

Facade
Welcome To Seashell Drive
Ep. 1
by
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FACADE

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SEASHELL DRIVE - DAY

A Rental Truck is turning into Seashell Drive. We see a full shot of Seashell Drive. There are Five "House Beautiful" homes on the street. The biggest one is at the top of the cul-de-sac. We see a real estate sign on the lawn with a Sold sign perched on top.

As the Rental Truck maneuvers to back into the long driveway of the newly sold house, the Women of Seashell Drive, JUDITH, CATHERINE, REBECCA, and MICHELLE, each of them dressed for excess, leave their yards to meet in the middle of the cul-de-sac.

The Men of Seashell Drive, BOB, TOD, ROD, and STEVE, dressed in their relaxed clothes of perfectly tailored khaki's and monogrammed golf shirts, continue mowing and fussing over their trophy lawns paying little attention to anything but the condition of their prized lawns.

The Rental Truck comes to a halt in the driveway. A man dressed in cutoffs and Rolling Stones t-shirt from the early 80's, DAN, jumps from the drivers seat and slams the door. The Women of Seashell Drive jump and scowl at such an auditory affront. The Men of Seashell Drive look up momentarily but quickly dive back into their lawns.

A woman dressed for work like Dan, PATTY, climbs down from the cab of the truck with a box in her arms, looks over to the gaggle of women and walks to the back of the truck.

PATTY

I hope they don't bother us.
We've got too much work to do.

DAN

We've gonna have to meet them at
some time.

PATTY

Not when I smell like a sewer
rat. And look at you? Didn't I
throw that shirt away?

Dan looks down and pets his t-shirt.

DAN
How could you think of throwing
this shirt out? Have you no fond
memories of our courtship?

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Dan, with his hair much longer, is puking over the railing of
an AUDITORIUM while Patty holds his hair.

CUT TO:

EXT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE - MOMENTS LATER

Seashell Drive where Patty is looking at Dan with disgust.

PATTY
Oh yeah. I have. . .

Patty sings a few lines in the style of 'The Way We Were.'

PATTY (CONT'D)
Memories.
Like the blackouts in my mind.
Crystal bong hit colored
memories.
Of the haze we were.

Patty hands Dan the box.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Give me some new memories about
you taking this in the house
without breaking it.

Patty turns and is startled when the Women of Seashell Drive
are walking up the driveway. She knows that Dan hasn't seen
them yet.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Oh crap.

She looks at Dan, decides it's best if he talks to them
first, takes the box and hurries into the garage.

DAN
Oh sure, don't trust. I'm telling
ya, little missy, I ain't as
stupid. . .

Just then Dan is startled by the Women of Seashell Drive.
They exchange looks of varying degree of disgust at Dan.

Except for Rebecca. She kind of likes the working class. Judith steps forward and addresses Dan slowly.

JUDITH

Hello, my name is Judith and we'd like to know when the owners of this beautiful home will be here.

CATHERINE

We were also concerned that they'd let you handle their belongings without supervision.

The Women of Seashell Drive nod in agreement. Dan looks at them as it dawns on them. Dan looks into the camera and steps forward to address it.

DAN

Hi, my names Dan and, no matter what these women think, I'm the owner of this beautiful home. Don't get me wrong, we didn't hit the lottery and decided to Clampett up the joint. I'm a cartoonist and got lucky.

Dan looks back over to the Women of Seashell Drive who are still looking at him with disdain. Dan looks back into the camera.

DAN (CONT'D)

But they don't need to know that.

Dan steps back and address the Women of Seashell Drive. He adopts a deep Southern drawl to speak with the ladies.

DAN (CONT'D)

Well, ma'am's, we been doing this fo' lord knows how's long. We ain't never been havin' no complaints so far. Knock on wood.

Dan knocks on his head. The woman continue their dismay at having this person on their cul-de-sac.

REBECCA

We're not casting any aspersions upon you, sir.

MICHELLE

That means we're not accusing you of anything or commenting on your talented box moving abilities.

REBECCA

Thank you, Michelle. But, as you could expect, we're anxious to meet our new neighbors.

DAN

Well, I only met 'em that one time but they seemed real nice to me and the little misses. Gave us some of them fancy finger sandwiches with the crusts cut off and ever'thing. So, with a kindness like that, I'm sure you can figure we'll be very kindly with their belongings.

JUDITH

That's all well and good.

Judith answers with a little more snap in her voice than she wanted.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

We were just hoping to meet our new neighbors to welcome them to beautiful Seashell Drive. We're planning a little barbecue in their honor tonight. We're hoping they won't arrive too late to enjoy it.

Patty comes walking out of the garage. She's not dressed in work clothes anymore. It's not up to the level of the Women of Seashell Drive but it was the best she could do considering the situation.

PATTY

Dan, aren't you going to introduce me to our new neighbors?

The Women of Seashell Drive exchange glances of horror before turning their full, fake smiling fury towards a smirking Dan.

DAN

I just met them this moment, Patty, and haven't even introduced myself.

Dan holds out his hand which sits there for a few extra uncomfortable beats. Rebecca finally steps forward and grabs Patty's hand.

REBECCA

Welcome to Seashell Drive! I'm Rebecca. I live at One Seashell Drive. The one with the circular driveway and the banyan tree.

Michelle steps forward and shakes Patty's hand.

MICHELLE

I'm Michelle. I'm at three Seashell Drive with my lovely husband Steve and our three adorable kids.

Rebecca notices that she forgot to complete the introduction so steps back in to complete it.

REBECCA

Oh, how silly of me. I forgot to mention my three straight A students, Richard, Reagan, and Rodney Junior who is named after my wonder husband, Rod.

Catherine steps up to Patty and, with a practiced nudge, clears Rebecca from her way.

CATHERINE

Of course Rodney junior is named after your husband, Rebecca. It would be silly to consider otherwise.

Catherine grabs Patty's hand.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

I'm Catherine. My lovely family, consisting of Tod and my three exceptionally athletic children, we reside at number two Seashell Drive. It's the house with the gabled roof and horse barn in the back. We're planning on. . .

JUDITH (O.S.)

. . .And I'm Judith.

Judith steps into the shot and shows her dominance over the Women of Seashell Drive.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

My husband Bob and I have lived at four Seashell Drive for two generations. It was passed down
(MORE)

JUDITH (CONT'D)
from my father. We now reside
there with our three multi-
talented children.

Judith pauses for a moment watching with glee as Patty tries to make sense of anything that's just been said.

JUDITH (CONT'D)
And you are?

Patty composes herself to answer this question.

PATTY
I'm Patty and this is my husband,
Dan.

The Women of Seashell Drive look Dan over with disdain. He shows no ill effects.

JUDITH
It's a pleasure to have you on
five Seashell Drive, Patricia and
Dan.

PATTY
It's Patty.

DAN
But you were right, I am Dan.

Judith looks at Dan.

JUDITH
Yes, I would have expected
nothing more from you.

Judith addresses Patty.

JUDITH (CONT'D)
What about children? Obviously a
couple such as yourself would
have an abundance of children.

PATTY
Just the one.

The Women of Seashell Drive gasp in unison. Patty's confused but continues.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Jess, our daughter is staying
with my parents until we get this
moving business taken care of.

Michelle expresses surprise.

MICHELLE
Are you planning more children?

REBECCA
You really should have a couple more, you know.

CATHERINE
It truly is best for a number of reasons.

The Women of Seashell Drive laugh.

DAN
I did notice you all have three kids.

PATTY
Is there a reason for that?

Judith places her hand on Judith's shoulder and moves in close to her ear to whisper.

JUDITH
Yes, dear. But now may not be the most advantageous time to go into it.

Patty leans back. She's not sure if she's insulted but she sure knows she's curious.

PATTY
No, you can tell me now. I'm curious. Why do you all have three kids?

Catherine shakes her head. Rebecca nods her head towards Dan. Michelle puts her index finger to her lips to shush Patty.

