

PALM ROYALE

PILOT: MAXINE GOES TO PALM BEACH

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Based on the novel: MR. & MRS. AMERICAN PIE by Juliet McDaniel

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A1 OMITTED

A1

1 EXT. BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN - NIGHT (FF N1/N19)

1

We drift down into the murky deep to find a woman in her 40's.

She is adrift at the bottom of the ocean looking up at the surface, where a party rocks on a yacht above.

A SOUTHERN WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

It's all a blur. A hazy, crazy
blur.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Try, Maxine.

We fully reveal the owner of that voice: MAXINE SIMMONS.

Mascara smeared, intricate hairdo slowly freeing its strands into the gentle lapping water until Maxine becomes something of a medusa.

In SLOW MOTION she tries to reach the surface but she's encumbered by the wet weight of her chiffon gown.

MAXINE (V.O.)

All I do is try. All I ever wanted
was to belong. To be a somebody in
this world. But, there's a catch
when a woman wants to be a
somebody. And that catch
is...everyone else.

SMASH TO BLACK.

PRE-LAP MARK MURPHY'S *WHY DON'T YOU DO RIGHT?*

TITLE: PALM BEACH, 1969

A2 EXT. PALM ROYALE BATH AND RACQUET - DAY (D1) A2

ANGLE ON a high heel as it steps out of the car.

Drift up to find a FABULOUS WOMAN with Fabulous hair as she tosses her keys to a VALET and drifts inside magically in time with the music.

MAXINE (V.O.)

It was the beginning of the season.
Those heady months, when the
wealthiest descend on Palm Beach to
mix and mingle like crabs in a
barrel.

The Palm Royale Bath & Racquet Club is the most exclusive, old money, private club in Palm Beach, Florida.

It's 1969. The world might be changing for the better everywhere. Not here.

The VALET WIPES US to Another employee pulling in on a Palm Royale golf cart. He passes another employee, polishing the fender of another luxury vehicle near the staff entrance, where a WAITER STEPS out and tosses the garbage.

B2 INT. PALM ROYALE - CORRIDOR - SAME (D1) B2

The FABULOUS WOMAN moves in time through the lobby.

MAXINE (V.O.)

Question is, which crab bit me?

QUICK CUTS.

We ogle the FABULOUS WOMAN'S lips.

Her high-heeled feet.

Her hairdo.

Her style.

We also ogle the Mediterranean revival architecture. Iron chandeliers. Gurgling fountains. Soaring gothic arches. Handsome bartenders in impeccable white shirts.

C2 INT. PALM ROYALE BATH AND RACQUET - DAY (D1) C2

DRIFT UP to find EVELYN ROLLINS, current reigning Grand Dame of Palm Beach -- she too seems to be moving in time to the music as she heads inside.

MAXINE (V.O.)

Was it... Evelyn Rollins? The self-appointed Queen Bee, and stalwart adversary in the fight against pediatric cancer? Her advocacy made her a superstar.

We hold on her fabulous face and SMASH CUT TO:

D2 INT. PALM ROYALE BATH & RACQUET - BALLROOM (FB D10) D2

Evelyn ONSTAGE accepting a platter for her volunteerism.

EVELYN ROLLINS

Volunteer of the year nine years in a row. I am one humbled volunteer.

E2 OMITTED E2

H2 EXT. DINAH'S BILLIONAIRE'S ROW HOUSE - DAY (FB D11) H2

Dinah, in morning robe and nightgown, kisses her Ambassador husband, PERRY, goodbye as he pulls away in his car. She throws him a wave.

MAXINE (V.O.)

Or was it Dinah Donahue? The ambassador's wife.

DINAH DONAHUE

Have a good day. See you at the club!

MAXINE (V.O.)

She was poised to dethrone Ms. Evelyn, if her libido didn't get the better of her.

As he pulls out, we see her lover, EDDIE, pull in; Dinah shoots him a wink and heads inside dropping her robe.

J2 INT. PALM ROYALE - CORRIDOR - SAME (D1) J2

The FABULOUS WOMAN walks toward us with TWO FABULOUS FRIENDS and WIPES us to reveal EVELYN, DINAH, MARY and RAQUEL moving through the lobby.

MAXINE (V.O.)

It could've been any one of the ladies in the Shiny Sheet. The widow who was as fizzy and dizzy as a glass of champagne.

(MORE)

MAXINE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Or the sugar heiress with thirty million to spare. And a mobster husband.

SMASH CUT TO:

4 A BOUGAINVILLEA-COVERED BACK WALL - DROPPING INTO FRAME FROM ABOVE: A HANDBAG, A PAIR OF ESPADRILLES AND, FINALLY, MAXINE HERSELF, BREATHLESS FROM SCALING THE WALL IN HER LILLY PULITZER.

MAXINE (V.O.)

There is an old saw here that goes: When you first come to Palm Beach, you think you're the oldest and the richest. And then you realize you're the youngest, and the poorest.

2 INT./ EXT. PALM ROYALE BATH & RACQUET CLUB - POOLSIDE - DAY (D1)

MAXINE (V.O.)

I had only been in Palm Beach two weeks, but I already knew the Palm Royale, the most exclusive club in the world, was where I belonged. Crabs be damned.

A BARTENDER (this is ROBERT, fit fit fit, square-jawed) carries a mint green cocktail on a tray outside, where a group of SOCIETY LADIES, straight out of a Slim Aarons photo, lunch poolside...

DINAH DONAHUE (40, a Barbara Parkins type), RAQUEL KIMBERLY-MARCO (50's, ex-pat aristocrat), MARY JONES DAVIDSOUL (60, petite, with touch of airhead) and the HBIC, EVELYN ROLLINS (will look 60 over her dead body) pretend to eat their salads and discuss "current events."

All speak with tight, transatlantic accents... a sharp contrast to Maxine's Tennessee twang.

There's one empty chair at the table.

Robert passes them and sets the green drink on the next table -- where we find Maxine. Alone.

Looking her absolute best in Lilly Pulitzer floral, pretending not to eavesdrop, she eyes that empty chair.

ROBERT
(re: cocktail)
Your grasshopper.

MAXINE
Oh, you found the creme de cacao
after all.

ROBERT
We sent someone out for it.

MAXINE
Well that is what I call 'going
above and beyond.'

He turns to go.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
Oh wait, don't you need me to sign
for it?

Robert, turns, stares at her. Maxine said the wrong thing.

ROBERT
Excuse me?

Maxine can sense that something is off.

MAXINE
Did I spill?

ROBERT
In a manner.

He goes. Maxine slurps her drink; resumes her eavesdropping.

DINAH DONAHUE
You're not going to believe this.
Perry says the women stormed into
the Oak Room, demanded a table.
Said it was their right.

MARY JONES DAVIDSOUL
It's a men's only lunch.

EVELYN ROLLINS
I'm all for segregation of the
sexes. Private spaces for our
private faces I say.

Maxine leans in for a better listen.

DINAH DONAHUE

If this is the state of the
feminine world in 1969 can you
imagine what 1970 will bring?

RAQUEL MARCO

Communists. Ladies, a country can
fall, no thing of beauty is safe.

MAXINE

(to herself, a mantra)
No thing of beauty is safe...

As you might've guessed, these are the most 'unwoke' women
you'll ever encounter. These women were Karen before Karen...
when Karens knew how to hide it better.

EVELYN ROLLINS

Palm Beach is the last American
sanctuary ladies. It goes to hell,
I'm fleeing to Capri and this
country can lose my number.

RAQUEL MARCO

Here, here.

