

THE NEST

Written by
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EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - ORLANDO, 1991 - NIGHT

The last of many guests are wandering down the street from a high school party at the Ellis family home.

INT. ELLIS HOME - CONTINUOUS

MAURA ELLIS, a short and sober 16 year old nerdball locks the front door and begins diligently cleaning up the destruction. She wears an oversized shirt that says "Night Owl" and her head gear hangs around her neck like a harmonica. She picks up a drink and sees that there is a set of car keys in it.

KATE

Those are Jason's. He walked home.
I'll give 'em to 'em at church
tomorrow.

KATE ELLIS, known in her high school as "Kate The Fox" is Maura's 17 year old, tall "wild child" of a sister. She wears a cute halter dress and is stretched out on the couch looking victorious in the drunken afterglow of another successful bash. She is not sober and has not joined the clean up effort.

KATE (CONT'D)

That was the best night ever! It
was like the house was on fire, but
the fire was funness.

MAURA

Someone broke the head off one of
Mom's birds.

KATE

Alex bit it off when he was doing
his monster.

She remembers it and laughs.

KATE (CONT'D)

That guy's gonna do something with
his humor. Mark his words.
Seriously. He's like a spazzier
version of Robin Williams.

Kate gets some of her long hair stuck in her mouth and her earring. She tries in vain to get it out. Maura stares at Kate like she's watching a house burn down.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

Maura is carefully gluing the head back on the figurine. She takes out a ruffled Scunci from her hair and puts it around the bird's neck to hide the wound. Kate staggers through on a mission, heading out to the back yard.

KATE
Don't feel good.

Kate falls on all fours in the grass. Maura tries not to listen as Kate throws up dramatically. There is a long silence, then-

KATE (CONT'D)
Fuuuuuuuuuuck! You fuckers!

Maura runs out to find Kate in agony.

MAURA
What!?

KATE
I put my hand in ants! They bit all over my hands! It hurts so bad!

Maura takes a dramatically miserable Kate into the kitchen and puts ice in a bowl, filling it with water. Kate begins to cry. We see in the brighter kitchen light that Kate looks like a mess. Her hair has some debris in it, her make-up melting, her fingers sausaging.

KATE (CONT'D)
They're blowing up. I don't want Mickey hands! It's gonna travel. I'm going to bloat up and die!

MAURA
You're not going to die.

Maura lowers Kate's hands into the bowl again. Kate calms down and leans onto Maura, wiping her make-up laced tears on her nightshirt. Maura pulls off a Jolly Rancher that is stuck on her sister's chest. Kate takes it and puts it back in her mouth. She carries off the bowl of water.

KATE
I'm go lay down.

MAURA
Don't lay down with a Jolly Rancher in your mouth!

KATE
I swallowed it, okay? Fuckit.

Maura watches her sister barely defy physics in a long, drunken, water-sloshing journey in high heels back to the bedroom. Maura puts on her headgear and begins to clean up.

CUT TO:

INT. MAURA'S CONDO - PRESENT DAY -ATLANTA

Maura, 37, a modestly dressed attractive woman naps on a couch in a sparsely decorated but nice condo. A cat runs about and another is sleeping in her armpit. Her computer rings like a phone. She pops up and clicks on her Skype. The cat runs off.

MAURA
Sorry, Fudge.

Maura's MOM appears on the Skype screen.

MAURA (CONT'D)
Hi Mom!

Her mom doesn't respond and sits uncomfortably in front of the camera looking at herself.

MAURA (CONT'D)
Mom. Can you hear me?

Maura's DAD can be heard out of frame.

DAD (O.C.)
Hi Kid. How's it going? It's been hot as hell here. I've been sticking to my car seat.

Her mom continues to stare at the camera without speaking. Mom smiles and nods to what Dad is saying off camera.

MAURA
Dad, come sit in front of the camera so I can see you.

Mom and Dad switch. Dad stares into the camera. We hear mom's voice out of frame.

MOM (O.C.)
How's your week been? Has the hospital been busy? We saw that Atlanta had a storm.

MAURA

Mom? Can you lean in? Can you guys both talk when you're in front of the camera so I can see and hear you at the same time?

Mom leans in.

MOM

We don't get this Skype crap.

DAD

It's screwy.

MAURA

You're fine. You're doing it.

MOM

So your Dad and I have something to tell you.

DAD

It's pretty major.

MAURA

Okay...

Her parents stare, frozen.

MAURA (CONT'D)

Are you pregnant?

MOM

Oh Jesus. I'm way past that bull. No thank you.

DAD

Your mom and I have decided...to sell the house.

Dad leans away uncomfortably.

MOM

Come back in and talk to her about it!

DAD

We want to simplify.

They both lean in to camera, looking nervous. Maura is stunned but remains cheery.

MAURA

Okay. Really? Wow. That is big. Well, maybe I can come home and help you figure this out because it's going to be a lot of work. Maybe I can help you have a huge garage sale and then you'll have a better idea of what all you have. And you know that right now the way the economy is going you might not be able to sell it for a really long time.

MOM

Oh, we sold it already.

Maura tries to underplay her shock.

MAURA

You already sold it?

DAD

We couldn't believe it. Got two offers the first week. We got what we asked for too.

MOM

We just want to pare down. Live more simple. We're tired of dealing with a house. It's too much.

MAURA

That's really good. Okay. So when-

MOM

We need you and your sister to come home and clean out your bedroom.

MAURA

Definitely.

MOM

Can you come next weekend?

MAURA

Sure. I can do that. Did you tell Kate yet?

DAD

We're calling her next. Trying to figure out the best way to break it to her. You two take things so differently.

MAURA

I know.

SMASH TO:

DAD

I won a Jet Ski! Come down next weekend and I'll give it to you.

KATE

Fuck yeah! I could use a Jet Ski.

KATE is now an attractive albeit disheveled woman with big hair that is too long and thick for her head. She is draped across a futon butted against the bumper of a shitty car in a cramped garage. She leans her head against a Shop-Vac behind her and spits a Jolly Rancher out of frame. It hits something metal.

SMASH TO:

KATE (CONT'D)

Maura, I'm coming home next weekend to pick up a Jet Ski Dad won. Why don't you meet me there?

Maura realizes her parents chickened out.

MAURA

Great idea.

KATE

Would you mind sending me some money to get my Jet Blue on? I'm waiting for a check.

MAURA

Sure.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GREYHOUND BUS- TEN DAYS LATER

A quietly fuming KATE, 39, is sitting on a full and hot Greyhound bus. A napping man in a business suit keeps resting his head on her shoulder. She subtly pushes the man away a few times. She finally flicks him hard in the forehead with her thumb and forefinger. She speaks clearly to him.

KATE

Hey. Mr.Business? You need to stop trying to take a fake nap on my boob. That's not a travel pillow.

MAN

Oh, I'm sorry. I was sleeping and-

KATE

Cut the shit, I felt your eyelids fluttering. Don't wear a suit if you're gonna perv it up.

Busted, the man feigns being offended.

BUS DRIVER

(on speaker)

Welcome to Orlando. If you dropped a diaper, I've got it up front.

Kate dials a number on her phone. She leaves a message.

KATE

(on phone)

Hey Girl. I just landed and we're taxiing to the gate. It was a good flight. I'll meet you at the bar in the airport.

Kate hangs up and takes her wallet out and counts and then recounts six twenty dollar bills. She looks out the window, heavy in thought.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Planes are landing.

EXT. AIRPORT TERMINAL

Bus pulls up to airport. Kate gets out with her suitcase and goes into terminal. Her suitcase is oversized, beat up, and isn't rolling well.

INT. BAGGAGE CLAIM

Kate walks over to baggage claim and discreetly puts her suitcase onto a moving carousel and then walks off.

INT. AIRPLANE

MAURA, is sitting on a plane that has just landed, listening to Kate's message. A sleeping and adorable eight month old BABY GIRL is cuddling between her breasts. Maura turns to a YOUNG WOMAN next to her.

MAURA

Sorry, can you hand me that binky?

The young woman hands her a pacifier. Maura dips it in her iced tea and puts it in the baby's mouth.

INT. SECURITY GATE- MINUTES LATER

Kate approaches a TSA agent.

KATE

Hi. I just did something really stupid. I left my purse in there somewhere by my gate.

AGENT

I can't let you through.

KATE

I just got off the plane but my husband is still in there.

AGENT

Do you want me to page him?

KATE

He's an old coot. He won't hear it. I married him so he could get bladder surgery on my insurance. This is going to stress him out. I'm such an idiot.

AGENT

No you're not. You sound like you're actually a very generous person.

Kate tears up slightly and stares at him for a long second.

KATE

Sorry I'm staring at you but Good Lord you look like Taye Diggs.

He really doesn't.

AGENT
I've heard that.

KATE
It's crazy. You should work at
Universal Studios as a look-alike.

He drinks it in like a good wine.

AGENT
(under his breath)
Go quick.

She runs through security.

INT. AIRPORT. JET BLUE GATE - CONTINUOUS.

Maura walks off the plane with baby.

MAURA
You were such a good girl!

She kisses her and snuggles her tightly. We see the young woman from the plane pulling two carry ons standing patiently next to her. They stop.

YOUNG WOMAN
Thank you. You really didn't have
to hold her that long.

MAURA
It was cold on that flight, so it
worked out. She's so warm! She
sucked on my finger the whole time.
I loved it.

YOUNG WOMAN
She's teething, so she's fussy.

MAURA
I'm a nurse so I'm good with fussy.

YOUNG WOMAN
Do you work with babies?

MAURA
No. I work with what they call
"late stage geriatrics". There are
some similarities. They're just
stronger so they're harder to hold.
You know, they're gangly.

Maura shoves her face in the baby's hair and huffs her head.

MAURA (CONT'D)
Uhhh. It's just the best smell
ever. It's so clean and sweet.

Maura reluctantly hands the baby over to the mother.

MAURA (CONT'D)
Great job on her!

YOUNG WOMAN
I bet you're a very good mom.

MAURA
There's really no way to know
because cats can't talk.

The young woman smiles and walks away. Maura gathers her bags and walks towards baggage claim.

INT. TERMINAL- CONTINUOUS

Kate is walking and looking through the crowd with an unlit cigarette in her hand. Her face suddenly brightens.

KATE
There you are!

Kate spots the airport bar and heads to it.

INT. OCEAN SKIES CAFE AIRPORT BAR- DAY- MINUTES LATER

Kate sits at the bar. A young snarky BARTENDER approaches. He is barely paying attention, deeply engrossed in Judge Judy playing on the flat screen.

KATE
Hello. I'd like a really small
glass of tequila.

BARTENDER
Like, a shot of tequila?

KATE
Yeah. Sure, a "shot". I was just
trying to keep it classy.

He pours a shot of tequila. She hands him her ID.

BARTENDER
You gave me your license instead of
your credit card.

KATE
(flirty)
Don't you wanna to check my I.D.?

BARTENDER
We don't have any senior discounts.

KATE
That's so funny and mean! Right out of the gate.

BARTENDER
This is the only bar in the airport so I can really act out. You have a curler in your hair by the way.

She grabs the back of her hair and takes out a small hot roller that is tangled in the mass of curls. She throws it in her purse.

KATE
It's a hot roller. It's a younger, cooler type of curler. They use them at fashion shows.

BARTENDER
It's fourteen dollars.

Kate looks deeply at him with concern.

KATE
Do you have any love in your life? Seriously, you're very shut down.

BARTENDER
We like people to pay so they don't forget and run off to their flight.

KATE
I just landed.

BARTENDER
So you're having like a post-flight drink? So there's an urgency there.

KATE
I'm waiting for my sister.

He nods. She hands him twelve dollar bills she is holding with her middle finger. He walks off. She takes a dainty sip of her tequila then proceeds to take a series of many dainty sips in quick succession until it's gone.

INT. TERMINAL.- MOMENTS LATER

Maura is walking and her face lights up at something ahead. She approaches Kate, her sister from behind in the bar.

MAURA

Girl.

Kate spins around and screams.

KATE

Hey girrrrrl!

Kate hugs her sister hard and they preen and they investigate each other like apes. There is no sense of personal space between these sisters.

KATE (CONT'D)

Whoever did your roots is a
ffffucking asshole. They look good.

MAURA

Your hair is so long.

KATE

I've got some sewn-in shit going
on.

MAURA

Like fake hair?

KATE

It's human hair. These ladies in
some country grow it for a living.

MAURA

That's sad.

KATE

Are you kidding me? They're lucky.
They get paid to sit around and
grow their hair so I can have my
witch weave. Gary did it for me at
work.

(changing subject)

Why does your skin looks so creamy?

MAURA

I've been pore minimizing. You look
good too.

KATE

I look like a dead bloated deer on
the interstate.

MAURA

You do not.

KATE

I really need a shower. It was a long flight. I have an itchy nape.

Kate puts a dime on the bar. Maura starts to take out bills.

KATE (CONT'D)

Don't beef up my tip! He had an ugly heart. It's a teachable moment. Walk.

Kate grabs Maura and they head towards baggage claim.

INT. AIRPORT.-RENTAL CAR COUNTER

Maura and Kate approach the counter.

KATE

Would you mind if you rented the car alone and I'll give you something towards it? They screwed up my insurance and I have to call, then I'll give you half. They fucked it up.

MAURA

Sure. Tell me when you hear from "they".

Maura looks at Kate. She takes in a measured, worried breath.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

Maura drives a midsize rental car.

KATE

Not sleeping with anyone, huh?

MAURA

How do you know?

KATE

Because your thighs aren't shaved. You're wearing the hair shorts of an old maid.

MAURA

I've been going on some lunches.

KATE

You didn't join that "It's Just Lunch" bullshit did you?

MAURA

Yes I did. So shut up. It takes the pressure off.

KATE

That is such a lame idea. Lunch is the most unsexy meal. It's too bright. You need a dark dinner and booze and smoky eyes to get horny.

MAURA

Don't say horny.

KATE

Maybe I'll start a dating service called "It's Just a Quick Fingerbang in The Car". Represent the ladies! I'm really creative when everything falls away.

Maura laughs.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm hungry. The only thing I've eaten today is tequila.

MAURA

I thought you said you were gonna try to not do any day-drinking.

KATE

Well, A., it was dark when I left home and B., When I said that I was crocked. We should get Slurpees!

MAURA

A Slurpee sounds good.

Maura pulls into the 7-Eleven parking lot. They sit for a moment.

MAURA (CONT'D)

I'll get 'em.

KATE

Thanks! I'm saving my money because I have an amazing plan. You're going to be impressed.

Maura gets out to get the Slurpees. Kate yells after her.

KATE (CONT'D)
I'll have a blue one! The garbage
can size. And a box of wine! And
Funyons! Thanks Girl!

MAURA
Funyons?

KATE
Don't judge me Bitch! And get
yourself a nice fat dirty beef
jerky. You need some meat in your
mouth to perk you up.

Maura fights a laugh. No matter what, it's good to be back
with Kate. She is bigger than life.

INT. CAR

Kate is on the cellphone.

KATE
You're actually answering your
phone? What's up, Haley? Where are
you?

CUT TO:

EXT. BUSY CITY STREET.

