

HOLIDAY FOR SPIES

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FADE IN:

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

It's a stormy day. ANNIE D. (22), a cute but nerdy college graduate wearing a tank top, shorts, flip-flops, and yellow rubber gloves reluctantly scrubs an upstairs toilet with a brush.

She pauses to look in the bathroom mirror to scold herself in her mom's voice.

ANNIE

It's just for the Holiday!

She goes back to scrubbing, then looks in the mirror again, this time in her sympathetic voice.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

This is not what I had planned.

(laughs)

Of course, you don't have a plan, do you, Annie D.? If Dad was alive, he'd say buck up, take risks, get a job. Mom is too laid back and doesn't push. Maybe I need a plan.

We HEAR a desk bell RING downstairs.

Annie is stunned and yells.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Just a minute. I didn't know we had reservations for tonight.

Races downstairs, toilet brush in her right hand.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, REGISTRATION DESK - CONTINUOUS

Annie is clumsy taking off the rubber gloves and doesn't know where to set the toilet brush as she sees tall, handsome African American BLAKE SMITH (28) wearing a gray suit and trench coat, and looking around the lobby. He sees a "Help Wanted" sign. His roller suitcase is behind him. The handle is crotch-high. Blake is an extremely shy introvert.

BLAKE

I'm so sorry. Saw the sign and thought I'd ask.

Their eyes meet and they share a moment. Annie remains stunned and puts the toilet brush in Blake's left hand so she can shake his right hand.

Blake stares at the toilet brush, then points outside.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

No. The vacancy sign. I need a place to stay 'til the storm...

Annie takes back the toilet brush, embarrassed.

ANNIE

This isn't what I had in mind.

Blake turns away embarrassed.

BLAKE

I should have asked for your room right away.

ANNIE

(annoyed)
My room?

Blake looks back to see Annie cringing.

BLAKE

The most awkward person I know.

ANNIE

Me?

BLAKE

No, me. See? I meant to say I'm the most awkward person I know.

ANNIE

Until I handed you the toilet brush? Then I became the most awkward person you know.

Blake turns and starts to leave, embarrassed. He has to step over the handle of his roller luggage.

BLAKE

I'll find another B&B to embarrass myself...

Annie grabs his hand.

ANNIE

I meant to say, this is my mom's place, and she asked me to watch it for the weekend.

Blake turns and half-smiles.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

She got called away. My name is Annie.

Annie takes out a blank "Guest Card," fills in the date, and hands the pen to Blake.

She watches as he writes "Blake," then he pauses.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

We don't need...

Blake writes in the surname as "Smith."

Annie snickers.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Will there be more than one guest, Mr. Smith? A partner of any kind?

Blake fills out the card with suspicious information.

BLAKE

No? I'm lonely. Er, alone.

Annie sees he's not wearing a ring.

ANNIE

Dog? Cat? Gerbil?

BLAKE

No pets.

Blake pushes back the card that reads, "123 Maple Street," Washington, D.C."

Annie looks at the card suspiciously.

Blake quickly takes back the card, crosses out "Washington D.C." and writes in "Geary, Indiana."

Annie stares at the card.

ANNIE

Did you...?

(beat)

Never mind.

Blake turns to leave again. He trips over his suitcase handle which catches him in the crotch, and he falls to the floor as he HEARS Annie tearing up the registration card.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Your secrets are safe with me, Mr. Smith. I'm happy to have someone here during the storm.

Blake turns around as he helps himself up, as they HEAR THUNDER outside. They smile.

BLAKE

I could help clean the bathrooms...

ANNIE

(laughs)

We'd like them to remain functional.

Annie hands him a key, and he smiles.

BLAKE

Thanks.

ANNIE

Room number 2. Upstairs to the right. Wine and baby cheeses at five for the holidays.

Annie puts the torn-up registration card in the wastebasket, and heads back upstairs with the toilet brush as a stunning French seductress, FIFI JONES (30) stands at the doorway wearing sunglasses, a bright red raincoat, black silk stockings, and red spiked heels. She carries a small BRAND fur-covered purse. She trips and falls flat on her face.

Annie helps her up.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Are you okay? Mom says our number one job is to keep our guests safe.

Fifi apologizes in a heavy French accent.

FIFI

Pardon-moi. I'm so clumsy today. I require a room for tonight. Fifi Jones.

Fifi dusts herself off. Annie is suspicious.

ANNIE

Jones? Huh. Mr. Smith is upstairs
and to the right.

Fifi is perplexed and looks around.

Annie's eyes open wide.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. You're booking a
separate room for the night?

Fifi glares at Annie.

FIFI

This is your business, is it not?

Annie pushes a Guest Card to Fifi.

ANNIE

I'm surprised we have any guests...

FIFI

(interrupts)

I'm sure you are.

Fifi writes "Fifi," then pauses.

Annie rolls her eyes as Fifi fills in her surname as "Jones."

Fifi slaps a credit card on the desk, but Annie pushes it
back.

ANNIE

Like our website says, "You only
pay if you're satisfied at the end
of your stay."

Fifi swipes back the credit card while looking around. She
sees the toilet brush and the help wanted sign, before
peering into the wastebasket to see the name "Blake" on the
ripped-up Guest Registration card.

FIFI

It's a wonder you're still in
business.

Annie hands her a key as Fifi takes off her coat to reveal a
tight red dress.

ANNIE

Complementary wine and cheese at
five. Room 3. Upstairs and to the
left. Can I fetch your luggage?

Fifi slaps her fury purse against her butt.

FIFI

Everything I need is right here.

Fifi trips on the next stair as Annie mumbles quietly.

ANNIE

I hoped you packed bandages!

Fifi glares back at Annie before strutting upstairs.

Annie grabs the toilet bush and begins to head upstairs, when a curious-looking Englishman, JIMMY SMITH (30), a thin, weak man, steps in the front door carrying a Kitchen Fryer and wheeling a large purple suitcase behind him. He wears a black suit and a fedora. He sees a hat rack by the door and flings his hat to it and misses it. He ignores the hat and strides to the registration desk and sounds like British royalty.

JIMMY

James. James Smith. Call me Jimmy.
I sell Kitchen Fryers,
internationally, of course.

Annie checks the computer and can't help sounding sarcastic.

ANNIE

Fascinating. Welcome to Dede's B&B.

JIMMY

I see. Can I interest you in a
Kitchen Fryer?

Annie stares at the odd man, then smiles.

ANNIE

I don't think so. I heard they were
dangerous.

Jimmy looks around and they both HEAR the storm.

JIMMY

Danger is my middle name.
(whispers)
Actually, it's Percy, but I wish it
was Danger.

Annie stares at the computer and interrupts him.

ANNIE

I'm sorry, we have no reservation
for James or Jimmy Smith.
(laughs)
(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

And the surname "Smith" is already taken. So is "Jones."

Jimmy looks back at the rain outside.

JIMMY

Oh, dear. My other Kitchen Fryers will rust if I don't get the roof up on my convertible.

Annie peeks out the window.

ANNIE

They have portable roofs or T-tops, you know?

JIMMY

I couldn't find the button in all that rain.

Jimmy tosses her the keys.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Be a dear, will you?

Annie forces a smile, hands Jimmy a Guest Card and pen, takes the keys, and races out.

She returns with a completely soaked tank top.

Jimmy enjoys Annie's wet shirt, then looks away as Annie tries to cover up.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

One night. Maybe two if things go well between us.

Annie ignores the comment and examines the Guest Card.

ANNIE

Smith, Jones, and Smith...

The front door opens again as Annie is speaking. A short, comical, Asian woman, GENJI JONES (30), enters and laughs. She wears a blue raincoat, blue jeans, white tennis shoes, and a LARGE backpack. The clock reads, "3:07."

GENJI

Would Jones sound too much like an alias for me?

ANNIE

The odds are fifty-fifty.

Genji stares at Jimmy and Annie. Jimmy looks infatuated with Genji from the start. His mouth opens, and he can barely speak. It even looks like he's starting to drool.

GENJI

I'm not interrupting an awkward moment, am I? I walked in on my naked grandparents once and needed therapy for three years.

ANNIE

Can I help you?

GENJI

I need a room for the night to wait out the storm. I'm typically a great driver except when it rains, or when that windshield cleaner-thing sprays, or if there's an ocean, river, lake or drainage ditch nearby.

Jimmy smiles warmly at Genji and they share a moment.

JIMMY

You're... funny... I mean, cute.
(looks closely at her)
Don't I know you from...

Annie interrupts.

ANNIE

We have rooms available. Let me take care of Mr. Smith first and I'll be right with you.

Genji stares at Jimmy.

GENJI

(stern)
We've never met.

Annie hands Jimmy a key.

ANNIE

Upstairs. Second door on the right.
Free wine and cheese at five.

Jimmy takes the key and struggles to lift his big purple suitcase upstairs and Kitchen Fryer, taking long, admiring looks at Genji.

Annie and Genji look on in awkward silence. Genji eyes the Kitchen Fryer.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Huh? He thinks he met you before.

GENJI

In his dreams! A lot of people get me confused with Kim Kardashian.

Annie hands her a Guest Card, and watches Genji write, "Genji Jones, 123 Maple Street" before she pauses and scratches out, "123 Maple Street."

ANNIE

I know, right? These are tough questions.

(points to the card)

And that address has been used before.

Annie laughs.

GENJI

Nobody likes to use their real information in this age of identity theft. I don't get it! My car has been stolen three more times than my identity.

Annie hands Genji a key.

ANNIE

Upstairs, second door on the left.
Wine and cheese at five.

Genji stares at the key that reads, "3."

GENJI

What room is Mr. Smith in?

ANNIE

The Smiths are in rooms 1 and 3,
and the Joneses are in rooms 2 and 4,
so far, but the day is young.

Genji heads upstairs with her large backpack.

Annie grabs the toilet brush and heads upstairs.

She stops when she HEARS a motorcycle ROAR up to the B&B.

She stares at the door, as YURI SMITH (30), a mean-looking Russian, steps in wearing a wet black leather jacket, and tight leather pants that are so tight, they are difficult to walk in carrying a leather side bag as luggage. He has a three-day beard (and no eyeglasses).

Yuki looks around as he squeaks to the registration desk. He speaks in a gruff voice as he checks a heavy-looking, industrial-sized cell phone.

YURI
This is 925 Seaside Drive?

ANNIE
Yes, I know.

YURI
(angry)
Brochure shows blue sky, sunshine!

ANNIE
The weather changed after my mom printed the brochures. Who would have guessed, huh? Do you need a room for the night?

YURI
Won't be staying. Sit in lobby.

ANNIE
Are you waiting for someone? A girlfriend? A boyfriend? An extraterrestrial being?

Yuri glares at Annie, then scrolls through notes and photos on his cell phone.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Mail-order bride from Oklahoma?

YURI
Older woman.

ANNIE
Oh, you like older women?

YURI
Mind own business! When owner come back?

ANNIE
Your guess is as good as mine.

YURI
What that mean? I guess ten years from now.

Yuri stops to get in Annie's face.

ANNIE

Wow. Then your guess would not be as good as mine. There goes another old saying.

He grabs her arms.

