

Weep, Crave, Loathe

by

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FADE IN:

INT. ZORA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

PRETTY MOMMA (25) reads a bedtime story to her little girl --

ZORA (5)

She's tucked under the covers, clutches a baby doll, her eyes flutter, sleepy.

PRETTY MOMMA

Goldilocks tasted the last bowl of porridge and it was just right. So she ate it all up.

Zora's eyes open wide...

ZORA

Oh. She was naughty. Right, Momma?

PRETTY MOMMA

No, Sweetie. She was hungry.

Zora's little forehead furrows.

PRETTY MOMMA (CONT'D)

Next, Goldilocks tried the largest of the three chairs --

ZORA

But, Momma. What if the bear was hungry?

PRETTY MOMMA

The bear wouldn't mind cause she's such a pretty little girl. Like you, Zora.

Pretty Momma ruffles Zora's curls.

Zora mulls that over. Still not satisfied...

ZORA

But what if she was ugly, Momma?

PRETTY MOMMA

Well, Goldilocks could cry and the bear would forgive her. No one can resist a woman when she cries. It's our secret power.

ZORA

Like a super power, Momma?

PRETTY MOMMA
Exactly like a super power, Sweetie.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RUBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A night light illuminates a child-sized lump in bed, under the covers.

A slight movement is followed by --

CRUNCH. CRUNCH.

The sound of chips being consumed.

The bedroom door BURSTS open. The overhead light goes on.

CHUBBY MOMMA (20's) looms large in the doorway...

CHUBBY MOMMA
Ruby? You got them chips?

Chubby Momma goes to the bed, flips the covers back to reveal --

RUBY (5)

A plump child with her hand in a chip bag.

Ruby swallows, offers the bag...

RUBY
I planned on saving you some, Momma.

Chubby Momma sits next to Ruby. She grabs a handful of chips.

They CRUNCH in companionable silence for a moment, then...

RUBY (CONT'D)
I miss Daddy, Momma.

CHUBBY MOMMA
Me, too, Ruby.

RUBY
Momma?

Chubby Momma stuffs more chips in her mouth...

CHUBBY MOMMA
(crunch, crunch)
Yes, Ruby?

RUBY
Did Daddy leave cause we're chubby?

CHUBBY MOMMA

No, Ruby. Your Daddy left cause he couldn't grasp the concept of an abundance of appetite.

RUBY

(crunch, crunch)

We got us some abundance of appetite, don't we, Momma?

CHUBBY MOMMA

Sure do, Ruby. It's our special power.

RUBY

Like a super power, Momma?

CHUBBY MOMMA

Exactly like a super power, Ruby.

INT. PEGGY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Moonlight casts a glow onto TWIN BEDS.

One has a fluffy pink comforter, awash in stuffed animals. The other has a plain, dark blanket with a solitary lump under the covers.

The pink bed is empty. MEGGY (5) sleeps on the floor.

The door opens a crack as --

SKINNY MOMMA (20's) peeks in. Irritation has seared off all extra flesh.

Meggy sits up...

MEGGY

Momma?

The light comes on. Skinny Momma hurries in...

SKINNY MOMMA

Honey? What are you doing on the floor?

MEGGY

(re: stuffed animals)

They made me leave.

SKINNY MOMMA

Good grief, Meggy. Did your sister get all the backbone?

PEGGY (5) flips the covers back, a fierce warrior child...

PEGGY

I told her I'd kick that teddy bear's butt!

SKINNY MOMMA

(indulgent smile)
My little thug.

PEGGY

It's only a teddy bear, Momma.

SKINNY MOMMA

Well. Tomorrow it could be someone who really needs to have their butt kicked. Right, Peggy?

PEGGY

(sing-song)
They won't know why --

SKINNY MOMMA AND PEGGY

(together)
But we will!

Skinny Momma kisses Meggy's cheek...

SKINNY MOMMA

Good night, my little super hero.

PEGGY

Night, Momma.

Skinny Momma leads Meggy out. She closes the door behind her.

Peggy goes over to Meggy's bed, picks up a stuffed bear. She glares into its cold button eyes then rips the bear's ear off with her teeth...

PEGGY (CONT'D)

(spits the ear out)
Mean teddy bears suck.

FREEZE FRAME: PEGGY AND THE MUTILATED TEDDY BEAR ARE FROZEN:

RUBY (V.O.)

Parents never set out to screw up their children. They dispense advice, dole out homilies, all with the best of intentions. It's pretty safe to say they'd never suspect, in their wildest imaginings, their kids might take some of that stuff...literally.

END FREEZE FRAME: BACK TO SCENE

Peggy gets back into bed. Pulls the covers over her head.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

SUPER: THIRTY YEARS LATER

The hall is filled with WOMEN who SNUFFLE, binge eat or look like they're spoiling for a fight.

They all seem kinda...dangerous.

CUE MUSIC -- some sort of SUPER-HERO THEME SONG.

Peggy, Zora and Ruby, now thirty-five years old, glide

ONSTAGE

to a STANDING OVATION.

Wearing white robes, they stand under a banner which reads --

INSERT: "WE'VE GOT THE POWER"

Peggy is lean and mean.

Ruby is decidedly chubby.

Zora is just right.

They accept the ADORATION with grace and bounce it right back to the audience.

A mutual outpouring of love and acceptance fills the hall.

Peggy raises her arms for silence...

PEGGY

Do you weep?

CROWD

Yes!

PEGGY

Do you crave?

CROWD

Yes!

PEGGY

Do you loathe?

CROWD

Hell, yes!

PEGGY
Who has the power?

CROWD
We do!

PEGGY
Are you prepared to use it?

CROWD
Yes!

PEGGY
Then what you Bitches waiting for?

Mic drop.

The CROWD goes BERSERK.

Peggy smiles at Ruby and Zora.

IN SLOW MOTION:

A plastic BOTTLE OF MIDOL sails through the air --

"PLONK"

-- hits Peggy upside the head.

END SLOW MOTION:

The lid pops off. Pills scatter.

INTO THE SUDDEN SILENCE:

A SKINNY WOMAN pushes through the crowd towards the stage...

SKINNY WOMAN
Ain't no skanky ass ho gonna call me
a bitch! Lemme at her!

A FAT WOMAN stops her with a face full of pepper spray...

FAT WOMAN
Let her speak, you skinny cunt!

PANDEMONIUM ENSUES

Women cry...they consume...and they kick the ever-loving
shit out of each other.

ONSTAGE:

The Three Women are pelted with random items.

Blood oozes from a cut on Peggy's forehead...

PEGGY

Abort!

They rush from the stage.

BACKSTAGE:

They clutch each other. Shaken, battered and bewildered.
What the hell just happened?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

SUPER: A FEW MONTHS EARLIER:

Serene. White sand. Mirror-like water reflects the light
of a full moon.

Parked near the shoreline is a BEATER CAR.

RUBY (V.O.)

Of course we knew there were a few
personal issues we could work on.

INT. BEATER CAR - NIGHT

The glove compartment light comes on as CHUBBY HANDS rummage,
then settle on an oversized bar of chocolate.

Ruby looks straight at the camera, offers us chocolate,
reconsiders, then eats it herself.

RUBY (V.O.)

I mean...do I look like I share?

Headlights flash through the interior as another beater car
pulls up and parks.

INT. PEGGY'S CAR - NIGHT

An overhead light comes on to reveal Peggy. She scowls at
Ruby then flips her the finger.

RUBY (V.O.)

But, we figured they were minor
things. Little blind spots. Cute
quirks. Endearing eccentricities.

The light goes out.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Ruby and Peggy wear white robes. Peggy carries a bucket. They walk side by side. Their feet SCRUNCH in the sand.

WATER'S EDGE

The robes slip from their shoulders, slither to their feet. Moonlight reveals their naked bodies.

RUBY (V.O.)

We felt that our choices made us special. Set us apart from the herd.

Car headlights flash.

SCRUNCH. SCRUNCH. SCRUNCH. Zora scurries up.

PEGGY

You're late.

ZORA

Not my fault.

Zora disrobes. The three Women wade out into the --

WATER

Peggy empties the bucket. Shortly --

A SMALL SHARK FIN

pops up. It circles them.

RUBY

I'm thinking shark fin soup.

ZORA

(snuffle)

I'm thinking maligned and misunderstood.

PEGGY

I'm thinking, bugger off, you needle dick son of a whore

Peggy tussles with the Shark. A brief skirmish. She bites off a small piece of dorsal fin, then spits it out...

PEGGY (CONT'D)

That's for those folks in South Carolina.

RUBY

North Carolina.

The little Shark wiggles back into the water then takes off.

RUBY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Now it seems obvious that we got a
bit wrong-headed in our thinking.

The Women join hands. They circle left, then right. A ritual.

RUBY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

See what you think.

SUPER: LATER THAT NIGHT

INT. ALL NIGHT DINER - NIGHT

The Three Women sit at a table. Street clothes. Hair wet.

Peggy has a bite mark tattoo on her neck, an inadequate warning. She pinches one edge of a filthy menu as a

PIMPLY WAITER(18) comes to take their order...

PIMPLY WAITER

Good evening, Ladies --

His attention is caught by Ruby.

She sucks on a blow-pop. Tongues it. Slow. Lascivious.

CRUNCH.

Pimply waiter jerks.

Ruby chomps through the hard candy shell. She winks at him. Chews the gum. Savors its sugary goodness.

Peggy bops Pimply Waiter with her menu...

PEGGY

Clean your damn menus. Respect your
fucking customers or I will kick
your ass.

Pimply Waiter quivers.

A bell JINGLES as the Diner door swings open --

ISADORE AKA BUDDY(35) more Buddy than Isadore, slides into their booth...

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

(to: Pimply Waiter)

Hello, there.

Pimply Waiter tilts out. Takes off.

Isadore aka Buddy checks them out...

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (CONT'D)
Up to tricks, I see. What terrible
wrong was righted this night? Hmm?

Peggy GROWLS. Isadore aka Buddy hazards a guess...

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (CONT'D)
Peggy's turn...water related...Sharks!
Those attacks in South Carolina!

RUBY
North Carolina.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY
Peggy sent a message? Evened the
score? Couldn't you just let the
Japanese fish them into extinction?

PEGGY
What the fuck do you want? Besides
a functioning pudendum?

ISADORE AKA BUDDY
Hey. I'm simpatico. Another casualty
of youth. A Poseur...

Eh?

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (CONT'D)
Female trapped in a man's body?
Woman pretending to be man? Making
the easier choice?

Ah.

PEGGY
Still making the easier choice.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY
Trust me. Having my dick turned
into a vagina is not the easier
choice.

FREEZE FRAME: THE WOMEN'S EXPRESSIONS REFLECT THEIR CURIOSITY
ABOUT EXACTLY HOW THAT WOULD GO DOWN.

END FREEZE FRAME -- BACK TO SCENE:

Isadore aka Buddy waves the topic away. He leans in...