EVELYN ROLLINS

I long for a kinder, gentler time.
When a woman's capacity to humiliate
herself wasn't so bottomless.

MAXINE

(to herself)
So true.

EVELYN ROLLINS

Mrs. Nixon weighed in. Said women already have equal rights, they simply need to choose to exercise them.

MAXINE

(loud enough to be heard)
Exactly. Did you know she was a teacher?

Now all of the society women turn their eyes to Maxine, the interloper at the other table.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Yeah Pat Nixon. Before becoming first lady. A *teacher*.

EVELYN ROLLINS

(flat)
Fascinating.

MAXINE

She lifted herself up from that lowly station all the way to the White House. I marvel, Mrs. Rollins.

EVELYN ROLLINS

You know my name.

MAXINE

Course I do. You're in the Shiny Sheet --

She pulls the Palm Beach society pages (known as The Shiny Sheet) from her bag, holds it to her heart.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

All you all are. Read about you every day. You're family to me.
(acknowledging others)
(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Mrs. Davidsoul, Mrs. Donahue, Mrs.
Kimberly-Marco --

EVELYN ROLLINS

We don't know you.

MAXINE

I'm Maxine Simmons. Charmed. I'm
not interrupting, am I?

EVELYN ROLLINS

Actually...

MAXINE

I loved what you said about
the death of gentility. I
mourn. I mean, I *mourn*.

EVELYN ROLLINS

We certainly live in opportunistic
times.

MAXINE

Here here.

She and the others turn back to each other. Maxine has been
dismissed. Maxine keeps watching them and that empty seat.
None of the women offer it to her.

EVELYN ROLLINS

Now where were we? Ladies, let's
raise a glass to the feting of our
dear Dinah.

The ladies raise their glasses to Dinah. Evelyn eyes Maxine.

MAXINE

Pleasure.

Maxine moves away, back to her table.

EVELYN ROLLINS

To the volunteer of the year. Our
very best friend and pediatric
cancer's worst enemy.

DINAH DONAHUE

Don't make me blush, Evelyn.

MARY JONES DAVIDSOUL

Who's doing your gown for the ball?

DINAH DONAHUE

Grayman for Ceil Chapman, as one
does. But it isn't about the gown.
Or the party. It's not my night,
it's cancer's night.

MARY JONES DAVIDSOUL

(solemn)

Yes.

DINAH DONAHUE

(gently rubbing it in)

And to be honest, I really thought
it was going to be Evelyn's year.
Again.

MARY JONES DAVIDSOUL

We all did.

A SILENT CHILL. Clearly, *all* the women were thinking it.

EVELYN ROLLINS

I may not be volunteer of the year -
- but that only opens up my
calendar to rise to a higher
station.

What's she mean by that, the other women's faces seem to ask.

Maxine eyes the women in slow motion.

Just then, the CLUB AMBASSADOR, JULES (indescribably taut and groomed; tinge of rehearsed butch), approaches Maxine, Robert by his side. He discretely hands her a card.

MAXINE

Oh. Why. Thank you.

She opens the envelope, inside is a card that reads: **"Come with me. Now."**

Maxine looks up at him, her eyes filled with a plea for pity.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Do you mind if I just finish my drink?

(re: Robert)

This kind sir went through quite an ordeal commandeering the Creme De Cacao --

CLUB AMBASSADOR

(leans in, steady)

I will allow you your dignity another 4 seconds. Or *that* kind sir will drag you out by your toenails. He's a veteran of Korea... he can do things.

MAXINE

(to Robert)

Thank you for your service, soldier.

Robert smiles. Maxine gulps.

3

INT. PALM ROYALE - AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE - DAY (D1)

3

Maxine sits across from the Ambassador, in his elegant office, being interrogated, Robert behind her.

CLUB AMBASSADOR

How did you get past security?

Maxine takes a deep steadying breath... and tells the truth.

MAXINE

I came in the back.

CLUB AMBASSADOR

There are no doors in the back of
The Palm Royale.

4 MOVED ABOVE SCENE 2

4

5 MAXINE AND THE CLUB AMBASSADOR IN HIS OFFICE.

5

MAXINE

I never said I used the door. I
used the wall.

CLUB AMBASSADOR

Most athletic.

Maxine goes into full pageant-speak mode.

MAXINE

My athleticism is just one of my
many positive attributes that would
make me a wonderful addition to the
roster of members here at The Palm
Royale.

CLUB AMBASSADOR

You will never be a member of the
Palm Royale.

MAXINE

It's a high bar, I know -- but one
I could surely reach just given the
chance. As you know, to even start
the membership process I need
another member to nominate me and
how can I get that if I can't get
to know anybody?

(an appeal for
understanding)

I'm just a really nice person, new
to Palm Beach, looking to make a
friend or two.

(back to pageant)

The Palm Royale represents safety
in a rapidly changing world.

(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Embodying that which is sacred:
refined companionship, sanctity,
and a heart-deep conviction that
beauty is not dead.

Is the Ambassador moved? Maybe. He nods to Robert.

ROBERT

Okay. Stand up.

Maxine does as she's told.

CLUB AMBASSADOR

Robert will take your picture.

Maxine smiles. She's in!

MAXINE

You will not regret this. Promise.
Oh thank you, thank you. Here? OK.
Oh my gosh. This is so exciting.

Robert focuses a polaroid camera on Maxine. She smiles a
thousand-watt smile.

Off the FLASH of the camera we CUT TO:

ANGLE ON: The polaroid itself, thumbtacked to a cork board.

We WIDEN TO REVEAL more polaroid "mugshots" of other club
crashers -- all women, all society wannabes.

Above the board a sign reads: **"Do Not Let In."**

6 INT. / EXT. PALM ROYALE BATH & RACQUET - BALLROOM / BACK OF
HOUSE - DAY (D1)

Robert leads Maxine through the club ballroom.

MAXINE

Oh. It's the grand ballroom. So
much bigger than it is in
pictures... Why on this very dance
floor Marjorie Merriweather Post
refused the advances of one Joseph
Kennedy -- father to the deceased
president.

ROBERT

Wow. Incredible. Hey hey. This way
please.

He pushes Maxine through a swinging door to the KITCHEN. We go from the world of the haves to the have nots through one swing of a door.

MAXINE

Smells good... someone making a
graham cracker crust?

ROBERT

Sourdough.

She calls out to the beleaguered kitchen staff as she passes.

MAXINE

Top of the morning, pals.

Robert pushes Maxine out the back door and onto the street.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

(kind)

Oh, alright. Well okay. Until next
time.

ROBERT

Hope not.

MAXINE

Well Robert, I hardly knew ye.

The door slams shut behind her.

Maxine swallows the hit, steadies her resolve.

MAXINE (V.O.)

Ever since my pageant days I've
maintained a posture of relentless
positivity --

She straightens her back, plasters on a smile and carries on.

CUT TO:

7 OMITTED 7

8 EXT. VARIOUS MANSIONS OF PALM BEACH - DAY (D1) 8

Maxine drives her vintage Belvedere down South Ocean Drive
AKA Billionaire's Row. The mansions reek of old money.

MAXINE (V.O.)

... When I was doing pageants, the
other contestants would always
underestimate me... The same seemed
true for the entire isle of Palm
Beach. The ladies who ruled it all
vying for a shot at being one
thing: Queen of the season. But
soon they'd love me -- soon these
old money mavens would see my value
and affirm what I've always known:
That I belong.

9 OMITTED 9

10 EXT. DESTINY VISTAS - MAXINE'S CAR - DAY (D1) 10

Maxine is parked, slipping out of her Lilly Pulitzer dress.
She stashes it in a hangup bag along with a few other lovely
fancy-labeled dresses.