YURI

What you mean?

ANNIE

My mom had a habit of destroying old sayings. Instead of 'He who laughs last, laughs hardest,' She'd say, 'He who laughs, laughs, laughs, laughs.'

Yuri leans into her face with the look of a killer.

YURI

Makes no sense.

ANNIE

Just laugh! It doesn't matter if you laugh first or last. Just laugh! Free wine and cheese at five!

Yuri releases Annie's arms and paces again.

YURI

Makes no sense.

ANNIE

You're preaching to the dryer.

Yuri picks up a small lamp and threatens to smash it on the floor, before setting it down.

YURI

Don't you mean, choir?

Annie makes circular motions with her finger.

ANNIE

Mom said 'dryer,' because it's a circular argument like 'It is what it is.' Stupid, right?

Yuri looks upstairs as Annie hands him a Registration Card.

He writes, "Yuri Smith."

Annie stares at the name, "Smith."

ANNIE (CONT'D)
I should have guessed.

Yuri glares at Annie.

YURI
Guessed what?

They are interrupted by Fifi who descends the stairs like a fashion model in her sexy short black dress and sunglasses.

Fifi sees big, strong Yuri in his wet leather pants and jacket, as she swoons (which Annie sees, but Yuri does not).

Yuri drops a pen from the registration desk and bends over to pick it up with his backside facing Fifi.

Fifi stops on the stairs and raises a hand to lower her sunglasses on her nose to get a better view of Yuri.

Yuri picks up the pen and returns it, barely glancing at Fifi.

Fifi is so disappointed that she turns and heads back upstairs, tripping on two stairs.

ANNIE
I guessed you would have wanted to get out of those wet clothes, but maybe not.

Annie hands a key to Yuri.

He grunts as he takes the key.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
See you at the social hour.

Yuri makes a fist as he heads upstairs.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, LOBBY - AFTERNOON

A platter of crackers and cheeseballs, and four full glasses of red wine and one empty glass (with red lipstick on it) rest on the coffee table as the guests come downstairs. The Christmas tree is lit, and garland lines the windows, doorways, and banister.

Sprawled out on the floor next to the coffee table, is Fifi Jones, face up and lifeless, in a sexy short black dress.

Annie strolls in with a box of red wine and pounds her phone on her leg in disgust.

She sees Fifi and SCREAMS! Annie drops the box of wine and her phone and stands frozen in horror.

Blake arrives on the scene first and checks Fifi for a pulse.

BLAKE

I can't tell if there's a pulse.

Genji arrives next and puts her head on Fifi's chest. Jimmy races across from Genji.

GENJI

I've got nothing.

JIMMY

We know, but how's the victim?

Annie paces in a panic and interrupts as Yuri begins to squeak his way loudly and slowly downstairs.

ANNIE

Phone service is dead and my last storm alert said the bridge is out across the river!

Yuri's squeaking is louder and more annoying. Everyone stares at Yuri as he squeaks toward them.

YURI

Pants never dried.
(yells at his pants)
Continue shrink.

BLAKE

This is horrible!

YURI

You telling me!

Jimmy spots the box of wine under the chair.

JIMMY

First, the wine is from a box, and second, the bridge is out. It's our only means of escape!

Yuri gets closer to Fifi and SCREAMS.

GENJI

We think she's dead.

No one is looking at Yuri.

YURI
No, circulation stopped.
(points to his crotch)
Cut them off!

JIMMY
Seems a bit drastic.

YURI
The pants. The pants.

Yuri falls back on a couch and his pants make a horrible squeak and POP. He covers his crotch with his hands.

At the loud POP, Fifi coughs up a cheeseball and holds her stomach.

Annie is elated and pulls Fifi up.

ANNIE
Fifi, you're alive! What happened?
Trip on a cheeseball?

FIFI
(weak)
I drank a glass of fine wine, a
Cabernet Sauvignon from Bordeaux, I
assure you.

Annie kicks the box of wine under a chair.

FIFI (CONT'D)
My stomach started to burn, I got
terribly dizzy, I ate a few
crackers and cheeseballs, then
passed out.

Annie paces like a teacher.

ANNIE
I see this as an opportunity to use
my college education. My
criminology classes suggest the
burning stomach after eating and
drinking suggests simple acid
reflux or poison from a relative of
the hemlock plant, but that's odd
for three reasons.

BLAKE
(flirts with Annie)
What are they?

ANNIE

First, if it was an actual hemlock plant, Fifi would be dead.

GENJI

What's the second reason?

ANNIE

She would be in much more discomfort in the stomach.

Fifi aches in pain and grabs her stomach as she moans loudly.

JIMMY

And the third reason?

ANNIE

The other poison plant species I'm familiar with causes stomach cramps and uncontrollable...

Fifi passes gas loudly and everyone moves away.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Flatulence.

Everyone moves back from Fifi.

BLAKE

If she's been poisoned, and the bridge has been closed, that means the killer is...

ANNIE

Here among us. Or, it could be simple food poisoning. We don't know.

Everyone looks at everyone else suspiciously, while Genji samples the wine, the crackers, and the cheese in the background.

Blake dives to save Genji by knocking the wine glass out of her hand, but she steps aside, and Blake flies into the food and wine. Everything crashes to the floor.

Annie shakes her head in disgust as she looks around the room.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Who are you people? I hate to say this, but you either look like a group of underachieving millennials or a bad book club.

The guests look around perplexed and shrug haplessly.

GENJI
A remedial book club?

Everyone chuckles a little until the others are excited to compete in the comedy.

JIMMY
Or a bus tour group for garbage dumps!

Everyone laughs.

Blake shyly smiles at Annie.

BLAKE
Or rejects from a computer-dating site.

The laughs are louder until Yuri turns serious.

YURI
Or five strangers stuck in a house with...

FIFI
(interrupts)
A killer who was unsuccessful but may try again.

Yuri smiles at Fifi and they share a moment.

Yuri stands and strolls into the kitchen trying to draw Fifi's attention, not realizing the back of his pants are ripped at the butt and exposing shiny blue silk briefs.

YURI
What for dinner?

Annie follows Yuri and his squeak pants and speaks in a stern voice as everyone heads to the kitchen.

ANNIE
It's a bed and breakfast, not a bed and breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is in the kitchen as Yuri begins searching cabinets working his way around a large kitchen island. There is an antique stepping stool/chair in the corner.

YURI
Stuck in storm. No food. Could lead
to cannibalism.

Annie glares at Yuri.

ANNIE
One night?

JIMMY
So, mates, who knows how long the
bridge will be out?!

Fifi checks her smartphone.

FIFI
Phone is still dead.

BLAKE
She's right! 9-1-1 calls are
impossible.

GENJI
No one will be reporting me
missing. How about any of you?

Everyone freezes and turns sad. The guests all shake their
heads 'no,' as Annie looks on compassionately.

Annie opens a cabinet door.

ANNIE
I could whip up macaroni and
cheese. Not a very festive holiday
meal, but...

FIFI
Macaronis et fromage sounds more
elegant. Is there any un-poisoned
wine left?

ANNIE
I could open another box.

Fifi passes gas and grips her grumbling stomach as she races
out of the kitchen.

BLAKE
That would be the stomach cramps.

Jimmy points to Yuri in an accusatory manner.

JIMMY

I think the Russian did it, with
poison, in the lobby!

Yuri keeps looking in the cabinets, as everyone glares at him
while Annie fills a large pot with water.

ANNIE

I would have heard him come
downstairs in the squeaky pants to
poison the wine or the cheeseballs,
and then I would have heard him
squeak back upstairs.

Yuri glares at Jimmy, as the guests turn to Annie.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Any one of you could have poisoned
the wine or cheeseballs between
check-in and the social hour.

Genji gets in Annie's face.

GENJI

Or it could have been you!

Annie stops filling the pot and speaks calmly.

ANNIE

What's the motive? We just met
today. Deceased guests never pay
up. And we don't want to be known
as a Dead and Breakfast, now do we?

Everyone glares at Genji.

GENJI

Don't look at me. I hit the wine
and cheeseballs too until a brave
man saved my life.

Genji smiles at Blake as Fifi trudges in holding her stomach.

GENJI (CONT'D)

Or at least saved me from
gastronomic ruin!

Jimmy puts an arm around Fifi.

JIMMY

At least you got to eat. The rest
of us are starving.

Fifi races out again.

Yuri slaps Jimmy on the back and snickers.

YURI

Looking more like rejects from a
bad computer-dating site.

Annie speaks authoritatively waving a large spoon as everyone stands around the kitchen island.

ANNIE

Look, I don't like this any more
than you do. We have to watch out
for each other's back until this
crime, if there was one, can be
properly investigated.

BLAKE

But we hardly know each other!

ANNIE

We have to change that!

Annie grabs several bottles of liquor from a top cabinet and puts them on the island.

She takes out a deck of "Truth or Drink" cards.

She passes out six shot glasses.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I read the questions. Simple rules.
You have to tell the truth or take
a shot.

The guests twitch and look around suspiciously, but they each fill a shot glass with their favorite liquor.

JIMMY

I don't see what this will
accomplish.

ANNIE

You're more likely to watch out for
someone if you care about them as a
person.

The Guests nod 'yes' but twitch nervously.

Annie reads a card.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

What do you actually do to earn a
living?

(looks around)

(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I'm an unemployed college graduate
working for my mom but thinking
about becoming a detective.

The Guests' eyes open wide.

Blake, Genji, Jimmy, and Yuri drink their shots immediately.

FIFI

What if it's poisoned?

The Guests look worried.

ANNIE

Tell the truth or drink!

Fifi drinks the shot and holds her stomach.

They each fill their shot glasses.

Annie looks suspiciously at the guests, then picks another
card and reads it.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

How many different lovers had you
had so far?

Fifi drinks her shot immediately. The others stare at her.

GENJI

Each of my lovers has been a little
bit different.

ANNIE

That's not a number.

Annie holds up two fingers.

Blake, Genji, and Jimmy look around sheepishly then drink a
shot.

Yuri slowly raises one finger, then lowers it, and drinks a
shot. Annie turns compassionately to Yuri.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

You didn't need to drink...

YURI

(ashamed)
I needed to.

Everyone fills their shot glasses and Annie reads another
card.

ANNIE

Have you ever purposely injured anyone?

JIMMY

Clarification! Does killing count as injuring?

Everyone glares at Jimmy.

YURI

Me wonder same thing.

ANNIE

Yes, let's say that killing might be considered mortally injuring someone!

Everyone nods 'yes' in approval.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I admit to purposely jumping off the low teeter-totter side so that Billy Newman would go crashing on his butt.

The Guests have a look of horror on their faces, which Annie sees.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I know, right? First grade. He fell back, hit his head, and I gave him a concussion.

BLAKE

Poor kid!

ANNIE

He had to wear a neck brace for three weeks.

The Guests gasp shaking their heads in disgust, then look around at each other, and simultaneously take a drink.

Annie is furious, as she stirs the mac 'n cheese. She points the gooey spoon at each of the guests in turn.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

You know everything about me, but nothing about each other.

Genji speaks up to help out.

GENJI

I'm in sales. International sales.

