

Facade
Party Season
Episode 3
by
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FACADE

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. 1 SEASHELL DRIVE BACK OF BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Elaborate decorations, the type one would expect for an engagement party on Seashell Drive, fill the backyard of 1 SEASHELL DRIVE. At the back, to the side of the perfect archway, JUDITH (insert credit), CATHERINE (insert credit), and MICHELLE (insert credit) stand to the side of the woman of honor, JERRI.

Jerri is alternating between tearing open the elaborately wrapped and arranged gifts like a grizzly bear on a bag of hamburger buns and taking healthy hits from a soon to be emptied bottle of wine. REBECCA (insert credit) is smiling widely while capturing the haphazardly tossed gifts and wrapping.

Jerri empties another bottle of wine which she exchanges with Rebecca for another gift.

JERRI

More wine! More gifts! More!
More! More! Me! Me! Me!

Jerri waves Rebecca off to fetch more wine and devours another gift.

JERRI (CONT'D)

Another piece of crap for the
kitchen! Oh great!

Jerri looks up and squints at the assembled guests.

JERRI (CONT'D)

Hey! Listen up! The way to a
man's heart isn't his stomach!
It's right here! Let 'em have
visitation right here!

Jerri leans back and spreads her legs. The Women of Seashell Drive move in more to stop her from toppling over than any sense of decorum. Jerri's dress is so frilly it would have taken a leaf blower to raise it to a peek-a-boo level.

The camera pulls back to show the assembled GUESTS. Some are horrified, others barely paying attention. Just another family get-together!

The camera pans past the CHILDREN OF SEASHELL DRIVE (insert credits in a fast crawl) and comes to rest on PATTY (insert credit) and JESS (insert credit) who are in a state of embarrassed fascination.

PATTY
See, Jess, no family is perfect.

JERRI (O.S.)
It's my day and if I want another
bottle of wine I'll GET another
bottle of wine. So get it before
I stick this toaster where your
husband should be brunching!

PEOPLE in front and behind Patty and Jess stir and begin to take their kids out of the party. Jess looks towards Patty.

JESS
I guess some families just know
how to keep a lid on it.

The camera follows the exiting guests to the front of the backyard as we see the MEN OF SEASHELL DRIVE (insert credits in a fast crawl but slower than last week) standing in the back of the yard looking normal. They look like any other guy standing around an event like this. There's none of that neutered puppy we've come to expect.

Into this group comes flying a can of beer followed by another and another.

DAN (O.S.)
Incoming!

The Men of Seashell Drive catch their cans effortlessly. Could our impression of these men be *wrong*? DAN enters the scene (insert credit) and holds a beer out to ROD. The only reason he didn't toss it to Rod was because both hands are full. A beer in one, a cigarette in another. Rod takes the beer from Dan's hand.

DAN (CONT'D)
Boy, I was wrong about you guys.

Dan is happy but shocked to be saying this.

DAN (CONT'D)
I mean, you guys are just. . .
guys!

The Men of Seashell Drive drop right back to their vacant stares.

STEVE

What are you inferring?

BOB

If I didn't know better I'd think
we were being insulted!

TOD

Think? I'm indignant!

ROD

Personally. . .

Rod finishes off his beer, tosses it over his shoulder, and
cracks the new one.

ROD (CONT'D)

. . .I feel subjugated. I'm going
to have to call my therapist.

Dan stops drinking and stands there uncomfortably for a beat.
The Men of Seashell Drive stare at Dan expressionless for a
beat. But a long enough beat for Dan's discomfort to shine.

The Men of Seashell Drive laugh and shove Dan.

STEVE

Relax!

ROD

Really! You've got to get a grip
on things.

TOD

You do the same thing.

Dan is confused by this suggestion. BOB walks over and puts
his arm around Dan.

BOB

Yes, you do. You give in to your
wife. You indulge her.

Dan shrugs in agreement.

BOB (CONT'D)

We just take it to an all new
level.

Bob takes his arm off Dan's shoulder and extends them wide.

BOB (CONT'D)

We give them all of this.

Bob, Rod, STEVE, and TOD lean in towards Dan. He feels uneasy and a little surrounded.

BOB (CONT'D)
Let them make all the decisions
here and do you know why?

Dan's expression conveys no comprehension and shakes his head no.

BOB (CONT'D)
So they're not bothering us.

The Men of Seashell Drive laugh and bang cans together. Dan's still not quite understanding this situation.

BOB (CONT'D)
Let me explain. Using Tod here.

Bob pulls Tod next to him.

BOB (CONT'D)
If you ever saw Tod at work you
would think he was the meanest
S.O.B. you'd ever met. A friggin'
pitbull.

Bob leans towards Dan.

BOB (CONT'D)
But that's not how you see him
here, is it?

Dan looks at Tod and shrugs.

DAN
Sorry, no.

BOB
And that's the way we play it.

DAN
Play it?

BOB
Hell yeah! Do you think we want
some real piece of whipped beef
messing up our little ecosystem?

DAN
I, ah, guess not.

BOB

Damn straight! And he's the pussy
of the group.

Tod nods in total agreement. Dan thinks for a moment.

DAN

How come I'm just learning this
now? I think I've been pretty
trustworthy here.

BOB

Hell, stop bitching, damn! You
had it much easier than Rod.

Rod nods yes.

BOB (CONT'D)

We didn't let him in on what
we're doing until just before you
moved in.

STEVE

And that was mainly to keep the
majority.

Rod, sadly, nods yes.

TOD

We didn't want you two getting
all chummy. So we let old Rod
here in as a preemptive strike.

Slowly, it's dawning on Dan. But he still has questions.

DAN

Why did I get such an easy entry?

The Men of Seashell Drive laugh.

STEVE

Because of how you pushed your
party through.

BOB

That was genius! Pure genius!

TOD

Watching it unfold was poetry.

ROD

That's when we knew you were one
of us!

The Men of Seashell Drive all raise their cans. Slowly Dan does the same and they smash all the cans together. Beer rains down upon the Men of Seashell Drive. Dan wipes himself off as Rod exits to retrieve more beverages.

DAN
Interesting. You act like beaten
ferrets so they leave you alone?

The Men of Seashell Drive nod in agreement.

DAN (CONT'D)
That's genius!

The Men of Seashell Drive laugh and enjoy themselves as Rod steps back into the scene with beers. Rod hands out the beers as we're interrupted by bellows from the back of the yard.

JERRI (O.S.)
What? *What?* WHAT? If I tell you
to get me wine that's what you'll
do! What's the matter? You're
afraid you'll have to generate
the motion in bed tonight, stud?

More Guests lead their kids from the backyard. The Men of Seashell Drive nod their farewells to the exiting guests.

STEVE
It's almost show time!

The Men of Seashell Drive nod before going back to their conversation.

BOB
As I was saying, I did have to
give up some things around here
I'd become pretty used to. We all
did.

DAN
Like what?

BOB
Nicknames. The ladies don't think
nicknames are becoming for men of
our stature.

DAN
I guess it would depend on the
nickname. I mean, I don't think
Pencil Dick McGee would get a lot
of respect from his neighbors.

The Men of Seashell Drive laugh.

DAN (CONT'D)
So, what'd they call you, Bob?

BOB
Chub.

DAN
Chub's not bad. Not really
fitting a man of your physique
but nothing too bad.

TOD
Tell him.

Bob waves Tod off.

STEVE
You tell him or we will.

DAN
I'd tell me if I were you.

BOB
When my parents gave me the
nickname I was just a boy.

ROD
Get on with it, Bob.

BOB
I'm getting. But the kids in the
neighborhood had trouble
pronouncing it properly so it
became Chub.

DAN
Well? What was it?

BOB
Chud.

DAN
Chud?

BOB
Yeah. I had a hard time, you
know, learning how to use the
toilet like a man so my father
named me Chud.

Dan looks around at the smirking Men of Seashell Drive and
knows he's missing something.

