

MOLLY MCBRIDE GOES TO WASHINGTON

Written by

D. C. Murphy

DMI-PI@msn.com
949-287-9317

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - NIGHT

On a crisp fall evening, as the sun sets, MOLLY MCBRIDE, a pretty, thirty-five-year-old, petite, farm wife with long blond hair, is sitting on the front steps of her aged farmhouse staring into the cornfield of her well-cared-for farm. A tear forms in her eye.

Approximately seventy yards from the small, white, one-story, wood-framed, farmhouse is a new forty-foot by one-hundred-foot chicken house. Twenty yards from the chicken house is a red, medium-sized barn matching the age of the house.

The lights in the chicken house dim. Out of the chicken house and walking towards the farmhouse is PATRICK SHAMUS MCBRIDE, a sixty-year-old man with a limp and wearing bib-overalls and a Scottish Irish tam. He is followed by two large dogs.

Molly smiles when he approaches.

MOLLY

Chickens going to sleep, Patrick?

Patrick has a heavy Irish brogue.

PATRICK

Yes, my darling. Feeders and waterers are working. . . Sure makes work easier. I turned the fans on low.

MOLLY

Okay, good. Liam wanted a first-class operation. He wanted it so we could run it ourselves.

Patrick looks into her face.

PATRICK

The hurt will be there for some time.

MOLLY

I know. Did you ever get over losing your wife?

PATRICK

No, never. It's been six years.

MOLLY

Liam has been gone for six months.
He never got to see the chicken
house complete.

PATRICK

It's good you have the farm and the
children. It keeps you busy.

MOLLY

It all can be too much at times.
I'm so glad you came here.

PATRICK

Nothing to keep me in Ireland
except a grave... You could sell
the farm.

MOLLY

No, never. It was Liam's dream. He
wanted the girls to grow up here.

Patrick gazes across the farm.

PATRICK

No better place.

Molly tears up and wipes her eyes.

MOLLY

Now I need to sell the first batch
of chickens and find someone to
haul them.

PATRICK

You'll get it done.

Bursting out of the house are Molly's three children, Magee,
nine-years-old, Mattie, six-years-old, and Mary, three-years-
old. They are dressed in their night closes.

Mary lands in Molly's lap as Mattie and Magee hug their
grandpa.

MOLLY

My girls all ready for bed? Brush
your teeth?

MATTIE & MAGEE

Yes, mamma!

MOLLY
Did you help your sister?

MAGEE
Yes, mamma, I did.

Mary shows her teeth. Molly hugs her tighter.

MOLLY
Okay, off to bed. I'll be in to
tuck you in.

The children scurry off. Patrick chuckles.

PATRICK
Worth waking up for.

MOLLY
Yes, they are.

Molly starts to stand.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Well, I have to go over to the
Anderson farm in the mornings. See
if he will give me some pointers on
selling these chickens.

PATRICK
Rest well.

EXT. ANDERSON FARM - DAY

The Anderson farm has a newer farmhouse and barn and an
identical to Molly's chicken house.

Molly is driving up in her ten-year-old Ford pickup. Mary is
with her. She is greeted by a smiling JEB ANDERSON. Jeb is
sixty-years-old, with a toned muscular build and tanned arms.

JEB
Molly, nice to see you! Is
everything running smoothly?

MOLLY
So far.

JEB
How's the new chicken shed?

MOLLY

Working good. It will be better
when it's paid off.

Jeb laughs.

JEB

That will be a while. Liz is in the
house.

MOLLY

I came to see you, get some advice.

JEB

Oh! Let's go inside and get some
coffee.

INT. ANDERSON FARMHOUSE - DAY

As they enter they are greeted by a smiling, bubbly, LIZ ANDERSON. Liz is sixty-years-old with a round body and shoulder-length brown hair.

The Anderson farmhouse is spotless. There are four grown children's pictures along with grandchildren on a mantel.

Liz becomes giddy as she spots Mary.

LIZ

Is that little Mary? It must be
cookie time!

Mary smiles wide as Liz takes her by the hand and leads her to the kitchen.

LIZ (CONT'D)

I have some fresh oatmeal-raisin
cookies and some fresh cold milk.
Coffee Molly?

MOLLY

Sure.

JEB

(smiling)
She does miss her grandkids.

MOLLY

I'll have to bring mine over more
often.