Kate's seventeen-year-old daughter HALEY is standing on a
city street corner leaning on a newspaper stand, smoking.

HALEY
(lying)
I'm at a job fair..inside a church.

KATE
Can you be more specific? There's a
lot of churches on Earth.

HALEY
Don't worry about it.

KATE
I'm your mom. I can worry if I
want. Tell me where you are.

HALEY
No, because I'm not coming back to
your apartment. Your roommate looks
and acts like a Cabbage Patch doll.

KATE

That's why I've got a new place lined up! It's perfect for us and I can afford it. And it's got a pool.

Haley doesn't respond for a beat.

HALEY

I can't swim. You never taught me.

KATE

Well you know what, it was swim lessons or braces and I needed braces at the time for jaw issues, okay? Just think about it. Promise me. Don't be a dick.

HALEY

Okay. Whatever.

KATE

(lying)

Also, I had an armpit mole scraped and they said it looks pre-cancery-

She drops her phone in the seat crack. She punches the dashboard.

KATE (CONT'D)

Shit!

INT. 7-ELEVEN BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maura is on the toilet. She reaches for toilet paper and the final sheet rolls to the ground out of reach. She dials phone.

MAURA

Answer your phone Kate.

She hangs up and goes on Google.

CUT TO:

Inside the store, an OLDER MAN is at the register taping a picture of a chubby toddler up on the wall. He answers phone.

OLDER MAN

Sem elem.

MAURA

Hi. I need some bathroom tissue.

In a few moments there's a knock on the door. The man opens it with a key, startling Maura. He has a giant roll of paper. It's hard to get it through the crack. He has to open it wider. He has his eyes mostly closed.

OLDER MAN

Here you go, Mama. You got more work to do? You want like an Auto Trader?

MAURA

No, I'm done. Thank you.

When it's almost closed he drops his keys on the inside and has to reach back in. Maura holds the giant roll on her lap to cover.

EXT. 7-11 PARKING LOT - FIVE MINUTES LATER

Maura gets into the car. Kate is yelling down into the crack of the car seat as she digs for it.

KATE

Haley, stay on the phone! I did not hang up on you! I dropped it! I don't know if you can still hear me-

She finally digs it out. Haley has already hung up.

KATE (CONT'D)

That little dick hung up on me! No respect!

Kate shows her a sad and unnaturally dyed bouquet of flowers.

MAURA

I had to get these because they needed us. 7-Elevens always have the saddest "rescue" flowers.

She tries to give them to Kate, but she is lost in thought.

MAURA (CONT'D)

If you're trying to reconnect with Haley you probably shouldn't call her a dick.

KATE

She knows how I mean it. I'm worried about her, okay? I'm trying not to think bad things.

Maura sees the look of despair in Kate's tear-filled eyes. She hands her the gigantic Slurpee and Funyons.

MAURA
It's gonna be okay.

KATE
I miss her. Like in my body I miss her.

MAURA
I know.

Maura leans into her sister. Kate looks deeply at Maura.

KATE
You have a wiry hair shooting out of your chin that is so foul.

Kate pulls a hair out of Maura's chin.

MAURA
Ow!

KATE
I got it. Holy shit that is long! I could put some beads on this and make you a surfer bracelet.

Maura laughs hard. She drives off. Kate looks out the window.

KATE (CONT'D)
Are you ready for my awesome plan?

MAURA
Let's hear it.

KATE
I'm going to have Haley move in with me at Mom and Dad's house. I can pay them some rent, which would help them out, and Haley won't hate me so much there, because she loves her Gram and Gramps! Isn't that good?

Maura nods tightly.

KATE (CONT'D)
I'm telling you! I have good ideas! And she didn't say no right away. This is gonna work out good.

Kate looks hopeful. Maura looks sick.

KATE (CONT'D)
Crank up the music Girl! We're home!

They drive off with music blaring.

INT. CAR- TWENTY MINUTES LATER.

Kate is smoking with half her body out of the sunroof as they drive through their neighborhood.

MAURA
Okay. So Mom and Dad didn't tell you what was-

KATE
Jiezus!

They spot JAMES, a handsome blonde young man planting a fruit tree in a front yard. He is sweaty and shirtless.

KATE (CONT'D)
Slow it down. I need to gawk.

Kate puts her foot over and presses the brake, making them drive past him very slowly.

KATE (CONT'D)
Holy sweet golden goose shit he is nice looking. He's checking you out.

MAURA
I don't think so. No.

KATE
He is sussing. He's too sandy for me though. I like broody with dark eyelashes. Like my fucking asshole ex-husband. I'm still craving that piece of wrong. But you should jump on that sunshine.
(yelling out the window)
Hey! Hey you!

He stops digging.

JAMES
Hi.

KATE
Hi as well. We had to stop and check you out because you're cute.

JAMES
Thanks. James.

KATE
I'm Kate and this is Maura.

Maura waves quickly without looking.

KATE (CONT'D)
James, my sister and I are two busy professionals looking for an "artisan" to do some yard work on our bushes.

MAURA
Oh God.

JAMES
Oh, sorry, this isn't my job.

KATE
We'd pay you a lot of "cheese" as the rappers say. Our bushes really need some attention James.

Maura tries not to show how cute she thinks he is and hits the gas. Kate keeps talking as they drive off.

KATE (CONT'D)
Especially my sister's. She's got a dead hedge that needs some pruning. We'll call you!

As they drive down the street Kate holds her shirt up, flashing a bright pink bra.

KATE (CONT'D)
You need to get his muddy workman's hands on you. Wake up your shit with those calloused fangers.

EXT. PARENTS' HOUSE.- DRIVEWAY

Maura turns into the driveway. There is a real estate sign in the front yard that reads "In Escrow". They sit in silence.

KATE
What. The hell? What's a "For Sale" sign doing in our yard?

MAURA
(badly covering)
What? That's weird.

KATE
What is this?

MAURA
I have no idea-

Maura pretends to visually "investigate".

MAURA (CONT'D)
It almost looks like Mom and Dad
might be selling their house maybe?

Kate slowly rises out of the sun roof like hot lava and
climbs out of it across the hood of the car and runs towards
the house.

KATE
The fuck they are!!! Mom!

MAURA
Kate!

Kate knocks on the door.

KATE
How could they do this to us? No!
Why wouldn't we get a say in this?
I grew up in this house! I had a
plan! Who do they think they are?!

MAURA
They're owners of the house.

KATE
We're common law owners! This is
our family compound. It's supposed
to be passed on! It's the cycle of
life.

MAURA
The Cycle of Life? Is that a song
from The Lion Queen?

KATE
Don't you joke with me.

MAURA
It'll be okay.

KATE
Nothing will be okay! And now I
have to come up with plan B,
because my great idea just got
fucked! Welcome to my life!

Kate violently kicks the "For Sale/In Escrow" sign over with her foot. Maura straightens it. Kate climbs behind a shrub and lifts up a rock. The spare key is not there. She picks up the rock and knocks it into the glass pane in the front door.

MAURA

What are you doing? Don't do that.

She reaches in and unlocks it. They walk in and stop as shock hits their faces. The house is completely packed up. There are only boxes taped up, labeled and very neatly stacked. They walk through the maze like zombies. The house is meticulously clean.

In the kitchen there is an array of notes in their Mom's writing. There is tape saying "Do Not Use" across the stove and the sinks. There is a note on the master bedroom/bathroom door. "Off Limits".

Kate and Maura walk into their shared childhood bedroom. It is a chaotic mess. There are many bags and boxes filled with the artifacts of their childhood. They walk through the rubble and realize that this is the last weekend they'll ever spend in this nest.

BEDROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER.

Maura is on the phone with her parents.

MAURA

(on phone)

Sorry we got in earlier than I thought.

KATE

They should be apologizing to us.
Where the fuck are they?

MAURA

(on phone)

Are you coming home? Where are you guys?

EXT. LAKESIDE- CONTINUOUS

MOM is sitting on a dock dipping her toes in the water reading CBS Soaps Magazine.

MOM

(on phone)

I'm at the dentist. Your dad's running errands.

We see DAD fishing at the water's edge.

MAURA

(on phone)

You got a lot done over here. We're very happy for your new adventure..

Kate is on the floor holding up a very erect middle finger.

KATE

No we're not.

MOM

(on phone)

Is your sister gonna be okay with all this you think?

MAURA

(on phone)

Uh huh.

MOM

(on phone)

Just help us with her, Honey. You know how to deal with her when she gets how she gets.

Maura looks over and Kate is kicking at nothing in the air angrily.

MAURA

(covering)

Great!..Well, we can't wait to see it!....We'll come over in a little while. Bye. Love you.

MOM

(on phone)

Bye Honey. We love you too. Don't poop in any of the toilets. Go to McDonalds.

Maura hangs up.

MAURA

They gave me the address. It's not far.

KATE

I don't wanna go see their nursing home! Is it gonna be urine-y?

MAURA

It's not a nursing home. Its just those apartments over by the lake for anyone over fifty-five.

Kate rolls over and talks with her face in the carpet.

KATE

It's gonna smell like a death cafeteria.

Kate is crying and grinding her face in the carpet.

MAURA

They said they want a quieter life. They don't have the energy to do the yard and the pool and all the hassles that go with it. They're getting too old. They need help.

KATE

Yeah, and Haley and I could have moved in and helped them! Oh my god! What are we gonna do now at Thanksgiving and Christmas? Sit in their "community room" with some sad old gay with a lazy eye working a holiday sing-a-long for the residents? I say no!

Kate crawls over and sits on the floor against the bed.

KATE (CONT'D)

And they better not have those weird high toilets and shower chairs or I'm gonna fucking fall out like I'm at a black funeral.

Kate opens the box of wine and realizes she doesn't have a glass. She begins to nurse from the spout like a goat.

MAURA

Please don't get drunk right now, okay? We'll help each other be strong.

KATE

Fuck them. So much.

MAURA

Maybe you can find a different place in Jacksonville for you and Haley.

KATE
Jacksonville is done. I burned my
bridges. And Haley sounded
interested. Godammit!

MAURA
Something will present itself.

KATE
I can't afford any "something"!

Kate is paralyzed with anger and dissatisfaction.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX.

Maura and Kate have pulled up to their parents' apartments on the lake. A sign reads "Renaissance Villages- A Mature Community".

KATE
If I see mom in one of those little
bullshit one-chair beauty shops I'm
not kidding you, I will slit my
throat and put it on YouTube!

They enter the "villages". There is a courtyard in the back. They are shocked to hear music and laughter. A lot of older people are outside grilling. Fit older ladies talk and laugh uproariously with each other as they tease with a man who looks like George Hamilton.

KATE (CONT'D)
This isn't quiet! This place is
fucking hopping.

MAURA
Well, maybe it's someone's
birthday.

They watch a couple walk by with cocktails.

KATE
Are they drinking booze? Who's
giving older people booze at a
place on a lake? So stupid.

MAURA
These people aren't even that old.
That guy looks like he's the same
age as Sting.

KATE
Sting was never born and he'll
never die.

Mom and Dad come approach. They're uncomfortable and guilty.

MOM
Hi Girls! You both look nice!

DAD
Hi there.

MOM
How were your flights?

MAURA/KATE
Great/Terrible.

They hug each daughter. Kate hugs them without her arms.

MOM
It's all been crazy. We sure didn't
think there would be a buyer so
fast. Isn't this cute?

KATE
(dead eyed)
Adorable.

MOM
They had doo-woppers in here
yesterday. It was a riot.

KATE
It's really quiet. Like a river
boat casino.

MOM
This is Happy Hour in the
Courtyard. People grill up burgers.
It dies down pretty early.

DAD
Yeah. It does.

The girls take note of their dad.

MAURA
Dad, your eyes look weird. You
okay?

DAD
I felt asleep on the lake and
sunburnt the top row of my ass.

KATE

He is so drunk. Look at me. Why are you drunk?

MOM

He's not drunk!

DAD

I had a Bloody Mary. It was clear red. So strong.

Kate leans into her dad and speaks covertly.

KATE

Are you sad? Did Mom make you sell our house? Are you drinking to kill your sadness?

DAD

What? Your breath smells like onions.

MAURA

(changing subject)

Hey, are there any security guards here that keep an eye out? Somebody could slip right into that lake. Neither of you have good knees.

MOM

We're fine! There's always people around. Come see our place. It's small but we're fixing it up.

DAD

It's fantastic.

(off Kate's hurt look)

I mean, it does the job, you know?

Dad walks off in a very slightly corrected walk. His lower back rising out of his Bermuda shorts is crimson red. The girls and mom follow, The sisters look at their mom who they now notice is also half in the bag. She is singing something to herself. They notice there's a fresh flower stuck in her hair. This is the "quiet life" they craved?

INT. PARENTS' APARTMENT

They walk through the apartment. It is adorable. It is clean and bright, and most of their boxes are already unpacked. This is a new way of life. Simple. Uncluttered. The perfect size for two. There's already a picture of the sisters hanging on the wall.

MAURA
Where are your clocks Dad?

DAD
I'm selling most of them. The
buyers want the grandfather clock.

KATE
I wanted the grandfather clock!

DAD
And where would you put it?

MOM
We don't want to clutter this place
up.

KATE
Where are your birds?

MOM
I only brought two of them over to
remind me of you girls.

Two bird figurines sit on the windowsill. It is a mama bird
feeding a gaping baby bird.

MOM (CONT'D)
Simple. And I'm getting a tabletop
Christmas tree.

KATE
A tabletop tree? Ugh.

Kate looks over at Maura and does an elaborate mime of
slitting her own throat.

MOM
We're giving our big tree to our
bank.

KATE
Your bank?! That's a really
emotional move.

MOM
Well I'm glad you're home to pack
up the crap in your rooms. I really
didn't want to get into all your
private stuff.

KATE
Don't worry, last time I moved out
I took all my sex pulleys with me.

MOM

I don't know what you have. That's your business.

KATE

Plus you've always read and written in my diaries, so who cares?

MOM

If you forgot to mention something important, I'd put it in there. Yes. I did that. I made you, I can do that.

Mom looks at Kate's weave.

MOM (CONT'D)

Your hair sure has grown fast.

KATE

Anger makes it grow faster.

Maura takes Dad aside in the hall.

MAURA

Are you guys doing okay money-wise?

DAD

We're fine now, but we sold it just in time. Gave us a nice nest egg. Make sure you clean your room real good because the walk through is Monday. They're real fussy.

MAURA

We'll get it done.

DAD

And stay away from the pool. We got it resurfaced. It's still drying.

MAURA

Okay.

DAD

(quietly to Maura)

Don't tell your sister, but I'm so glad I don't have to cut any more grass! As we drove away I told it to go screw.

Mom and Kate walk up. Kate is glaring at the back of her mom's head.

MAURA

We can pack some and then later we can all go to dinner.

MOM

Oh, tonight they're having an Oriental man bring a Keriya machine to sing into.

KATE

You're not coming home with us?

DAD

We're already moved in.

MOM

You two can have a little slumber party in your bedroom area. While you pack.

MAURA

We can hang at the house tomorrow then.

MOM

Oh, tomorrow night they're having scenes from "The Music Man" in the courtyard. And then they're showing a movie under the stars.

