BACK to a 1940 PACKARD, sitting no more than fifty feet from the Cadillac.

INT. PACKARD - DAY

We see the back of a woman and her pristine bun. Watching.

Slowly, she runs her unpainted fingernails along her prominent bust.

Finally, we see that it's Mildred, watching the couple with both unwavering interest and disgust. Her fingers creep slowly passed her abdomen when--

KNOCK, KNOCK.

She snaps out of her gaze.

*SUPER: Northern California, 1947.*

An ATTENDANT (50's) stands outside of the passenger window. She cranks it down.

ATTENDANT

Here's that map you asked for,  
ma'am.

Mildred unfurls it as we see it's a map of *Northern California*.

She notices the Attendant gawking at the car with the young, sexual couple. There's no disgust in his eye, just interest. Mildred locks eyes with the CROSS hanging around his neck.

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

May I ask why you're headed to Yontauket? Not much more up there other than a few negro farms and a crazy house.

Mildred snaps the map closed and places it on top of a FOLDER on the passenger seat.

MILDRED

That question seems a little personal, now doesn't it?

ATTENDANT

Well I'm sorry ma'am. I wasn't intending to make you uncomfortable.

MILDRED

I didn't say I was uncomfortable. I said the question was a little personal.

ATTENDANT

I just assumed because--

MILDRED

You "assume" that since you're a man and I'm a woman that I'm weaker than you. Just like I assume that since you're a Christian, you wouldn't promote let alone lust at immoral fornication that's happening on your property.

The Attendant looks completely confused.

ATTENDANT

Immoral what?

MILDRED

Let's do us both a favor and not assume anymore.

A GUST OF WIND shoots through the car, kicking open the FOLDER as its contents swirl out the window.

The Attendant reaches down and gathers a few NEWSPAPER ARTICLES. Headlines reading:

*Drifter charged in the deaths of thirteen California Priests.*

And another reading: *Clergy Killer unfit to stand trial. Psychiatric Evaluation Looms.*

ATTENDANT  
You uh, some sort of journalist?

MILDRED  
Not exactly.

Mildred snatches back the articles.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
I'm a nurse.

And she PULLS OUT.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Mildred's Packard travels down the picturesque mountain road  
sidling the Pacific Ocean.

She speeds past a BILLBOARD perched in the distance: *A Future  
To Believe In, Re-Elect Governor James Wilburn.*

And finally a sign signaling *Yontauket City Limits.*  
*Population 985.*

EXT. DOWNTOWN YONTAUCKET - DAY

The Packard pulls down the Main Street, sparsely filled with  
general stores and antique shops.

She pulls around the corner and into the parking lot for the  
SEALIGHT INN when she SLAMS on the breaks as she nearly runs  
into TWO BOYS (12) on bicycles.

She cranks down her window.

MILDRED  
You boys should be more careful,  
riding like that on a busy road.

TEEN BOY #1  
Piss off, woman!

The Teen Boys laugh as they ride off onto the road.

INT. SEALIGHT INN, RECEPTION DESK - DAY

Mildred walks into the dusty office, no one in sight. She  
RINGS the bell for service. Waits impatiently before she  
RINGS the bell again.

Finally an old manager, LOUISE (60's)-- perpetually sarcastic  
and irritable-- shuffles out of the back office, clearly not  
thrilled with the prospect of having to work.

LOUISE  
What do I owe the pleasure?

MILDRED  
I have a reservation. Confirmation  
number Alpha, Romeo, 1-2-6-8.

LOUISE  
We don't give out confirmation  
numbers.

MILDRED  
I did it for myself. But may I  
recommend it's a system you should  
adopt. When I was over in Europe--

Louise slings open her ledger as she scans it.

LOUISE  
--What's the name on the  
reservation?

Mildred straightens up and proudly states--

MILDRED  
Ratched... Mildred Ratched.

EXT. SEALIGHT INN - DAY

The Old Manager leads Mildred past various rooms, each one  
filled with BUSTLING RESIDENTS who appear to be Reporters,  
changing out camera bulbs. Louise notices Mildred staring.

LOUISE  
Vultures, all of them. The San  
Francisco Chronicle is offering  
five thousand dollars to whoever  
gets the first shot of the Clergy  
Killer.

They stop in front of room 109.

LOUISE (CONT'D)  
You're not a vulture are you?

MILDRED  
No ma'am... I'm a nurse.

Louise studies Mildred before she unlocks the door to 109.

LOUISE  
Not much to look at but got a phone  
in the office, long distance calls  
will cost you two cents a piece.

Mildred stares at the cramped room filled with furniture that's about ten years past its prime.

MILDRED  
It's perfect.

Mildred's eyes fall upon a SMOKING GENTLEMEN in a wife beater and slacks standing outside Room 105, staring back at her.

INT. MILDRED'S ROOM - DAY

--Mildred unzips her suitcase.

--She carefully empties the contents with precision, placing her drab colored utility clothes neatly in her drawers.

--She pins newspaper articles to the wall all surrounding the Clergy Killer.

She's clearly done her research. Sections of articles are circled and highlighted like:

*"Will be evaluated at Yontauket State Mental Hospital"*

*And "Under the supervision of Dr. Richard Hanover".*

She pulls out a LOCKET, tucked inside her shirt. She opens it up. Inside, a LEAFLESS TREE.

She hears the neighboring door OPEN and presses her face against the window. It's the Smoking Gentlemen, who's now dressed in a nifty suit as he climbs into his car.

EXT. YONTAUKET STATE HOSPITAL - DAY

Mildred's Packard crawls up the hillside and toward the prominent stone facility perched on top of the cliff.

As she nears the entrance, she notices CAR after CAR parked along the side of the road, REPORTERS and PHOTOGRAPHERS camped out... Waiting.

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY PROTESTORS CHANT across the way from PRO-DEATH PENALTY PROTESTORS, mostly members of the church.

Mildred is in awe of the spectacle.

INT. YONTAUKET STATE HOSPITAL - DAY

Mildred walks into the grandiose foyer, gazing up at the cathedral ceilings.

HUCK (O.S.)  
Excuse me, ma'am.

Mildred steps aside as a good looking orderly HUCK (20's) pushes a HAITIAN WOMAN in a wheelchair as she speaks in inaudible tongues.

Huck smiles and tips his cap to her.

HUCK (CONT'D)  
Have a nice day.

Where we now see the other side of his face. Badly scarred and kept together by ill-fitting skin grafts.

INT. NURSE'S STATION, LOBBY - DAY

A voluptuous nurse, DOLLY (30's)- lips plastered in red lipstick with a revealing bust to match-- sits behind a fiberglass window.

Mildred walks up but goes unnoticed as Dolly gossips with another NURSE.

Mildred finally clears her throat, getting Dolly's attention.

DOLLY  
Can I help you?

MILDRED  
I'm here to speak with Dr. Hanover.

DOLLY  
I'm sorry, darling, he's not talking to the press.

MILDRED  
Oh I'm not press. I'm the new night shift nurse.

DOLLY  
The new what?

MILDRED  
Well, he hasn't technically hired me yet. But I'm supposed to formally interview with him at eleven.

She slides across a LETTER as Dolly reads over it.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
As this letter states.

Dolly reads over it, confused.



DOLLY

One second, please. Let me find our head nurse.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

RAPID, DISTRAUGHT ITALIAN.

We see FOUR BOARD MEMBERS, including NURSE PEG SHELTON (40's) sitting across from a weeping DARIO (30's), tears streaming down his face and FATHER MURPHY (60's).

Dario and Father Murphy are dressed in drab colored one pieces designated for patients.

FATHER MURPHY

Mr. Salvitore is urging the board to consider him for weekend furlough. His brother is gravely ill with influenza and doctors are unsure how much longer he has.

One of the board members speaks up.

BOARD MEMBER

If we are to grant, Mr. Salvitore--

But Peg chimes in first.

PEG

I'm just curious, why would his brother want to see someone who he described as...

She refers to Dario's file sitting in front of him.

PEG (CONT'D)

"A danger to not only himself but his children... a man consumed by the devil who coerces him to drink until he grows violent"...

Dario looks to Father Murphy in silence, expecting a translation.

FATHER MURPHY

As a man of God, I've spent a lot of time with Mr. Salvitore.

PEG

You were a man of God. Now, you're like everyone else, a man of sin.

FATHER MURPHY

There is no devil in him. He is consumed only with regret and hope that he can be with his family again.

PEG

I'll tell you what, if he wants the board to consider, he must attend group three times a day through the end of the week. Then, we'll make a final decision as to whether or not to grant Mr. Salvitore's request.