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (CONT'D)

Since you persist in your delusion
and you ain't getting any younger, I
have news...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

At a table, Ruby eat spaghetti. Peggy winds up a pair of plastic teeth then lets the teeth snap at her finger. Oh. Hurts so good.

Zora snatches the plastic teeth away...

ZORA

Quit.

RUBY

(mouth full)

Well? What do we think?

PEGGY

We should do it. Or, one day, it's
bye-bye superpowers.

FREEZE FRAME ON MODERN ART FEATURING A BOX OF *SUPER PLUS* TAMPONS. THE WOMEN ARE FROZEN IN PLACE EXCEPT FOR --

Ruby. She **breaks the fourth wall...**

RUBY

Catch that? Superpowers?

FLASHBACK:

INT. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BATHROOM - DAY

RUBY (V.O.)

We met in Junior High. Started our
periods on the same day --

Twelve years old: Ruby, Zora and Peggy look over their
shoulders into a --

FULL LENGTH MIRROR

-- Stains on their pants. Despair on their faces.

INSERT: *PROLONGED, JEERING LAUGHTER.*

END FLASHBACK -- BACK TO SCENE:

RUBY (CONT'D)

Indelibly stained by the loser brush.
We were outcasts. Objects of
ridicule. It bonded us. We already
had stuff in common. Raised by
strong, single mothers who laid the
groundwork. Emphasized our strengths.
Taught us about our special powers --

FLASH TO HEAD SHOTS OF:

-- Pretty Momma weeps.

-- Chubby Momma eats.

-- Skinny Momma rages.

END HEAD SHOTS -- BACK TO SCENE:

RUBY (CONT'D)

Those stains got us focused. We
honed our skill sets. Practiced
menstrual synchrony. Then, one day --

SERIES OF SHOTS -- I GOT THE POWER -- KINDA

-- Classroom. A teacher passes out papers. Zora has a big
red F. She WAILS. Tugs her hair. Looks mental. The F is
changed to an C. Dimpled smile and a wink at the camera.

-- Vending machine. Ruby pushes a button. Nothing. She
rocks the machine. Kicks it. Tilts it. Items tumble down
the chute. DING. DING. DING. Winner winner chicken dinner.

-- School yard. Peggy reads. Alone. Two MEAN GIRLS jeer.
Peggy SNARLS. The Mean Girls snarl back. Peggy GROWLS.
(Sounds exactly like a lion's ROAR) The Girls scuttle away.

END SERIES OF SHOTS -- BACK TO SCENE:

RUBY (CONT'D)

PMS week. The extra hormones made
us feel...more in control. Less
miserable. It was nice to
occasionally have things go our way.

Ruby shovels in spaghetti...

RUBY (CONT'D)

We began to live for that week --

Chews...

RUBY (CONT'D)

Now we can't imagine our lives without it.

Swallows...

RUBY (CONT'D)

Anyhoo. Isadore knows a ton about women stuff. He says we can delay menopause by freezing a slice of our ovaries now, to graft back when we're older --

PEGGY (O.S.)

Goddamnit, Ruby! Pay attention.

END FREEZE FRAME -- BACK TO SCENE:

Peggy slams a knife into the table.

ZORA

(snuffle)

I don't know. Surgery is expensive. There's all sorts of things to consider, mainly, it's just not nat-nat-natural.

Peggy stabs the table in cadence with her words...

PEGGY

Fuck - me - up - the - arse!

She gets up into Zora's face...

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Listen up, Weepy! No surgery. No super-powers.

She flings the knife. It flies across the room and stabs the heart of the tampon art.

RUBY

Easy, my friends. First, let's find out whether it's really a thing and whether thirty-five is actually the cut-off.

Significant looks. They are, of course, thirty-five.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Then we need to figure ways to make some money. Surgery isn't in my budget. I've got a mouth to feed.

PEGGY

Goddamn it! We never have any money!

Peggy flings Ruby's plate across the room. It shatters against the wall.

RUBY

It sounds experimental. Maybe we could volunteer as guinea pigs?

ZORA

Better us than actual animals.

(snuffle)

They're so helpless and innocent.

Peggy upends the table...

PEGGY

Cut the crap, Zora. You're annoying the shit out of me.

ZORA

Sorry. The thought of losing my powers has me out of sorts.

Peggy puts her knife away. Group hug for Zora.

Ruby picks up her Ipad...

RUBY

I'll be in the kitchen.

She leaves the room.

PEGGY

She's gonna get side-tracked.

Peggy sits at a desktop computer. Mutters as she types...

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Freeze ovaries to delay menopause.

(click)

I'll be buggered. It's a thing.

INT. PRICE SMART - DAY

SUPER: *PERIOD WEEK*

Ruby presides over a pizza bites sample table. She's new but Management has pretty much realized their mistake.

Two OLD WOMEN (80's) come up and eye her selection.

RUBY

Try some delicious pizza bites?

Ruby helps the women demolish the tray.

She nukes more bites. They demolish the tray.

She nukes a third batch. Ruby eats while the Women fill plastic baggies.

Breakfast and lunch solved, the Old Women shuffle off.

Ruby leans into her work cooler for more bites. Her ample bottom discreetly admired by her boss --

FELIX (35) a closet chubby chaser. He's had his eye on Ruby from day one...

FELIX

Ahem.

Ruby swings around with her empty tray.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Have you eaten ALL of the morning samples?

RUBY

Not me, Boss. I'm on a diet.

FELIX

I saw you, Ruby. That's the third time this week. I've got to let you go.

RUBY

Move me into another section? One without food?

FELIX

Sorry.

Ruby gets her purse...

RUBY

Okay. Well...bye.

She shuffles off. Felix watches her go. He yearns...

FELIX

Ruby!

Ruby turns. Felix falters...

FELIX (CONT'D)

Good luck.

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

At a sink, Zora shampoos an ugly teenager --

PIPPI (15)

Envious of Zora's looks, she glares up at her...

ZORA
Close your eyes, Honey. So you don't
get soap in them.

PIPPI
(sullen)
You're pretty.

ZORA
Aren't you sweet?

PIPPI
(sullen)
I'll bet your kids are, too.

ZORA
I don't have any. Yet.

PIPPI
Better get on it. Pretty or not.
You ain't getting any younger.

Zora gets mad. She tugs Pippi's hair...hard.

PIPPI (CONT'D)
Fuck!

ZORA
Oh. Sorry. Did I hurt you?

PIPPI
Damn right you did. Overly sensitive
much?

ZORA
What do you mean by that?

Pippi gets out of the chair. Hair dripping...

UGLY TEENAGER
Google it, Bitch.

ZORA
Whatever, Troglodyte.

Pippi stomps over to Zora's boss, LYNNETTE (40) a hairdresser
who thinks more is more. They confer with heads together.

Lynnette heads towards Zora.

ZORA (CONT'D)

(weeps)

I'm so sorry. I don't know what
came over me --

LYNNETTE

Cut the crap, Zora.

ZORA

She started it. Said mean things.

LYNNETTE

She's a teenager. It's her default
behavior. Surely you're too old for
hair-pulling and name calling --

Zora rubs her tummy...

ZORA

I have cramps.

LYNNETTE

-- or that excuse?

Lynnette hands her some cash...

LYNNETTE (CONT'D)

Here's your pay through today. Grow
up, Zora. Learn to take
responsibility for yourself.
Preferably, some time before
menopause.

Lynnette stomps off. Zora sticks her tongue out at her.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Cubicle world. Peggy sits at a desk. Glum. She stares at
her computer scene --

INSERT ON SCREEN: *HEADLINES of DEPRESSING NEWS and MEAN SHIT.*

BACK TO SCENE:

Peggy bites the soft skin between her thumb and forefinger.
She clamps down. Hard. It leaves a mark.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Pssh. Peg-sters.

Peggy jumps. She looks up to see

CHERYL(35)

CHERYL (CONT'D)

I struggle with depression, too.
You might need to see someone? I go
to a support group every Tuesday.
You could come with?

No response.

Cheryl pats peggy on the shoulder...

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Let me know.

She walks away.

Peggy bites her hand until it bleeds..

PEGGY'S BOSS sticks his head out the door...

PEGGY'S BOSS

Peggy? A word, if you please?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The three have gathered to discuss loss of income.

RUBY

It was a crappy job, anyway.

PEGGY

I thought you liked that Felix guy.

Ruby shrugs.

ZORA

That frizzy headed bitch acted like
I was getting too old to have kids.

She rushes to a mirror, is reassured by her reflection.

ZORA (CONT'D)

(back pedals)

Not that I'd ever want kids.

RUBY

Freezing an ovary slice would let
you have kids when you're sixty.
If you're bonkers enough to want
any!

ZORA

Well. Somebody has to make babies.
(back pedals)
Just not us. We can't lose PMS.

They contemplate that for a moment, then...

RUBY

How many other women would ever say that? They've no idea what they're missing out on.

(pause)

Maybe we should tell them?

PEGGY

Nope.

RUBY

Come on. We've been sitting on this for years.

ZORA

(snuffle)

Kinda selfish, really.

RUBY

Exactly! We'll go on-line! Teach other women what we were taught!

PEGGY

They won't understand.

RUBY

We can demonstrate! We'll film it then upload on YouTube! It'll go viral overnight.

PEGGY

And we'll be eaten alive by the internet trolls.

ZORA

Oh. Peggy's right. Should we let them know who we are?

RUBY

We could wear a disguise. If it heads south we just resume our normal lives. If it works, we make a ton of money.

Hm. Zora gives Ruby the nod. Peggy's turn...

PEGGY

Only if we hide our faces.

RUBY

Great! The next full moon is a week away. Zora's turn.

ZORA

Maybe I should skip? Peggy's powers have such dramatic resonance.

PEGGY

Whatever the fuck that means.

RUBY

No. She's right. Our powers lack a visual hook. You kick ass! That's something women could get excited about. We'll do the shark thing again. That was pretty cool.

Peggy bites her hand, mulls it over...

PEGGY

Those bastards never seem to learn anyway

Zora slaps Peggy's hand out of her mouth.

ZORA

Quit it.

Zora and Peggy square off in a glare off. Ruby, unfazed...

RUBY

Okay. Great. Who films us?

ZORA

Meggy?

PEGGY

Nope.

ZORA

Isadore? He's saving for his vaginoplasty. We could help out?

Pause. Bemused expressions, then...

RUBY

Think he'll let us see it when it's done? Maybe stick a finger in?

PEGGY

Knowing him, our whole hand will be welcome. Zora, he likes you, so you ask. Insist on discretion.

RUBY

I'll get my last paycheck and buy
our disguises...

(pause)

So, we're sure about this?

A moment of reflection, then...why the hell not?

EXT. PARK - DAY

Zora jogs with Isadore aka Buddy whose hands support tender
new breasts from bounce...

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

Zora. You guys aren't super-heroes.

ZORA

We never said we were.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

(surprise)

You're right. Why is that? Why
would the collective delusion which
has kept the three of you in a co-
dependent, infantile lifestyle for
over two decades fail to embrace
that idea?

ZORA

What?