MAXINE (V.O.)

One simply must trust that the path
to personal glory will reveal
itself if one remains resolutely
sunny.

She wiggles into a pair of jeans and tube top. Grabs the
hangup bag and gets out of the car.

All OMITTED

All

11 INT. DESTINY VISTAS ASSISTED LIVING - NORMA'S ROOM - CLOSET -
DAY (D1)

A sprawling closet filled with a wardrobe that Anna Wintour
would love to get her hands on for the Met archive.

Maxine removes the Lilly Pulitzer and other items from the bag
and hangs them up. She runs her hands along the other dresses.

MAXINE

I'm so glad we're the same size,
Norma. This one was a real hit.

She fixates on a bright floral maxi dress.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Hydrangea print maxi, dare I?
(a smile)
Dare I do. Ooh. These are some
impressive baubles, Norma. Purses.

She sees a clutch she likes.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Ooh. Gucci croc clutch, should I?
Yes I should.

She swipes it.

OFF SCREEN we HEAR the front door open.

Maxine stays perfectly still as a NURSE passes in the
background. Tends to a patient unseen.

Maxine is holding her breath, lest she get caught. The Nurse
Leaves. Maxine exhales. Then exits the closet.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

(exiting the closet)
You are too good to me, Norma. I'll
have these back by tomorrow. It's a
scorcher out there.

(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

The weather lady said you could
take an egg and actually fry it on
the asphalt. I might just try it.
I'm gonna make you so proud. You
get some rest. Okay.

As Maxine enters, we REVEAL NORMA (think Sunny von Bülow in REVERSAL OF FORTUNE).

A12

OMITTED

A12

11

INT. DESTINY VISTAS ASSISTED LIVING - NORMA'S ROOM - CLOSET -
DAY (D1)

A slash of noir lighting across her eyes, Norma's hooked to
multiple tubes that make a steady hissing sound.

Norma just lays there, oblivious to Maxine's very presence.

RICHARD NIXON (PRE-LAP)

My fellow Americans...

12 EXT. WEST PALM BEACH MOTEL - DAY (D2) 12

A rather crappy Florida Project-esque motel. Through one of its windows we see Maxine jogging in place on a small trampoline -- as if being spied upon.

MAXINE (V.O.)

True, at the present moment I found myself in less than stellar accommodations. But this was merely a temporary base of operations until I stepped into my destiny.

RICHARD NIXON

I have asked for this television time to report to you on our most difficult and urgent problem: the war in Vietnam.

13 INT. WEST PALM BEACH MOTEL - MAXINE'S ROOM - DAY (D2) 13

A MONTAGE of Maxine's rather lonely morning ritual, scored by President Nixon's speech on the TV.

RICHARD NIXON (ON TV)

I know that some believe I should've ended the war immediately after the inauguration. By simply ordering our forces home from Vietnam.

A. MAXINE KEEPS JOGGING ON THAT MINI TRAMPOLINE, WORKING UP A SWEAT.

RICHARD NIXON (CONT'D)

Let us not confuse flexibility with weakness, being reasonable with lack of resolution.

B. MAXINE GARGLES WITH BAKING SODA AND HYDROGEN PEROXIDE.

C. MAXINE PRESSES HER FACE INTO A BOWL OF ICE.

D. MAXINE STYLES HER HAIR INTO A CHIC BUMP-IT.

E. MAXINE PUTS ON FALSE EYELASHES.

RICHARD NIXON (CONT'D)

But let me make one thing clear -- if the endless suffering continues, this will affect other decisions. Nobody has anything to gain by delay.

F. MAXINE SLIPS INTO THE 'BORROWED' HYDRANGEA MAXI.

14

EXT. WEST PALM BEACH STRIP MALL - DAY (D2)

14

Maxine gets out of her Belvedere, Palm Beach chic in her borrowed dress, and heads for the nail salon. A tidy woman, carrying a stack of fliers, approaches. This is LINDA, she's earnest and kind.

LINDA

Hiya. Have a moment for your sex?

MAXINE

Pardon and excuse me?

LINDA

Maybe you've heard monumental
change is in the air. And you're a
part of it.

(extending hand)

I'm Linda Shaw.

Maxine takes it.

MAXINE

Maxine.

LINDA

Maxine. Yeah you are. I'm part of a
group of women dedicated to raising
the collective consciousness of the
global sisterhood.

MAXINE

I love that. Listen Linda, I do
have a nail appointment.

LINDA

I would love a couple of minutes of
your time to ask you about yourself.

Maxine's narcissism is easily triggered. A certain pageant
glint in her eye as she says...

MAXINE

About me? Oh. Well. Fire away.

LINDA

Do you work, Maxine?

MAXINE

(pleasant)

God, no.

LINDA

You wanna work?

MAXINE

(more pleasant)

God, no.

LINDA

Studies have shown that women who stay at home display feelings of agitation and sadness -- hiding their anxiety and their despair behind a smile, when, frankly, they're dying inside.

MAXINE

(positively effervescent)
I'm not dying inside.

LINDA

You've heard of "The Problem That Has No Name?"

MAXINE

Since it has no name, no.

LINDA

Betty Friedan coined it. Unhappy women have been immersing themselves with the idea that they're not supposed to have any ambition outside their own home.

Linda offers Maxine a flier.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Here. It's an invitation to our Thursday circle. You should come.

Maxine takes the flier.

MAXINE

(reads)
"Our Bodies, Our Shelves..."

LINDA

It's a bookstore. A safe space dedicated to lifting the underserved. The woman, the woman of color, the Native Woman, and all types of sexualities.

Maxine sticks the flier in her bag.

MAXINE

I do appreciate your spiel. It's just -- we're heading into charity season and my time is simply not my own.

LINDA

Maxine! Are you not aware that all women are fighting for their very right to exist?

MAXINE

Honestly, I think you're being a little dramatic, and kinda presumptuous. You look well-fed, and I mean that in a nice way. You're clearly educated, plus you're an American. Do you wanna know what I see when I look at you, Linda? I see a vibrant woman whose only limitation is a lack of imagination for herself.

(then)

But I sure hope you have a fabulous party. Truly.

She goes, leaving Linda mysteriously intrigued.

A15

OMITTED

A15

15

INT. WEST PALM BEACH NAIL SALON - DAY (D2)

15

Maxine chooses nail polish with a MANICURIST (This is MITZI. 20. Mitzi is not bright).

MAXINE

What color does one wear when being feted for volunteerism? When the entire town is raising its glass to you...

MITZI

What color's the dress?

MAXINE

Oh no dress. Yet. Just musing aloud, Mitzi.

MITZI

Lots of ladies are digging Zimbalist pink. For a pink, it's really a neutral.

MAXINE

I love that, let's try it.

Mitzi gets to work.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Did you see the Shiny Sheet this morning? It said, *Evelyn Rollins poised to rule the town, despite setback.*

MITZI

I'm not a reader.

MAXINE

Mitzi. I'm disappointed. Don't you wanna grow up someday and not work?

MITZI

I'm gonna model. Been studying on my free Saturdays at The Barbizon.

MAXINE

Well, just don't take on too much debt with your education.

Then something catches Maxine's eye -- across the street, at a half-empty Cuban eatery, Dinah Donahue, in a heated conversation with a very sexy, tall Cuban man: EDDIE.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Why it's the feted volunteer. At a Cuban restaurant. What in the H is Dinah Donahue doing in *West Palm Beach*?

MITZI

What do you think they're talking about?

16

EXT. CUBAN EATERY - SAME MOMENT (D2)

16

Dinah argues with Eddie.