Father Murphy relays the message to Dario in Italian. Dario locks eyes with Peg, knowing it's his best bet in a hopeless battle. He nods.

The meeting adjourns as Dolly's voice comes over the LOUDSPEAKER.

DOLLY (O.S.)

Peg Shelton, you're needed at Nurse's Station One.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Mildred looks out a window, which gives a view of the framework of A NEW WING, looking like it was abandoned mid-project.

Just beyond the new wing, is a decrepit rectangular brick building, *M-Ward*. A PATIENT, chained at the ankles and wrists is led into the building by ARMED GUARDS.

He stares back and locks eyes with Mildred before--

PEG (O.S.)

Where did you get this?

Mildred turns around to find Peg standing behind her, holding up Mildred's letter.

MILDRED

You must be the head nurse... It was sent over to me by someone within Dr. Hanover's office.

PEG

That's where I'm confused. There is no one in his office except for Dr. Hanover and myself. And I can assure you I didn't send this. Nor is this even his signature.

She hands the letter back. Mildred takes it, dejected.

MILDRED

I've come a long way and if I could  
just speak with him.

PEG

I'm sorry, but he's currently out  
of office until later this  
afternoon. If you'd like to a leave  
a number where we can reach you...

MILDRED

If you don't mind, I'd prefer to  
wait here.

PEG

He'll be gone for some time.

MILDRED

It's no problem at all. I have  
nowhere else to be.

Peg stares at Mildred, conflicted.

PEG

Very well.

And walks back into--

INT. NURSE'S STATION #1 - DAY

Where she takes her place behind Dolly. The faux smile  
disappears from her face.

PEG

Where is Amelia? She's leading  
group in ten minutes.

DOLLY

Must still be on her break.

Both of their eyes fall back upon Mildred, who sits down in a  
chair and simply waits.

DOLLY (CONT'D)

She's strange.

PEG

Very.

EXT. CAPITAL BUILDING - DAY

The California State Capital Building.

INT. CAPITAL BUILDING - DAY

DR. RICHARD HANOVER (40's)-- good intentioned, handsome-- sits nervously, waiting outside of an office. He pulls out a PILL BOTTLE and dumps one out. He swallows it as he takes a deep, calming breath.

The door OPENS and he perks up, until he see it's just a SECRETARY.

SECRETARY

I'm sorry, Dr. Hanover. The Governor is going to have to reschedule. Maybe next month.

Disappointed, Dr. Hanover packs up his stuff. This has clearly happened before.

INT. SACRAMENTO BAR - DAY

Dr. Hanover sullenly sucks down a glass of whiskey. The BARTENDER shuffles over to him.

BARTENDER

Another?

DR. HANOVER

No, thank you. I've got a long journey back.

When we hear the VOICE of the MAITRE'D--

MAITRE D' (O.S.)

Good afternoon Governor Wilburn, I've got a booth in the back for you.

Dr. Hanover swings around in his stool as he watches GOVERNOR GEORGE WILBURN (60's)- brash, misogynist- move across the room alongside THOMAS DAVENPORT (30's).

Dr. Hanover snaps back around and tries to work up the courage to head over to him. Finally, he does.

BACK BOOTH

Governor Wilburn and Thomas have just placed their order with the WAITER and light cigarettes.

Dr. Hanover approaches the duo.

DR. HANOVER

Excuse me, Governor Wilburn? Dr. Richard Hanover. I believe we had a meeting scheduled for today...

Dr. Hanover holds out his hand to shake but Governor Wilburn ignores it.

GOVERNOR WILBURN

You're the one running that loony bin up in Yontaucket, always asking for more money.

DR. HANOVER

We prefer to call it a psychiatric rehabilitation facility.

GOVERNOR WILBURN

I'm sorry about earlier. Budget meeting ran long. Gotta get the numbers right, I'm sure you understand.

DR. HANOVER

We had a similar meeting scheduled last month... and the month before that.

GOVERNOR WILBURN

What can I say, we have to get the numbers right a lot.

Dr. Hanover laughs as Thomas studies Dr. Hanover, savoring his drags of his cigarette. Finally--

THOMAS

Maybe we should hear him out.

This surprises Governor Wilburn, but he relents.

GOVERNOR WILBURN

Tell you what, I'll give you until the moment our drinks are delivered to give me your pitch.

Dr. Hanover looks over his shoulder, spots the Bartender making their drinks. He rolls into it.

DR. HANOVER

I sincerely believe that the human mind can be cured without the use of radical procedures such as lobotomy or shock therapy.

Dr. Hanover goes to sit down.

GOVERNOR WILBURN  
I didn't invite you to sit.

Dr. Hanover bounces back up, collects himself.

DR. HANOVER  
We have one thing other facilities  
don't... a completely clean record.  
No assaults, no murders, not even a  
single suicide in our five years of  
operation.

GOVERNOR WILBURN  
Why?

DR. HANOVER  
Because we instill the practice of  
psychotherapy. Talking through our  
patients issues. And it's working.  
So much so that new patients are  
arriving everyday by the bus load  
and we need to get bigger. And we  
need funding. Our new C-wing--

The WAITER puts the drinks down onto the table.

GOVERNOR WILBURN  
--And time. Thank you Dr. Hanover.

DR. HANOVER  
But I'm nearly finished.

GOVERNOR WILBURN  
No, you're completely finished.  
Perhaps we'll see you next month.  
That is unless the numbers still  
aren't adding up.

Governor Wilburn laughs as Dr. Hanover sinks his head. Dr.  
Hanover quietly collects his things, still gaining a longing  
glance from Thomas.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Mildred stares at Dolly applying a fresh set of lipstick. A  
Male Orderly walks by, pushing a laundry cart, and WHISTLES  
at Dolly.

ORDERLY  
Looking good today.

Dolly smiles, flattered. The Male Orderly walks by Mildred. She flashes him a smile but he doesn't even respond and keeps walking.

Mildred peers down at her own prominent bust, albeit hidden. She perks up at Dolly.

MILDRED

Where can I find your restroom?

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Mildred scrubs her hands vigorously as she stares up at her reflection in the mirror.

She unbuttons her top button, revealing a bit of cleavage, just like Dolly.

She goes to shut off the water when her skin catches on a sharp piece of metal, slicing her finger. Fresh blood starts to puddle in the sink.

She slowly dabs the blood across her lips as if applying lipstick, just like Dolly.

MILDRED

(imitating)

Looking good today, Mildred.

She stares at her reflection, when all of a sudden, she hears YELPING that reverberates through the vents.

She quickly rinses her lips and her finger, and buttons back up her blouse.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

She walks out of the bathroom, hears the YELPING, only it's more PROMINENT. Then comes THUD, THUD, THUD.

She looks back toward the Nurse's station. The coast is clear. She continues down the opposite end of the hall, the THUDS growing louder.

She comes to a door, hears the YELPING. She tries the handle. Unlocked. She opens it up when she spots a HALF-NAKED BRUNETTE thrusting on top of a BURLY ORDERLY.

The THUD coming from the legs of the chair scraping along the cement floor.

Mildred stares wide eyed when the brunette woman turns around and spots her. Mildred immediately shuts the door and quickly moves back down the hall.

INT. DR. HANOVER'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Hanover walks into his eclectic, yet messy office. His desk stacked high with papers, the floor littered with books and dirty laundry. A sink in the corner of the room, almost as if this was a converted bathroom.

On his desk, a MODEL of his wing expansion. He notices a LETTER buried underneath his various files. He pulls it out and uses his LETTER OPENER to open it.

Inside PHOTOS: of MANGLED CORPSES. He immediately drops them in horror as he grasps the windowsill. As he peers out the window, he notices a MAN IN A LONG TRENCH COAT, smoking a cigarette, staring up at him.

PEG

Are you alright, sir?

Dr. Hanover turns around to find Peg in front of him. The color comes back to his face as he tucks the photos into his top drawer.

DR. HANOVER

Fine. Just tired from the drive.

PEG

Did he at least see you this time?

Dr. Hanover nods.

PEG (CONT'D)

And?

DR. HANOVER

I'm afraid he saw right through me  
as if I were a ghost.

Peg sinks her head in disappointment.

PEG

I'm sorry, sir... I don't mean to  
be a bother, but there's a woman  
here insisting she has a job  
interview with you.

DR. HANOVER

That's ridiculous. I didn't agree  
to any such thing. Get rid of her.

Dr. Hanover rubs his temples in distress.