DAN
Okay, I'll bite. What does Chud
mean?

BOB
Can't Hit Urination Destination.

The Men of Seashell Drive laugh as though it's the first time
they've ever heard that story.

DAN
No offense, Bob, but I'd go with
Chub.

BOB
Oh, if only life was so simple.

TOD
What about you, Dan?

STEVE
Yeah, what'd they call you?

DAN
It's kind of embarrassing.

ROD
And Chud's so refined.

DAN
In high school they called me
Humper.

The Men of Seashell Drive exchange high fives.

STEVE
Not bad, Humpster!

ROD
The Humpmaster.

TOD
Humpy Humperton from Humpertown.

Dan waves them off.

DAN
It's not what you think.

Dan pauses and takes a sip of beer.

DAN (CONT'D)
I was on the football team and
whenever I got tackled I was so
(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)
uncomfortable under the pile I
used to squirm so much to get out
it looked like I was humping the
other team.

The Men of Seashell Drive try to reign in laughs but that
just makes it worse when it comes.

TOD
Kids can be so cruel.

DAN
Kids? The coach gave it to me.

The Men of Seashell Drive cough and spit up their beer. Dan
feigns embarrassment and walks around as if he's disgusted.

DAN (CONT'D)
Oh, like any of yours are better.
Let's see, so far we have a
aimless pisser, a football
fornicator and. . .

Dan cocks his head and looks at the Men of Seashell Drive.

STEVE
When I was a kid I had bad
balance.

ROD
A trait he keeps up today on the
tennis court, I'll remind
everyone.

STEVE
I fell all the time so they
called me Trip.

DAN
Parents can be so cruel. Right,
but cruel. What about you, Tod?

TOD
Well, as you'd expect, my parents
were very proud of me.

The Men of Seashell Drive scoff.

TOD (CONT'D)
Oh sure, scoff. They had many
reasons. But they were especially
proud of my, ahem, special gift
down there.

The Men of Seashell Drive laugh and chortle but it's short lived as they turn when we hear:

JERRI (O.S.)
Don't tell me! She's been doing
him for months.

The Men of Seashell Drive exchange looks as we:

CUT TO:

EXT. 1 SEASHELL DRIVE BACK OF BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

The elaborate decorations are now strewn with blowing gift wrap and disheveled piles of gifts. It appears Rebecca has given up trying to contain hurricane Jerri. The Women of Seashell Drive, in a last ditch effort, have called up the Children of Seashell Drive along with Patty and Jess to begin cleaning up and getting the gifts and empty wine bottles out of the way.

Rebecca and Jerri are toe to toe. Every time Rebecca reaches for the wine bottle Jerri's holding she flails about and loses her balance. Another in the long list of bad things about wearing heels in a backyard.

JERRI
Maybe years! Who knows with this
conniving bitch over here. Don't
touch my wine. Get your own cheap
ass wine.

Rebecca makes another reach for the wine bottle but Jerri takes a step forward which causes Rebecca to stumble into the guest of honors chair. Rebecca resigns herself, sits down and pulls out her own wine bottle.

Jerri squints trying to focus on someone in the front of the yard. Finding her subject, she points at it with her bottle.

JERRI (CONT'D)
And what about her cuckold
standing back there.

CUT TO:

EXT. 1 SEASHELL DRIVE FRONT OF BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

The Men of Seashell Drive are standing with their patented know nothing expressions. Except for Dan who hasn't perfected one yet and Rod who, being the target of the squint, could be on the verge of an expression. A very memorable one.

JERRI

She's been using you since the
day you met!

CUT TO:

EXT. 1 SEASHELL DRIVE FRONT OF BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Jerri is in the middle of her rant. Rebecca is tipping back her bottle of wine at a rapid clip. The Women of Seashell Drive are pretending to be helping but are intent on Jerri and anything she has to say. The Children of Seashell Drive, arms filled with gifts and debris, are being herded from harms way by Patty and Jess.

JERRI

She barely liked you. Liked your
money a whole lot. You? Not so
much. Do you know when she broke
up with her boyfriend? The one
she was dating during your whole
engagement. Two days before the
happiest day of your lives!
Please.

Jerri lifts up her wine bottle and finds it empty. She tosses it over her shoulder. The Women of Seashell Drive duck.

JERRI (CONT'D)

Two days! It took her that long
to decided which dick to take.
The one with the money or the one
with the. . .

Patty walks up to Jerri and hands her another bottle of wine.

PATTY

Why don't we go have a drink?

JERRI

No! It's my big day! I'll say
whatever the hell I want.

Patty shrugs and walks away.

PATTY

Resume rant.

Jerri blinks and watches Patty exit. It takes her a second to regain her train of thought.

JERRI

Two days! That's right. She was
banging this guy two days before
(MORE)

JERRI (CONT'D)
your wedding. How's that for a
blushing bride?

Jerri laughs at her bon mot.

JERRI (CONT'D)
Had to get one last ride on
the...

Jerri turns to Rebecca who is putting her wine bottle down
and standing. Rebecca begins walking towards Jerri.

JERRI (CONT'D)
. . .what did you call it? Oh
yeah, ha, what a genteel little
lady. You'd call it a ride on the
gigantic, throbbing, fu. . .

Rebecca steps in front of Jerri and plants a roundhouse SLAP
to her face. Jerri stumbles back. The Women of Seashell Drive
rush forward. Guests begin to make a hasty retreat. Jerri
tries to make a move towards Rebecca but is held back by
Judith and Catherine while Michelle rushes forward to usher
Rebecca out. During this cacophony we:

CUT TO:

EXT. 1 SEASHELL DRIVE FRONT OF BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

The Men of Seashell Drive avoid looking at a red faced Rod as
he dashes through the crowd and out of the yard. The Men of
Seashell Drive close rank and sip their beers. Bob reaches
over and clinks his can with Dan's.

BOB
Welcome to the neighborhood, Dan.

We pan out while the scene becomes colored like a cartoon in
bright colors and bold strokes that begins to darken
ominously and insert show title until we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE KITCHEN - MORNING

Patty and Dan are bustling around the kitchen. Patty is packing Jess' lunch bag. Dan is clearing away the breakfast plates. Jess runs in and out frazzled looking for something.

DAN

I bet her hand is still sore.

PATTY

I'm shocked the party broke up
and no one mentioned it.

Patty is incredulous.

DAN

Mentioned what? It was a lovely
time with lovely people that
concluded with the traditional
first bitch slap of spring.

Jess runs in.

JESS

Mom! Have you seen my tennis
dress?

PATTY

Which tennis dress?

JESS

The one with the blue trim. My
lucky one.

PATTY

It's in your closet.

JESS

It's not!

PATTY

Have you looked there?

JESS

I know it's not there.

PATTY

It was when I hung it there
yesterday after I spent the
morning telling you to hang it,
and all your other clothes, up.

JESS
It's not there.

Jess storms out of the room. We hear her run up the stairs.

JESS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You think you know everything.

Patty concludes packing Jess' lunch. Dan sits on the chair next to her. Dan opens the newspaper to the comics section.

PATTY
I'm just saying if something like that happened in my family it would be the talk of holiday get togethers for decades.

DAN
Your family is normal.

Dan looks up from the paper.

DAN (CONT'D)
The only rattling from inside a closet there is your cousin Fred's jewelry.

PATTY
Fred's not gay!

JESS (O.S.)
I found it!

DAN
I'm just commenting on his keen fashion sense.

Jess runs into the kitchen.

DAN (CONT'D)
It's his boyfriend who says he's gay.

JESS
Who's gay?

PATTY
Nobody.

Patty hands the lunch bag to Jess and picks up her car keys.

DAN

Someone has to be gay. How else
could you explain the popularity
of musical theater?

Patty leans over and kisses Dan. Jess runs by and kisses Dan.
Dan returns both kisses as well as he can considering their
both a blur of motion.