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

If you have super powers then why
aren't you super-heroes?

Zora thinks it over, then...

ZORA

Maybe we are?

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

You're not. Can't you see that your
powers are just exaggerated versions
of really bad behavior?

ZORA

No. They're special skill-sets passed
on to us by our mothers. PMS hormones
help amplify their effectiveness.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

I hear you on the hormones. It feels
like I'm doping for a bike race.

ZORA

Plus, we use our powers for good.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

For one day out of a month.

(moves on)

So, why come out of obscurity now?

ZORA

We're older --

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

Need the money?

ZORA

For the surgery. Kinda short this month.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

You're always short. You guys were voted least likely to appropriate an ounce of self-esteem in your life journey.

ZORA

What?

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

You lack self-confidence. Your delusion requires that you only interact in any significant way with each other. Your entire life revolves around supporting the myth of PMS superpowers. You can't exist as separate individuals. You're afraid to even try.

ZORA

What?

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

You're fooling yourselves. It's not healthy.

A YOUNG MOTHER runs past them, pushing a jogging stroller.

Zora locks onto the baby. Isadore notices...

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (CONT'D)

Ah. Tick-tock. The impossible dream. Nine months with no superpowers. Girlfriend. It's beyond weird that none of you have boyfriends, husbands, kids or even your own place.

ZORA

Our powers have led us down a
different path.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

For reals.

They stop jogging.

ZORA

So. Will you help us?

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

Of course.

INT. PRICE MART - DAY

Ruby exits an office marked --

HUMAN RESOURCES

She shields her eyes from shelves lined with goodies as she
heads for the main doors.

FROZEN FOOD SECTION

Felix sees her...

FELIX

Ruby!

Felix grabs six boxes of frozen pizza bites then careens
across the room. He bounces off displays, knocks over
Customers...

FELIX (CONT'D)

Sorry...excuse me...oops...Ruby!

Ruby exits the building.

EXT. PRICE MART - DAY

Ruby crosses the parking lot to her car. She gets in. Keys
the ignition. Puts the car in gear and --

Runs over Felix.

She jerks to a stop, hops out of the car...

RUBY

Are you all right?

Felix clutches his ribs. A little blood dribbles out the
side of his mouth...

FELIX
Hey, Ruby. How's it going? I got
you these.

He hands her the now crushed frozen pizza bite boxes.

RUBY
Thanks.

Felix struggles to his feet. He limps a bit.

FELIX
I wanted to say how sorry I am that
you lost your job.

RUBY
Wasn't your fault.

FELIX
It kinda was. Since I fired you for
eating all the pizza bites.

Awkward silence, then...

RUBY
(re: pizza bites)
Well. Thanks for these.

FELIX
Yeah.

He wobbles.

RUBY
You sure you're all right?

Obviously not...

FELIX
Yeah.

Ruby gets back into her car...

RUBY
Okay. See ya.

Ruby puts the car into gear.

Felix jumps in front of her...

FELIX
Wait!

The car knocks him to the pavement.

Ruby jerks to a stop.

RUBY
You gotta stop doing that.

Felix lays prone. Too injured to move...

FELIX
Would you like to go out with me
sometime? For dinner, maybe?

RUBY
(surprised)
Okay.

FELIX
Yeah?

Ruby smiles. Nods.

FELIX (CONT'D)
I'll call you.

Ruby backs up to maneuver around Felix, still prone on the pavement.

All clear, she TOOTS her horn, gives a little wave, then drives off.

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Peggy sits at a computer, clicks on videos of SHARK ATTACKS.

PEGGY
Gray suited, black-hearted bags of
chum shit.

"PING" Her cell phone goes.

INSERT TEXT MESSAGE -- *"Hey! Pick you up at 6? Cheryl"*

Peggy deletes the text...

PEGGY (CONT'D)
Back off, Perky.

"PING"

INSERT TEXT MESSAGE -- *"Resistance is futile. :) :) :) :)"*

Peggy deletes the text then turns her phone off.

She resumes staring at the computer screen --

INSERT -- *HORRIFIC SCENES OF SHARK ATTACKS*

Tears roll down Peggy's cheeks. She swipes at them, then shuts down the computer.

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The three Women sit at the table. Zora watches Ruby eat. Peggy sharpens her knife blade...

PEGGY

So, where do we stand?

RUBY

We're a go. I bought Halloween masks.
The three bears?

Peggy and Zora consider it, then...

ZORA

I guess it doesn't matter. As long
as our faces are covered?

PEGGY

Okay. Ruby, you have the first doctor
appointment. Gather intel, get the
scoop on the surgery.

RUBY

What happens during a pelvic exam,
anyway?

They all look at each other. Not a clue.

PEGGY

I'll google it.

DISSOLVE TO:

Ruby hyperventilates into a paper bag.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Ruby. You're a sex fiend. What's
one more guy sticking something inside
you?

Ruby shakes her head...breathes into the bag.

Peggy frowns at Zora...what's wrong with Ruby?

ZORA

Honey? You might like it?

Ruby shakes her head...breathes into the bag.

PEGGY

Ruby. What?

RUBY
 (muffled)
 Virgin.

Stunned silence for a beat, then...

PEGGY
 You're not a rapacious slut?

Ruby shakes her head...breathes into the bag.

PEGGY (CONT'D)
 Well. Bugger me up the arse.

Ruby shakes her head...not that either.

ZORA
 I'm sort of a virgin, too.

Peggy hesitates, then...

PEGGY
 Me, too.

FREEZE FRAME:

SUPER: *Three 35 year old virgins. Suck it, Steve Carell.*

END FREEZE FRAME: BACK TO SCENE

The Women LAUGH. A tad hysterically, then...

RUBY
 (sober)
 The doctor might think we're weird?

ZORA
 Isadore thinks we're infantile and
 co-dependent.

PEGGY
 Fuck that man-she!

RUBY
 Maybe we shouldn't let the Doctor
 know?

PEGGY
 Yeah. Great idea.
 (splays legs)
 Hey, Doc! Ignore the intact hymen.
 Move along. Nothing to see here.

ZORA
 Hang on.

She leaves, then returns with a freakishly small dildo...

ZORA (CONT'D)
Meet Rudolph. The red-headed
stranger.

Ruby and Peggy stare.

ZORA (CONT'D)
(defensive)
The small ones are more inclined to
stay in a committed relationship.

PEGGY
(to Ruby)
Buy us a communal dildo. Super-size
it. We've got hymens to drill

INT. RUBY'S CAR - DAY

Ruby keys the ignition but doesn't put it gear.

She looks straight at the camera...

RUBY
(sheepish)
Right. So, I guess I kinda misled
everybody about the sex thing.

She rummages in the glove compartment...

RUBY (CONT'D)
I mean...I want a man in my life,
but finding someone who loves me for
me seems so...difficult. Food is
always easy.

She finds a candy bar. Unwraps it. Gone in two bites...

RUBY (CONT'D)
Not surprised about Peggy and Zora.
Is it weird that we're all virgins?

Ruby puts the car into gear. Drives off.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINING ROOM - DAY

Ruby waits. Her exam gown has large pit stains...

"KNOCK" "KNOCK"

Ruby crouches under the exam bed. The door opens --

DOCTOR(40) enters. Fugly man walking.

Ruby springs up, pretends to have retrieved something from the floor.

DOCTOR
(British accent)
Hello?

RUBY
Hello?

He smiles. Yikes. Horrible teeth...

DOCTOR
Nothing to be nervous about. This is more of chat up, a get to know you. Here. Take a seat, Love.

Ruby perches on the edge of the chair.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(consults chart)
So. You're twenty-nine. No obvious health issues, besides being...
(horrible smile)
Delightfully chunky.

Doctor fires off questions without waiting for the answers...

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Any problems with your menses?
Sexually active? On the pill? What birth control do you use?

RUBY
Well. I'm pretty dialed in on my cycle.

DOCTOR
Are you dim? The rhythm method is crap. Do you currently have a sex partner?

RUBY
Four?

DOCTOR
(disbelief)
Four?

RUBY
Five? No. Six?

DOCTOR

Six! So, you want to delay menopause
in order to stay...um...sexually on?

RUBY

Yes! Sexually on!

DOCTOR

Bloody hell.

RUBY

I love sex.

DOCTOR

Might you be a sex addict, Ruby, old
girl? A bit dodgy, doncha think?

RUBY

No. No! I like sex, but I'm not an
addict!

DOCTOR

Six partners implies a line forms to
the rear. Should we suss out whether
delaying menopause is actually the
thing for you?

RUBY

No! No! I lied, Doc. I'm
technically a virgin.

DOCTOR

Are you taking the piss?

RUBY

I busted my cherry yesterday with a
dildo named Big Chuck.

DOCTOR

I see.

RUBY

I plan to have sex soon. I just got
off to a slow start.

DOCTOR

Quite.

The Doctor drifts off into doctor's world. He scribbles
something onto a piece of paper.

Ruby waits...and waits. When she can't stand it any longer...

RUBY

So? Do I qualify for the surgery?

Doctor looks up from his scribbles.

INSERT: -- a *crude sketch of a cat*.

He seems nonplussed to still be in the room...

DOCTOR

Qualify? I'd perform the surgery on
an Orangutan if it could pay my fee.
So. Come old girl. Pop up on the
table. Let's see what you got.

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Peggy works at the computer. Ruby sits at the table, gnaws
her way through a bucket of chicken.

"KNOCK" "KNOCK"

Ruby picks up the bucket of chicken, pads over to the door --

THROUGH PEEP HOLE

It's Cheryl. She holds up a cake.

PEGGY

Who the fuck is it?

RUBY

(mouth full)

Dunno.

Peggy gets up and looks. She GROWLS...

PEGGY

Let's just nip this shit in the bud.

She yanks the door open.

CHERYL

Hey, Peggy! I baked you a cake.

Cheryl hands Peggy the cake then pushes inside...

CHERYL (CONT'D)

(to: Ruby)

Hello? I'm Cheryl. A friend of
Peggy's from work.

RUBY

Ruby. Nice to meet you.

Cheryl checks out the interior. Her gaze lingers on the
Tampon art, then moves on...

CHERYL

What a nice place. Just the two of you here?

RUBY

Three of us, actually --

PEGGY

And we're kinda busy at the moment. Thanks for the cake. So nice of you to stop by.

She shoves the cake at Ruby then herds Cheryl to the door.

Ruby juggles cake and chicken bucket --

IN SLOW MOTION:

The cake tumbles, end over end --

SPLAT.

END SLOW MOTION

It's a heap of goo on the floor. Silence, then...

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Shit.

CHERYL

It's okay. I actually made it for me then wanted it out of my house.
(wink)
P.M.S.

Ruby and Peggy exchange a look of surprise.

RUBY

You controlled the crave?

CHERYL

(laughs)
Well. Kinda. By pretending I made it for you.

PEGGY

So. You're not mad it got dumped on the floor?

CHERYL

Mad? I'm glad I don't have to feel guilty about passing my sugar craving on to you guys. Here. Let me clean this mess up.