JUDITH
There's a time and a place for everything, my dear. And, right at this moment, this is truly not the right time.

The Woman of Seashell Drive look at Dan. He looks over all of them before holding up his hands.

DAN
Hey, I know when I'm not wanted.
Don't worry about me. I don't
(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)
like girl stuff anyway. I have
man things to do.

Dan reaches into the truck and grabs an armful of boxes.

DAN (CONT'D)
I've got moving to do. Man stuff.
You girls wouldn't know anything
about that.

Dan turns to begin walking into the garage. The Women of Seashell Drive, including Patty, stand quietly until he enters the house. They circle around Patty. She looks on with apprehension but her curiosity has not been stemmed.

PATTY
So, is there where I get beat in?

The Women of Seashell Drive giggle politely at Patty's classless attempt at humor. Patty realizes this is a different type of group. She tries to lighten the mood further.

PATTY (CONT'D)
So, what is it with the three
kids each? To put a team on the
court for the Seashell Drive's
annual three on three basketball
tournament?

The giggles of the Women of Seashell Drive abruptly halt. They move closer to Patty.

JUDITH
Nothing as silly as that. We have
no time for things such as that
here.

MICHELLE
Our children are very busy.

REBECCA
They rarely get home from school
before seven o'clock.

PATTY
What kind of school is that?
Reform?

CATHERINE
Don't be silly. There are so many
extracurricular activities to be
taken advantage of by the kids.
And they just love keeping busy.

JUDITH

It really builds character. I'm
sure your daughter, is it
Jessica?

PATTY

Jess.

Judith cringes.

JUDITH

Jess. Will love the opportunities
here.

PATTY

I don't know. Jess is kind of a
homebody.

MICHELLE

Once she sees what she can do,
dear, I'm sure she'll jump in
like all the rest.

PATTY

We'll see. Now what is it about
three kids?

The Women of Seashell Drive laugh heartily.

JUDITH

Oh dear. You truly have much to
learn.

MICHELLE

It's insurance, Patty.

PATTY

Insurance?

REBECCA

Divorce insurance.

CATHERINE

The more you got, the more you
get. Come on, ladies.

The Women of Seashell Drive grab arms. Judith pulls Patty
into them. In unison, with Patty looking at all of them in
disbelief, they recite in sing-song voices in a rumba style
but without any of that musical styles inherent frivolity.

WOMEN OF SEASHELL DRIVE

One kid gets you some cash.
Two kids gets you more cash.
(MORE)

WOMEN OF SEASHELL DRIVE

Three kids gets you all cash.
It's just divorce our way.

They collapse into laughter as Patty turns her head to watch Dan walk towards them. Patty mouths the word 'Yikes' while Dan walks towards the camera. He gets right up to it and smiles.

DAN

Seashell Drive sure is going to
be an interesting place to live.

Dan picks up some more boxes and walks past the still hysterical Women of Seashell Drive. Except for Patty. She's nervously looking around. Every time someone looks up at her she breaks into a big laugh.

The camera zooms back from the Women of Seashell Drive to expose the entire cul-de-sac. The woman are still laughing. Patty is still unsure of herself. The men are still tending to their yards.

As Dan enters the garage 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 ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. SEASHELL DRIVE - DAY

ANGLE: LONG SHOT UP SEASHELL DRIVE

The Woman of Seashell Drive are clustered in the middle of the street in a huddle. The Men of Seashell Drive are still in their yards finishing up their front yard grooming.

The SLOW ZOOM up Seashell Drive reveals two other vehicles parked in the five Seashell Drive driveway. A FOURTEEN YEAR OLD BLACK SAAB and a battered, older BRONCO. They are backed in and parked on each side of the truck.

We CONTINUE UP THE DRIVEWAY OF FIVE SEASHELL DRIVE between the car and the truck just as Patty closes the car's hatchback to reveal VENT, a large, intense looking man; FRED, a large, hirsute, serial killer looking individual; and MIKE, a, you got it, large, double for a 70's era Charlie Daniels. Dan and Patty's friends and trusted moving assistants.

PATTY

This is about it. Just be careful.

Vent takes a box out of the car and tosses it into the garage.

PATTY (CONT'D)

What the? I'm going to kill you, Vent. What if you broke it?

Vent is laughing along with the other guys.

VENT

It was an empty box. Lighten up. Remember the time. . .

PATTY

. . .I don't have time to remember. I have to get this crap done and get ready for this.

Patty pulls an invitation out of her back pocket. It's a folded, parchment invitation with raised letters. Patty waves the invitation around.

PATTY (CONT'D)

A parchment invitation for a barbecue. For us! I don't want to see what they'll do for groundhog day.

Mike is following the invitation with his face sniffing at it. Patty finally notices and slaps him with it. Mike seems content now so he picks up a box and walks into the garage.

VENT
It's just their way of trying to
impress you.

FRED
Yeah. . .

Fred pulls his body out of the car. He's holding a plastic sewing box by the handle.

FRED (CONT'D)
. . .you know, try to get you to
try to top them when you send out
thank you notes.

PATTY
Thank you notes? I didn't even
think. . .

Patty sees how Fred is holding the sewing kit as Dan walks out of the garage and jumps into the truck.

PATTY (CONT'D)
. . .be careful with that I don't
want you to drop it.

You may think Patty is being a little overly cautious but remember, she knows her friends. Fred takes one step back from the car gently holding the sewing kit. Still by the handle, but very gently.

FRED
Don't worry, I'll be. . .

With a resounding crash, Fred is left standing there, dumfounded, with the top of the sewing kit dangling in his hand. Fred looks at Patty with an expectation of bodily injury and sorrow.

Patty stands there with her mouth agape for a moment. The entire gamut of anger and rage passes through her.

Vent grabs a box and scurries away. He passes Fred with a quick but silent pat on the back before he enters the garage.

Dan jumps out of the truck with a box, stops by Fred for a moment and says,

DAN
Better you than me.

As Dan disappears into the garage leaving Fred the full and solitary wraith of Patty. Fred's braces for the onslaught. Patty is at a loss for what to, exactly, say. Patty howls.

CUT TO:

EXT. SEASHELL DRIVE - CONTINUOUS

Full shot of Seashell Drive. Birds fly from the trees. The Men of Seashell Drive turn their heads towards the sound in unison. The Women of Seashell Drive slowly turns their heads towards number five Seashell Drive. They chuckle and love the drama.

JUDITH

I give them two months.

REBECCA

Judith! I don't think I've ever known you to be so kind!

The other Women of Seashell Drive chuckle.

JUDITH

I'm not being kind. The first month's mortgage is paid for. The second month, that's when they'll see what they're really in for.

The Women of Seashell Drive laugh heartily as they look towards number five Seashell Drive. We see Fred on his hands and knees picking up buttons and needles and errant pieces of thread as Patty pulls her Saab out of the driveway and around them. The Women of Seashell Drive smile uniformly and wave as Patty passes. Patty waves and smiles as she passes them and puts the car into second gear. Dan sits there quietly as his head snaps back due to the g-force.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

And I don't give the marriage much longer than that.

The Women of Seashell Drive continue to enjoy the spectacle of Fred on his hands and knees crawling across the driveway.

FADE TO:

EXT. FIVE SEASHELL DRIVE DRIVEWAY - LATER

Vent, Mike, and a knee rubbing Fred sitting on chairs on the driveway drinking beers and scanning the ground.

MIKE

I think I see one.

Mike points in some general area of the driveway. Dan and Fred squint in the general direction. Fred begins to hoist himself up when we hear

SND FX - VEHICLE

The Group looks up to see a BLACK TRUCK pulling into the driveway. The Group leans back as the truck pulls into the driveway. The trucks bumper stops inches from The Groups knees. It doesn't stop The Group from sipping their beer.

SND FX - VEHICLE DOOR CLOSING

Dan squeezes past the bumper and The Groups knees.

SND FX - VEHICLE DOOR CLOSING

DAN
I hope you saved a beer for me.