PATTY

It can be a wonderful spectacle

Jess rolls her eyes petulantly as she and Patty exit the
kitchen.

JESS

Mother please!

Dan stands and follows his family from the room.

DAN

Don't listen to her, honey! Be
who you are! Let your rainbow
flag fly!

Dan exits the kitchen as we:

CUT TO:

EXT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE FRONT STEPS - CONTINUOUS

Patty leads Jess and Dan out of the door. Jess bursts past
Patty towards the car.

JESS

I get the radio.

DAN

Have a great day, Jess. Be
careful.

Jess ignores Dan as she races toward the car. Patty and Dan
continue walking down the stairs.

PATTY

What are your plans for the day?

DAN

I have a couple of strips to get
done and some storyboards to go
over.

Dan turns to Patty, smiles and wipes his brow.

DAN (CONT'D)
You know, another day
(Pause looking for the
perfect word)
Carrying the heavy load for the
family.

Patty shakes her head as she opens the car door. The radio is
blasting.

PATTY
Turn that down.

She turns back rolling her eyes as Dan leans over to kiss
her.

PATTY (CONT'D)
And you, the heaviest thing you
have to lift is your ass off the
recliner.

Dan feigns a mortal wound.

DAN
I'll let you know I lifted heavy
things yesterday.

PATTY
Oh yeah? What?

Dan puts on an air of preciousness.

DAN
Lovely little dollies!

Dan catches himself, lowers his octave and gets all man on
her.

DAN (CONT'D)
I mean, an industrial shipment of
manufacturing mock-ups of the
prototype for the next generation
of action figures from my world-
wide media sensation, Hilary,
Queen of the Taj MaMall.

Patty shakes her head again as she gets in the car and closes
the door. She looks up at him through the open window.

PATTY
A doll.

DAN

Sure, if you want to look at it
that way.

Dan feigns hurt.

JESS

Mom! Let Daddy play with his
dolls. I want to get to school
with enough time to hit a bucket
of serves before first period.

Patty and Dan smile as Patty begins to pull the car out of
the driveway.

PATTY

Whose kid is this?

The car passes Dan as he gets a confused expression.

DAN

It had BETTER be mine!

Patty pulls the car out of the driveway and begins down
Seashell Drive. As she pulls away it reveals the activity on
Seashell Drive.

The Men of Seashell Drive are lead out of their houses by the
Children of Seashell Drive. The Men of Seashell Drive have
reverted back to their patented Seaview Zombie Stomp. They
don't acknowledge each other as they retreat to their
vehicles.

Dan waves but is roundly ignored. He sheepishly cuts his wave
short as the Women of Seashell Drive exit their houses. Dan
begins waving wildly which causes the Women of Seashell Drive
to turn away.

The Women of Seashell Drive turn in unison watching the cars
file down the street. As the last car passes Rebecca's house
we see her children running out of the house towards the car
in a frenzy. Followed quickly yet distractedly behind is
Rebecca shutting the door before heading to the car. The
single car in the driveway is an indication that Rod is not
at the house. Rebecca manages a weak smile towards the Women
of Seashell Drive. They avoid any direct contact with her.

Rebecca makes sure the children are seated and strapped in.
She makes one last look up Seashell Drive and only Dan makes
eye contact. He smiles and waves. Rebecca drops her eye
contact and gets into the car.

DAN (CONT'D)

Damn! I'm a pariah to the pariah!

Rebecca pulls her car out of the driveway and out of Seashell Drive. Slowly, following Judith's lead, the remaining Women of Seashell Drive turn and enter their houses.

Seashell Drive is deserted. Dan stands at the top of Seashell Drive scratching.

SND FX PHONE RINGING

Dan reaches into his pocket and pulls out his phone. It's Bob. The scene cuts back and forth as necessary.

DAN (CONT'D)
Hello?

BOB
Good morning, Dan.

DAN
Hey! Hi Bob.

BOB
What are you doing today?

DAN
I have a doll I have to. . .

Dan stops and rolls his eyes.

DAN (CONT'D)
. . .not much. You on your way to work?

BOB
Actually, me and the boys are taking the day off.

DAN
Playing hookey, eh?

BOB
You could say. We're heading to the curling club and we're wondering if you'd like to join us?

Dan turns towards the driveway but then stops.

DAN
Are you fucking with me, Bob?

BOB
Not that I'm aware of, Dan. So, does that mean you're interested?

Dan begins racing toward his car.

DAN

Am I?

Dan reaches his car but stops before he gets in. Dan's still a little confused about this sudden invitation.

DAN (CONT'D)

Let me ask you, are you asking...

BOB

. . .yes. I'm asking because Rod's not answering his phone and we need a fourth. Is that a problem for you?

Dan is driving his car out of Seashell Drive.

DAN

No way.

Dan takes a right out of Seashell Drive.

DAN (CONT'D)

Where do you want me to meet you?

Dan drives past Bob.

BOB

About half a block behind you.

Dan stomps on his breaks. He looks into his rearview mirror and sees Bob leaning out of his car waving at him.

DAN

I'll wait here for you to catch up.

Bob carefully pulls into traffic.

BOB

I think that's a wise decision.

Bob pulls past Dan's car. Dan begins to follow as we:

FADE TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

The Belletristic Society and it's well appointed, intensely smiling WOMEN have packed this AUDITORIUM. There is a strange, cult like quality to the audience. It's as if they're at the Amway meeting from hell.

On stage at the podium is DELORES HAUGHTMAN. To the right of the podium with an enormous smile on her face is Judith. To Judith's right are three other women, LESLIE, ELIZABETH, and KIMBERLY. They also retain the same manically thrilled glaze.

To the left of Delores are four other women, DEBRA, MERI, ELLEN, and SOPHIA who are the doppelgangers of the right. All are seated beatifically like Satan's bookends.

DELORES

Due to the extraordinary effort
of Ginny and her team we can
proudly announce that each and
every non-pedigree animal in the
tri-city area will be offered a
free spaying or neutering!

The audience stands for an extended ovation while Delores continues speaking.

DELORES (CONT'D)

And it will be OUR job to make
sure those people understand our
goal, respect our effort and
accept our exceptionally generous
offer!

Delores pauses to encourage the applause.

DELORES (CONT'D)

Please, everyone let Ginny know
how much you appreciate her
efforts.

The crowd continues clapping as GINNY stands all aglow. We pull back to expose the Women of Seashell Drive, Patty, CATHERINE, MICHELLE, and REBECCA as Delores begins to regain the attention of the crowd.

DELORES (CONT'D)

Please, ladies, we have other
business.

Catherine leans in towards the Women of Seashell Drive.

CATHERINE

If people only knew Ginny was so
overwhelmed by this she had to
take a 'vacation' and her husband
financed the whole thing.

The Women of Seashell Drive nod. Patty shrugs. She's not all that sure she's all that sure about this group. Patty looks around and Michelle catches her eye. Patty smiles.

PATTY

The crowds a little too
hallelujah for a philanthropic
book club, don't you think?

Michelle is taken aback.

MICHELLE

Patricia! We are privileged to be
provide the few simple services.
It's so uplifting!

Michelle extends her arms as if to hug the room.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

You feel it in your soul!

Michelle joins the crowd in their applause while Patty
watches warily. Patty slowly begins to join their applause.
Michelle looks at Patty and smiles.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

See? It's contagious!

PATTY

So are lice.

MICHELLE

Excuse me?

PATTY

This *IS* so nice!

Michelle pats Patty's shoulder as we:

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

Delores is leading the frenzy with her sidekicks at the dais
close behind. Delores begins to wave the crowd down to a
murmur. Everyone at the dais begins to sit as Delores moves
on to the next order of business.

DELORES

As good as we feel at this
moment, every woman in this room
understands one fact about our
organization. That our good deeds
are never done.

The crowd roars it's approval.

DELORES (CONT'D)
There is always one more
organization; one more situation;
one more devastation for us to
focus our attention upon.

