

PALM ROYALE

EPISODE 104: "MAXINE ROLLS THE DICE"

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

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1 INT. DELLACORTE MANSION - PARLOR - DAY (FLASHBACK D4) 1

It's 1949 and Palm Beach society is out in force for the wedding of the season.

MAXINE (V.O.)

In Palm Beach, everyone has money,
but not everyone is truly rich.

ANGLE ON a five-tiered wedding cake. We follow Chignon-ed ladies and square-jawed men as they pass by and pay their respects to... A seventy-something NORMA, dressed to the nines and at the top of her game.

She's flanked by an ELDERLY BUTLER with a tray.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

Norma looks around, something is askance. To her Butler:

NORMA

Nigel, go upstairs and find out
what's taking everyone so long.

NIGEL

Yes ma'am.

Norma's Butler heads off, as Norma grabs another Martini.

MAXINE (V.O.)

I was learning quickly that in Palm
Beach, an untold secret is like a
loaded gun...You never know when it
will go off.

Then, from upstairs... a GUNSHOT rings out. Off the horror on
Norma's face.

Maxine (V.O.)

Or who it might hit...

WE CUT TO:

2 OMITTED

2

3 INT. DELLACORTE MANSION - DAY - PRESENT (D8)

3

Maxine, decked out in a fabulous kaftan, is sweeping through
her new digs with Mai Tais for her and Douglas. She's playing
the role of grande dame, but inside she's roiling. How is she
going to untangle the web of lies she's weaved?

MAXINE (V.O.)

And full disclosure I suppose I had
one or two little secrets of my
own. For the sake of my marriage -
and my sanity - I had to tell the
truth.

4 EXT. DELLACORTE MANSION - POOLSIDE (D8)

4

Douglas is doing the backstroke in the pool; he sees Maxine
coming toward him and waves.

Maxine makes her way to the side of the pool and delivers his
cocktail.

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

It's a beautiful day, isn't it?

DOUGLAS

That it is. Thank you.

MAXINE

Douglas? There's something... a few things, I need to tell you.

DOUGLAS

Well you can tell me anything.

MAXINE

I may have passed some bad checks.

Douglas is unfazed.

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

-- and maybe pawned some of Norma's jewelry... Which in some circles might be misconstrued as stealing...and I might've run up a little mountain of debt...including the seventy-five grand I was bullied into paying for a stone cat that we already own.

Doug absorbs this... then shrugs.

DOUGLAS

That's not so bad.

MAXINE

Douglas, did you hear what I said about the jewelry?

DOUGLAS

Diamonds are temporary! Our love is forever.

MAXINE

Unlike our inheritance! Which is never.

Maxine smiles... then... REWIND!

Maxine makes her way to the side of the pool and delivers his cocktail.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Cocktails!

DOUGLAS

Hey babe.

Maxine hasn't said any of it.

MAXINE (V.O.)

The great unburdening would have to wait. Why let the truth spoil a sunny day? I couldn't bear to tell him that his inheritance had been rerouted to a cat sanctuary. It'd break his heart.

5 OMITTED

5

A6 INT. DESTINY VISTA'S - NORMA'S ROOM - DAY (D8)

A6

On Norma. Mouth agape. Stone-faced. OFF SCREEN we hear rattling in the closet. Is it Maxine? No.

We REVEAL it's EVELYN, NOT Maxine going through Norma's drawers this time. Exasperated, Evelyn turns to Norma.

EVELYN

Where's the key? Dammit. Norma.
Everything is going to hell without
you. I'm trying to save you. Me.
Hell. The whole world.

Norma blinks.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Norma? Are you in there?

She moves to Norma.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Can you hear me?

Norma is stone-faced.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Blink once for yes. Two for no.

Norma blinks once.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Oh, I knew it! You still got it.

Norma blinks twice.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Oh God I've missed you my dear
friend. And I'm sure you've missed
me.

Norma blinks twice.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Well that hurt.

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN (CONT'D)

All right, Norma. Listen. I want you to listen very carefully, Norma... is the Rolodex in this room?

Norma blinks twice.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

(assuming)

I knew it, I knew it. It's in the safety deposit box... all right so is the key in this room?

Norma blinks three times.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Wait a minute, that's three blinks. Unless that's a maybe. Is three blinks a maybe?

Norma blinks three times.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Norma stop fucking with me, this is serious. Are you sitting on it?

Evelyn reaches underneath Norma.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Sorry Norma. You got a bony ass, Norma. I know it's in here somewhere, Norma. I'm gonna shake it out of you.

A hint of a smile crosses Norma's lips.

6 OMITTED

6

7 INT. DELLACORTE MANSION - POOL HOUSE - SAME (D8)

7

We find ROBERT dressing up... in a suit. He looks into the mirror. Straightens his tie.

ROBERT

Yes, your honor. No, your honor.

Then moves to his closet for shoes... that's when he sees:
Norma's Rolodex is gone.

Off Robert, concerned...

8

EXT. DELLACORTE MANSION - POOLSIDE - SAME (D8)

8

Maxine and Douglas now lounge side by side in chaise lounges. Maxine drains her Mai Tai... Doug notices how quickly Maxine is slamming them back.

(CONTINUED)

Robert, decked out in a suit a few years past its prime, walks out of the POOL HOUSE with a head of steam.

Douglas lifts up his empty glass.

ROBERT

Hey!

DOUGLAS

Hey pool boy, I'll take a little
bit more Mai in my Tai?

Robert pretends he doesn't hear Douglas. To Maxine:

ROBERT

Have you been in the pool house?

MAXINE

Why would I go into the pool house
when I have the *real* house?

Robert turns on his heel. He goes back inside the pool house.

DOUGLAS

He's a little hoity-toity for a
pool boy.

MAXINE

I'll say. I'll put some more Mai in
your Tai.

DOUGLAS

Thanks babe. I love you.

MAXINE

And I love you.

She starts to go, when...