EDDIE

Tell me you don't love me.

DINAH DONAHUE

You talk like you're in a romance novel. We have to be practical.

EDDIE

You can be free, Dinah.

DINAH DONAHUE

I can't just give up the life.

EDDIE

Yes you can -- my family left a fortune behind to come to this country. Money means nothing if you don't have your freedom.

DINAH DONAHUE

I run away with you, it doesn't just affect you and me -- there's my husband for one, the ladies for another, and, my God, the cancer babies... think of them.

17 INT. WEST PALM BEACH NAIL SALON - SAME (D2) 17

Back with Maxine and Mitzi, watching, but not hearing.

MAXINE

That has all the markings of a lovers' quarrel.

MITZI

How do you know?

MAXINE

Don't you see the way he knocked over that chair? That is passion for you if I've ever seen it.

18 EXT. CUBAN EATERY - SAME MOMENT (D2) 18

Dinah continues to argue with Eddie.

EDDIE

You're choosing your stupid charities, your short husband's money over love.

DINAH DONAHUE

That's not fair. He's not just short, he's an Ambassador. This is my year!!! *DO* you understand? It *means* something to be honored. Everyone thought it was going to be Evelyn, but it's me. For fucking once.

EDDIE

It was always you. To me. It was always you. But the one you slum it with doesn't matter, does he?

He goes. Across the street from the nail salon... Maxine and Mitzi observe.

19

INT. WEST PALM BEACH NAIL SALON - SAME MOMENT (D2)

19

With Maxine and Mitzi as before.

MAXINE

There he goes stormin' off. Oh this isn't good. Oh look at her she's crushed. Now she's slumpin' over her car. Mitzi...it's an opening in a path to personal glory.

Maxine observes Dinah's stillness -- who after a few moments of SILENCE, begins to sob.

MAXINE (V.O.)

Poor Dinah was distraught. I couldn't very well just sidle on up on her like a perfect stranger.

She watches as Dinah heads to her powder blue Rolls-Royce to avoid public embarrassment.

20 OMITTED 20

21 EXT. STRIP MALL PARKING LOT - DAY (D2) 21

Maxine, her eyes on Dinah pulling AWAY in her Rolls, jumps into her Belvedere and gets a move on.

Dinah, still weeping, pulls her Rolls-Royce out of the Cuban eatery parking lot and into TRAFFIC.

MAXINE (V.O.)

Sure she was in pain, but if I confronted her vulnerability publicly, she'd never let me into her confidence.

Maxine floors it, overtakes Dinah, pulls in front of her, watches Dinah carefully through her rearview mirror.

Maxine sees Dinah look down to grab a tissue.

MAXINE (V.O.)

It had to be done very carefully.
The introduction, discrete.

She hits the brake. Unwitting Dinah never saw it coming.

CRASH.

Maxine's head hits the steering wheel.

22

EXT. STRIP MALL PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS (D2)

22

Both women get out of their cars, neither seems hurt. At first.

DINAH DONAHUE

Oh God. Oh my God. Oh my Lord. Are
you alright? This is all my fault.

MAXINE

No, I'm fine. It's just a scratch.

The ladies stare at the considerable damage to Maxine's car.

DINAH DONAHUE

A scratch? I convexed your bumper.
You must allow me to pay for the
damage.

MAXINE

Oh no please, I couldn't accept
that.

A beat.

DINAH DONAHUE

We've met before, yes?

It seems Dinah recognizes Maxine. Maxine wasn't expecting that.

DINAH DONAHUE (CONT'D)

Mrs. Simmons, was it?

MAXINE

It was... *is*... Well, yes.

She digs into her purse, holds out some cash.

DINAH DONAHUE

Please. I'd feel much better if
you'd take some money.

Just then, unbeknownst to Maxine, a trickle of blood begins
to drip down her forehead.

MAXINE

How about just buy me lunch
instead?

DINAH DONAHUE

Your forehead. It's hemorrhaging.

MAXINE

What?

Maxine touches her forehead. Confirms it's true. Oh my.

DINAH DONAHUE

We must hail an ambulance.

MAXINE

Oh no please. I don't want to cause
any attention. Maybe you could just
drive me to the emergency room?

DINAH DONAHUE

I will do you one better, and I
will take you to my personal
physician.

MAXINE

If you insist.

24

INT. DOCTOR PRESCOTT'S WAITING ROOM - DAY (D2)

24

The waiting area is a Knoll furniture spectacular. Maxine and Dinah, two strangers who will rapidly grow closer, make more small talk. Maxine holds a silk scarf to her wound.

MAXINE

It is amazing that you could get me in here so fast. I really appreciate it.

DINAH DONAHUE

It is the least, honestly. Doctor Prescott is on the pediatric cancer board with me. Our families have known each other going back some 75 years. My grandmother is his mother's second cousin removed.

MAXINE

That is quite a connection.

DINAH DONAHUE

Do you have family, Maxine?

MAXINE

Yes. My husband. He's a pilot, a well decorated air man, very well known in... pilot circles.

Is she making this up as she goes along? Is she just nervous?

MAXINE (CONT'D)

(to impress)

And he's the only scion of a plastics and mouthwash fortune...

DINAH DONAHUE

Plastics and mouthwash?

MAXINE

Mhm.

DINAH DONAHUE

Ah. Well there's only one family in both plastics and mouthwash. Is he a Dellacorte?

MAXINE

Yes. Yes he is.

DINAH DONAHUE
You should have led with that.

MAXINE
I'm new to Palm Beach.

DINAH DONAHUE
Gathered.

MAXINE
I didn't wanna come off tacky.

DINAH DONAHUE
Well I've only been here myself
going on three seasons.

MAXINE
And look how far you've come. Feted
in year three.

DINAH DONAHUE
(feigned modesty)
It's been a hasty rise.

MAXINE
What do you say after this you and
I go grab a couple of Cobb salads --
I would love to bend your ear about
potentially joining the club.

DINAH DONAHUE
Maxine, may I be honest? I feel
terrible for the position I've put
you in, but I fear a friendship
between us simply won't be in the
cards.

MAXINE
Why not?

DINAH DONAHUE
It wouldn't be the thing. That's
all.

MAXINE
It's lonely being the new girl,
Dinah. You should know that.

DINAH DONAHUE
If I were to sponsor you -- the
initiation fee is thirty thousand
dollars, with another five hundred
in monthlies. Be honest, do you
have that kind of money, Maxine?

Maxine gulps, but covers.

MAXINE

Gee, I'm a wee insulted.

DINAH DONAHUE

Maxine, your clutch is from Gucci's 1960 collection - it's lovely, certainly quality, but... I'm sad to say it gives you away.

Maxine feels exposed in a way we haven't seen her up to this point. She has to recalculate. Just then, DOCTOR PRESCOTT (late 60's) pops his head in from his examination room.

DOCTOR PRESCOTT

Dinah -- to what do I owe the pleasure, kiddo?

DINAH DONAHUE

Hello Percy! Oh -- Maxine here is feeling off after a minor traffic thumping --

DOCTOR PRESCOTT

Let's take a look.

Maxine starts to follow him into his office.

DOCTOR PRESCOTT (CONT'D)

(as they go)

What happened, sweetie?

MAXINE

Dinah plowed into my Belvedere.

The doctor stops, turns to Dinah.

DOCTOR PRESCOTT

Dinah, you were involved in this accident?

MAXINE

She was.

DINAH DONAHUE

I'm absolutely fine.

DOCTOR PRESCOTT

After I'm done with Maxine, I'm giving you a full once-over.

DINAH DONAHUE

That won't be necessary.