The crowd frenzy hits it's fevered peak.

DELORES (CONT'D)
So let me tell you the story of
our next community altering
project.

The crowd begins to quiet and still.

DELORES (CONT'D)
As you all know beside this
organization and every women in
this room my other great loves is
my prized orchids

A polite round of applause allows Delores to bask.

DELORES (CONT'D)
I see some of you have been
recipients of my expertise.

A twitter of laughter dots the room.

DELORES (CONT'D)
Due to that, I am known as a
world renown horticulturist and
am currently working on a tome
about my beloved orchids.

Delores pauses awaiting the desired applause. It arrives and
she continues.

DELORES (CONT'D)
Because of my expertise, I'm
often called on by the media
whenever the subject of orchids
arrises.

Delores pauses dramatically. Slight applause begins in
sections of the crowd but it's quickly stemmed by a stern
glare from Delores.

DELORES (CONT'D)
A call came into my office one
morning frantically requesting my
presence on a television program
that very afternoon.

Delores looks up at the audience.

DELORES (CONT'D)
Well, you know me, I hate to let
anyone down, so I told them I
would move my schedule around to
make that appearance.

Delores pauses and draws in a long, sincere breath.

DELORES (CONT'D)
And that is when I discovered our
latest cause.

Delores pauses and begins her big push to her close.

DELORES (CONT'D)
And it's in our own back yard!
And, trust me ladies, it is
awaiting our special touch.

Some calls to arms ripple through the audience.

DELORES (CONT'D)
It was such a sorry state, my
friends, I did the unthinkable. I
canceled my appearance.

Gasps roll through the audience. Delores holds up her hands.

DELORES (CONT'D)
I had no choice, ladies.

Delores slowly drops her hands to the podium and her vocal
level. A sadness envelopes her and the rapt audience.

DELORES (CONT'D)
I had no choice.

Slowly, Delores raises her head and a smile crawls across her
face.

DELORES (CONT'D)
I have a reputation to uphold.

The crowd laughs and applauds but that doesn't stop Delores.

DELORES (CONT'D)
But the moment I broke the bad
and unprecedented news to the
shocked producer I knew something
must be done.

The crowd begins biting harder. The frenzy builds.

DELORES (CONT'D)
And we are that something!

Applause fills the auditorium. Delores soaks it up. Her sidekicks leap to their feet to keep the audience revved up.

DELORES (CONT'D)
We are going to raise one hundred
and fifty thousand dollars to
turn that aging cable access
studio into a bustling artistic
mecca that will not only fulfill
the dreams of budding actors,
directors, and the technicians of
the future but will produce
programs worthy of an appearance
by me!

The crowd erupts and Delores smiles soaking it all in.

DELORES (CONT'D)
Who will lead us in this massive
fund-raising endeavor? Who will
guide us through these worthwhile
obstacles? Who will make the
dreams of our future media
darlings ring true?

The crowd is at a fevered pitch. People are looking around trying to figure out who it might be. Some people are nervously praying it isn't them. They are the ones smiling the hardest.

DELORES (CONT'D)
The woman with the foresight and
fortitude to hold these many
dreams and ideals in her hand is
our very own Patricia Blake.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

ECU of a shocked Patty as the smile drains from her face. The camera pulls back as The Women of Seashell Drive pat her on the back and hug her. Smiling faces fill the screen. Except for Patty. She's caught in the headlights of a fund-raising freight train.

A BLAST OF LIGHTS illuminates Patty and causes her to squint and blink. The lights are coming from the lighting rig atop a VHS camera armed by ERIC. Shots from Eric's camera can be used whenever he's in the scene.

Eric is moving around to get the perfect shot. As Patty is guided into the aisle Eric walks backwards in front of her.

DELORES

Patricia Blake! Come up here with
your camera crew, a future
recipient of our hard work, Eric!
Patricia Blake everyone!

Patty walks down the aisle in a daze. Eric and his ever present camera keeps a constant vigil on her. As they approach the stage Eric stumbles. The camera shoots the audience, the floor, the ceiling wildly before Patty grabs him and helps him to his feet.

DELORES (CONT'D)

Obviously we've chosen the
perfect person to stabilize the
retched situation that has
befallen of our cable access
station.

Eric continues to walk backwards up the stairs with Patty warily watching him. The crowd continues cheering as they arrive at the top of the stage. Eric moves off to get his perfect shots as Delores walks over to Patty to guide her (some would say stop her from escaping) to the podium.

Patty walks past Judith who is smiling from ear to ear. She takes Patty's other arm as they turn towards the podium. After a beat, Judith and Delores raise Patty's hands to rapturous applause.

Patty looks over the crowd with an expression of total bewilderment. Judith and Delores release Patty's hands and she uncomfortably waves while bringing them to rest on the podium. Eric moves in front of the podium to capture the moment.

DELORES (CONT'D)

And now, a few words from the
person who will not only bring
our cable access station to an
all new level of respectability,
but will open the Belletristic
Society to a new style of fund-
raising methods.

Delores and Judith lead the auditorium in a rousing explosion of gratitude aimed squarely toward Patty. Patty stands totally still as people applaud, Delores and Judith prod her to speak while Eric circles her like a video vulture.

After a beat, when it seems as if Patty isn't budging, Judith leans into the microphone.

JUDITH

Being Patricia's neighbor and sponsor into the Belletristic Society, I can say, without reservation, that this will be the most successful fund-raiser in the herstory of the Belletristic Society.

Judith backs off compelling Patty to take the microphone. Patty smiles at Judith. Then Delores. Then directly into Earl's camera before looking over the still frenzied audience.

Patty chuckles to herself and, seeing no way out, smiles.

PATTY

This is going to be quite a trip.

Patty stands between Judith and Delores uncomfortably as the scene becomes colored like a cartoon in bright colors and bold strokes that begins to darken ominously until we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dan is sitting around the table. Patty is worn and tired looking while she paces around the table with Eric and his ever present video camera close behind. Dan is watching Eric's every movement quizzically.

PATTY

One hundred and fifty thousand dollars! How in the world am I going to raise one hundred and fifty thousand dollars? I don't know anyone in the community. I don't even know what type of event to hold.

DAN

How about an enormous cake sale?

Patty stops and glares at Dan. Dan holds his hands apart.

DAN (CONT'D)

I'm talking an enormous cake here. Fifty, sixty million calories. Just huge! Maybe in the shape of a hummer. That'd bring in the men.

Patty shakes her head. Eric continues to move around the scene.

PATTY

You're an idiot and not helpful at all.

DAN

All right. Helpful. This is new territory but I'll try.

Patty leans in awaiting his help. It comes to him.

DAN (CONT'D)

I'll donate some stuff. Original artwork. Crap from the show. Maybe even a day with the artist!

Dan raises his eyebrows and nods. Patty's less than thrilled.

PATTY

Ooo! Pinch me! A day with the artist! Watch as he arranges eraser shavings by density!

Dan points at Patty and her lack of understanding.

DAN
Mark my words. One day. Eraser
shavings. Ebay. Sold by size?
I'll make a killing!

Patty pats his shoulder patronizingly.

PATTY
But right now you're just killing
me.

Dan bucks up and really tries to help.

DAN
Don't worry about it, hun. I'll
call some friends, get them to
donate things and we'll have an
auction.

PATTY
What friends do you have and why
would anyone be interested in
what they have to offer?

Dan is shocked!

DAN
I have friends! How come you
never think I have friends? I do,
you know. Talented friends.
Friends who'd help me with one
phone call.

Patty looks expectantly. Dan ponders his list of friends.

DAN (CONT'D)
Fred!

Patty is incredulous.

PATTY
Fred?

Dan smiles, nods, and comes back at her enthusiastically.

DAN
Fred!

PATTY
And what worthwhile object would
Fred donate?