DOUGLAS

You know what. Today's the day. My
final flight in the 7-3-7. Miami-
Toledo. Toledo-Des Moines. And then
I'm hanging up my wings for good.

MAXINE
(genuine surprise)
Douglas!

DOUGLAS
That make you happy?

MAXINE
So happy.

DOUGLAS
Why would I keep working when I've
got all this -- and you.

Off Maxine - loving all this love, but knowing she better fix
things or she's fucked.

9

INT. OUR BODIES, OUR SHELVES BOOKSTORE - DAY (D8)

9

Linda sits behind the counter, Norma's ROLODEX in front of her. She flips through the cards to the R's. ANGLE ON, Norma's distinctive handwriting: **Penelope Rollins**.

MAXINE (O.S.)

Linda?

Linda swiftly hides the rolodex under the counter as Maxine enters.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Hi ladies. Have you seen Linda?
Linda. Tall. Red hair. Wears too
much denim. Turquoise jewelry.

The ladies point.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Linda. I need you.

LINDA

Do you need a book?

MAXINE

Very funny.
(then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I need my new best friend.

LINDA

Oh. Well maybe a little early for best friend. You know if you need a healer or a therapist, massage therapist, there are names on the corkboard. You can get a session.

She turns to check out a CUSTOMER. Maxine's lower lip begins to tremble.

MAXINE

Gee thanks. Hope they can do a session in prison.

Despite her annoyance - and guilt over last night's theft and voyeurism -- Linda softens.

LINDA

What?

MAXINE

I'm a thief and a liar and a squatter. And I learned last night -
- courtesy of your stepmother --
there is no way to right the ship.

LINDA

I'm not following.

MAXINE

We're disinherited!
(then)
But don't tell a soul.

LINDA

You just told everybody in the bookstore.

MAXINE

I don't think I will ever see any of these people ever again.

LINDA

What'd your husband say?

MAXINE

He doesn't like when things get messy.

LINDA

Maxine you have to tell him. The sooner the better.

MAXINE

He's never been more in love with me than he is now. I can't!

(CONTINUED)

Maxine begins to cry. Linda looks at her. Maxine's driving her crazy, but she can't help but take pity on her.

LINDA
Oh Maxine...

Maxine takes this morsel of tenderness and comes in for a hug.

LINDA (CONT'D)
It's gonna be okay. All right? So breathe and listen to me. Palm Beach is just a shell game and you're playing like one of the natives.

MAXINE
I really want to be a native.

LINDA
Down here, you're only a criminal if you get caught. And probably not even then. So you're good.

MAXINE
See? Look at us. We are best friends.

10 OMITTED 10

11 INT. NORMA'S CAR/EXT. DELLACORTE MANSION - DAY (D8) 11

Maxine is driving, her hands gripping the wheel.

Maxine pulls up to the Dellacorte mansion.

A MAN IN A FEDORA is waiting for her at the front door. His police car nearby. This is SERGEANT TOM SANKA (40's, G-Man sexy).

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE
A man in a fedora.

Maxine slouches down in the car, trying to avoid detection.

12 OMITTED 12

13 INT. NORMA'S CAR/EXT. DELLACORTE MANSION - AS BEFORE 13

Tom Sanka approaches Maxine's car and peers in as Maxine crouches in an attempt to hide.

SERGEANT TOM SANKA
I can see you in there, ma'am.

Maxine, momentarily at a loss...

MAXINE
Good morrow.

SERGEANT TOM SANKA
I'm looking for a Mr. and Mrs.
Douglas Dellacorte Simmons.

He flashes a Palm Beach Police badge, then hands her a business card.

MAXINE
Oh we dropped the Simmons.

SERGEANT TOM SANKA
Sergeant Tom Sanka, Palm Beach
Police.

Maxine's sure that he's come to haul her to the slammer and caves, confessing all her crimes rapid-fire:

MAXINE
Is this about the jewelry?
The checks? Stone Mabel? Look I
will tell you everything. I can't
live like this!

Tom Sanka has no idea what she's talking about. He hands her a thick envelope.

SERGEANT TOM SANKA
You need to appear in probate court tomorrow at 4, in the matter of Norma Dellacorte's guardianship. Consider yourself served.

MAXINE
Served?

The Man in the Fedora turns to go, as Maxine looks at the papers and his card. She's been spared from the clink. But is someone coming for Norma? PRELAP a GAVEL BANGING and we are:

14 INT. PALM BEACH COUNTY PROBATE COURTROOM - NEXT DAY (D9) 14

Maxine, in a little Jackie O suit and handbag, looking every bit the well-heeled Palm Beach wife stands before an ancient probate judge, JUDGE WICKHAM.

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

Your honor, my husband and I are just mystified as to why this matter has been adjudicated as we are Mrs. Norma Dellacorte's only living family.

The Judge rifles through his papers to find the right case.

JUDGE WICKHAM

Fellas have a way of crawling out of the woodwork in situations like these. A Mr... Diaz has petitioned the court for conservatorship.

MAXINE

I'm sorry, Mr. Who? I've never heard that name in my entire --

CAMERA REVERSES to REVEAL Robert, dressed in his suit, and approaching the bench. Maxine's jaw hits the floor. Equal parts shock and outrage.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Life.

ROBERT

I'm sorry I'm late, Your Honor...

He shoots Maxine a who's-your-pool-boy-now look and turns to the Judge, completely sincere. He seems genuinely troubled by this situation.

JUDGE WICKHAM

You're not off to a very good start, Mr. Diaz. The role of Conservator requires sober and timely administration of all the Dellacorte trusts and assets including health proxies.

Record scratch! This is news to Maxine.

MAXINE

Trusts and assets? Please clarify -- I'm just a wife.

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE WICKHAM

This fellow has filed to be
Conservator of the Dellacorte
trust. In other words: He who's the
nurse gets the purse.

Maxine's jaw drops. She now fully understands what's at stake.

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE WICKHAM (CONT'D)
(to Robert)
Proceed.

ROBERT
Mrs. Simmons has moved into Mrs.
Dellacorte's home, stolen precious
family heirlooms.