DOCTOR PRESCOTT

I insist.

MAXINE

You should listen to him, Dinah. He's right. What if there are extenuating circumstances on your internal organs?

DINAH DONAHUE

I said no.

DOCTOR PRESCOTT

I agree with Maxine, Dinah. You're here, let's be on the safe side.

DINAH DONAHUE

I don't want to be examined.

DOCTOR PRESCOTT

I'll give you a sedative.

DINAH DONAHUE

I don't want a sedative! I would like to leave, please. Maxine would you hurry the fuck up?! Please!

DOCTOR PRESCOTT

Dinah, you're hysterical. Now I insist you take a sedative.

Dinah rushes to the LADIES ROOM.

MAXINE

I'll take care of this. It's nothing a little girl talk can't fix.

A25 OMITTED

A25

25 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LADIES ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (D2)

25

Dinah weeps in a stall. Maxine enters, talks through the stall door.

MAXINE

You okay in there? Dinah honey, he's your doctor. You said he's family. Why won't you let him take a look at you?

Dinah bites her fist.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I have a feeling this outburst
doesn't have anything to do with
the accident. Does it?

DINAH DONAHUE

No.

MAXINE

I'm an amazing listener.

DINAH DONAHUE

That's very kind, but...

MAXINE

Dinah, I don't know any of the
people that you know. So if you
have something to get off your
chest. Well, I'm your gal.

(SILENCE)

Let me in.

Slowly, Dinah opens the door to the stall. She takes a deep
breath, and hugs Maxine...

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Baby girl. It's okay. You just tell
me everything. Don't leave anything
out.

26

OMITTED

26

27

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LADIES ROOM - AS BEFORE (D2)

27

Dinah and Maxine refresh heir lipstick.

DINAH DONAHUE

I can't have it, of course --

MAXINE

Well just pass it off as your
husband's. That's what my friend
Krissy back in Atlanta did.

DINAH DONAHUE

It might come out the wrong color
for that particular ruse.

MAXINE

Oh.

Their conversation continues uninterrupted as the two ladies connect over the course of the day.

28 EXT. TENNIS PRACTICE WALL - DAY (D2)

28

Now we are at a private, tennis court where Dinah (decked in chic tennis attire) smashes balls into the practice wall, practicing her serve, as Maxine collects the balls and throws them in a push basket.

DINAH DONAHUE

... There's a doctor in San Juan who takes care of these things -- my friend, Heather Quincy Moneypenny, has availed herself of him multiple times. But both his discretion and forceps are questionable.

She whacks a ball, Maxine flinches.

MAXINE

Well still. There's your answer.

DINAH DONAHUE

I can't just disappear.
(whack)
Perry arrives for the season on Friday, the ball is Saturday and then there'll be no getting away.

Whack. Whack. Whack.

29 INT. BAR - LATER (D2)

29

Post-tennis, the ladies continue their conversation, Dinah sips a martini, Maxine, another grasshopper.

A few empties convey they've been here awhile.

MAXINE

Look. I don't mean to push, but there's another option. Have it. Go with your Cuban -- you love him...

DINAH DONAHUE

He's the Tennis Pro at the Club,
Maxine.

MAXINE

...it's romantic.

Dinah ponders this for a second... then...

DINAH DONAHUE

Romance. Here is what I've known of
romance. My first husband was a
real rake - his hefty trust fund
fanned the flames of his
incurability. And when I
committed the unforgivable sin of
turning thirty, he found another
and I ended up with a Park Ave
floor-through and a hefty
settlement. And now, here I am with
Perry and six months north of
forty. And one of these years,
soon, I predict, he will move on...
I will be traded in for some gamine
widow who's lost her husband in
a...

(air quotes)

"Tragic sailing accident." And when
that happens -- the Palm Beach
estate and my jewelry collection
will keep me company until some old
codger in oil decides that he's
lonely and that I won't embarrass
him at parties... I am at peace
with the knowledge that my marriage
will fail, but I could never
initiate its demise. I would lose
everything if I did. So you see,
only the poor can afford to know
romance.

MAXINE

Well that's certainly true for me.

(then)

I mean I don't mean to suggest that
I'm poor. I'm rich in love. I
believe in love above all else.

DINAH DONAHUE

Love is a lie.

Conviction of denial fills Maxine.

MAXINE
No. It isn't.

DINAH DONAHUE
It is.

MAXINE
It isn't.

DINAH DONAHUE
It is.

MAXINE
It isn't.

Dinah suppresses her discomfort. A patron enters, cutting a slash of sunlight across the ladies, revealing they've been day drinking.

DINAH DONAHUE
I should get you home.

MAXINE
No. No. You've done too much
already. Please.

DINAH DONAHUE
There's no need to be proud with
me, Maxine. I do hope we're past
that.

30

EXT. WEST PALM BEACH MOTEL - DAY (D2)

30

Dinah drops Maxine off. Her Rolls sticks out like a sore thumb against the Motel.

DINAH DONAHUE
You live here.

MAXINE
(another lie?)
Oh only until the house is ready.

DINAH DONAHUE
Ah. Well. Thank you, Maxine. For
everything today.

MAXINE
Maybe we can do it again tomorrow?

DINAH DONAHUE
Get into a car accident? Tell a
perfect stranger all my secrets?
Break a man's heart? I can't say I
want to do any of it again.

MAXINE
I guess I meant the friendship
part.

Dinah hesitates. It hadn't occurred to her that there was a very real connection between them.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
I'm new in town. And I am so so
lonely.

DINAH DONAHUE

You're very good at making things
awkward. You must work on that.

MAXINE

I didn't mean to say anything to
make you uncomfortable.

DINAH DONAHUE

And yet here we are.

MAXINE

(resigned)

Yes.

She gets out, digs in her purse for her motel key and sees
Linda's flier in her bag... an idea! There may be hope yet
for this friendship to continue, after all.

Before Dinah can pull away, Maxine blurts:

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I can find you something closer
that works with your deadline.

DINAH DONAHUE

You would do that for me?

MAXINE

Dinah, I'm very resourceful. And oh
so discrete.

31

INT. OUR BODIES OUR SHELVES BOOKSTORE - NIGHT (N2)

31

ANGLE ON: a gorgeous tablescape. Perfect finger sandwiches,
charcuterie to die for, an array of fresh tropical fruits.

Off this we discover Linda giving a lecture to a circle of
women in folding chairs.

The complete opposite of the homogeny of the women at the
club. Here we have a variety of ethnicities, sexual
identities, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

LINDA

Simone de Beauvoir wrote in *The
Second Sex, One is not born, but
rather becomes woman.*

Her partner in the Bookstore, VIRGINIA (40's, African-
American) picks up her cue.

VIRGINIA

Linda and I have discovered three
cultural notions of femininity...

Virginia holds up an iconic photo of GIRLS FROM THE TRIANGLE
SHIRTWAIST FACTORY.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Woman as inferior.
She is not worthy of equal pay
because she's lesser than. Burned
alive.

Linda holds up a picture of a lounging MARIE ANTOINETTE.

LINDA

Woman as passive. She leaves the
politics to her husband. And can't
be bothered getting off the couch.
Beheaded.

Virginia displays a photo of Billie Holiday.

VIRGINIA

Woman as a beautiful object. She is
the locus of desire, a body to be
plundered. She self-destructs.

LINDA

Let's take a moment. Stay in this
with open-eyed silence. Look at a
partner. Don't be afraid to cry.
Give in.

Then, the unmistakable clip-clop of espadrilles bound down
the stairs. Maxine. She carries the flier Linda gave her
earlier. Linda's face fills with complicated surprise.

