

PUZZLED

A play in 2 Acts

DRAFT of Nov. 2019

by

Michael Bassett

(c) Michael Bassett
310 S. Michigan Ave., #2301
Chicago, IL 60604
(708) 655-1916
carat13@mac.com
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PUZZLED

Character Breakdown

Sarah Prescott

38, Art Director, two children - both girls, happily married.

Lisa Browne

39, Photographer, one son, happily married

Allison Lyons

42, College Educator, one son, happily married

Gina DiPaolo

38, Teacher, two children - a boy and girl, marriage in crisis

Raphaela Kovack

28, Dancer, no children, single

Paul Berry

20, College student

The entire play takes place in the same setting over the course of one afternoon and evening.

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Setting & Time

A summer beach house on the coast of Lake Michigan, September 2009

SCENE I-1

Early afternoon.

A well-appointed lake house on the shores of Lake Michigan.

The front door opens to a great room with a fireplace downstage right. The great room is arranged with a long sofa and two large comfortable sitting chairs around the hearth. There is a very large flat-panel television to the left of the fireplace on it's own stand.

The kitchen is half visible with the large square counter island with bar stools jutting into the great room upstage left.

There is a small dining table downstage left with four chairs.

The bedrooms are offstage, upstage left.

The front door opens. SARAH PRESCOTT, enters with LISA BROWNE, both late-thirties.

They are fully loaded with overnight bags and groceries.

LISA

You want to put those in the kitchen -- I'll take your bag to the bedroom.

SARAH

Great. We should make dinner for her tonight.

LISA

Sounds good.

They unburden themselves. Lisa takes the overnight bags and exits stage right to the bedrooms.

LISA (O.S.)

Open the wine!

Sarah takes the groceries stage left and puts them on the counter and begins putting them away.

Lisa enters.

LISA

I gotta make the beds. Wine?

SARAH

You do that. I'll get the groceries away.

Lisa goes to the drawer for a corkscrew and a bottle of wine.

LISA

When did you talk to Allie?

SARAH

When?

LISA

Wasn't she picking up Gina?

SARAH

They're on the way up now, I think. Wanna call her?

LISA

I wanna open this wine.

SARAH

I know Gina needed to get baby-sitting in place --

LISA

Her parents?

SARAH

Yeah probably -- I think her kids are going there for the weekend.

LISA

Is Rob with the kids all weekend?

SARAH

He better be -- unless he made other arrangements. It's outta my hands!

LISA

He's been traveling a lot lately.

SARAH

You say that like it's a bad thing.

They laugh.

LISA

Steve was complaining that he never gets to use the house.

SARAH

Don't you guys ever come up here together?

LISA

A weekend getaway with my husband? Yuck! That's not what this house is for.

Lisa pours a glass of wine.

SARAH

Yes, please.

LISA

I'm getting there, geez. This one's for you anyway.

SARAH

Thank you. I'll wait for you.

Lisa pours another glass.

LISA

To a weekend without children!

They clink and drink.

SARAH

To a weekend without husbands.

LISA

Without men!

They clink and drink.

LISA

One more. To a weekend of wine!

They clink and drink.

SARAH

So, did Gina say anything more to you about --

LISA

Well -- what did she say to you?

SARAH

Well, what did she say to you?

LISA

Probably the same thing.

SARAH

I just can't believe he'd fess up to it.

LISA

Yeah, what a hero. Like he had a choice?

SARAH

Of course he had a choice -- there's always a choice. We'll just make it a light and easy weekend for her.

LISA

For all of us.

SARAH

Yeah, but for Gina especially.

LISA

What was the name of that woman --

SARAH

It was Raphaela.

LISA

No, god, I know that -- good lord, that doesn't surprise me at all anyway.

SARAH

Really?

LISA

Raphaela? She's such a skanky little flirt. And I like her too! That's what makes it so bizarre -- but it's still not surprising. I mean, how long have we all known each other?

SARAH

I like her too. I don't know if I could blame Raphaela --

LISA

Because George is sooo hot.

SARAH

Oh god, no.

LISA

He is kind of cute.

SARAH

I've never seen him that way -- or looked at him that way. I just mean I'd blame him before I'd blame her. If you were going to blame anyone.

LISA

How could you not blame him? He's the pig. She's just -- just Raphaela. The concubine -- and she's not married.

SARAH

The kept woman. How can he keep her when he doesn't make enough money to keep Gina and the kids, he's going to keep Raphaela? Good luck.

LISA

How long has it been going on?

SARAH

I have no idea. I just heard about it when you heard about it.

LISA

I just assumed it was a one timer.

SARAH

I don't think so. I think it was a multi-timer.

LISA

Really? It's not still --

SARAH

No, no. I don't think so. I think Raphaela ended it -- for Gina's sake.

LISA

Oh, isn't that just so sweet of her.

SARAH

I still think the blame goes to him --

LISA

What was the name of that woman who cut the prick off --

SARAH

Who?

LISA

You know, that woman who cut off her husband's dick and threw it out the car window?

SARAH

While he was driving?

LISA

No! No, whatever -- I can't remember her name. But that's what Gina -- that's what I would have done.

SARAH

God -- I couldn't even imagine -- could you imagine?

LISA

Well that's what I want Steve to think I would do if he ever even thought about something like that.

SARAH

I'm not sure I would suggest that to Gina.

Lisa pulls out a large kitchen knife from the block. She brings it down hard on the cutting board.

LISA

High ya!

The front door opens. ALLISON LYONS, 40, but looks much younger, enters with an overnight bag, a cake box and two bottles of wine.

ALLIE

Hello, hello?

LISA

Hey hey. We're in here. God, you must have been right behind us.

SARAH

Is Gina with you?

ALLIE

No, she's teaching her class.

LISA

That shit!

ALLIE

I know, but she needs the money. She was dropping off the kids after, then coming up. I'm going to drop these in the bedroom?

LISA

You're in the one on the left.

ALLIE

First I'll drop these here.

She takes the cake and wine bottles to the counter.

ALLIE

And I'll expect to see a glass poured when I return.

SARAH

Yes, your majesty!

ALLIE

You know it!

Allie exits to the bedroom.

LISA

Why would she teach today? She couldn't get a sub for one lousy class?

SARAH

She does need the money.

LISA

Get her stupid ass cheating husband to watch the damn kids every once in awhile.

SARAH

He's in Frankfort.

LISA

Germany?

SARAH

Kentucky.

LISA

Kentucky? What the hell is in Kentucky?

SARAH

Frankfort, I guess. That's where they're headquartered.

LISA

Did Raphaela go with him?

SARAH
Oh god, could you imagine?

LISA
Sorry, that was mean.

Allie enters from the bedroom.

SARAH
My liege.

She hands Allie a glass of wine.

Allie answers in a heavy British accent.

ALLIE
Well done, wench. Now draw my bath and prepare my supper. Actually, prepare thy feast so that I may eateth then draw my bath so that I may batheth. Yes. Quite.

LISA
Wow -- that's really bad.

ALLIE
Hast thou any peanuts or cheeses to snacketh on?

SARAH
Really, really bad.

ALLIE
Attend me, wenches! Oh, never mind. So where's Raphaela?

SARAH
Oh -- my -- god --

ALLIE
Can you believe it?

SARAH
No.

LISA
That's what I said. High ya!

Lisa brings down the knife on the cutting board.

Sarah pours some peanuts into a dish.

SARAH
Here, eat a peanut. So what's with the cake?

Open it.

ALLIE

Sarah opens the cake box.

LISA

Let me see. "In the zoo of marriage, men are cheetahs"?

They both groan.

LISA

God, that's awful.

ALLIE

She'll love it.

SARAH

You can't give her that!

ALLIE

It's for all of us! What's with the bedrooms?

LISA

Oh yeah --

SARAH

What happened?

ALLIE

I've been moved to the master suite.

SARAH

Really?

LISA

I just didn't want to sleep in there anymore.

SARAH

Where am I?

LISA

You're with me if you want.

ALLIE

The master?

LISA

I can't sleep in the same bed knowing my father was probably in there humping his way through the sheets with nurse Betty.

ALLIE
See? The bed is very comfortable.

SARAH
Well, I can't sleep in there now!

ALLIE
I can.

SARAH
I'm with Lisa.

ALLIE
You did change the sheets, right?

LISA
We went out for breakfast this morning --

ALLIE
Your mother --

LISA
Yeah. She said I was being too hard on him.

SARAH
Your mother said you were being too hard on your father?

LISA
Yes. Do you believe it?

SARAH
Must be a generational thing.

ALLIE
You think?

SARAH
What else?

ALLIE
Maybe it was a practical thing.

LISA
What do you mean?

ALLIE
Well, I mean like from a -- like an inheritance thing.

LISA

I don't care about that. What do you mean?

ALLIE

Well, your parents -- I mean, they must have discussed the way things, you know legally, what happens if they divorce now. What happens to the family home, what happens to this house, how does the money go through to you guys in the event of the divorce.

SARAH

Are they getting a divorce?

LISA

Yes.

SARAH

God, I had no idea.

LISA

I just think after forty years -- and after twenty years of nurse Betty, he should suffer a little. Hell, he should suffer a lot.

ALLIE

Is her name really Betty?

LISA

No, it's Fran. Francis.

SARAH

Twenty years.

LISA

Something like that. You know what else I found out?

SARAH

What?

LISA

My mother knew for years.

ALLIE

What?

LISA

Yeah -- she knew for years but that's not the kicker. Here's the real kick in the ass. She told me she had dinner with Fran when she found out about it.