RUBY

I got it.

She squats down and scoops cake into the chicken bucket...

CHERYL

Thanks.

(to: Peggy)

Well. I've got a meeting so I'd better go.

PEGGY

I'll catch the next one.

CHERYL

That would be wonderful.

She hugs Peggy. Peggy stands wooden, arms by her side. Then, she hugs Cheryl back. The hug stretches on. Well beyond mere politeness.

Peggy breaks it off. Flustered, she flees the room.

Cheryl is also flustered...

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Well. It was nice meeting you, Ruby.

Ruby gives Cheryl a little cake-coated wave.

Cheryl leaves.

Ruby stares at her cake-coated fingers, then **looks at the camera...**

RUBY

Control the crave?

BACK TO SCENE:

Nah. She sucks a finger.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Zora's feet are in the stirrups. Doctor is between her legs, obscured from view by a sheet.

A long moment with no movement, then...

ZORA

Everything okay down there, Doc?

No answer.

ZORA (CONT'D)

Doctor?

No answer.

Zora POPS her knees together...

ZORA (CONT'D)

DOCTOR!

The figure under the sheet jerks with a SNORT. Doctor's head pops out...

DOCTOR

Cheers. Had a wee kip.

ZORA

You fell asleep while examining me?

DOCTOR

Verra relaxing in the dark, don't you know? Might be a touch of the old narco in the fam.

ZORA

But, you're a surgeon!

DOCTOR

Right-o. Best in the biz!

ZORA

Is everything okay...down there?

DOCTOR

Scrummy! Tightest little whisker biscuit I've seen in many a yonk.

He reaches under the sheet and pokes a finger into her *biscuit*. Zora jumps.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Scrummy!

ZORA

So, I qualify for the surgery?

DOCTOR

A few thousand of the readies is all that stands between you and the knife.

ZORA

Doctor? May I ask you something?

DOCTOR

Ask away, old Sock.

ZORA

How late can I safely have a baby?

DOCTOR

You've a few years yet, but I'd pop the wee nipper out soonest. Can get a bit dicey later on. Got a Husband? Boyfriend?

Zora shakes her head. Tears well.

Doctor pats her leg...

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Now. Now. None of that or off to the basement you go.

ZORA

(sob)

The ba...ba...basement?

DOCTOR

Where we treat the HRT cases.

(sotto)

Hormone Replacement Therapy. Beastly place. Estrogen benders. The women are all absolutely bonkers.

(off: Zora's horror)

Now, buck up. Nobody likes a crybaby. Go set that snug little hoo-hoo free. Mustn't keep all that yumminess to yourself.

He writes something on a prescription pad, offers it to her...

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Here's a little something that could help get you started.

Zora reads what he's written. She swipes at her tears, looks at him. He smiles with his horrible teeth.

INT. ALL YOU CAN EAT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Felix guides Ruby to a table. Very solicitous. He pulls out her chair.

She sits. Kinda flustered...

RUBY

This is my favorite restaurant.

FELIX

I guessed.

They smile at each other.

Ruby stands up...

RUBY

Shall we eat?

They head to the Buffet where Ruby loads two plates with food. Felix has a normal amount of food on his plate.

They sit. Felix watches Ruby eat. He's a tad too keen.

RUBY (CONT'D)

(falters)

Are you frightened? I tend to terrify people in restaurants.

FELIX

Oh. No! I enjoy watching you eat!

RUBY

You're kinda making me uncomfortable.

Felix shovels food into his mouth...

FELIX

(mouth full)

Here. Watch me for a bit.

RUBY

Felix? Why'd you ask me out?

Felix chews. And chews. And chews. He swallows...

FELIX

I like you, Ruby.

RUBY

But I ate all those pizza bites.

FELIX

You gave most of them away to greedy old people. Wasn't your smartest choice. But your heart's in the right place.

RUBY

So. Why fire me?

FELIX

I admired the sentiment behind it but not the actual act. Basically, you stole those pizza bites.

RUBY

But, my job was to give them away.

FELIX

Not by the truck-load. Look. You were just trying to be nice.

Ruby sets her fork down, shame-faced...

RUBY

I wasn't being nice. I can't control myself. Those folks were just collateral damage on your inventory.

Felix gets excited. Finally. What he's here for.

FELIX

No control?

RUBY

None to speak of.

FELIX

Show me, Ruby. Eat.

Ruby does...with terrifying gusto.

SUPER: *PMS WEEK*

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

A full moon illuminate the Women who confer, heads together.

Isadore films them on the sly.

Peggy notices, snatches the Ipad, deletes the footage...

PEGGY

I knew we couldn't trust you.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

Chill, Crazy. You control content. The video goes home with you.

PEGGY

Fuck with us and I promise your little pygmy dick will beget a vagina even more disappointing in scope.

She hands him back the Ipad, picks up her bucket...

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Wait until our masks are on.

Ruby distributes the masks: three PISSED-OFF LOOKING BEARS.
The Women put them on...

PEGGY (CONT'D)
I can't see shit.

ZORA
Me neither.

Ruby fiddles with hers...

RUBY
I can see a little bit.

Our POV shifts to inside her mask. Looking out, we can't see shit.

Ruby trips over Peggy's bucket.

The contents spill into the sand.

They snatch their masks off...

PEGGY
Shit. Shit. Shit.

Unaware that Isadore films them, Ruby scoops sandy, bloody chum back into the bucket.

PEGGY (CONT'D)
We put the masks on once we're in the water.

RUBY
Should we wear underwear?

ISADORE AKA BUDDY
You gals can pixelate your bush and tits in the edit.

PEGGY
He's right. We control content.
C'mon. The moon is vertical.

Their robes slither to the sand.

Naked in the moonlight, they wade into the --

WATER

-- pull the Bear masks on.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (O.S.)
Camera's rolling!

They fuss with the masks. The bucket spills again.

PEGGY

Blood in the water! Can anyone see?

They flail around. Exactly what's needed to attract a --

LARGE SHARK

Its fin breaks the surface...

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (O.S.)

You have company.

ZORA

Eek! Peggy! Can you see!

PEGGY

Not a goddamned thing!

RUBY

(screech)

It bumped me!

The three women rip their masks off.

Moonlight reflects off the Shark's fin as it cuts the surface.

Peggy dives for it. She wrestles. Bites its fin. The huge Shark thrashes. Peggy loses control...

PEGGY

Help.

Ruby and Zora jump to assist.

The Shark lashes them with its tail. The women put up a valiant fight but the shark wrenches free, disappears below the surface.

Cue MENACING MUSIC...

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Abort!

The three women SPLASH for shore.

POV: IPAD SCREEN IN SLOW MOTION -- *Think Baywatch Unchained. Bare titties flying. Terror on faces.*

END SLOW MOTION: BACK TO SCENE

Safely back ONSHORE they pause to catch their breath.

Isadore emails the video just before Peggy snatches the Ipad...

PEGGY (CONT'D)
You're done.

They pull their robes back on...

PEGGY (CONT'D)
Home. We'll regroup.

They head to their cars without another word.

Isadore watches as they drive off, his expression inscrutable.

"PING"

His phone receives the video email.

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The three Women watch the video --

INSERT -- *Baywatch Unchained scene, then -- FREEZE FRAME: Titties and terror.*

BACK TO SCENE:

Ruby and Peggy exchange looks of dismay...

PEGGY
What a waste of time. We look like
fucking idiots.

Zora replays the video...

ZORA
You know, there's a body-type here
for every taste. I look particularly
scrummy.

PEGGY
Scrummy?

ZORA
What Doctor called my whisker biscuit.

PEGGY
Really? The Doctor calls your vagina
a whisker biscuit and you're okay
with it?
(to: Ruby)
What'd he call yours?

RUBY

Nothing, that I can recall. Although, he did sketch a picture of a cat.

PEGGY

A pussy cat?

RUBY

It wasn't very good.

PEGGY

This guy sounds like a tool.

ZORA

He asked me out on a date.

RUBY

You can double with me and Felix?

GIRLISH SQUEALS.

Peggy SLAMS her knife into the table.

Silence ensues, then...

PEGGY

What the hell's wrong with you?

She gets in Ruby's face...

PEGGY (CONT'D)

You're dating a guy who fired you?

She gets in Zora's face.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

You're dating a doctor who uses derogatory slang to reference a woman's vagina? If our Mom's were alive they'd be so disappointed.

Ruby and Zora look ashamed.

FREEZE FRAME ON EVERYONE EXCEPT --

Ruby. She looks at the camera...

RUBY

Our Mom's grew close through our friendship. They took vacations together. The year we turned eighteen...they never came home. Their bus went over a cliff. Exploded on impact. We moved in together. We've been together ever since.

END FREEZE FRAME -- BACK TO SCENE:

Ruby rummages in her purse. She pulls out chips...

RUBY (CONT'D)
(crunch, crunch)
Maybe Felix didn't want to fire me.

ZORA
Doctor is English. Whisker biscuit
might be a British medical term?

Peggy shakes her head in disgust then storms out of the room.

RUBY
What's up with his teeth?

ZORA
I'm trying to move away from the
superficial.

RUBY
(crunch, crunch)
Uh-huh.

ZORA
Ruby? Can I tell you something?

Nod. CRUNCH. CRUNCH.

ZORA (CONT'D)
I want to have a baby.

Ruby empties the chip bag into her mouth.

ZORA (CONT'D)
We're all thirty five this year.
What if I have the surgery, then
wait and it doesn't work? I might
miss out.
(pause)
Doctor volunteered his services.

Ruby rips the bag open and licks the salt residue.

Ruby tosses the bag, then roots in her purse for candy...

RUBY
You do realize that babies cry alot?

ZORA
Maybe it's time to let someone else
do the blubbering?

RUBY

Whoa.

Zora nods. Whoa is right.

ZORA

Would you tell Peggy for me?

Ruby nods. Peggy ain't gonna like it.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PEGGY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Stark. Only the essentials. Peggy lays on her bed. Her phone rings. She checks caller ID. Surprised...

PEGGY

What's the occasion?

INTERCUT:

INT. MEGGY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Warm and welcoming. Meggy(35) lays on her bed. She's identical to Peggy, sans bite mark tattoo on her neck...

MEGGY

Isadore told me about your surgery plans.

PEGGY

Well, little Miss Judgmental. How'd that make you feel?

Silence, then...

MEGGY

Hopeful.

Peggy scoffs then hangs up.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Peggy wears an examining gown. She paces. Pissed.

"KNOCK" "KNOCK"

Doctor sticks his head in, sees her angry face...

DOCTOR

Might you be looking for the basement?

PEGGY

Get in here.

Doctor scurries in.

PEGGY (CONT'D)
Sit.

He sits.

PEGGY (CONT'D)
Listen up, Wanker Biscuit...

INT. ISADORE AKA BUDDY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Isadore aka Buddy sits at computer and types.

INSERT: ON COMPUTER SCREEN --

PMS VIGILANTES BATTLE SHARK TO EVEN SCORE.

Isadore studies his handiwork then clicks the mouse...