MAXINE
I object!

JUDGE WICKHAM
You don't object --

MAXINE
Your Honor, that matter has been
sorted.

ROBERT
Your honor, we've all heard stories
about gold diggers who come to Palm
Beach and bleed the elderly dry.

REVERSE TO REVEAL the court is filled with GOLD DIGGERS (male
and female) pushing WITHERED OLD BILLIONAIRES IN WHEELCHAIRS.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
It would break my heart if Norma
became another cautionary tale.

And now Maxine will be silenced no longer.

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

Gold digger? Please strike that
from the record. How very dare you!
(to the Judge)
Your honor, permission to approach
the bench.

JUDGE WICKHAM

No, no. You don't do that here.

MAXINE

This man is no caretaker. He is a
pool boy. And he has been squatting
at Mrs. Dellacorte's home with no
written agreement.

ROBERT

Your honor, I am veteran. She is a
pageant runner-up, strutting around
the house as if she owns it.

Now that was low.

MAXINE

Runner-up?! That is a gross
misrepresentation. Strike that from
the record.

The Judge BANGS his GAVEL.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Order in the court!

JUDGE WICKHAM

Excuse me. I was gonna say that.
We're gonna table this matter until
one of you comes up with
documentation to back up the
accusations you just made.

MAXINE

Yes, Your Honor. I apologize for my
outburst. Adjourned.

15 INT. PALM BEACH COURTHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY (D9)

15

At the WATER FOUNTAIN, Maxine can't help but ignore the
judge's instructions and acts like a toddler, taking a long,
passive-aggressive drink as Robert waits.

MAXINE

I don't know why you felt the need
to escalate.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT

Really?

MAXINE

It's just so uncivilized to get the
law involved.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT

You've been stealing from Norma,
now you've stolen from me.

MAXINE

From you? What do you have that I
could possibly want?

As Robert starts to go, it dawns on her. There is
something...

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Robert? Robert!

He turns.

ROBERT

What?

MAXINE

(too pleasant)

Listen. Clearly, we both want
what's best for dear Norma. Right?
So, maybe we could help each other.

ROBERT

What's your game?

MAXINE

I'm set to throw Norma's end-of-
season Beach Ball with Mrs.
Rollins... in Norma's honor of
course.

ROBERT

Uh-huh...

MAXINE

And Mrs. Rollins has mentioned a
certain Rolodex of Norma's that she
has in a safety deposit box... you
wouldn't happen to have that key
would you?

Robert absorbs this.

ROBERT

You didn't do it...

MAXINE

I assure you I'm innocent of
whatever accusation has crossed
your mind.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT

I can't believe I'm gonna say this,
but... I believe you.

MAXINE

Well, good.

(CONTINUED)

He goes, more unsettled than he's letting on, leaving Maxine to stew.

16 INT. DESTINY VISTAS ASSISTED LIVING - NORMA'S ROOM - LATER
(D9)

Robert stands over Norma's bed. Less cocky than we last saw him with Maxine.

ROBERT
Everyone is just out for
themselves, Norma. But you knew
that -- and you protected us. So
why can't I protect you?

Norma wheezes and moans. Wheezes and moans.

17 INT. DESTINY VISTAS ASSISTED LIVING - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Robert exits Norma's room just as Linda is exiting her father's room. Their first exchange since getting high together in 103, and it's a bit strained.

LINDA
Hey.

ROBERT
Hi.

LINDA
How's Norma?

ROBERT
Same. How's your father?

LINDA
Fading.

SILENCE.

ROBERT
I'm sorry to hear that.
(then)
Why did you do it?

LINDA
What are you talking about?

ROBERT

You come to my house. You get me high, and you stole from me.

Linda absorbs this. Comes clean.

LINDA

Well technically, I stole from Norma.

ROBERT

A helpless old woman.

LINDA

That woman is not helpless.

Linda feels a bit cornered. But unlike Maxine, is radically honest.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I have a secret in that Rolodex and I can't have it get out.

ROBERT

What about all the other secrets?

LINDA

Don't worry. They'll all end with me. Secrets destroy people. So I'm gonna destroy that fucking rolodex.

Robert smiles. He knows all too well that she is right.

ROBERT

Better with you than with Maxine.

Linda smiles.

LINDA

This we know. You wanna meet my dad?

ROBERT

I would love that.

18 INT. DESTINY VISTAS ASSISTED LIVING - SKEET'S ROOM - MOMENTS
LATER

Linda enters with Robert to introduce him to her father SKEET
(a rather unexpectedly long-haired, grumpy fella) sitting at
a table, preserving olives.

LINDA

Pop?

SKEET

Hey, there she is.

LINDA

I brought a friend. I want you to
meet Robert. He's close with Norma.

SKEET

Has the old frail curmudgeoness
tried to marry you off to my
daughter yet?

ROBERT

Not yet.

LINDA

Dad, Robert was in Korea.

SKEET

Another pointless fuckin' war.

Robert stares at Skeet.

SKEET (CONT'D)

Why you look at me like that?

LINDA

(to Skeet Re: Robert)

Oh no. I- Dad, I think he's just
surprised that someone who
inherited his fortune from
warmongers isn't a military
apologist.

SKEET

I've been dying for twenty years,
okay? And the one thing you learn
is how to confront the truth. My
biggest regret in life is that I
never did a goddamn thing. How
about that? But I guess that's my
little piece of luggage.

(then)

You ever read Timothy Leary?

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT
No. Should I?

SKEET

Does Pinocchio have a wooden dick?
Harvard grad. High Priest. The
fucking master.

(to Linda)

You got a book in your bookstore,
The Psychedelic Experience. Get it
for him. I know you got it. Put it
on my bill.

LINDA

Done.

SKEET

You got a presence bud. You've got
a presence.

Robert absorbs this. Linda smiles.

19 INT. DELLACORTE MANSION - NORMA'S BEDROOM - DAY (D9) 19

An angst-ridden Maxine is wearing a fabulous flamenco dress,
looking at herself in the mirror, she looks fabulous.