When was this? SARAH

Like ten years ago! LISA

What? ALLIE

Yeah! She found out and invited her out to dinner to find out what the hell was going on. LISA

You gotta be kidding. ALLIE

Nope! LISA

What did she say? SARAH

She said it was no big deal. LISA

To Fran? SARAH

No, to me. To Fran too, I guess. She said they had a nice dinner and talked about Dad and about how they should proceed. LISA

Wow. SARAH

Oh, yeah...it gets better. Then Mom suggested they work out some kind of schedule to make it easier on everyone. LISA

A schedule. A schedule? Your mom? ALLIE

Oh yeah. Nice, right? LISA

I'm totally lost. A schedule? SARAH

LISA

Right? You're not alone, believe me.

ALLIE

What did your Dad say?

LISA

What did he say? He said nothing. I haven't talked to him about it. Mom said it was easier that way and I think he's a prick and he's a selfish ass and I don't want to have anything to do with him right now.

ALLIE

Wow.

LISA

I just think of how many years I worked in that office. Every summer home from school I worked in that office with Fran and I had no idea. I just feel like I've been completely lied to -- which I have. Just duped. We've been completely duped and my father gets off scot free?! That's bullshit. You know? I think that is totally bullshit.

SARAH

We should have brought your mom up.

LISA

I asked her.

ALLIE

That would have been great actually.

LISA

She said I'm being ridiculous.

ALLIE

About coming up?

LISA

About dad. That if it doesn't bother her it shouldn't bother me.

SARAH

Wow, again.

LISA

But it does bother her because the divorce is happening now and how could it not bother her if it's happening now, right?

SARAH

You mean it's happening now now?

LISA

I mean it's happened -- it's happened and it's all just paperwork and crap before it's official. Don't you think that's strange? Twenty years -- years after, now the divorce? How could she not be bothered. She's bothered.

ALLIE

Paperwork and crap.

LISA

She's bothered, he's an ass and I need a refill please.

SARAH

Poor Gina.

LISA

Speaking of divorce.

ALLIE

Oh, she's okay -- I think.

LISA

Did you talk to her about it?

ALLIE

Sort of. Not about divorce. I think she was anxious about coming up because she's not really ready to talk about it fully -- full disclosure kind of thing. It's bad.

LISA

What did she say to you?

ALLIE

Nothing more than what you know, I guess.

SARAH

It's not like she walked in on them.

ALLIE

I don't know --

LISA/SARAH

What!?

ALLIE

I think there may have been a little "oops, there it is" moment.

Get the hell outta here!

LISA

She said that?

SARAH

She alluded to it.

ALLIE

Well, what does that mean?

LISA

Let's just say there was some underwear found.

ALLIE

Gross!

SARAH

Yeah.

ALLIE

She found Raphaela's underwear?

LISA

Ah -- yeah.

ALLIE

Where?

LISA

In the couch.

ALLIE

Oh gross!

SARAH

In the couch, what -- the cushions or something?

LISA

Squeezed down between the cushions.

ALLIE

In her own couch, like on their couch where the kids jump around on, couch? In the family room couch?

LISA

Oh, my god.

SARAH

And they were moist. ALLIE

Stop it! That is so disgusting. SARAH

Yep. ALLIE

How humiliating. SARAH

Yeah. LISA

Yeah. ALLIE

That's not full disclosure? She found her underwear? LISA

I didn't find it. ALLIE

Oh my god. What did she do? SARAH

With the underwear? ALLIE

No! When she found it. Is that what started it all? SARAH

You have to ask her -- ALLIE

What! Do you know? LISA

No, no, no -- let's wait for her to get here and tell us. ALLIE

It wouldn't be fair to draw all these conclusions about what she must have felt or anything anyway. SARAH

Right, right -- of course. To full disclosure. LISA

They all raise their glasses and drink.

SARAH

Moist?

LISA

I told you!

ALLIE

What?

LISA

She's such a skanky little flirt.

SARAH

That's such a disgusting word.

ALLIE

Moist. That is nasty.

LISA

Is that what she said?

ALLIE

No.

SARAH

No?

ALLIE

She just said damp.

LISA

You said moist.

ALLIE

Yeah, well -- damp, moist -- you know, for effect.

SARAH

Damp or moist. That is really, really disgusting.

LISA

I'll drink to that!

SARAH

I can't drink to that!

ALLIE

Lisa would. Actually, is there anything you wouldn't drink to?

LISA

Oh, listen to you.

ALLIE

I'm empty by the way.

Lisa pours her another glass of wine.

SARAH

So what should we make for dinner?

ALLIE

Oh, that reminds me.

LISA

I don't know. Food?

Allie runs off towards the bedroom.

LISA

What is it?

ALLIE

It's a surprise!

SARAH

Should we be worried?

LISA

With Allie? Better to be worried.

SARAH

This is something we should talk about -- I mean Gina -- before she gets here.

LISA

Like a common ground or something?

SARAH

Well, just so we all know what we know -- I don't know. Let's all be on the same page. She must feel like total shit. How humiliating.

LISA

I think the best thing to do is wait for her to talk.

SARAH

Of course.

LISA

If she wants to talk about it, fine -- but I don't think any -- I don't think we should be asking her any questions or anything.

SARAH

Absolutely, I agree. But the underwear? I didn't know about the underwear, did you?

LISA

No. But that's okay. We'll just follow her lead.

SARAH

Okay -- good.

LISA

And forget about the underwear.

SARAH

Well, I'm not even wearing any.

They laugh.

LISA

Me either -- I think I left mine stuffed between the cushions!

They laugh.

SARAH

Moist!

Allie returns with an oversized bear, nearly as large as she.

She waltzes with the bear into and around the great room.

LISA

You found Yogi!

ALLIE

He's letting me lead for once.

They watch Allie dance for a while, clapping out a rhythm.

With a big flourish, Allie finally spins Yogi onto one of the easy chairs and does a ceremonious bow to end the dance.

They all clap, hooting and cheering.

LISA

That was your surprise?

ALLIE

Yogi's always a surprise -- I found him in the closet.

LISA

Really? That's strange. I thought something was missing when we came in. He usually sits out here guarding the place.

ALLIE

Well, he is officially outted!

SARAH

(in the voice of Yogi Bear)

Gaaaaayer than your average bear.

LISA

Stop that! Don't listen to them, Yogi.

Allie pulls out a rolled marijuana cigarette (joint) from her pocket.

ALLIE

Taa Daa!

SARAH

That's even less surprising than Yogi.

ALLIE

Got a light, sailor?

LISA

There's one in the top drawer on the left.

Allie goes to the kitchen.

LISA

I've had that bear since I was ten!

SARAH

I'll tell you something even scarier -- I was at your birthday when you got him.

Oh my god, that's right!

LISA

So there!

SARAH

Really?

ALLIE

We were always at each other's parties. Gina was at that party.

LISA

Well, that's true. But I remember Yogi's appearance.

SARAH

Must have come from your father.

ALLIE

She lights the joint and takes a hit and passes it to Lisa.

LISA

Absolutely.

SARAH

He was buying your love.

Lisa takes a hit and passes it to Sarah.

LISA

As he should!

ALLIE

Just like Steve does now.

LISA

Oh, he's still trying to afford me!

Sarah takes a puff and passes to Allie.

They continue passing...

ALLIE

Oh, I brought a couple movies.

LISA

Which ones?

ALLIE

I don't remember -- I'll get them.

Let's make dinner first. SARAH

Geez -- you and making dinner. LISA

I'm hungry too. ALLIE

You and being hungry. LISA

You and Yogi. SARAH

My first lover, Yogi. LISA

I thought I noticed something while we were dancing. ALLIE

Don't say it! SARAH

What? LISA

His fur was kinda moist. ALLIE

END SCENE 1

ACT I-2

Later -- early that evening.

The three are lounging watching a movie.

Sarah lies across the sofa sharing ice cream from a carton with Lisa who sits on the floor leaning against the sofa wrapped in a blanket.

Allie is sprawled over one of the easy chairs with a bowl of popcorn.

Isn't this her brother? LISA

Yes. ALLIE

Does she know that? LISA

Not yet. SARAH

Have you seen this? ALLIE

Yeah -- SARAH

Really, I didn't know that -- ALLIE

I don't mind. SARAH

Well, I haven't seen it! LISA

Me either. ALLIE

I don't mind watching it again. SARAH

Wait, I missed something. LISA

She grabs the remote and rewinds the movie a bit -- or attempts to.

Oh shit, I went back too far. LISA

He is her brother, right? ALLIE

Oh yeah. SARAH

Nice --
ALLIE

Wait, damn it! Where the hell were we?
LISA

She finds out after -- well, right after that scene we were on.
SARAH

Do they screw?
LISA

Just watch the film.
SARAH

Well, you've already seen it.
LISA

I don't care.
SARAH

They have sex?
ALLIE

Not them. Sort of -- just watch.
SARAH

I'm gonna pee.
LISA

Let's take a break.
ALLIE

Fine with me.
LISA

She gets up and exits off to the bedrooms.

I don't care either way.
SARAH

I wasn't expecting it to turn into a porno!
LISA (O.S.)

That's the other movie I brought!
ALLIE

No, you didn't.
SARAH

No, I didn't.

ALLIE

Too bad.

SARAH

There's a knock on the front door as it swings open revealing GINA DiPAOLA, late thirties, carrying an overnight bag.

GINA

Hello?

SARAH

Hey, hey!

ALLIE

Gina's finally here!

GINA

Hey guys.

They get up and move to greet her.

LISA (O.S.)

It's about time! I'm going pee!

GINA

With the door open, evidently. I hope you lifted the seat!

SARAH

Are you hungry?

GINA

Yeah, a little. I brought someone with me.

SARAH

Huh?

GINA

I got a ride up. She's getting stuff from the car.

ALLIE

What? Really? Who did you bring?

Lisa enters from the bedroom.

LISA

What happened?

ALLIE
What, did you have to bring the kids?

SARAH
She brought someone --

RAPHAELA KOVACK, late-twenties, shapely and attractive, knocks on the open door and enters.

RAPHAELA
Hello, hello?

GINA
Just Raphaela.

There is a moment of utter confusion and open mouth amazement before Allie speaks.