JIMMY

I'm in international sales too.
What products do you sell?

Genji pours herself a shot and drinks it.

BLAKE

I'm in international sales too, and
I sell insurance.

Fifi seductively gets in Blake's face.

FIFI

I'm in international wine sales.
What kind of insurance do you sell,
Mr. Smith?

Blake pours and takes a drink.

Annie looks at Blake suspiciously.

YURI

I am bounty hunter.

Everyone stops to stare at Yuri.

YURI (CONT'D)

Was bounty hunter.

Annie gives Yuri a puzzled look as he pours himself a shot
glass of Vodka.

ANNIE

What do you do now?

YURI

Drink Wadka.

He slams down a Vodka.

YURI (CONT'D)

And international sales.

Everyone stares at Yuri with puzzled looks.

ANNIE

What are the odds that five out of
five guests are in international
sales?

Everyone pours and drinks another shot.

Annie is furious as she angrily adds pepper to the mac 'n cheese with an electronic pepper grinder.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Serve yourselves the mac n' cheese.

I'll be in my room.

(yells)

With my door locked!

Annie storms out.

Jimmy confronts Fifi.

JIMMY

Your symptoms sounded like rat poison. Only the proprietor would know where the rat poison was kept.

Fifi scoffs as she holds her stomach in pain.

FIFI

Anyone of you could have brought it with you!

GENJI

It could have been food poisoning, the flu, or monkeypox.

FIFI

Brodifacoum. The active ingredient in rat poison. I smelled it. I took a three-day online training course to become a sommelier.

Blake retrieves the box of wine from the lobby and shows it to Fifi.

BLAKE

Here's your Cabernet Sauvignon from Bordeaux.

GENJI

(laughs)

So much for your career in international wine sales.

Fifi gets in Genji's face.

FIFI

And what do you sell, technology secrets?

Genji laughs.

GENJI

I was admiring the electronic
pepper grinder.

YURI

Me like that too.

They all nod in approval.

BLAKE

I suggest we each grab a bowl of
mac 'n cheese and eat it in our
rooms.

(glares at Fifi)

Alone!

Everyone scoops a bowl and mac n' cheese and heads upstairs.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, KITCHEN - LATER

Annie, wearing a short bathrobe, enters to find the kitchen a
big mess with open food packages and cookies everywhere.

She HEARS romantic Christmas MUSIC and horrible GROANS from
the lobby and races to the sounds.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Annie SEES Blake flailing around on the floor holding his
neck with both hands. He's unable to speak.

Annie SCREAMS.

ANNIE

I hope it wasn't the mac 'n cheese.

The other Guests race downstairs and gather around Blake, who
continues to flail and hold his neck.

GENJI

It could have been the mac or the
cheese! We may never know.

Everyone gasps as lightning flashes and thunder ROARS
outside.

Blake removes his hands from his neck and everyone sees a
dark purple-red rope burn around his neck.

ANNIE

He's been strangled! Move back!
Give him air.

Everyone looks at Blake in horror as he slowly regains his breathing, as Annie looks around the floor.

JIMMY

Could this have been self-inflicted?!

ANNIE

(angry)

There's no rope anywhere around him!

(softly to Blake)

Who did this to you?

Blake can't speak and has difficulty breathing. He points to his eyes and does sign language suggesting he didn't see anyone.

Yuri, Jimmy, and Annie help Blake up and help him to the couch.

Annie leans in kissing close with compassion.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I read about incomplete strangulation in my criminology class. It can lead to a sore neck, difficulty swallowing; and...

Blake's eyes open wide with a sigh.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Involuntary spontaneous coughing.

Blake spontaneously coughs partially digested mac 'n cheese just to the left of Annie's face.

Everyone jumps back immediately.

Fifi holds both her stomach and her mouth, turns, and RACES out of the room.

YURI

She go for mop?

ANNIE

I don't think so, Yuri. Could someone fetch some paper towels and a trash can from the kitchen, please?

Genji examines the rope burn on Blake's neck.

GENJI

He was sitting down when he was
attacked from behind.

JIMMY

Only the killer would know that!

ANNIE

Genji's right! The rope marks in
the back of the neck are higher.

JIMMY

Which means the bloke didn't have
to be tall to do this.

Yuri returns from the kitchen with another bowl of mac 'n
cheese and offers it to Blake who declines it.

YURI

So, look for short person?

Everyone stares at Yuri who is eating the mac 'n cheese.

GENJI

And only one lover. Shocking!

Annie helps Blake from the couch and leads him into the
kitchen.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Annie sits Blake in the antique stepping stool/chair in the
corner and whispers to him.

ANNIE

We have a killer among us and it's
not you.

Blake points to Annie, and she playfully slaps his hand but
turns serious.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

No, it's not me either. And the
killer isn't very good, but he or
she may improve over time, and
someone could get killed!

She looks around and sees they're still alone, but HEARS
footsteps approaching.

She whispers in his ear.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
I'll need your help.

The others begin to flow into the kitchen.

Annie spins to the group and sounds like a commander.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
You will all come with me while I
search your rooms.

Fifi sips from a wine glass.

FIFI
I'd rather wait for the police!

Annie gets in Fifi's.

ANNIE
The sheriff can't make it across
the bridge and you were a victim
once and may be again. Do you want
to be dead when the sheriff finally
gets here?

FIFI
I do if we run out of wine!

JIMMY
Not without a warrant! Any evidence
gathered from a search will not be
admissible in court!

Annie gets in Jimmy's face.

ANNIE
Evidence we find could include
poison or a rope that might be used
in the next attempted murder later
tonight. I don't give a hoot about
the court proceedings after one or
more of us is dead!

Jimmy shuts up and looks away.

GENJI
I think we'll learn about each
other a whole lot faster than the
stupid truth or drink game!

YURI
Me got nothing to hide.

Yuri turns and we see his shiny blue briefs sticking out of his pants.

GENJI

That remains to be seen!

Everyone chuckles nervously and follows Yuri and Annie upstairs. All but Annie are a bit tipsy from drinking.

EXT./INT. BED & BREAKFAST, JIMMY'S ROOM

Everyone is shoulder-to-shoulder behind Jimmy fumbling for his key, and Annie who is pushing him to open the door. FiFi holds her stomach and Blake rubs his neck. Jimmy whines.

JIMMY

Why does my room have to be first?

ANNIE

We're searching all the rooms,
Jimmy.

Jimmy turns in ire.

JIMMY

You think I'm a killer?

Everyone else nods in a positive or perplexed way.

ANNIE

I think someone is injuring my
guests!

Jimmy unlocks and opens the door.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Just Jimmy and I will go in, so as
not to contaminate the crime scene,
if it is one.

GENJI

You think he was dumb enough to
leave poison and a rope lying
around?

Yuri nods 'yes,' which everyone sees.

Jimmy shakes his head with disgust and leads Annie in.

The room is incredibly neat and organized. We see an open black briefcase on the bed containing a bottle of Vodka, a cocktail shaker, and an unopened jar of cocktail olives.

ANNIE

Why didn't you use the olives?

Jimmy is defensive.

JIMMY

I couldn't open the jar! Those things are so tight these days!

Annie grabs the jar of olives, opens it without a strain, and sets it down.

Jimmy eats olives as they search the room.

Annie walks straight to two martini glasses resting on a small desk. One is empty with red lipstick on it, and one is half-full.

At the doorway, Fifi looks away, and Genji glares at Jimmy, who looks like he's taken a fast-acting psychoactive drug.

ANNIE

Have you had company tonight?

Annie inspects a martini glass and sees it has red lipstick.

Jimmy speaks like he's in a trance.

JIMMY

Yes. I was making a martini with the door open and Fifi stopped in.

Annie glares at Fifi.

ANNIE

Genji and I don't wear lipstick.

GENJI

I shave my legs and pits!

ANNIE

That's too much information, Genji.

JIMMY

It was perfectly innocent, except for what I was thinking.

Genji glares at Jimmy then hangs her head in despair.

GENJI

Jimmy, where did you buy this honey-trap of a drink set?

ANNIE

What do you sell internationally,
Jimmy?

Genji charges Jimmy with very poor boxing skills and punches him like a sissy.

GENJI

The rat sells poorly made Kitchen
Fryers. Fire bombs for trailers and
apartments.

Annie opens a drawer of the nightstand and pulls a hand-held device for finding electronic bugging devices and hidden cameras.

JIMMY

Only a few hundred... or thousands
of fires have been started by
air...

ANNIE

(interrupting)
What's this, Jimmy?

Everyone gasps and squints their eyes at Jimmy like they recognize the device.

Jimmy is heavier into a trance-like state and cannot speak.

BLAKE

It's a hidden camera and bug
detector.

Annie shakes her head in disbelief.

ANNIE

For spies?

FIFI

Under 150 U.S. dollars on mail
order.

YURI

Two-day delivery.

ANNIE

How does it work?

YURI

Truck drivers bring packages to
door.

ANNIE

Not two-day delivery, Yuri. How
does this device work?

Jimmy robotically turns the device on for Annie to sweep the
room.

She gets nothing at first, but then checks under the bed and
the device BEEPS like crazy.

She bends down and pulls out a GENERIC KITCHEN FRYER.

GENJI

(yells)
It's a bomb!

The others back away from the doorway.

JIMMY

It's just a Kitchen Fryer.

Annie inspects the Kitchen Fryer carefully and points.

ANNIE

With an embedded camera in the
knob.

Jimmy is still in a trance and slurs his words.

JIMMY

My company wishes to better
understand its customers.

ANNIE

By spying on them?
(looks into Jimmy's glazed
eyes)
Are you okay, Jimmy? You're being
uncharacteristically truthful. Have
you had too many martinis or have
you been drugged?

BLAKE

(mumbles)
He sounds like he's on sodium
pentathol cut with Ecstasy.

Annie holds up the bug detector device and pushes her way
into the hallway.

ANNIE

We'll test my little friend out in
the other rooms. Let's check out
Fifi's room next.

GENJI
 (mumbles)
 The tramp!

FIFI
 Tart!

Annie looks concerned for Jimmy.

EXT./INT. BED & BREAKFAST, FIFI'S ROOM

Fifi proudly opens the door to her room, but hesitates to enter with Annie.

Everyone in the doorway can see that her bed has been slept in and we can see into her bathroom where her bra and panties are flung over the shower door.

Genji stomps her foot on top of Jimmy's foot and he screams in pain.

JIMMY
 Ow!

GENJI
 That was an accident. You'll know
 when I want to hurt you.

From inside the room, Annie lifts Fifi's small purse off the nightstand.

ANNIE
 I'm not going to invade your
 privacy, but I'm anxious to see if
 Jimmy's bug finder senses anything.

Everyone leans their heads in the door to watch Annie perform the test.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
 No beeps. No bugs or cameras.

YURI
 She could have them on her!

Everyone looks at Fifi's short, skinny black dress and shakes their heads, 'no.'

Annie picks up a thick paperback book on the nightstand, "Don Quixote," and smiles at Fifi.

ANNIE
 My favorite book of all time.

Annie looks at the tiny purse as she lifts the thick book as if weighing it.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

No wonder nothing else could fit in your purse.

Fifi looks away embarrassed.