DAN

I'm sure he'd be willing to offer
to stay two, maybe three miles
from the winning bidders house.

PATTY

I'd bid on that myself.

DAN

See! Just remember to bid early
and often.

Patty glumly begins to walk past Dan. She stops short and
Eric bumps into her. Eric points the camera up at her face.

PATTY

Do you really need one fifty? I
mean, couldn't you get by with a
few thousand and a new computer?
I mean, I could. . .

Eric moves his head from behind the camera and nods no.

ERIC

. . .no. The place is a dump.

Eric puts his face back behind the camera.

ERIC (CONT'D)

This is the best camera. And it
oversaturates blue.

Eric peeks out from behind the camera again.

ERIC (CONT'D)

So you might end up looking like
a smurf.

Eric disappears behind the camera while Patty stares at him.
After a beat, she's back on the move. Dan watches the parade
around the kitchen for a second.

PATTY

Better a smurf than a fund-
raising failure.

As Eric passes Dan he reaches out and snags him.

DAN

Hi. Eric? Right?

Eric nods his camera.

DAN (CONT'D)

Let me ask you, what are you doing?

ERIC

I'm documenting what it takes to put on a fund-raiser of this magnitude while continuing to manage your day to day life. I'm sure showing the inherent juxtaposition of the familial pull versus the desire to better the world around you will unfold in a gothic story mining the dichotomy of life.

Dan begins to stand up never releasing Eric.

DAN

Oh. I see. That could be a riveting piece of cinema.

Patty paces past and hits Dan on the shoulder. He lets go of Eric to rubs his shoulder.

DAN (CONT'D)

At least we know you'll have inherent violence.

PATTY

What are you getting at, Dan?

Dan begins to turn Eric and move him away from the table.

DAN

I was just wondering what Eric here is doing and how long it's going to take.

Eric lets the camera down.

ERIC

I figure I'll be shooting hundreds of hours of footage.

PATTY (O.S.)

Groans.

DAN

That's what I thought.

Dan begins to lead Eric out of the kitchen.

DAN (CONT'D)
Let's talk off camera. Man to
man, for a moment, Eric.

Eric begins to shut down his camera.

DAN (CONT'D)
You see, I'm not saying I'm a
star but in a tiny part of the
world I'm fairly well known.

ERIC
I know. I'm a big. . .I mean, my
sisters are big fans of your
show.

Dan smiles and gives Eric a friendly shake.

DAN
Then you know what I'm talking
about.

ERIC
What are you talking about?

DAN
Exactly. Now listen.

Dan puts his arm around Eric moving through the living room.

DAN (CONT'D)
I know Patty seems a little
nervous about this but, between
you and me, she's very excited.

ERIC
It is a great opportunity for her
to show the community. . .

DAN
. . .exactly. Now listen. My
problem is if I'm in your
documentary it might distract
from her gaining the attention
she'll deserve.

Eric is a little confused.

DAN (CONT'D)
Do you see? It'll become just
another fluff piece on how the
woman couldn't do it without the
help of her man.

ERIC

But that's not what I'm going
after? I'm going to show. . .

DAN

. . .exactly. Now listen. I know
that's what you want but you know
this community. If they see her
ask my opinion everyone will
think I did all the work behind
the scenes and it'll diminish the
impact of your message.

Eric thinks about this for a moment.

DAN (CONT'D)

It only takes a moment to shift
someone's focus.

Eric starts to realize Dan may have a point.

ERIC

That's noble, Dan. I think. . .

Dan opens the front door and steps to block Eric from moving
anywhere but out.

DAN

. . .exactly. Now listen. You
said you're, I mean, your sisters
are big fans of Hilary.

And, in a second, Dan has shifted Eric's attention.

ERIC

We're. . .they're the biggest!

Dan steps closer to Eric forcing him past the threshold.

DAN

Glad to hear that. So let me tell
you what I'll do. When you come
by to shoot I'll have a box of
stuff out here on the stairs,
where you'll stop shooting, okay?

Eric nods in affirmation. Dan pats Eric on the shoulder.

DAN (CONT'D)

I knew you'd see that this
arrangement would be better for
the project.

Dan sees The Women of Seashell Drive huddled in front of Judith's house. He waves and they begin to walk into Judith's house. Dan points the Women of Seashell Drive out to Eric.

DAN (CONT'D)
You should interview them. If it
weren't for them none of this
would be happening.

Dan gives Eric one last pat/shove on the shoulder. Eric takes a step away from the door while watching the Women of Seashell Drive.

DAN (CONT'D)
And remember, Eric, always shoot
Patty's best side.

Eric stops and turns towards Dan.

ERIC
What side is that?

DAN
Out.

Dan closes the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE FRONT STEPS - CONTINUOUS

Eric stands on the step for a moment before running towards Judith's house while turning on his camera.

ERIC
Excuse me! Ladies! Can I talk to
you for a minute?

The Women of Seashell Drive continue towards Judith's house.

ERIC (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Please! Just a moment of your
time.

Eric reaches Judith's property as the Women of Seashell Drive stop at the doorway. Judith turns with a big smile on her face.

JUDITH
And how may we assist you, Eric?

Eric arrives at the doorway a little out of breath.

ERIC

Well, I was just wondering if I
could interview you ladies.
Especially you, Judith. You
sponsored Patty and everyone else
here so I figured you must have
tons of useful information.

Judith likes to be stroked so steps right up while Eric
adjusts his camera.

JUDITH

Why yes, I have been fortunate
enough to expose many fine women
to the wonderful works and
enlightenment of the Belletristic
Society.

Michelle and Catherine fall in at Judith's shoulder. Rebecca
tries to move in but is relegated to the spot behind Judith.

ERIC

Do you think Patty will reach
this lofty goal?

JUDITH

Heavens, yes! I have the utmost
faith in Patricia to match if not
exceed her goal.

ERIC

Is it true that, if she does,
she'll break your long held
record of one hundred and ten
thousand dollars for the Lil'
Darlings Dance Camp?

Judith laughs demurely.

JUDITH

Why yes, that is true.

ERIC

Won't you feel a little sad about
that?

JUDITH

Not at all, young man! I'll revel
in the occasion. I am just a cog
in the causes supported by the
Belletristic Society. A vital
cog, I'll admit, but with that
comes a responsibility to attract
other civic minded individuals to
(MORE)

JUDITH (CONT'D)
the society. And Patricia is
another in long line of wonderful
women who will help the
Belletristic Society grow and
prosper long after I am gone.

Judith holds a smile for an extra beat with the other Women
of Seashell Drive doing the same. Judith drops the smile and
begins to turn away.

JUDITH (CONT'D)
Are we done here?

Eric takes down his camera. The Women of Seashell Drive turn
towards Judith's house as Dan and Patty drive past.

ERIC
Yes, thank you. Will you be able
to make some time for other. . .

SND FX CAR HORN BEEP

The Women of Seashell Drive turn towards the car. Eric slams
his camera back to his shoulder and begins racing towards the
street.

Patty waves from the passenger side of the car.

PATTY
We're going to pick up Jess from
tennis. See you all soon.

DAN
Don't forget, this Saturday is
our big housewarming!

Dan pulls away as Eric arrives at the middle of the street to
shoot their exit. The car turns right exiting Seashell Drive
as Eric shoots a few more frames before taking down the
camera.

ERIC
And. . .cut!

Eric begins walking towards his car. He pauses and calls
towards the Women of Seashell Drive huddled together.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Excuse me, Judith. Do you have a
contact at Lil' Darlings I could
interview?

JUDITH
Why would you need that?

ERIC

Just doing some background. I
figure it'll be a good angle
after she breaks your record.

Judith stands for a moment as three cars begin pulling into
the street towards their driveways.

JUDITH

Wonderful idea. You are going to
make us proud.

Bob and their children, Chad, Tim and Elizabeth, pass the
Women of Seashell Drive who watch distractedly.

ERIC

A name, please Judith.