ALLIE
Hey, Raphaela! Hey!

Gina smiles awkwardly while Lisa and Sarah stare wide-eyed.

GINA
Raphaela gave me a ride up, but she's not staying.

RAPHAELA
No, no -- I have to get back.

LISA
She -- you gave her a ride up?

SARAH
That's a long ride.

RAPHAELA
It's not that far really.

GINA
There wasn't any traffic.

RAPHAELA
Yeah, really no traffic at all.

After a moment of standing and silence...

LISA
Well, come in. Come in -- let me take your bag.

Lisa puts Gina's bag by the bedrooms offstage.

RAPHAELA

I brought a peace offering.

SARAH

A peace offering?

Raphaela hands her a bakery bag and a couple bottles of wine.

Sarah takes the items into the kitchen, followed by Lisa.

RAPHAELA

I thought you guys might like the pastries for the morning. And the wine --

ALLIE

Wine is always good.

RAPHAELA

That's what I figured.

GINA

The pastries are from Arditti's.

ALLIE

On Madison?

RAPHAELA

Yeah, yeah -- my mother used to work there.

ALLIE

I love that place.

GINA

It's great.

RAPHAELA

They do have the best bakery --

SARAH

Do you guys want a glass of wine.

GINA

Yes!! Sorry about that. I do, please. A big one.

RAPHAELA

I'm okay, actually --

LISA

Oh, Raphaela -- have a glass of wine.

RAPHAELA

I have to drive back in a little bit.

LISA

So we'll just pour you a little bit then.

RAPHAELA

Oh, okay.

The looks are flying from everyone -- but Gina and Raphaela.

LISA

Whatever's open?

GINA

Yes.

RAPHAELA

Is that white?

LISA

Red actually.

RAPHAELA

That's fine.

Lisa hands Gina a glass which she draws on immediately.

She then hands a glass to Raphaela.

Allie offers her bowl of popcorn.

ALLIE

Popcorn?

Gina takes a big handful.

GINA

What did you have for dinner?

SARAH

Ravioli. I'll warm some up.

My favorite -- that'd be great.

GINA

Sarah puts a plate of food together and puts in into the microwave.

After a moment of everyone sipping from their glasses...

So, are the kids --

SARAH

My parents.

GINA

So you drove up --

LISA

Raphaela met me at the academy.

GINA

After class?

LISA

Yeah. The door opened and there was Raphaela.

GINA

No kidding.

LISA

Nope.

GINA

They all sip their wine.

Should I just launch?

RAPHAELA

That's probably a good idea.

GINA

I met her after her class.

RAPHAELA

Quite a surprise actually --

GINA

Shocking --

LISA

RAPHAELA

Yeah, well I wanted -- I needed -- well, this is going to sound awful but I knew I had to say something -- for me, well -- for Gina and I knew, I know what you all must think of me and I don't blame you. Hell, I don't blame anyone other than the obvious parties, or party -- namely me for getting involved or whatever with, you know -- sorry, I'm not making any sense.

LISA

Yes you are.

RAPHAELA

Really?

GINA

So she needed to talk to me --

RAPHAELA

Right, I needed to talk to Gina and apologize for everything and I know that's really, really horrible and lame but I didn't know where to start, or begin to make things right -- well, not right, but it's just a really, really stupid thing -- situation and there's really no excuse, I mean -- whatever the reasons were, it doesn't matter because my behavior --

LISA

What were the reasons?

SARAH

Lisa -

LISA

I'm sorry -- it's just --

RAPHAELA

No, no -- it's fine.

GINA

The reasons -- that is a good question actually. I forgot to ask you that one.

RAPHAELA

Oh god --

ALLIE

You want to finish, Raphaela?

RAPHAELA

I guess, I mean --

GINA

Raphaela insisted on driving me up here to give us time to talk in private.

Yes. RAPHAELA

GINA
Try to work through things without distractions.

Right. RAPHAELA

GINA
She's not looking for forgiveness.

No. RAPHAELA

GINA
Just looking for understanding.

Right. RAPHAELA

GINA
From all of us.

LISA
From all of us?

GINA
Yes.

LISA
All of us?

GINA
We're all friends, after all.

LISA
Wow.

The microwave "beeps" ready.

SARAH
I think the ravioli is done.

GINA
I'll eat it up here.

She sits at the island counter.

RAPHAELA

Can I -- do you mind if I use your bathroom?

LISA

What's that?

ALLIE

The bathroom is --

LISA

Yeah, sure, right -- it's down the hallway there past the bedroom, second door on the left.

RAPHAELA

Okay. Thanks.

Raphaela grabs her purse and exits to the bathroom. All but Gina watch her exit.

Gina eats while the girls gather around her, all eyes wide.

GINA

Is there any Parmesan cheese?

LISA

You gotta be kidding.

SARAH

Gina --

GINA

I know --

SARAH

Gina --

LISA

Two hours in the car?

SARAH

Gina --

GINA

Would you stop already?

ALLIE

Are you okay?

GINA

No, I'm not at all okay.

ALLIE
Do you want us to do something?

GINA
Like what?

LISA
Like kick her ass?

SARAH
Gina --

GINA
What is it, Sarah?

LISA
Let's kick her ass!

SARAH
We love you.

GINA
Oh god, please.

LISA
We do, you know.

GINA
That's nice. Thank you, but it really doesn't help.

ALLIE
What would help? Is there something that would help?

GINA
I just want to eat for a second.

SARAH
I told you.

GINA
What?

SARAH
I told Lisa we should just wait for you to talk --

LISA
No you didn't.

SARAH
Yes I did.

LISA
No you didn't -- I did.

SARAH
You did not.

LISA
I said we shouldn't ask any questions.

SARAH
I didn't ask her anything!

LISA
Yes you did!

SARAH
No I didn't!

LISA
You asked her if she was hungry!

ALLIE
I asked her if she was okay.

SARAH
This is crazy. What the hell is she doing here?!

GINA
I can't forgive him. Do you understand? I want to. I really want to. I know it'll be different -- our relationship, what's left of it will be different. I've accepted that, I think. But I want to forgive him and I can't. I really, really want to but every time I look at him -- I can't see him, you know? I look at him and I just see this, this thing taking up space in my life and it won't move. It won't get out of the way. It's just -- there. It demands to be noticed and I just want to be able to close my eyes tight and when I open them I want to whisk it all away -- just whisk this little black cloud hovering, waiting to be moved, but there it is -- in this stale room, this black cloud filling up all the corners in my head. Filling up my life with stuff -- I can't breathe this stuff -- I don't want it anymore. I don't want anything from anybody. I just want it to be clear and clean -- I just want to be able to breathe clear and clean again.

LISA
I'm sorry.

GINA

Aaaaa!! And that's another thing. These lousy obligatory sorrys all over the place. They don't even mean anything anymore. Geez, just stop them please.

SARAH

Of course --

GINA

It's humiliating enough, you know?

SARAH

Right.

ALLIE

Right, right. Geez.

LISA

Gina --

ALLIE

That must have been a hell of a ride up.

LISA

Did George say anything?

SARAH

Lisa --

LISA

What?

SARAH

Questions?

GINA

He's been gone since Thursday.

SARAH

In Frankfort.

ALLIE

Germany?

SARAH

Kentucky, for god's sake!

ALLIE

I'm sorry. Oops -- didn't mean that.

GINA

It's good, actually to have a few days alone -- it's convenient.

Raphaela enters tentatively.

RAPHAELA

Is it okay?

LISA

Is what okay?

RAPHAELA

I figured you guys would need to, that you might need to --you know.

SARAH

Is it okay, Gina?

GINA

Eat something, Raphaela.

RAPHAELA

Oh, that's okay --

LISA

Yes, eat something, Raphaela. Please.

RAPHAELA

I wanted to tell you guys how sorry I am about everything.

GINA

Oh boy --

RAPHAELA

Just how sorry I've been feeling since this whole thing started and how sorry I am about what it's done to our friendship -- my friendship with Gina and with you guys. I can't even begin to tell you what a nightmare it's all been -- a nightmare I just want to bring to an end. So I'm glad -- I'm grateful I can say I'm sorry to all of you together. Which is why I insisted on driving Gina up here because I knew you'd all be together and there would be no confusion -- right into the lion's den -- or into the lionesses den. So, I'm sorry.

GINA

Is there any more wine?

LISA

Can I ask a question now?

Sarah fills the glasses of wine.

SARAH
Lisa -- we were just watching a movie.

LISA
Gina?

GINA
Yes?

LISA
Do you mind if I ask Raphaela a question?

GINA
It's fine with me.

LISA
Sarah? Allie?

SARAH
Yes? Oh, well --

Allie smiles sheepishly with her mouth full of popcorn.

LISA
Raphaela, you mentioned earlier that there were reasons --

SARAH
Oh, come on --

LISA
Shhhh! The reasons you involved yourself -- with George? You know, Gina's George?
Gina's married husband, George?

SARAH
You know, I think this is something for Gina and Raphaela to discuss.

GINA
Actually, for Gina and George to discuss.

SARAH
Even better --

GINA
Except George couldn't even come up with one reason. So I just watched him punch
holes in the hallway wall instead.

ALLIE
No he didn't.

GINA

Oh yeah, he did.

ALLIE

Oh, my god.

GINA

So any insight from the other side would be interesting to hear.

SARAH

I don't think we should be here.

GINA

Actually, for me at least -- I'm glad to have you guys here. Like Raphaela said, we're all friends, right? Raphaela?

SARAH

You guys --

LISA

You heard her, Sarah. Go ahead, Raphaela.

SARAH

Oh god --

Allie grabs a handful of popcorn.

RAPHAELA

Well, I don't even know where to start.

LISA

Is it over?

RAPHAELA

Yes.

LISA

How long?

RAPHAELA

Um -- how long over, you mean?

LISA

Both! How long was it going on and how long has it been over, if it is over?

RAPHAELA

It's over. I think.