FIFI

To see the world not as it is, but as it should be.

The men swoon over Fifi, but especially Yuri.

YURI

Thick book.

Genji gets in Fifi's face.

GENJI

You're embarrassed more by your reading choices than your little dresses or your behavior?

Fifi gets in Genji's face, while Annie sets the book down and sweeps the room with the bug detector.

FIFI

Neither is any of your business!

The bug detector leads Annie back to the book where the detector beeps.

Annie examines the book and finds a thin magnetic tracking device, no bigger than a business card, used as a bookmark. Annie holds up the card.

ANNIE

What's this?

FIFI

Magnetic tracking device for my luggage in case I lose it.

ANNIE

Shouldn't it be in your suitcase in your car?

FIFI

No one here would steal my luggage from my car. I worried more about my purse.

(MORE)

FIFI (CONT'D)
(glares at Genji)
Where I keep my spare undies!

Annie steps between Fifi and Genji as she exits the room through the crowded doorway.

ANNIE
On to Blake's room.

YURI
(mumbles)
Should be interesting.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, BLAKE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Annie strolls around Blake's room which is kept perfectly neat.

She sweeps the room with Jimmy's bug finder, as Blake takes a seat on the bed and rubs his neck, still in some pain.

ANNIE
How are you feeling, Blake?

Blake has a weak voice, so everyone leans their heads in at the doorway. Blake whispers to Annie.

BLAKE
Fine, I guess, except...

She stops sweeping the room and goes to comfort him, leaning in kissing close.

ANNIE
Except what?

Blake whispers as he turns his head to the side.

BLAKE
The spontaneous coughing thing.

Blake covers and turns his mouth away for more of his spontaneous coughing.

Annie picks up the lone book on Blake's nightstand titled, "Overcoming Extreme Shyness So People Won't Want to Kill You."

ANNIE
Any other reason someone would want to strangle you?

We HEAR Blake GARGLE in the bathroom before he exits wiping his lips.

JIMMY

The bloody hell spontaneous coughing thing isn't enough?

GENJI

Not good in a dating situation.

FIFI

How does he get a job in international sales if he is so shy? No?!

Everyone nods in approval after Fifi makes a good point.

Annie sweeps his suitcase and gets a loud BEEP.

Blake falls back on the bed holding his neck.

BLAKE

I'm working on my shyness. It annoys people in my line of work.

All eyes are on the suitcase as Annie opens it up and sweeps the case.

She finds a pen that contains a tiny camera and microphone and holds it up.

ANNIE

A pen with a tiny camera?

BLAKE

I'm seeing a therapist.

Everyone at the door gasps and takes a step back.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

A speech therapist.

Everyone steps closer into the doorway.

ANNIE

How is this...?

BLAKE

(interrupts)
She has me work on my pitches to prospective clients.

YURI

We don't believe you!

Blake grabs the pen, pulls a camera-to-phone cable from his pocket, and plays a video of a recording he's made. Blake stutters, says "Umm" a lot, and barely gets his pitch across.

INSERT VIDEO

BLAKE (O.S.)

I'm... umm... Blake... umm...
Smith... from Meta-... Meta... Meta-
Business... umm... umm...

ALL

(interrupting)
Insurance.

END VIDEO

JIMMY

We bloody hell don't have all
night.

GENJI

Geez. It's so much worse when
you're on the job!

BLAKE

Many prospective clients become
violent. It happens in social
situations too.

YURI

Did not happen during drinking
game.

His voice is very weak but his tone is honest.

BLAKE

It only happens when I feel...
(glances at Annie)
C... C... close to someone.

GENJI

Shocker he's still single, huh?

Everyone glares and Genji who shrugs.

Annie moves in compassionately and kissing close to Blake.

ANNIE

Did you give anyone here your sales
pitch tonight?

Blake turns his head, holds his hands over his mouth, and shakes his head 'no,' before racing to the bathroom.

FIFI

He needs a sex therapist! No?

Annie breaks through the crowd in the doorway.

ANNIE

We'll ignore that comment and move
on to Yuri's room.

Annie sees Jimmy is still in a daze.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, YURI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Yuri's door is unlocked. He pushes it open and Annie steps in
with Yuri behind her.

ANNIE

Unlocked door.

YURI

My life is open book.

The group crowds into the doorway.

GENJI

A comic book, maybe.

Yuri turns and glares at Genji.

Genji enters the room pushes Yuri which he scoffs at.

Annie ignores them and sweeps the room. Genji and Yuri slap
each others shoulders like children. It's comical to the
onlookers.

ANNIE

(whispers to Blake)
And I thought these weirdos might
be spies.

Blake whispers to Annie, but looks away afterward.

BLAKE

They don't seem smart enough to be
spies.

YURI

(glares at Blake)
I don't fight women.

JIMMY

She's certainly no Jackie Chan.

GENJI
 (glares at Jimmy)
 Not every Asian knows the Martial
 Arts.

FIFI
 That's not even the partial arts.

Annie finally steps between them and whips out a switchblade knife (closed blade).

ANNIE
 Look what I found under Yuri's
 pillow.

They stop fighting and everyone stares at the knife as Annie opens the long shiny blade.

They gasp.

Yuri sounds sincere and sad.

YURI
 Some children had teddy bears. My
 mama i papa gave me knife.

GENJI
 That's sadder than your fighting
 display.

YURI
 Tanks.

JIMMY
 You mean, thanks.

YURI
 (glares at Jimmy)
 Net! If I had tanks, I mow all of
 you down.

Annie folds the blade and returns it to Yuri.

ANNIE
 That's no way to talk, Yuri.

YURI
 Yuri kidding.
 (laughs loudly)
 Like great Russian comic...

Yuri snaps his fingers but is unable to name a Russian comic.

Everyone stares at Yuri with compassion.

ANNIE
(into the camera)
That's okay, Yuri. If we've learned
one thing today, it's to avoid
stereotypes.

Annie puts an arm around Yuri.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Russian comics.
(laughs)
That's a good one! Come on. We have
one more room to check.

EXT./INT. BED & BREAKFAST, GENJI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Genji is reluctant to unlock her door.

The crowd moans and groans impatiently.

ANNIE
Come on, Genji. Open up!

Genji slowly unlocks the door and eases open the door.

The inside of Genji's room is lit up in Christmas lights, and
the side tables, desk, and bed are covered with home
electronics and gadgets.

Annie is stunned and points to the Christmas lights.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Where did you get...?

Genji puts her head down and interrupts.

GENJI
From your Christmas tree. I didn't
think you'd miss one strand... or
three.

Annie barely gets in the room when Jimmy's bug detector goes
crazy.

Everyone's eyes open wide as Annie picks up an electric
pepper grinder on the bed.

ANNIE
This is my mom's!

GENJI
I was just trying it out.

ANNIE

We just used it on the mac 'n
cheese!

GENJI

Yes, the peppercorn container is
running low.

The bug detector beeps near a clock radio on the nightstand,
at the lamp above it, and at a thermostat on the wall.

JIMMY

The whole place is bugged.

Yuri points to a portable back massager on the bed.

FIFI

What is that?

Annie sweeps over the massager and the detector beeps.

ANNIE

Who owns a back massager with a
hidden camera?

Genji raises her hand right away. Outside in the hallway,
Fifi raises her hand.

Annie gets in Genji's face, as Jimmy staggers down the hall.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

You're addicted to electronics and
gadgets, and you're a kleptomaniac!

Annie grabs the pepper grinder and glares at Genji.

Genji looks away.

Jimmy staggers back into Genji's room and hands her his
Kitchen Fryer smiling like a happy drunk, which Annie sees.

Genji smiles and receives the gift warmly.

Everyone creeps into the room to check out Genji's Kitchen
Fryer.

Annie paces angrily in the room between the guests and yells.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

It has a spy camera!

GENJI

(winks at Jimmy)
I know.

ANNIE

You people are driving me crazy!

Suddenly, the lights go out in the entire house.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

Great! Now what do we do?

Five small LED flashlights go on, each held by a guest.

The bug detector BEEPS like crazy.

GENJI

Where did Fifi hide that
flashlight?

ANNIE

(disgusted)

Let me guess! The flashlights all
have tiny cameras!

YURI

Microphone on mine not work.

JIMMY

(slurs his words)

There's a shocker, Yuri.

Annie yells.

ANNIE

That's it! I've had it! I'd throw
you all out if wasn't for the
storm. We've had one unsuccessful
poisoning and one unsuccessful
strangulation. The perpetrator or
perpetrators are among us and I
don't feel safe. I'm determined to
find out who committed these
horrible assaults before the
Sheriff gets here when the bridge
opens.

(beat)

I want you all downstairs at the
big table in five minutes! And
bring your passports! Enough of all
this Smith and Jones crap! I want
to know who I'm dealing with!

The HEAR the pepper grinder.

GENJI

Pepper grinder still works.

Annie grabs the pepper grinder from Genji's hand.

ANNIE

(screams)

You've all got five minutes! I'm serving eggnog and cookies! Wear PJs if you got em!

Jimmy smiles at Genji then inadvertently glances at Fifi.

JIMMY

Thish I gotta she!

Genji elbows Jimmy as the guests scurry to their rooms.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Bloody hell!

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, LOBBY - NIGHT

The long table has a hotplate with a pitcher of warm eggnog, and six Christmas mugs on it. A bottle of brandy. We HEAR the HUM of a small generator which lights a few strands of Christmas tree lights and the hotplate. Two plates of Christmas cookies are on the table.

Annie, dressed in red Christmas PJs, sits at the head of the table with a legal-size notepad and pen. The Guest Registration Cards are on the table.

Blake enters wearing green Christmas PJs almost identical to Annie's. He carries his LED flashlight and his passport.

BLAKE

Sorry about what transpired upstairs.

ANNIE

I'm not any closer to finding your strangler.

BLAKE

Maybe the Sheriff will help when he or she finally gets here.

Their eyes meet and they share a moment.

Blake turns his attention to the Christmas tree.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

I... I... I thought the electricity was out.

ANNIE

My mom has a small generator that services the lobby when the power goes out. She insists the Christmas tree should never go out.

Blake laughs, grabs a cup of eggnog and adds a small drop of brandy.

BLAKE

You... keep the tree up all year?

Blake politely hands his passport to Annie.

ANNIE

(laughs)

Every day is Christmas to her. Every time I would come back from boarding school and later college, it would always be Christmas... even in the summer.

BLAKE

Boarding school?

ANNIE

Dad died when I was young. Mom needed to work to keep the property and raise me and the only job she could get required a lot of international travel.

Blake looks away sadly.

BLAKE

You... must have missed the daily interactions and hugs. But you did what you had to do to survive...

Annie stands and leaps to Blake to interrupt. They're kissing close.

ANNIE

We did more than survive. We thrived. Every time we got together, it was special. I got special hugs and kisses.

Blake sees that Annie starts to tear up.

BLAKE

I confess, it's easy for me to travel.

ANNIE

Why?

BLAKE

Both my parents are gone. No siblings. No...

Fifi enters wearing a short V-neck flannel Christmas nightshirt but doesn't interrupt them.

ANNIE

Wife or girlfriend?