The Group mumbles.

DAN (CONT'D)
Just what I figured.

Dan walks past The Group and passes JESS, who is dressed, this week, in the flowing black of the industrial Goth movement. Jess walks past Mike as The Group nods at her. The Group knows better than to speak to her first. Or, for the most part, ever. Mike continues to watch her disappear into the garage.

SND FX - HOUSE DOOR SLAMMING

VENT
Gentlemen, it is now safe to speak.

SND FX - VEHICLE

FRED
That concludes the speaking part of the evening. We hope we didn't offend too much.

SND FX - VEHICLE DOOR CLOSING

MIKE
Good thing we're guys and have nothing useful to say.

Dan walks up with a case of beer with Patty close behind him. The Group acts as if they're thinking about cheering but quickly decide against it as Patty steps up to them.

Hi, Patty.

VENT

Hi, Patty.

MIKE

FRED
Sorry, Patty.

Patty stops next to Dan who's opening the case and handing out beers.

PATTY
What are you doing?

DAN
Offering the boys a beer for all
their hard work.

Patty looks at Dan as if he is the stupidest person to ever strap on a face. Patty pulls the invitation from her back pocket. Mike leans forward and Patty slaps him in the face with it.

PATTY
It says the party, in our honor,
must I remind you, is going to
begin in less than an hour.

Dan continues to open beers and hand them to the Group.

DAN
I remember. But I'm also sure it
would be hard to have a party
without the guests of honor.
Remember how angry everyone got
when David Ortiz didn't show up
for the party we threw him?

Dan shakes his head slimly.

DAN (CONT'D)
Big Papi, how could thou have
forsaken us?

Dan holds out his beer in anticipation of his friends showing a little camaraderie and clinking the bottles together. As often in Dan's life, he underestimates fear levels. Yet, he soldiers on.

DAN (CONT'D)
And what would it matter if we
have a few beers before going
over?

Dan waves his beer over the entire Group. It only takes a moment for Patty to realize what he's getting at. She shakes her head at breakneck speed.

PATTY

No, no, no, no, no, no, no!

Patty sticks the soggy invitation close to Dan's face. He blinks in an attempt to focus.

PATTY (CONT'D)

It says right here, in a very flowery script, that the only people who may attend are RESIDENTS of Seashell Drive.

She stops, looks at the Group and places her hands on her hips. Dan sits on the bumper of his truck. The Group stirs uncomfortably. They've been here before and already have a planned exit strategy.

DAN

There must be a guest house somewhere on this property. They can all move in.

Dan raises his beer high. Again, alone. The Group is beginning to stir and get up from their seats.

FRED

No, I, ah, have to go home to mow the dog and walk the lawn.

Fred apologetically smiles at Patty who shakes her head with a smile and pats his shoulder. Dan holds both hands out to him.

DAN

Fred! Come on! Live here. You'd never have to mow the dog again.

SND FX - VEHICLE DOOR CLOSING

DAN (CONT'D)

At least think about it.

Mike stands up and hands Patty his empty beer. She takes it out of his hand and tosses it into the back of the truck.

DAN (CONT'D)

Mike! Mike! Mike! Look at this place! Who wouldn't want to live here?

Mike pats Dan on his head.

MIKE

Me. Besides, Fred's my ride.

Dan's down to one guy. His go to guy. The guy he knows won't abandon him at this potentially life threatening time. But, like the others, Vent, has his reasons.

VENT

I'd love to stay.

Vent turns and addresses Patty.

VENT (CONT'D)

You did good. This place is gorgeous.

Patty nods because she knows she did. Vent turns his attention to Dan.

VENT (CONT'D)

But, you know my wife's gonna drop the twins any moment.

SND FX - PHONE BEEPING

Vent pulls the phone from his pocket, opens it, and reads a message for a moment. He looks back at them with a shrug.

VENT (CONT'D)

And this is the time.

Vent begins to move past Dan with a pat on the shoulder.

VENT (CONT'D)

Hey, Fred, can you drop me off at the hospital? The twins are popping.

Vent exits the scene.

MIKE (O.S.)

All right! I hit the pool!

SND FX - VEHICLE DOOR CLOSING

SND FX - VEHICLE PULLING OUT OF THE DRIVEWAY

Patty continues to look at Dan as if her stare alone can cure him of inertia. Dan smiles at Patty as if he can change the world with a smile. Failing that

DAN
How about a beer?

Patty leans in to Dan with a big smile on her face. It only takes a moment for Dan to realize she may not want a beer.

PATTY
How about you get in the house,
get ready for this party, and be
on your best behavior?

Dan gets right up and they begin walking into the garage.
Patty reaches to her right and presses a button on the wall.

DAN
What do I get if I get two out of
three?

The garage door begins to descend.

PATTY
The pleasure of knowing I'll
forever be known as the Widow
Blake.

The garage door completes closing as we

FADE TO:

INT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE LIVING ROOM - LATER

The sparsely furnished Living Room is a maze of boxes. The house is, without a doubt, the most magnificent on Seashell Drive. The lack of furniture and disarray may belie that, but Patty has plans already.

Dan is sitting on a box using other boxes as armrests and another as a TV stand. He's watching a DVD of the Red Sox World Series victory.

PATTY (V.O.)
Are you watching that DVD again?
What are you doing? Trying to
convince yourself it really
happened?

DAN
What an I supposed to watch?
Cable won't be here until Monday
and you won't let me watch porn
in the living room.

PATTY (V.O.)
Just turn that off and get ready!

Dan turns it off by leaning forward and shutting it off. Not because he wants to but he knows he has to. Dan stands.

DAN
But I'm ready.

PATTY (V.O.)
Are you you ready or me ready?

Dan looks himself up and down for a moment. He's changed into his best pair of shorts and a shirt with a collar. This is where he always gets confused. He thinks she'd approve but, deep down, he knows there's potential he's wrong. Dan answer hesitantly.

DAN
You ready?

Dan pulls on his shirt and shuffles his feet as Patty enters the room. She walks right up to him and grabs his shirt straightening it out. She takes a step back and makes the final appraisal.

PATTY
There's nothing I can do with
your face in such a short time so
I guess you're fine.

Dan runs his arm exaggeratedly over his brow.

DAN
Whew! It's a good thing you don't
know I'm not wearing underwear.

PATTY
Don't crap yourself and we'll be
fine.

Patty calls somewhere in the building for Jess.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Jess! Let's go.

JESS (V.O.)
I'm almost ready! Just wait!

Patty looks at Dan who's pretending to be happy about this.

PATTY
How come I feel like Goldie Hawn
in 'Protocol' and we're going to
get there and it's going to be a
cotillion?

Dan leans forward and kisses her on the lips. They really do love each other.

DAN
Because you worry about
everything.

PATTY
Yeah, well, with you two around,
JESS!

JESS (O.S.)
I'm right here.

Jess enters the scene.

JESS (CONT'D)
There's no need to yell all the
time.

Jess is dressed in a very revealing outfit. Mostly, it reveals the skin of a fourteen year old. Dan and Patty give her the once over. The decision is unanimous.

PATTY
You're not going to wear that to
meet our new neighbors and that's
final.

Jess pouts and stomps her feet while looking at herself approvingly.

JESS
I don't see anything wrong with
it.

PATTY
That's because there's no thing
to see to it. Go and change right
now and hurry.

Jess stomps again. Probably for the thousandth time today.

JESS
Daddy!

Patty looks at Dan for a second but he didn't even need that prodding.

DAN
You heard your mother. Hell,
she's even making me wear
underwear.

JESS

Oh please, Dad, you don't have to
lie to me. I doubt you even own
any.

Jess stomps away while Dan pretends to be put off by the last
comment. Patty smirks.

PATTY

You do, don't you?

Dan pretends to be insulted.

DAN

Well, I've never.

PATTY

Pretty much since I've known ya.

Dan and Patty laugh while standing there looking. The smiles
become a little uncomfortable. Neither of them are used to
life like this. They know there will be some adjustments.
But, looking around, how bad can it be?