You think!?

LISA

What does that mean!

SARAH

Allie takes another handful of popcorn.

RAPHAELA

I mean for me! For me it is. I can't -- I don't know about -- I mean, I can't speak for George. I'm sorry, Gina.

LISA

Don't say that! You can't say that anymore!

RAPHAELA

It is over. It's been over for awhile.

LISA

How long?

RAPHAELA

I don't know exactly.

LISA

Days, weeks, months?

RAPHAELA

Weeks!

LISA

How many?

RAPHAELA

Three weeks?

LISA

Three weeks since you last saw him or three weeks since the underwear in the couch?

RAPHAELA

What?

ALLIE

Oh boy.

GINA

I found your underwear. In the cushions.

Oh, my god.

RAPHAELA

She sits down, head in her hands.

Allie offers her the bowl of popcorn.

GINA

Did I tell you that?

ALLIE

I told them. I'm sorry. Damn it again!

LISA

My mother went through the same thing and I can't figure out why we're suppose to be so damn brave about it!

SARAH

It's not fair.

LISA

No, it's not fair at all. It's bullshit, is what it is. So Raphaela -- I think you need to provide a little insight into what the hell went on because it's just not fair. It's not fair at all!

RAPHAELA

What do you want me to say?

LISA

Anything!

GINA

That's enough, Lisa.

RAPHAELA

It's was stupid! Okay, I know that! It's not something you plan on walking into. It just sorta happens because one thing leads to another and that leads to another and a stupid simple flirt leads to a kiss and then that leads to something stupider and you're not thinking clearly and it's exciting and it's wrong and you do it, I don't know...it didn't go on. It wasn't supposed to go on. It was just -- it was only maybe two or three times.

GINA

How many times?

RAPHAELA

I don't know.

Yes, you do. LISA

Three times. RAPHAELA

Five times. LISA

I don't know! RAPHAELA

Yes you do! LISA

How do you know? (to Lisa) GINA

LISA
I don't know -- but three times means five times because five times sounds a hell of a lot worse than three and it's hard enough admitting to any so you try to take the edge off by saying it wasn't as many as it actually was so you say three when it was probably a lot closer to five or more. You don't say a *couple* -- that means two. You say a *few* because that means something more than three but less than a hundred.

Less than a hundred. RAPHAELA

How many times. GINA

Four! Five times maybe. At the most, though! RAPHAELA

See. LISA

Oh, god -- RAPHAELA

My mother went through the same thing. LISA

Is she okay? GINA

LISA

No. No she's not. She's bothered. She's bothered and I'm bothered because she's bothered and I'm bothered because you're bothered. We're all bothered. Do you understand, Raphaela? We're all bothered!

SARAH

You guys want to watch movie?

ALLIE

(to Sarah)

Are you kidding?

GINA

I can't do this.

ALLIE

What's that, Gina.

GINA

Raphaela is staying.

RAPHAELA

What?

GINA

You're spending the night.

RAPHAELA

I can't.

LISA

Yes you can.

GINA

You're spending the night and we're gonna let everything slide right on by -- let it slide right on out into the fucking night because I'm sick of feeling this way and if I can't sweep it all away at home you can bet your ass that I'm sure as hell going to sweep it all away right here -- this weekend, with my friends.

RAPHAELA

But --

LISA

You heard her!

RAPHAELA

I don't even have any clothes --

Gina gets up and goes to her overnight bag upstage. She fishes around and pulls out the underwear. She walks back and tosses them to Raphaela.

GINA

Here you go. I washed them.

SARAH

So, anybody wanna watch a movie?

END SCENE

SCENE I-3

Later that evening.

Gina is propped up, lying on the sofa facing Sarah who is propped up lying the opposite way.

Allie sits on the floor leaning on the sofa between them, drinking a glass of wine.

Lisa and Raphaela are at the door about to leave.

RAPHAELA

At least let me drive.

LISA

(going through the list)

Be quiet. Fruit, coffee, butter -- should I get some beer?

ALLIE

Wine.

LISA

We have plenty of wine.

ALLIE

Get more.

SARAH

We have plenty of wine. Just some fruit, coffee and butter. Oh, and olive oil.

LISA

Right, I knew there was something else.

RAPHAELA

At least let me pay.

LISA

Oh, you're paying for everything, don't worry. You have to move your car to the side too. Okay -- we'll see you guys in a second.

RAPHAELA

Where should I move it?

LISA

Just go! I'll show you.

Lisa pushes Raphaela out the door to exit.

GINA

I'm going to kill Raphaela.

ALLIE

You should.

GINA

This weekend. I planned it all out. I brought this concoction I read about online. It's a poison that you can mix into food and it's totally undetectable.

SARAH

What?

GINA

She won't be able to taste it. It's tasteless.

ALLIE

It is tasteless. You're serious.

SARAH

She's joking.

ALLIE

She's not joking. She's serious.

SARAH

Gina?

ALLIE

Gina? Are you serious?

GINA

No. Nevermind.

ALLIE

Gina --

Gina? SARAH

GINA
Nevermind. Isn't that what that bird says in the poem?

ALLIE
Nevermore.

GINA
Oh, that's right. That's what I meant. Nevermore. The Raven, right? Quoth the Raven,
"Nevermore".

SARAH
Are you okay?

GINA
I will be.

Sarah and Allie look at one another.

ALLIE
Okay, I'm waiting for the maniacal laugh. Anyone?

GINA
Hoo Hoo Hoo Haa Haa!

ALLIE
That was pretty good actually.

GINA
You think I could get away with it?

ALLIE
Well you can't now.

GINA
Why not?

ALLIE
Because you told us. Maybe if you hadn't mentioned it to us -- but Sarah would totally rat
you out.

SARAH
What are you talking about? No I wouldn't! Wait, actually --

ALLIE

The cops would make her squeal.

SARAH

Oh please. I'd hold out longer than you.

ALLIE

No way.

SARAH

Yes way.

ALLIE

Gina?

GINA

I shouldn't have mentioned anything. You're right.

ALLIE

See?

GINA

I guess I'll just have to kill everyone.

They freeze again.

GINA

Hoo hoo hoo haa haa!

ALLIE

Thank you. Why would you want to kill her anyway. I'd kill George.

GINA

Yeah. Yeah I should. I should kill somebody. Who can I kill? I want to kill somebody, damn it!

ALLIE

Let's kill this bottle of wine.

Allie gets up and goes to the kitchen for the bottle.

GINA

How did you guys get through it?

ALLIE

What?

GINA

What, what -- Mark what?

Mark? Oh please.

SARAH

That was before we were married.

ALLIE

Still --

GINA

That doesn't count.

SARAH

I'm looking for insight --

GINA

They didn't even know each other -- did you and Mark -- you didn't even know each other, did you?

SARAH

Of course we knew each other. I knew you sorta.

ALLIE

But I did introduced you.

SARAH

You were dating him.

ALLIE

Right -- but it was on the tail end of it all.

SARAH

How long before you and Mark --

GINA

Oh god, a couple of months maybe --

ALLIE

You started dating a couple weeks after we broke up.

SARAH

I did ask you if it was okay.

ALLIE

I know, I know.

SARAH

Was it?

GINA

SARAH

Well, it's too late now!

ALLIE

Oh please -- they were well done before we went out.

SARAH

We were. We were done. Plus, I knew Rob was waiting in the wings.

ALLIE

See -- and I got stuck with the leftovers.

GINA

So did Lisa mention her mom --

ALLIE

Do you believe it?

GINA

They're getting a divorce.

SARAH

Well, god Gina -- it had been going on for years!

ALLIE

That's such a different thing. I mean, her dad had been having a relationship with this other woman for years.

SARAH

Decades. Well -- more than a decade.

ALLIE

Can't you just say ten?

GINA

When I was driving up here -- or when Raphaela was driving -- all I was thinking about was holding it together. I kept thinking about Lisa's mom and how she managed to find a solution to keep the family together and I kept thinking, geez there must be a solution, you know -- a solution to make it work, but damn. I mean, god damn it if I can think of one -- beside the obvious.

SARAH

What, a divorce.

GINA

Murder.

ALLIE

Symbolically, of course.

GINA

He gets his little sex crap adventure, she gets to say “I’m sorry” and all I get is this weight of shame to lug around. It’s insane! I keep thinking I’m a shlump because I thought I had a decent marriage -- you know, we’d sleep in the same bed, he’d run his fingers through my hair, we’d kiss before sleep -- I mean, we had affection! Hell, we even had sex occasionally so what the fuck! You know? Where the hell do you place this bag of rocks inside that life? It doesn't fit! I’m going crazy, I swear.

SARAH

Lisa said her mom had a schedule.

GINA

A what?

SARAH

Yeah, she said her mom and Fran drew out a schedule for access to her dad. Said it was easier that way.

GINA

You gotta be kidding.

ALLIE

Now that’s insane.

GINA

I can’t even imagine that.

ALLIE

I can’t imagine that drive up with Raphaela.

SARAH

Oh god, me either.

ALLIE

How did you keep yourself from kicking her out the car door?

GINA

She was driving.

ALLIE

Of course.

GINA

I thought about it. I thought about grabbing the steering wheel and throwing us both off a bridge or something. Or into oncoming traffic. Let him explain that to the kids.

Sarah jumps and claps enthusiastically.

SARAH

Let do something fun!

ALLIE

This isn't fun?

SARAH

Let's play a game.

Sarah runs up and offstage to the hallway closet by the bedrooms.

ALLIE

She's serious. You're serious?!

SARAH (O.S.)

Why not!

ALLIE

Do you want to play a game?

GINA

I don't know. Russian roulette maybe? Is there a gun in there?!

SARAH (O.S.)

Scrabble? Monopoly. Cards. We could play cards?

ALLIE

Bridge maybe? A bridge to drive off?

GINA

Hang man? Is there any kinda rope in there?!

SARAH (O.S.)