MAXINE

Linda.

The women turn to look at Maxine.

Virginia throws Maxine side-eye. Linda shifts uncomfortably.

LINDA

Oh. Maxine. Hi. I'm glad you came.

MAXINE

Listen. We have a sister in need.

She notes the tablescape.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

What a beautiful tablescape.

VIRGINIA

That's our Linda.

LINDA

We're in the middle of a ritual and
we're communicating through the
eyes, so--

They "communicate" through their eyes.

MAXINE

My friend needs an abortion.

VIRGINIA

Help us Lord.

32 INT. DESTINY VISTAS ASSISTED LIVING - NORMA'S ROOM - CLOSET - NIGHT (N2)

Maxine returns the Maxi dress to its rightful place.

MAXINE
(calling off)
I made a friend, Norma. An honest
to goodness friend.

She steps into Norma's room, takes the vegetable, with her ever-present noir slash of light across her eyes, into her confidence.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
She's a member of the social set.
An honoree, at that. Can you
believe it?

She sits, takes Norma's hand.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
I know it sounds so crass when I
say it out loud. But I know that
you know I have a vast amount of
love in my life. A vast amount.
Just hanging on gets harder as the
years pass -- I'm trying to do it
with a smile, Norma, I really am.
I'm just tired.

She slaps herself across the face.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
Stop it, Maxine! Pity is for the
pitiful!

She gets up and rifles through Norma's dresser drawers.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
Norma. Why don't you have anything
from *this* decade?

She settles on some pantsuits and mini dresses in bright solids.

She stares at the ancient vegetable of a human.

Her gaze moves from the intubation tubes to a box on the nightstand. Maxine moves to it, opens it. Inside... very fine pieces of jewelry. Maxine holds up a gorgeous RUBY NECKLACE.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
(calling out)
I wish we were the same shoe size.

She returns to Norma's bedside.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
You really are hangin' in there,
aren't you Norma? Honestly, you are
an inspiration.

Maxine holds up the necklace.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
(a rationalization)
I am the only one that ever visits
you, you know. (beat) See you
tomorrow.

A moment of hesitation, then... Maxine dumps the jewels into her purse. Looking a little guilty, Maxine exits into...

33 INT. DESTINY VISTAS - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS (N2) 33

Maxine hastily makes her exit, passing rooms, sounds of breathing assistance emanates from each.

Then, at the other end of the hall... exiting one of the rooms in a pair of large Jackie O sunglasses: a wan Evelyn Rollins. A grand entrance for a grande dame.

EVELYN ROLLINS
Make sure it's taken care of. I'll
be back tomorrow.

Maxine observes Evelyn sweep past, not giving her the time of day.

MAXINE (V.O.)
She had no idea anyone had eyes on
her -- she looked so... I don't
know... human.

34 OMITTED 34

35 INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY (D3) 35

Maxine hocks Norma's jewels. A JEWELER examines the goods.

JEWELER

Stolen?

MAXINE

They won't be missed.

JEWELER

Are? They? Stolen?

MAXINE

The family is really struggling right now so, I think they'll part with them for the right price.

JEWELER

I'll give you twenty for the lot.

MAXINE

Twenty dollars?

JEWELER

Twenty thousand.

Maxine tries not to be impressed by the sum...

The Jeweler opens the safe below the counter and retrieves the 20k in stacks.

JEWELER (CONT'D)

Are there more where these came from?

He hands the stacks to Maxine.

MAXINE

There is A LOT of struggling in the family at this moment.

Off Maxine's victory --

A36 OMITTED

A36

36 INT. CEIL CHAPMAN STUDIO - DRESSING ROOM - DAY (D3)

36

A luxe private dressing room the size of a small apartment.

Every wall a gilded mirror.

Maxine waits on a slipper chair, a fey couturier, GRAYMAN (50's), nearby. Grayman's been in the sun too long... his skin the texture of a Louis Vuitton handbag.

From behind a gilded mirror appears Dinah in a gorgeous couture gown. Maxine gasps. Then applauds.

MAXINE

Heaven must be missing an angel!
Dinah!

Grayman moves in to make adjustments.

DINAH DONAHUE
Grayman. Have any of the other
ladies been in?

GRAYMAN

They have. But you are the honoree,
I wouldn't let you recede.

DINAH DONAHUE

What is Evelyn wearing?

GRAYMAN

Sleeves.

Dinah laughs, then thinks better of it.

DINAH DONAHUE

You're terrible, Grayman. Evelyn is
doing her best to keep up.

GRAYMAN

She's slipping.

DINAH DONAHUE

Her husband has had her on a real
roller coaster -- in and out of
hospice all these years.

GRAYMAN

Oh yes. He's simply on his last
leg. Opportunities for ascension
left and right.

DINAH DONAHUE

Grayman, she said she had her
sights set on something higher. The
only thing higher than pediatric
cancer is The Beach Ball. And we
all know *that's* not happening this
year.

GRAYMAN

(a sigh)
The end of an era.

MAXINE

It's just so sad, isn't it?

(coded, to Dinah)

I hate to be the one to rush this
along, but we have to go meet a
friend for... tea.

DINAH DONAHUE

Yes. Grayman, I'll send someone for
it on Thursday.

GRAYMAN

It will be ready.

MAXINE

Bye Grayman.

He goes.

DINAH DONAHUE

I appreciate you not saying
anything in front of Grayman --
he's a gossip of the worst sort.
But, my word, can he drape.

MAXINE

We all have our place.

Dinah admires her reflection. Then says to Maxine in the most
vulnerable of ways...

DINAH DONAHUE

Maxine. I do love Eddie,
understand. I can't have his child.

MAXINE

Of course you can't.

DINAH DONAHUE

And he can never know about this.
It would kill him.

MAXINE

He won't. Don't worry.

37 INT. FORT LAUDERDALE DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT
(N3)

Virginia and Maxine sit, keeping vigil for Dinah. Maxine makes small talk.

MAXINE

Do you read The Shiny Sheet?

VIRGINIA

No.

MAXINE

You should.

VIRGINIA

Well the women in those pages have no identity. No worth. No impact.

MAXINE

Those women are credit to their sex. They're raisin' great money for good causes and look good while doing it.

VIRGINIA

Forgive my language, but I don't concern myself with the shenanigans of vapid poons.

SILENCE.

MAXINE

Linda didn't want to come?

VIRGINIA

(choosing her words
carefully)

Linda... finds women like your friend very triggering.

MAXINE

Dinah, she'll be okay, won't she?

VIRGINIA

She'll be fine.

MAXINE

Who are these women, anyway? I didn't even bother to ask.

VIRGINIA

They're all nurses, an underground collective. The doctor let's them use this place after hours.

MAXINE

Ah.

VIRGINIA

It's honestly the best you can do in Florida. As clean and safe as money can currently buy.

MAXINE

She's a new friend. I just want to make sure she's okay.

Virginia absorbs Maxine's genuine sentiment, then says, kindly:

VIRGINIA

Maxine. You're a feminist.

SILENCE. THEN...

Maxine starts laughing. Hard.

MAXINE

Me?!

A NO NONSENSE NURSE, BARBARA, enters from the examination room. The procedure complete.

NURSE BARBARA

Which one's gonna look out for her over the next couple of days?

Maxine raises her hand.

MAXINE

It's me.

NURSE BARBARA

A little spotting is normal, but keep an eye out for excessive bleeding and fever. If anything does go wrong, which it shouldn't, you were never here. Technically you're a fugitive, so zip it.

The nurse holds out her hand, palm up. Maxine slaps it as if giving her 'five.'