PEG

I've tried but--



Dr. Hanover WHIPS his wing model against the wall as it BURSTS into pieces.

DR. HANOVER  
Then try harder!

Completely startling Peg.

PEG  
Yes, sir.

She turns to walk out but Dr. Hanover puts a comforting hand on her shoulder, remorseful for his outburst.

DR. HANOVER  
I'm sorry. I'll tell her myself.

He brushes past her.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Mildred sits back down in her chair when she notices another Nurse accompanying Dolly into Nurse's Station #1. It's the woman she just walked in on, a brunette named AMELIA (30) as she adjusts her uniform.

She feels Amelia's eyes settle on her before--

DR. HANOVER (O.S.)  
Miss Ratched, I presume?

MILDRED  
And you must be the famous Dr.  
Hanover. It's a pleasure to meet  
you.

She shakes his hand.

DR. HANOVER  
I'm terribly sorry, I'm not sure  
how this mix-up occurred but I  
never consented to any type of  
interview. Our budget is stretched  
thin as it is.

MILDRED  
Well sir, I've come a very long way  
and I've spent all of my money to  
get here. And the way I see it, the  
least you can do is give me five  
minutes of your time.

Dr. Hanover gives a long look to Peg, who mildly shakes her head.

DR. HANOVER  
Five minutes. But not a second  
more.

INT. DR. HANOVER'S OFFICE - DAY

Mildred enters Dr. Hanover's office as he takes his seat. He checks his watch, clearly wanting this to go as fast as possible. Mildred hands over her resume.

MILDRED  
You'll see I'm certified with  
administering anesthetics. I'm well-  
versed in all the blood  
derivatives, oxygen therapy, and of  
course recognizing, preventing, and  
treating shock, which I imagine you  
have high amounts of.

DR. HANOVER  
What makes you say that?

MILDRED  
Because shock can be brought on by  
emotional disturbance and we are in  
a mental institution.

DR. HANOVER  
We prefer to call it a Psychiatric  
Rehabilitation Facility.

Mildred studies Dr. Hanover, testing him.

MILDRED  
And you truly believe the human  
mind can be cured?

DR. HANOVER  
I believe that if the patient is  
receptive and our staff is  
adequately prepared... then yes.  
What do you believe Miss Ratched?

MILDRED  
"A wise man proportions his belief  
to the evidence."

Dr. Hanover puts down her resume as he gets frank with her.

DR. HANOVER

I appreciate your interest in working here, but all your experience is in the general hospital field. Psychiatric care is a completely different ball game.

Mildred's enthusiasm starts to deflate as she can feel what's coming next.

DR. HANOVER (CONT'D)

May I recommend this isn't a field a woman as young and lovely as yourself get involved with.

Dr. Hanover hands back her resume. Mildred grips it, disappointed.

He escorts her out. Mildred grabs her resume and heads for the door. But before she leaves--

MILDRED

I was told the same thing before I enlisted in the Nurses' Army Corps. They told me I'd see things that I couldn't unsee. That a woman my age would cost more lives, than I'd save. But let me tell you, doctor. I didn't crumble. And sure, some men died on my watch, but it was far less than the four hundred I helped survive. And I became the youngest first lieutenant they've ever had. Your recommendation, while appreciated... won't be heeded.

Mildred hands back her resume.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

In case anything opens up. For if it's one thing I've learned in my 28 years, it's that life is quite unpredictable.

Mildred walks out, leaving Dr. Hanover staring down at her resume.

INT. NURSE'S STATION #1 - DAY

Peg, Dolly and Amelia sit behind the glass when Mildred strolls up.

MILDRED

Thank you for your help. I hope we  
can work together someday real  
soon. I just know there's a lot I  
can learn from you all.

Mildred spots Amelia's ID badge on the counter. She slides  
across a copy of her resume over it.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

For your file. Have a nice day.

Mildred gives her trademark smile before she walks out.

EXT. YONTAUCKET HOSPITAL, PARKING LOT - DAY

She reaches in her pocket and pulls out... Amelia's ID badge.

**END ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

EXT. COUNTY RECORD OFFICE - DAY

Mildred walks into a bland, brick building marked *Yontaucket County Records*.

INT. COUNTY RECORD OFFICE - DAY

She ambles up to the counter where a worker with the nametag DAISY (30's)- overweight- is busy filing.

MILDRED

Hi, I'm Marsha Lansing with the Santa Rosa Herald. I'm doing a story on the psychiatric hospital and was hoping to gather some information on it.

DAISY

I'll have to have you fill out a formal request to be processed by the county clerk. You'd probably have a response in the next few weeks.

Mildred plays the role of damsel in distress well.

MILDRED

Few weeks? Shoot. It's my first story and my editor is adamant that I get it in by tomorrow.

DAISY

Well, I'm sorry that's protocol--

MILDRED

--My that is a beautiful ring you have...

DAISY

Daisy.

MILDRED

And the name to match.

Daisy seems flattered, eyeing her hideously cheap ENGAGEMENT RING draped on her finger with pride.

DAISY

My fiance just proposed three weeks ago. Picked it out himself. Can you believe it?

MILDRED

Then you're obviously marrying someone with great taste. My fiancé, God rest his soul, couldn't tell the difference between a diamond from a ruby.

Mildred fakes a few tears.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

Excuse me. I'm embarrassed when this happens.

Daisy hands her a handkerchief.

DAISY

I'm so sorry for your loss.

MILDRED

I took over his position at the paper. I just wanted to do a good job for him... Now, how do I approach this request form?

She's completely hooked Daisy. She grabs the Request Form and rips it up.

DAISY

Forget protocol. I can give you whatever you need.

INT. COUNTY RECORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Daisy plops down FILE AFTER FILE. Mildred's already combing through others.

DAISY

These here are staff rosters. I'll grab you the patient release forms.

MILDRED

You're a true blessing.

DAISY

Oh and that name you gave me, Amelia Emerson... all I found were some divorce papers that her husband filed a few years ago. But it doesn't look like he followed through with them.

Mildred looks over the divorce documents, prompting an idea.

MILDRED

Do you have a phonebook?

INT. COUNTY RECORD OFFICE - LATER

Mildred flips through the pages of a phonebook until she comes across the last name *Emerson*.

Finally, a match. AMELIA EMERSON: 976 Pine Avenue.

EXT. AMELIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Mildred's Packard pulls up to a quaint RANCH HOUSE.

She climbs out of her car. The mailbox reading 976 PINE AVE.

She notices a DOLL laying in the front yard. She picks it up. The eyes have been removed. The stuffing is falling out.

The front door swings open and a weasely man, DANIEL (30's), steps onto the porch, cradling a YOUNG CHILD in his arms.

He's dressed in a hand-me-down suit and looks a bit flustered as he drags a suitcase behind him. He's startled by Mildred.

MILDRED

I'm looking for an Amelia Emerson?

DANIEL

She's not home. And I'm about to head out on a sales call. Is there something I can help you with?

MILDRED

Oh, I'm just an old friend from high school, passing through town. If you could leave her a message--

DANIEL

--You went to Alexander Hamilton?

Mildred stops dead in her tracks. She wasn't expecting that.

MILDRED

(hesitantly)

Yup, class of '36.

DANIEL

Amelia and I were high school sweethearts. I'm trying to place you but I can't. What was your name?

MILDRED  
Arlene... Arlene Bower.

DANIEL  
Doesn't ring a bell... Say, Arlene  
I wouldn't happen to interest you  
in a new vacuum cleaner, would I?

INT. PACKARD - DAY

Mildred drives. A NEW VACUUM cleaner sits in the backseat.

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Louise sits behind the desk, listening to the RADIO as she  
combs through a magazine.

RADIO PERSONALITY (V.O.)  
The question is, is this a  
desperate attempt at avoiding the  
death penalty or is Edmund Tolleson  
really crazy?

Mildred walks up to the counter.

MILDRED  
Do you think you could do me a  
favor and if anyone calls and asks  
for Arlene Bower to let me know?

Louise looks up at her, bewildered.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
It's an inside joke between me and  
an old friend.

LOUISE  
And is Arlene Bower paying for  
another night's room or are you two  
splitting the bill?

Mildred rifles through her purse.

MILDRED  
You know sarcasm is a coping  
mechanism? Usually used  
consistently when one feels their  
life is unfulfilled.

Mildred places five dollars on the counter.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
You should think about that.



She walks out as Louise rolls her eyes and returns to her magazine.