Suddenly, Blake holds his mouth with both hands.

Fifi coughs to announce her presence, as Blake holds back a coughing spell.

FIFI

No? Single? Imagine that?

Annie turns to glare at Fifi.

ANNIE

Did you bring your passport?

Fifi reaches behind her, lifts the back of her nightshirt, and produces her passport.

She's hesitant to hand it over to Annie.

Jimmy, wearing silk PJs and a smoking jacket strolls in, followed by Genji and Yuri. Each with a flashlight and passport. Genji wears a cute "Christmas Yoga" sleep-shirt and matching shorts. Yuri wears a white V-neck T-shirt and baggy workout shorts.

Annie addresses the other guests.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

In the Christmas spirit, I'm inviting all of you to drink as much eggnog and brandy as humanly possible. And help yourselves to the Christmas cookies. I wish I could have warmed them up, but this is the only room with electricity.

Fifi looks around to see Blake is absent.

FIFI

What is Blakes real name?

Annie flips open Blake's passport.

ANNIE
Smith. It says Blake Smith.

FIFI
You don't believe that...

ANNIE
123 Maple Street, Geary Indiana.

FIFI
Could be a fake...

ANNIE
It matches his guest registration
card. Does yours?

FIFI
Passports can be faked.

Genji stares at the Guest Registration Cards on the table.

GENJI
(snickers)
Look who's talking. Fifi Jones? Or
Jimmy Smith.

Jimmy, sounding sober, steps up to hand Annie his passport.

JIMMY
My surname is really Smythe. It's
an early variant of the common
surname Smith. Smythe is
particularly common in...
(frowns)
Ireland. It means metalworker.

GENJI
You want everyone to think you're
an upper-class Englishman, maybe
royalty?

Jimmy looks away.

ANNIE
When you're actually a commoner
from Northern Ireland?

JIMMY
When I travel, I can dream.

Blake returns and stands quietly by the Christmas tree.

Fifi hands Annie her passport, takes a cup of eggnog, and
adds plenty of brandy.

FIFI

Fifi is short for Josephine, a name
I despised meaning Jehovah rises.

JIMMY

(snickers)
He and everyone else.

FIFI

Shut up, Smythe, or I'll cut your
throat.

Genji hands her passport to Annie, but snickers to Fifi.

GENJI

Fifi is a perfectly good name --
for a French poodle.
(to Annie)
But try Genji which translates to
"Like God."

YURI

She fights like the Devil!

Genji grabs a cup of eggnog but doesn't add brandy.

GENJI

My last name is Li, L-I. Not to be
confused with Bruce Lee. L-E-E.

ANNIE

You won't be mistaken for Bruce
Lee.

GENJI

Many people change their names.
Bruce Lee was born Lee Jun-fan.
"Bruce" from a nurse at his
birthing hospital. His parents
never liked it.

FIFI

Bruce Lee steals names. You steal
electronics... like a pro!

Genji leaps across the table and grabs Fifi's ear.

Fifi screams.

GENJI

What do you do like a pro?

Genji releases Fifi's ear and sits back down.

YURI
As if we don't know.

JIMMY
I doubt you do, Yuri. You wanker!

Yuri hands his passport to Annie, grabs a cup of eggnog, drinks it in one chug, then fills his cup with brandy as Annie opens Yuri's passport and studies it.

Yuri slams down his full mug of brandy, pulls out his switchblade, opens it, and threatens Jimmy.

YURI
Smith is not my last name!

ALL
(acting surprised)
No?

YURI
It is now! I change it from
Smirnov.

Jimmy points to Yuri and circles him like prey.

JIMMY
I knew your last name wasn't Smith!

Annie rolls her eyes in disgust.

ANNIE
How perceptive.

Jimmy defends himself.

JIMMY
The others were far more deceptive
and convincing.

Annie scoffs and points to the Guest Registration Cards.

ANNIE
Like Fifi Jones and Genji Jones?

JIMMY
They could have been sisters for
all I know.

Fifi and Genji roll their eyes and laugh.

FIFI
Identical twins?

GENJI

That's us!

ANNIE

I'm doing this to prove that none of you, except Blake, has been honest with me.

Blake looks away which no one sees.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(sad)

I'm still no closer to finding the attackers of two of my guests, and I think someone slipped Jimmy a roofie upstairs!

Everyone nods yes, as Annie pours brandy into her eggnog.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

But I remember what my mom always used to say.

(philosophical)

"He who laughs laughs, laughs laughs."

Silence. Blake joins the group at the table.

BLAKE

Isn't the saying, "He who laughs last laughs loudest?"

The others nod, 'yes.'

ANNIE

My mom says it doesn't matter if you laugh first or last.

(laughs)

What matters is that you never forget to laugh.

Blake turns serious to Annie.

BLAKE

Who do you think poisoned Fifi, strangled me, and drugged Jimmy?

(snickers)

Your B.S. degree in Criminology should be good for something!

Annie glares at Blake who touched a nerve. She stands, paces, and suffers an anxiety attack.

ANNIE

I don't know! Okay? I don't have any real-world experience and this isn't a textbook case!

JIMMY

Why not, mate?

ANNIE

We don't know if the attacks were random acts of violence or if they were premeditated based on prior knowledge of the victims!

Annie stops and glares at everyone.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

If any of you had met before coming here tonight, I doubt seriously you'd admit it.

Silence.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Jimmy, when you checked in, you thought you recognized Genji.

Everyone glares at Genji and Jimmy, who shake their heads 'no.'

YURI

He did give her Kitchen Fryer bomb.

FIFI

To spy on her and see her naked!

ANNIE

You see? If any of you knew someone prior to coming here, we might solve the cases. If you refuse to speak to me, maybe you'll have to speak to the Sheriff.

Everyone looks around suspiciously at the others.

Yuri pounds his fist on the table and glares at Annie.

YURI

What if you are psychotic killer?!

Annie is stunned as everyone freezes and glares at her.

YURI (CONT'D)

You trap us in storm and kill us
one by one!

Annie stands but fumbles for words.

ANNIE

I... studied criminals... but...

Yuri paces like an angry attorney.

YURI

You bait us in with fancy box wine
and cheeseballs.

(beat)

Extra good cheeseballs, good for
rat trap.

Everyone nods in agreement.

Yuri, on a roll, points to Fifi, but glares at Annie.

YURI (CONT'D)

You poison sexy Frenchwoman,
jealous of her bosoms.

The men nod in agreement.

Fifi passes gas to ruin the moment for the men.

Yuri points to Blake, still speaking to Annie.

YURI (CONT'D)

Then you strangle American to hide
affection for him.

(points to Jimmy)

Then you drug wimpy Englishman.

Annie and Blake glance at each other. Blake holds his mouth
with both hands.

Yuri points to Genji.

YURI (CONT'D)

Who is next? Completely wacko
Asian.

Yuri sits down at the table, pouts, and pours himself more
brandy.

YURI (CONT'D)

Or is Yuri target.

Yuri angrily jams his switchblade knife into the wooden table.

YURI (CONT'D)
Nobody like poor, defenseless
Russian.

Annie almost screams but stops herself.

ANNIE
You're all crazy!

Jimmy surprisingly stands and supports Yuri.

JIMMY
Yuri might have something here!

Blake begins to disagree.

BLAKE
Annie would never...

GENJI
(stands and interrupts)
Leave any of us alive to tell this
story!

FIFI
We should check her room for
poisons, ropes, and drugs.

YURI
Only room we not see!

Annie defiantly grabs a flashlight from a nearby table.

ANNIE
You want to see my room? Fine!
Follow me!

They all follow with their flashlights.

We see Yuri's switchblade stuck in the table.

EXT./INT. BED & BREAKFAST, ANNIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Annie leads the guests into her room and their flashlight beams go everywhere.

Jimmy shines his light on bookshelves filled with murder mysteries by Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie.

JIMMY
A morbid fascination with murder.

ANNIE
A curiosity.

GENJI
No movie posters.

ANNIE
I always preferred reading.

FIFI
No photos of boyfriends.

BLAKE
Or any friends for that matter.

ANNIE
We keep them on our phones and
tablets these days.

Blake stares at a family photo where Annie is a little girl, her father is in an Army uniform, and Annie's mom's face is blurry.

BLAKE
Father died when you were young.
Again, so sorry.

Yuri leaps to the photograph.

ANNIE
Yes, I mentioned that to Blake, but
I guess you others weren't around.

YURI
(suspicious)
Why mother's face so blurry?

Annie moves in to stare at the photo.

ANNIE
Our groundskeeper took that photo.
He wasn't good with cameras.
(sad)
We never took many photographs
after dad died, except for
occasional photos of the local
scenery.

Blake wanders to the bedside table and picks up a book titled, "The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark" by Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan.

BLAKE
A Carl Sagan fan?

ANNIE
It's the best book on critical
thinking that I've read so far.

YURI
What is this critical thinking?

ANNIE
Exactly. Using science and evidence-
based reasoning to solve problems.

JIMMY
Cutting through the shite?

ANNIE
Knowing common fallacies and false
claims.

Yuri shines his light in Annie's face.

YURI
I've seen enough. She guilty!

Blake leaps between Yuri and Annie and gets in Yuri's face.

BLAKE
You haven't been listening, Yuri!
We have no evidence!

ANNIE
There were no witnesses! I suggest
we all sleep in the lobby and keep
an eye on each other until the
Sheriff arrives.
(beat)
Bring down blankets from your rooms
and we'll make due.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, LOBBY - NIGHT

Genji arrives downstairs first, carrying her flashlight,
pillow, and blankets.

Soft Christmas music plays from a stereo. Genji takes a
moment to gaze at the Christmas tree which still has several
strands of small lights.

She glances back at the large table to see another large
platter of Christmas cookies, another pitcher of eggnog, and
a bottle of brandy. Yuri's knife remains sticking up.

She smiles as she moves closer to the tree with a wry smile and whispers.

GENJI

They wouldn't miss just one more
strand of lights.

Suddenly, the lights go out and the stereo stops.

A hand in a black glove with a white handkerchief in it covers Genji's mouth at the same time the shadowy assailant stabs Genji's upper shoulder clean through with a stainless steel rotisserie spit rod.

Genji is helped to the floor by a shadowy assailant who then disappears.

A few anxious moments pass before Annie runs in from the kitchen and SCREAMS.

The other guests run downstairs to the lobby carrying flashlights, pillows, and blankets.

They hear the generator restart and HUM outside, and the Christmas tree lights come back on.

There, at the base of the tree is Genji on her stomach with her face to the side, eyes closed, and bleeding through her pajamas at the upper-right shoulder.

Annie jumps to her side to take her carotid pulse. She examines the hole in Genji's pajamas at the location of the stab wound.

ANNIE

(relieved)

She's got a pulse. Get me two clean
towels from the kitchen, and I'll
need two pillowcases.

Blake and Jimmy provide pillowcases as Fifi and Yuri run to the kitchen.

Annie yanks Yuri's switchblade from the table and begins to cut the pillowcases down two of the seams.

JIMMY

You're handling the murder weapon!
Your prints are all over it.

Blake bends down to turn Genji over and sit her up (still unconscious).