MAXINE

Right on, sister.

NURSE BARBARA

No. That'll be a thousand. Cash.

MAXINE

Dinah didn't pay you?

Um, she didn't.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Honestly, that seems like a lot.

NURSE BARBARA

We work on a sliding scale --

VIRGINIA

You look like you can afford it.

Maxine is moved by this.

MAXINE

That... is...so kind.

She unzips her purse. Retrieves some of the cash from a stack she got from the jeweler. Hands it over.

38 EXT. DINAH'S BILLIONAIRE'S ROW HOUSE - NIGHT (N3) 38

Yep, her estate is major. We PUSH IN and realize, again, like at the hotel, Maxine moving inside holding a tray with a simple club sandwich on it.

39 INT. DINAH'S MASTER BEDROOM - SAME (N3) 39

Dinah is drowsy. Maxine enters, sets down the club sandwich.

DINAH DONAHUE

I keep thinking about how beautiful
what could've been could've been.
But this was right.

MAXINE

Of course.

DINAH DONAHUE

You may be the only true friend
I've ever had.

Maxine smiles to herself and exits.

40 OMITTED

40

41 EXT. DINAH'S POOL - MORNING (D4)

41

Dinah lays poolside on a chaise, convalescing... looking amazing.

DINAH DONAHUE
(calling off)
You're a real peach, Maxine.

Maxine enters from the house with a thermometer and a juice.

MAXINE
It's nothing.

Dinah clamps down on the thermometer.

DINAH DONAHUE
(thermometer in mouth)
Honestly, I feel tiptop, like none
of it ever happened.

MAXINE
(checking the temp)
You're good.

DINAH DONAHUE
Would you mind running to Ceil's to
pick up the gown for Saturday? I
called Grayman, he's expecting you.

MAXINE
Don't you have people for that?

DINAH DONAHUE
I have you. My pal.

MAXINE
So glad you feel that way.

She plops clumsily on the edge of the bed.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
I don't wanna be uncouth, but since
you're feeling sweller than
expected... I was thinkin' maybe
you would reconsider sponsoring me.

DINAH DONAHUE
I'm not going to sponsor you,
Maxine.

MAXINE
I have the money. I do.

Dinah's not buying it.

DINAH DONAHUE
Yes. Dellacorte millions.

MAXINE
I never told you how Douglas and I
met.

DINAH DONAHUE
(dripping with
condescension)
He of plastics and mouthwash?

MAXINE
He was a judge at the Miss
Chattanooga pageant.

DINAH DONAHUE

You don't say.

MAXINE

Anyhoo, I was a finalist. I'd already gone through evening gown, swimsuit, and now it was time for the interview portion. This was a category I usually excelled at. This time, the question flat out stumped me. "What is your greatest flaw?" I mean it's the kind of question that pageant girls are supposed to answer with deprecating humor while still acknowledges one's appeal. You know. Like "My sister says I'm too generous for my own good." Or some such. But I honestly couldn't think of one flaw. So I said so. I was honest. I said look I'm pretty darn happy with who I am.

(a breath)

And I lost. I went into interview with high marks, but because I thought too much of myself, and I refused to lie, I was destroyed.

(then, hope)

Douglas was the only judge that thought it was a good answer. He voted with the other judges against me but do you wanna know why? Because if I would have won, I would have gone on to Miss Tennessee, and then Miss America. And I would've belonged to the world. And Douglas wanted me to belong to him.

DINAH DONAHUE

I have lost the thread here, Maxine.

MAXINE

I'm asking you to help me belong.

DINAH DONAHUE

Why do you want it so badly?

MAXINE

Why do you?

Dinah absorbs this.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

You don't know what it's like to be
a real person, Dinah. It's scarier
than you think.

DINAH DONAHUE

Real?

(gently)

(MORE)

DINAH DONAHUE (CONT'D)

If you take a right out of the drive -- three estates over... the Dellacorte mansion, but you knew that, of course.

MAXINE

(not betraying her pride)
I-- actually I did.

DINAH DONAHUE

And did you know, that the owner of that estate hosts the annual Beach Ball.

MAXINE

I did. Of course I did.

DINAH DONAHUE

And did you know that there will be no Beach Ball this year, Maxine? Because the last Dellacorte is at death's door. And I assure you that when she goes, that will be the end of The Beach Ball and the end of the Dellacortes.

Maxine is silent.

DINAH DONAHUE (CONT'D)

You are a liar, Maxine.

MAXINE

But you said I was the only true friend you've ever had.

DINAH DONAHUE

I never said any such thing. I'd like you to leave please.

MAXINE

Now who's the liar?

She goes, leaving Dinah cold.

A42 EXT. BILLIONAIRE'S ROW - DAY (D4)

A42

Maxine drives down the street. We are CLOSE ON her as big fat tears start to silently fall.

42 EXT. BILLIONAIRE'S ROW - DELLACORTE MANSION - DAY (D4)

42

Then, Maxine stops in front of a *GORGEOUS*, Spanish masterpiece.

The Dellacorte Mansion. Ocean facing. With a dock. And probably a helipad... or, at least, room for one.

Maxine gets out, leans against her rusty Belvedere.
Calculates.

43 INT. CEIL CHAPMAN STUDIO - DAY (D4)

43

Grayman enters with Dinah's gown. He clears his throat.

GRAYMAN

I had hoped to see it on her one last time but I suppose I'm forced to wait for The Shiny Sheet. I hope she makes a showing.

MAXINE

She will.

She sees Evelyn Rollins sweep in.

Another grand mysterious entrance.

Evelyn goes into her usual fitting room. Grayman snaps his fingers; his ASSISTANTS materialize to start mixing Evelyn a drink.

EVELYN ROLLINS

Grayman.

GRAYMAN

Oh. Hello.

Maxine makes a calculation.

MAXINE

Should Mrs. Donahue call you if she needs any adjustments?

GRAYMAN

My clients are free to call me anytime, day or night. Mrs. Donahue knows that.

MAXINE

I'm sure she'll be fine.

She starts to go...

GRAYMAN

Why wouldn't she be?

MAXINE

I certainly didn't mean to suggest anything.

GRAYMAN

But you did.

SILENCE.

MAXINE

Grayman, it is so great to know that Dinah has your support during these difficult days.

GRAYMAN

Oh of course.

MAXINE

And as her friend, I'm so very reassured by that.

(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

(then)

Mrs. Rollins is waiting, you should
see to her. I insist.

Grayman rushes to the dressing room. Maxine watches him go.

44 OMITTED

44

45 INT. WEST PALM BEACH MOTEL - NIGHT (N4)

45

Once again, Maxine does her ablutions as Richard Nixon drones
on the television.

MAXINE GARGLES WITH BAKING SODA AND HYDROGEN PEROXIDE.

RICHARD NIXON (ON TV)

Honest and patriotic Americans have
reached different conclusions as to
how peace should be achieved.

MAXINE PRESSES HER FACE INTO A BOWL OF ICE.

MAXINE STYLES HER HAIR INTO A CHIC TWIST. PUTS ON FALSE
EYELASHES.

RICHARD NIXON (CONT'D)

Well, one of the strengths of our
free society is that any American
has a right to reach that
conclusion and to advocate that
point of view.

MAXINE SLIPS ON DINAH'S GOWN.

RICHARD NIXON (CONT'D)

But as President of the United States, I would be untrue to my oath of office if I allowed the policy of this Nation to be dictated by the minority who hold that point of view and who try to impose it on the nation by mounting demonstrations in the street.

A KNOCK at the door. Maxine rushes to it.

MAXINE

Coming, coming.