Clue?! What about Clue?

GINA

Wow, I think she is serious. I could use one of those. That's a good one, Sarah!

ALLIE

Sarah?

SARAH (O.S.)

What about a puzzle?

Sarah?
ALLIE

Sarah enters with a couple box of puzzles.

She sets them out on the counter.

SARAH
I used to love puzzles. We went on vacations -- my mom would bring these insane puzzles, like one thousand piece puzzles. We'd spend all week putting one together.

ALLIE
(sarcastically)
Sounds fun.

SARAH
It was -- it was like a knitting circle or something. We'd talk like we're doing right now -- just gab about stuff while we were searching for the pieces.

GINA
That is puzzling.

SARAH
This is multi-tasking at it's best. It's what women do. Our entire lives are spent putting multiple puzzles together all at once, all the time.

ALLIE
Even though there's always a missing piece.

SARAH
Not always.

GINA
There is here, believe me.

They HEAR some fumbling around at the front door.

ALLIE
Is that them?

Allie gets up to look out the door.

SARAH
No -- I don't think so. The door's open. They couldn't be back that soon.

Sarah grabs the poker from the fireplace.

The front door opens.

PAUL BERRY, 20, tall and thin, stands in the doorway wearing a backpack.

ALLIE
Hello?

PAUL
Oh!

SARAH
Get back!

PAUL
Oh, wait -- I --

ALLIE
Be careful --

PAUL
Lisa Browne?

ALLIE
No --

SARAH
Who are you!

GINA
Put that down, Sarah!

PAUL
I'm sorry -- I didn't know -- I should have knocked.

GINA
She's not here -- she's out.

PAUL
It is Lisa Browne with an "e", right?

SARAH
Why?!

GINA
Let the man in, for god's sake.

ALLIE

She's not here. Do you -- is there something we can help you with?

PAUL

I don't think so. Not necessarily, I mean.

GINA

Come in --

Paul enters and stands just inside the door.

Allie grabs the poker from Sarah's hand.

SARAH

She won't be back --

GINA

She'll be back later if you want to leave a message or something.

PAUL

Oh, okay. Um -- could I -- do you mind if I just scribble out something?

GINA

Sure. Sarah, grab some paper.

SARAH

I'll grab some paper.

GINA

There's probably a pen in there too.

Sarah goes to the kitchen and gets paper and pen.

ALLIE

Do you know Lisa?

PAUL

Not really, no.

SARAH

Oh. Okay.

Gina hands him the paper and pen.

PAUL

Could I just --

GINA

Sure, yes -- use the counter or something.

As he's walking to the counter island...

PAUL

I'm her brother.

SARAH

Excuse me?

They all throw looks at each other.

PAUL

Well -- her half-brother. I'm Paul -- Berry. Paul Berry.

He writes out a message saying as much and hands it to Sarah.

SARAH/PAUL

Thank you.

PAUL

I'd really like to meet her if you think she might be back. I mean, I can come back tomorrow morning or -- will she be here for a while -- for a couple of days, do you know?

SARAH

Maybe --

ALLIE

Have you -- has she ever --

PAUL

We've never met -- no. Well -- no.

GINA

You want to wait for her?

SARAH

Gina --

GINA

She's not going to be that long. She just went over to the little market in town. She should be back in a few minutes.

SARAH

That's great, Gina. Sure -- that's a really, really good idea.

GINA

Oh please -- he's not a murderer or something. You're not gonna to murder us, are you Paul?

PAUL

Ah -- no?

GINA

See.

PAUL

I could come back.

GINA

What are you going to do? Stand at the side of road until you see a car drive up. Come in and wait. Do you want something to drink?

SARAH

Gina -- Paul? You said Paul?

PAUL

Paul yes.

SARAH

Paul, I think it might be better --

GINA

Paul this is Sarah.

SARAH

Paul, I'm Sarah.

PAUL

And Gina, yeah. I got that.

SARAH

That's Allie over there.

ALLIE

Hey.

PAUL

Hey.

ALLIE
How's it going?

PAUL
Fine. Fine, I guess.

ALLIE
You could wait, if you wanted.

SARAH
Allie too?

PAUL
Why don't I just wait outside.

GINA
Sarah is the cautious type, Paul. Let me pour you a glass of wine.

PAUL
I'll take a glass of water, if that's okay.

Gina goes to the kitchen and sees the cake.

GINA
Have a seat somewhere, Paul.

ALLIE
You want to take your bag off?

Gina opens the cake box and reads the cake. She laughs way too loudly.

ALLIE
I told you she'd like it.

GINA
Oh my god -- this is really, really bad.

ALLIE
But in a good way, right?

GINA
This is from Allie, right?

ALLIE
Hey, it's from Arditti's.

GINA
Of course it is. You want a piece of cake, Paul?

PAUL

Oh -- that's okay.

GINA

I'm cutting this damn thing right now.

ALLIE

It's that chocolate strawberry thing they do.

GINA

Love it!

ALLIE

I know, I know.

Gina begins cutting into the cake and making plates.

GINA

Sarah --

SARAH

Yeah -- yeah, sure.

GINA

Give this young man a piece of the cheetah.

Sarah takes a plate over to Paul.

PAUL

Thank you.

SARAH

It was a joke -- a bad pun.

ALLIE

It wasn't that bad.

GINA

My husband had an affair with a woman you're about to meet, Paul. She went to the store with Lisa.

PAUL

What's that?

GINA

Oh, not Lisa. Her name's Raphaela. Isn't that a beautiful name? She's very cute and she had an affair with my husband. Five times -- they screwed five times but it's over now -- supposedly and now I have to figure out a way to feel okay about it.

SARAH

Let me finish cutting that, Gina.

GINA

I think Paul knows what I'm talking about, don't you, Paul?

ALLIE

How would Paul -

GINA

Because he's a man -- he can offer us some perspective -- some insight, maybe. You didn't know you were going to be asked these hard questions, did you? You might want to wait outside for Lisa Browne with an "e" after all, right?

PAUL

I don't mind.

GINA

See -- so why do men cheat, Paul? Have you ever been married?

PAUL

No --

GINA

Of course not -- you're probably what, 17, 18?

PAUL

I'm almost 21 actually.

GINA

Geez, really? Sorry about that. But you've had a girlfriend before, right?

PAUL

Yes.

GINA

A serious girlfriend?

PAUL

I guess so, yes.

GINA

Ever cheat on her?

ALLIE

Gina, take it easy --

GINA
What?

SARAH
God, and I thought I was uncomfortable --

GINA
I don't mean to be nosey, Paul.

PAUL
It's okay --

GINA
It's just been a really, really insane couple of weeks for me.

PAUL
Sounds like it.

GINA
My friends brought me up here to help me through it and they brought this cake -- which is very good, by the way -- and the cake says all men are Cheetahs -- you know, there was a zoo motif going on -- but god damn, is that true? Are all men cheaters? Do all men cheat on their wives, or girlfriends or whatever? What do you think? Are you a cheater too?

PAUL
Well -- I --

SARAH
I think they do.

GINA
What?

SARAH
I think they probably do.

ALLIE
No they don't.

SARAH
Rob did.

ALLIE
What are you talking about? When?

SARAH
When we were first married.

GINA

What?

SARAH

Just once -- that I know of. He went to Las Vegas with his friends and visited a hooker club or something.

GINA

A hooker club? What the hell is a hooker --

ALLIE

I think she means strip club.

SARAH

A brothel -- that's what it was. But he told me. He said it was stupid and it was just once and he begged me to forgive him. He said he needed to have that experience, so I said okay -- you had the experience and that was that.

GINA

Good god --

SARAH

Yeah.

GINA

That was that?

SARAH

Yeah.

GINA

You never said anything!

SARAH

It was a long time ago. I was the first one married, remember? I certainly couldn't ask anyone about it -- what I should do or whatever. What did I know?

GINA

Wow.

SARAH

Yeah.

ALLIE

Paul?

PAUL

Yes?

Anything?
ALLIE

PAUL
Oh -- I uh, I've never been to Las Vegas.

ALLIE
Well, I guess we can never be sure of anything. Maybe it's just a big mystery whether or not any man is capable of --

SARAH
I slept with Mark after you were married.

ALLIE
What?

SARAH
After you were married, like a month after you were married, I saw him in the grocery store and we had sex.

GINA
What?

ALLIE
What?

GINA
Mark?

ALLIE
What?

SARAH
Not in the grocery store, of course. It was just once. In my car. A little one-timer thing. For the experience, or revenge maybe. Yeah. We did. That was that. Sorry.

GINA
Wait. What?

SARAH
It was -- yeah. A long time ago.

ALLIE
I'm -- I think I'm going to sit down over here for a second.

Wow.

GINA

Every one eventually finds a seat. Finally...

The cake is very good.

PAUL

The front door opens.

Lisa, followed by Raphaela, enters with bags of groceries.

As she's walking in she says...

We're back!

LISA

BLACKOUT

END ACT 1

ACT II-1

A few minutes later.

Lisa and Paul are sitting on the stools at the island counter.

Gina and Raphaela are working on the puzzle at the table. Sarah is overseeing the puzzle making.

Allie is lying on the sofa completely covered with a blanket.

I'm a little confused.

LISA

PAUL

Yeah, me too. She was very nice about it. She suggested I should come up and everything.

GINA

That sounds like your mother.

PAUL

She's a very nice lady.

LISA

And you tried contacting my father --

PAUL

Yeah, yeah I did -- but nothing really. So I just thought that, you know, I just wanted to meet him -- meet you, I don't know.

LISA

Wait a sec. Nothing? What does that mean exactly? Like nothing from him, like never nothing?

PAUL

I tried a few times -- I left some messages. I mailed him a letter.

LISA

And your mother --

PAUL

Yeah, well after she quit or whatever we moved out to the Quad. She hasn't heard -- I mean, I don't think -- she said she hasn't talked to him for a while. Like, five years ago. More actually.