On the TV more news of war drones on... Maxine, as ever,
oblivious. Her nerves are rising to an eleven.

Douglas appears in the doorway; dashing in his new tux.

DOUGLAS

Hola, mi corazón.

MAXINE

Look at you, handsome man.

Douglas leans in and kisses her.

DOUGLAS

Max. I did it. I quit my job.

MAXINE

So soon?

DOUGLAS

Well our fortune's about to come in
any day now. Right?

MAXINE

Yes. Yay. I'm working on it-

Whoops. She said too much.

DOUGLAS

What's that?

(CONTINUED)

Urrrrp. It's clear Maxine's gut is burning.

MAXINE

Oh, well, you just wait here. I'm
gonna do my finishing touches.
Don't wanna be late.

Maxine beelines for the bathroom, discreetly clenching her
gut to disguise her impending panic-poop.

20	OMITTED	20
21	OMITTED	21
22	OMITTED	22

A23 EXT./INT. THE BREAKERS - NIGHT (FORMER SCENE 21) (N9) A23

Maxine and Douglas step out of Norma's Rolls and enter Raquel's party to find Old Havana night in full swing. It's a no-expense-spared homage to Batista-era decadence, transporting guests (and our audience) to El Tropicana in its heyday.

On a balcony, Raquel CLINK-CLINKs her glass and hushes the party. Her husband PINKY (Cuban, 50's) next to her.

RAQUEL

We want to welcome you all to Old Havana night, a celebration of life the way it used to be - the way it could be - a celebration of freedom!

The crowd goes WILD.

Maxine and Douglas move into a GAMING ROOM.

They absorb the sumptuous surroundings: gorgeous buffet spreads, a roulette wheel, blackjack table, scantily clad waitresses in feathers carrying rum punch.

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS

Babe, you didn't tell me there was gonna be craps.

Maxine's gut gurgles again.

MAXINE

Well now let's not get ahead of ourselves, Douglas.

From across the way at the CRAPS TABLE, PERRY DONAHUE beckons.

PERRY

Dougie-doo, you old bungbucket!

DOUGLAS

Damn my eyes, Perry Donahue!

(to Maxine)

Babe, would you get us a few drinks? I'm going to warm up my throwing hand.

MAXINE

Well well. Not too warm, okay?

But he's already gone.

Maxine moves into...

AB23 INT. BREAKERS BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS (N9)

AB23

Maxine enters and absorbs another sumptuous layer of decadence - a band plays a rumba on the balcony above. Showgirls pose from individual balconies that surround a reflecting pond with a bridge...

Maxine makes her way onto the bridge -- a swirl of Rhumba dancers. She looks up to see EVELYN sitting alone on a balcony above.

TIME CUT

Maxine makes her way along the upper level -- to find Evelyn sitting alone. Evelyn looks back at her --

EVELYN

Have you ever seen such a tacky shit-parade in your life?

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

Gosh no!
(then)
What's wrong with it?

EVELYN

Raquel took the most beloved hotel
in Palm Beach and Bacchanalized it.
(gazing at the spectacle)
This is why it's important for me
to co-host the Beach Ball, Maxine.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Have you managed to locate the key
to the safety deposit box?

MAXINE

Evelyn I have turned that house
inside and out. No luck.

Raquel continues...

RAQUEL

We all want to give a warm welcome
home to my dear husband Pinky!

BACK WITH Maxine and Evelyn.

EVELYN

Welcome home from Sing Sing.
(off Maxine)
It's true. Just last Tuesday.

BACK with Pinky and Raquel.

PINKY

These lucky wheels and tables are
from my old casino. Everything you
win you get to keep. Everything you
lose, goes to our struggling
Batista refugees!

BACK WITH Maxine and Evelyn.

EVELYN

He's a mobster. They don't call it
that, but that's what he is - a
gangster out on parole. Mark my
words, this is the face of things
to come in Palm Beach. The rise of
the common criminal.

MAXINE

Hideous. I hate criminals.

EVELYN

I can feel it happening already.

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

Feel what?

EVELYN

My social casting-out.

MAXINE

Why Evelyn, with Norma embolized you're *the* woman to know in Palm Beach.

EVELYN

I don't like you, Maxine. And though there are plenty of rumors about my actual feelings for Skeet, I'm lonely without him. He was always a bit of a prick, but he was fun. He used to take me out dancing -- he was terrible at it -- but he was game -- and I had enough style to cover for him. Now he lies about in his robe all day, slowly but surely turning into a hippie Howard Hughes. It's no picnic caring for an ailing spouse... The last time I was with him his catheter came loose and he accidentally shot urine into my mouth.

MAXINE

I'm so sorry. At the same time I have so many questions about how that happened.

EVELYN

I've got nothing left to cement my status in this town. Nothing but the Beach Ball. How can I compete with stricken infants and a Bacchanal like this?

(CONTINUED)

Dinah appears in the alcove beyond.

DINAH

Maxine. Pool. Now - 'Scuse us.

EVELYN

(haughty)

If I were you I wouldn't treat me
as if I were invisible, Dinah.

DINAH

(cool)

Then don't *become* invisible,
Evelyn. - Come on, Maxine.

Evelyn looks to the dancers below and to the showgirls who surround her -- she can't help herself but get a little caught up in the rhythm.

B23 INT. THE BREAKERS - INDOOR POOL - NIGHT (N9)

B23

Dinah and Maxine confer poolside.

DINAH

Eddie's jealous of Perry. Says he's going to kill him.

MAXINE

What?? Eddie's going to murder your husband?

DINAH

Please. He's only kidding. I think. Regardless I thought it was kind of sweet.

MAXINE

Why is Eddie jealous of Perry? Wouldn't it be the other way around?