ISADORE AKA BUDDY
Hello, reality check.

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - DAY

Peggy and Ruby sit at the table. Peggy checks her watch...

PEGGY
Where is she?

RUBY
How'd it go with the Doctor?

PEGGY
I set him straight about a few things.

RUBY
He still alive?

PEGGY
Just missing the tip of a earlobe.

RUBY
Peggy. Zora wants to have a baby.

Peggy bites the skin between her thumb and forefinger. She watches the door for Zora.

RUBY (CONT'D)
It's been there all along. The ovary thing is a tipping point. We're getting older. It's natural to wonder where we go from here.

Peggy bites the other hand.

Ruby gives her a reassuring pat then leaves the room.

INT. ISADORE AKA BUDDY'S APARTMENT - DAY

The computer is on.

INSERT: ON COMPUTER SCREEN --

*The video is on screen: Number of views
ticks:10,470..10,560...10,890...11,900...going viral.*

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Peggy shuffles to her computer.

PEGGY

What the fuck?

She clicks on the video.

INSERT: VIDEO CLIP PLAYS IN BACKGROUND:

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (V.O.)

Women who believe they have
superpowers during the week of PMS.
Real? Or a crippling delusion?
These women, convinced PMS hormones
are a super energy boost, use their
powers to settle the score with those
pesky sharks in South Carolina...watch
what happens.

FREEZE FRAME ON TITTIES AND TERROR:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The Women look shattered.

Ruby checks her Ipad...

RUBY

Youtube took the it down.
(glum)
Junior High on a global scale.

ZORA

(weeps)
Why would he do it? We're his *only*
friends.

Ruby checks her Ipad...

RUBY

Not everyone laughed...oh, wait.
There it is.

ZORA

(snuffle)
Our lives are ruined. What are we
going to do?

Peggy looks thoughtful. She carves the table top with her
knife...

PEGGY

You know. It doesn't affect us that
much.

ZORA

We're naked nitwits.

PEGGY

When have we ever cared what anyone
thought? We still have each other.
Still have our superpowers.

RUBY

I lost the first guy who ever seemed
to like me.

ZORA

Doctor probably won't help me make a
baby anymore.

PEGGY

(scoff)
A boyfriend and a baby. The universal
chick fix. Try to be a tad more
original?

Zora SOBS and runs from the room.

RUBY

Peggy? Mean people suck.

She leaves Peggy alone in the room.

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - NIGHT

The LIVING ROOM is deserted. Dusty and kinda sad.

RUBY'S BEDROOM

Ruby's in bed, inhaling pizza bites. She finishes a box.

She sends a text --

INSERT: *Hey, Felix! R U getting my texts?*

She watches the screen, starts on another box.

ZORA'S BEDROOM

Zora weeps into her pillow.

She smooths the crumbled note from Doctor. Fresh tears.

She crumbles the note. WAILS.

PEGGY'S BEDROOM

Peggy watches TV.

The news is on. Depressing shit.

She bites her hand until it bleeds, then switches hands.

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

All is quiet, then --

"DING DONG". The doorbell. "DING DONG" "DING DONG"

Ruby shuffles to the front door. She looks through the --

PEEPHOLE

NEWS VANS and DOZENS of REPORTERS litter the lawn.

A face presses close to the peephole is distorted and weird.

Ruby jumps back.

PEGGY (O.S.)

Who the fuck is it?

Peggy crosses over and yanks the door open --

It's a MOB SCENE...

NEWS PEOPLE

(together)

Peggy! Are you PMSing? Why do you
hate sharks? Will you try again?
Where's Ruby? Where's Zora? Were
the bear masks symbolic?

Peggy stands frozen.

Ruby yanks her inside. Slams the door.

Zora shuffles into the room...

ZORA
Who's at the door?

She looks through the peephole. Horror.

"DING-DONG" "DING-DONG" "DING-DONG"

Ruby grabs her phone, dials a number --

INTERCUT:

INT. ISADORE AKA BUDDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

A phone RINGS.

Isadore, still in bed, gropes for the phone.

He checks caller ID, then...

ISADORE AKA BUDDY
I wondered when you'd call.

Peggy snatches the phone from Ruby...

PEGGY
You're dead meat, man-she!

ISADORE AKA BUDDY
Sweetness. Haven't you heard? Mean
people suck.

Ruby takes the phone back...

RUBY
Buddy. You need to get over here.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY
Buddy's not here. May I take a
message?

RUBY
Our yard is crawling with reporters.
You've got to get rid of them.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY
Do I?

RUBY
This is your fault.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY
Is it?

RUBY

You posted that video. We looked like idiots.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

You're welcome.

RUBY

What?

ISADORE AKA BUDDY

Girlfriend. Either own it or change it.

Isadore hangs up.

ZORA

(snuffles)

Is he coming?

Ruby shakes her head.

Peggy paces. She bites a bloody hand.

Zora swipes at her tears, then rummages in a first aid kit.

She goes to Peggy and pulls her hand from her mouth. Peggy doesn't resist.

RUBY

He says we should either own it or change it.

ZORA

He thinks we lack confidence.

Zora cleans and bandages Peggy's hands. Peggy gives her a smile of gratitude.

RUBY

Well. We kinda proved him right?

PEGGY

We're acting like little bitches. We have superpowers. Nothing can take that away from us.

ZORA

Except menopause --

PEGGY

-- which we found the fix for.

Resolve replaces uncertainty.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Zora. Open the door --

RUBY

Wait! How do we explain our failure
with the shark?

Uncertainty replaces resolve.

They mull that over, then...

PEGGY

The masks. They threw us off. I was
more disoriented than angry.

ZORA

And I forgot to cry.

RUBY

I completely lost my appetite. The
masks were stupid. We hid, rather
than embracing who we are.

PEGGY

We can turn this around. Here's
what we'll do --

EXT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - DAY

A BUZZ races through the group of reporters as the FRONT
DOOR swings open.

The three Women step onto the --

PORCH

They wear their white robes and the BEAR MASKS.

Together, in one motion, their robes slither to their feet.

Naked to the world...they pull the bear masks off.

SILENCE then...MAYHEM

The Women are mobbed.

A REPORTER pushes a microphone into Peggy's face...

REPORTER

Are you making a statement?

PEGGY

Yes. This is us. Deal with it.

RUBY (V.O.)

So, there we were. Caught up in our own hype. Women with superpowers. We became arrogant in our otherness. Fears about menopause and loss of powers were swept away when the money tide started rolling in.

SERIES OF SHOTS: THE ROLLER COASTER OF FAME

-- The Women are guests on a TV TALK SHOW.

-- GROCERY STORE: Ruby's face is on a box of pizza bites.

-- DRUGSTORE: Zora's face is featured on a box of tissue.

-- KARATE STUDIO: Peggy teaches little girls self defense.

-- TOY STORE: Plastic sharks with bite marks line shelves.

END SERIES OF SHOTS:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The three Women are stylish and sleek. Celebrity clones.

RUBY (V.O.)

We scheduled our surgeries then sat back and rode the bad pony of fame like we were in a parade.

They text on their phones. Self-absorbed. Distant.

"DING-DONG"

Ruby sits on a treadmill. Clad in workout gear, it's obvious the intention is there but she's not quite keen.

She gets up and pads to the door. Peers through the --

PEEPHOLE

-- it's Cheryl. Ruby opens the door...

CHERYL

Hey, Ruby.

Ruby looks to Peggy, whose face stays blank.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

May I come in?

Ruby steps aside. Cheryl enters...

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Hey, Peggy.

PEGGY

Hello.

Cheryl waves to Zora...

CHERYL

I'm Cheryl.

Zora nods. *Whassup?*

Cheryl stands there. Awkward. Ignored.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

You guys look great. You're seriously famous. I see your faces everywhere.

(titter)

You remind me of the Kardashians.

That gets their attention...

PEGGY

We're nothing like those bimbos. They took feminism back to the stone age. We empower women.

CHERYL

With PMS superpowers?

(laughs)

Aren't your powers just exaggerated versions of really bad behavior?

Rut-roh.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Uh. Right?

ZORA

Did Isadore tell you to say that?

CHERYL

Who?

ZORA

(to Ruby and Peggy)

He said that exact same thing to me.

CHERYL

Isadore is a he? I don't understand.

PEGGY

Cheryl. Your response is typical of a woman in denial. You insist on helplessness. We plan to share the skills passed onto to us by our mothers, to show all women how to access the unique power we alone possess. Come to our clinic.

CHERYL

(disbelief)

Wait a minute. You actually believe you have superpowers during PMS? It's not a metaphor? Or some sort of weird money-making gimmick? Oh. My. God.

Double rut-roh.

PEGGY

Maybe you should leave.

Peggy herds her to the door.

CHERYL

Don't you see? This is sooo unhealthy.

PEGGY

You're always telling me how screwed up I am. Maybe you should look in the mirror?

CHERYL

I'm screwed up, too. But, this idea you have --

PEGGY

Good-bye, Cheryl.

Cheryl stumbles out onto the porch. A long look between them, then...

CHERYL

Good-bye, Peggy. I wish you all the best.

Peggy closes the door.

Silence in the room, then...

RUBY

(to Zora)

She baked a cake during PMS then gave it away. Completely canceled the crave.

ZORA

Wow.

RUBY

She even made a joke about it...right, Peggy?

Peggy shakes off regret, then...

PEGGY

Forget her. Our first clinic is tomorrow. We need to focus. Tomorrow we change the world.

INT. CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

WE'RE BACK TO THE SCENE WHERE ALL HELL IS BREAKING LOOSE.

BACKSTAGE

FREEZE FRAME: Peggy and Zora are frozen.

Ruby **breaks the fourth wall...**

RUBY

We had insisted on menstrual synchrony. Big mistake. Too many hormones in one place. A bunch of folks took videos which, of course, went viral.

(pause)

Pretty sure we're not gonna rebound from this one.

END FREEZE FRAME:

BACK TO SCENE:

PEGGY

Let's go home.

SERIES OF SHOTS: FROM CHAMPS TO CHUMPS --

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: The audience pelts the CAST with stuff.

GROCERY STORE: Ruby's Pizza bites are yanked from freezers.

DRUGSTORES; Zora's tissues are pulled from shelves.

KARATE STUDIO: Peggy's face is taped to a punching bag.

TOY STORES: Plastic Sharks are tossed into dumpsters.

END SERIES OF SHOTS:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Deserted. Dusty. Sad.

RUBY (V.O.)

We had to cancel our surgeries.
This became a time of hellish
introspection as we questioned our
rightness in the world. Mostly, we
just felt...wrong.

RUBY'S BEDROOM

She lays in bed. Stares at the ceiling.

ZORA'S BEDROOM

She lays in bed. Stares at the ceiling.

PEGGY'S BEDROOM

She lays in bed. Stares at the ceiling.

"DING DONG"

LIVING ROOM

The three Women converge. Listless and dull.

Ruby's clothes have bagged a little.

Zora is pale but dry-eyed.