GINA

In the Quad Cities?

PAUL

Davenport.

GINA

Iowa. It's pretty.

PAUL

No it's not.

RAPHAELA

I went there once when I was in High School --

GINA

Excuse me!

RAPHAELA

What?

GINA

The sky. That's your job. You just look for pieces of sky.

SARAH

Here's one.

LISA

I worked with your mother when I was home during the summers.

PAUL

Yeah, I met you once I think.

LISA

You did?

PAUL

It was a long time ago. I was really young though --

LISA

Well, I'm not that old.

GINA

Yes, you are.

PAUL

But I didn't know that my father -- that your father was -- who he was.

GINA

That's unbelievable.

LISA

So what does that mean? He denied it? You? He denied having a kid? A son?

PAUL

I think he made an arrangement with my mother and that was part of the deal.

LISA

When did she tell you?

PAUL

About him? Last year -- no, two -- almost two years ago. I was trying to get into school somewhere.

LISA

So where did you think your father was?

PAUL

I didn't. Well -- my mother said she always wanted a kid and she said she met this guy after work when she was working at the hospital and when she got pregnant she never told him because she wanted to raise me alone and that was her decision. It's all very late-eighties if you ask me. That single mother, I can do it all on my own crap.

LISA

Do you think he knew?

RAPHAELA

He knew.

GINA

He knew.

PAUL

I don't know.

SARAH

Well, he knows now.

GINA

Of course he knew -- they made some kind of arrangement.

ALLIE

(from under the blanket)

He knew!

LISA

Well if he knew -- why wouldn't he -- what kind of arrangement?

PAUL

Money probably?

LISA

Money? Money? That's disgusting.

PAUL

I don't know --

LISA

He gave her money to keep quiet? Jesus Christ what kind of man does this?

ALLIE

(from under the blanket)

Ask Sarah!

LISA

Ask Sarah?

ALLIE

(she reveals herself)

"That is that." My hands are clean. No big deal. It's done.

LISA

What are you talking about?

GINA

Rob screwed a hooker in Vegas so Sarah had sex with Mark. In her car. In the parking lot. At the supermarket. Probably Jewel, right?

Wow, really? RAPHAELA

The sky?! GINA

What? LISA

It's true. SARAH

Allie falls back in the sofa and covers her head with the blanket.

I thought it would help? SARAH (CONT'D)

What? LISA

Yeah, really helpful! ALLIE
(reveals herself)

Wait, what? LISA

It was years ago! And it was Dominick's. Behind the plant stand they set up in the spring. SARAH

Oh, how romantic! ALLIE

It didn't mean anything, Allie! SARAH

Not to you, maybe. ALLIE

It didn't mean anything to anyone which is why nobody ever mentioned it. It wasn't worth mentioning. SARAH

You mentioned it! ALLIE

SARAH
I was trying to offer some insight!

ALLIE
For whom?

SARAH
For Gina!

ALLIE
For Gina.

SARAH
Yes!

ALLIE
Gina?

GINA
Yes?

ALLIE
Any insight?

GINA
Well --

RAPHAELA
It was a closure thing.

SARAH
Yeah! What?

RAPHAELA
It didn't have anything to do with Allie. Sarah had to learn she wasn't in love with Mark. It was probably exciting and all and maybe a little selfish but -- she was in love with Rob but Rob did something stupid and Sarah wanted a little revenge. Plus she wanted to see if there was any lingering feeling for Mark. The opportunity came -- she killed a couple birds and that was that.

ALLIE
That was that? That was that?

RAPHAELA
Well, yeah.

SARAH

I didn't even know you then, Allie.

ALLIE

What does that mean?

SARAH

Not well. I didn't know you well. It was selfish but it was a long time ago -- we're talking years ago and if I had known what our friendship would become -- I never would have gone there.

GINA

Your friendship.

SARAH

Yeah.

GINA

I guess that factors in for some people, huh Raphaela?

ALLIE

I'm not condoning this!

GINA

Any more insights, Raphaela?

RAPHAELA

That was that, she said.

GINA

So?

RAPHAELA

You said your mom wanted a kid, right? Maybe the arrangement they made wasn't about money but about closure too.

GINA

I'm not talking about them!

LISA

What closure? There's no closure. Look at Paul -- is he closure?

RAPHAELA

I just think men have a way of compartmentalizing things that women don't.

PAUL
Could I have another piece of that cake?

LISA
Sure.

PAUL
I can get it.

Paul gets up and walk around into the kitchen.

LISA
I'm numb right now. I'm totally numb.

GINA
Me too.

SARAH
Well, me too!

ALLIE
I'm not!

PAUL
Do you mind if I -- could I make a suggestion?

LISA
Sure.

PAUL
Why don't you guys punch something?

LISA
What?

PAUL
You know, kinda like physically confront the issue head-on. I don't know. Sometimes it makes me feel better to just punch something.

LISA
Like our father's face?

PAUL
Not somebody -- something. Like a pillow or something.

GINA
Like a wall in a hallway.

LISA

I don't think that would help.

Allie starts punching the pillow on the sofa. She gathers steam as she goes and begins speaking with each punch.

ALLIE

I just-needed-a little-closure! Be-hind-the-plant-stand-at-Dom-in-icks!!!

Breathing heavily, she stops for a moment to assess.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Wow.

GINA

I wanna try that!

Gina comes over and finds her own cushion to punch. She finds a rhythm and keeps punching until the words are punctuated.

GINA

In-the-cushions-of-my-couch! I-just-want-to-punch-his-stupid-face-in!!!

She stops for a moment.

ALLIE

That's good.

GINA

Come here Raphaela, hold this pillow.

SARAH

Let me try it.

Sarah goes to the sofa and starts punching. She builds and builds until...

SARAH

It-was-a long-time-ago and-it-didn't-mean-anything!! Can't-you-see-how-much-our-
friendship-means-to-me-now!!!

She stops and looks at Allie.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Fun.

Raphaela comes over and starts her own punching.

RAPHAELA

It-was-wrong-it-was-wrong-it-was-wrong-but-I'm-sorry!!

Gina punches her answer.

GINA

Stop-telling-me-you're-sorry!! Can't-you-see-how-lame-that-is!!

Allie punches.

ALLIE

You-should-have-told-me!

SARAH

I-was-embarrassed!!

ALLIE

But-we-are-friends!

SARAH

We-are-better-friends-now!

GINA

I-wanted-to-kill-you!!

RAPHAELA

I-don't-blame-you!!

They all are punching now which builds and builds as they all scream out together until...

LISA

HEY!!!

They all stop.

LISA (CONT'D)

That's a new couch.

Paul, standing now with his cake plate in hand...

PAUL

Awesome.

END SCENE

ACT II-2

A few minutes later.

Paul and Raphaela have exited.

Sarah, Gina and Allie sit at the table working on the puzzle.

Lisa is on her cell phone.

LISA

He's here now, Mom! Well, you could have warned me. No -- I know that. How could you not know! Okay. Okay, you're right -- I'm sorry. I'm not blaming anyone, Mom. Well -- actually I'm blaming him. He seems like a very nice kid but -- well, can't you call him -- ask him what the hell is going on? I don't want to talk to him! He won't even answer this kid, Mom! Mom? Okay. Okay, Mother, I know that. Okay -- look -- okay, can I ask you one thing? Can I ask you one question please? What would you have done? Exactly. Thank you. Well, I guess I'm glad I'm a woman then. Okay. Okay -- I won't, Mother. I won't for now but I can't promise anything. Okay. Love you too. Bye.

GINA

Let me guess --

LISA

She knew.

GINA

Really?

LISA

Yeah. She didn't know but when she opened the door she said she knew before he opened his mouth.

SARAH

He definitely looks related.

LISA

I just can't believe it.

Lisa sits on the last chair at the table, defeated.

SARAH

Are you okay?

LISA

I'm just so disappointed in my stupid dad.

She starts to cry.

Sarah puts her hand on Lisa's arm.

GINA

Maybe Raphaela is right.

ALLIE

About what?

GINA

Maybe men compartmentalize things. Maybe you're mom had the right idea. Maybe a schedule makes sense.

LISA

Is still makes my dad a complete tool.

GINA

Yeah, but it makes your mother remarkable.

ALLIE

Do you know Stephanie Carlisle?

GINA

Yeah.

SARAH

Yeah I know her.

ALLIE

You know she's adopted?

SARAH

I did know that, actually.

ALLIE

Her dad left her mother when she was like four. Just walked out on the family -- on her and her brother -- her mother. Everybody. Last year she and her brother found out that this guy, their father -- their biological father was living in Wisconsin or something and they went up there to meet him.

GINA

I think I heard this.

ALLIE

They went up to say hello, you know -- just introduce themselves or whatever now that they're adults -- see what kind of man this guy is, right? They get to the door, he's remarried of course, has a new family, three kids running around the yard.

He answers the door, they introduce themselves and explain they just wanted to meet him, see what his life has become, what their lives have become -- you know, thinking he might be interested. You know what his response was?

SARAH

What did he say?

ALLIE

He freaked out on them. Got all upset, yelling at them from the front porch, something like, "why are you tormenting me?!"

SARAH

Woah.

GINA

Like *they* were tormenting *him*?

ALLIE

Right? Isn't that crazy? Like he saw a ghost or something.

SARAH

I guess they were ghosts as far as he was concerned.

ALLIE

Yeah -- he had moved on. They didn't exist anymore.

SARAH

Wow.

ALLIE

That was that.

SARAH

Is wasn't that easy.

ALLIE

For him it was.

SARAH

It wasn't for me. I mean with you. You know that, right?

ALLIE

Do I?

SARAH

I hated thinking about it, Allie. After we became friends -- after our friendship grew and we became family, it sucked. It really sucked.

ALLIE

Yeah.

GINA

Do you think that's the difference?

ALLIE

What?

LISA

I do.

ALLIE

What?