DINAH

That's exactly what I said. Eddie asked if Perry and I still had sex and I said, well, if a handjob on the Chris-Craft last Wednesday counted as sex, then sure, but Perry'd just bought me a new tennis bracelet so I figured, what the hell. Anyway, that plus Douglas being back in town have bought me more time with Eddie than ever, so maybe Maxine I should thank you.

MAXINE

Well you're welcome. What's my Douglas have to do with a handy?

DINAH

Oh, silly goose. Apparently, Douglas and Perry were inseparable back in their prep school days, and now they're back at it which helps me avoid scrutiny. Perry says that he and Douglas bring out the worst in each other, but he laughs every time he says it so I interpret that to mean fun.

MAXINE

(nervous)
The worst?

(CONTINUED)

DINAH

The worst.

MAXINE

I'm sure by worst he means they do
nice, good, clean stuff.

DINAH

Have you met Perry?

C23 INT. BREAKERS - CRAPS TABLE - NIGHT (FORMER SC. 21) (N9) C23

Douglas is shoulder-to-shoulder with Perry at the CRAPS TABLE, about to throw the dice, a crowd of sauced-up socialites egging him on.

DOUGLAS

Come on baby. Come on dice. Come on
lucky hog. Sixes!

He throws the dice and... loses. The CROWD goes nuts - as fortunes rise and fall.

The CROUPIER sweeps up the chips and resets. Maxine pushes through the crowd to Douglas.

MAXINE

Douglas, sweetie, why don't we sit
this one out? Let's go have a rum
punch.

DOUGLAS

No - I believe in *us* Maxine. I am
doubling down.

MAXINE

Right.

CROUPIER MAX

Place your bets.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23 INT. THE BREAKERS - BALLROOM - NIGHT (N9) 23

Maxine worriedly steps up to the BARTENDER.

MAXINE

Bartender, can I get a Bourbon
neat, and a --

The bartender turns around. It's Robert.

ROBERT

Grasshopper? Hi gold digger.

MAXINE

Hi pool boy. Didn't think you'd be
working this party.

ROBERT

Someone has to work.

MAXINE

Pity to be you.

Robert gives Maxine a half-smirk and starts mixing.

FROM THE BRIDGE, Raquel CLINK-CLINKs her glass and hushes the party. Pinky stands on the balcony above.

RAQUEL

Everybody! I hope you'll all join
us on the dance floor for a rumba.
Dance freely. Drink freely, spend
freely -- love freely!

The BAND kicks it up and Pinky joins them, BANGING on the
BONGOS.

And at this moment, the LIGHT hits Raquel just so and Maxine
SEES a distinctive RUBY glistening around her neck.

FREEZE FRAME. Time stops. The MUSIC DISTORTS and we're in
MAXINE'S POV.

ON MAXINE'S FACE - shitting a brick.

MAXINE (V.O.)

Jeezy-creez, Norma's Ruby.

QUICK FLASH to the moment in the PILOT, where Maxine PAWNS
the RUBY.

REAL TIME resumes. Music plays. Robert sidles up. He's seen
the Ruby too.

ROBERT

I wonder how Raquel got a hold of
Norma's ruby. Which I remember
putting in Norma's jewelry box at
Destiny Vistas.

Maxine looks at Robert, sweating bullets, but going on offense.

MAXINE

As her "caretaker" don't you have
unrestricted access to her jewelry.

ROBERT

Same access you had as her "loving
family."
(then)
I wonder what the judge would make
of this.

PINKY

Okay ladies and gentleman. Damas y
Caballeros. We're gonna do this the
way we did it at El Tropicana.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PINKY (CONT'D)

Everybody grab yourself a partner --
and get ready to rumba!

ROBERT

Now if you'll excuse me I'm gonna
go dance with the hostess. Those
rubies have a story to tell.

Robert... takes off! Determined to get to Raquel before
Maxine does. Maxine takes off too! Weaving through the crowd
after Robert.

The WAITRESSES fan across the floor, mingling with well-
preserved SOCIALITES.

ANGLE ON ROBERT - way on the other side of the room. He
catches up to Raquel.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Shall we dance?

RAQUEL

Oh papi, I thought you'd never ask.

Maxine tries to dodge the dancers on her way to Robert but is
intercepted by Douglas.

DOUGLAS

Hey babe! It's time to rumba!

MAXINE

(tracking Robert)

Oh silly, I don't know how to
rumba!

DOUGLAS

Neither do I!

He pulls Maxine into an akimbo white man rumba, as Maxine
watches Robert slip away into the crowd.

BACK TO MAXINE - she's leading a clumsy Douglas across the
dance floor.

MAXINE

So? How much did you win?

DOUGLAS

A ton!

MAXINE

(relieved)

Really??

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS

Yeah but I lost even more. But who cares, it's small beans compared to what we got coming to us, right?

MAXINE

Yeah.

DOUGLAS

Perry's got a tasty real estate deal coming through with his frogs and he says we can get in on the ground floor.

MAXINE

Wow, seems too good to be true.

DOUGLAS

I know, right!

ANGLE ON ROBERT and RAQUEL - doing a seamless rumba - dips and all.

RAQUEL

Norma was always very tight-lipped about your friendship.

ROBERT

We had - have - a very special relationship.

RAQUEL

I'm sure you brought her a lot, a lot of pleasure. Rumors abound. Imagine with the poor dear out of commission, you're gonna need a new sponsor.

ROBERT

Maybe, maybe not. Let's say within the next few days I'll be in a more responsible position. Speaking of, great necklace. How'dya come by it?

(CONTINUED)

RAQUEL

Pinky. He's always getting me these little trinkets. There's a lot more where this came from. If you can do that voodoo you apparently do so well.

ANGLE ON PINKY - calling from the stage.

PINKY

Okay, ladies and gentlemen. We're gonna switch it up. Turn to your left, turn to you right. Now find yourself a new rumba partner!

RAQUEL

Find me later, Robert.

There's a flurry of feathers and moving bodies on the dance floor as Pinky goes nuts on the BONGOS.

ON MAXINE - who tries in vain to get to Raquel, but lands with PERRY. In the BG, Mitzi is dancing with an ANCIENT FELLOW.