KATE

(seething)

Is it "Cocoon"? Are they showing "Cocoon"? And then you all act it out up front like "Rocky Horror"?

MOM

No, it's "The Shining". I know its gonna scare the crap out of me. You girls can come. And Sunday we're all yours.

Maura and Kate are stunned.

KATE

Awesome. We'll check our availability.

Kate shuffles out. Maura hugs them tightly and sweetly.

DAD

Sorry we chickened out on telling her.

MAURA

It's alright. I got Kate.

Maura walks out and catches up with her dejected sister.

KATE

I can't believe they did this. I want to cry for like a year. A tabletop Christmas tree? Those are for people without families!

Maura walks with her arm around Kate. As always, she is the soother in this partnership.

MAURA

Do you want me to make tuna nachos? The oven's disconnected but I could make them with a blow dryer.

KATE

Whatever. I need wine.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - TEN MINUTES LATER

Kate and Maura are buying wine. Kate has four bottles in her hand. They approach the counter. A forty-ish man looks at Kate.

MAN

Holy shit! Kate The Fox?

She doesn't recognize him.

KATE

Heyyyyyyy. What up!

MAN

I'm sure you don't remember me. Dave Blaylock.

KATE

I remember you, Dane...

MAN

I went to Brantley. I used to come to your parties. Holy shit they were so much fun.

KATE

Ridiculous.

MAN

I know I work in a liquor store and I'm a known alcoholic in this area, but I swear I still talk about those parties. They were epic.

KATE

They were some...really good times.

He rings them up, giving Maura the change but never speaking to her. His eyes never leave Kate. She's a legend. Kate is energized.

KATE (CONT'D)

You should come over tomorrow night, we're having a party!

DAVE

Oh my God, I would love to!

Maura blanches. She turns and walks out.

EXT. LIQUOR STORE - MOMENTS LATER

They are walking to the car.

MAURA

We can't have a party. We have to pack up all our stuff!

KATE

So we'll pack, and then we'll have a party. They're both pretty.

MAURA

Mom and Dad would not be on board with that. At all.

KATE

So? They've already moved on. I grew up in that house and I want to celebrate it. You could invite that sexy gardener dude!

MAURA

We're not having a party, so put it down.

Kate goes silent.

MAURA (CONT'D)

Kate. Don't be mad. We have to pack.

KATE

You need to unpack the corncob that is within your ass. You just can't have any fun.

MAURA

(quietly)

I can have fun.

Maura attempts a silly walk but bails immediately.

INT. BEDROOM- NIGHT- THIRTY MINUTES LATER.

They stand over the endless piles of stuff to pack.

MAURA

Okay, if we really hit it hard I think we could have this whole room emptied out in three hours and then we can go out later and have a drink.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT BEDROOM. - TWO HOURS LATER

Maura and Kate are sitting on the bedroom floor with empty boxes and piles strewn everywhere. They've found their old journals and are reading them to each other. Kate lays across the bed like a teenager. She wears an assortment of found headbands and barrettes. She is pickled in wine.

KATE

(reading)

Dear Diary, I got in my first car accident on the way to school. I was trying to look at the hot hickey Brett gave me in the rear view mirror and a parked car t-boned me. Dad's dealing with it because I can't take the stress. Brett came over when I got done with play practice. He's so sweet, I love him so much it's crazy! His eyes are so piercing! P.S. I might be pregnant!

Kate looks to Maura.

KATE (CONT'D)

Read one of yours.

MAURA

(reading)

Oh Happy Day. I changed the grit on my rock tumbler today. The amethyst is really shaping up. After school I drew a picture of Queenie and I'm very pleased with it. Beagles are hard to draw because they're tri-colored. Drawing is such an outlet for me.

Maura is not happy with the boring entry. She keeps looking. Kate reads with her legs up in the air.

KATE

(reading)

Brett's hair is getting so long! I love when he kisses me and his hair wraps around my face like a hood. I wish my lips were gills and kissing him kept me alive and I never had to breathe. He gave me a sweet card tonight. He wrote some nasty things in it with green pen and I can't stop reading it!

(she turns to Kate)

Your turn.

Maura reads.

MAURA

(reading)

My new plastic braces are turning brown. Mom's going to call Dr. Long and ask him about it. People at school keep telling me I have meat in my teeth, but its just my braces. Can't wait to get a new search-a-word book. I've been flying through them lately. I also got a new plant light. My fern is like "ohhh yeah!".

(to Maura)

That was from a slow month.

INT. BEDROOM - ONE HOUR LATER.

There has been no obvious progress. It looks messier than when they started. Kate has some old weird dance leotard on that is dangerously tight.

KATE

I could go back and do Cinderella
at Disney and rent a place for us.

MAURA

You could. Just keep brainstorming.

Kate is on the floor trying to do a tripod.

KATE

Why won't she tell me where she is!
It's scares the shit out of me.
I've lost control of everything. My
child, my body. When the fuck did I
stop being limber!?

She hikes up her long legs and tries to demonstrate,
desperately trying to reach her feet to her ears, eyes, and
mouth.

KATE (CONT'D)

I used to could do hear no evil,
see no evil, speak no evil. Fuck!

MAURA

Please start packing.

Kate covers Maura's mouth with her foot. Maura slaps it away.
They kick each other like little girls. Maura is always a
little afraid of Kate's strength.

INT. BEDROOM. - THREE HOURS LATER.

Kate is laying on the bed wearing nothing but a bath towel
around her head and a too-tight catholic school uniform
jumper. Maura is now in her pajamas and drinking a giant iced
coffee. She has lost her focus on packing and is intensely
digging through her belongings, making even more of a mess.

KATE

(reading from Maura's
journal)

"Father Vonesh died yesterday. What
a lovely man. I shall never forget
him."

Kate looks at Maura.

KATE (CONT'D)

Who ever said "shall" in modern
times? What was wrong with you?

MAURA

I was fancy.

Kate reads on.

KATE

"I'm so excited! The Labor Day Telethon is this weekend! I can't wait to stay up for the whole thing. It's so entertaining, I lose my gourd!" The telethon? Jesus Christ.

MAURA

(looking at Kate's journal)

Hey. I wanna know who JB was. You apparently gave him a lot of blow jobs.

KATE

JB? I have no idea.

MAURA

You put "JB-BJ- Best one ever!" You were rating them? How many blow jobs did you give in high school?

KATE

Well, blow jobs were what girls did instead of having sex.

MAURA

Yeah, but you had sex too.

KATE

Let me finish!

She doesn't finish.

KATE (CONT'D)

Who the hell was JB...

MAURA

Was it a Jose?

KATE

It's J, not an H, Dummy.

Maura looks at her. It's not worth it.

KATE (CONT'D)

I gotta figure out who that was.
Especially if it was my "best one
ever", geez. Those are the kind of
things I wish would've been
acknowledged in the yearbook. It's
kind of like a sport.

MAURA

I had a couple good BJ's in high
school.

KATE

You did not. I know that because
you don't "have" a BJ, you give
one.

MAURA

I meant, like "have" an opportunity
to BJ someone.

KATE

I don't think you have ever called
the number on the sticker and
activated your vagina. And that
makes me deeply sad for you.

She puts her hands on Maura's boobs.

KATE (CONT'D)

And for these...

She puts her hand over Maura's groin.

KATE (CONT'D)

And for this.

(regally)

Because nothing is more fun than
letting go and tearing it up in
your childhood home. It's a rite of
passage. And now you wish you had
gone for it and I miss going for
it, and here we are, two old twats,
leaving the only place we can make
it happen. But it's over, so let's
go slap on some Poise pads and just
call it a sad hard day.

Maura seems a bit shaken by her sister's proclamation.

MAURA

You're just trying to work me. We
are not having a party so get over
it.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Kate is in the bathtub taking a bubble bath in their small, outdated tub. She barely fits. She is eating goldfish crackers and is wearing a grocery bag over her witch weave.

MAURA

Have you seen packing tape? I know I bought some.

KATE

This old bubble bath smells like eggy nail polish.

MAURA

I asked you a question!

KATE

No! I didn't see it!

MAURA

I'm not packing for you, so you better get some of it done this morning.

Kate sloshes a bit, trying to get comfortable.

KATE

When did I get so big and old? How did we do dance numbers in this tiny tub?

MAURA

We were little.

KATE

I had so much sex in this tub back in the day. Now I don't even have any central butt contact with the bottom of it! Water is going under the bridge of my crotch. Feels kinda good actually.

Kate looks crazy big for the tub. Maura tries not to laugh.

KATE (CONT'D)

Jam me down in here so I fit.
Suction my butthole to the bottom.

A giggling Maura pushes Kate's shoulders down until Kate squeezes down into the tub.

MAURA

I have to find more tape.

KATE
Go ask Sexy Blonderson. He's out
there with sweat splashing off his
toasted chest.

Maura pretends she didn't like that description and walks
out.

INT. GARAGE - MINUTES LATER

Maura is not having luck finding tape. She hears a chainsaw
outside. She looks out the bay window and spots a sweaty
gorgeous James down the street sawing wood. She fogs up the
window.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Maura walks tentatively up to James who is looking fine.

MAURA
Hi.

JAMES
Hi.

MAURA
Hi.

JAMES
Hi.

MAURA
I'm Maura. My sister was the
inappropriate one who flashed you
yesterday.

JAMES
Pink bra. Yes.

MAURA
Do you happen to have any packing
tape that I could borrow?

JAMES
I think I do. Come on in.

They walk inside. He looks through a drawer.

MAURA
I didn't know this was your house.

JAMES

It was my parents house actually. I just finished renovating it. They both passed away.

MAURA

Oh. I'm sorry to hear that. And I'm sorry I thought you were... the yardist. This looks amazing. They'd be happy that you're living here.

JAMES

I'm actually gonna flip it. I'm leaving Sunday.

He hands her the tape gun. The end of the tape sticks to his arm. She looks at his eyes. They are a very light blue. She suddenly rips the tape off his arm. It gets his attention. Time stops and she leans in with clear intention.

MAURA

Do you want to come to a party?

JAMES

Oh. Maybe! When and where?

MAURA

Tomorrow night. End of the block. We're having a goodbye party for our house. My parents are selling it.

JAMES

Let me check my schedule-

Looks at completely empty calendar on the fridge.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Let's see...tomorrow is...I'm good.

MAURA

Okay. Well that's a good then. I just said "thatsa-good" like I was Italian. But I am not. Except for half. Alright. You'll come over. To our party... That's what we'll do... And I cannot stop trailing off...done! No more trailing off...

She points and awkwardly walks off. Maura smiles without him seeing. She is so proud of her courage.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Maura walks in, feeling good. Kate is still in the tub.

MAURA
Okay so let's have a party.

KATE
Don't toy with me!

MAURA
I'm not. I just invited James.

Kate screams and pulls Maura into the tub.

KATE
Ahhhhhh!!!!!!!!!!

MAURA
But it can't be a huge party!

KATE
No. Never.

MAURA
Like, just a small gathering of friends.

KATE
Yes. Very adult. I love you.

EXT. ELLIS FRONT YARD - MINUTES LATER

Kate is hosing off folding chairs from the garage. Maura is starting to realize what she just set in motion.

MAURA
That was so weird. I just went for it. Just invited him like a modern woman.

KATE
He's going to help you get right. He's got the missing piece. And it's in his pay-unts.

MAURA
Please don't talk about it. And we don't need that many chairs because it's a gathering, not a party, and-

KATE

Please shut it and unbraid yourself. I'm going to invite a few select people who know how to celebrate.

Maura stares off in terror. It feels real now.

MAURA

We have no furniture.

KATE

Maybe it'll turn into a floorgy.

MAURA

Is a floorgy an orgy on the floor?

KATE

Yes! See? You are so ready for this! Oh god, you know who I need to call is Lynn McDonald. She never missed my parties and she knows where everyone is now. She's a blast. We've kept in touch.

Kate dials number and waits.

KATE (CONT'D)

Oh, hi. May I speak to Lynn? Is this her husband? Hi, this is Kate Ellis. I wanted to invite her to a party my sister and I are having at my parents house...

(Kate's face falls. She walks away a little)

She what?...Oh no. I'm sorry to hear that....When did that happen?...Oh. I am so sorry...I didn't know...Well, sorry to bother you...You take care...Okay, bye.

Kate hangs up, somber.

MAURA

What happened?

KATE

Apparently she fucking hates me. Her husband said she doesn't want to come to my "goddamn party". She wouldn't come to the phone, but I could hear her muttering shady stuff in the back round.

MAURA
Why does she hate you?

KATE
Because I was supposed to be in her wedding and I forgot.

MAURA
That's terrible!

KATE
I know! Talk about hanging on to something. That was like eight years ago. And it was her second. Move on, Lynn McDonald.

Maura just looks at her.

KATE (CONT'D)
We have to go to Walmart to get food.

MAURA
Am I paying for the food I'm assuming?

KATE
We could always collect donations from people at the party.

MAURA
No, that's tacky.

KATE
Not as tacky as having a party without food.

INT. WALMART NAIL SALON

Kate plays with her cellphone while she gets a pedicure. Maura sits anxiously in a chair next to her, checking her watch.

MAURA
They have some pre-made burgers over there. We could grill.

KATE
You have to get a party pedi. Your feet look like Gandhi's.

Maura watches the NAIL TECHNICIAN scrubbing Kate's long glamorous feet. She eyes her name tag. It says "Vicky".

MAURA
Is your real name Vicky?

The Korean woman shrugs.

MAURA (CONT'D)
Where are you from?

LADY
Korea.

MAURA
What is your Korean name?

The Nail Technician looks uncomfortable. She looks over at her tiny MALE MANAGER who is going through receipts.

NAIL TECHNICIAN
(quietly)
Hae-Won.

MAURA
Hae-Won? That's very beautiful, Hae-Won.

Hae-Won smiles a small, sad smile. She gets up for a towel.

MAURA (CONT'D)
Why do they have to give them
bullshit American names? That is so
sick. I swear I bet these ladies
live like fifteen to an apartment.

They watch the manager rubbing a smudge off his fancy watch.

KATE
And that fucking guy over there
with the shiny shirt probably
treats them like his hoors. We need
to get Lucy Liu to go undercover-

MAURA
-Lisa Ling.

KATE
-Lisa Ling to go undercover
and check out these salons.

MAURA
I think it is so wrong and sad. All
these ladies seem so sad.

KATE

Nail Pimp Daddy over there probably goes home every night and counts the money his bitches earned him and gives his tiny dick a French manicure.

MAURA

Don't let him hear you.

KATE

I'm not a afraid of him. I'm long and strong. I'll head-butt him with my pubic bone.

He smiles and nods at Kate.

KATE (CONT'D)

(to herself as she looks over at him)

Don't smile at me, you trafficker.

(to Maura)

Okay. It's your turn to get your feet prettied up because you're going to be wrapping them around Mr. Sandy's waist tonight.

MAURA

Can't you just let things happen? Do you have to live out loud so much?

KATE

If you talk about things it takes away their power. I heard Oprah's Hair Queen say that at a convention.

MAURA

Ok.

KATE

That guy knows all of Oprah's secrets. He should never drink in public.