LISA

I think the family is the difference. What does Raphaela know? She doesn't have children. She's a friend -- a good friend -- maybe a better friend now because the friendship has grown to the point that she couldn't keep it secret. The friendship, like ours, is a family. Men don't know shit. My father doesn't know shit about family.

ALLIE

I feel for this kid Paul.

LISA

Right?

ALLIE

I do -- he's lost. Think of what -- of how difficult it must have been to knock on that door - - looking for something.

GINA

Looking for a sister.

ALLIE

Looking for a family.

SARAH

Did he even knock on the door?

The front door opens.

Paul and Raphaela walk in carrying armfuls of wood for the fireplace.

GINA

Hey, let Sarah help you with that.

SARAH

Thank you.

PAUL

We got it, I think. Thanks for your help, Raphaela.

RAPHAELA

No problem.

PAUL

You sure you don't mind the fire?

LISA

No, no it'll be great. I'm too lazy to build one when we come up here.

SARAH

It's man's work.

LISA

Hey, I didn't say I couldn't. I said I was too damn lazy.

PAUL

I don't mind at all.

He goes to it and starts building a fire in the fireplace.

GINA

Why did you stop seeing George?

RAPHAELA

What?

GINA

Why did you stop seeing George.

RAPHAELA

Why?

GINA

Yeah why? Was it your idea?

RAPHAELA

Well uh, it was both, I think.

No it wasn't.

ALLIE

It was my idea, yeah.

RAPHAELA

What did George say?

GINA

Well, he didn't really say anything.

RAPHAELA

What did he do when you told him?

GINA

He didn't -- well, he didn't do anything, really.

RAPHAELA

He must have done something.

ALLIE

We didn't really discuss it.

RAPHAELA

Was he upset about it?

GINA

I don't think either one of us thought about what we were doing.

RAPHAELA

Then why did you stop?

GINA

Oh god, Gina -- I don't know.

RAPHAELA

Think about it.

ALLIE

Think about it, Raphaella.

SARAH

Think about it, Raphaella.

RAPHAELA

I guess -- I don't know, I guess because of you.

See --

SARAH

That sounds horrible --

RAPHAELA

Why because of Gina?

SARAH

Really -- I don't know what to say.

RAPHAELA

You know Gina brought a poison up here to poison you this weekend, right? She was gonna mix it in your food and poison you.

ALLIE

I was.

GINA

And we were going to help her.

SARAH

I still might.

GINA

So you have to think about your answers.

ALLIE

Just be honest.

SARAH

I like you. I like you guys. It just seemed stupid. I didn't know what I was doing. It just seemed like -- when I thought about it it seemed more stupid than -- I guess I wanted you - - I like you and I knew -- when I gave it some thought -- that I was ruining everything -- a lot of things. For you. For me. For everything.

RAPHAELA

So what, if you didn't know Gina it would be okay?

SARAH

That's not what I mean --

RAPHAELA

I think it is --

SARAH

It is what you mean.

ALLIE

RAPHAELA

Look, I understand it wasn't okay regardless, okay!? If I didn't know -- if I wasn't friends with you -- with Gina, I probably wouldn't feel as guilty. I wouldn't, I guess -- if I'm being honest, I wouldn't care.

ALLIE

Even though he's married.

RAPHAELA

Look, I wasn't alone in this, okay?! I'm sorry, Gina.

LISA

You know, Raphaela --

GINA

It's okay. She's right. She's right. George might say he's sorry, but his sorry means, "I'm sorry it bothers you." I don't think he really thinks he's guilty of anything.

ALLIE

Really? How could he not feel guilty?

RAPHAELA

Well, I do.

LISA

Contrition is a bitch, isn't it?

RAPHAELA

It ain't easy.

LISA

Well, it's a female trait, I'm afraid. You hear that Paul? No offense -- but men don't know shit about it.

ALLIE

You can't have forgiveness either. That's ours too. Men forget. Women forgive. That's our lot in life.

LISA

It's true!

GINA

I think Paul's still young enough to learn.

LISA

You think so?

GINA

What do you think, Paul? Are you still young enough to atone for your sins?

PAUL

Let me sin a couple of times and I'll let you know.

LISA

How long have you been living here?

PAUL

What?

LISA

You been living here, haven't you?

PAUL

I've been -- ah --

LISA

The bed isn't made up and Yogi --

PAUL

Who's Yogi?

LISA

Yogi was in the closet. The bear? Right over there sitting on the chair where he usually sits. How long have you been up here?

PAUL

Since Monday.

LISA

Did my mother tell you?

PAUL

She gave me the address.

LISA

She told you to move in?

PAUL

No.

LISA

No, she didn't.

ALLIE

That's why he just walked in! I thought he was a burglar or something.

You've been living here?

GINA

Not really --

PAUL

Since Monday.

LISA

Well, since Monday. Yeah.

PAUL

Why?

LISA

Nobody was here.

PAUL

Is that what my mother said?

LISA

No. She gave me the address but I just figured --

PAUL

It's kinda his house too anyway.

SARAH

What?

LISA

I mean, if he's your brother and all.

SARAH

If --

LISA

Oh please, Lisa. Look at him.

ALLIE

I'm just saying --

LISA

Well, you're definitely related.

ALLIE

Maybe we are --

LISA

GINA

You are --

LISA

Just stop! Just stop, okay? It's not a question of whether we are or not. You could have been killed. If I had come up here and you were here -- without knowing, I could have shot you.

GINA

If you had a gun.

SARAH

I was gonna hit you with that poker.

LISA

What?

SARAH

Yeah -- with the fireplace poker when he came in because he didn't knock, he just came in and I thought he was a burglar or a thief or something.

GINA

Who cares!?! He's not a thief. He's your brother, isn't he?

LISA

Are you?

PAUL

Am I?

GINA

Your mother thinks so.

LISA

My mother thinks so.

PAUL

So does mine.

GINA

See?

LISA

Why did you come here?

Honestly?
PAUL

LISA
Yeah, honesty would be a good thing, I think.

PAUL
I didn't have anywhere else to go.

END SCENE

ACT II-3

Paul sits at the table with Sarah, Raphaela and Allie actively working on the puzzle.

Gina is listening from the kitchen, making popcorn in the microwave.

Lisa is pouring wine for everyone.

They both make their way over...

SARAH
Maybe it's still in the box.

RAPHAELA
It's missing from the sky.

PAUL
Second year. Just after the first semester. I got a little too busy, didn't go to classes and ran out of money. They let me work at the school here and there until the end of the semester. After that I just kinda wandered around -- I was working at -- sorry about this -- at Jewel till about a month ago.

Allie pulls out another joint from her pocket and begins to light.

ALLIE
It's okay. It was Dominick's anyway. Should I pass this?

They all look around at one another, waiting for approval. After a moment...

PAUL
I'll take a little.

Allie smiles sheepishly at Lisa.

LISA
 Hey, I'm only his sister.

SARAH
 Half-sister.

LISA
 Half-sister. Yeah.

PAUL
 Right. Half-sister. The right half. As opposed to the left --

LISA
 I don't know about that.

ALLIE
 We're a piece short in that stupid puzzle.

LISA
 I could have told you that before you started.

As they talk the joint gets passed around till eventually everyone smokes.

RAPHAELA
 Tell them what you would ask to him.

LISA
 What do you mean?

PAUL
 She asked me -- Raphaela asked me when we were getting the wood for the fireplace -- what I wanted to ask your father.

LISA
 Oh, my father. Our father? You mean that guy -- that island unto himself? That guy?

ALLIE
 Our father who art in heaven?

SARAH
 You might have better luck getting a response.

RAPHAELA
 What would you say?

LISA
 I know what I would say.

SARAH

What?

LISA

“Say hello to my little friend” then I’d kick him in the nuts.

ALLIE

“Father, why hast thou forsaken me?”

LISA

Yeah, yeah! Even better! Rub that catholic school crap in his face.

RAPHAELA

Paul?

LISA

Sorry. I do want to know.

PAUL

I don’t know -- I think I’d just ask him if he wanted to get a beer.

LISA

What?

SARAH

No way.

PAUL

Why not?

GINA

Get a beer?

PAUL

Look, I don’t want anything from -- wait, that’s not true. I just want to meet him.

SARAH

Really?

RAPHAELA

That makes sense.

ALLIE

What makes sense about that?

LISA

But why?

GINA

Geez, I could answer that --

LISA

I know, I know! There are a million reasons why but you must have your own, right?
There are a lot to choose from.

SARAH

Too many --

ALLIE

Definitely.

RAPHAELA

There are.

LISA

So then why? Why specifically?

PAUL

Loose ends, maybe? Or to start something. You have to begin somewhere. It's like, I'm on this journey but I got on in the middle. I was dumped into the middle of it and I just want to see -- I guess I just want to know where it began.

Lisa jumps up and runs off to the bedrooms.

LISA

I know, I know!

SARAH

Where are you going?

LISA

Just wait!

ALLIE

She's possessed!

GINA

Let do a circumcision!

ALLIE/SARAH/RAPHAELA

A what!?

SARAH

I don't think that's what you mean --

I mean an exorcism!

GINA

Sorry Paul.

RAPHAELA

Sorry about that, Paul.

GINA

Let perform a bris! Stand up, Paul!

SARAH

I'm sorry!

GINA

It's a tradition for us, Paul. Any guy who comes up here for the weekend with us -- snip!

ALLIE

Hey, I'm as Jewish as the next guy.

PAUL

I said I was sorry!

GINA

Lisa enters from the bedroom dressed in a man's sport coat and Fedora hat.

She walks stylized as "her father".

She walks around the room examining things, picking things up and looking at them, etc.

She walks to the fireplace.

She answers in the voice of her father.

LISA
"A man must have built that. Damn fine fire."

SARAH
Hey Mr. Browne!

GINA
That's Browne with an "e".