DAN

Can you believe this?

Patty looks at him and smiles.

PATTY

I believe it less because you did
it.

DAN

We did it. It's ours. We're a
team.

PATTY

But you're the one who draws that
stupid cartoon.

Dan shushes Patty and looks around in exaggerated fear.

DAN

Shhhhh! Don't let her hear you.
You know how touchy she is.

Patty and Dan laugh and begin to walk through the maze to the
front door. They are pleased with their good fortune.

PATTY

All this because of 'Hilary,
Queen of the Taj Ma Mall.' I
never would have imagined.

DAN

There's a sucker born to consumer
oriented parents every minute.

Patty and Dan reach the front door just as Jess bounds down the stairs to meet them. She's much more appropriately dressed but still has a little belly flesh showing. She fights to pull her shirt down.

The Blake's stop at the door to exchange glances. Even the perpetually glum Jess seems to be infused with their new home and fortune.

Dan wraps his arms around Jess and Patty. Patty opens the door and they all smile.

DAN (CONT'D)

Let's go dazzle our new
neighbors.

The Group begins to exit the scene. Patty closes the door behind them.

PATTY

Let's just not let them see the
real us.

FADE TO:

EXT. SEASHELL DRIVE - EVENING

Dan, Patty and Jess are following a linen streamer that was left at the end of their driveway tied to a decorative cast iron pole that leads to a professionally designed sign that read, in an overly decorative, cursive script:
Welcome Neighbors! To The Seashell Drive Family!

The fact that The Group could see this large sign from their front stairs seemed to render the lead moot, but, so was life on Seashell Drive. What was done on Seashell Drive was overly done on Seashell Drive.

EXT. 4 SEASHELL DRIVE FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

In the time it takes to see all these flourishes, we arrive at four Seashell Drive. The Group walks through an ornate and tastefully decorated archway.

The Group pauses for a moment knowing that this is the end of the line. If they enter, they're not in Kansas anymore.

Dan screws on a smile and hugs his family.

DAN
Well, I guess all that's left is
to embrace our new lifestyle.

The Group exchanges somewhat apprehensive glances.

DAN (CONT'D)
Failing that, I'll call Vent and
have him order an air strike.

Dan gently pushes Patty and Jess through the arch first. At the first sign of hesitation he adds a little more pressure.

EXT. 4 SEASHELL DRIVE BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Patty and Jess stumble through the archway. They quickly regain their balance and composure while dragging Dan through. The Group fumbles to compose themselves before anyone notices.

From above the archway we see the expansive and tastefully decorated yard. Furthest from the archway the Men of Seashell Drive are grouped together. In the middle, acting as some type of demilitarized zone, the Children of Seashell Drive are cavorting in their measured perfection. At the sentry point closest to the guests of honors entrance are the Women of Seashell Drive.

Catherine is the first to notice the Blake's. She signals Judith with a subtle nod of her head. They've practiced this so often none of the other Women of Seashell Drive notice.

Judith stops her story the moment she sees the signal, spins and rushes to greet her guests of honor. Catherine is quick on her heels while Michelle and Rebecca are left to bring up the rear.

The Children of Seashell Drive notice the movement and dutifully begin their movement towards the archway.

The Men of Seashell Drive bide their time to give the children a wide berth before moseying over to the gathering.

This gathering of humanity descends upon the Blake's and they do their best to maintain their wide eyed smiles without beating a hasty retreat.

As everyone approaches to greet the Blake's wave after wave, with the Women of Seashell Drive acting as the ultimate introducers, the sheer imposition of this pounds down on the Blake's. They exchange weak smiles and raised eyebrows as the onslaught begins.

JUDITH

Everyone! Everyone! Let me
introduce Patty, Jess and Dan
Blake!

Judith looks at her children and they begin filing in.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

First and foremost, the lights of
my life, my children. Chad, Tim,
and Elizabeth.

As if on an assembly line, her three kids, Chadwick (Chad) -
14, Timothy (Tim) - 13, Elizabeth (Elizabeth) - 12 greet the
Blake's. Judith's husband, Bob - 45, wanders up with the good
graces and warm the handshakes of a man who has no idea why
he's there.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

And this is my wonderful husband,
Bob.

As if on cue, because it is, Judith and family fade into the
background and Catherine and her crew, husband Tod - 39, and
the kids, Teresa (Teresa) - 8, Caroline (Caroline) - 7,
Lawrence (Larry) - 6, move up to shake hands.

CATHERINE

May I introduce the family you've
heard so much about, my
tremendous children, Teresa,
Caroline, and Larry.

They move off and it's the husbands turn. In the free moment
Patty leans over to Dan and whispers.

PATTY

Have you caught one name yet?

Dan has a huge smile plastered on his face.

DAN

Not a one. Plus I'm sure it'll
take a week for my face cramp to
go away.

CATHERINE

This is the breadwinner of the
house
(Laughs)
Tod.

He quickly shakes hands all around and steps just a speedily
to his respective location so Rebecca and her family, husband

Rod - 36, and children Roger (Rog) - 5, Reagan (Rege) - 4, Roderick Junior (Rojo) - 3 can step up.

REBECCA

May I introduce Rod, Rege, and Rojo.

Jess leans over while shaking Rojo's hand and says to Patty.

JESS

It sounds like they're naming dogs.

Rebecca stops for no one and pushes Rod through causing Jess to stumble back.

REBECCA

And this is the love of my life, Rod.

Rod gives the biggest, longest, most insincere handshakes all around. Dan counts his fingers and those of Jess when Rod walks off.

Quick on Rod and Rebecca's heels, finally, if the Blake families expressions are any indication, Michelle pushes her family, husband Steve - 42, and children Janice (Janice) - 11, Bryce (Bry) - 10, Eleanore (Eleanore) - 9, to the front of the line.

MICHELLE

And, last by certainly not least, I'm so proud to introduced my beloved family, Janice, Bry, and Eleanore, my children, as you can see.

Michelle smiles and chuckles at her humor but the Blake's are buried under this onslaught so see nothing funny about anything. Michelle ignores but does not forget. Michelle pushes the kids away a little harder than planned and pulls Steve in quickly.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

And this is Steve.

Steve regains his balance and shakes everyone's hand. He seems the most sincere. Even before Steve is done shaking Dan's hand the Children of Seashell Drive surround Jess and begin leading her away. The Women of Seashell Drive do the same to Patty while The Men of Seashell Drive, with Steve's hand still attached, usher Dan to the safety of his proper section.

The Blake's manage to make eye contact with each other with mouthed 'Help's' all around. It doesn't stop the flow of the Families of Seashell Drive as we reveal the breadth of the four Seashell Drive backyard while the scene becomes colored like a cartoon in bright colors and bold strokes that begins to darken ominously until we:

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. 4 SEASHELL DRIVE BACKYARD - LATER

The Black Out fades to dark ominous bold strokes into bright cartoon colors into the real scene at the backyard of 4 Seashell Drive.

Each contingent is in their quadrant. Both Dan and Patty are surrounded by their counterparts. The Children of Seashell Drive keep a little distance from Jess but it's certain that she is the focus of their attention.

FADE TO:

A triple split screen with the camera focusing in on the faces of Dan, Jess, and Patty. In unison, Judith, Chad, and Bob ask a question.

JUDITH CHAD
So, what's Dan do for work? So, what's Dad do for work?

BOB
So, what's Dan do for work?

Dan, Jess, and Patty nod in unison. A standard question they were prepared for.

DAN JESS
Cartoonist. Cartoonist.

PATTY
Cartoonist.

CUT TO:

Triple split screen with the Men of Seashell Drive on one side and the Women of Seashell Drive on the other react aghast. In the middle, the kids react more positively.

CHILDREN
REALLY!

CUT TO:

Full screen of the Children of Seashell Drive moving closer to Jess. She steps back slightly.

JESS
Yeah, he draws Hilary, Queen of the Taj Ma Mall.