MAXINE

Perry.

PERRY

Mrs. Dougerie-doo.

Maxine's looking over his shoulder, still trying to catch sight of Robert.

MAXINE

I hear you and my Douglas are cooking up quite a little business scheme.

PERRY

Yessirreee. Good to have my wingman back in town, after hiding out from us for all these years.

MAXINE

Yeah. You're breeding frogs?

PERRY

Hahaha, frogs! You're such a pip. No, it's my Luxembourgian investors. It's a global venture. But local, too.

ANGLE ON PINKY - calling out to the crowd.

(CONTINUED)

PINKY

And switch your partners one more time. If you get left out in the cold, make a little threesome. A Cubano sandwich. That's a little ham, a little pork, a little cheese.

(CONTINUED)

There's a mad rush for new partners on the floor. Raquel moves for Robert.

RAQUEL

Robert.

Maxine moves for Raquel. The three find themselves in a "cuban sandwich" indeed.

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

Raquel. What a beautiful necklace.

ROBERT

Pinky gave it to her. I wonder where he got it from.

RAQUEL

Why is everyone talking about my necklace?

Douglas grabs Maxine and pulls her back into his arms from Robert and Raquel as Maxine's panic builds.

DOUGLAS

Check it out, babe. I think I'm finally getting the hang of this.

He's definitely not.

MAXINE

Absolutely.

(then)

Listen I was thinking, since Perry's deal is still brewing, maybe it was a bit of a rash decision for you to quit and you should go back and tell them maybe you're having second thoughts?

DOUGLAS

It's too late.

MAXINE

It's never too late to say...

(a deep breath)

I made a mistake.

DOUGLAS

How could this be a mistake? Choosing you. Choosing this life. Look at all the fun we're having. Plus -- What could go wrong?

Maxine is craning to see if Robert is back with Raquel.

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

Could you excuse me just for a minute? I'll be back, just keep doing that.

She runs across the dance floor looking for Raquel but instead stumbles upon... MITZI

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Mitzi!

MITZI

Maxine!

MITZI (CONT'D)

I'm so excited! This is my first modeling gig!

MAXINE

Sweetie. This isn't really a modeling gig.

MITZI

And there's so many eligible men, I've already forgotten my boyfriend.

MAXINE

Well, I guess there's good news in that --

She goes, trying get to Robert and Raquel, when she's intercepted by Mary.

MARY

Hello friend.

MAXINE

Mary.

MARY

I've been looking for you.

Mary takes Maxine by the hands and whirls her on the dance floor.

MAXINE

Wow, you're dancing the boy part.

MARY

Well I went to a girls school. Half of us had to learn on the left foot. Half on the right. I was a left foot girl.

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

How handy.

MARY

You'll never believe what happened. You wrote me a funny check for the Fibs. It bounced like a red rubber ball!

MAXINE

Oh, I'm just juggling so many accounts these days. I probably just wrote it from the wrong one.

MARY

Oh yes. That happens to all of us.

MAXINE

Guess I'll have my accountant sort it out in the morning.

MARY

See that you do.

MAXINE

Okay.

MARY

You wouldn't wanna get a reputation. With the Beach Ball coming up.

Maxine can't wait any longer.

MAXINE

Look, there's my purse. I've been looking for that. I just gotta get some mints for later.

(CONTINUED)

Maxine takes herself out of rotation and marches over to Raquel - passing Mitzi, who is now dancing with PERRY.

PERRY
You're so tall.

MITZI
I guess.

PERRY
You know, some men would be intimidated by that. I however, am not.

ON Robert and Raquel --

RAQUEL
I've been thinking. Whatever Norma paid you, I'm willing to double it.

ROBERT
I don't need your sponsorship.

RAQUEL
I guess you still belong to Norma.

ROBERT
You know what else belongs to Norma?

RAQUEL
What?

ROBERT
That necklace was stolen from Norma Dellacorte.

RAQUEL
Are you accusing my husband of theft?

ROBERT
I just want it back. No questions asked. It would be a shame if Pinky had to go back on vacation. Wouldn't it?

(CONTINUED)

BACK WITH Maxine...

MAXINE

Raquel!

Maxine finally gets to Raquel, who spins around --

RAQUEL

What is it Maxine?

(CONTINUED)

-- only to REVEAL she's not wearing the necklace.

MAXINE
(shocked)
What? What--

Maxine spins around to see ROBERT walking away - as he pockets the necklace. Her anxiety is at a fever pitch. Game, set, match - Diaz.

TIME SLOWS DOWN - Maxine is decomposing. Everything starts to IRIS IN on her.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
Nothing. Nothing.

Mitzi taps Maxine on the shoulder, shaking her out of her fugue state.

MITZI
Maxine! Do you have a pen? I met a really cute guy and he wants my number. These things don't have pockets.

A dazed Maxine opens her purse to give Mitzi a pen.

MAXINE
Okay. Here.

MITZI
Thank you!

MAXINE
Be careful.

And she finds the Fedora Guy's CARD. A lifeline.

24 INT. THE BREAKERS - INDOOR POOL - NIGHT (N9) 24

Maxine, making sure no one sees her, dials Sgt. Sanka's number on the pool phone.

MAXINE
Sergeant Tom Sanka? Maxine Dellacorte. I'd like to report a stolen jewel.

PRELAP the sound of a GAVEL BANGING.

25 INT. PALM BEACH COUNTY PROBATE COURTROOM - NEXT DAY (D10) 25

Maxine's dressed to the nines and holding up the RUBY before the Judge, who is quieting the court.

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

Indeed, your honor, as you can see
by my sworn, typed affidavit, this
ruby necklace was recovered from
the Havana Nights Gala, and then
found in Mister Diaz's pocket!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

The same Mister Diaz who came to this very court asking for conservatorship.

The ONLOOKERS Ooh and mumble.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

This precious stone, ladies and gentlemen, was in fact stolen from the Dellacorte home, where Mister Diaz purportedly worked as a "caretaker."