ANNIE

The entrance wound is a small-diameter circle. Much smaller than the knife's blade, and...

Annie keeps working.

JIMMY

And, what?

ANNIE

And if the attacker wanted her dead, he or she would have used the switchblade and Genji would be dead!

BLAKE

Plus there was no blood on the knife.

JIMMY

The murderer could have wiped off the blood.

ANNIE

It's not the murder weapon! And there was no murder.

BLAKE

She's alive.

Yuri and FiFi return with two clean towels and fold them into 4" x 4" squares to use as bandages. They hand the towels to Blake who applies one bandage to the front and one to the back of Genji's shoulder.

Annie wraps one pillowcase under Genji's arm to hold the two bandages in place tying it in place with a knot.

Annie then wraps the second pillow around Genji's right arm and around her chest (but not her left arm) to immobilize her arm and stabilize the wounds.

Blake sniffs Genji's mouth.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

Formaldehyde.

Genji slowly begins to regain consciousness. She moans in great pain.

ANNIE

Stay calm, Genji. Breathe. Just breathe.

She takes a breath, groans, and opens her eyes.

BLAKE

You're going to be okay.

Genji is dazed and disoriented.

Yuri glares at Annie.

YURI

You did this. Everyone else
upstairs.

Blake gets in Yuri's face.

BLAKE

It was dark. How do you know?

YURI

We come down together.

ANNIE

Any one of you could come down,
stabbed Genji, and hopped back up.

JIMMY

(to Annie)

Or you could have slipped in here
from the kitchen.

ANNIE

To give her medical attention.
(looks around)
Which any of you could apparently
had done with the exception of
Jimmy who was no help at all.

Genji becomes more aware and glares at Jimmy.

JIMMY

I still feel queasy.

BLAKE

Not too queasy to make accusations!

Annie glares at Yuri and Fifi.

ANNIE

You two evaluated the wound and
fashioned the appropriate size
bandages.

Annie gazes at Blake.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

And you knew to elevate the wound
above the heart and helped with the
bandaging.

FIFI

(to Annie)

And what about you? Where did you
learn your Emergency Medical
Technician skills?

ANNIE

I volunteer on the ambulance crew
in the county when I'm in town.

BLAKE

Nicely done!

Genji moans in pain.

GENJI

All these attacks and we're alone!
Which one of you skewed me?

Silence. Everyone looks around.

BLAKE

No witnesses again.

Annie pulls Yuri to her.

ANNIE

They are right to assume it's one
of us. The un-attacked.

Yuri paces angrily.

YURI

It not me!

Yuri points to Fifi, Blake, Jimmy, then Genji.

YURI (CONT'D)

They would be dead if I did this.

Annie gets in Yuri's face.

ANNIE

Because you're a trained killer?

Yuri grabs his knife and defiantly stands in front of the
Christmas tree.

YURI

If any of you attack me, you will
be killed!

Jimmy laughs.

JIMMY

Yuri's right for once. If he was
the bloody attacker, we'd have
bodies piled up all over!

Annie gets in Jimmy's face.

ANNIE

And you, Jimmy?

JIMMY

(to Fifi)

Only an idiot would have used too
little poison.

(to Blake)

Or choked somebody halfway.

(to Genji)

Or used a thin poker when a
switchblade or knife from the
kitchen was available.

(to everyone)

Only an incompetent idiot would
have buggered up all these
attempted murders!

Yuri looks away sadly, which no one sees.

ANNIE

(sad)

You're right. And, we need medical
attention and the Sheriff.

LIGHTNING flashes outside. THUNDER roars and the RAIN
intensifies.

The guests spread out in the lobby and wrap themselves in
blankets.

Annie leaps to the coat rack by the door. She grabs a trench
coat and puts on rubber boots.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I'm going to see if the bridge is
still closed.

(beat)

Stay together and you'll be safe.

Annie checks her phone.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
 Still no service because of the
 storm, but if I get service
 anywhere, I'm calling 9-1-1!

Annie races out into the storm.

The guests look suspiciously at one another.

The generator stops HUMMING and Christmas lights go out.

Everyone turns sarcastic and a little angry as the guests quickly turn on their flashlights and point them randomly at each other.

JIMMY
 This is brilliant!

FIFI
 Damn Americans!

GENJI
 My shoulder is killing me.

BLAKE
 At least no one else is.

YURI
 Worst Christmas ever!

BLAKE
 Annie's doing the best she can
 under the circumstances.

All the flashlights turn on Blake.

BLAKE (CONT'D)
 (laughs)
 I'm just saying we help her by
 keeping a better eye on each other.
 That's all.

SILENCE

FIFI
 Right! Let's drink more wine.

Everyone chuckles.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, LOBBY - LATER

The generator starts HUMMING and the Christmas lights go on,
 but the rest of the house remains dark.

Annie trudges in sopping wet and disappointed.

ANNIE

The bridge is still closed and
there's no phone or Wi-Fi service
anywhere!

Annie looks around the room and doesn't see Yuri.

Annie panics.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Where's Yuri?

They all HEAR Yuri SCREAM for the kitchen.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Annie and the guests race into the dark kitchen with their flashlights to see Yuri on his stomach with his switchblade stuck in his left butt cheek.

ANNIE

Are you okay?

Yuri grunts, squeals, groans, and wiggles.

YURI

Take it out! Take it out!

Annie acts quickly and pulls the knife out while Blake reaches for a kitchen towel to apply pressure on Yuri's bleeding butt.

Yuri faints.

ANNIE

Help me carry him to the lobby!

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, LOBBY - LATER

Yuri is on his stomach under the Christmas tree. Everyone else sits in the lobby covering themselves with blankets, and staring at Yuri.

Yuri SNORES.

BLAKE

I've never seen anyone go right
from fainting to snoring.

FIFI
How did this happen?

JIMMY
He fell asleep.

FIFI
No! The injury!

ANNIE
I think it may have been self-
inflicted. Too much brandy.

GENJI
Why would anyone...?

Yuri snores loud enough to wake himself. He's groggy.

YURI
What? What happened?

Annie slides across the room with her blankets around her and leans down to Yuri.

ANNIE
We have three theories. One, an
unknown assailant entered from the
back door, snuck up behind you, and
stabbed you in the butt with your
own knife.

Everyone, but Yuri, shakes his or her head, 'no.'

YURI
That could happen.

ANNIE
There was no water on the floor
like there is by the front door
when I came in from the storm.

BLAKE
And no one heard the footsteps of
another person. The second theory
is that you reached behind yourself
with your right arm and stabbed
yourself in the butt for some
idiotic reason or too much brandy.

Everyone, but Yuri, shakes his or her head, 'yes.'

Yuri glances around the room and speaks sadly.

YURI
You think I'm capable of...?
(looks away)
What is third theory?

GENJI
You reached around with your left
hand...

Yuri grabs his butt in pain.

YURI
You think I am idiot?

BLAKE
Or a lead suspect.

Everyone, but Yuri, shakes his or her head, 'yes.'

Annie gets in Yuri's face and whispers.

ANNIE
Know what I think? I think you saw
the other guests get attacked
today, and you wanted to be one of
the group.

Yuri gazes into Annie's eyes.

YURI
I didn't want be thrown out before
Christmas. Nowhere else to go.

Silence.

Annie turns to see everybody looking away, avoiding eye
contact with others. She stands.

ANNIE
Is that what this is about?

BLAKE
Pitiful, right?

Annie looks into Blake's eyes.

ANNIE
Why didn't you tell me?

FIFI
Embarrassing. Oui?

JIMMY

Grown people without family or
close friends.

YURI

Or family too far away.

GENJI

Or they don't celebrate Christmas.

Annie looks around in sad disbelief.

ANNIE

All of you?

(beat)

I don't believe you.

(beat)

I'll be in my room! Breakfast is at
seven, and I want you gone before
eight!

Annie begins to stomp out of the lobby.

YURI

What if storm...?

Annie yells without turning around.

ANNIE

I said, out! There's no room at the
Inn!

Annie disappears. The guests stare sadly toward Annie and
then at each other.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, LOBBY - LATER

The guests are laughing and playing the board game "Clue" at
the big table. They're enjoying warm eggnog, Brandy, and
Christmas cookies. The storm has subsided. The Christmas
lights are on, and a few candles are lit on the table.
Christmas music plays softly in the background.

They look puzzled when Annie trudges into the lobby.

ANNIE

I couldn't sleep. Something's fishy
here! Wait! A lot of things are
fishy here! Think of the odds!

JIMMY

What odds, mate?

Fifi points to Jimmy and laughs.

FIFI

What, Mademoiselle? The odds of Colonel Mustard doing it with his lead pipe in the conservatory.

ANNIE

No! The odds of having five out of five guests from five countries, all in international sales!

GENJI

A billion people on the planet are in sales! Besides...

Genji flirts with Jimmy as she hands him a card.

GENJI (CONT'D)

Jimmy and I both know Colonel Mustard couldn't hurt a fly.

Annie paces around the table angrily.

ANNIE

And why did all five of these international salespeople show up today?!

FIFI

There was a storm, Chéri!

Annie keeps pacing as Blake rolls the dice.

ANNIE

Yes. I find that odd too. That five out of five intelligent guests...

(glances at Yuri from behind him)

Well, four out of five intelligent guests didn't see or hear the weather reports ahead of time!

Blake moves Professor Plum a few spots and enters the Study on the game.

BLAKE

Phone service was sketchy. And without WiFi...

Annie glares at Blake. He shuts up and looks away.

Yuri is excited about the game.

YURI

You get to make accusation, Blake!

Blake looks at Annie who shakes her head 'no.'

ANNIE

Not yet, Blake.

Annie pounds her fist on the table and the board pieces shake.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

What are the odds of having five out of five non-lethal attacks in one day, when deadly force would have been so easy?

Blake stands slowly and looks lovingly at Annie.

BLAKE

I don't know who was responsible for these horrible attacks, including the one on me, but I'm willing to let bygones be bygones.

Annie gets in Blake's face, angry.

ANNIE

That original saying "Pray that bygones betwixt me and my Lord may be bygones," was written by Scottish churchman Samuel Rutherford in the 15th century acknowledging the follies of his youth! But you're all grown adults!

YURI

Make an accusation, Blake! We not have all night!

Annie spins and turns at Yuri.

ANNIE

But you do have all night. The storm is awful.

Yuri shrugs and smiles.

YURI

Storm is gone!

Annie races to the front door, opens it, and sees no storm.

She slams the front door and stomps back to the table.

ANNIE

But still no electricity...

Blake turns on the lights at a light switch.

Annie looks around.

GENJI

Wi-Fi and phone service too!

Genji holds up three cell phones. Fifi and Jimmy take their cell phones back from Genji.

Yuri stands and smiles with a cup of brandy.

YURI

Luckily, bridge still closed.

The guests CHEER and sit back down to enjoy the game.

Annie pulls Blake aside to WHISPER in his ear.

Blake rolls his eyes and sits back down at the table.

Annie is annoyed and perplexed as Blake studies the board game and makes an accusation as everyone listens closely.