The Children of Seashell Drive have differing reactions to this news. The girls, all within the demographic of 'Hilary,

Queen of the Taj Ma Mall,' Caroline, Teresa, Eleanore, Janice, and Elizabeth move closer. All of the boys step back and place their attentions elsewhere. Even Chad backs away but he's sure to never let Jess out of his sight. She notices this but barely gives him the time of day. The questions come fast and furious.

CAROLINE
Are you Hilary?

TERESA
Do you have superpowers in the mall?

ELEANORE
Do you get free stuff?

JANICE
If you do, can I come to the mall with you?

ELIZABETH
Is your best friend really the smart one?

Jess stands there attempting to answer the barrage of questions as we:

CUT TO:

The Women of Seashell Drive and their reaction to this news. Their questions, albeit at a slower pace, still come.

JUDITH
A cartoonist?

CATHERINE
Like the funny papers?

REBECCA
Maybe he's an editorial cartoonist.

MICHELLE
They pay people for that?

Patty stands there trying to react to the questions. She's at a loss as to which one to answer first as we:

CUT TO:

The Men of Seashell Drive asking their questions of Dan.

BOB

They pay people for that?

TOD

What's your yearly gross?

ROD

Do you get one big check or a
bunch of little ones?

STEVE

Do you play golf?

The Men of Seashell Drive snap to attention on that question. The subject changes to one they really care about as we zoom out to reveal Caroline, Teresa, Eleanore, Janice, and Elizabeth running towards Dan with armfuls of 'Hilary, Queen of the Taj Ma Mall' merchandise.

Dan holds up his hands and the Girls of Seashell Drive stop in front of him. Dan smiles at the The Men of Seashell Drive as they take a step back. They are not used to this intrusion into their quadrant. Dan pulls a pen out of his pocket and begins signing the mounds of merchandise.

Again, we reveal the breadth of the four Seashell Drive backyard with a little cross-generational intermingling going on.

Of course, the Women of Seashell Drive's section is still pristine. The Women watch this scene unfold while stealing furtive looks.

JUDITH

Well, it looks like we have our
own little celebrity right here
on Seashell Drive.

(Pause)

Isn't that nice?

CUT TO:

INT. 1 SEASHELL DRIVE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dan, Patty and Jess are sitting amidst the rubble that is their living room. They've kicked off their shoes and are reveling not only in their peace and quiet but the fact they are in their own home.

PATTY

Are the doors locked?

DAN

And windows. I pulled down the shades hoping they'd think we were sleeping.

JESS

I doubt that would stop them.

DAN

It's still not too late to call Vent to order that air strike.

PATTY

Oh, they're not that bad.

Dan and Jess exchange looks of disbelief.

DAN

Not that bad?

PATTY

Did you see the amount of your crap they've bought those mutant kids.

Dan shrugs as he does the math. Not an inconsequential amount.

DAN

Gotta love indulgent parents.

Dan waves around the room.

DAN (CONT'D)

Paid for the entire downstairs is my best estimate.

JESS

I'm not hanging out with them. There's no way you can make me. And that weird one?

DAN

Clarify.

JESS

Chad.

Jess cringes at the thought much less the verbalization.

JESS (CONT'D)

He stared at me for half the night.

PATTY

He was just being friendly.

Jess is moments from teenage apoplexy.

JESS

Friendly? It was more like he wanted to remember everything so he could make a voodoo doll of me to make me just like them.

Jess stands up and curtsies and bows across the room.

JESS (CONT'D)

Hello Mr. Blake. Hello Mrs. Blake. I'm so enjoying the foot binding of my patent leather shoes and chaffing leather thong.

Jess slumps herself against a box.

JESS (CONT'D)

And those are the boys. I'm serious. Those kids are children of the corn creepy.

Jess can see that her parents aren't quite on the same page as she is. She has to bring in the big guns.

JESS (CONT'D)

They're all creepy. What about that guy who kept telling dad he shot a bogey.

DAN

Better than him telling me he's picking one.

Jess is feeling as if her parents aren't taking her seriously.

JESS

Mom, you can't seriously be considering becoming a belletristic whatever?

Even Dan looks at her a tad askew.

DAN

If you are, you'd better get vaccinated or you ain't coming in the house.

JESS

See? Dad agrees. You're letting these people brainwash you.

PATTY

ENOUGH. It's late. I'm tired. I don't even know what a belletristic is.

Patty stands.

PATTY (CONT'D)

But I do know it's time for bed.

Patty pats Jess on the legs until she gets up.

PATTY (CONT'D)

You've got school tomorrow.

JUDITH

Groan.

Patty pats Dan's shoulder.

PATTY

And you've got a deadline.

DAN

Groan.

Patty puts her arms around both of them as they exit the room.

PATTY

You're just not used to them yet. Yes, I'll agree, they're a little weird but remember the house on High Street?

Dan and Jess shiver at the thought.

PATTY (CONT'D)

Yeah, weird old Mr. Squires.

DAN

I swear the guy didn't own pants.

JESS

I didn't mind that as much as him peeing in the pool.

Dan stops and looks at Jess.

DAN
I never saw him go in the pool.

JESS
That's why I minded.

The Blake's share a group shiver at the thought as they continue out of the living room.

DAN
Yeah, I guess these people are better.

PATTY
Yeah, I'm sure they'd be classy enough to pee in their own pools.

DAN
Ewwwwwwwww.

JESS
Ewwwwwwwww.

The Blake's exit the room as we

CUT TO:

INT. 4 SEASHELL DRIVE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The Women of Seashell Drive, having debriefed their husbands and kids, are comparing notes. They all have beautiful notebooks and silver pens at the ready. No nuance is too small for their consideration. The perfectly decorated table (to say nothing of the kitchen) has beautifully etched wine glasses in front of everyone which they sip from liberally.

JUDITH
Michelle, first thing tomorrow you go to the belletristic league, ask for Clarissa and get Patty's membership rolling. Tell Clarissa to push it through for me.

Michelle takes notes while nodding her head.

MICHELLE
I'll head out the moment the kids are off to school.

JUDITH
Did anyone find out exactly what they paid for five?

The Women of Seashell Drive flip through their notes feverishly. They all come up empty. Judith is perturbed for a moment but is quickly back to smiling.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

No problem. They're not smart enough to have it never slip out.

REBECCA

Why not go to the town hall or Becky's real estate office and sneak a peek there.

Judith's face turns crimson.

JUDITH

Because, my dear, there are too many prying eyes. Information gathering of this sort is best done without watchful eyes.

CATHERINE

It's a shame they outbid you, Judith. That was your dream to own five, wasn't it?

Judith turns a withering look on her old friend. Catherine blanches.

JUDITH

Oh, but, Catherine, you of all people know how patient I can be.

Catherine blushes. Michelle and Rebecca's eyes bounce. They are now aware there's something untoward between these two. Michelle and Rebecca make a couple of quick notations.

CATHERINE

Yes, Judith, I'm aware.

The silence hangs heavy in the kitchen. Judith, who has no such lapses in concentration, carries on.

JUDITH

What did your husband find out about Dan, Rebecca?

Rebecca smiles as she reads her notebook page.

REBECCA

It seems this character he created, this Hilary of something, grossed over one hundred and thirty seven million last year.

The Women of Seashell Drive give credit where credit is due. They love the way the word million crosses their lips.

MICHELLE

Much of it from Seashell Drive
from the look of today's
stampede.

The Women of Seashell Drive nod in agreement. Their eyes seem to say that five Seashell Drive belongs to them. At least in part. Any part they can get.

REBECCA

Of course, that's not what he
made. But if Rod's best estimate
is even close, that doughy little
work-a-man cleared at least seven
million.

CATHERINE

That may explain why he paid cash
for five.

Judith seethes. Judith snaps are between her teeth.

JUDITH

Which just goes to show that my
patience won't be for not.

Judith smiles at the Women of Seashell Drive.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

I'm sure we can spend whatever
that simpleton didn't spend
within the next year.