26 INT. PALM BEACH COUNTY JAIL - CELL - DAY (D10) 26

A very unhappy Robert is sitting in a jail cell, where he's been locked up since he was arrested at Raquel's party.

Sergeant Tom Sanka approaches and opens the door.

SERGEANT TOM SANKA

It's your lucky day. Somebody posted bail for you.

Off Robert - finally something going his way.

27 INT. PALM BEACH COUNTY PROBATE COURT - DAY (D10) 27

BACK WITH Maxine and the Judge.

MAXINE

And yet. In my heart of hearts I know Mr. Diaz is a troubled man. Shall I be granted conservatorship, on behalf of Norma and her estate, we have generously decided not to press charges. I know she would want it that way.

The Judge BANGS his gavel.

JUDGE WICKHAM

In the matter of Norma Dellacorte, the court hereby grants sole custody and conservatorship to Mrs. Douglas Dellacorte, and as such all trusts, bank accounts, safety deposit boxes, and any offshore assets shall immediately be transferred to her control and discretion...

Maxine is victorious - finally justice is served!

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE WICKHAM (CONT'D)
Under one condition.

Maxine looks at him, wide-eyed.

MAXINE
Anything. Anything for dear Aunt
Norma, your honor.

SMASH CUT TO:

28 INT. DELLACORTE MANSION - PARLOR - DAY (D10)

28

The parlor has been fitted out as a temporary ground-floor bedroom for Norma, who, semi-vegetative, is propped up in bed. Maxine arranges her pillows as awkward Douglas stands by.

DOUGLAS
Are you sure you wanna keep her here?
It is a big responsibility.

MAXINE
We're up to it.

DOUGLAS
That smell is kinda unpleasant. I
don't know... where exactly it's
coming from.

MAXINE
Shhh. Douglas.
(loud whispering)
We don't want what she can hear and not
hear. The home says she's in a
"twilight stupor", which from what
I understand, is catty-corner to
coma.

DOUGLAS
Can she talk?

MAXINE
Well, poor dear can sorta moan and
yodel, but consonants are off the
table.

DOUGLAS
I don't know. Shouldn't she be
under the care of medical
professionals?

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

No-no-no. All we have to do is flip her over every 30 minutes to keep the blood flowing and give her a shot every six hours. The home showed me how to do it.

DOUGLAS

Seriously?

MAXINE

You know in the short amount of time I've spent with Norma, I've grown kind of close to her. Poor dear. She got a rotten deal withering away in that place. We are gonna show her the best care we can.

DOUGLAS

Well I guess it's the least we can do for her. Considering all the ka-ching that's coming our way.

MAXINE

(hedging)

About that. Douglas. There's something I have to tell you.

DOUGLAS

Max?

MAXINE

While I was attending to Norma's guardianship, I became aware of something that'll disturb you.

DOUGLAS

Uh-huh..

MAXINE

When she passes, her estate is going to a cat sanctuary.

DOUGLAS

Why would she do that?

MAXINE

I'm sure she was non compos mentis when she made the decision.

(CONTINUED)

Douglas is stunned, tries to wrap his head around it.

DOUGLAS

I'm her favorite nephew. I'm her
only nephew. I - I thought she
loved me.

MAXINE

She did. She does. We both know it
was me she never liked...

DOUGLAS

I'm gonna kill her.

MAXINE

No-no. Don't say that. It's of the
utmost importance that we keep her
alive as long as we can.

DOUGLAS

Because?

MAXINE

Because it's the right thing to
do... and because, silver lining --
the two of you now have time to
work on your relationship... and
because...

(here's the rub)

... as her legal conservator I have
permission to pay us a salary
commensurate with her level of
care.

It slowly dawns on Douglas.

DOUGLAS

So - as long as she's in a stupor,
we get the checkbook? And if she
dies it goes to the cat place...

MAXINE

(nodding)

The Palm Beach Pedigree Feline
Conservancy.

Doug still seems hurt. Maxine moves to him.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I just wanted to have it all
figured out before I told you.
Cushion the blow, and all that.

(CONTINUED)

Douglas looks at Maxine in awe. The magnitude of her fix
sinking in.

DOUGLAS

I can't believe you did this for me. For us.

Maxine eats this up. Suddenly, Norma's TIMER goes off.

MAXINE

Ooh. Time to flip. Come on. Here. Maybe we take this down.

DOUGLAS

I don't know. To be honest, she's kinda creeping me out. Is she looking at us?

MAXINE

Douglas. Maybe she can hear you. Come on. On my three. One, two three!

Maxine and Douglas heave Norma forward and in the process they dislodge a chain around her neck - a chain with a KEY.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I don't believe it. The key!

DOUGLAS

The what?

Maxine unfastens the necklace and takes the key. Jackpot!

30

INT. OUR BODIES, OUR SHELVES BOOKSTORE - LATER (D10)

30

Linda is making up a cot for Robert in the back of the bookstore. She gives him a key.

LINDA

It's no Four Seasons but -- here we are.

ROBERT

Thank you so much for helping me out.

Linda smiles at him.

LINDA

I can't believe they didn't give you conservatorship. You're the one that really loves Norma.

ROBERT

Seems to be the way for people like me.

(CONTINUED)

Linda picks up on this breadcrumb. Gently probes.

LINDA
People like you?

ROBERT
Yeah. People like me.

Enough said.

LINDA
People like you might really like
reading material in aisle seven.

He smiles at her.

29 INT. PALM BEACH BANK AND TRUST - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY (D10) 29

Maxine and Evelyn are sitting side by side, waiting for Norma's safe deposit boxes to be delivered. Maxine fondles the precious KEY.

EVELYN
It seems we're on the cusp of
victory after all. Congratulations,
Maxine.

MAXINE
My one hope is that you and Linda
can mend fences. I hate that
there's tension between my two
closest friends in town.

Evelyn gives Maxine a withering stare.

EVELYN
Her name is Penelope, dear. The
Linda business is a pompous
affectation.