EXT. WALMART PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Kate walks into the parking lot and lights a cigarette. She spots a weird little house on the corner just off the Walmart property. It has a gigantic American flag in the yard. There is also a "For Rent" sign visible. She walks over and knocks. A crusty older woman answers. She's very tan.

KATE

Hi, can I ask what the rent is for this place?

WOMAN

950. One month security to move in. We're renting it while my son is trying out jail.

KATE

Thank you. I'll talk to my husband about it when he calls me between war zones.

WOMAN

Army? Marines?

KATE

Yes. He's getting it done. Thank you for flying that flag.

Kate starts to walk away slowly.

WOMAN

I'll make it 750. For you.

KATE

So 1500 total? Great. I'll call you.

Kate walks out, with a look of renewed hope. She writes the number on her hand.

INT. NAIL SALON - MINUTES LATER.

Maura is getting her feet scrubbed. She studies Hae-Won's face.

MAURA

Hae-won?

HAE-WON

Yes.

MAURA

Do you like...parties?

HAE-WON

Parties? Yes.

MAURA

Wanna come to our party tonight?

HAE-WON

Okay yes.

MAURA

I'll write down the info. You and your friends here can come okay?

Hae-Won nods.

INT NAIL SALON. - TEN MINUTES LATER

Kate returns. Maura is under the nail dryer.

MAURA

Can you get my wallet and pay for us?

Kate walks to the counter and hands the male manager cash from Maura's wallet.

KATE

This is my sister's money. She keeps most of what she makes. That's how we women roll in America.

Kate eyes the rest of the twenties in Maura's wallet. She touches the edge of them, then closes it.

INT. WALMART FRONT ENTRANCE - FIVE MINUTES LATER.

Maura and Kate are walking.

KATE

I need to call Haley.

MAURA

Maybe it's best if you wait until you've got a new plan.

Kate suddenly and violently throws herself into a "slip and fall" near the entrance. She knocks down a tower of Genie Bras and some adjacent salsa.

KATE

Oh God! It hurts so bad! I don't even know what happened!

Kate writhes as a manger approaches. Maura does not seem concerned.

MANAGER
Ma'am are you okay?

KATE
Do I look okay? No. I am not.

MANAGER
Should I call someone? Do you need
to go to the hospital?

KATE
Well, I fell very hard on your
floor that looks way over-waxed.
But I really don't want to have to
deal with lawyers and all that
bullshit and I'm sure you don't
either-
(reads off his name tag)
"Summer Pickens".

MANAGER
That's not my name. That's a
promotion we're having in the
produce department.

MAURA
Get up Kate.

KATE
Well, this could all be taken care
of with like...fifteen hundred
dollars. Boom. Done. I didn't fall.

Maura is mortified.

MAURA
Kate! Get up. Let's go.

Maura tries to pull her up as Kate still pretends the floor
is too slippery and she can't get her footing.

MANAGER
The first thing we'll have to do is
look at the store surveillance
tapes.

Kate thinks for a second and then runs out of the store.
Maura re-stacks a couple boxes of Genie Bras as she follows.

MAURA
So sorry Sir! She's not well.

EXT. WALMART.

Maura is trying to catch up to Kate.

MAURA
What the fuck Kate.

KATE
I shouldn't have tried that in Walmart. You know they have like ten slip n'falls a day in there.

MAURA
Why do you have to do shit like that?

KATE
(covering)
Because I'm really depressed and I need attention. And so do you. So let's go have a party.

MAURA
We need to get this food in the fridge.

KATE
We have to stop really quick at Bedsore Gardens and make sure the 'rents won't be a problem.

INT. SENIOR APARTMENTS - MINUTES LATER

Kate and Maura approach their parents apartment. They knock and wait.

MAURA
I've never lied to them.

KATE
Get over it. And don't be too chirpy. They'll know we're up to something.

Mom finally comes to the door. She is wearing capri pants and a slightly crooked blouse that is unbuttoned too low. She's very nervous and chatty.

MAURA
Hi!

MOM

Oh hi! Girls! Well hi! Come on in!
I was just getting our silverware
in the drawers. You both look so
cute. It's so nice out! There's no
humidity. Humidity is always what
gets me. Yuck. No thank you.

They come in and sit. Mom washes her hands in the kitchen
sink.

MOM (CONT'D)

So what are you two up to?

KATE

Well, we're making a lot of
progress, but we don't want to show
you the big reveal until it's done,
so no snooping!

MOM

Okay, no snooping.

MAURA

Where's Dad?

MOM

He's in there fiddlin' with the
drain or something.

Kate and Maura see their dad quickly dart across the hall
into the bedroom. He is not wearing clothes on the bottom.

MOM (CONT'D)

We'll have a real nice day together
tomorrow.

Awkward beat.

MOM (CONT'D)

Okay, well then you guys better get
back to it!

Mom gets up and walks towards the door and opens it. They
follow, exchanging a curious look. They hug her goodbye and
start to leave.

KATE

Bye Dad!

DAD (O.C.)

(quickly)

Bye girls!

EXT. PARENTS' APARTMENT.- CONTINUOUS

Maura catches up with Kate, who is steeping in disgust.

MAURA

What!

KATE

They were having day sex.

MAURA

They were not!

KATE

The hell they weren't! Mom washed her hands! And did you see her hair? That hair was totally on it's way home from Fucktown.

MAURA

I don't think she had a bra on.

KATE

She had huge high beams! I could feel them when I hugged her! I didn't even know that older women could get high beams! What are they trying to prove?

MAURA

That they're people?

KATE

They're not people! They're our parents! They need to hose themselves off and calm the fuck down!

MAURA

Maybe they were exercising.

KATE

And Dad has such a square white ass! It's like SpongeBob Ghostpants. What is happening???

They can't help but laugh.

KATE (CONT'D)

Okay, between their social events and mounting each other like street dogs, they're not going to come over. This party is a "go".

MAURA

I have a stomach ache.

KATE

That's the ache of courage. We're going to have a ridiculous amount of fun. It's gonna be a full-out shit show.

MAURA

Is a "shit show" something good?

KATE

Oh yeah.

Maura shakes her head. She can't hide her excitement.

KATE (CONT'D)

We've got a lot of work to do.

MAURA

We should stop and invite my friend Cray and ask for some tips. Gays always know how to launch last minute parties.

CUT TO:

INT. CRAY'S APARTMENT

There are two bikes hanging on the wall. Maura is sitting with CRAY and ALLIE, a lesbian couple. They are very sporty. Kate and Maura look at them with anticipation.

ALEX

You could get like...a pan of hot wings.

CRAY

Get a keg of Blue Moon. Cosco's got big basic salamis...

ALEX

You could borrow our horseshoes.

CRAY

I've got all the "Die Hards" on DVD. That's all I can think of.

MAURA

That's all great.

CRAY
You know what else? Just make a fuckload of potato salad. With Tostitos Scoops.

KATE
Awesome ideas.

MAURA
Thanks, girls. You're coming I hope.

CRAY
We'll be late, we have a game.

KATE
Bring the team!

MAURA
Yes, please do that!

Maura and Kate walk out.

MAURA (CONT'D)
Obviously it's more gay men that have the "gift".

KATE
I think sporty cranky lesbians are sexy. I wish I could get into that shit. Meet one of them in the bus station and go tear it up in the bathroom. But my vag is sadly not on board.

Maura looks at her phone. Four people have responded.

KATE (CONT'D)
Are people responding to the Evite?

Maura sees a look of desperation in Kate's eyes.

MAURA
(lying)
Yes!

KATE
Of course they are.

EXT. HOUSE. - THIRTY MINUTES LATER

They carry all the party food and booze into the house.

INT. HOUSE- KITCHEN- CONTINUOUS

Maura secretly looks at the e-vite. The number of responses are still low. Maura picks up the phone. We see her call a few of Kate's friends in a montage.

MAURA

(on phone)

Andrea! It's Maura Ellis, Kate's sister. Why don't you come to our party?! Oh...Well maybe this will take your mind off your hysterectomy. How many days ago did you have it?

JUMP CUT TO:

MAURA (CONT'D)

(on phone)

...I know, Jill. Kate's not really a "caller"...I genuinely think she's just shy to talk on the phone...

JUMP CUT TO:

MAURA (CONT'D)

She'd love to see you Karen...She was just talking about you last week...it would make her night.

JUMP CUT TO:

Maura is talking to Dave from the liquor store.

MAURA (CONT'D)

Dave! Spread the word that Kate The Fox is having a party, okay?

DAVE

I'm already eating a lot of bread.

Maura peeks out and sees an excited Kate as she decorates the kitchen using blue painters tape as streamers. Maura goes on Facebook and puts up a general message on her wall. "Hey Everybody! My sister Kate Ellis is having one last house party Tonight! Don't miss it!". She posts it and swallows.

EXT. BACKYARD

Maura and Kate are scrambling to get the house ready.

KATE
This pool looks like a cave in
Israel.

MAURA
We can't swim in it anyway.

KATE
We could fill it up at least and
make it look pretty.

MAURA
Do you know how to fill it up?

KATE
No, but that won't stop me.

EXT. BACKYARD.-MINUTES LATER.

The pool is being filled with a hose. Kate walks out with dye
and dumps some in.

KATE
I'm making it a pretty aqua green.

MAURA
That's not permanent or anything?

KATE
No, it's Mom's laundry dye. We'll
drain it and clean it out at the
end of the night.

We see the water shooting from the hose into the pool.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BACKYARD. -TWO HOURS LATER

It is dusk and the pool is now filling up nicely. It is a
bright blue-green color with floating candles in it. Music
emanates from the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM.- CONTINUOUS.

Maura is dressed and ready to party. She looks great. She is
putting a "do not use" sign on the door of the "off limits"
bedroom/bathroom. It says the word "sorry" in it four times.
The doorbell rings. Kate comes running. She too looks
fantastic.

KATE
We have guests!

Kate goes to the door and opens it. It's James holding an orchid, food, and a wine bottle tucked in his pants. She slams the door in his face.

KATE (CONT'D)
Maura! It's for you!

Maura comes over.

KATE (CONT'D)
You should let him in. Since you'll be "letting him in" later.

MAURA
Go away!

Maura opens the door. James is laughing.

JAMES
Hello!

MAURA
Come in, I'm so sorry. My sister likes to be inappropriate in front of cute men. I don't mean like you're cute.

He looks at her.

MAURA (CONT'D)
I mean of course you're cute, but that's not the reason you're here.

KATE (O.C.)
The hell it isn't!

JAMES
Can I set this wine down? It's sweating into my pants.

Maura helps him in.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I brought some chips and salsa in bowls. I figured all your big bowls were packed up.

MAURA
Good thinking. You're a smart fellow.

JAMES

And I brought this orchid because
it looked like it didn't want to be
in the grocery store anymore. It
was really sad.

Maura is charmed by James. She daintily sniffs the orchid.

MAURA

Mmmmm. Smells so pretty.

JAMES

Really? Do orchids smell?

MAURA

No. Not really.

They laugh. She shows him around the house.

MAURA (CONT'D)

So this is where I grew up and
where my sister did not. It used to
have things in it.

JAMES

It's got good bones as they say on
home makeover shows.

There is a montage of more arrivals. It is jarring to see
everyone from high school in one room and to indeed accept
that most people look officially older. There is no longer
just a few who look a little worn.

Kate opens the door to ALEX the "comedian" of their class. He
enters like they've all been waiting for him. He is wearing a
cheap mullet wig and has a pear-like girth.

ALEX

Is this here the Ellis residence?

KATE

What in the hell? Alex! Yay!

She hugs him. Alex smiles to reveal he has fake crooked
teeth. Kate laughs.

KATE (CONT'D)

How are you?

ALEX

Y'all havin' a porty? I like
porties. Y'all got some cuckaine?

Kate laughs. He stays solidly in character.

KATE

How is everything? Why didn't you come to the reunion?

He is sticking with his bit.

ALEX

I sure do hope this party is fun.
If it ain't I'm gonna go to another party.

Kate laughs a little less.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Have y'all seen my cousin around here? Also known as my wife?

They both laugh, followed by an awkward moment.

KATE

Ahh..You've still got it, Sir!

ALEX

You mean V.D.?

Alex knows that one wasn't a winner. He sees the growing crowd and starts to lose confidence in his routine. He tries to take the wig off but it's taped so well so it takes some work. He takes out the teeth, gathers his dignity. He tries another voice, arched British.

ALEX (CONT'D)

M'Lady...Where would I find..the beverage table?

INT. KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

Kate is talking to BARB, a petite friend. She can't help eyeing Barb's tiny nose and fake boobs.

KATE

So Barb! What's new.

BARB

Not a whole lot.

KATE

Really? You sure?

BARB

Yep. I'm still with the school system. Carly's a senior. Dan's been bowling a lot more on the road.

KATE

He finally went pro with that? God bless.

BARB

We still show our bearded collies, but just for fun now. Built a new deck. My mom's slowing down. But everything's good. Same ole same ole.

KATE

Well, you look hot as hell.

Beat. Kate smiles. Barb looks off and speaks quietly with a hint of sadness.

BARB

I went too big on the boobs and too small on the nose because I picked it all out on the computer, but I can't do anything about it now. Except stay a little drunk so I don't obsess about it.

KATE

Can they send some of the over spill from your boobs to your nose? Like Red Rover?

Barbara laughs at Kate's always unfiltered words.

BARB

God, I miss your smart ass mouth! It's so fucking refreshing.

They laugh and hug. Kate motoboats Barb's fake boobs and makes her laugh hard.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Guests are milling like they're at a school function. They are eating up the party foods like they've been on a fast. Maura is talking to JASON, a sweet man whose entire identity is based on his divorced status.

MAURA

I'm sorry to hear about you and Andrea.

JASON

I'm sorry too. It sucks a big sad dick. Have you been divorced yet?

MAURA

No, but I guess the odds are pretty high.

JASON

Really high. But it's not something you ever think is going to happen. We started out so great. When you stand up there and say those vows into that person's eyes you just never think it's all gonna go down the drain. Now I just wake up and think "I'm a divorced man. This is real. I got a divorce. I was married, and now I'm not." Sometimes I wonder, and I don't mean this in a negative way, but does anything ever stay good?" It can really take you down. Divorce.

MAURA

Do you want a drink?

JASON

No, I want two.

Jason walks off in a fog. James brings Maura a drink and a chip with salsa on it. She is charmed.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Kate is wedged between KIM and DAN, a couple who have been together since high school.

KATE

You two were the first couple in our class to get married. You were babies!

KIM

We just had our twenty second anniversary on Monday.

DAN

And Kim had the shits the whole day. It was a blast.

Kim hits him hard. Their friends laugh.

KIM

Don't tell people I had the shits!

DAN

Well you did! Why lie about it!

KIM

Because now everyone's gonna look at me all night and think "she's the one that had the shits".

DAN

So? You think they've never had them?

KIM

No, but it'll make them worry that they're gonna catch them from me or that I'm unclean in some way.

DAN

Turn your brain off.

KIM

Oh shut it and go get us drinks.

He walks off shaking his head.

KIM (CONT'D)

(dead-eyed)

He's still so romantic, isn't he?

KATE

You two have always fought a lot but then you make up in the sack.