The Women of Seashell Drive laugh heartily.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

And what we don't spend I'm sure
five will gobble up like a leaky
boat in a monsoon.

The Women of Seashell Drive raise their wine glasses in
unison to toast their own brilliance.

CUT TO:

EXT. SEASHELL DRIVE - MORNING

The full shot of Seashell Drive sees the Women of Seashell Drive standing next to their front doors. Within moments, the Children of Seashell Drive exit their house to superficial pecks on the cheeks from their respective mothers. That is quickly followed by Men of Seashell Drive exiting their house to a cursory peck on their cheeks and a wave as they pull

their expensive vehicles into Seashell Drive and, as orderly as a military parade, drive out of Seashell Drive.

The Women of Seashell Drive leave their respective houses to meet in the middle of Seashell Drive. After pleasantries are exchanged, they turn to look up Seashell Drive.

We see a t-shirt and shorts wearing Dan standing at the front of his driveway drinking his morning cup of coffee. He waves to the women as Jess storms out of the house, past Dan with barely a nod.

Patty enters the scene with a quick closing of the door and hurried steps to the car. She stops for a moment when Dan shows them their neighbors at the top of Seashell Drive. They both wave with big smiles before engaging in a morning kiss. Nothing too sloppy but more than the pecks of earlier.

Patty continues on to the car where she finds a slumping Jess still complaining. Patty shrugs at the neighbors as she gets in the car and drives out of the driveway. Patty waves as she drives past the Women of Seashell Drive.

The Women of Seashell drive watch her pull away before turning their attention back to Dan who is still standing there waving. They share a look between each other while turning their back on Dan.

He stops waving, still with a big smile on his face, as he turns and enters five Seashell Drive through the garage. The door automatically shuts behind him while we close in on the Women of Seashell Drive to see what they're up to today.

JUDITH

How in the world can he let her
drive in that death trap?

CATHERINE

Not to mention that daughter. He
says he loves her but you
couldn't tell by the danger he
places her into every morning.

REBECCA

I think now that he has some
money he might be getting tired
of the 'old girl.'

The Women of Seashell Drive find this so comical.

MICHELLE

Before he trades her in, we
should see what we can do about
(MORE)

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
getting him to trade that eyesore
of a beast in.

They seems to concur that this is a perfect plan for such a
wonderful morning.

JUDITH
Not to mention his.

Judith claps her hands as if to signal the troops.

JUDITH (CONT'D)
But, first things first.

Judith turns to face Michelle.

JUDITH (CONT'D)
Michelle!

Michelle was moving at the look.

MICHELLE
I'm on my way to the belletristic
league.

Michelle exits while the other Women of Seashell Drive wait
for her to leave. In a moment Michelle's pulling away with a
beep and a wave. The Women of Seashell Drive wave until she
disappears.

REBECCA
I saw her whispering something to
that Patty last night.

CATHERINE
I noticed that too. I don't know
what they'd have to talk about.
But I'm sure it wasn't anything
respectable.

The Women of Seashell Drive continue looking off into the
distance expressing displeasure that Michelle may or may not
have had a whispering moment with Patty.

That is how things happen here on Seashell Drive. Judith and
Catherine bid Rebecca adieu as they adjourn to Judith's for
some small, or not so small, talk. It's a daily ritual of
years.

Rebecca smiles as she walks towards her house. Rebecca
watches them enter Judith's house before turning her
attention to five Seashell Drive.

Out of Rebecca's careful watch, a curtain moves slightly at Judith's house. It wouldn't matter to her anyway. Rebecca, well versed in the art of Seashell Drive, knows she's being watched. Nothing passes unnoticed nor a moment too small that won't be commented upon at Seashell Drive.

Rebecca enters her house for a moment to gather an elaborate basket from her foyer. Breads, cheeses and wines overflow from this opulent basket. Rebecca straightens out her already perfectly fitting clothes and begins her journey to five Seashell Drive.

As Rebecca walks past four Seashell Drive she sneaks a quick look towards Judith's house. No movement can be discerned. Rebecca smiles knowing that still curtains watch deep.

While Rebecca continues her journey to five Seashell Drive we

CUT TO:

INT. 4 SEASHELL DRIVE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Judith and Catherine are sitting in the living room sipping coffee. After their first glance at Rebecca's movements they needed no further examination.

Catherine leans forward to the serving tray and, with tongs, reaches into the silver sugar bowl. Catherine holds up the tongs with two cubes of sugar.

CATHERINE

One lump or two?

JUDITH

Two. She definitely deserves two lumps, thank you.

Catherine gently places two cubes of sugar into Judith's coffee before they both lean back and relax. Plotting.

SND FX - DOOR BELL

CUT TO:

EXT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE FRONT STEPS - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca readjusts herself while trying to steady the heavy basket. While waiting, she tries to look into the house but it's impossible. She resigns herself to waiting. Impatiently.

After what seems an interminable time, Dan swings open the door. He's distracted and hasn't seen who's at the door.

DAN

What'd you do? Forget your keys?

Rebecca swings right to coquettish.

REBECCA

I didn't know I was already
supposed to have a key.

Dan snaps to and tries to recover. Fails, but at least he
tried.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

My, you cartoonists work fast.

Dan is trying to recover. Less from his front door miscue
than her name.

DAN

Hey, hi, nice to see you again.

Dan looks over the basket but can't help but to check her
out. This is the first time he's been this close for this
long to Rebecca and he doesn't mind one bit. Dan finally
reacts to the perceived weight of the basket.

DAN (CONT'D)

Do you need help? I mean, with
the basket? Do you want me to
carry it somewhere?

Rebecca smiles and leans towards Dan. The basket's not the
only thing making an impression on Dan.

REBECCA

Silly, this is a welcome to
Seashell Drive gift from our
family to yours.

Rebecca holds the basket out to Dan. After a beat, he
recovers and takes it.

DAN

You shouldn't have. You've all
done so much for us already. With
the barbecue and, uh, that thing
with the ribbon.

Dan's at a loss to think of anything to say.

DAN (CONT'D)

Oh, and the sign! Geez, a sign
like that must have cost a pretty
penny.

Rebecca steps closer to Dan. The basket crinkles.

REBECCA
That was Judith's thing. She
always throws the most
magnificent parties. At the drop
of a hat, it'll be like something
out of elegant entertaining.

Rebecca leans closer to Dan's face.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
But, between you and I, it was a
little stuffy for young people,
like us.

Rebecca leans back with a big laugh. Dan doesn't know what's
so funny but he gives it a go with a forced laugh.

DAN
Yeah, stuffy. Yeah, ummmm.

Dan finds his manners and steps back a step.

DAN (CONT'D)
Would you like to come in. I mean
the place is. . .

On the first syllable of 'would' Rebecca is moving her way
into 5 Seashell Drive. Dan just watches her disappear.

DAN (CONT'D)
. . .laden with anthrax and
overrun by coyotes, but, hey, if
you don't mind, I don't mind.

Dan closes the door. The camera pans left for a shot of 4
Seashell Drive. Judith and Catherine are standing at the
front door. They both smile and shake their heads.
Gracefully, they back into the house and close the door.

CUT TO:

INT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rebecca is marching around the house taking in as much as
possible. Boxes are still strewn everywhere; furniture is
haphazardly placed; basically, five Seashell Drive looks like
it's been overrun by coyotes.

Dan catches up to Rebecca. Dan knows Patty would have a fit
if she knew there were guests there.

DAN

So. . .

Dan places the basket on top of a box.

DAN (CONT'D)

. . .I'd really like to thank you
for the cheese and stuff.

Dan waits for an answer but Rebecca is too busy trying to get a feel for the place and what the Blake's have that she didn't even hear him. Dan's used to that, he is married after all, so he begins to talk aimlessly.

DAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, we really like our cheese.
Bathe in it, we do. Some people
scoff because it has to be
boiling hot to do any good, but
they just don't know how to
really live, do they?