MAXINE

She's been quite clear that she identifies as Linda.

Evelyn looks at Maxine with affection. Despite herself, she's grown quite fond of her.

EVELYN

You're an awfully good friend to "Linda," all things considered.

Maxine looks at Evelyn, perplexed.

MAXINE

"All things considered"?

And just then, an OBSEQUIOUS BANK OFFICER saves Evelyn from having to elaborate.

OBSEQUIOUS BANK OFFICER

Ladies? Who has the key?

31 INT. OUR BODIES, OUR SHELVES BOOKSTORE - DAY (D10) 31

Robert approaches an aisle in the bookstore, 7. He runs his fingers along the titles... DEATH IN VENICE, MAURICE, GIOVANNI'S ROOM... he pulls out GIOVANNI'S ROOM... opens the cover to find...

A list of men's first names, handwritten... and phone numbers.

Robert takes a deep breath and then puts the book back on the shelf.

32 INT. OUR BODIES, OUR SHELVES BOOKSTORE - OFFICE - DAY (D10)

Linda sits over the Rolodex flipping through it. Once more, PUSH IN on her CARD: Penelope Rollins.

Linda flips the card over. The cursive note says: "AKA Linda Shaw. Attempted Murder."

Linda slowly tears the card in half.

VIRGINIA (O.S.)
What is that?

She did not hear Virginia enter.

Linda looks up; deftly clears the Rolodex.

LINDA
Nothing.

VIRGINIA
Is that why you're hiding
"nothing."

LINDA
I have nothing to hide.

VIRGINIA
Clearly.

Linda takes a deep breath... and spills...

33 INT. PALM BEACH BANK AND TRUST - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY (D10) 33

Maxine and Evelyn are standing over Norma's SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES - the UP ANGLE is a nod to the briefcase scene in *Pulp Fiction*. Maxine is agog at the bounty under the open half-lid.

OBSEQUIIOUS BANK OFFICER

I think that's everything. If you need anything else I'll be right outside. Please tell Norma to get well soon.

MAXINE

I will.

EVELYN

Thank you.

WE REVERSE to see... what looks like an anticlimactic pile of bric-a-brac.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Oh wow.

Maxine rifles through strange objects, which all seem to have some odd significance. A handkerchief stained with blood. A jar with a tooth in it. A birthday card with smudged fingerprints. A pocket knife with rust - is it rust?? - on the blade.

EVELYN

(veiled)

Norma was always eclectic. Let's look in the next box.

Maxine opens the next BOX'S half-lid, and gasps. INSIDE... she finds a gorgeous diamond tiara.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Norma wears that every year at the Beach Ball.

MAXINE

And this year will be no different.

Solemnly, she puts it back.

Evelyn's concern ratchets up a notch. She nods to the last box.

EVELYN

It must be in that one.

Maxine opens the last box's half-lid; sweating like a hooker in church.

(CONTINUED)

MAXINE

Ready? Ta-da!

It appears to be empty.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

It's empty. Is there a fourth box?

EVELYN

This is unconscionable. There's no place else she would have kept it.

MAXINE

Well unless I missed it amongst the other... Valuables.

EVELYN

For fuck's sake Maxine. You really are completely useless.

And with that, Evelyn turns and takes her leave of Maxine.

A wounded Maxine picks through the odd paraphernalia, putting it all away.

She closes the boxes. And then... takes out the tiara.

All alone... she places it on top her head.

A shiver goes down her spine. She closes her eyes and says quietly to herself...

MAXINE

Someday.

She puts it back. Satiated and still longing.

Then picks up the box that appeared to be empty.

Something metal and heavy slides, then clangs inside it. Hmm. Must have been way at the back.

Maxine opens the box. A SMALL PEARL-HANDLED PISTOL has slid to the front.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Norma. You're quite the gunslinger.

But there's something else. Maxine narrows her eyes.

She picks up what looks like a WEDDING INVITATION, addressed to Norma. Takes the card out of the OVERSIZED ENVELOPE.

(CONTINUED)

CLOSE ON the INVITE - it reeks of money. The thickest cream card stock, the swirliest calligraphy.

Maxine's surprised at first...

MAXINE (CONT'D)
Skeet Rollins cordially requests
the pleasure of your company...

Then confused...

MAXINE (CONT'D)
At the wedding of his beloved
daughter Penelope Rollins to...

Then...

34 INT. DELLACORTE MANSION - FOYER - LATER (N10) 34

Maxine wanders in, gutted, calling out. Looking for Douglas.

MAXINE
Douglas!

Has her whole marriage been built on a lie? She desperately wants to believe otherwise, but deep down she fears it's true.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
(yells toward upstairs)
Douglas!

But no Douglas.

35 INT. DELLACORTE MANSION - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (N10)

Maxine drifts in, calling out for Douglas. But her voice simply echoes in the cavernous room:

MAXINE
Douglas Darby Dellacorte Simmons!
Douglas!

36 INT. DELLACORTE MANSION - SMOKING ROOM - NIGHT (N10) 36

Maxine bursts into the room, now she's angry.

NORMA (O.S.)
We-wa-wa!!!!

OFF MAXINE, did Norma just speak?!

A37 INT. DELLACORTE PARLOR - NIGHT (N10) (FORMERLY SC. 36) A37

Maxine rushes in... past the wall of firearms to find Norma, eyes open, struggling to speak.

MAXINE

Norma! Did you say something?

NORMA

We-wa-wa!

Maxine approaches Norma. Norma's eyes burn through her.

MAXINE

What?

NORMA

We-wa-wa.

MAXINE

We-wa-wa?

NORMA

We-wa-wa.

MAXINE

I don't know what we-wa-wa is!

NORMA

We-wa-wa!

CAMERA LINGERS on that felt background, the faded outline of a missing pistol -- the pistol we saw in the safe deposit box.

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

We-wa-wa.

On the outline of that missing gun we...

CUT TO BLACK

37 OMITTED

37

END OF EPISODE