KIM

We don't make up that much anymore. The only time I want to have sex now is when I've been laying in the sun for at least half a day. I don't know what it is. It's the only time I want it. I just come in and sit right on top of him. It's like a medical need. Maybe it's a vitamin D thing.

Kate looks sad to hear that. LISA, A very fit woman enters. Kate and Maura scream! She has lost a lot of weight.

KATE

Oh my God! What! Turn the fuck around! Maura! C'mere!

Lisa turns around, proud but shy. Kate hugs her and picks her up. Maura and James walk up. Maura is amazed to see Lisa's transformation.

MAURA

Wow! How much have you lost?

LISA

I don't really keep track of numbers, because it's more about feeling good.

KATE

That's bullshit! Give me a number, you gazelle.

LISA

I've lost one hundred and seven pounds.

KATE

Insane!

Friends applaud. One heavy woman, AMANDA, air claps. She is wearing a surplus of wearable art.

AMANDA

(under her breath to Maura)

It's not that hard to lose it. But keeping it off...that's another story.

MAURA

Well, one step at a time. She'll do it.

AMANDA

I've been there. Remember my big "80 pound reveal" at our tenth reunion?

MAURA

(she doesn't)

I think I do...

AMANDA

She's in the euphoric stage where you get rid of all your fat clothes and you start wearing belts and sexy hats and high boots. You get up in the middle of the night just to molest your own naked body. Everyone you see just brightens up and looks at you like "Finally! See? You look good now!" And in your head you think "What did I look like before, a pile of wet shit on a pizza box?"

Maura takes James's arm.

MAURA

James? Do you want to see the rest of the house?

JAMES

I'd love that.

MAURA

Enjoy, Amanda! Get yourself a drink.

AMANDA

Okay.

They walk off briskly, escaping her vortex.

The guests are gathering in the living room, sitting in a loose circle visiting and sharing pics of their kids. There is a lot of talk about kids, showing pictures, general bragging. The men talk about the economy. The women about schools.

Kate keeps walking by and turning the music up in effort to encourage more abandon.

KATE

Hey guys? Drink up! There's a lot of booze over here!

The doorbell rings. Kate answers it.

Hae-Won and the NAIL LADIES have arrived. They're dressed in sexy tiny dresses and hot heels and they look much younger. They are already feeling no pain.

HAE WON

Whaaat???? Right?

KATE
Hae-Won, you hottie!

Kate hugs Hae-Won and smells her head.

KATE (CONT'D)
I can smell your hairijuana. And
look at you girls! You're not old
and sad at all!

They laugh and pose for her.

KATE (CONT'D)
What up, Korean Pussy Squad!!!

They all laugh very loudly. Not one of them is taller than five feet and they are ready to party. As she passes, Hae-Won puts a joint down Kate's cleavage.

HAE-WON
It's Korean Big Skunk. Don't smoke
a lot. It make your eyes and your
legs go back real far.

Hae-Won laughs really hard at her own joke. The rest of the crowd is a bit weirded out by them.

KATE
Hey, fun just got here! These are
our friends from the Nail Flower
salon inside Walmart!

Other guests wave politely.

KATE (CONT'D)
Go get some drinks!

They walk off in a calvacade of hair, nails and giggly Korean chat. Kate looks at the very sedate scene. Everyone is sitting like they're waiting for a show to start.

EXT. BACK PORCH. - LATER

Kate is speaking quietly to three people. She holds an empty Slurpee cup.

KATE
I'm collecting money to help my
sister out. She bought all the food
and booze for the party. No
pressure.

They happily shove bills in. Kate is surprised they gave so much. She stares at the wad of bills in the cup. She looks at the faded phone number written on her hand.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY BY THE BATHROOM.

Kate is talking to a couple in the hallway. She holds the Slurpee cup.

KATE

I got chosen to go do a Habitat for Humanity trip. We're building a special house for conjoined twin widows. They need really wide hallways so they can finally live together.

They happily put money in the cup.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM

Kate is in the bathroom holding the Slurpee cup. She speaks to a friend who is on the toilet.

KATE

My sister got vaginal mesh surgery and now it's like a fisherman's net down there. Things are all caught in it, and it's like the fabric on a car ceiling when it starts hanging down. She's too embarrassed to ask for help. Those are really cute underpants.

The girl gets money out of her purse. The cup is now quite full of bills.

ONE HOUR LATER. IT IS 10:30.

A few people are starting to near the door. Dan and Kim approach Kate.

KATE

Where are you going?

KIM

We have to get home. We have a
sitter.

KATE

No fucking way! It's so early! No
no no!

DAN

We told her 11.

KATE

Did you say a.m. or p.m.?

Kate notices that some others are taking the cue and
gathering their things. She gets everyone's attention.

KATE (CONT'D)

Hey. To those who are even thinking
about leaving this party, you can
fucking forget it. It is only
10:30. You have a long night ahead
of you!

AMANDA

I have to work at Universal Studios
tomorrow at seven.

KATE

Then call in! Do you even use any
of your sick days?

AMANDA

I actually do. But I think I may
have Lyme.

KATE

Okay, listen you guys. Despite all
the alcohol I have soaked my head
in over the years, I have a really
good memory. This is a fun group.
And I know everything that used to
happen in this house during our
parties. Do you need me to help you
remember?

Points to a man with a red buzzcut.

KATE (CONT'D)

Reed? You ate frozen Steak-ums
during a poker game here and threw
up in my parents bed and we burned
their bedspread in the chiminea.

Points to a lanky woman sitting with a foot surgery boot.

KATE (CONT'D)

Mary? You had sex with Eddie on the kitchen island while my beagle licked your legs.

Points to a very tall swarthy man with a ponytail.

Fred? you tried to light your farts on fire and spilled your vodka and burned all the hair off the back of your legs.

FRED

(proudly)

I remember.

KATE

We used to be a wild group. And if these walls could talk they would be scared to say some of the things they're seen. Like Carrie coming out topless in my dad's underwear and doing loose-leg-hole cartwheels throughout the house.

Carrie looks wistful. Her husband nods approvingly. He thinks it's hot.

KATE (CONT'D)

I would like to make a toast! And everyone has to do a shot.

The crowd groans.

KATE (CONT'D)

My party, I make the rules! Go pour a shot!

People laugh and reluctantly head for the booze.

A few minutes later. The guests are standing with shots in hand, energized by doing something many haven't done in years. Kate raises her glass.

KATE (CONT'D)

To our house! This place is filled with so many good memories. Every room reminds me of something great that happened.

ALEX

You're welcome!

Scattered chuckles.

KATE

Alex is still funny you guys.

ALEX

(Austin Powers)

Yeah baybay!

KATE

So tonight I think we should celebrate this house by making more memories! Call your baby sitters. Enjoy yourselves, eat, drink, act like an idiot! We all deserve to have some fun. To fun!

GUESTS

To fun!

Everyone toasts and pounds back their shots.

Montage of people calling baby sitters. Some speak in Spanish. Minutes later the booze is starting to kick in and it's getting louder, less people are sitting down. Two chubby guys are doing a dance from high school band. Kate turns the music up.

INT BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

Maura and James are in Maura's bedroom. She is playing some Prince music and James is looking through all her stuff.

JAMES

Your mom saved all this stuff for you? It's awesome.

MAURA

She's asked us to clean it all out every year since college but we just kept not doing it. We secretly liked having shrines to us here.

JAMES

These journals are great. I used to read my sister's journal. It was pretty racy.

MAURA

My sister's was too. Mine's got a few hot spots...

JAMES

What is this?

He shows her a page in the journal where there are neatly scrambled quotes all over the page.

MAURA

That was some of my cool orderly graffiti where I really laid out what I was all about.

(timid)

I guess you can read it.

JAMES

(reading)

"I don't believe in the cliques' ideas and I never intend to".

MAURA

I still don't.

JAMES

I like that.

(reading)

"Between 10:30 pm and 2:30 am are my most thinking times".

MAURA

I was always a night owl. One time I called an all-night radio show and pretended I was a sick child and thanked them for getting me through some rough times.

James laughs hard.

JAMES

Why did you do that?

MAURA

Because I wanted attention and I was afraid to ask for it.

CUT TO:

INT. POOLSIDE.

Kate is holding the Slurpee cup and speaking to a drunk Amanda.

KATE
I'm collecting for a charity that
provides smiles to kids with fucked
up mouths.

AMANDA
I don't have any money with me. But
can I ask you something?

KATE
Sure.

AMANDA
How much do you think I weigh?

KATE
Who cares?

AMANDA
America cares. America cares.

She walks off crookedly.

INT. BEDROOM. -CONTINUOUS

Kate and James are now reading the journal closer to each
other. Maura is a little more comfortable.

JAMES
(reading)
"Black guys appeal to me a lot".
All of them?

MAURA
I used to have a crazy crush on
this guy Darren. Actually my sister
ended up going to prom with him.

JAMES
Nice. I didn't go to prom.

MAURA
My sister has always been more of a
"doer" than me. Sometimes I feel
like I was born a fifty year old
woman.

JAMES
You seem to have a pretty young
spirit to me.

MAURA
Thanks. I'm trying to catch up.

JAMES

I never dated. I was a stocky kid. Well, I was the fat kid. Back then there was usually only one per class, before obesity became the rage. I wasn't the sweet kind of fat kid though. I was a little brat. I used to throw fits in public. My ears would get real red, and they were very meaty ears.

MAURA

I never threw fits. Except in my head.

JAMES

I still feel bad for putting my parents through my shenanigans. But I did turn out to be a very calm adult.

MAURA

I like that in a person. Being calm is a great quality. It means you've untied the knots inside you.

JAMES

I've been doing a lot of work on myself. I don't like drama anymore. It's such a time waster. I was fat until seven months ago. This is pretty new for me. Being in a bedroom with a woman who isn't my mom putting Vicks on my chest.

Maura looks at him. He really is so cute.

MAURA

Well I probably have some very old Vicks in that pile over there.

JAMES

I don't mean this in a skeevy way, but you smell very good.

MAURA

Thank you. It's Love's Baby Soft. I found it in a box. Some of my old colognes really turned, but this one held up.

JAMES

It smells really good.

They stare at each other. Maura swallows hard.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Oh, I talked to my sister and she remembers you.

MAURA
Really?

JAMES
Yeah. She said you used to babysit us and I think I remember now. I thought you seemed familiar.

Maura smiles albeit mortified.

MAURA
That's so hilarious! Are you hungry? Let's go get some wings!

Maura bolts. James follows.

JAMES
Okay...I just have to take the skin off the wings. I'm still on maintenance...

INT BATHROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Maura pulls Kate in the bathroom. Kate is holding a bottle of Patron.

MAURA
I can't fool around with him! I used to babysit him.

KATE
So what! He's hairy and delicious now.

MAURA
I took care of him when he was a kid.

KATE
Yeah, and you were a slightly older kid!

MAURA
I can't have sex with him! I wiped his wiener and powdered his balls!

KATE

So? He's a grown man! Those weren't the same balls!

MAURA

What?!

KATE

You don't know this because you're a nun, but over the years men shed their balls like a snake. That was many balls ago.

MAURA

You are truly sick.

KATE

Stop trying to find a reason to bail. This is the last night you can do this.

MAURA

It's too nervewracking. There's too much pressure on it. I can't relax. There are too many people here and we're not supposed to be doing this and you're going to get drunk and leave me alone with everything.

KATE

No I won't!

MAURA

Yes you will. That's what you do.

KATE

Normally I would, but I've really missed this and it's giving me a natural buzz. I will fly straight for the rest of the night and you can let it rip with the gang.

Maura is not convinced.

KATE (CONT'D)

Look at me. I promise. Booze will give you the confidence you lack. That's why I'm such a confidencaholic. I know you can do it.

MAURA

There's something I've never told you.

KATE

What?

MAURA

The last time I had sex in Atlanta the guy had a seizure while he was down there and he clamped down on my puss.

KATE

(fighting a smile)

Maybe he had a seizure because you were so good at it. Probably not, but see how I reframed that?

MAURA

It was really upsetting.

KATE

Was it a good clamping down at least? Like a pleasure-pain?

MAURA

No. The EMT had to unlatch him from me. It was tragic. His eyes were fixed and open.

Kate nods, trying very hard not to laugh.

MAURA (CONT'D)

And James just got skinny. I think I'd be his thin man inaugural sex. It needs to be a hottie and I'm not naturally sexy. He probably doesn't even want to do anything with me.

KATE

Men don't hang out in girls' bedrooms they don't want to do something with. They'll jump out of a moving car to avoid that shit!

Maura watches herself smile lamely in the mirror. She tries a serious and sexy look.

MAURA

Will you honestly not get drunk?

KATE

Yes. It's your turn. You deserve to have this experience. And you know what else? It'll make us closer. We'll have more to talk about.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

Have some shots. I swear. I'll be
the grown up tonight.

Maura is touched by Kate's concern for her. Kate puts her hand around Maura's neck and slowly bends her backwards over the sink. She pours booze in her mouth and Maura chokes it back. She spits a little back out. Kate pours a little more and helps Maura up. She primps Maura's hair like only a hairdresser would. She reaches into Maura's bra and repositions her boobs.

KATE (CONT'D)

I got you. Now go find James and
party it up and then when the time
is right you hump this house
goodbye.

She takes out joint and puts it in Maura's cleavage.

KATE (CONT'D)

This is Korean weed. A little goes
a long way.

Maura nods like she is the Karate Kid. She is such a lightweight the booze is already kicking in. She smiles and walks out a little more confident. Kate counts her money. She has accumulated a few hundred.

INT. HALLWAY- MINUTES LATER

The doorbell rings. Kate answers it. It's Cray, Allie, and The SOFTBALL TEAM.

KATE

Hurray! The lesbians have landed!

CRAY

Except for Christine.

A young straight blonde woman waves.

KATE

Good eye! Softball term, right?
Come on in!

One is a cranky HANDSOME BUTCH GIRL with a shiny black fauxhawk and cool tattoos. She doesn't smile.

BUTCH GIRL

Can I change the tunes? I DJ.

KATE

Sure!

She walks over to the I-pod player and puts her own I-pod in.
Kate turns to a friend.

KATE (CONT'D)
Here comes the suicide folk
medley...Probably a Tracy Chapman
mash up.

An insanely good dance playlist of filthy and fantastic dance songs comes on full volume, including "My Neck, My Back" and "Get Low". The crowd goes really wild. Maura whizzes past Kate, pulling James by the hand onto the dance area.

INT. ATTIC - LATER

Maura and James are up in the attic smoking pot.

JAMES
I haven't ever smoked Korean pot.

MAURA
Me neither. Or any pot ever.

JAMES
I rarely do anymore. It's fun
though. This is really strong. My
teeth feel are a windchime.

MAURA
This skunky smell won't travel down
into the house, will it? My parents
would kill me.

JAMES
I think smoke only travels up. Come
here...

James takes a deep hit and moves in close to Maura's face. He goes to shotgun a stream of smoke into her face and she thinks he's going in to kiss her. She tries to kiss him and he spits out the lit joint. It falls on his arm.

MAURA
Oh! I'm sorry! You were doing a pot
thing!

JAMES
That's alright. I was trying to be
cool.

They laugh. The song changes downstairs to "Pull It Up To The Bumper" by Grace Jones.