BLAKE

Annie thinks an unknown assailant
did it with a small amount of
poison, a weakly held rope,
Ecstasy, and a stainless steel
Kitchen Fryer rod in the lobby; and
a bottle of brandy and a
switchblade in the kitchen.

The guests pause for a second, then laugh hysterically.

ANNIE

Yes, I do!

Blake stands and goes to hug Annie. He speaks softly as the others look on.

BLAKE

Annie, it's just a game.

Annie turns away from him slightly.

ANNIE

Not to me!
(sad))

(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I'm not a very good innkeeper if most of my guests get seriously injured during their stays.

Annie looks back at the other guests who are nodding 'yes' as she continues sadly.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

And I'm not a very good detective prospect if I can't solve a case with only five suspects in a contained crime scene.

Annie slumps into the big couch.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I don't know what I'm going to do with my life!

Everyone turns sad.

Blake sits next to Annie and puts an arm around her.

She accepts his hug and leans into him.

Genji turns up the Christmas music. Jimmy brings her a cup of warm eggnog. Yuri brings her the bottle of brandy. Fifi brings her a Christmas cookie.

Annie assesses her choices and reaches for the bottle of brandy and weakly smiles.

All but Yuri squeeze into the couch and stare at the Christmas tree.

Then, Yuri squeals in pain as he sits down, and everyone laughs.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, LOBBY - SUNRISE

Everyone slowly wakes up, crammed into the couch. The Christmas music plays softly in the background.

Annie leaps up.

ANNIE

I've got breakfast to prepare! You may want to freshen up.

(laughs)

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Solstice, Happy Kwanza, and Happy Holiday, whatever! I gotta get to work!

BLAKE

(laughs)

This is my first stay at a Couch
and Breakfast. I'm going to enjoy
it.

The guests laugh and jump up quickly and head upstairs.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, KITCHEN - MORNING

Annie is cooking bacon and mixing pancake batter when Blake enters, freshly showered and wearing his finest clothes. A platter of hot cross buns cool on the kitchen island.

Annie spins to see him and smiles warmly.

ANNIE

Wow! You like a model from an
outdoor clothing catalog.

BLAKE

The Farmer's Almanac?

Annie puts down the bowl of batter and steps over to give a brief hug to Blake.

ANNIE

Thanks for supporting me out there.

They look into each other's eyes and share a moment.

BLAKE

I... I... I'm still a little
nervous around you but I don't feel
like spontaneously coughing.

Annie giggles, moving in kissing-close.

ANNIE

Good to know. Why are you nervous
around me?

BLAKE

You're smart and easy to talk to.

ANNIE

That's what makes you nervous?

BLAKE

In my line of work, I have to
travel a lot. It would kill me to
fall in love with you only to have
to travel away from you.

Fifi strolls in wearing a red, fluffy cashmere Christmas sweater, with a high neckline. She sees the two together and hears Blake.

BLAKE (CONT'D)
But I just can't help myself.

Fifi laughs and winks at them.

FIFI
To the hot cross buns? Oui?

Annie takes a step back and looks admiringly at Fifi.

ANNIE
Fifi, you look stunning.

FIFI
No more femme fatale for me.

Jimmy glides in wearing a black tux and looking like a frail but dapper James Bond.

FIFI (CONT'D)
I've decided to play up my other attributes.

JIMMY
The flatulence and stomach cramps?

Fifi turns to see Jimmy all dressed up,

FIFI
Who are you supposed to be, James Bland?

Genji sneaks in behind wearing a traditional Chinese gown and hugs Jimmy from behind while searching his pockets and making him giggle.

GENJI
More like the sexiest man alive.

Genji searches the front pockets of his pants, and he giggles more.

GENJI (CONT'D)
I hope that was a Chapstick!

Everyone laughs as Yuri enters in a tailored gray suit. The laughs turn to amazement as they see Yuri is clean-shaven with nicely combed hair and designer eyeglasses.

Everyone's eyes are on Yuri, but they also see that Fifi and Yuri are gazing at each other like dogs in heat.

ANNIE

Wow, Yuri! You clean up well!

Fifi steps closer to Yuri in a sexy way.

JIMMY

That's the Fifi we all know and love. And by all I mean western civilization.

Genji steps on Jimmy's foot and he yelps, making everyone laugh.

ANNIE

Grab coffee and seat yourselves at the table, please. I'll be out in a few minutes.

All the guests except Blake exit to the table in the lobby.

BLAKE

I'd like to help if you'll let me.

Annie looks into his eyes.

ANNIE

Scrambling eggs or flipping pancakes.

Blake smiles and grabs the pancake batter.

BLAKE

Batter up.

They share a moment and work perfectly together in the kitchen.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, LOBBY - LATER

We see a chaotic and fun breakfast scene. The table is beautifully decorated with the finest Christmas china and silverware.

The five guests sit around the table evenly at first, but Fifi nudges closer to Yuri, Genji squeezes closer to Jimmy, and Blake sits very close to the head of the table which he is setting for Annie.

Annie enters with a platter of eggs and bacon, a platter of pancakes, and the platter of hot cross buns.

She pauses seeing a place setting for her.

ANNIE

What's this? The help never
dines...

BLAKE

That's the head of the table for
our great provider.

Their eyes meet which everyone sees. They all laugh.

ANNIE

Maybe after everyone is served.

Annie starts to exit when she turns to the group with a
serious look.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I've overlooked something.

Annie stares at Fifi.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Motive.

The guests look stunned and puzzled.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I'll bring more coffee.

Jimmy yells as she exits.

JIMMY

Maybe we should let it bloody well
go. It's Christmas.

Annie returns with a pot of coffee and speculates in Fifi's
direction as she rounds the table pouring coffee.

ANNIE

I first thought one of the other
guests must have done it, but the
non-lethal dose itself was a clue.

Fifi looks away.

Annie takes a seat at the head of the table, smiles, and
helps herself to the pancakes, eggs, bacon, and a hot cross
bun as the guests look on.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Do you know why I'm not worried
about anything being poisoned?

Blake glances at Fifi before putting his head down and mumbling.

BLAKE
Because it was...

Annie smiles.

ANNIE
Love at first sight!
(beat)
I never believed in it until now.

Annie points to Yuri and Fifi.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Yesterday, Yuri and I were standing
at the registration desk. Yuri
looked like a Russian mobster...

YURI
Thank you.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, REGISTRATION DESK

Annie and Yuri are interrupted by Fifi who descends the stairs like a fashion model in her sexy short black dress and sunglasses.

ANNIE (V.O.)
Fifi looked sizzling hot as she
began to walk downstairs.

Fifi sees big, strong Yuri in his wet leather pants and jacket, as she swoons (which Annie sees, but Yuri does not).

Yuri drops a pen from the registration desk and bends over to pick it up with his backside facing Fifi.

Fifi stops on the stairs and raises a hand to lower her sunglasses on her nose to get a better view of Yuri.

ANNIE (V.O.)
I think Fifi saw something she
liked in Yuri.

Yuri picks up the pen and returns it, barely glancing at Fifi.

ANNIE (V.O.)
But Yuri didn't take notice.

Fifi is so disappointed that she turns and heads back upstairs, tripping on two stairs.

END FLASHBACK

Everyone shakes their heads disapprovingly at Yuri.

Yuri confesses with his head down.

YURI

I was afraid to gaze upon her
loveliness. Fear of rejection.

(beat)

Out of my league as you say here.

JIMMY

Or universe.

Genji throws an elbow into Jimmy's side.

Fifi looks sadly into Yuri's eyes.

FIFI

I thought you didn't like me.

ANNIE

But Fifi is not that type of person
to play the role of a victimized
femme fatale to attract more
attention from Yuri.

The guests gasp. Everyone turns to Fifi and Yuri puts an arm around her.

FIFI

(chuckles)

She's right! I would never pretend
to poison myself to attract
attention! This is why God invented
French perfume!

Annie turns warmly to Blake.

ANNIE

And, you!

Blake turns nervous.

BLAKE

Me?

ANNIE

You are too nervous and too shy to be any kind of salesperson unless you're selling extrovert pills that you've clearly never taken.

All eyes are on Blake.

BLAKE

I... I...

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, REGISTRATION DESK - AFTERNOON

-- Annie races downstairs, toilet brush in her right hand.

-- Their eyes meet and they share a moment. Annie remains stunned and puts the toilet brush in Blake's left hand so she can shake his right hand.

ANNIE (V.O.)

Admittedly, it was a clumsy first impression.

-- Blake stares at the toilet brush, then the help wanted sign.

-- Annie takes back the toilet brush, embarrassed.

-- Blake turns away embarrassed.

ANNIE (V.O.)

I'd never met anyone that shy!

BLAKE (V.O.)

I stupidly asked for your room right away.

ANNIE (V.O.)

(laughs)
Instead of a room!

-- Blake looks back to see Annie cringing.

ANNIE (V.O.)

I was thrown off course. No one expects to be hit by Cupid's arrow when they're holding a toilet brush.

-- Blake turns and starts to leave, embarrassed. He has to step over the handle of his roller luggage bag.

BLAKE (V.O.)
I said I'd find another B&B to
embarrass myself...

-- Annie grabs his hand.

ANNIE (V.O.)
But when I grabbed his hand, I felt
a warmth I'd never felt before. I
couldn't explain it. Nothing else
seemed to matter.

-- Blake fills out the "Guest Card" and pauses before writing
his surname.

-- Blake pushes back the card that reads, "123 Maple Street,"
Washington, D.C." and quickly takes back the card, crosses
out "Washington D.C." and writes in "Geary, Indiana."

-- Blake turns to leave again. He trips over his suitcase
handle which catches him in the crotch, and he falls to the
floor as he HEARS Annie tearing up the registration card.

-- They both HEAR THUNDER outside and smile.

-- Annie hands him a key, and he smiles.

END FLASHBACK

ANNIE
You wanted attention too.
Specifically, my attention, so...
(points to the curtains)
But you would never wrap a curtain
cord around your neck and choke
yourself long enough to leave a
mark just to attract my attention.

The guests gasp. Blake laughs.

BLAKE
Especially if I knew about that
spontaneous coughing side-effect.

Annie smiles at Blake, then turns to Jimmy.

ANNIE
And Jimmy would never voluntarily
take truth serum laced with
Ecstasy! Someone drugged him, but I
don't think it was any of you!

Jimmy looks baffled as Annie turns to Genji.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

And Genji would never stab herself to attract attention from Jimmy instead of simply admitting that she liked him too.

Genji smiles.

GENJI

It was a rotisserie spit rod from Jimmy's Kitchen Fryer. I thought he did it so I didn't say anything.

The guests gasp at Jimmy.

JIMMY

I would never do that! They are primarily used for chicken, shrimp, or rump roast!

Annie smiles at Jimmy and Genji.

ANNIE

I know you didn't do it, Jimmy. I'm convinced no one in this lonely hearts club band would ever intentionally hurt themselves.

She looks at Jimmy.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Jimmy thought he may have recognized Genji, but I think it was love at first sight. He was infatuated immediately, and it showed.

JIMMY

Showed how?