Judith snaps back from her distraction and absentmindedly
answers.

JUDITH

Oh, of course. Mary Ellen should
be able to assist you. Now, if
you don't mind. . .

Eric makes a notation in a pad continuing toward his car.

ERIC

. . .not at all, thank you.

Eric arrives at his car and we see that the men and children
of Seashell Drive, with the exception of Rebecca's children,
have vanished. Eric begins to exit Seashell Drive as we turn
our attention towards the Women of Seashell Drive.

JUDITH

I hope this intrusion doesn't
last long.

CATHERINE

I'll be surprised if she'll make
it to their housewarming.

MICHELLE

Reaching one hundred and fifty
thousand could make anyone snap.

REBECCA

On top of having no contacts in
the area, Judith, your plan was
genius.

The Women of Seashell Drive cackle.

JUDITH

I don't care how much cartoon boy
makes. Having to take that much
from his own pocket will hurt.

The Women of Seashell Drive continue to revel in their own
genius before they are distracted.

CHILDREN (O.S.)

STOP IT! I don't want you to
chase me. Stop hitting me. MOM!

The Women of Seashell Drive look askance towards the sounds.
Judith turns towards Rebecca.

JUDITH

Rebecca, have your husban. . .

Judith feigns surprise at her choice of words. Michelle and
Catherine barely suppress their laughter. Rebecca fumes in
silence.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

. . .maybe you should tend to
your children, dear.

CHILDREN (O.S.)

MOM!

JUDITH

They do seem to be bellowing for
you.

Rebecca maintains a strong comportment but the anger is
bubbling so close to the surface it wafts throughout the air.
Michelle and Catherine avoid eye contact with her as they
busy themselves entering Judith's house. Judith maintains her
stature as she smiles sweetly into Rebecca's eyes.

CHILDREN (O.S.)

MOTHER!!!

Judith and Rebecca continue their stare down.

JUDITH

Children! They're such a
blessing.

Judith turns and walks past Michelle and Catherine into her
house. Michelle and Catherine follow close behind leaving
Rebecca alone while the door shuts and we

CUT TO:

EXT. TENNIS COURT - NIGHT

Jess is serving. She looks distracted and unhappy. She sets to hit her first serve. She begins her stroke, hits the ball and:

UMPIRE (V.O.)

Out.

Jess pouts and goes back to the service line to begin her second serve. She takes a deep breath. Envisions the spot she's going to hit the ball to. Exhales and begins her serve. Her follow through leads her into the court as we hear

UMPIRE (V.O.)

Out. Double fault. Game, set,
match, Ms. Burnett. Six two. Six
love.

The crowd applauds politely as we follow a dejected Jess to the net where she meets and shakes hands with the happy Ms. Burnett.

BURNETT

Good match. You might be good in
a few years. But then I'll be
even better.

Burnett laughs as she turns to exit.

BURNETT (CONT'D)

Keep practicing!

Jess glares and begins to respond. The problem is she's too angry to formulate anything so her opponent gets away. Jess slaps her racket on the top of the net and lopes off the court where she meets the teams coach, ANDREW.

ANDREW

Great match, Jess!

Jess looks at Andrew as if he was watching a different match. Andrew puts his arm on Jess' shoulder and leads her from the court.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I'm not kidding. She's the number
one player in the state. Third in
the nation. The girl who played
her last year got two points!

Jess and Andrew arrive at the bench. Jess tosses her racket on top of her bag.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
You won two games. I've never had
a player take any games from her.

Dan and Patty arrive behind the bench. Andrew nods a
greeting.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
I'm proud of her. I really am.

Andrew shakes Patty and then Dan's hands as he exits.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
I don't know about you, but I'm
going to celebrate!

Jess rolls her eyes at Dan and Patty.

JESS
I'd hate to see what would have
happened if I'd won a set.

DAN
He'd probably have given you his
first born.

JESS
No thanks! I've seen it. It's
ugly.

Jess lifts her bag and begins to exit the court.

PATTY
Either way! He seemed pretty
pleased with your play.

Dan leads Patty and Jess out of the court towards the car.

JESS
He's used to lowered
expectations.

PATTY
Jess!

JESS
No really. Do you know why I
could be the number one player a
week after I picked up the game?

Jess pauses for effect as they pass the courts gate.

JESS (CONT'D)
Because everyone on this team
sucks.

PATTY
JESS!

JESS
Think about it. I took gymnastics
for four years and never made it
past 'B' squad.

Jess follows Patty to the passenger side of the car. Dan
opens his door while Patty opens her door for Jess.

JESS (CONT'D)
I come here and I'm a prodigy.

Jess crawls into the back of the car.

JESS (CONT'D)
Think about it. What are the
chances?

Patty pushes the passenger seat back and stands there looking
at Dan. Dan shrugs.

DAN
Really. What are the chances?

JESS (O.S.)
None and are you kidding me!

Dan and Patty get into the car.

DAN
It doesn't mean you aren't good.

JESS
All it means is I'm the best
player on the worst team. How
good is that?

DAN
Better than being the worst
player on the best team. At least
you get to play.

JESS
Profound Dad. Are you getting
fortune cookies from the Kowloon
restaurant and motivation club
again?

There's a moment of silence while Dan pulls out of the parking lot.

JESS (CONT'D)
I think I want to quit.

PATTY
You're not quitting.

JESS
Oh no?

DAN
Jess, you're just upset you lost.

JESS
No, I'm not.

DAN
You'll get her next time.

JESS
Profound again. Did you order the kung pow to get that one?

PATTY
We're not quitters, Jess.

JESS
Oh no?

PATTY
What's with the tone? You know we're not quitters.

JESS
That's not what I heard you say about that stupid fund-raiser.

Dan and Patty exchange accusatory glances.

JESS (CONT'D)
Relax. No one stepped out of the cone of silence. I heard you say it during the match.

PATTY
You heard us?

JESS
Yes, Mother! It really wasn't that exciting a match for me and your voice does carry.

Dan and Patty exchange looks again trying to figure out their next step. They're a little lost but Dan gives it a shot.

DAN
Well, honey, we may not be people
who quit but we sure are people
who talk about quitting!

Patty hits Dan. Jess rolls her eyes and crosses her arms.

JESS
Really, Dad, you've got to try a
new restaurant.

DAN
Oh, I do?

JESS
Yeah, you do.

DAN
Let me tell you about do.

JESS
Oh, shh! Everyone listen! The
king of don't do is going to
speak.

DAN
The king of don't do?

JESS
You heard me. The don't do king.

DAN
Let me tell you. I do more before
noon. .

JESS
. . .than what? A vampire?

PATTY
. . .shut up the both of you.

Dan and Jess exchange looks through the rear view mirror.
Patty slumps down and stares straight ahead.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Nobody's quitting nothing.

JESS
Good grammar, Ma!

DAN
Really, Patty. If we're trying to
set an example. . .

PATTY
. . .did anyone hear me say shut
up?

This time neither Dan nor Jess are willing to risk the wrath.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Good. Here's how it's going to go
down.

DAN
What are we? Planning a heist?

Patty gives Dan a withering look and he follows the
direction. Patty gestures a nod towards Jess.

PATTY
You are going to continue playing
tennis.

JESS
Ma! I don't. . .

PATTY
. . .and I am going to continue
raising funds.

JESS
You'll be too busy to drive me...

PATTY
. . .that's how it's going to be.

Everyone is silent for a beat.

JESS
I'll need new tennis clothes.

PATTY
We'll see.

JESS
And more lessons. With a better
teacher.

PATTY
We'll see.

JESS
And play some sectional
tournaments.

PATTY
I said we'll see.

Jess sits back satisfied because she knows a 'we'll see' is
as good as money in the bank. Dan looks over at Patty.

DAN
What about me?

PATTY
You'll help where, when and how I
say.

DAN
That's it?

PATTY
And you'll pay for it all.

DAN
I see.