Dan still can't remember her name so, to get her attention, he walks directly to her. At first, Rebecca's still too busy assessing to pay Dan any attention.

DAN (CONT'D)

If you'd like a personal tour,
I'd be glad to schedule a meeting
with the tour director.

Dan's voice startles Rebecca.

REBECCA

Oh, I've never been in here
before.

Rebecca leans in conspiratorially.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

The woman who lived here before
you was an old crow.

Rebecca leans back.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

She truly never understood the
Seashell Drive way.

DAN

We're trying but I hope you're
patient with us. We're trying to
adjust to our own way of life.

Rebecca sizes Dan up. She feels she may have underestimated him during her first meeting. He may not as much of a push over as she'd expected.

REBECCA
Oh, please, don't be silly. We're very private and respectful on Seashell Drive.

DAN
I know where we live.

REBECCA
Excuse me?

DAN
Don't you find it a bit odd that no one ever says the street or the neighborhood or even Seashell. It's always Seashell Drive.

Rebecca stands straight up.

REBECCA
I'm sorry if that bothers you.

DAN
No I was just. . .

REBECCA
. . .We're all just very proud of the sacrifices we've made to be able to live in such a wonderful place as Seashell Drive.

Dan holds up his hands in surrender.

DAN
Hold on, now. We're awful proud to be living in such a, did you say wonderful?

Rebecca give a quick nod.

DAN (CONT'D)
Wonderful place but I was wondering if everyone was always so formal?

Dan's trying to dig himself out of the hole and Rebecca knows it.

REBECCA

Oh no!

Rebecca reaches out and squeezes Dan's arm.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

It's just that old Seashell Drive pride. It's like everything else around here. You'll see, you'll get into the swing of it in no time. You'll see, it'll get you.

Rebecca moves to the large front window and looks out on Dan's black truck.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Are you thinking of purchasing new vehicles? Your truck looks like it's seen better days.

Dan catches up to her at the bay window. He stands next to her checking her out. As attractive as she is, there's something scary about her. Like a 'don't go in that room' moment during a horror movie.

DAN

I don't know about better but they sure were memorable.

Dan tries to coax a laugh out of her but she has other agendas.

REBECCA

Because there's this car salesman everyone on Seashell Drive uses. He treats us like family.

Dan looks out into his neighbors driveways and it sure looks like a family. Every vehicle is the exact same model, year and color.

DAN

You must get the volume discount.

Rebecca turns to face Dan.

REBECCA

We're not sheep, Dan. We just know quality when we see it.

Rebecca looks at Dan for a long moment. It unnerves him slightly.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
We also have husband's who care
about our safety and the safety
of our children.

Rebecca knows Dan is about to acquiesce. Even if it's just words.

DAN
I can see that. But Patty, my
wife, loves her Saab. More than
me she's told me on occasion.
Many occasions.

Rebecca is not about to let Dan off the hook.

DAN (CONT'D)
But, yeah, I guess we are doing
better now. Maybe you're right.

Dan looks out the window at the rest of the neighborhood.

DAN (CONT'D)
Maybe it's time to trade the old
girl in.

Rebecca leans in close to Dan.

REBECCA
I'd like nothing better.

Rebecca continues to smile. Dan is easily manipulated so
stands there smiling. They look out the window and the camera
follows to see Judith and Catherine walking down the driveway
of four Seashell Drive to get into Judith's vehicle.

REBECCA (CONT'D) (O.S.)
Trade in the old girl.

Judith's vehicle pulls out of the driveway while the scene
becomes colored like a cartoon in bright colors and bold
strokes that begins to darken ominously until we:

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. SEASHELL DRIVE - DAY

The Women of Seashell Drive are collected high on the cul-de-sac in front of Judith's house. This placement is not random. It's been chosen as carefully as an assassination attempt.

REBECCA

I heard it myself. He said, and I
quote, maybe it's time to trade
the old girl in.

Rebecca looks at the aghast Women of Seashell Drive.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Forgiving his poor verbal skills,
I was shocked he would admit such
a thing to someone he's only met
a couple of times.

CATHERINE

That's what happens when someone
gets their first taste of
success.

The Women of Seashell Drive nod in agreement.

MICHELLE

The first family. . .

JUDITH

. . .the family that made him the
success he is.

The Women of Seashell Drive nod in agreement.

MICHELLE

Get left behind for something
new.

REBECCA

Yes, it's so unfortunate to be
left behind.

JUDITH

Especially with only one child.

The Women of Seashell Drive laugh. Cutting the laughter short is the sound of Patty's car barreling up Seashell Drive. The Women of Seashell Drive move in a few steps. They wave when she passes into her driveway.

Jess is the first out of the car. The Women of Seashell Drive don't register on her radar. She's in the house before Patty is out of her car. Patty pauses because, although she's in no mood, she knows she must greet The Women of Seashell Drive.

Patty gets out of the car with wide smiles for all. The Women of Seashell Drive return her smile and wave. Patty lopez over as if it's the last mile.

The Women of Seashell Drive are unfailingly friendly. Especially when they have news to impart.

JUDITH (CONT'D)
What a long day you must have
had, my dear.

PATTY
Yeah.

Patty looks at everyone and manages weak smiles and hellos all around.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Signing Jess up for the new
school, getting all the necessary
check-ups, fighting over her
extracurricular activities.

Patty looks at The Women of Seashell Drive amazed.

PATTY (CONT'D)
I don't know how you all do it
with three kids. I'm barely
managing with one.

Patty looks The Women of Seashell Drive over again.

PATTY (CONT'D)
No matter how much the extra kids
bring in a divorce.

The Women of Seashell Drive shuffle and murmur in excitement. Patty looks around wondering what's up. Their game is about to begin.

JUDITH
Well, I shouldn't be the one to
be telling you this, after all,
it is heresy, but, I heard your
husband said to a reliable source
that it was time to trade in the
old girl.

The Women of Seashell Drive nod solemnly while Patty tries to figure out what they're talking about.

PATTY
Excuse me?

REBECCA
Okay, it was me. We were in your living room today. . .

PATTY
. . .you were in my living room?

REBECCA
And he said, and I quote, maybe it's time to trade the old girl in.

PATTY
Hold on one second. What were you doing in my house?

REBECCA
I'd forgotten to give you the basket I'd made so I dropped it off this morning. Your husband was nice enough to invite me in.

Patty looks Rebecca over. She exchanges glances with the other Women of Seashell Drive. She's having a little trouble figuring all of this out.

PATTY
Let me get this straight. You came into my box filled, less than house beautiful home, to drop off some basket. . .

REBECCA
. . .It was wine and cheese.

PATTY
I don't care if it was cleaning supplies and arsenic.
(pause)
In what context did my husband blurt out that he was thinking of dumping me?

Rebecca knows she has the upper hand so she downplays it.

REBECCA

Well, and to be honest, there's
no way of knowing for sure if it
was you he meant by old girl.

Patty stands, arms folded across her chest defiantly waiting for Rebecca to get to the point. Rebecca loves the drama so she quickly delivers the next line and feigns exhaustion.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

We were just sharing a few laughs
by the bay window and, I guess,
it just slipped out.

Rebecca gestures towards the window as she slumps into Michelle. The Women of Seashell Drive seem utterly devastated by this turn of events.

Patty takes in this scene. She knows Dan is an idiot but she also knows that, since the big break, people have been treating him differently. She's seen him in close proximity to her discomfort. All of these doubts swirl through her head as she attempts to formulate her next move.

PATTY

Thanks.

Patty turns and begins to walk into her house. The Women of Seashell Drive watch her go. The anguish of Rebecca's past seems to have quickly vanished. She's bolt upright as attentive as the other Women of Seashell Drive. Suddenly Patty stops and turns around. Rebecca quickly falls back into Michelle's arms.

PATTY (CONT'D)

I want to thank you all. You've
been so kind in the short time
we've been here. I won't forget
this.