EXT. SEALIGHT INN - DAY

Mildred walks toward her room as she stares out into the parking lot. Those same Teen Boys recklessly ride their bikes off their makeshift ramp.

MILDRED

You know you boys are gonna hurt yourselves if you keep riding like that.

TEEN BOY #1

I already told you to piss off and mind your damn business!

Mildred unlocks her door when--

SMOKING GENTLEMAN (O.S.)

Bastards.

Mildred turns to find the Smoking Gentleman sitting in his same spot, staring back at her.

MILDRED

I'm sorry?

SMOKING GENTLEMAN

I bet you they're bastards. Don't have no fathers to whip them into shape.

Mildred gets uncomfortable as the man won't relinquish his stare of her.

MILDRED

Must you sit there like that?

SMOKING GENTLEMAN

How else should I sit when staring at a beautiful woman like yourself?

Mildred doesn't know how to respond and instead opens her door and walks inside without saying a word.

INT. SHOWER - NIGHT

Mildred soaks herself underneath the shower head, for the first time we see indecision blanketing her face.

EXT. SEALIGHT INN - NIGHT

Mildred paces outside room 105, the Smoking Gentleman's room, as if debating. She holds a NOTE in her hand.

Finally, she slips it underneath his door before quickly walking back to her room.

INT. MILDRED'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mildred sits on the edge of her bed, nervously before she hears FOOTSTEPS outside of her door.

THEN, the slip of a NOTE underneath. She anxiously grabs it and unfurls it.

*INSERT: Are you married?*

His response:

*INSERT: No. Are you?*

Mildred quickly unlatches the door and opens it. The Smoking Gentlemen stands in her doorway, smiling.

MILDRED  
No... I'm not married.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Mildred stares at her reflection in the mirror as she's now in a nightgown, nervousness on her face.

She opens the bathroom door and into--

INT. MILDRED'S ROOM - NIGHT

Where the Smoking Gentleman sits on the edge of the bed, stripped down to his underwear and wife beater.

MILDRED  
I've never done this before.

The Smoking Gentleman stands up and moves closer to her. He puts his hands on her bare arms as she closes up, guarded.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
Do you think we could just sit?

SMOKING GENTLEMAN  
Whatever makes you more comfortable.

The Smoking Gentleman sits on the edge of the bed.

MILDRED

Actually, can you sit on that corner?

She points to the corner of the bed. He abides, moving over. Mildred takes her place on the opposite edge, keeping distance between them.

SMOKING GENTLEMAN

So, what do you want to do now?

MILDRED

Let's pretend we're husband and wife who've just had a fight. It was intense and passionate. And now we're both collecting our thoughts.

The Smoking Gentleman stares curiously but plays along.

SMOKING GENTLEMAN

What was the fight about?

Mildred thinks trying to come up with something. Finally, it comes to her.

MILDRED

Children. You want them but I don't. I think they're nothing more than a burden but you believe a family isn't a family without them.

The Smoking Gentleman inches closer toward Mildred, leans into her ear.

SMOKING GENTLEMAN

So, when do we make up?

MILDRED

We don't. You leave.

This throws him off.

SMOKING GENTLEMAN

Why would I leave?

MILDRED

Because you'll think you were right. And I'll think I was right. And we both realize that it's not going to work. Then we'll get divorced only to find soon after that I'm pregnant. You'll convince me to keep it and then you'll die.

(MORE)

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
I'll raise it for a few years until  
I can't do it anymore. And then,  
I'll leave her on a doorstep.

The Smoking Gentleman climbs off of the bed and slips on his pants, having had enough of her game.

SMOKING GENTLEMAN  
When you're ready you know where to  
find me.

He opens the door where Louise stands. He shuffles past her as she stares in.

LOUISE  
Arlene Bower? You have a phone  
call.

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Louise sits back behind the counter as Mildred picks up the phone, speaking quietly, trying to be discreet.

MILDRED  
This is Arlene Bower.

AMELIA (O.S.)  
I don't know anyone by that name.

Mildred peers behind her and spots Louise's eyes on her, suspicious.

MILDRED  
Amelia?... You have a lovely  
family. It'd be unfortunate for you  
to lose them, which I'm guessing  
you would in the event of a divorce  
as a result of infidelity...

There's a long pause before...

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

Mildred can feel Louise eavesdropping.

MILDRED  
Meet me at the tavern on Main  
Street in twenty minutes.

INT. DR. HANOVER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dr. Hanover sits by the fire. He pulls out his pill bottle and unscrews the cap, what we now see is *Thorazine*. He pops one in and swallows when there's a KNOCK, KNOCK.

He makes his way over to the door and opens it, surprised to see Thomas standing in his doorway.

THOMAS

Thomas Davenport... we didn't get to formally meet yesterday.

DR. HANOVER

It's a pleasure to meet you... formally.

Thomas smiles.

THOMAS

May I come in?

INT. DR. HANOVER'S HOUSE - LATER

Thomas sits on the couch as Dr. Hanover brings over a couple glasses of scotch.

THOMAS

It's a lovely house you have here. Perfect for a wife and kids.

DR. HANOVER

Unfortunately, I've never found the time.

THOMAS

Me neither. There's always been another campaign to run.

There's a momentary awkward silence.

DR. HANOVER

To what do I owe this unexpected visit?

THOMAS

After you left yesterday I took it upon myself to research you a little bit more.

Dr. Hanover tenses up as he places his drink down.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Top of your class at Harvard. Head of Psychiatry at John's Hopkins, your background is impressive.

Dr. Hanover breathes a momentary sigh of relief.

DR. HANOVER

I try not to live in the past. But in the present with an eye on the future.

THOMAS

I might have to steal that line.

Thomas puts down his glass as faces up with Dr. Hanover.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Look, Governor Wilburn's campaign is failing. We're down by ten points in counties we won by fifteen four years ago. Our platform isn't resonating with the masses anymore.

DR. HANOVER

Are you asking for my help?

THOMAS

Tomorrow the governor would like to stop by your facility and hold a press conference where he will declare a war on mental health. And with it, he is going to make your hospital the cornerstone of his campaign.

Dr. Hanover is in shock, searching for words.

DR. HANOVER

I'm just waiting for the catch.

THOMAS

The only catch is that you'll be under heavy scrutiny by the press and by our opposition... so if you have any skeletons in your closet... I need to know right now.

Dr. Hanover stares across the room at that same MAN in a trench coat, smoking a cigarette, staring at him.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

A sparsely filled tavern, populated with mostly regulars. Mildred sits, drinking a cranberry juice.

Amelia strolls into the bar, peering around, unsure of who she's looking for. That is until Mildred makes eye contact, and Amelia immediately knows this is the woman.

She sits down next to her.

MILDRED

You should remove your coat, it's warm in here.

Amelia seems overly perturbed.

AMELIA

I don't plan on staying for long.

MILDRED

Suit yourself. Do you need a drink? Walter's an excellent bartender--

AMELIA

--Whatever you're doing, stop it. You dragged me out of my house and away from my child and for what?

MILDRED

I didn't do any such thing. You could've stayed at home. But you made a decision to come here because you were scared. Fear of loss is our most primal emotion.

All of a sudden, it dawns on Amelia.

AMELIA

You're that woman who was at the hospital yesterday. Look, I don't know what you think you saw--

MILDRED

--I know what I saw. And I can be very descriptive.

Amelia fumes as Mildred sips her juice nonchalantly.

AMELIA

What is it you want?

MILDRED

Your job.

AMELIA

My job?

MILDRED

Since there aren't any positions available, I've been forced to create one myself. Luckily, you fell right into my lap. Well, technically you fell into that orderly's lap.

Amelia stings Mildred with her gaze.

AMELIA

What makes you think my husband will believe you?

MILDRED

He's already filed for divorce once with the reason being irreconcilable differences... I wonder how many "irreconcilable differences" you've had during your marriage?

Amelia is flustered as she gets nowhere in the conversation.

AMELIA

And what am I suppose to tell him?

MILDRED

That this town is poison. That you want to get as far away from it as possible.

Mildred finishes her cranberry juice. Mildred digs into her purse and pulls out a BRAND NEW DOLL. She hands it to Amelia.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

For your daughter.

Mildred walks away as Amelia clutches the doll in her hands. We now see from the corner of the room that Huck just watched this all unfold.

EXT. YONTAUCKET STATE HOSPITAL - DAY

Dr. Hanover walks into the lobby. He's immediately greeted by Peg, the smile on her face ear-to-ear.

PEG

I can't believe it, sir. Our facility...