MAURA

Oh my god, one of my favorite songs
ever in the world. I have to dance
to this right now.

JAMES

Do it.

Maura gets up and dances in the attic. She lamely works one
of the pillars. James is loving it.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM

The Korean Pussy Squad is doing a culturally specific line
dance in the dining room. Suddenly Maura's legs shoot
through the attic floor and out of the ceiling of the dining
room. They dangle there. The nail girls think that may be the
funniest thing they've ever seen. And indeed it is. A tall
guy reaches up and finishes pulling Maura down through the
ceiling. Everyone cheers. James jumps down through the hole
to join Maura. She's freaking out.

JAMES

Look at me. I will totally fix
that. Don't worry, okay?

She smiles and stops worrying pretty quickly.

INT. FOYER - MOMENT LATER

Kate is working the Slurpee Cup on three drunken guys.

KATE

...And if they raise enough money
then she can get another face...

The house phone is ringing incessantly. Kate is sober so she
is the only one who hears it. She finally picks it up,
annoyed.

KATE (CONT'D)

What.

NEIGHBOR

Yeah, this is Neil Pulaski down the
street.

KATE

Yeah, Neil, how's it hanging down
the street?

NEIGHBOR

You girls are wayyy too loud over there. This is insane. You need to rap it up.

KATE

You wrap it up. Don't tell me to "wrap it up" like you're my husband and I'm picking out a bra in the mall! We're celebrating some important things over here and if that bothers you I would love to invite you to suck a burlap sack full o'drifter dongs. Byeee.

Kate walks over and unplugs the portable I-pod speaker.

KATE (CONT'D)

Hey guys? We just got a noise complaint!

CROWD

Awwww! Noooo!!!!

KATE

So you know what we have to do...
Dance party is moving outside! Cuz
this is an Ellis Sisters Dance
Party and nobody is turning the
knob down on this motherfuckahhhh!
Everybody outside!

Everyone cheers for Kate. She is in her element. A drunk Maura looks at her with deep admiration. Two guys pick up Kate to carry her out. She's still got it. She is feeling like the force of nature that she once was. She has a cup full of rent money and is unafraid of life once again.

EXT. BACK YARD. - CONTINUOUS.

Partygoers spill out into the yard, dancing like they're in a scene from "Fame". As they come out the door we see that it has become a flashback of the same group in high school. For a moment we see how they are feeling inside. Young, powerful, full of the future, yet deeply in the moment. We then return to the present, to their unfortunate bodies as they dance with joyful desperation. A pot-bellied large man approaches one of the nail ladies.

JIM

This is pretty whack, huh?

LADY
It nuts! Off a chain!

They dance. He is very large and she is very small and short.
She holds onto the bottom third of his belly.

A police car pulls up. Kate calls to the crowd.

KATE
Cops! Take it inside!

Kate walks around to the front yard. A large, burly policeman gets out of his patrol car.

KATE (CONT'D)
Good evening Officer. It's so
pretty out here, isn't it? I love
Florida nights.

A drunken Ron struts out and confronts the cop.

RON
Hey! Dude! Do you have a warrant?

KATE
Go in the house. Don't be an idiot
and get yourself shot in the head.
You just got a hair replacement!

Ron jogs back to the house, trying to look cool.

POLICEMAN
We received a sound complaint from
your neighbor. And he said you were
abusive to him on the phone.

KATE
That neighbor is easily offended.
It's his "theme". Yes, we've been a
little loud and I apologize, but we
have a friend who just got back
from 'Stan.

POLICEMAN
From where?

KATE
Afghanistan. We were just trying to
welcome him home better than they
welcomed the soldiers from 'Nam,
you know? Give him a little Red,
White and Thank You?

POLICEMAN
Can you quiet it down some?

KATE
Absolutely. Thank you, Officer...

She looks at his badge for his name.

POLICEMAN
Burlington. Jason Burlington.

KATE
Jason Burlington? Really. J.B. Did you go to Lakemont High School, J.B.?

POLICEMAN
I did. Class of '89.

KATE
You're a little older than me but I think we were in a class together. Kate Ellis.

POLICEMAN
Oh yeah. I remember you.

Kate turns it on.

KATE
I bet you do. What do you remember, JB? Do you remember me excelling in something?

She subtly sucks the tip of her finger and then because he is not responding, eventually half of her hand. She runs out of fellative steam.

POLICEMAN
My girlfriend Kim Wilson used to hate your guts.

KATE
Some girls hated me because their men liked me.

POLICEMAN
I think she hated you because you were mean to her. You called her fat one time.

KATE

Well Jason, fat people are usually natural liars. It's the way they get extra food.

POLICEMAN

I married her.

KATE

She always had a pretty face.

POLICEMAN

And you're not so thin anymore. So I guess things work out. Good night. Keep it down.

He walks off. She calls off quietly to him.

KATE

You keep it down...in your trousers...because you talked to me...I'm the same size as Marilyn Monroe, asshole!

Kate walks off, irritated. She stops to count her money. She has a thousand dollars. She approaches the house. The party has passed into a new phase of abandon.

-Barb has tied her shirt into a Ellie Mae midriff and is doing an exotic dance, working the fake boobs. You can see the top of her spanx rising from her Capri pants.

-Two female friends are drunkenly apologizing to each other for a fight they had in high school over a prom dress while dancing sexily with each other.

-Some of the softball players are making a game of jumping down through the ceiling hole in the dining room and trying to land standing up. They are keeping score.

-Someone has put down a tarp and poured a large amount of booze punch across the foyer creating an improvised Slip n' Slide. People get a running start, dive and slide across the red river.

-One lady is hiding in the pantry doing what seems to be drugs. She unzips a little bag and takes out a needle of some sort. We see that she is actually checking her blood sugar. It's good, so she does another shot of Jack and pounds back a large handful of cake.

INT. KITCHEN

Maura and James are trapped by Amanda.

AMANDA

I was so hot. I looked like a thinner Delta Burke. But my metabolism betrayed me. I was doing everything I was supposed but my body was saying "no". Metabolism trumps willpower. How is that fair?

They eye a gap in the defense and run off.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Kate is talking to a small circle of people.

KATE

My sister blew her rectum out when she was compulsively exercising and now she needs a tuck and stitch-type operation". Her taint actually unfurled like a giant skin tag.

A tipsy Maura runs up and hugs Kate suddenly and tightly. Kate is a little taken back. The roles have usually been reversed in this scenario. The group walks away, looking at Maura with pity.

MAURA

Thank you for this night! You are the best and coolest big sister in the world.

KATE

And you are the best and drunkest sister in the world.

MAURA

I am! Am I a gross drunk though? I can't tell from the inside.

KATE

No. Super sexy drunk. Big time swag.

MAURA

I was thinking that! I got a smooth vibe going on! Hey I found out what JBBJ is. Jaw Bone Blow Job. What is that?

KATE

Oh my god. Yes. I was really drunk and gaggy one night and so I gave my boyfriend a blow job by just rubbing it under my jawbone. He loved it and I kept my gyro down.

MAURA

You're a sexual genius. James is so cute, isn't he? I have to go find him.

Maura points finger guns in the air.

MAURA (CONT'D)

I'm gonna tap that!

KATE

Oh boy. The finger guns are out..

Kate loves seeing Maura so loose. This was a good idea. For two reasons. She counts her money.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kate calls Haley. She is excited to fill her in.

KATE

Haley! You answered! Hi Honey.

INT. BEDROOM. CONTINUOUS.

Haley is sitting on a bed.

HALEY

What Mom.

KATE

You will be happy to know that I found a place for us and I've got the money and I'm renting it tomorrow!

HALEY

I never said yes to that.

KATE

You're going to love it. It's near a lot of shopping and it's really funky. We can fix it up together. You can do art on the walls.

HALEY

Mom, I don't want to live with you anymore. I'm almost 18 and then I won't ever live with you again.

KATE

Can't you at least try it?

HALEY

No. Because then I'll have to take care of you all the time. I want to feel like I'm seventeen instead of seventy. I'm not your mother, you're my mother and I'm not fucking living with you again ever!

Haley hangs up on her. Kate is devastated. She slowly hangs up. She walks calmly to the beverage table and makes a strong drink.

KATE

Fuckit.

She downs it and pours another.

INT. PARENTS APARTMENT BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Haley slams down the phone. We see that her grandma is standing beside the bed, upset.

MOM

The reason I flew you home was to help your mom feel better, not worse.

HALEY

It's how I feel! It's the truth!

MOM

I know it's the truth. But sometimes lying makes people happier. I know your mom has her problems, but she made you and she craves to be with you. You're the only thing she's proud of anymore!

HALEY

She's needy and embarrassing!

MOM

Let me tell you something, my mom
wasn't always easy, but when moms
are gone they are gone and it hurts
worse than anything else.

HALEY

Well I'm sorry, I'm not going to
lie just to make everyone happy!

Haley storms into the other room. Her grandpa is watching a
movie. She circles back into the bedroom almost immediately.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Is there only one bedroom in this
stupid place? Where am I supposed
to go when I'm mad?

MOM

Go sit on the toilet.

Haley runs out of the apartment.

INT. HOUSE. - CONTINUOUS

Montage: Kate is really hurting and is on a drinking tear.

-The party guests cheer her on as she does a keg stand.

-Kate tells a drunken story, everyone is in hysterics. She
is adored and trying to power through her sadness. She shows
the crowd her "hear no evil, see no evil" and is limber/drunk
enough to do it.

-Kate is slow dancing with a random guy to a fast song. She
is telling him lies about how close she is to her daughter.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Kate and Hae-Won are doing shots. They're both drunk-bonding
and eating wings. They never stop eating wings throughout.

KATE

Do you have kids?

HAE-WON

Yes. Three girls. In Korea.

KATE

Don't you miss them?

HAE-WON

I Skype them and kiss my computer.
I make them send me their hair and
I put it in my bra.

KATE

Is that a Korean thing?

HAE-WON

Fuck no. It's a me thing. Hae-Won!

KATE

I miss how my daughter's hair
smells when it's wet and how her
breath smells when she's chewing
gum. And I miss her smart mouth.

HAE-WON

Aww. She die?

KATE

No. I just don't know where she is.

HAE-WON

What the fuck you mean you don't
know?! You her Mom! And you no know
where your daughter is? That's
terrible!

KATE

Who are you to judge! Your kids are
in another country! That's
terrible!

Hae Won gets tears in her eyes.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I just don't know how to
fix it...

Kate starts to cry.

HAE-WON

It's okay. All kid want is to know
that we're more okay than we're
aren't.

KATE

Everything fell apart and..now I..

HAE-WON

You need a hug?

KATE

Yeah. I think I do.

Kate reaches out but Hae-Won abruptly gets up and walks off. She taps on a nearby man's shoulder.

HAE-WON

Go give that bitch over there a hug.

He comes over and hugs Kate tightly and awkwardly. He's leading with his hips and she's not on board.

KATE

No. Pass.

She moves away and falls backwards onto the floor. She leans her head back drunkenly against the wall and we see it is lined up with a height mark on the moulding that reads "Kate, 3 years".

More people are upstairs getting high. Many are jumping into the pool. The party is reaching a frenzied point.

INT. KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

Kate goes to fill her drink and realizes they are almost out of booze. She grabs the rent money she has accumulated and heads out. The party can't end yet.

INT. BEDROOM

James is sitting on the bed. Maura comes out wearing new clothes. Her hair is in a ponytail. She took a quick shower to rinse off.

JAMES

Do you feel better?

MAURA

I think I got all the insulation fibers off my legs.

They laugh. She jumps on the bed like a teenager.

MAURA (CONT'D)

I feel high but I don't think I actually got any smoke in my lungs.

JAMES

Maybe it absorbed into your face.

MAURA

I am not a cool person.

JAMES

Oh God neither am I.

MAURA

You look like one though.

JAMES

Usually when I get stoned I really want to eat. Not tonight. You're a great distraction. Thank you for that.

She looks at James. He has a sweet, open face and she feels good with him.

MAURA

I just hope you didn't burn your arm. I'll be right back. I'm gonna get you some ointment in the other bathroom.

INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE PARENTS MASTERBATH

Maura looks around in the living room. Through a detached dream-like buzz she scans the party in it's wildest state. People are getting very loud and very drunk and it feels out of control but Maura just watches with fascination. She approaches the parents bedroom. She hears a strange sound coming from the "Do Not Use" master bathroom. She walks in to see a very large man in the bathtub having his feet scrubbed by one of the nail ladies who is straddling him backwards in her bra and undies. There are candles lit.

GUY

Oh hi! Great party. Jesus.

NAIL LADY

It's cool, yeah?

MAURA

Yeah...I...was going to get some...forget it.

Maura wanders out through the other way. She hears giggling. In her parents bedroom is another nail lady sitting bottomless on top of the face ring of a portable massage chair. A man peeks around from the other side.

MAURA (CONT'D)

I don't know what...can you guys
just...forget it.

Maura floats out as if she has seen an hallucination. She turns to see an alien-looking crowd of people walking in from the pool. They are all wearing their underwear which is tinted blue along with their skin. They look as if they are in a live production of Avatar.

INT BEDROOM.

Maura is back in the room.

MAURA

I just saw some things but I don't
know if they were real. It's
probably the pot.

JAMES

Well I just saw you fall through a
floor and interrupt a Korean flash
mob. And that shit was real. I
gotta say I just love this night.

MAURA

I'm starting to get worried
because... I think I really don't
give a shit. Finally.

JAMES

You know what? Let's just not
think. Maybe this is the night that
the fat kid and the nerd win.

MAURA

Fat kid and nerd? Take a bow.
You're winners.

They laugh and naturally go into a very close hug. They speak very close to each others' faces.

MAURA (CONT'D)

I've kissed a person repeatedly in
one sitting many times, well- a few
times, but I don't feel like I've
ever really made out like the kids
do.

JAMES

Me neither. More adults should make
out I think. They forget about it.
I've mostly made out with my hand.

Maura offers her hand. He kisses it sweetly and then starts making out with it. They laugh and roll around. Maura is deeply happy. She gets an idea.

MAURA

Wait!

She changes the song on the tape recorder to "Ain't Nobody" by Chaka Khan.

MAURA (CONT'D)

I always saved this song for this.

They make out the way they never got to. Very slowly and sweetly.

A FEW MINUTES LATER.

They are still kissing.

MAURA

You have very firm yet soft lips.
And just the right amount of spit.

JAMES

You too.

MAURA

James, I am very drunk and on pot,
but I just want you to know that I
am clear on what's happening and
I'm on board.

Maura looks at him again. She swings all her hair to one side and slowly puts it into a ponytail with an old neon Scunci, exposing her neck. She very slowly goes out of frame. James looks down curiously. He is a bit excited. He then gets a strange look on his face.

JAMES

What are you...what is that..that
you're doing?

MAURA

Shhhh...

JAMES

That is...not familiar to me, but
it feels really good...Are you...If
I had to guess-

MAURA

Just enjoy it. Just let yourself be in it.

JAMES

Wait, how are you still talking?

There is suddenly a horrible crash. Maura is so startled she lunges towards James's crotch.

JAMES (CONT'D)

What the f-Owwwwwwmotherfucker!