Patty turns continues into the house. The Women of Seashell Drive watch her wary that she may again turn around. Just before Patty reaches her front door Michelle pulls a paper from her purse. She holds it aloft.

MICHELLE

Patty, you forgot the membership
application to belletristic
league!

Judith quickly quiets Michelle and takes the application from her.

JUDITH
I don't think she'll be needing
that now, dear.

The Women of Seashell Drive remain in their gaggle until they see the door to five Seashell Drive close. After a pause of a moment or two they exchange nodding pleasantries and wander back to their respective houses.

Once the group breaks up but can still be seen in the shot we

CUT TO:

INT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE DRAWING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dan is sitting at the computer sending cartoons to his syndicate. He's on the phone to the TV shows producer.

DAN
I liked the last roughs. I think
if we could just. . .

PATTY
. . .what the hell are you
thinking?

Dan looks at an obviously agitated Patty.

DAN
Pick this up tomorrow. From the
looks of it I'm in trouble at the
home front.
(pause)
I don't know. To the best of my
knowledge I didn't break
anything. Talk to you tomorrow.

Dan hangs up the phone and stands from his chair. He walks towards Patty who is storming into the room. Dan has a big smile on his face. Patty, as you'd expect, does not.

DAN (CONT'D)
Hi, honey! How was your day?

Patty and Dan are now face to face. Dan's offered puckered lips go unused. He uses the time to do a big O mouth exercise.

PATTY
Obviously not as good as yours.

Dan attempts to relive his day. Nap, nap, drawing, nap, lunch, phone calls, nap, nap, drawing, Patty gets home.

DAN
No, not really good. Kind of
normal actually.

PATTY
Oh, so it's every day you tell
someone you're going to dump me?

Dan is confused.

DAN
Huh?

Patty thinks he's playing dumb and it infuriates her.

PATTY
Don't play stupid with me. I know
you told Rebecca you want to
divorce me.

Dan thinks. Remembers something.

DAN
That's her name. Oh yeah. She
came by with a basket of cheese
and wine. I ate some of the
cheese.

Dan pulls a piece of cheese off his desk and pops it into his
mouth.

DAN (CONT'D)
Not bad actually.

Patty is about to tear out his throat and jam the keyboard
down the opening.

PATTY
So you admit it?

DAN
Ah, yeah. I ate some of the
cheese. Geez, I didn't think it
would be that big a deal. I can
ask her where she got. . .

PATTY
. . .I don't want you asking her
a damn thing. I don't want you
telling her a damn thing. Do you
hear me?

DAN

Yeah.

(pause)

Okay. I won't tell. . .

Dan forgot her name.

PATTY

. . .Rebecca.

DAN

Rebecca. Rebecca, I got it. I
won't tell her anything.

Patty and Dan stand there for a moment. Patty's anger has not
subsided.

DAN (CONT'D)

What is it, again, I'm not
supposed to tell her?

Patty's anger has now reached critical mass.

PATTY

For one, if you're interested in
divorcing me. . .

DAN

. . .divorcing you?

PATTY

I'd like to hear it in our house
first. Not on Seashell Drive.

Dan is waving his hands trying to, more for himself than
Patty, get a handle on this.

DAN

Hold on here, just for a minute.

Patty is still fuming. It's probably a good thing for Dan
she's too tired to talk.

DAN (CONT'D)

First off, I don't know where you
got this crazy divorce idea.

Dan extends his arms and takes a step forward. Patty's
reaction shows him that may not be the best idea right now.

DAN (CONT'D)

I've never said that to anyone
nor have I ever thought it. I'd
(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)
like to know who put that stupid
idea in your head.

PATTY
Rebecca!

DAN
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. That one. I
never said that to her. She
dropped off the cheese, we talked
about cars, and she left.

PATTY
You talked about cars?

DAN
Yeah, she said she could get me a
good deal.

PATTY
I bet she did.

DAN
She did. Said she knew a guy who
gives everyone on Seashell Drive
a good deal.

Patty thinks for a second.

PATTY
So, what old girl were you
talking about.

DAN
My truck. We can use a new one,
you know. There's a spring in the
seat that stabs me when I hit a
bump.
(pause)
Okay, that I'll miss. But other
than that. . .

Dan reaches out and Patty relents and they hug.

DAN (CONT'D)
. . .it was nothing. She was just
checking things out.

PATTY
I hate that.

DAN
I know but they have their own
way of doing things on. . .

PATTY DAN
. . .Seashell Drive. . .Seashell Drive.

Patty and Dan laugh.

PATTY
It's going to be an interesting
place to live.

DAN
It wouldn't be life if it wasn't.

Dan pulls away from Patty and moves towards the computer. He starts typing.

DAN (CONT'D)
Oh, I have to show you something.

Patty slowly follows him to the computer.

PATTY
During your oh so enlightening
conversation with Rebecca, did
you have to mention my Saab?

DAN
Yeah, I told her you'd never give
up your Saab.

Patty stands behind Dan and raises her hands into the strangling position.

DAN (CONT'D)
So I told her you'd just have two
cars.

Patty drops her hands onto Dan's shoulders.

PATTY
What are you doing?

DAN
I got Nine Inch Nails tickets.

JESS (O.S.)
Hey!

Dan and Patty look at each other and smile.

DAN
Another world heard from.

Jess enters the room and rushes right up to the computer.

JESS

You got Nine Inch Nails tickets?
Did you get a ticket for me?

DAN

JESS

No.

No!

PATTY

Jess, remember when we took you
to the Stones at Fenway?

Jess adopts a pouting stance.

JESS

I wasn't bad.

PATTY

I didn't say you were bad.

DAN

But remember that guy?

Jess thinks back as we:

FADE TO:

EXT. FRONT OF STAGE - NIGHT

Patty, Dan and Jess are in front of the stage being crushed by a mass of humanity. The band is playing right in front of them and Jess is having trouble with this guy falling into her.

JESS

DAD! This guy keeps molesting me.

Dan looks over for a second and sees this LARGE GUY leaning over Jess. He turns away while waving her off.

DAN

He's not molesting you. He's
drunk.

Dan doesn't take his eyes off the stage. Jess takes a closer look at the guy.

DAN (CONT'D)

Just give him a good shove.
You'll never see him again.

Jess sizes up the guy for a moment before putting all her weight and some extra strength behind it and launches the guy away from her.

CROWD
Hey! Watch it! Get off me!

A now satisfied Jess adjusts herself and begins to really enjoy the show.

FADE TO:

INT. 5 SEASHELL DRIVE DRAWING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dan, Patty and Jess are surrounding the computer.

DAN
And that was an old guy. Those
Nine Inch Nails fans aren't going
to be so easy to toss.

JESS
I still want to go.

Jess turns to Patty.

JESS (CONT'D)
Mom!

PATTY
I don't think it would be too bad
if she went.

DAN
Which is why I've already
purchased three tickets.

Patty and Jess hug Dan. They break the hug and Dan leans back in his chair.

DAN (CONT'D)
We've done pretty good so far,
wouldn't you say?

The Blake's look around the still unpacked drawing room and smiles begin to break out on their faces.

JESS
Even if the people who live on
Seashell Drive are weird.

Patty and Dan nod in agreement.

DAN
Just keep your nose clean, kid,
and everything will be fine.

Patty doesn't look so sure.

PATTY

Just remember that face value is
free.

Patty starts to exit the room as Dan and Jess exchange
glances.

JESS

What did she mean by that?

Dan shrugs his shoulders as he slides his chair back to the
computer.

DAN

Damned if I know. She's crazy,
you know. Maybe I'll have to
trade the old girl in one of
these days.

PATTY (O.S.)

I heard that!

Dan and Jess laugh as Jess exits the drawing room. Dan leans
back on his chair and looks out the window. We see a shot
down a quiet and empty Seashell Drive. Maybe a little too
quiet as the scene becomes colored like a cartoon in bright
colors and bold strokes that begins to darken ominously until
we:

BLACK OUT.

THE END