(MORE)



PEG (CONT'D)  
I mean your facility finally the  
getting the recognition it  
deserves? This is everything we've  
wanted.

Dr. Hanover is clearly stressed out as the two keep walking.

DR. HANOVER  
Nowhere do I want anything greater  
than ten to one patient-to-staff  
ratios.

PEG  
That'll be difficult, sir.

DR. HANOVER  
Why?

PEG  
Because Amelia hasn't shown up yet.  
We've been calling her all morning.  
We even sent Lucy over to her house  
and she said there's no one there.

DR. HANOVER  
What about Jackie?

PEG  
She's on vacation in Monterey. What  
are we supposed to do?

The two approach Nurse's Station #1.

DOLLY  
Oh sir, this came for you.

Dolly hands off an extravagant FRUIT BASKET. He flips open  
the note: *Best Wishes, Mildred Ratched.*

INT. MILDRED'S ROOM - DAY

Mildred brushes her hair when there's a KNOCK on the door.  
She opens it up. Louise stands in the doorway.

LOUISE  
Phone call... from a Dr. Richard  
Hanover.

A smile breaks out across Mildred's face.

**END ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

INT. YONTAUCKET STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAY

--A stalking is run up a pair of pale legs.

--A white skirted waist dress is slipped on and carefully buttoned with those same unpainted fingernails.

--Those stalking'd feet slip into a pair of pristine white loafers.

--And finally, a white cap is placed on top of her neatly manicured bun.

We now see Mildred in full get-up, proudly staring at her reflection in the mirror. This is everything she's wanted.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Mildred eagerly walks alongside Dr. Hanover.

DR. HANOVER

I don't have to remind you that this position is limited to today. Afterwards, we will be searching for a candidate that better meets our credentials.

MILDRED

I appreciate you giving me this opportunity. I won't let you down.

INT. YONTAUCKET STATE HOSPITAL - DAY

Peg stands confidently in front of all the NURSES and ORDERLIES, including Mildred, Dolly, and Huck.

PEG

Today is a big day for us. It is imperative that we live up to the standard that has garnered our governor's attention.

Huck stares at Mildred, a few rows up.

INT. MESS HALL - DAY

An Orderly cleans up FECES that have been splayed onto the wall. He momentarily stops and pukes into his bucket.

PEG (V.O.)

Every square inch of this facility needs to be spotless.

INT. UNRULY PATIENT ROOM - DAY

An UNRULY PATIENT is forced onto his bed by TWO ORDERLIES. He's cuffed to the metal bars on his bed frame as Peg loads up a needle with MORPHINE.

PEG (V.O.)  
Unruly patients need to be tamed  
and tranquil.

The Unruly Patient SCREAMS at the top of his lungs before she injects him.

INT. NURSE'S STATION - DAY

PEG (V.O.)  
And you all must perform your  
duties in the utmost professional  
manner possible.

Dolly gets eyeballed by the same Suave Orderly who flirtatiously winks at her.

INT. YONTAUCKET STATE HOSPITAL - DAY

Peg continues to stand in front of the staff.

PEG  
Do I make myself clear?

EVERYONE  
Yes, Nurse Shelton!

PEG  
Good. Now let's get to it.

The crowd disperses as Huck finds Mildred through the crowd.

HUCK  
H-Block, right?

MILDRED  
How'd you know?

HUCK  
Tight ass always puts newbies in H-Block because nothing exciting ever happens there. Unless you consider someone pissing their pants a thrill ride... Huck Finnegan.

Huck holds out his hand. He's missing his pinky and ring finger.

MILDRED  
Mildred Ratched.

They shake hands as Huck notices the Army Nurses Corps pin on her uniform.

HUCK  
Where were you stationed?

MILDRED  
Nice and then Milan.

HUCK  
Berlin and Normandy.

MILDRED  
Is that what happened to your...?

Mildred motions to his face as Huck sinks his head.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry I shouldn't have--

HUCK  
Don't be, sorry. We all came back  
with scars of some kind. Mine  
happen to be visible.

Huck looks around until he notices they're alone.

MILDRED  
Nice meeting you.

As Mildred starts to walk away, Huck pulls her back.

HUCK  
I saw you at the tavern last night  
talking to Amelia.

Mildred's heart skips a beat, not sure how to respond.

MILDRED  
You must have me confused, I don't  
even drink.

HUCK  
I don't know what you said to her  
or what you did, but she was scum.  
This is a better place without her.

A look of relief comes over her face as Huck smiles at her.

HUCK (CONT'D)  
Welcome to Yontaucket.

EXT. ENTRANCE GATE - DAY

Car flags of the STATE OF CALIFORNIA flop in the wind as a sleek limousine flanked by POLICEMEN in the front and back pulls in through the main gate.

The Journalists and Reporters flock alongside the car, SHOUTING for Governor Wilburn.

The limo pulls up to the entrance. Suited SECURITY GUARDS climb out and open the back door. First out is Thomas, followed by Governor Wilburn.

He flashes a faux smile and waves to the crowd as he buttons his suit jacket.

INT. DR. HANOVER'S OFFICE - DAY

Peering down at Governor Wilburn is Dr. Hanover. The sweat on his hands evident, anxiousness overcoming him.

PERCY (O.S.)  
You look nervous, Richie.

Dr. Hanover turns around to find PERCY LAMILL (40's), the man in the trenchcoat that's been following him.

DR. HANOVER  
(panicked)  
How'd you get in here?

Percy walks over toward the window and spots Governor Wilburn down below. He takes a deep drag of his cigarette.

PERCY  
Not a smart move, bringing a man of that much power into the fold.

DR. HANOVER  
He can help me.

PERCY  
He's going to destroy you.

Dr. Hanover straightens up.

DR. HANOVER  
What are you doing here?

PERCY  
I wanted to make sure you got my gift.

Dr. Hanover slings open his drawer and pulls out the photos.

DR. HANOVER  
I don't need your threats.

Dr. Hanover hands them back but Percy doesn't take them.

PERCY  
These aren't threats. They're warnings. Vinnie's guys are gonna find you. And they're gonna kill you, just like they did to those people in the pictures.

Dr. Hanover opens his drawer and places the photos back in.

DR. HANOVER  
Just... please leave.

PEG (O.S.)  
I'm sorry sir.

Dr. Hanover looks up, shocked to find Peg standing before him, not Percy.

PEG (CONT'D)  
Just thought I'd let you know that the governor's here.

She walks out of the office, leaving Dr. Hanover to regain his composure.

INT. NURSE'S STATION, H-BLOCK - DAY

Mildred stands next to an older, weathered nurse, BEVERLY (40's) as they both prepare tiny cups with RED PILLS. Mildred inspects the capsules.

BEVERLY  
So what are you looking for?

MILDRED  
I beg your pardon?

BEVERLY  
I snuck a peek at your resume. You've worked at six different hospitals in the past year all along the coast. Either you're looking for something... or running from another.

MILDRED  
I just... haven't found the right home yet.

Beverly watches as Mildred puts two red capsules into the tiny cup.

BEVERLY

Hold on, that one's for Father Murphy. We need to add a fludrocortisone for his low blood pressure. I think there's a bottle of it in the back, if you don't mind.

Mildred nods and heads off.

INT. BACK ROOM - DAY

Mildred stares up at the shelf full of DRUGS. She rifles through the medications until she comes upon *fludrocortisone*.

She plucks it off the shelf when something else catches her eye. A bottle of *chlorotholidone* with the tag *Blood Pressure Reducer* on it.

She thinks before she peers back, Beverly's attention focused on her task at hand.

She unscrews the previously unbroken seal of the *chlorotholidone* and dumps out a couple of the BLUE PILLS hiding them in her breast pocket.

INT. COMMON ROOM, NURSE'S STATION - LATER

Mildred stands next to Beverly as a line of PATIENTS move like sloths for their daily medication regiment.

BEVERLY

Here you go, Leona.

Beverly hands the cup to LEONA who's once again being pushed by Huck. She dumps the pills in her mouth and opens to show she's swallowed them.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

Very good.

Huck smiles and nods at Mildred. Leona notices and spats some angry Haitian in the direction of Mildred before moving on.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

Don't mind her. She's always trying to put hexes on anyone who as much as looks at Huck. She's very protective of him.

Mildred spots Father two patients back and locks eyes with the small cup of pills destined for him.

With Bev focused on the patients, Mildred dumps out the red pills and replaces it with the two blue pills from her pocket.

Finally, it's Father Murphy's turn.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

And how are you feeling today,  
Father?

FATHER MURPHY

Blessed. Just as the Lord intended.