She opens the door to find Dinah standing there, wrapped in a chic trench coat, noir style.

DINAH DONAHUE

That's my dress.

MAXINE

I was just trying it on for size. I'll take it off.

DINAH DONAHUE

Why did Grayman and Evelyn Rollins bring me a basket of cupcakes from GANACHE?

MAXINE

I don't follow.

DINAH DONAHUE

In Palm Beach, GANACHE cupcakes are reserved for the sick.

MAXINE

But you're not sick.

DINAH DONAHUE

Someone gave them the idea I was.

MAXINE

Oh, how could I have been so stupid? I'm so sorry... Did you manage to put them off?

DINAH DONAHUE

What else did you tell them?

MAXINE

Nothing. Please believe me.

(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I'm not the kind of woman that
would ever betray another woman.
I'm a feminist.

DINAH DONAHUE

You're a bitch.

MAXINE

I really don't like the way that
you're talking to me right now,
Dinah. I'm not nothing. I'm a
person of tremendous value to you.

DINAH DONAHUE

Is any part of you real?

MAXINE

What is that supposed to mean?

DOUGLAS (O.S.)

Hi Darlin'. Well ain't you looking
snazzy?

Dinah turns to see a strapping man in a pilot's uniform
approach.

MAXINE

I dressed for dinner.

He's the man we met in Maxine's earlier vision, DOUGLAS. He's
Maxine's very real, and very sexy husband.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

How was Arizona?

DOUGLAS

Arizona was Arizona.

MAXINE

Oh and this is Dinah, my new very
good friend.

DOUGLAS

(introducing himself)
Captain Douglas Dellacorte Simmons.

DINAH DONAHUE

... a pilot. And a Dellacorte.

MAXINE

(to Douglas)

Why don't you go in there and wash
your paws? I'm having some meatloaf
sent up.

He plants a kiss on his wife and heads inside. Maxine turns
back to face Dinah.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

That. *That* is my hope for you. *Real*
love.

She means it, too.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I know how much your station means
to you, the financial value of your
marriage.

(then)

And I don't want to make this
awkward Dinah, I *want* to be a good
friend to you... honestly, you're
just making it really hard for me.

Off Dinah absorbing Maxine's velvet-gloved threat, we CUT TO:

47 INT. PALM ROYALE BATH & RACQUET - AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE (D5)
Maxine sits across from the Club Ambassador, writing a check.

MAXINE
Thirty thousand dollars.

The Ambassador looks none too pleased.

CLUB AMBASSADOR
Welcome to the club, Mrs. Simmons.

MAXINE
(a correction)
Mrs. Dellacorte.
(then)
I just want you to know how happy I
am to be here.

WIDEN to REVEAL, next to Maxine: Dinah Donahue. Dinah stiffly smiles.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
And that Dinah would vouch for my
character.

48 EXT. PALM ROYALE BATH & RACQUET - POOLSIDE - LATER (D5) 48
Maxine sits poolside. Robert approaches, with a grasshopper
cocktail on a tray.

ROBERT
Your grasshopper.

MAXINE
Thank you soldier.

He starts to go.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
Didn't think I could do it, did
you?

He turns.

ROBERT
(tight)
I'll be at the bar if you need
anything else?

MAXINE
Robert? Don't underestimate a
Dellacorte.

ROBERT
I would never.

49 INT. PALM ROYALE BATH & RACQUET - AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE - DAY
(D5)

Robert removes Maxine's mugshot from the wall of the damned and tosses the hideous photo in the garbage.

The outsider is an outsider no more...

And this doesn't appear to sit well with Robert.

CLUB AMBASSADOR

How long do you think she'll last?

ROBERT

She's toast.

50 INT. DESTINY VISTAS - NORMA'S ROOM - DAY (D5)

50

CLOSE ON a small velvet jewelry box. Inside, pearl earring perfection. Maxine ogles them... The ever-present cold hiss of Norma's ventilator fills the room.

MAXINE

Told you I'd make you proud. I did it. I really did it!

She puts the earrings in her pocket, gives Norma a kiss on the forehead and exits.

HANG ON the patient name hanging outside the door: NORMA DELLACORTE.

51 INT. PALM ROYALE BATH & RACQUET - BALLROOM - NIGHT (N5)

51

A room full of the social set in their finest. All are facing our lens, adoring someone unseen.

In their midst, Maxine and Douglas Dellacorte Simmons.

We REVERSE TO see what the crowd adores... Dinah, on the dais, accepting the Volunteer of the Year award; the Pediatric Cancer Institute banner above her head.

MAXINE

(to Douglas)

She's positively glowing.

Dinah addresses the adoring crowd.

DINAH DONAHUE

Could you hold this? Thank you. I share this with the good women of Palm Beach who know better than anyone that charity does indeed begin at home.

For a fleeting second, Dinah's eyes meet Maxine's and harden.

52

INT. PALM ROYALE BATH & RACQUET - BALLROOM - LATER (N5) 52

Maxine and Douglas dance a Rhumba.

MAXINE

You were born for this.

DOUGLAS

Thanks, babe.

EVELYN ROLLINS (O.S.)

Douglas, I couldn't be more surprised to see you.

Maxine and Douglas turn to see Evelyn Rollins staring back.

DOUGLAS

Evelyn, it's been too long.

EVELYN ROLLINS

Yes it has.

DOUGLAS

Evelyn this is my wife, Maxine.

EVELYN ROLLINS

I believe we met last week.

(to Maxine)

You didn't tell me who you were darling. You should have.

MAXINE

You know now.

EVELYN ROLLINS

Be a love, Douglas, fetch we girls some champers.

DOUGLAS

Of course. You two behave.

He gives Maxine a kiss on the cheek and heads to the bar. Leaving the ladies to chat.

EVELYN ROLLINS

You too. He always was such a
lovely boy.

MAXINE

Yes.

EVELYN ROLLINS
Lovely... and wayward.

Maxine tries to look past this comment.

MAXINE
It's positively such a beautiful
night.

EVELYN ROLLINS
Isn't it? Dinah looked absolutely
smashing, didn't she? You know in
the end, I suppose it was right
that they honored her instead of
me. She certainly is the more
charitable of the two of us but of
course you already know that.

MAXINE
Excuse me?

EVELYN ROLLINS
She sponsored you. And I would
never ever after what you did.

MAXINE
I didn't do anything to Dinah.

EVELYN ROLLINS
Not Dinah. Norma.

The color drains from Maxine's face.

EVELYN ROLLINS (CONT'D)
You don't think I know what's going
on? Douglas was the apple of her
eye. She had such high hopes for
him. Instead, he was tricked by an
also-ran pageant queen. You don't
belong here.

Moments before, Maxine felt such triumph. Now, suddenly, she
feels so small.

Her cold stare bores through Maxine before moving on.

Maxine turns white, suddenly feeling more alone and out of
place than she has ever felt in her life.

We SLOWLY WIDEN as the wealthy party on around her.

Oblivious to her very existence.

Maxine is steady -- the lone still figure in a sea of swirling ball gowns... the eye of a brewing storm.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

What happened, Maxine?

MAXINE (V.O.)

I have no memory of the incident in question... And that either makes everyone else liars...

FLASHES OF BEDLAM from our season to come, Maxine in peril, Maxine running, Maxine in a ball gown laughing -- a cavalcade of thrilling images play like a memory coming back to our Maxine.

MAXINE (V.O.)

Or...

We HEAR the sound of a gunshot.

SMASH TO BLACK.

MAXINE (V.O.)

I snapped.

53	OMITTED	53
54	OMITTED	54
55	OMITTED	55