JEB

What can I help you with?

MOLLY

It's about the chickens. They're about ready for market. Who do I contact?

JEB

Well, that's easy. There is only one place to sell them.

MOLLY

Really! In the whole country?

JEB

In the whole country?

MOLLY

How did that happen?

JEB

Dupree. Dupree has been around forever and they have a monopoly. They make money on every single chicken sold.

MOLLY

Do we get a fair price?

Jeb laughs out loud.

JEB

Oh hell no! They screw us any way they can!

MOLLY

I don't get it.

JEB

It's real easy, it's politics. Have you ever heard the name, Dupree?

MOLLY

No, I don't think so.

JEB

He's a state senator. He also finances political campaigns that suit him.

MOLLY

Does no one go against him?

JEB

I haven't heard of anyone. Dupree produces half of the chicken consumed in this country and buys up the rest at his price which leaves us with very little.

MOLLY

How do we survive?

JEB

Barely. Surely not with chickens. Framing is not what it used to be. It's all corporations now. This was Liz's family farm so we have it better than most, we own it outright.

MOLLY

We inherited from my uncle, so we're all right there.

JEB

You should be able to survive, just not on chickens.

MOLLY

It sounds hopeless.

JEB

I couldn't convince any of my kids to go into farming. When Liz and I go, there goes the family farm.

MOLLY

So, why does anyone raise chickens?

JEB

We all started years ago before greed set in. It used to be worth it but Dupree kept paying less and less and taking up more of the market.

MOLLY

What do you get?

JEB
Can't tell you.

MOLLY
What!

JEB
That's right. We all signed a contract with Dupree and there's a nondisclosure clause. If they ever find out we talked to each other, well then we're out. And most of us have a big investment, like your new chicken house.

MOLLY
We had no idea. The man who sold us the building made it look like a sure winner.

JEB
And the company who sold you the chicken house is a subsidiary of Dupree.

MOLLY
(shocked)
What, you're kidding!

JEB
I kid you not.

MOLLY
Amazing.

JEB
Don't get me wrong, you will make a little money, just not what you hoped.

MOLLY
How much?

JEB
Well, let me just say you would make more working at the Dairy Queen in town.

Molly shakes her head.

MOLLY

We had a good life in Omaha. We built houses, I designed them and Liam built them.

JEB

You'll be all right, you own the land.

MOLLY

Yeah, we made good money. We thought we were rich. But, we wanted a better life for the girls.

Jeb laughs again.

JEB

Farm work is not easy. It is satisfying and you get winters off.

Molly smiles and shakes her head in agreement.

MOLLY

And my daughters will have a good life. A good school.

JEB

Raised my four here. And I got two doctors and a lawyer and the other one has a business.

MOLLY

Maybe I need a lawyer.

JEB

Ha! Not likely. You can't fight a senator. They make the rules.

MOLLY

No one has tried to sue?

JEB

Naw! This all happened slowly and before we knew it, we were trapped. Dupree is real smart.

Molly shakes her head and stares at the floor.

MOLLY

Well, that's that I guess.

JEB

If you got the fight in you, you could talk to my daughter. She's a lawyer over in Carroll. A bankruptcy lawyer but she knows her stuff. She's right on Main street.

MOLLY

Maybe, next time I'm in town. Well, thanks for the coffee and the heads-up.

JEB

Stop by anytime. Make Liz happy, bring the kids.

MOLLY

I will.

JEB

I'll get you the phone number of the Dupree buyer.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - DAY

Molly and Patrick are standing outside the chicken house speaking with the representative, a middle-aged man wearing a John Deere cap. He has a clipboard.

REPRESENTATIVE

Let's see, 478 birds, not bad.

MOLLY

Yeah, we started with 500.

REPRESENTATIVE

It's the new henhouse. Climate-controlled and it helps to keep the varmints away.

PATRICK

Cost a pretty penny.

REPRESENTATIVE

It'll be worth it when it's paid off.

MOLLY

I won't see that in my lifetime.

REPRESENTATIVE

It's an investment in your family's future.

MOLLY

Funny, that's the same thing the guy who sold it to me said. So how much did we earn?

REPRESENTATIVE

Ah. I have to go back to the office and figure it out. We'll send you a contract and a check.

PATRICK

Wait a minute, you can't figure it out here?

REPRESENTATIVE

I have to see what the contract says.