Bev slides across the pill cup to Father and he dumps them into his mouth without even looking. He opens, showing that he's swallowed them.

BEVERLY

Bless you, Father.

And he moves on as Mildred breathes a sigh of relief.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Governor Wilburn walks alongside Dr. Hanover, Thomas, and a few REPORTERS and PHOTOGRAPHERS alongside the frame of the half-built C-Wing.

DR. HANOVER

The new C-Wing will become the  
heartbeat of Yontaucket using all  
the latest medical advances to help  
further our understanding of the  
human mind.

A PHOTOGRAPHER snaps a picture.

DR. HANOVER (CONT'D)

Please, I do not wish to be  
photographed.

Dr. Hanover is distracted by a couple of NURSES running by.

REPORTER

What about Edmund Tolleson? What  
precautions have you taken to  
ensure your patients and staff's  
safety when he arrives?



DR. HANOVER  
He'll be kept in the M-Ward, right  
beyond the trees, with the rest of  
the criminally insane.

REPORTER  
Chained?

Dr. Hanover politely smiles.

DR. HANOVER  
While we will be keeping around the  
clock eyes on him, Mr. Tolleson  
will be just another patient, here  
for our observation and for our  
help. He may be deemed an animal to  
you all, but to me, he's still a  
human being. And he deserves to be  
treated like one.

Thomas smiles at Dr. Hanover, in awe of his compassion. Now,  
Peg rushes through the courtyard as well.

DR. HANOVER (CONT'D)  
What's the matter?

PEG  
It's Father Murphy!

INT. COMMON ROOM, H-BLOCK - DAY

Father Murphy lies on the ground, dazed and sweating as his  
skin turns a pale blue. His breaths STAGNANT.

Peg rushes into the room, followed by Dr. Hanover, Governor  
Wilburn, Thomas, and the Reporters.

Mildred is already urgently caring for him.

MILDRED  
(to Beverly)  
Get me a blanket! We need to make  
sure he stays warm.

Beverly rushes out of the room.

DR. HANOVER  
What's going on?

BEVERLY  
He collapsed.

Peg accompanies Mildred who elevates Father's legs onto a  
chair and turns his head to the side.

PEG

What are you doing with him? Don't touch him.

Peg reaches for him before--

MILDRED

Just wait for it!...

Father begins to cough up vomit as it puddles onto the floor. Mildred looks up with a slight grin, an *"I told you so"*.

Beverly returns with a blanket as Mildred wraps him up tightly.

FATHER

(faint)

Water.

BEVERLY

I'll get the water.

MILDRED

No. Nothing can be given to him by mouth.

The INFIRMARY DOCTOR AND NURSES rush into the room, a gurney by their side.

They quickly strap an oxygen mask onto his face and pump.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

Just breathe, Father. Stay with us.

INT. INFIRMARY - DAY

Father Murphy lies on a hospital bed, breathing normally, but still unconscious.

The Infirmary Doctor speaks with Dr. Hanover.

INFIRMARY DOCTOR

His blood pressure was dangerously low. If that young woman didn't do what she did, then the shock could've killed him.

DR. HANOVER

Did you say shock?

INFIRMARY DOCTOR

Yeah, cardiogenic shock to be exact. He must've not taken his medication.

The Infirmary Doctor leaves Dr. Hanover with a puzzled expression.

INT. COMMON ROOM, H-BLOCK - DAY

Mildred does rounds around the room as Patients play cards and listen to the radio. The excitement has died down. She notices Dario sitting silently in the corner of the room, staring out the window.

MILDRED

(re: Dario)

Beverly, what's wrong with that one?

BEVERLY

His brother just passed away this morning. Poor thing. Don't even bother though... he can't speak any English. Only Italian.

As she's about to make her way over to him when Dr. Hanover angrily storms through the doors.

DR. HANOVER

Miss Ratched!

GOVERNOR WILBURN (O.S.)

Splendid, splendid job!

But Governor Wilburn enters from the other side, stealing the thunder in the room.

GOVERNOR WILBURN (CONT'D)

What you just showed is the exact reason why this hospital will be my smartest investment to date. Trained nurses who--

MILDRED

--Well, I'm not technically a nurse here, sir. I'm just filling in for the day until a permanent replacement is selected.

GOVERNOR WILBURN

I believe after what we just witnessed, Dr. Hanover would be out of his mind not to put you on the payroll.

Dr. Hanover jumps in, trying to quell the situation.

DR. HANOVER  
Unfortunately sir, she's right, we  
have very strict requirements  
regarding experience that Miss  
Ratched simply doesn't have.

Governor Wilburn throws on a faux smile for the Reporters as  
he calmly pulls Dr. Hanover aside.

GOVERNOR WILBURN  
(leans in close)  
Rich, I'm going to make this very  
clear... I don't appreciate being  
contradicted. Now this hospital may  
have been built on your blood and  
your sweat, but it is my checkbook  
that's going to take it the next  
level. So when I say jump, you  
jump. When I say swim, you swim.  
And when I say hire this girl...  
well you damn better hire her. Or  
else I'll find someone else who  
will. Do I make myself clear?

Dr. Hanover sinks his head, shaken from his dressing down.

DR. HANOVER  
Peg, will you get the necessary  
paperwork started?

Peg nods, concerned.

PEG  
Yes, sir.

Governor Wilburn gives him a big pat on the back.

GOVERNOR WILBURN  
(to Photographer)  
Now, how about a photo for the  
paper?

Governor Wilburn stands next to Mildred as the Photographer  
lines up his shot.

GOVERNOR WILBURN (CONT'D)  
(under his breath)  
I'm looking forward to seeing a lot  
more of you, ma'am.

Mildred smiles ear-to-ear as Dr. Hanover stares with disdain.  
Then the camera FLASHES.

**END ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

VOICE RECORDERS are set up. Photographers change their bulbs as Governor Wilburn's press conference is nearly ready to begin.

INT. COMMON ROOM, H-BLOCK - DAY

Dario sits with tear stained cheeks as Mildred sidles up next to him.

MILDRED  
Saluto, Mr. Salvitore.

He glimpses at her but turns his head back, continuing to sulk. Mildred invites herself to sit down.

**NOTE: Everything in italics will be spoken in Italian.**

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
*I'm sorry about your brother.*

Dario perks up at hearing his native language.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
*I'm sure there's a part of you that feels guilty... because you were stuck in here... away from him.*

She has Dario's attention now.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
*I know how that feels. I had a brother that I cared for before I left him before the war. He thought I was abandoning him, like his parents did, and like my mother did to me. Guilt is the heaviest of burdens.*

Finally, Dario speaks-

DARIO  
How is my friend, Father Murphy?

Mildred's surprised to hear him speak English.

MILDRED  
He'll be okay.

DARIO  
Thanks to you.

Mildred removes eye contact, knowing the truth of the statement.

DARIO (CONT'D)  
Why do you come here?

MILDRED  
Because I wanna help. And this place just seems different than all the others.

Dario smirks a yellow, toothy grin.

DARIO  
This place is full of lies. Whatever you think you know... you don't. When you walk through those doors, you'll never walk out the same.

MILDRED  
Are you warning me?

DARIO  
You're already here, which means you've decided your fate.

Mildred's not sure how to respond to Dario's words.

DARIO (CONT'D)  
You really want to help?

Mildred nods.

DARIO (CONT'D)  
They won't let us use the phones. I need to speak with my mother. Even though I'm stuck here, it is important I be there for my family.

Mildred peers around the room before--

MILDRED  
Give me your arm.

He hesitantly holds it out before she breaks off a sharp splinter of wood from the table and slices his skin. He grimaces in pain.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
Now stand up.

Dario stands as Mildred wraps his bloodied arm with a towel.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
Beverly? Mr. Salvitore cut his arm.  
I'm going to escort him over to the  
infirmary.

Beverly nods, not really paying attention as Dario and  
Mildred share a wry smile.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Governor Wilburn pulls out his checkbook and begins to  
scribble into it. He rips off a check and hands it to Dr.  
Hanover. His eyes light up.

DR. HANOVER  
This is \$75,000 dollars.

GOVERNOR WILBURN  
And there'll be more where that  
came from just as long as we  
understand each other.

DR. HANOVER  
Understand what?

Governor Wilburn reaches into his pocket and pulls out some  
papers. He hands them to Dr. Hanover as he unfurls them.

DR. HANOVER (CONT'D)  
Contracts?