LISA

“That’s damn right! Don’t you forget it. I see old Yogi’s still overseeing things. Damn good bear, that Yogi.”

ALLIE

Hey Mr. Browne!?

LISA

“What? Who’s there?”

RAPHAELA

Hey, Mr. Browne, we want to introduce you to someone.

LISA

“Now, now, Raphaela -- I told you to call me, Jerry.”

GINA

What about me?

LISA

“Mr. Browne will do, thank you very much.”

RAPHAELA

We want you to meet someone.

LISA

“Well who might that be, Raphaela, darling. My, my you are a sexy, skanky little flirt, now aren’t you.”

ALLIE

Man, that’s creepy.

GINA

Right?

RAPHAELA

Come on!

LISA

“Who do we have here? And who might you be, young man?”

PAUL

Maybe I should rethink this.

ALLIE

Answer him!

GINA
 Answer him!

PAUL
 Hey.

LISA
 “Hey yourself.”

PAUL
 How’s it going?

LISA
 “Tarnation, but this boy sure seems the shy type.”

ALLIE
 Tarnation?

GINA
 Now he’s from Kentucky or something?

SARAH
 Maybe he works with George.

LISA
 “What can I do for you, young man?”

PAUL
 Well -- I uh --

ALLIE
 Tell him!

GINA/RAPHAELA
 Tell him!

PAUL
 I was wondering if maybe you’d like to get a beer or something.

LISA
 “A beer? Well, young man -- I’m a scotch drinker.”

PAUL
 Or scotch -- that’s fine.

LISA
 “And what exactly might be the reasoning for this here libation?”

PAUL

Well, I'm your son.

LISA

"What's that? What's that you say? Speak up, now -- I don't think I heard you correctly."

PAUL

I'm your son!

LISA

"My, my -- you mean, I -- have -- a -- son?" Hi...YAH!!!

Lisa swoons dramatically, finally clutching her chest as though she's suffering from a heart attack.

She spins around dramatically and "dies" sprawled out over the arm of the sofa.

PAUL

Wow. This is gonna be harder than I thought.

LISA

You wanted a beginning.

PAUL

I think that's an ending.

LISA

For me, I mean. How about this -- you can have the relationship with my father that I'm giving up. How's that? He can lose a daughter but gain a son! Deal?

PAUL

You can't do that.

LISA

Why not?

PAUL

Well, I mean you can do whatever you want but --

SARAH

She doesn't mean that!

LISA

Like hell, I don't!

ALLIE

Who's that gonna help?

Let me try. PAUL

He goes over and takes the Fedora from Lisa.

What are you doing? LISA

You be me, I'll be your Dad. PAUL

Our dad. LISA

Knock on the door. PAUL

She knocks on the table. Paul mimes opening the door.

There's a stand off.

Are you going to say something? LISA

Yes. Yes. "Hello?" PAUL

"Hello. You're Gerald Browne?" LISA

"That is correct." PAUL

"That's Browne with an "e" I presume." LISA

"Indeed, I am. I mean it is. Yes." PAUL

"I'm your son, Paul. Paul Berry?" LISA

"Paul Berry. Paul Berry. You must be Francine's boy." PAUL

"That's right." LISA

PAUL

“Good lord, you look just like her.”

LISA

(she breaks the routine)

You actually look just like him.

PAUL

Really? I mean, “is that so?”

LISA

No, Paul. Honestly. You do.

He slowly takes off the hat.

With a simple moment, they acknowledge one another as brother and sister.

LISA (CONT'D)

But you want to know something?

PAUL

Sure.

LISA

You’re “this much” better looking.

GINA

Wait a second! Paul, put that back on. You be George.

PAUL

What?

GINA

Just pretend you’re George.

PAUL

But I don’t know George.

GINA

It doesn't matter. I need the practice. Just put it on.

He puts on the hat.

GINA

Hello, George.

PAUL

“Well hello, lovely wife.”

Are you done, George?

GINA

“Am I done?”

PAUL

Gina grabs his collar, leans down and speaks to him directly.

GINA

I wanna explain something to you, George. I’m going to forgive you. That’s right, I am -- but I want you to know something. Are you listening?

PAUL

“Um, absolutely.”

GINA

I’m going to forgive you, George -- but I’m *never* going to forget.

PAUL

“Yes, well -- uh, I -- thank you --”

He goes to take off the hat.

ALLIE

Wait!! Wait, wait, wait. It’s my turn.

PAUL

Your turn?

ALLIE

Yeah, you’re Mark. That’s my husband. You’ll meet him someday.

PAUL

Okay.

ALLIE

You have to put the hat back on.

PAUL

Oh, okay.

ALLIE

Let me know when you’re ready. This isn’t about you, Sarah. Okay?

SARAH

Oh, okay?

Ready. ALLIE

Ready. PAUL

Hello, Mark? ALLIE

“Yes, my goddess?” PAUL

She slaps him hard across the face.

That’s for lying to me! Don’t do it again. ALLIE

Are we done with the hat? PAUL

George thanked me. RAPHAELA

What? GINA

You asked me before -- RAPHAELA

I know what I asked you. GINA

He thanked you? ALLIE

He did. He said it was stupid. It shouldn’t have happened -- which I agreed to, obviously -
-

So what was he thanking you for? GINA

Well -- I was wondering about that. For talking about it, I guess -- for talking about it and agreeing that it was wrong and to -- well, for stopping. RAPHAELA

He thanked you for stopping? ALLIE

GINA

God, that makes me feel worse.

RAPHAELA

I didn't mean to make you --

PAUL

I don't think that's why he thanked you.

LISA

Me either.

RAPHAELA

What --

PAUL

I mean, I don't know -- but I think he was thanking you for the -- you know, the adventure.

LISA

What?

PAUL

The adventure. The experience or something like that.

ALLIE

Really --

RAPHAELA

The experience?

PAUL

Well, yeah. I mean -- yeah.

GINA

You might have to put that hat back on.

LISA

I don't think so --

GINA

What were you going to say, Lisa?

LISA

When?

GINA

If you don't think it was Raphaela or Paul -- what were you going to say?

LISA

I think -- I just think he -- he just -- I don't know! What the hell are men thinking?!

PAUL

Look, it's all an adventure isn't it? You get involved in these relationships and it's never perfect, right?

LISA

Of course it's not --

PAUL

I'm just saying, sometimes I think guys just do shit to do it -- to feel like their doing something -- to like feel like they're alive! To feel actively involved in what makes their world what it is.

LISA

Well, that's lame.

PAUL

It is -- it is lame when it starts hurting other people, for sure but --

RAPHAELA

They want to feel like they're living in the moment --

PAUL

Yeah --

RAPHAELA

Even if they're only controlling that -- only for that moment.

LISA

That sucks.

PAUL

Yeah -- it does probably.

LISA

So to hell with the consequences.

PAUL

Yes. See -- the consequences don't enter into these kind of decisions. Consequences are after the fact. That's something you deal with -- that's like after the dust settles.

LISA

Yeah, well I have news for you -- you're the dust settling.

PAUL

Oh, I know that.

SARAH
You do?

PAUL
Sure.

LISA
And that doesn't bother you?

PAUL
Of course it bothers me -- look I don't condone what he's done -- But, I mean, what's done is done. For all of us, you know? That was his thing -- this is my thing. All I can really control is how I feel about it. All we can ever control is how we feel about it.

GINA
Which is?

PAUL
Well, I haven't met him yet -- but if I was to someday, like sit down and have a beer with him -- I guess I would know then. I'll let you know if that happens.

LISA
When it happens.

PAUL
When it happens.

LISA
I can help with that.

She gets up and goes over to the chair where Yogi sits.

LISA (CONT'D)
This is for everyone. Paul, George, Mark, Rob, Dad -- "Jerry" to Raphaela.

Lisa starts punching Yogi in the stomach.

LISA
Hi Dad-I-want-to-intro-duce-you-to-someone.

She builds up some steam.

LISA
Someone-you-should-have-made-a-point-of-meeting-a-long-time-ago-when-all-he-wanted-from-you-was-a-hand-shake-and-a-beer-and-his-name-is-Paul-Berry-and-he-is-your-SON-you-Jack-Ass!!!

She punches Yogi right off the chair.

Little help please? LISA

All the girls jump up and over to Yogi, jumping up and down on top of him while hooting and hollering. They begin chanting --

Exorcism, exorcism, exorcism!! ALL TOGETHER

Circumcision! Circumcision! GINA
(yelling out)

They build into a frenzy.

Get my brother!! LISA
(yells out)

They all run over and grab Paul, throwing him on the couch.

Look at this, Paul. Everybody in this house is now your sister. LISA

And you thought you were only getting one. ALLIE

Everyone? PAUL

Yeah. GINA

Yes. SARAH

Is that bad? LISA

I was kinda hoping Raphaela might be like a really, really distant cousin. PAUL

That wouldn't stop her anyway. SARAH

Hey! Come on --

RAPHAELA

Pile on the brother!

LISA

They all, one by one, sit on Paul until all five are sitting or lying on top of him.

They start hooting and hollering and carrying on.

He sinks to the bottom of the couch.

PAUL

Wait, wait, wait!!

They all start getting up.

PAUL

I said wait. I didn't say stop!

They pile on again. The jump up and down, squeezing him deeper into the couch.

PAUL

Oh my god, look!

LISA

What is it?

He holds up his hand.

They all get up -- one by one.

Paul jumps off the chair and goes over to the puzzle.

PAUL

It's the puzzle.

SARAH

It is not!

They all gather around the table in a circle to see him place the missing piece of the puzzle.

GINA

The last piece.

PAUL

Sweet!

LISA

It is! You had that in your hand the whole time!

ALLIE

It was in the cushions of the couch.

GINA

Raphaela?

RAPHAELA

Come on already!

LISA

Wow -- I have a brother.

She grabs him, hugging him from behind -- they all follow suit.

LIGHTS OUT.

END PLAY

END PLAY