Maura has jerked her head suddenly and bitten James in the dick. She is in such shock that she doesn't let go for a long second. He is in agony.

MAURA

I am so sorry...are you..

James looks at her like she just bit him in the dick. She runs out, mortified.

INT. LIVING ROOM

She sees that her dad's beloved and valuable and sold Grandfather clock has violently tipped over on it's front and has broken into a million pieces. Ron is very drunk. He looks at the sea of broken glass and speaks.

RON

Is anyone here familiar with the teachings of Tony Robbins? Any Firewalkers here?

Some people nod.

RON (CONT'D)

"I challenge you to make your life a masterpiece!"

He takes off his shoes and socks.

RON (CONT'D)

"The secret to success is to take massive, determined action".

Ron walks across the sea of glass.

RON (CONT'D)

Ow. "Focus on (Ow.) where you want- (Ow.) to go, and not on (Ow.) what you fear!". Ow.

Some of the drunkest of all follow him across the glass.

Alex the Funny has passed out "mid bit" with his mullet wig down his shirt like chest hair. Maura runs past, looking frantically for her sister.

MAURA

Kate! Kate!

She feels like such a fool and her house is now full of fools. There are now blood-tinged footprints across the shampooed carpet. She looks around and realizes she doesn't even know most of the people who are still here. A lady tells Maura that she saw her very drunk sister in the back yard and she was planning on going to get more booze. Maura is angry and sad. Why did she let herself lose control? She hates this feeling. If this is "letting go" she wishes she hadn't found out how it feels.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Kate is drunk driving to liquor store, blasting music. She has taken Maura's purse so she could buy booze with her valid ID. She hears Maura's phone beep. There is a text. It is Haley texting her aunt, saying "I'm at grandma's. She got me a flight. I told your neighbor to feed the cats. See you soon. Love U, Haley" Kate stares at the text, bewildered. Haley's been staying with Maura? How could Maura keep that from her? She is going to fucking get it. Kate speeds back to the house.

Maura is furious that she is once again has fallen for her sister's bullshit. Feeling betrayed, Maura angrily runs out to find her. Oh, she is going to fucking get it! This party was all her idea. So was Kate staying sober so Maura could cut loose. Now everything is a disaster and Maura is left to fix it. Nothing has changed.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Kate tears into the driveway and overshoots it, ramming into the garage door. The car is imbedded. Kate activates the remote opener and the front of the car goes up with the door. There is a horrible metal screeching sound. Kate climbs out. She hears her sister calling for her in the back yard.

EXT. SIDE YARD/BACK YARD

Kate is running around the outside of the house angrily towards Maura, Maura doing the same towards Kate. They start into each other as they are getting closer.

MAURA

Why did I ever think I could trust you!? You promised me you would keep an eye on things and not drink! You said "I got you"! And I let go! How could you do that to me?

KATE

Oh, how could I???

Kate slams into Maura. They wrestle. People gather as the sisters alternately pin each other down, tumble, kick etc.

KATE (CONT'D)

Where is my daughter, Maura? Do you know?

MAURA

She's been staying with me in Atlanta! And for once she's been happy and safe!

Maura immediately regrets saying that.

KATE

Since when?

MAURA

March.

Kate is stunned. Her eyes fill with tears. She stops fighting.

KATE

March? You watched me worry and cry about her and spill my guts to you and the whole time she was living with you? How could you do that to me?

MAURA

She didn't want you to know!

KATE

You're my sister! You should have told me that she was safe. That wasn't your place to keep that from me!

MAURA

She just needs to-

KATE

Don't tell me what she needs!
Stay away from my daughter and stay
away from me, you motherfucking
know-it-all! Our lives are none of
your fucking business!

MAURA

Then stop making them my business!

KATE

I didn't do that. You did. You like
to fix people so you don't have to
look at your own pathetic empty
deal. You like being so giving so
everyone thinks you're this
wonderful saint, but you get off on
saving everyone and being the hero.
I don't want you to save me. I'm
releasing you from this project.
Fuck. Off.

Kate tries to storm off but slips around in the muddy yard.
They forgot to turn off the water that was filling the pool
and it has been overflowing.

MAURA

You can't storm off in wet mud,
P.S.! You're gonna break your leg.

KATE

Oh shut up you fucking hall
monitor! Why don't you go teach
your cats how to breastfeed, you
sad excuse for a woman!

For a moment everything is still like right before a tornado.
Maura propels again towards Kate with violence on her mind.
She punches her hard across the head and they go down into
another physical struggle. People get their phone cameras
out. They tumble for a few seconds and Kate suddenly cries
out in pain.

KATE (CONT'D)

Ow! My ankle! Wait, oh shit that
hurts! It's not right!

Maura stops and goes into nurse mode.

MAURA

Where! Where does it hurt?

Kate points to it. Maura carefully moves Kate's ankle back
and forth.

MAURA (CONT'D)
Does that hurt when I do that?

KATE
Not really.

MAURA
Then you're fine, it's not broken.
Take some Advil tonight. And ice.

KATE
Okay.

Maura immediately clocks Kate again and pulls her down by the front of her weave, pulling some of it out. Maura shoves the pulled out weave in Kate's mouth. Kate pulls a piece of Maura's real hair out. Kate finally frees herself and continues to try to storm off towards the house, slipping all the way. Maura follows. They pass Haley who has walked into the yard. Haley watches in horror and disbelief at this scene from COPS starring her mom and her aunt.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kate is muddy and crying and scratched up. She wipes herself down with one of her mom's "showy" towels. She can't stop crying. She looks at herself in the mirror. She drunkenly counts the money in her pocket again. She walks out.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Donnie, is a very drunk old schoolmate is in the corner offering Haley comfort and a shot of tequila. Kate angrily approaches.

KATE
Hey Don! I wanted to invite you to
my daughter's graduation. From High
school. Because she's seventeen.
Get your fucking hands off her.

Haley walks off, disgusted.

DONNIE
Kate, I had no idea that was your
daughter and that she was that
young.

KATE

Bullshit. You can tell the difference between a '95 and a '96 mustang, you know when a girl is fucking seventeen. I have your beautiful wife's number in my phone. Write me a check for five hundred dollars and I won't call it.

Donnie, shaking, writes her a check.

Maura tries to find James. He is sitting on top of the keg, cooling his penis in the ice.

MAURA

How are you. How is it?

JAMES

It's very tender.

A drunk man in the back round has been watching with interest, he tries to put his crotch on another keg.

MAURA

Well I just wanted to-

Amanda walks up looking self-satisfied.

AMANDA

Did you guys see Miss Skinny Minnie over there pounding back the artichoke dip? The slippery slope has begun. It won't be long.

MAURA

Amanda? Why don't you shut your fucking jealous bummer of a mouth and wish people well!? None of us gives two shits that you got big again except you! I just wish you could go find a diet that makes you less of a pain in the fucking ass!

Amanda stiffens, chokes back tears and walks away backwards very dramatically. She somehow just misses hitting many many things. Maura turns back to James but he has walked off.

Haley runs in.

HALEY

We have to go get Mom! She took off.

They run outside to see Kate taking off on her dad's riding mower. It has a "For Sale" sign on it. It cuts into a neighbor's yard and nails some flowers.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Maura and Haley are slowly driving through the neighborhood, trying not to lose Kate as she weaves through the yards.

EXT. RENAISSANCE VILLAGES PARKING LOT- FIVE MINUTES LATER.

Kate peels into the parking lot and parks half-assedly.

INT. RENAISSANCE VILLAGES COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Mom and Dad are having drinks in the courtyard after the movie. There is a barbershop quartet singing and everyone is singing along with them.

SINGERS

LIDA ROSE, I'M HOME AGAIN ROSE
TO GET THE SUN BACK IN THE SKY...

Kate comes into the courtyard singing along with the barbershoppers and greeting people loudly along the way. She is a muddy, bloody mess.

KATE

What up, silver foxes!?

The group greets Kate vocally.

MOM

I hear Kate.

DAD

Our Kate?

Kate puts her arms around the singers and tries to steady herself.

KATE

Looks like there's an AARPS Party
goin' on up in here! Where are the
two people who made me through the
Magic of Intercourse?

Mom and Dad rush up.

MOM

Kate, I think you're a little drunk.

KATE

Ya think??? You're really observant. You should be either Rizzoli or Isles.

DAD?

Let's go to the condo.

Mom takes Kate's arm.

KATE

No! I don't want to go to the "condo"! I wanna go home! I want us to go be home where we always were!

MOM

Come on.

Kate arches her back and falls to the ground.

KATE

(loudly)

No! I had a plan!

DAD

Oh Jesus.

MOM

Kate, you're embarrassing us in front of our new friends.

KATE

Tough twats! I'm sure they're all enjoying watching this kind of shit because you know why? Guiding Light is off the air and they cain't watch their stories anymore! Because it's official! Nothing is right! Are you with me snowflakes? Hazel? Are you with me?

The crowd is watching her intensely like they're watching TV.

Maura comes pulling up with Haley. She almost hits the mower.

MAURA

Nice park job!

KATE
Shut your hole!

DAD
Why is my mower here? That's on
Craigslis! You better not have
messed it up!

KATE
Oh, we messed up a lot more than
your mower. Partial disclosure.

MOM
Come to the condo. Now!

They walk away and continue arguing.

KATE
The condo can kiss it! You just
like it cuz you like to have sex in
it! Well, go take a cold shower and
shut that shit down because that is
a sport for the young!

Kate stomps away. They all follow.

MAURA
Are you two just going to let her
act like this? Why has she always
been allowed to be such a disaster?

KATE
Because they just assume I'm gonna
be a disaster! And I don't want to
disappoint them!

MAURA
I am so sick of being the mature
one! I am the little sister! I
never get to be the little sister!
I'm the one who's supposed to have
the tantrums! Me!

Maura tries to throw herself down tantrum style but it ends
up looking very controlled.

KATE
You wouldn't know how to have a
tantrum because that would involve
letting your tight ass be free for
two seconds!

DAD

Neither one of you should be having tantrums! You're both almost forty years old, for crissakes!

MAURA

I was letting myself be free! And it felt really good! I was having a lot of fun at the party-

MOM

Where did you go to a party? I thought you were packing.

MAURA

And I was even giving James a JBBJ but you had to ruin that too!

DAD

Who's James? And what the hell's a JBBJ?

KATE

It's a fake blow job for when you're gaggy. And I invented it. Because I'm smart and I have really good ideas, but nobody in this family gives a shit about that because I didn't go to college and get a good job. I had a kid instead.

MOM

That's because you got yourself pregnant. We didn't do that. You did that. And we love our Haley.
(to Haley)
We do. You're our sweetie.

Haley shrugs.

KATE

But you gave up on me. Why did you do that? I'm your child!

MOM

We've never given up on you. And yes, you're our child but you're also your daughter's mom and you need to start acting like it.

MAURA

Get off her ass! Kate is a great mom!

KATE

Am I? Is that why you took my
daughter and hid her from me?

They start to wrangle again.

DAD

Hey! Shut it!

He grabs them firmly and pulls them apart. We see that there
is a crowd of condo owners who have followed and are watching
the fight like it's a staged reading.

DAD (CONT'D)

We are your parents, yes! We had
you and we raised you. But we are
also people.

BYSTANDER (O.C.)

Little louder, we can't hear!

DAD

Let me tell you two something about
getting older. You never feel like
the age you are. We are almost
seventy years old and we have a lot
of life we still want to live!

Kate and Maura look hurt.

MOM

He means all of us together.

DAD

No I don't! I mean me and your mom!
And I think it's time we all stop
lying in this goddamn family
because we're afraid to hurt each
others' feelings! What your Mom
really wants to say, and I want you
to know that we mean this this from
the bottom of our hearts...is
that...we are so tired of you.

Kate and Maura are crying.

MOM

So tired. We really are! We love
you so much and we are so tired of
you it's not even funny! We just
want a break from it. We want to
live for ourselves a little.

(MORE)

MOM (CONT'D)

Everybody always told us "enjoy your kids while they're young, because it goes so fast". Well, I don't know what the fuck they were talking about, because it still really feels like we aren't done! And we want to be!

BYSTANDER (O.C.)

That's right!

There is some applause from the spectators on that point.

DAD

Kate, no one "did" anything to you. Things just happen, and they're happening in your life, so you're the only one who can fix them. Not me or your mom or Maura. You.

MAURA

That's right.

Kate shoots a look at Maura.

KATE

You need to not comment on my life until our funerals.

MOM

You both need to worry about your own lives. Kate, yours is falling apart and Maura you don't really have one.

MAURA

I've been working on that!

KATE

She's been working on it!

Haley drives through on the mower towards the darkness and the lake.

KATE (CONT'D)

Haley! Come back!

HALEY

No! I'm sick of listening to all of your crazy shit!

She drives right into the lake. She screams.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Mom! Mom! Help me! Mom!

Kate takes her shoes off and runs to the lake. She dives in. The rest of the family gathers at the edge. Kate used to be a lifeguard.

KATE
I'm coming! I got you! Everybody
get back! I'm a lifeguard! That's
my daughter and she needs me!

MAURA
You're drunk! Can you swim?

KATE
I was drunk every time I life
guarded! Also shut up.

Kate runs into the dark lake, tripping on the way in. She grabs Haley's chin and starts to pull her in but keeps sinking too. They try to keep each other afloat as they head to shore.

DAD
Should we help?

MOM
No. It's pretty shallow. There
might be a gator in there.

Kate and Haley finally get to the edge and drag each other onto the grass. The whole family helps them in. They all sit down and lean against each other. Kate takes her shirt off and wraps it around Haley. She has a crazy sexy bra on. Dad accidentally farts, and after a tense silence they all start laughing, crying, laughing.

KATE
I'm going to go warm her up.

MOM
The door's open.

Kate walks Haley to the apartment. She looks like a mom.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. PARENTS' OLD NEIGHBORHOOD.

Mom and Dad are driving Maura back to the house. Maura is half asleep in the backseat.

MAURA

I really am trying to work on getting a life. That's why we had the party...

MOM

You had a party? At the house? Son of a d---!

SMASH TO:

EXT. HOUSE. -FIVE MINUTES LATER.

They pull up. It's a mess. The flowers in the yard have been flattened where she drove over them, the garage door is bashed in, there is garbage all over the grass. Dad's flagpole is bent into an "L". A blue naked guy walks across the yard holding hands with a fully clothed woman.

DAD

What is this? Are you kidding me???

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Kate is gently blow drying Haley's hair. Haley looks like a little girl. They speak quietly.

HALEY

You jumped in and saved me.

KATE

I would walk into a burning trailer to save you. You're my kid. You're everything. Nothing even comes close.

Haley doesn't say a word but we can see on her face she liked hearing it. Kate wraps her up in a blanket like a baby and they lay on the couch, turning on the TV. The parents had a dirty movie on Cinemax paused. They unpause it for a second. They are horrified in unison.

HALEY/KATE

Ewwwww! Gross! No!

INT. LIVING ROOM - MINUTES LATER.

Maura sits on couch. She looks like hell.

DAD

Do you realize what you girls did?

Maura looks at him.

DAD (CONT'D)

Do you?

MAURA

Are you asking? I don't know if this is rhetorical or not.