Peggy looks benign. She shuffles to the door, looks through --

THE PEEPHOLE

Isadore aka Buddy looks back. His face distorted and weird.

Peggy shuffles away.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (O.S.)

Open up. I've come to make peace.

The Women don't react. Apathy-city.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Ruby? I've got chocolate?

Ruby's face shows a brief flicker, then dullness.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Zora? Tissue with moisturizer?

Not response from Zora.

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Peggy? Let's rumble?

Peggy shuffles out of the room. Zora and Ruby follow.

Isadore POUNDS on the door...

ISADORE AKA BUDDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Come on, Guys! Open up!...Guys?

RUBY'S BEDROOM

Ruby lays on her bed.

She looks at the camera...

RUBY
 Cut off from each other by doubt and
 uncertainty we lost solidarity.
 Without each other to support the
 mythology of our lives, we hadn't a
 clue where to go from here.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - DAY

Zora and Peggy hug each other than take turns hugging Ruby.
 Tears run down each face...

RUBY
 We stay in touch?

ZORA
 Of course.

PEGGY
 Sure.

Peggy and Zora go to their respective cars, which are loaded
 with boxes and personal items.

Zora backs out of the driveway first.

She TOOTS her horn then drives off.

Peggy backs out of the driveway.

She TOOTS her horn then drives off in the opposite direction.

Ruby watches them go, tears run down her cheeks.

She opens the wrapper on a chocolate bar, looks at the camera, holds out the chocolate...

RUBY

Here. You take it.

She changes her mind. She's not THAT fucked up.

BACK TO SCENE:

Ruby goes back inside.

A LITTLE LATER:

She pounds a sign into the lawn.

INSERT -- *For Sale by Owner.*

Ruby shuffles back into the house. Closes the door.

EXT. MEGGY'S HOUSE - DAY

Country living. Small. Neat. Flower and vegetable garden. A real little homestead, complete with chicken coop.

Peggy's car pulls into the driveway and parks.

INT. PEGGY'S CAR - DAY

She studies the house for a bit then exits her car.

EXT. MEGGY'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

The front door swings open.

Meggy stands there. She could not look more surprised...

MEGGY

Peggy?

PEGGY

Hello, Meggy. I thought I might have a little sisterly catch-up?

Meggy stands there. Nonplussed.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

You going to invite me in?

MEGGY

Of course.

She stands aside. Peggy goes in.

INT. MEGGY'S HOUSE- LIVING ROOM - DAY

As nice as Meggy. Thoughtfulness and care are reflected in all of the decorating choices.

MEGGY

Would you like something to drink?
Or to eat? Are you tired? Want to
take a nap? There's a spare bedroom.
It's yours if you want. Sorry. I'm
probably making you crazy.

PEGGY

No. It's sweet.

MEGGY

(alarm)
Really?

PEGGY

Your home is nice.

MEGGY

You want the grand tour?

PEGGY

Sure.

KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER

Meggy and Peggy sit at the table.

MEGGY

How are Ruby and Zora?

PEGGY

Would you mind if I stayed with you
for awhile?

MEGGY

Oh. Sure. Of course.

PEGGY

I know I haven't been the easiest --

Meggy starts a protest. Peggy just looks at her.

MEGGY

Right.

They share a smile.

PEGGY
There's been alot of...crap in my
life lately --

MEGGY
(nods)
-- Isadore called.

PEGGY
Yeah. I'm really fucked up.

Meggy takes her hand...

MEGGY
Stay as long as you need.

PEGGY
Thanks.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Zora, dressed for success, waits in an
EXAM ROOM

She crosses her legs. Jiggles her foot.

"KNOCK" "KNOCK"

Doctor comes into the room...

DOCTOR
Zora, love. How absolutely wonderful
to see your face again. How's our
scrummy little whisker biscuit?
(lowers voice)
No STD's I hope?

ZORA
I'm still a virgin.

DOCTOR
Brilliant! Have you come to take me
up on my offer?

ZORA
Actually, I've come to ask you for a
job.

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The TAMPON ART on the wall reminds us of a happier time.
Stripped of furniture, the room looks barren and forlorn.

Ruby walks on her treadmill at a snail's pace. She reads as she shuffles.

She turns the final page. Closes the book.

INSERT BOOK COVER: *A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson.*

BACK TO SCENE:

RUBY

Yes.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTFITTER'S STORE - DAY

Ruby, surrounded by hiking gear, hands her credit card to the Cashier.

CASHIER

Will there be anything else?

RUBY

God. I hope not.

The Cashier swipes the card.

Ruby tries to hoist the bag, but can't...

RUBY (CONT'D)

Could someone help me carry this stuff to the car?

EXT. MEGGY'S HOUSE - DAY

Peggy works with Meggy in the GARDEN. Flushed from exertion, she glances at Meggy, then...

PEGGY

This is kinda nice.

MEGGY

Yes. Gardening is so relaxing.

Peggy looks up at her...

PEGGY

You seem...okay.

Meggy nods but stays silent.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Are you?

Meggy smiles tinged with sadness.

MEGGY

Sure.

(then)

No. I'm not. I'm miserable. Lonely
and unhappy.

Whoa. Peggy didn't expect this.

PEGGY

I'm sorry I didn't check in that
much.

Meggy doesn't comment for a beat, then...

MEGGY

I wish you had. I missed my sister.

Peggy is shame-faced.

MEGGY (CONT'D)

Don't feel guilty. I'm just so happy
you're here now.

They clasp hands.

MEGGY (CONT'D)

Peggy.

Meggy struggles to find the words, then...

MEGGY (CONT'D)

Before Paul got sick we had been
trying to have a baby. Then, because
of chemo, just to be safe, we froze
Paul's sperm. It's been five years
since he died.

Meggy chokes on tears.

MEGGY (CONT'D)

I was ready to get pregnant so I
tried In Vitro. Turns out I'm
infertile.

PEGGY

Meggy. I'm so sorry. I had no idea.

MEGGY

You had your own problems.

PEGGY

I wish I could help.

MEGGY

I've been afraid to ask...but, you seem so different.

(deep breath)

There's been a high success rate with ovarian tissue splicing between twins. Your healthy ovaries could allow me to...make a baby.

Not what Peggy was expecting.

INT. HRT BASEMENT - DAY

The waiting room is filled with sweaty, harried-looking WOMEN. Most are in their fifties, some younger.

Zora, dressed in scrubs enters with a clipboard...

ZORA

Linda Mead?

LINDA, a pretty, thirty-five year old Woman stands up.

ZORA (CONT'D)

Good morning. This way, please.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Zora checks Linda's records. Cancer. Hysterectomy.

She doesn't make eye contact as she takes Linda's vitals...

LINDA

You're new.

Zora takes her temperature.

ZORA

I'm Zora. How are you doing?

LINDA

Great. Well, except for this mustache. My boyfriend says it tickles.

Zora's brow furrows.

LINDA (CONT'D)

And my clit seems to need a jock strap these days...what up wit dat?

Zora looks freaked.

LINDA (CONT'D)
 I'm kidding. You either laugh about
 this shit or blubber like a baby and
 I can't stand crybabies.

Linda starts to cry. Zora is at a loss.

LINDA (CONT'D)
 Sorry. Hormones in charge.

She swipes at her tears, pops a piece of sugarless gum.

She offers a piece to Zora.

ZORA
 No, thank you.

LINDA
 Understand. Tastes like shit. I
 put 15 pounds on after my surgery.
 Lost most of it but menopause makes
 it a bitch to keep off.

Linda blows a bubble. Pop.

LINDA (CONT'D)
 We're about the same age. You married
 with kids, the whole bit?

ZORA
 No. I'm kind of a slow starter.

LINDA
 I was too. Now, I'm a non-starter.

She weeps again. Silent.

ZORA
 I'm sorry.

Linda swipes at her tears...

LINDA
 Forget it. Part of being hormonally -
 challenged

ZORA
 Hormonally challenged?
 (smiles)
 I'm pretty sure I've got that T-shirt.

LINDA
 We all do, Sweetie.
 (bawls)
 We all do.

INT. RUBY'S CAR - DAY

Ruby sits, stymied by the camping gear.

She eats an energy bar. Determined, she exits her car.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ruby drags her new backpack across the lawn.

Halfway, she sits. Has another energy bar.

A LITTLE LATER

The backpack is on the front porch.

Ruby, face flushed from exertion, sits on the back pack and eats an energy bar.

INT. COMMUNAL HOUSE (NOW JUST RUBY'S HOUSE) - DAY

The contents of the backpack are strewn all over the room: Tent, bedroll, cooking gear, clothes and heaps and heaps of energy bars.

Ruby sits on the floor, contemplates the mess.

She eats an energy bar.

EXT. RUBY'S HOUSE - DAY

Ruby exits the house with the backpack.

Critical items, such as the tent and bedroll are missing.

She shoves the backpack into the front seat.

Gets in the driver's side.

Drives away.

EXT. APPALACHIAN TRAIL BEGINNING - DAY

Ruby, tricked out in hiking gear, consults a map.

A white blaze mark on a tree indicates the trail.

Ruby checks her watch:

INSERT -- Ten AM on a digital dial.

She hoists her backpack. Whistles a happy tune and walks.

And walks.

And walks.

She stops to get her bearings. Whopped and wheezing from exertion she looks around:

It's very pretty. Woodsy, but kinda creepy, too.

She checks her watch:

INSERT-- Ten thirty AM on a digital dial.

Ruby sits on a stump and eats an energy bar.

INT. MEGGY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Peggy and Meggy eat dinner in silence, then...

MEGGY

Peggy?

(babbles)

You know you don't have to do this?
I'm sorry I asked. This isn't a
good time for you. It was selfish.
Forget I said anything and let's
just enjoy our time. It's been so
long since we've spent any real time
together. I've missed you --

PEGGY

I'll do it.

MEGGY

What?

PEGGY

Of course I'll do it.

MEGGY

But. What about your splice for
your...superpowers?

PEGGY

Make the appointment.

Meggy jumps up and hugs Peggy...

MEGGY

You're the best sister in the world!

Peggy looks really happy for the very first time.

INT. ZORA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zora's new digs are cheap. One room for everything.

Furnished.

Zora sniffs the air. Yuck. She lights scented candles to mask previous resident funk, then putters in the --

KITCHEN AREA

She taps her foot at the microwave, then --

"PING"

She grabs the food and heads to the table.

Her laptop is on. She types.

On the computer screen:

INSERT -- *NURSING PROGRAM*

She reads and eats.

"KNOCK" "KNOCK". On the door.

Zora goes to the door, looks through the

PEEPHOLE

It's Isadore aka Buddy, now, more Isadore than Buddy.

Zora opens the door.

ISADORE

Hello, Zora.

ZORA

How'd you find me?

ISADORE

Doctor's a friend. Can I come in?

Zora steps aside. Isadore aka Buddy enters...

ISADORE (CONT'D)

(sniffs)

Eau de yeasty codpiece.

ZORA

Yes.

Isadore peeks at the computer screen...