PATRICK

Sounds fishy.

REPRESENTATIVE

It's the only game in town. Take it or eat a lot of chickens.

PATRICK

Why you

MOLLY

Papa! Seems like we have no choice.

REPRESENTATIVE

Don't get mad at me, I just work for the company. Sign here.

Molly hesitates before signing.

MOLLY

It's like walking blind.

He hands her a copy of what she signed.

REPRESENTATIVE

It's your responsibility to get them to the slaughterhouse in Denison.

MOLLY

Of course.

REPRESENTATIVE

Within a week.

INT. MAIN STREET ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

Molly and her three girls are eating ice cream in a booth that faces out to the street.

MAGEE

Good ice cream.

MOLLY

Yeah, they make their own.

MATTIE

I like coming to town. I like the farm but sometimes it's too quiet.

MOLLY

This is a nice town, fairly peaceful. Not like Omaha.

Molly looks out to the street and across from the ice cream shop she spies a painted sign on a window that reads, "Wagoner and Anderson, Attorneys at Law."

MOLLY (CONT'D)

I wonder?

MAGEE

Wonder what mom?

MOLLY

Let's finish our ice cream. I want to stop across the street.

Mattie looks across the street.

MAGEE

A lawyer, why?

MOLLY

I just want to ask a few questions.

Magee shrugs her shoulder.

INT. WAGONER AND ANDERSON LAW OFFICE - DAY

The law office is one big room with cubicles. Up-front and facing a large bay window is a receptionist's desk. On the wall to the right of the receptionist desk is a long bookcase filled with law books. On the opposite wall is a painting of a farm.

The receptionist, Pam, is a plump, forty-year-old with short blond hair.

Pam has a wide smile as Molly and the girls enter.

PAM

Good afternoon. How can I help you?

MOLLY

Afternoon.

Molly's attention goes to the painting of the farm.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

That looks like my neighbor's farm, the Anderson's.

PAM

It is. Their daughter painted it.

MOLLY

I must be in the right place. I'm Molly McBride, their neighbor.

PAM

You're new around here.

MOLLY

Yes, yes, been out here less than a year.

PAM

What can we help you with?

PAM (CONT'D)

I'd like to talk with Miss Anderson.

PAM (CONT'D)

And what would this be about?

MOLLY

Well, it's about chickens.

PAM

Chickens.

MOLLY

Yes, I spoke with her father. I need something clarified. I have a contract.

Molly pulls a contract from her purse.

PAM

Oh, you would like her to read that?

MOLLY

Yes.

Pam engages the intercom on the phone.

PAM

Sheri, there is a lady here with three of the most adorable little girls. She is your parent's neighbor and she has a contract she needs you to read.

INTERCOM

Be right there.

Sheri appears from in back, She is a pretty, slender, thirty-year-old with long black hair.

As soon as she spies the children she breaks out in a big smile and offers Molly her hand.

SHERI

Hi, I'm Sheri. You bought the farm to the east of my parents.

MOLLY

Yes, I'm Molly.

SHERI

And my mother told me about these three. She's trying to guilt me into getting married and starting a family. How can I help you?

MOLLY

I have a contract from Dupree.

SHERI

Ah, Dupree, a bad word in these parts. Pam, why don't you entertain the girls. Give them a piece of candy you keep in your desk. Molly, come back to my desk.

PAM

Girls, do you want to play on the computer?

MATTIE & MAGEE

Sure.

They walk towards the back passing a man on the phone.

Sheri's cubical is neat and well organized with pictures of her parents and brothers and their families on the wall.

SHERI

Have a seat. Let me see that.

She takes the contract and reads. Molly sits in silence.

SHERI (CONT'D)

I've seen this before. It's the same as my parents. What's your concern?

MOLLY

Is it legal?

SHERI

You signed it. That makes it legal. Is it good for the chicken farmer? No.

MOLLY

Is there anything I can do?

SHERI

No, I've had this conversation before. Dupree is very smart and unscrupulous.

MOLLY

Nothing can be done?

SHERI

Nothing, sorry. Bringing a suit would be very expensive and we would lose anyway. His lawyers are in New York.

MOLLY

That's depressing.

SHERI

Yes, it is.

MOLLY

I guess that's it, work to make the rich richer.

SHERI

Sorry. . . No one told you about Billy Hodges?