GOVERNOR WILBURN  
With three of the top four  
pharmaceutical corporations in the  
United States, all ready to make  
Yontaucket their hub of research  
and development. I've even gotten  
commitments from top doctors all  
across the country wanting to take  
a crack at that Clergy Killer for a  
hefty price.

DR. HANOVER  
This is my facility. Mr. Tolleson  
will be my *patient*. None of this  
was part of the deal.

GOVERNOR WILBURN  
Mental illness is an epidemic, you  
said it yourself. And with every  
epidemic, people fall into two  
categories.

(MORE)

GOVERNOR WILBURN (CONT'D)

There's the weak who don't see it coming before it's too late and there's the strong who get ahead of it and thrive... I don't have to tell you which one I am. And don't make me wonder which one you are.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, Governor George Wilburn.

Governor Wilburn walks to the podium as he throws on his faux smile. Dr. Hanover clutches the contracts in his hand.

Dr. Hanover peers up and notices Percy standing in the crowd, staring at him. He quickly reaches into his pocket and pulls out his *Thorazine*... only it's EMPTY.

GOVERNOR WILBURN

Good afternoon, my fellow Californians.

Thomas watches from a distance as Dr. Hanover anxiously hurries back into the building.

INT. BACK ROOM - DAY

Panicked, Dr. Hanover rummages through the shelves of PILL BOTTLES, recklessly knocking them to the floor in search of his *Thorazine*.

Finally, he finds a bottle and pops one in, savoring it as it slides down his throat. A look of relief on his face.

He notices the mess he made and begins to pick up the stray bottles when he notices something. The *chlorothoridone*. And the seal is broken.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mildred escorts Dario as they approach Dr. Hanover's office door. It's ajar. She opens it up and notices the phone.

MILDRED

No more than five minutes.

Dario nods as Mildred quickly closes the door. Dr. Hanover spots her from the end of the hall.

DR. HANOVER

Miss Ratched!

She thinks quick, turns away from him. Rips a button off of her uniform and drops it to the ground.



DR. HANOVER (CONT'D)  
What are you doing away from your  
station and outside my office?

Mildred squats down and picks up her button.

MILDRED  
Thought I'd lost a button earlier.  
Sure enough, here it was.

DR. HANOVER  
Do you take me for an idiot?

MILDRED  
Of course not.

DR. HANOVER  
Dr. Bannon informed me that Father  
Murphy suffered cardiogenic shock.  
Quite the coincidence considering  
that's one of your special skills.  
And the timing... well it couldn't  
have been better for you.

MILDRED  
Some people amass lifetime fortunes  
on coincidences.

Dr. Hanover pulls out the bottle of *chlorothoridone*.

DR. HANOVER  
Strange that the seal is freshly  
broken, considering none of our  
patients are on this medication. Of  
course, it would be dangerous for  
somebody with Father Murphy's  
condition to take these, wouldn't  
you say?

All of a sudden, a LOUD THUD comes from Dr. Hanover's office.

DR. HANOVER (CONT'D)  
What was that?... Is there somebody  
in my office?

Dr. Hanover tries the handle. LOCKED. He BANGS on the door.

DR. HANOVER (CONT'D)  
Who's in there?

MILDRED  
Mr. Salvitore deserves to at least  
speak with his family.

Dr. Hanover POUNDS on the door relentlessly.

DR. HANOVER  
Open this door right away!

He pulls out his keys and unlocks the door. As it swings open, they see it. Dario's body lying lifeless on the ground, blood snaking along the floor. A LETTER OPENER lies next to his sliced throat.

MILDRED  
Oh my God! I swear I thought he was  
just going to use the phone.

Mildred stares in horror, completely frozen. Dr. Hanover kneels down beside the body and puts his fingers to Dario's neck.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
Is he...?

Dr. Hanover nods.

MILDRED (CONT'D)  
Let me alert the infirmary.

DR. HANOVER  
No!... Just... let me think for a  
second.

Dr. Hanover paces the room. He peers out the window, notices Governor Wilburn still speaking to the press.

THOMAS (O.S.)  
Richard?

Dr. Hanover peers down the hall, Thomas nears.

DR. HANOVER  
Shit!

Finally, he makes a decision.

DR. HANOVER (CONT'D)  
Listen to me, no one is to know  
about this. You clean this mess up  
and take the body down to the  
incinerator.

He hands her his set of KEYS.

DR. HANOVER (CONT'D)  
Are we clear?...

Mildred continues to stare into his eyes.

MILDRED  
I can't. I was just trying to--

DR. HANOVER  
I said, are we clear?!

Mildred forces a nod before Dr. Hanover leaves his office and quickly closes his door, leaving Mildred in with the body.

EXT. HALLWAY - DAY

Dr. Hanover locks the door as Thomas approaches him. He greets Thomas as if nothing was wrong.

DR. HANOVER  
Yes, Thomas?

THOMAS  
Do you think we can speak somewhere  
more private? Your office perhaps?

Thomas reaches for the handle.

DR. HANOVER  
No!... It's a mess in there. Follow  
me.

And he leads him away.

INT. DR. HANOVER'S OFFICE - DAY

Mildred drags Dario's body with all her might, able to move him only a few inches, looking completely overwhelmed in the process.

INT. NURSE'S STATION - DAY

Dolly sits behind the glass as Peg walks up.

PEG  
Have you seen Dr. Hanover?

DOLLY  
Last I saw he was headed up to his  
office.

INT. STAIRWELL - DAY

Dr. Hanover and Thomas settle in the stairwell.

THOMAS

I just wanted to apologize for Governor Wilburn. Just like your first thought as a psychiatrist is "how do you help the patient?", his first thought is "how do I make a profit?" I just don't want you to think that's the only reason I proposed our alliance.

Thomas puts a hand on his shoulder, making Dr. Hanover slightly uncomfortable.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I think you're a brilliant man. And we can both benefit from spending time together.

He slides his hand down Dr. Hanover's arm before Dr. Hanover shudders it away.

DR. HANOVER

I look forward to it.

Thomas is a little disappointed that Dr. Hanover's not more receptive. But he accepts it and nods.

THOMAS

I should get back down there.

Thomas continues down the steps as the sweat glistens off Dr. Hanover's face.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Governor Wilburn speaks emphatically to the crowd.

GOVERNOR WILBURN

We are facing an epidemic that our country is choosing to ignore. But no longer will we simply discard the mentally ill like we've done in the past.

INT. DR. HANOVER'S OFFICE - DAY

A stream of blood slithers along weathered hardwood floors as we hear the sound of RUNNING WATER.

STILL FOLLOWING before it puddles up against a pair of PRISTINE WHITE LOAFERS.

As we move our way up the stalkings, we see the trim of the neatly pressed white NURSE'S UNIFORM.

GOVERNOR WILBURN (V.O.)  
No longer will we give up on them  
without a fight. They're not  
disgraces. They're human beings.

STILL RISING, we finally we see Mildred's face.

She looks nervous and anxious as she vigorously scrubs her  
hands that are drenched in BLOOD. The water in the sink has  
turned completely crimson.

GOVERNOR WILBURN (V.O.)  
And it's time we treat them as  
such.

There's a KNOCK on the door. Mildred freezes and quickly  
shuts off the water. The only sound the HUFF OF HER BREATH.

Another KNOCK.

PEG (O.S.)  
Dr. Hanover? Are you in there?

Mildred carefully moves toward the door as she steps over  
Dario's body. The floorboard CREAKS. Mildred freezes.

PEG (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Dr. Hanover? Is everything okay?

She tries the handle, locked, thankfully. But then we hear  
the jingle of KEYS and the insertion of one into the lock.

Mildred leaps to the door as the handle starts to turn.  
Mildred clasps her hand on the knob and grips it with all her  
might as the woman POUNDS ON THE DOOR.

PEG (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Dr. Hanover?! Dr. Hanover?!

Mildred's face is pressed against the grain, terrified,  
unsure of what her next move is.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Peg ferociously tries to open the door when Dr. Hanover  
emerges from the stairwell.

DR. HANOVER  
Nurse Shelton, what are you doing?!

Peg momentarily stops.

PEG

I was looking for you and... I think there's somebody in your office.

DR. HANOVER

There is no one. My door has been jammed for the past hour. I left not a few moments ago to alert maintenance. Now, if you'd please...

PEG

But I swear there's--

DR. HANOVER

I won't repeat myself.

His tone strikes a chord in Peg. She's rattled before she obeys him like a dog and follows.

INT. DR. HANOVER'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Mildred's heartbeat RELAXES as she slides down the door and sits on the floor, thinking about her next move.