They sit back knowing their places as the scene becomes
colored like a cartoon in bright colors and bold strokes that
begins to darken ominously and title until we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. SEASHELL DRIVE - MORNING

Dan exits 5 SEASHELL DRIVE and walks through some WORKMEN unloading a truck. Dan looks over the bustle very happily. The FOREMAN walks up to Dan.

FOREMAN
We just got the ice making
equipment in.

Dan is very excited to hear this.

DAN
Excellent! Have the guys put it
near the building that's being
blown up. That's going to be
curling club.

The Foreman knows he should just get going but there are just too many questions going through his head.

FOREMAN
You're really going to have
curling at the party?

DAN
Yeah!

FOREMAN
And there's going to be a tennis
court here?

The Foreman points towards Seashell Drive.

DAN
Yeah!!

The Foreman holds his clipboard out to Dan.

FOREMAN
And all this other stuff is going
to be set up here?

DAN
Yeah!!!

The Foreman looks over and see the Women of Seashell Drive congregating at Judith's house. They watch Dan and the foreman for a moment before beginning to walk over.

FOREMAN

Do they know what's going to happen?

Dan answers just as excited as his last few responses.

DAN

No!!!!

The Foreman laughs and pats Dan on the shoulder.

FOREMAN

You're one crazy bastard. I may have to stop by to see how this plays out.

The Foreman exits with a pat on the back from Dan just as the Women of Seashell Drive arrive.

DAN

You're more than welcome. Make sure to bring the kids. We'll have plenty for them to do.

The Foreman waves towards the WORKMEN who follow him into the backyard. Dan turns to the Women of Seashell Drive with a big smile on his face.

DAN (CONT'D)

Good morning, ladies! Quite a hustle and bustle going on here, wouldn't you say? Like there's some serious work going on.

JUDITH

I'm more likely to say a serious problem, Daniel.

DAN

Problem? We're just setting up for tomorrow's festivities.

JUDITH

But this?

Judith waves as a WORKMAN passes with an armful of baseball bats.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

Oversteps any reasonable vision of a housewarming party.

DAN

My thoughts exactly, Judy.

JUDITH

Judith.

DAN

That's why it's not just a
housewarming anymore.

The Women of Seashell Drive become alarmed. The Workers
continue to pass armed with wood, ice making equipment and
one WORKER pushing past with a Hydrostatic scraper.

JUDITH

Is that so? Daniel, your
disregard for our rules and...

DAN

. . .that's right! Not only is it
our housewarming but it's also
the first of Patty's fund-raisers
for the cable access station!

As if on cue, Eric steps into the middle of the scene with
his ever present camera pointing into the speechless faces of
the Women of Seashell Drive.

ERIC

What do you think of Patty's
idea, Judith? Do you think this
will be one of the most
successful fund-raising events
the Belletristic history?

The Women of Seashell Drive smile uniformly awaiting Judith's
lead. Judith weighs her options and finds them slight. So she
slaps on her best smile and confronts Eric's camera.

JUDITH

Think? I know this will be the
most successful fund-raiser in
the history of the Belletristic
Society.

Judith smiles into the camera for a beat until she looks over
towards Dan. He waves at her with his fingers with a smile on
his face. Judith maintains her smile as she begins to exit.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

I think we all should find the
person responsible for all this
and offer our insight.

Judith steps away with the Women of Seashell Drive close
behind. They box out Eric so Dan points him in another
direction.

DAN
Go get 'em, Eric! And don't spare
the tape! I bought another case!

Judith looks over her shoulder towards Dan who smiles and finger waves while WORKMEN mill about until we lose sight of the Women of Seashell Drive.

Dan watches the proceedings for a moment and then turns looking down the street. Near the end of the street he sees Rod parked there with his Kids getting into the car. Dan waves at him. Rob nods back as Dan jogs towards Rod.

DAN (CONT'D)
Hey, Rod! How's it going?

Dan arrives at the car and Rod seems nervous. Dan extends his hand to shake. It takes a beat before Rod accepts it.

ROD
Hi, Dan. Things are a little
weird right now.

Rod's looking up the street so Dan follows his eyes.

DAN
Yeah, I bet you never thought
you'd see something like this
here, did ya?

Rod pauses for a moment before it dawns on Dan what the weird part is.

DAN (CONT'D)
Oh yeah, geez, sorry.

Dan leans in towards the car. The Kids sit quietly in the back.

DAN (CONT'D)
That was tough. I'm sorry.

Rod shrugs him off but you can see his anguish.

ROD
Thanks.

Rod looks up at Dan.

ROD (CONT'D)
You are right though. I never
thought I'd see anything like
this.

Rod looks into the backseat to make sure the kids are belted in.

ROD (CONT'D)
Everyone have their seat belt on?

The Kids nod and mumble yes. Rod turns back to Dan.

ROD (CONT'D)
Good.

Rod and Dan look at each other searching for something to say. Dan finally comes up with something.

DAN
Hey! I do have to thank you for
not answering your phone the
other day.

ROD
What do you mean?

DAN
Bob said he called you the other
day for curling.

ROD
He never called me.

DAN
But he. . .

ROD
. . .lied.

Rod puts his car in drive.

ROD (CONT'D)
Remember, Dan, around here face
value is free.

Dan stands there for a moment. Rod smiles at him.

ROD (CONT'D)
It looks like you're planning
quite the party.

Dan becomes animated again.

DAN
And you'll be there, right?

Rod begins to be indecisive and nervous.

DAN (CONT'D)
That's not really a question,
Rod.

Dan sticks his head in the car and talks to the Kids.

DAN (CONT'D)
You want your Dad to take you
there, don't you, kids?

The Kids cheer as Dan pulls his head out of the car.

DAN (CONT'D)
I think that makes it unanimous.

Rod smiles at Dan.

ROD
I'll see. It may not be a good
idea.

DAN
It's a great idea! You heard your
kids. You hear me, right, Rod.

Dan leans into the car window and bellows.

DAN (CONT'D)
You hear me, right, Rod?

Rod laughs as Dan pulls his head out of the car.

ROD
I hear you. But I don't think you
understand. You really shouldn't
even be seen talking to me.

Dan looks at Rod as if he's from outer space.

DAN
What is this third grade?

ROD
Yep. It's grade school with
divorce lawyers.

DAN
I'm sorry but I like to think
we're adults. . .

The Foreman comes over to the car.

FOREMAN

. . .excuse me. Where would you
like the kids moon bounce set up?

DAN

Next to the cotton candy machine.

The Foreman nods, makes a note on his clipboard and exits.

DAN (CONT'D)

Where was I?

ROD

Something about us being adults.

DAN

Oh yeah. Forget that. I'm a bad
example. You're coming.

Rod smiles and nods.

ROD

You've got to learn to protect
yourself here, Dan. These people
don't play fair.

Dan extends his arms and we see Seashell Drive being turned
into a midway.

DAN

They'll play in my fair, Rod.

A Workman walks past the car carrying a sign. He stops and
holds it up.

WORKMAN

Where's this go?

Dan holds an index finger up before looking at Rod.

DAN

Or they'll get no cotton candy.

Dan and Rod shake hands before Dan walks over to the Workman.
Dan looks at the sign and gets excited. He takes it from the
Workman's hands and holds it up to Rod. Rod reads it and
laughs.

DAN (CONT'D)

And they'll definitely not get to
come in here.

Rod drives past the sign and we reveal that it says:

Drink Here!
Eat & Be Merry Elsewhere!

Rod and the Workman turn and begin walking up Seashell Drive
as we:

FADE TO:

INT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The Women of Seashell Drive have surrounded Patty. Patty is trying to be nice but being enveloped with so much to do is making her nervous.

JUDITH
I just wish you'd given us more
notice, Patricia, that's all.

Judith looks up and smiles at Eric's camera.

JUDITH (CONT'D)
Because, as you know, we'd do
anything to make your fund-raiser
a success.