ISADORE

From hair care to nursing? Okay.
I'll buy it.

(MORE)

ISADORE (CONT'D)

(pause)

I went to the house. No one's there.
Where is everybody?

Zora shrugs.

ISADORE (CONT'D)

You don't know where Ruby and Peggy
are?

ZORA

Nope.

ISADORE

Oh, God. What happened?

ZORA

You did. With your reality check.

ISADORE

Oh, dear. This is awful. Girls
need their girlfriends. Call Peggy
right this minute. No. Better make
that Ruby.

ZORA

Relax. We're okay. We're just taking
a break.

Zora eyes Isadore...

ZORA (CONT'D)

So, you look...girlish.

ISADORE

I am.

ZORA

Totally?

ISADORE

(beams)

Utterly.

ZORA

Good for you.

ISADORE

Thank you. It's kind of wonderful.

She preens in front of a hand mirror, then...

ISADORE (CONT'D)

You three are still friends?

ZORA
Of course. We just needed some time.
To work on personal issues.

ISADORE
Goody. And you're not still mad?

ZORA
I am a little.

ISADORE
Rats.

ZORA
You can make it up to me?

Isadore sees where this is heading...

ISADORE
Oh, no. No. No. No.

ZORA
Come on. Just a finger?

Isadore mulls it over, then...

ISADORE
The pinky.

ZORA
Deal.

Isadore slowly raises her skirt.

EXT. APPALACHIAN TRAIL - NIGHT

Ruby sits. Clutches her back pack. Shivers from cold and fear.

She rummages in her pack, pulls out all of her clothes then pulls them on.

She eats an energy bar.

Twigs SNAP. Leaves CRUNCH.

Ruby crouches behind a bush. WHIMPERS.

The SOUNDS are closer --

"GRUNT" "SNORT"

Closer --

"BANG" "CRASH"

Ruby throws the half-eaten energy bar in its direction...

RUBY

Go away.

A hugely fat man, CRASHES out of the bush. This is --

SVEN (38)

He lurches up to Ruby, takes his pack off then PLONKS down beside her.

He holds the half-eaten energy bar...

SVEN

(re: energy bar)

Thanks for this.

He finishes the bar in one bite.

SVEN (CONT'D)

You're an angel.

Ruby hands him another energy bar.

Surprised, Sven takes it...

SVEN (CONT'D)

Gracias. I'm Sven.

RUBY

Ruby.

Sven checks her out, then...

SVEN

Just a couple of chubbies out for a walk in the woods, eh?

RUBY

I guess.

SVEN

How far you get today?

RUBY

Two miles?

SVEN

(nods)

Respectable. I've done three but been at it a few days.

Ruby digs them out another energy bar.

SVEN (CONT'D)

Thanks! Where'd you set up?

RUBY

Set up?

SVEN

Your tent?

RUBY

Oh? I lost it.

SVEN

Lost your tent? That's bad.

Ruby, gets a tad mad at herself, then...

RUBY

I didn't lose it. I left it. Too heavy. Left my cooking stuff, too. I think I screwed up.

Sven considers this, then.

SVEN

How many of them bars you got?

RUBY

Had fifty this morning. Now down to maybe...thirty-five?

SVEN

Sounds about right. Say. I'm a tad low on food. Got a little caught up in the beginning and ate most of my stuff. What say we share resources until we can re-provision?

RUBY

Okay.

SVEN

Great. I've got a huge tent. I super-sized it cause I get a bit claustrophobic. You can bunk with me. But...you should know. I have a girlfriend. So, no hanky-panky.

RUBY

Okay.

SVEN

She's who decided I should do this. Wants me to lose a hundred pounds.

(MORE)

SVEN (CONT'D)

(pause)

You here to lose weight, too?

RUBY

I'm here to control the crave.

SVEN

Sounds good. I'll pitch the tent right here if that's okay with you?

RUBY

Sure.

INT. SURGERY - DAY

Bright lights. Medical personnel wear masks and scrubs.

Meggy is sedated on one bed. Peggy is sedated on another.

Doctor comes in. He's got this. Assertive. Competent. No longer the British goof-ball, he checks with his team...

DOCTOR

Everybody ready?

(pause)

Let's do this.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Meggy is on one bed. Peggy is on another.

Meggy opens her eyes, looks over at Peggy who opens her eyes. They smile at one another. Reach across and grasp hands.

A LITTLE LATER:

Doctor comes in...

DOCTOR

Hello. Hello.

Meggy and Peggy look expectant.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Looks brilliant. A complete success.

Meggy and Peggy beam at each other.

Doctor squints at his clipboard. Pats his pockets for reading glasses. Looks around for someone, calls out...

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Scrumptious? Now where the devil has she gotten to?

Zora, in scrubs, stands in the doorway.

PEGGY

Well. This is a surprise.

Zora rushes to hug Peggy, then Meggy.

ZORA

It's so wonderful to see you.

Doctor opens his arms.

DOCTOR

I could press a bit of flesh.

Zora hugs him. He wraps his arms around her. Smells her.

Meggy and Peggy exchange a look as the hug stretches on.

They break it off. Doctor looks very happy.

PEGGY

You're a Nurse?

ZORA

In training.

Her eyes cut to Peggy's hands.

Peggy holds them up. No new bites. They've healed.

Zora sits on the bed, takes her by the hand. They beam at each other.

DOCTOR

She works my basement. Brave girl.

ZORA

HRT cases. It's very rewarding.

MEGGY

Isn't it also kind of...sad?

ZORA

Sad? No. These women are inspiring. They don't whine. They just deal. And they don't care much for non HRT crybabies.

Doctor beams...

DOCTOR

My little trooper.

ZORA

I'm studying online to become a registered Nurse. I want to be a Midwife.

Zora and Peggy are happy to be in the same space again.

ZORA (CONT'D)

Have you heard from Ruby?

PEGGY

No. You haven't?

ZORA

Isadore said the house was closed up.

PEGGY

Oh? How is our man-she?

ZORA

Just she. It's done.

Zora extends her pinky. Peggy gets it...

PEGGY

No! Tell.

Zora locks her lips. Tosses the key.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Think she'll let me have a turn?

(pause)

Probably not. But what about Ruby? Should we be worried?

EXT. APPALACHIAN TRAIL - DAY

Ruby and Sven shuffle down the trail. Both look dirty and tired.

Sven sits down on the ground...

SVEN

I refuse to take another step.

Ruby sits down beside him.

She rummages in her pack, pulls out two energy bars for them.

Sven eats his, then...

SVEN (CONT'D)

How many left?

Ruby checks, then...

RUBY

Six.

Sven eyes her bar.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Here. You need it more than me.

SVEN

No.

RUBY

I insist.

Sven takes it...

SVEN

Thanks.

He eats half. Gives her the other half.

Ruby stashes it into her backpack.

SVEN (CONT'D)

Excellent show of will-power.

Ruby beams at him...

RUBY

First time for everything.

Sven gets up then holds his hand out for Ruby.

She takes it and he pulls her up.

She stumbles into him.

BUZZZZZ

Their touch is electric.

They jump back. Look anywhere but at each other.

SVEN

Maybe I should go look for some water.

Ruby hands him her jug.

They exchange another long look, fraught with meaning.

Sven lumbers off.

Ruby watches until he disappears.

She sits back down, takes the half of energy bar out. Nibbles on a corner, puts it back in the pack.

LATER:

The angle of sunlight has changed. Darkness creeps in. Ruby looks a tad freaked. Sven's been gone too long.

She paces. Nibbles some more on the half-eaten energy bar.

LATER:

Nearly dark. Ruby has pitched the tent. She paces outside.

"CRASH"

SVEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Damn!

"CRUNCH"

SVEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Shit!

"THUD"

SVEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Rub-yyyy.

RUBY
Here! I'm here, Sven!

She runs in his direction.

SVEN (O.S.)
Rub-yyyyy!

Ruby races towards him, in the dark...

RUBY
Sven! Sven. I'm here. I'm her--

"WHUMP"

Ruby runs into him.

Both are knocked on their asses.

RUBY (CONT'D)
(gasps)
Sven!

SVEN
(gasps)
Ruby!

They scabble in the dirt towards each other...

RUBY
Sven. Oh, Sven. I was afraid I'd
never see you again.

SVEN
Me, too. Oh. Ruby...

They kiss.

They roll around on the ground. GRUNTING and GROANING.

A BLACK BEAR comes down the path. It stops, disconcerted.

The Bear watches them for a bit. Shakes his head. Turns
and runs away.

Oblivious, Sven and Ruby tear at each others clothes...

RUBY
(breathless)
Sven?

SVEN
(breathless)
Yes, Ruby?

RUBY
I saved you most of the rest of that
energy bar.

SVEN
Oh. Ruby.

He kisses her all over her face.

RUBY
Sven?

SVEN
Yes, Ruby?

RUBY
You should know --

He kisses her mouth, then...

SVEN
Tell me.

RUBY
I'm a virgin.

The ensuing silence screams WTF.

Sven sits up. He needs to think about this...

SVEN

Whoa.

RUBY

Yeah. I'm kind of a late bloomer.

Sven nods. So it seems.

RUBY (CONT'D)

And you have a girlfriend.

Silence reigns, then...

RUBY (CONT'D)

Maybe sex isn't such a good idea?

Sven nods...

SVEN

You're right.

RUBY

We both could use a friend?

Sven nods again.

Ruby gets up. She offers him a hand. He takes it --

BUZZZZ.

Chemistry is still there.

They look into each others eyes. Uncertain. The urge to be naughty is so strong.

SVEN

Right. Friends.

Ruby hands him the half eaten energy bar.

He takes a small bite and hands back the rest.

She eyes the tent...

RUBY

Should we still share a tent?

SVEN

(smiles)

Sure. You go on in. I'll be a little awhile.

RUBY
Okay. Night, Sven.

SVEN
Night, Ruby.

Ruby crawls inside the tent.

Sven sits outside, stares into the darkness.

EXT. APPALACHIAN TRAIL - DAY

Morning. Sven tends a pot over a fire.

Ruby sticks her head out of the tent...

RUBY
Morning.

SVEN
Good morning. I'm heating water.

RUBY
For coffee?

SVEN
Uh. No. For hot water.

Ruby crawls out of the tent. Sven hands her a cup of hot water. She sips...

RUBY
Umm. Good.

They smile at each other.

SVEN
Ruby?

RUBY
Yes, Sven.

SVEN
I got to thinking last night --

RUBY
Yes?

SVEN
You controlled the crave.

Ruby looks surprised.

SVEN (CONT'D)
 The energy bar? Our...attraction?
 That's called will power?

Ruby nods.

RUBY
 Wow. I controlled the crave.

SVEN
 Ruby?

RUBY
 Yes, Sven?

SVEN
 I don't want to hike any more. I
 wanna go home and break up with a
 woman who wants someone else. What
 say, we blow this trail?

RUBY
 Heck, yeah.

SVEN
 How many energy bars you got left?

RUBY
 Two.

SVEN
 How many miles back?