ANNIE

You were practically drooling. You would have remembered meeting her! You looked entirely infatuated with Genji from the start. Your mouth hung open. You could barely speak. It even looked like you were starting to drool.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

-- Registration desk. We see Jimmy head over heels in love staring at Genji and the clock while fumbling as he tries to get his giant suitcase up the steps.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I remember looking at the clock. It was 3:07. I wanted to remember that moment forever!

END FLASHBACK

Genji has climbed into Jimmy's lap and is kissing his neck as he speaks as Annie looks around at the guests.

ANNIE

My point is, if you hadn't met one another before coming here, you probably wouldn't have a strong motive to injure or kill someone.

Jimmy kisses Genji back.

JIMMY

Then, who bleeding attacked us, Annie!

They all lean in to listen carefully to Annie.

ANNIE

If I didn't know better, I'd guess you were all bungling spies trying to warn each other to get out of the business.

The guests all try to look away.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Or...

They HEAR a loud KNOCK on the door.

The guests turn to look.

Annie's MOM (mid-40s), a beautiful but dangerous-looking woman dressed in an all-black Ninja suit stomps in the door, and spreads her legs out in "fighting mode." She removes her Ninja face-and-skull cap.

Everyone's eyes open wide.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Mom? What are you doing back? And why are you dressed like that?

Mom wanders over to an electric outlet and removes a USB charger unit that contains a tiny hidden camera, which she points to.

MOM
 Funny you should ask. I've been
 watching you all along!

ANNIE
 What?

Mom hugs Annie's shoulders and kisses her head.

MOM
 I'm a spy, Annie. It's my job since
 your father died, Sweetie.

Annie is shocked, but not surprised. She makes an accusation
 with a smile.

ANNIE
 It was you!

Everyone sits up in their chairs like frightened
 schoolchildren as Mom circles the table with scorn.

MOM
 Yes, it was! Good work, Annie! Like
 all of your guests here, I work in
 counterintelligence.

ANNIE
 You're not only a spy, you're a
 master spy!

MOM
 It paid well enough to keep you in
 school and to keep this place for
 my retirement, which starts today!

Mom looks around the table.

MOM (CONT'D)
 Who do you think sent each of you
 the travel brochures on this place?

The guests look nervous.

Mom stops behind Jimmy.

MOM (CONT'D)
 James Smythe. Or should I say,
 Jimmy Smith?
 (beat)
 Not exactly Britain's answer to
 Daniel Craig, Sean Connery, hell...
 (beat)
 Even most of the Bond women.
 (MORE)

MOM (CONT'D)

You couldn't open your jar of Martini olives, so I did it for you.

Jimmy squirms in his seat.

JIMMY

And drugged me?

MOM

I could have killed you. I often saw you driving around MI-6 in London in a Prius!

The guests gasp.

MOM (CONT'D)

Driving ten kilometers per hour under the speed limit! You drinks Shirley Temples and Roy Rogers fu-fu drink with soda pop and grenadine. You purchased the martini briefcase to show off here.

The group shakes their heads in disgust, except for Genji who clutches Jimmy's arm for emotional support.

MOM (CONT'D)

Never killed anyone!

(sad)

Except for that extremely dangerous double agent in Prague when you ran him over by accident in a bright red convertible sports car.

JIMMY

I didn't see him crossing the road.

MOM

He wore a bright yellow raincoat!

Jimmy confesses to the group looking for sympathy.

JIMMY

It was raining as bad as it was here.

ANNIE

And you couldn't find the button to press to put up the top.

Jimmy fights back tears as he turns to Annie.

JIMMY

Exactly.
(looks away)
It could have been anyone.

MOM

Including me! MI-6 gave him a promotion, but I could see he wasn't cut out for the job.

Annie stands surprisingly happy for her mom.

ANNIE

You were there!

Mom races to hug Annie.

MOM

If he didn't kill him, the job rolled to me. You understand, dear?

Annie sits in wonder, as Mom circles the table to Fifi.

MOM (CONT'D)

Fifi? Really? Fifi Jones?

Yuri is the only one who looks surprised.

YURI

(mumbles)
Name is not Jones?

Everyone looks at Yuri with pity.

MOM

A perfectly good name for a French poodle.

Genji is excited and happy.

GENJI

That's what I said!

Mom shows Genji the tiny camera in the USB charger.

MOM

I heard you.

Genji looks away, embarrassed, but Jimmy puts an arm around her for moral support.

MOM (CONT'D)

Fifi's real name is Amélie
Blanchet, a junior-level spy for
the Direction Générale de la
Sécurité Extérieure.

ALL

Huh?

MOM

The French CIA, except Fifi was
never really good as a femme
fatale.

Fifi looks down at her sweater, as Yuri puts an arm around
her.

FIFI

It's the gas, isn't it? I know I
should have avoided the
cheeseballs.

MOM

No, Fifi. You're no Mata Hari.

Fifi looks surprised.

MOM (CONT'D)

I watched you in a nightclub in
Singapore trying to seduce a double-
agent bartender.

Fifi is defensive.

FIFI

They didn't tell me he was gay.

MOM

You would have had to use your wits
instead of your...

YURI

What?

MOM

Never mind. My point is, he got
away and you were given a desk job
until you took this little
Christmas vacation.

Fifi turns to Annie with a weak smile.

FIFI
Your color brochures are very
persuasive, Oui?

Annie smiles, as Mom stands behind Yuri and slaps him hard on
the back.

Yuri yelps.

YURI
Ow! That going to leave mark.

MOM
Yuri Smirnov!

Everyone stares at Yuri.

JIMMY
He changed it to Smith.

MOM
I know. Yuri had his last name
legally changed from Smirnov to
Smith many years ago so he wouldn't
sound so Russian.

Annie looks compassionately at Yuri.

ANNIE
But you kept 'Yuri?'

MOM
Exactly. And his employers, the
Federal Security Service, the new
KGB, have not been overwhelmed with
his performance.

The guests gasp as Yuri is defensive.

YURI
Not performance in bed...

Fifi pats Yuri on the arm.

MOM
In a Middle Eastern country which
shall remain nameless...

YURI
If it's nameless, how will we find
it...

MOM
For this story only, Yuri.

Yuri smiles like he gets it, the others shake their heads like they aren't so sure.

MOM (CONT'D)

I watched you single-handedly destroy major peace negotiation talks between the Arabs and Israelis when you were disguised as a waiter trying to serve them barbecued pork ribs and vodka!

YURI

Sweet Baby Ray's sauce is to die for.

MOM

Pork and liquor, Yuri? You were a dead giveaway and they almost killed you.

YURI

Smoke alarm went off.

MOM

I pulled it.

Mom bends down to talk to Yuri eye-to-eye.

MOM (CONT'D)

I was sent to eliminate you, Yuri.

YURI

You let me escape?

Mom nods yes, then moves around to Genji.

MOM

Genji Jones?

GENJI

I knew it sounded a little fake.

Mom reaches into Genji's pocket and pulls out a handful of rings, earrings, and gold necklaces.

MOM

You just can't help yourself, Genji Li!

Annie is shocked and angry.

ANNIE

Those are mine! You went into my room? You should be ashamed of yourself!

Genji looks away ashamed.

MOM

Genji means "like God."

FIFI

If God was a thief!

GENJI

I was going to give them out as Christmas gifts.

MOM

Genji was fired from her job at the Ministry of State Security for obvious reasons.

GENJI

Not that obvious!

MOM

I found dozens of Top Secret documents in your apartment.

Everyone gasps.

MOM (CONT'D)

I took them before your apartment was raided by your superiors.

(laughs)

I copied them before sneaking them back into your headquarters.

Everyone nods in approval.

GENJI

So they just fired me instead of killing me?

MOM

Exactly.

Mom circles the table to Blake. He and Annie squirm in their seats.

MOM (CONT'D)

That brings us to Blake Smith.

(smiles)

That's his actual name.

(MORE)

MOM (CONT'D)

And he really lives at 123 Maple
Street in Geary, Indiana.

Annie smiles.

ANNIE

That's good, right, Mom? That's
what he put on his Guest
Registration form.

MOM

Not for a spy, dear! That's why I
had our last name changed to the
letter "D." It's untraceable.

Annie's eyes turn cold as she glares at Blake.

ANNIE

You're a spy too?

BLAKE

They had full dental and a nice
retirement plan!

MOM

This was his first assignment.

ANNIE

Assignment?

MOM

To watch over you until I returned.
To keep you safe.

Annie looks away, disappointed in Blake.

ANNIE

I was an assignment?

BLAKE

I got flustered.

MOM

I know. I saw the whole thing.

Annie turns to Blake with fire in her eyes.

ANNIE

You knew?!

Blake looks like a deer in the headlights.

MOM

He was to be my replacement!

Blake looks at Mom in sadness.

BLAKE

Was?

Annie stands and pulls Blake up by the collar and pushes him to the door.

ANNIE

You're relieved of your duties,
Agent Blake Smith. I never want to
see you...

Blake stops, turns, and gets in Annie's face.

BLAKE

I resigned before coming here!

Annie pauses and looks at her mom who shakes her head 'yes.'

ANNIE

That's why you scratched out
Washington, D.C. on the Guest
Registration Card and wrote in
Geary, Indiana.

MOM

He's a horrible liar! The agency
isn't going to miss him one bit.

Annie moves in kissing close.

ANNIE

And you meant it when you said...

BLAKE

It would kill me to fall in love
with you only to have to travel
away from you.

ALL

Aw!!!!!!

Blake moves in closer for a kiss.

MOM

Kiss her you unemployed fool!

Annie doesn't hesitate. They kiss long and hard.

Everyone cheers.

INT. BED & BREAKFAST, LOBBY - NIGHT

It's Christmas dinner with all the fixings around the big table. Christmas music blares.

Yuri is carving the turkey with his switchblade as Fifi hangs on his arm.

Genji returns the stolen jewelry to Annie as a Christmas gift as Blake stands by her side laughing.

Jimmy grabs Genji to kiss him under the MISTLETOE.

Mom enters from the kitchen with a Christmas apron over her Ninja suit and delivers warm dinner rolls.

MOM

I'm glad all you spies came in from the cold, and that you've retired.

(laughs)

You were all such easy targets! I didn't want anything to happen to you so early in life.

They CHEER as the lights go out and the electricity goes off.

Suddenly, we HEAR the HUM of the generator. The Christmas tree lights go on, and it's bright enough in the room to see Mom pressing a remote-control device.

ANNIE

So that's how you did it!

(sternly)

You were here the entire time!

Mom winks at Annie before they hug.

MOM

I had to make sure you were safe around these oddballs.

They laugh and share a moment.

They are all eating and drinking around the table.

ANNIE

Genji, where are you and Jimmy heading next?

JIMMY

The Bahamas.

GENJI

Antarctica.

They stare at each other and laugh.

BLAKE

I... I... I'd like to hang around here, support Annie any way I can, and work in the family business.

Mom turns deadly serious and everyone HEARS Mom cock the pistol under the table.

MOM

Which business is that?!

BLAKE

The Bed and Breakfast business.

Mom raises a glass of wine to toast the group.

MOM

It's easier to fall in love than to become a great spy.

Everyone cheers and toasts Mom, Annie, and Blake.

They laugh, eat, and drink.

FADE OUT.

THE END