DAD

Don't throw Jeopardy words at me. Someone is buying this house in a couple of days. And now they probably won't want it.

MOM

And we'll be totally fucked!

MAURA

Mom please stop saying fuck. It upsets me deeply.

MOM

Too fucking bad! I'm angry and I'll say whatever I want to say. And if I want fucking to, I may also be cunty.

MAURA

Alright...

MOM

This is typical Kate shit, but I'm really disappointed in you.

Maura is shattered to hear this, but there is a tiny taste of being a "Misbehavior" that feels new and good. Maura hugs her angry parents and goes to bed.

MAURA

I'll get up really early and start cleaning.

INT. BEDROOM. - MOMENTS LATER

Maura is in her bed. She is looking at her journal. She turns the pages until the entries stop. She picks up a girly pen with a panda on the end of it and begins to write on a blank, yellowed page.

MAURA

Dear Diary. It's been a long time.
Tonight we had a crazy party and I
made out with a really cute guy.
His name is James and he really
liked me until I bit him in the
dick. It all started when we drove
by...

She hunkers down to tell the sordid tale.

INT. BEDROOM. - THE NEXT DAY

Kate crawls in with Maura.

KATE

It's noon. Mom and Dad are mad.

Maura backs up to spoon her sister.

MAURA

I'm sorry I didn't tell you I had
Haley.

KATE

I'm sorry I told you to leave me
alone. I don't want you to ever
leave me alone.

Maura thinks for a moment.

MAURA

Someday we won't have Mom and Dad
and I'll be alone.

KATE

No you won't. You'll have me and
Haley.

They both sigh. Haley comes in and crawls on her mom's side.

HALEY

Grandpa just called you guys
"spoiled shits".

MAURA

We have to get up.

They rise and ready themselves for an unpleasant day of
rectification.

INT. KITCHEN. - MINUTES LATER

Mom and Dad are cleaning and trying to make sense of all of it.

MAURA
Where should we start?

DAD
Anywhere. Everything is screwed.

Maura has never seen her dad so stressed out. She feels terrible.

MAURA
I'm sorry.

DAD
Just start doing something please.

MONTAGE OF CLEAN UP

-Maura and Kate clean up quietly, slowed by hangovers.

-They are in their room, putting things in boxes, hauling out garbage bags.

-Kate tries to karate-kick out the dents in the garage door.

INT. LIVING ROOM. - FIVE HOURS LATER

Mom and Dad and the three girls are eating a dinner of leftover party food. They sit at the table and eat quietly.

DAD
I am so mad at you two.

KATE
Yes, we know.

MAURA
How can we help make it better?

DAD
Do you have a time machine?

MOM
Does anyone want anymore potato salad?

Hae-Won suddenly walks out of the utility room carrying her bra in her hands and looking rough.

MOM (CONT'D)

Oh! Jesus you scared me. Hello.

DAD

Who the hell is that?

HAE-WON

You find hearing aids?

MAURA

No. Do you know what room you left them in?

She stares at them and doesn't answer.

KATE

(under her breath)

She can't hear you.

MAURA

Then why are you whispering?

HAE-WON

You find them, call salon. I shaved legs in that sink in there but there's no water on. Bye.

She creeps out like a feral cat. She doesn't close the door behind her.

DAD

Your mom and I are not going in that bathroom until it has been scoured.

INT. KITCHEN PARENTS HOUSE - LATER

Maura and Kate are cleaning in the other room. Mom and Dad stand at the kitchen sink.

MOM

I love this sink sprayer. I washed the kids' hair with this sprayer.

DAD

I know. Do you regret leaving this house?

MOM

No. It's too big here without the girls. I like us being in each other's faces again. You annoy me more now, so I really notice you.

DAD

Yes! I've been noticing you a lot more since you've been up my ass. And you know what I noticed? You're a damn doll.

MOM

Thank you. You're a dream boat.

They kiss sweetly.

MOM (CONT'D)

Scratch my back. Upper right.

He does. She sighs in ecstasy.

DAD

It'll all be alright. I'll just keep saying that.

Kate and Maura watch them from the other room.

EXT. HOUSE- THE NEXT MORNING

The buyers come up to the door with their real estate agent. They quickly spot the damage in the yard and on the garage door. They look very concerned. Kate, Maura and Haley are banished to the curb across the street. They watch intently.

TWENTY MINUTES LATER.

Dad walks out with the buyers and the agent. He looks sad. They speak a few words then they drive off. The girls walk back.

DAD

They're out. They pulled the contract.

Dad walks into the house. He looks like he's gonna have a quiet stroke.

INT. HOUSE

Mom is sitting on the couch. Frozen.

MOM

Jesus. What do we do?

DAD

I don't know. We can't carry the mortgage on the condo and the mortgage on this.

Maura and Kate feel terrible.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF MOM AND DAD'S APT. - THE NEXT NIGHT

Maura is sitting on the couch looking at Mom and Dad with a big intense smile.

MAURA

Mom and Dad... I came over to tell you something. Okay. So...

MOM

You're lesbian.

MAURA

No.

DAD

You're sick.

MOM

You stole something.

MAURA

No.

MOM

You're moving to Europe.

DAD

You want to be a policewoman.

MAURA

Just let me say it!

MOM

Is it bad? Cuz we can't take any more bad news.

MAURA

No! It's great. Mom and Dad I love you. And I am so grateful for all that you've done for me and for Kate our whole lives.

Maura takes their hands.

MAURA (CONT'D)

I started thinking about it and how much I want you to be happy...So I would like to buy your house.

She waits for a reaction. There is none.

DAD

And then what?

MOM

You... want to buy our house?

DAD

Why?

MOM

For an investment? I don't get it.

MAURA

No, I'm buying it so you guys can rent out the apartment and come back and live in it.

MOM

But we don't want to live in it.

DAD

We like where we live.

MOM

We told you that. Nine times this weekend so far.

MAURA

You didn't mean it though.

MOM

Yes we did! We're old. We don't want to have to say things we don't mean anymore. You heard your dad. No more lies, Maura. I'm not going to say "I'd rather just do the dishes" anymore after we eat, because that's a filthy lie.

DAD

We want you to go make a life so we don't worry about you cracking up when you're fifty and moving back in with us. Please don't ever do that.

They both hug her.

MOM

Aw, we love you so much honey.
Leave us be now.

MAURA

Then let me at least fix up the
house.

DAD

No. Stay away from the house, we
will deal with our house.

Maura doesn't know how to take in this information. They mean it. They're kicking her out of their emotional nest. Or they're jumping out of hers. The family system is actually changing.

EXT. PARKING LOT. - CONTINUOUS

She walks out of the apartment and through the parking lot. She is like a prisoner who doesn't want to leave jail because it's all she knows.

INT. AIRPORT - MORNING

Kate and Haley are dropping Maura off at the airport.

MAURA

You could always come to Atlanta
for awhile.

KATE

We're gonna come up with a plan
together. Don't worry about us.

They hug and Maura leaves.

INT. APARTMENT. - ONE HOUR LATER

There's a knock at the door. Dad goes to answer. Kate sits down with Mom and Dad.

KATE

Hi. I know I'm a fuck up. But I
have fifteen hundred dollars. Can I
please rent your house for me and
Haley to live in?

Dad stares. Mom looks off.

KATE (CONT'D)

And maybe the rent could start on a sliding scale at like a hundred dollars at a time, and then we could like "grandfather" it in.

They've heard this many times.

KATE (CONT'D)

Dad, I promise you I will get my shit together. I would like to start being a person who fixes things instead of leaving them when they go bad. Don't answer right away.

DAD

No.

MOM

Nope.

DAD

We can't do that. Too much has happened. It won't work.

MOM

We need you to deal with your own stuff. Without using our stuff to do it.

Kate is not surprised. She remains calm.

KATE

Okay. But I'm still staying around over there long enough to fix it up.

DAD

We will handle that. You should go home.

Kate fights back tears.

KATE

Dad, I have no more home. Haley and I need to stay there until I figure things out.

They didn't know. He softens.

DAD

Okay, you've got two weeks to fix it up and then I'm torching the place for insurance.

MOM

Oh you are not.

DAD

I am! I've already been Googling it!

EXT. JAMES'S HOUSE

Kate knocks. James opens the door.

INT. JAMES'S LIVING ROOM.

Kate lays down the wad of cash.

KATE

I have fifteen hundred dollars. Can you fix the damage for that?

JAMES

No. But I'll show you how to.

KATE

Okay. By doing it though?

James laughs.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm just kidding. I'll do it.

JAMES

Hey, I was always just a victim of what happened to me. I didn't realize how strong I was until my parents got sick and I took over. Don't wait that long. It always feels better when you fix things yourself.

INT. HOUSE

Montage of Haley and Kate fixing up the damage with the help of James. He is teaching them how to do things and they are having fun.

James is in Maura's bedroom looking at her pictures and all her stuff. He is playing her music. Kate looks in at him.

KATE

My sister is a superb human.

JAMES

I know. She's a good one. Is she mad at me?

KATE

Mad at you? For what, biting your penis?

JAMES

I just freaked out from all the drama.

KATE

A lot of her drama is second hand drama.

James laughs.

INT. KITCHEN -MINUTES LATER

James is on the phone with Maura.

MAURA

Hi.

JAMES

Hi.

MAURA

Hi.

JAMES

Hi. How are you?

MAURA

Not so great. I feel so bad for so many things. I'm sorry for what I did to you. How are you...feeling?

JAMES

I got my dick staples out!

MAURA

They had to put staples?

JAMES

Yeah. They had to put it back on.

She doesn't breathe, then realizes he's joking. They share a laugh. We widen to see Kate sitting next to him with "they had to put it back on" scribbled on a piece of scrap paper.

MAURA

Oh, if you're still wondering about it...I used my jawbone in the good part before the bad part.

JAMES

That makes sense. Very creative. And it frees up your mouth, so you don't have to spit out your gum.

MAURA

Have you ever been to Atlanta?

They both smile.

JAMES

Hi.

MAURA

Hi.

EXT. HOUSE - TWO WEEKS LATER.

The parents approach the front of the house. The flowers have been replaced, everything looks better than it originally did. They walk in and Kate is helping Haley as she paints a beautiful mural on the wall. Kate looks so happy and alive. The house looks fantastic. They are touched that Kate made it happen. Dad takes her aside.

DAD

This looks great. You really fixed it. You guys can stay, I'll take out a loan.

Kate doesn't respond.

EXT. HOUSE. - FIVE DAYS LATER.

There is an open house being held. There are a lot of people coming in and out. Kate is taking people through, giving them a very entertaining tour of a house that means so much to her. She is proud of how they all react to it.

From the front of the house we see the wind blow through the newly planted flowers.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HOUSE- SEVEN MONTHS LATER

It is Christmas morning. The house is painted a different color and the "For Sale" sign is gone. It is clearly being lived in. A number of wind chimes hang from the porch. Hae Won comes out with three giant stuffed animals. She is beaming. She throws them in the car and drives off.

We pan down the street to James' house. He is walking out with presents. He shoos a cat back into the house.

JAMES

Fudge. In.
(calling back into the
house)
Come on Babe! Gotta go.

Maura comes out, dressed to the holiday nines.

EXT. WALMART PARKING LOT.

James and Maura pull up to the weird house on the corner. It is no longer creepy looking and actually quite adorable. The yard is landscaped. They walk up and we see there is a shingle in front of the garage. It says "The Perfect Bang Hair Studio". They open the door and Kate has turned the garage into a hip and beautiful one-chair beauty shop. Kate is just finishing Haley's curls. Kate no longer has her witch weave. Her hair is shorter and chic. She and Haley look good and happy and close.

KATE

Merry Christmas!

Kate hugs Maura and then hugs James, dipping him.

KATE (CONT'D)

Look what my present was from
Haley.

On the wall in the studio now hangs an amazing painting. The flowered vine is now growing all the way up the trunk of a beautiful tree and into the sky. In lovely hand lettering it says "Lean On Me". At the bottom it says "Merry Christmas Mom, love Haley"

KATE (CONT'D)

I cried like I was a parent in the
Olympics.

JAMES

Gotta go girls.

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Maura looks at Kate.

MAURA
Need anything?

KATE
I'm good.

MAURA
You're right. You are good.

Maura smiles in admiration at her big sister. The Ellis sisters are both very good.

EXT. APARTMENTS - TEN MINUTES LATER

They approach the parents apartment. Dad answers the door. It is warm and sweet and somehow feels and smells like it always did at Christmas at home. Because it's the same people and the same food and the same amount of love.

DAD
Merry Christmas!!!

MAURA
Hi! Did you make my shoepeg corn?

DAD
Of course we did.

MAURA
Yum. I'm gonna pound back so much of that salty corn.

KATE
Mom! Come on out!

Mom comes out. She has longish grey hair styled in very chic curls.

MAURA
Oh. My God. You put a witch weave on our mother.

KATE
I'm starting to do weaves for a lot of the ladies at the condos. They're going apeshit for them. I found a wholesale outlet to get real gray hair.

MAURA
Shady...probably looted off dead
people...go ahead...

KATE
I'm gonna call them "Autumn
Weaves".

They all laugh.

MAURA
Mom, you are a fox!

MOM
No shit!

KATE
She's going to advertise for me.

Dad gives Mom a flirty look.

INT. DINING ROOM- LATER

The family is just finishing holiday dinner.

MAURA
James got two more remodelling
jobs.

KATE
Awesome!

JAMES
Yeah, it's great. Things are
getting busy.

MAURA
And we have a gift for all of you.

Maura and James hand everyone a small Christmas gift.

MAURA (CONT'D)
Open them all at once.

They open the boxes. Each one contains a tiny baby
undershirt. Everyone looks at each other.

MOM
Are they cat sweaters?

MAURA
No.

DAD
Are they doll swimsuits?

JAMES
Nope.

MAURA
James and I are-

KATE
She's preggers! I knew first! She
peed on the stick in front of me!

They all scream and hug James and Maura. Kate smothers her own daughter with kisses. Maura looks over at her sister. They've finally made lives of their own in all the best ways.

EXT. AIRPORT

Hae-Won is bringing three adorable daughters to the car with their suitcases. She is in heaven.

HAE-WON
I'm going to drive you by your new
school. It's the shits.

The girls are so thrilled to be with their mom.

Montage of James, Maura, Kate, Mom, Dad and Haley playing a board game, crowded around the little table.

HALEY (V.O.)
Dear Myself. Christmas was fun. I got some awesome art supplies and mom loved the picture I made her. She seems a lot happier now but I still hate how much she swears. She called a burnt Pop Tart a "cunt" the other day in front of my friend. It was terrible. My Aunt's boyfriend James is so ungodly cute I have trouble looking at him. Sometimes I watch him from up in our apartment and I feel like I'm going to spontaneously lunge out the window and fly at him and suck onto his face like a tick. I totally want to swim and then drown slowly in his blonde chest hair waves. But he shall never know. Gram and Grandpa are always acting all cozy like they're in a Viagra commercial.

(MORE)

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

I'm sorry, but nobody wants to see that. You had your time to do that. I love our new place. Especially my room. It's got a lot of weird old shit from the bedroom my mom and my aunt grew up in, and in a weird way that makes me really, really happy. Night, Bitch.

The End.