RUBY
 Four?

SVEN
 Think we can make it?

Ruby nods.

SVEN (CONT'D)
 (re: tent)
 Just leave this shit here?

Ruby nods.

SVEN (CONT'D)
 You control the energy bars.

RUBY
 (proud)
 Right.

SVEN

I've got the water.

They head back the way they came.

They soon round a bend. Out of sight...

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

Ruby?

RUBY (O.S.)

Yes, Sven?

SVEN (O.S.)

I like you just the way you are.

RUBY (O.S.)

Sven?

SVEN (O.S.)

Yes, Ruby?

RUBY (O.S.)

I like you just the way you are.

The Bear lumbers onto the path. It **breaks the fourth wall...**

BEAR

Growlllllll.

The Bear shakes its head and lumbers back into the woods.

SUPER: ABOUT A YEAR LATER

INT. MEGGY'S HOUSE - DAY

Meggy is in bed. Hugely pregnant. Today's the day.

Peggy holds Meggy's hand through a contraction.

She HUFF-HUFF's along with Meggy's breathing exercises.

When its over...

MEGGY

Whoa. That was...interesting.

Zora, also hugely pregnant, enters wearing scrubs...

ZORA

Gonna get way more interesting.

MEGGY

Goody.

The MIDWIFE (60's) comes in. Earth mother. Kind face.

PEGGY
 Contractions are coming closer
 together.

MIDWIFE
 Let's take a look.

She sits between Meggy's legs. Zora looks over her shoulder.

MIDWIFE (CONT'D)
 (to Zora)
 What do you think?

ZORA
 Another hour?

MIDWIFE
 I think so, too.

She gets up and pats Meggy...

MIDWIFE (CONT'D)
 I'll be back.

She leaves the room.

Peggy watches Zora make some notes on her Ipad...

PEGGY
 This is all kinda surreal.

ZORA
 Yeah.

PEGGY
 So much has changed. I'm going to
 be an aunt. You're married and
 pregnant. Ruby's married and
 pregnant. We're so conventional.
 What the hell happened to us?

Meggy SCREAMS during another contraction.

Zora takes a look under the sheet...

ZORA
 Meggy? Bear down on the next one.
 (to Peggy)
 Go get the midwife.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER:

A newborn WAILS.

The Midwife hands the baby off to Zora who cleans her up a bit before handing her to Meggy.

ZORA (CONT'D)
Say hello to your daughter.

Meggy gazes at the baby. She can't believe it.

Peggy leans in...

PEGGY
She's beautiful. She looks just like us.

The baby grabs onto Peggy's finger.

She pulls it over to her mouth and --

BITES.

The door opens. Ruby, eight months pregnant, and Sven come in, followed by Isadore.

Everyone goes ape-shit over the baby.

RUBY (V.O.)
I had my baby girl the following week.

Ruby holds a baby girl with a face like Sven's.

RUBY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Then Zora had a baby girl. All of our girls were just a few months apart...like us. We began to think there are other ways to change the world.

SUPER: FLASH FORWARD FIVE YEARS:

INT. LITTLE RUBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Zora reads a bedtime story to her little girl --

LITTLE RUBY(5)

Little Ruby is a plump child, tucked under the covers, she clutches a doll, her eyes flutter, sleepy.

ZORA
Goldilocks tasted the last bowl of porridge and it was just right, so she ate it all up.

Little Ruby's eyes pop open...

LITTLE RUBY

Oh. She was naughty. Right, Momma?

ZORA

That's right, Sweetie. We don't break into other people's homes and eat their stuff.

LITTLE RUBY

Did the bears eat her, Momma?

ZORA

They wanted to but she started crying.

LITTLE RUBY

Did they feel sorry for her, Momma?

ZORA

No. They got so annoyed they just threw her out of the house.

LITTLE RUBY

Nobody likes a crybaby. Right, Momma?

ZORA

That's right, Sweetie.

LITTLE RUBY

Big girls don't cry. Right, Momma?

ZORA

Right.

Momma Zora kisses Little Ruby...

ZORA (CONT'D)

Go to sleep, Little Ruby.

Little Ruby rolls onto her side. Closes her eyes.

Zora watches her from the door.

She swipes at happy tears, then turns out the light.

INT. LITTLE PEGGY'S ROOM - NIGHT

A night light illuminates a child-sized lump in bed, under the covers.

A slight movement is followed by

"CRUNCH" "CRUNCH"

The sound of chips being consumed.

The bedroom door BURSTS open. The overhead light comes on.

RUBY looms in the doorway. Still chubby...

RUBY

Little Peggy? You got them chips?

Ruby goes to the bed, flips back the covers to reveal --

LITTLE PEGGY (5)

A skinny child with her hand in a chip bag.

Little Peggy swallows, offers the bag...

LITTLE PEGGY

I only wanted one.

Ruby sits next to Little Peggy.

She grabs a handful of chips.

"CRUNCH" "CRUNCH"

RUBY

Little Peggy?

LITTLE PEGGY

Yes, Momma?

RUBY

You should never feel like you have to hide under the covers. Be proud of who you are and what you do.

LITTLE PEGGY

Yes, Momma.

They CRUNCH together...

LITTLE PEGGY (CONT'D)

Sometimes I get real hungry at night, Momma.

RUBY

Me, too, Honey. But food can only fill one sort of hunger.

LITTLE PEGGY

There's other sorts of hunger, Momma?

RUBY

Sure is, Honey.

LITTLE PEGGY

You mean like the one that makes you
and Daddy scream each other's names?

(pause)

What exactly are you eating, Momma?

Momma Ruby GIGGLES, then hugs Little Peggy.

RUBY

I love you, Little Peggy.

LITTLE PEGGY

I love you, too, Momma.

RUBY

When you get hungry at night and
chips ain't enough, you come to me
and Daddy for a big bowl of
loving...okay?

LITTLE PEGGY

Okay, Momma.

Momma Ruby kisses Little Peggy...

RUBY

Night, Honey.

LITTLE PEGGY

Night, Momma.

Momma Ruby picks up the chip bag.

LITTLE PEGGY (CONT'D)

Leave the bag, Momma? Just in case?

Momma Ruby sets it on the night stand.

LITTLE PEGGY (CONT'D)

Thanks, Momma.

RUBY

You're welcome, Honey.

Ruby turns out the light.

INT. LITTLE ZORA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Moonlight casts a glow onto a single bed.

The fluffy pink comforter is awash in stuffed animals.

LITTLE ZORA (5) sleeps on the floor.

The door opens a crack as

Peggy and Meggy peek in.

Little Zora sits up...

LITTLE ZORA

Moms?

The light comes on.

Peggy and Meggy rush into the room.

PEGGY

Little Zora? Why are you sleeping
on the floor?

LITTLE ZORA

The Teddy Bear told me to leave.

Peggy and Meggy exchange a look.

MEGGY

Sweetie. Did you tell that Teddy
Bear you were his friend and he should
be nice to you?

LITTLE ZORA

Yes, Momma.

PEGGY

Did you think maybe that Teddy Bear
needs a damn reality check?

Meggy pokes Peggy...

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Darn reality check?

MEGGY

What we mean to say, Honey. Is that
Teddy Bear is only a stuffed animal.

LITTLE ZORA

It ain't gonna like hearing that
kind of talk, Momma.

PEGGY

Let's just see. Okay, Sweetie?

Peggy picks up the Teddy Bear. She gazes into its cold button
eyes...

LITTLE ZORA

Be careful, Momma.

PEGGY
(to Meggy)
Open that closet door.

Meggy does.

Peggy lobs the Teddy Bear in.

Meggy slams the door shut.

PEGGY (CONT'D)
Remember to pick your battles, Little
Zora. And remember not everyone is
as mean as that Teddy Bear.

LITTLE ZORA
Thank you, Momma.

Meggy puts Little Zora back into bed.

Little Zora hugs a stuffed rabbit.

MEGGY AND PEGGY
(together)
Night, Little Zora. Sleep tight.

LITTLE ZORA
Night, Moms.

She rolls on her side and is soon fast asleep.

Meggy and Peggy turn out the light and close the door.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Full moon. Serene. The water reflects the light of a full moon.

Parked near the shoreline is Ruby's car.

INT. RUBY'S CAR - NIGHT

Ruby stares at the moonlight reflecting off the water.

RUBY (V.O.)
So. Here we are again. Another
beautiful full moon at the beach.

Headlights flash through the interior as another car pulls in and parks.

INT. PEGGY'S CAR - NIGHT

The overhead light comes on to reveal --

Peggy and Meggy

-- they wave to Ruby.

The light goes out.

RUBY (V.O.)

We're finally clear on something we
got right in theory but wrong in
practice --

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The three women wear white robes.

Peggy carries her bucket.

They walk side by side. Their feet SCRUNCH in the sand.

WATER'S EDGE

Their robes slip from their shoulders, slither to their feet.
Moonlight reveals their naked bodies.

Car headlights flash.

SCRUNCH. SCRUNCH. SCRUNCH.

PEGGY

You're late.

ZORA

Sorry. Completely my fault.

Zora disrobes.

The Four Women join hands. They circle to the left. Then
to the right.

RUBY

-- we're three smart, tough, strong-
minded, women...

FREEZE FRAME:

The Women are frozen except for Ruby. She **looks at the
camera...**

RUBY (CONT'D)

... who the heck needs superpowers?

END FREEZE FRAME: BACK TO SCENE:

CREDITS ROLL:

The four Women wade out into the --

WATER

Peggy empties the bucket. Shortly --

A SMALL SHARK FIN

Pops up.

It circles them.

RUBY (CONT'D)

I'm thinking we're nuts.

ZORA

I'm thinking it's freezing.

PEGGY

I'm thinking this shark's brain is so tiny it can't help itself.

MEGGY

I'm thinking these bastards never seem to learn.

The other Women look askance at Meggy...

MEGGY (CONT'D)

What? I'm a minor character with no real flaws. Who says I have to arc?

PEGGY

She's right. Get him, Meggy.

Meggy dives on the shark. Wrestles it out of the water.

She bites the fin, spits it out.

The Shark wriggles free then takes off.

MEGGY

Shit, that felt good.

PEGGY

Told ya.

RUBY

Hey! Careful. We're all someone's Momma now.

PEGGY

Yeah. How the fuck did that happen?

The Four Women LAUGH.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

We're mothers? Shit. I want a do-over. Where's that stupid bitch writing this thing? What's her fucking problem?

RUBY

I hear she eats chips in bed.

ZORA

I heard she's menopausal but shunned HRT and now has a gut like an orangutan.

PEGGY

I hear she hates kids and calls them little bastards to their faces.

MEGGY

Who you guys talking about?

Peggy, Zora and Ruby lose it.

They LAUGH and stumble around in the water.

Just what's needed to attract --

A REALLY BIG SHARK

Cue -- menacing music. Please, please, please let it be the theme from JAWS.

The Women panic. They SPLASH towards shore --

FREEZE FRAME: Baywatch unchained. Titties and terror.

FADE OUT.