With a smile still plastered on her face, Judith turns her
stare towards Patty.

JUDITH (CONT'D)
But the disruption over the next
few days may be more than we can
tolerate.

CATHERINE
I agree. I think it's a marvelous
idea but I'm not sure my husband
will approve of this disruption
in the parking situation.

PATTY
Well then, maybe you should call
your husband.

Patty grabs a phone off the table and holds it out for
Catherine.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Because Dan talked to him. . .

Patty leans back and looks at the Women of Seashell Drive.

PATTY (CONT'D)
. . .and all your husbands and
they gave him the okay.

Patty continues holding the phone. No one takes it.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Anyone want to be first?

No one speaks. Eric moves his camera to capture the expressions of the Women of Seashell Drive. They all screw on their best smiles as Patty puts the phone back on the table and stands up.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Okay then, if you'll excuse me, I have many details to go over. I'd appreciate your help so if you'd meet me outside.

Patty holds an arm out graciously as the Women of Seashell Drive slowly follow Judith out the door. Eric moves with them and after they've all passed Judith drops her hand to her side with a SLAP.

After a beat Patty walks towards the door as we:

CUT TO:

EXT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE - CONTINUOUS

The Women of Seashell Drive are skittering past the Workmen and vestiges of frivolity. Dan is standing in the middle of it all still holding the sign. He attempts to show the sign to the Women of Seashell Drive but they're too busy pulling their phones out of their purses to pay him any attention.

As the Women of Seashell Drive continue down the street we follow Michelle down the street. She's on the phone with Steve. We cut as needed.

MICHELLE
And you said he could do what?

STEVE
It didn't seem like such a bad idea. During Rebecca's thing her family parked on our lawn.

MICHELLE
Oh, and you think this is going to be better. . .

STEVE
. . .it may not be better but it'll be more fun.

Michelle pulls the phone from her ear, snaps it shut and enters her house as we pan and watch Rebecca talk on the phone to Rod. We cut as needed.

REBECCA

How dare you!

ROD

How dare I? It sure is funny to hear you using an accusatory tone. He asked. I thought the kids could have some fun. I said yes.

REBECCA

Without consulting me?

ROD

Yeah, I guess that wasn't right. Sorry. Let me make it up to you by consulting with you about a couple of things.

(Pause)

I'll be there with the kids.

REBECCA

You'll be. . .

ROD

. . .and the next time we speak, use my attorney's number.

Rod drops his phone into the passenger seat as we cut to a stunned Rebecca standing on her steps before panning up the street to see Judith standing in her doorway with Catherine, barking into her phone at Steve, a few feet away.

CATHERINE

You're not here all day long! This disruption is going to cause me quite the aggravation. And you know what happens when I feel a spell coming on.

STEVE

Yeah, yeah, we redecorate. I thought I was doing the right thing. You always say how much you want to do for all those kids that organization helps out.

CATHERINE

But not on my street!

Catherine slams the phone shut and looks at the Workmen all over her street. She feels invaded. Catherine looks over towards Judith who is finishing up her phone call. Catherine walks toward Judith.

JUDITH

Delores says we should just grin
and bare it.

Catherine is incredulous but Judith is there to calm her down.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

The more successful this event
and, her fund-raising experience,
the more likely she is to get
involved in future endeavors.

Catherine begins to smile and brighten.

CATHERINE

That Delores!

JUDITH

She also said we should be as
helpful as possible.

CATHERINE

I hope she doesn't expect. . .

JUDITH

. . .by keeping a very tight rein
on the money.

Catherine and Judith smile conspiratorially.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

Being Patricia's first event I'm
sure she'll be more than willing
to accept our experience and
expertise.

Catherine and Judith look up and see Patty standing in her doorway. They wave and smile and begin walking towards Patty.

Eric moves to their side and points the camera at Judith.

ERIC

Are you going to confront Patty?
Are you still upset about the
disruption of your neighborhood.

Judith stops and smiles for the camera.

JUDITH

Don't be silly. Of course, at first, it was a little distressing but once we had time to ponder it, we will offer our lovely street up for this wonderful cause.

We zoom out to reveal Judith with her arms outstretched as if she's welcoming the world to her private domain as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SEASHELL DRIVE - DAY

Seashell Drive is still bustling but this time it is filled with families and kids and folks of all kinds enjoying the fun stashed in every section of 5 Seashell Drive. Music is playing. Festive music rings down the street. Laughter can be heard. The sounds of a carnival fills the street.

A large sign reading: First Annual Seashell Drive Fund-Raiser is plastered over the front of the house.

Nothing overlaps into any other yard and no one steps on anyone else's property. Everything is at 5 Seashell Drive or carefully arranged on the street.

Standing in the same spot as the last scene is Judith as we zoom into her with Catherine, Rebecca, and Michelle surrounding her. Judith's arms are no longer welcoming. They are folded across her chest as people rush past.

Behind her is a fenced in tennis court where Jess is playing another GIRL. There is nothing serious about this match. Everyone, with few exceptions, is having the time of their lives.

We see the 'Drink Here. Eat & Be Merry Elsewhere.' sign to the right of 5 Seashell Drive. The structure is filled with MEN including Bob, Steve, and Tod.

FRED is standing guard at the velvet rope allowing people in. Rod walks up to Fred who looks at his list quickly before allowing Rod entrance.

Rod walks in hesitantly and walks directly to the bar. The Men of Seashell Drive watch him intently for a few beats before standing and walking over towards him. Today they are once again friends. Their revelry is broken by a call over a public address system.

DAN (O.S.)
Team Seashell Drive, please
report to the curling sheet. Team
Seashell Drive, report now or
forfeit your drink vouchers.

Bob, Steve, and Tod collect their drinks and begin their
exit. They pause for a moment and look at Rod.

DAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And that means you to, Rod. I've
got a stone with your name on it.

The Men of Seashell Drive exit the bar area together.

DAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Attention. For those of you who
want Big Papi to hit a dinger for
you, bring five dollars to the
baseball diamond right now.

Flocks of people begin racing into the back yard. The Women
of Seashell Drive allow them a wide berth to pass before
slowly joining the movement to the backyard.

JUDITH
Let's commence with our civic
responsibilities, ladies.

SND FX CRACK OF A BASEBALL ON A BAT

DAN (O.S.)
Another dinger by Big Papi. Who's
the next dinger for? Step right
up for dingers for dollars.

The ball sails over the head of the Women of Seashell Drive
and crashes into the fence surrounding the tennis court. Jess
looks at the fence unhappily as a kid sprints out of the
crowd to retrieve it.

As the Women of Seashell Drive begin to get lost in the crowd
we hear another loud CRACK. Much louder than the last one.

We watch this large item sail over the house and into the
tennis court. Jess moves out of the way as the item smashes
to the court.

We follow it and see that it's a curling stone. The stone
slides to the 'T' at the top of the service line where it
stops perfectly.

Bob comes running into the tennis court to collect the
curling stone. He picks it up and then looks at Jess as

excited as we've ever seen him. Bob turns and begins to run out of the court but stops at Jess.

BOB

Look at that! And it even has my name on it. They're going to love this at the club!

Jess smiles as Bob exits and she calls to her father.

JESS

DAD! Can you tell Big Papi not to hit dingers into the tennis court with a curling stone?

DAN (O.S.)

Sorry, honey! I'll have him hit it toward the bouncy moon thing.

SND FX CRACK OF A BASEBALL ON A BAT

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

Look out, kids!

The Kids begin screaming but it quickly turns into laughter and a sing-a-long.

CHILDREN (O.S.)

Dingers! Dingers! Diiiiingers!

The Kids continue cheering and laughing.

SND FX CRACK OF A BASEBALL ON A BAT

Jess goes back to playing tennis and the fun continues while the scene becomes colored like a cartoon in bright colors and bold strokes that begins to darken ominously until we:

BLACK OUT.

THE END