WHEN she spots a couple of dirty towels, bundled up in the corner of the room. She has an idea.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Governor Wilburn wraps up his speech.

GOVERNOR WILBURN (V.O.)

Our boys have returned from the war different men. They risked their lives to protect us... and now's the time we protect them, by offering one thing... hope.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mildred pushes a LAUNDRY CART full of towels but looking closely we can see the imprint of Dario's curled up body pushing through the fabric.

Various Patients and Staff toss in towels and other articles of clothing, including Huck who stares curiously at Mildred.

GOVERNOR WILBURN (V.O.)

Hope that we will not just reduce incidents of mental illness in this state and in this country...

She approaches Dr. Hanover and Peg who converse quietly in the hall.

Dr. Hanover nervously watches her approach as she pushes the cart between the two. Peg carefully studies her as Mildred politely smiles.

GOVERNOR WILBURN (V.O.)  
But that we'll eradicate it.

Mildred's made it through WHEN--

PEG  
Wait!

Mildred freezes as does Dr. Hanover. Peg walks over and tosses in a couple more towels.

PEG (CONT'D)  
As you were, Nurse Ratched.

And with that, Mildred's on her way again, much to the relief of Dr. Hanover.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

The service elevator comes to a halt as Mildred empties out of it, and pushes the laundry cart to a thick, metal door. She pulls out Dr. Hanover's keys and unlocks it.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Governor Wilburn wraps up his speech, speaking with more and more vigor.

GOVERNOR WILBURN  
It's time we stop living in the  
past, but in the present with an  
eye on the future. The war overseas  
may be over... but the war at home  
is just beginning. And if re-  
elected, I guarantee you... we will  
WIN!

APPLAUSE and FLASHES of camera bulbs as Governor Wilburn smiles and soaks in his admiration.

INT. INCINERATOR - LATER

Dario's body lies amongst the RAGING FIRE. The skin on his face starts to melt when Mildred shuts the iron door.

Before she leaves, she notices something else. She kneels down to the ground and scoops some of the debris into her hand. Upon inspection, it appears as if it's fragments of human bone. Has this happened before?

INT. DR. HANOVER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dr. Hanover lethargically strolls through the door. He puts on a RECORD as he makes his way over to the liquor cabinet. He pulls out a bottle of scotch.

He pours himself a glass before collapsing on the couch. He takes a much needed sip, savoring the taste.

INT. SEALIGHT INN - NIGHT

The Smoking Gentleman burns a cigarette between his fingers as he looks over A FILE.

He flips the page. It's a MUGSHOT of Percy. He flips the page. It's Percy's DEAD CORPSE, complete with a gunshot wound to the head.

He takes a deep drag as he turns the page once more and there's Dr. Hanover's MUGSHOT... only the name isn't Richard Hanover... it's Josiah Pinkerton.

There's a KNOCK on the door. He slips the file into his desk drawer before he makes his way to the door. He opens it. And there's Mildred, standing before him. He smiles.

INT. DR. HANOVER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dr. Hanover is joined on the couch by Percy. Dr. Hanover offers him a sip of his drink. Percy takes a sip as Dr. Hanover pulls out the bottle of *Thorazine*.

DR. HANOVER  
Goodnight, Percy.

PERCY  
Goodnight, Richard.

He pops one of the pills in his mouth and chases it with a swig of scotch.

INT. SEALIGHT INN - NIGHT

The Smoking Gentleman lays asleep. But Mildred is awake, playing with the locket around her neck when she hears the sound of a THUNDEROUS ENGINE outside.



Curious, she walks over to the window and peers out. A TRUCK marked *Pelican Bay State Prison* passes by, complete with a police escort.

EXT. YONTAUCKET STATE HOSPITAL - NIGHT

POLICE OFFICERS stand outside of their vehicles as TWO PRISON GUARDS climb out of the truck.

The Two Prison Guards sling open the back.

Two large boots THUMP onto the ground with the rusting chain of ankle cuffs JINGLING.

Then we see the hands. Just as big. Skin extremely chapped. Nails bitten almost to a nub. The wrists also cuffed and chained.

Then we hear the HEAVY BREATHS coming from inside an executioner's mask, face completely concealed other than a small slit for breathing.

The Security Guards escort the behemoth EDMUND TOLLESON (late 20's) up the steps, with each Officer having their rifle trained on him.

A PRISON REPRESENTATIVE steps forward.

PRISON REPRESENTATIVE  
Edmund Tolleson. Welcome to  
Yontauket State Mental Hospital  
where you are to be held for a  
period of 120 days or until Dr.  
Richard Hanover can make the  
accurate recommendation of sane or  
insane. During this time, you are  
still a prisoner of the State of  
California and thus you will  
continue to be treated as such. Do  
you understand?

He nods as the Prison Guards escort him into the facility.

EXT. YONTAUCKET STATE HOSPITAL - DAY

A bright sun shines. Birds CHIRP. The facility looks especially green and picturesque on the bluff.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Dr. Hanover walks through the courtyard as he watches CONSTRUCTION WORKERS once again working on the new wing.

INT. NURSE'S STATION - DAY

Peg reads over the morning paper and flips the page. It's the photo of Governor Wilburn and Mildred. She stares with distaste.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Dr. Hanover gets to his office door and goes to pull out his keys. But they're not in his pocket. He pats himself down, unsure of what he did with them.

INT. M-WARD - DAY

The lock turns on the steel door. It SWINGS open as Mildred descends down the steps, faint light flickering. Dr. Hanover's keys in her hand.

As she gets to the bottom landing, she stares at the cold, damp brick infrastructure. This looks nothing like the rest of the pristine facility.

She walks down the hall, the stench overwhelming. PRISONERS line the walls, some completely naked. Some are chained together. One is even covered in his own feces.

Finally, she spots those same nubbed fingernails gripping the rusty prison bars. Mildred kneels down, concerned.

MILDRED

Edmund Tolleson?

She shines a light, which illuminates his worn, bruised and battered face. He takes in Mildred as his eyes widen.

EDMUND

Is that you?

MILDRED

It's me, my sweet brother.

She removes her locket and opens it up, showing him the leafless tree.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

You see?

He reaches out his forearm where there's a tattoo of a LEAF.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

After all these years, I've finally found you... and now it's time I make things right.

EDMUND  
I don't wanna die.

MILDRED  
You won't die, brother. I won't let  
them do that to you... I'm going to  
get you out of here.

Mildred wraps her hand around his through the bars.

INT. DR. HANOVER'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Hanover inspects his floors. You'd never know a man bled  
out on them a day ago. Relieved, he sits in his chair. He  
opens the top drawer, Percy's photos GONE. There's a KNOCK.

Peg urgently shuffles inside.

PEG  
I'm sorry to bother you, but it  
seems Dario's missing.

DR. HANOVER  
Didn't I tell you? I furloughed him  
for the weekend. A man deserves to  
be at his brother's funeral, no  
matter his condition.

PEG  
And you trust him to come back?

Dr. Hanover locks eyes with the letter opener on his desk.

EXT. MILDRED'S CAR - DAY

Mildred's Packard flies down the street.

INT. MILDRED'S PACKARD - DAY

She continues to drive when she notices the same Teen Boy she  
almost hit, waving his arms erratically on the side of the  
road.

Slowly, her car comes to a stop. She climbs out as the Teen  
Boy frantically gets her attention.

TEEN BOY #1  
You have to help! We didn't see the  
car coming. And then after they hit  
him, they just fled.

He leads her into a ditch where the Teen Boy's mangled bike  
rests. Next to it, the other Teen Boy who cursed her out  
MOANS in pain, the bone jettisoning out from his shin.

MILDRED

I told you boys you would hurt yourselves.

TEEN BOY #1

Please, just help him!

Mildred studies the wound.

MILDRED

If I help, then what happens next?

TEEN BOY #2

What?

MILDRED

Sure I can set that bone and comfort you until an ambulance arrives... but then what? You'll leg will heal in six months, you'll be back to doing what you've been doing and slowly you'll forget about this day. But each extra minute of immense pain and of feeling helpless... will bury itself into your memory, so much so that eventually you'll get to a point where it'll be impossible to forget this moment. And it'll change you.

Mildred straightens up and walks back toward her car.

TEEN BOY #1

Where are you going?! We need your help!

MILDRED

The only way I can really help, is by letting you learn from your mistake... And that leg, will always be a reminder... that you should've listened to me.

She climbs back into her car as their SCREAMS for help continue. She starts to drive... slowly a small smirk breaks out across her face.

**END PILOT**