MOLLY

No.

SHERI

Years ago when I was still a teen a farmer named Billy Hodges got mad at Dupree. He beat-up the Dupree representative. He ended up dead.

MOLLY

Dead!

SHERI

Runoff the road into a culvert. The sheriff said it was an accident but a local farmer out in his field saw a white pick-up run him into the ditch.

MOLLY

And he got away with it.

SHERI

The farmer looked at a bunch of pictures of license plates and identified it as from a truck from New York.

MOLLY

My, god!

SHERI

Everyone Knew. It quieted everyone down. Dupree took over after that. Farmers had too much invested to quit.

MOLLY

It's a nightmare. I didn't expect this when we moved out here..... Nothing can be done?

SHERI

You could run for the senate.

MOLLY

Run for the senate?

SHERI

Pass a law that challenges the monopoly.

Molly starts to stand.

MOLLY

An impossibility. Thank you for your time. What do I owe you?

SHERI

Oh, nothing. Stop by and chat anytime.

They shake hands.

SHERI (CONT'D)

You could take the girls to my mom's, she would love that.

MOLLY

I will.

INT. CHICKEN HOUSE - DAY

Molly is backing up the pickup to the chicken house. The back is loaded with crates of chicks.

Out of the house comes Patrick and the girls. The girls are excited and run and skip to the pickup.

MAGEE
 (excited)
 Look at all the baby chickens.

MATTIE & MAGEE
 They're so cute.

Mary is laughing as she puts her hands through the holes in the crate.

Molly takes a chick out of a crate and puts it in Mary's hands. Mary laughs harder, as does Patrick and Molly.

PATRICK
 How many did you get this time?

MOLLY
 620, all they had.

PATRICK
 A little more money.

MOLLY
 That's the idea. Did you clean out the waters?

PATRICK
 All cleaned out and disinfected.

MOLLY
 Okay, girls, we'll unload the crates inside the door and you heard them into their pens.

Patrick and Molly unload the truck and the girls, with much enthusiasm and giggling, push the chicks into their pens.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
 (to Patrick)
 I figured we made \$2.30 an hour from the last batch.

PATRICK
 That's not much. Hardly worth it.

MOLLY
 That's for both of us and after expenses.

Patrick lets out a short laugh.

PATRICK
Not even beer money.

MOLLY
I'm so glad you came here.

PATRICK
My son's family needed me. You and
the girls are all I got.

Molly hugs Patrick.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
We'll make it work.

MOLLY
(loud)
Come on girls, let's make supper.

The girls run ahead of Molly and Patrick as they walk towards the house. Mary is lagging and has her hands clasped together.

INT. MCBRIDE FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

MOLLY
Everyone wash up! What do we want
for supper?

MATTIE & MAGEE
How about spaghetti?

MOLLY
Perfect, easy to make. There's
garlic bread in the freezer. You
girls make the salad.

Mary is standing in the middle of the room. She still has her hands clasped and is beaming. Molly notices.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
What is going on with you little
Mary?

Mary starts to giggle as she opens her hands. A chick pops out and starts running around. Mary laughs out loud. Everyone stops what they're doing and gives their attention to Mary. Patrick burst out loud.

PATRICK
She has a pet!

The girls chase the chick around until Magee captures it. The dogs react barking. She stands petting it.

MAGEE
Ah, she's cute.

MOLLY
She looks like all the rest.

MAGEE
We need a pet.

MOLLY
We'll get a cat.

Mary reaches out her hands.

MARY
Mine!

MOLLY
Hunny!

Magee hands the chick to Mary.

MARY
Mine!

PATRICK
Looks like it is.

MOLLY
Oh, God!

PATRICK
(chuckles)
My wife used to keep squirrels in the house. She found a pair without a mother. She became their mother.

MOLLY
I guess. Magee, go find a shoebox.

MARY
I can keep her?

MOLLY
Looks like I'm outvoted. Yes.

MAGEE

Come on, we'll find a home for her.
You will have to give her a name.

MARY

Yea! Her name is, princess!

EXT. AMERICAN LEGION HALL - NIGHT

Farm families are arriving. A handmade sign on the door reads, "Farm Bureau meeting."

At the door and ushering everyone inside is Farm Bureau agent, MIKE HANSON. Mike is dressed in a suit and tie which is a contrast to the others who are dressed casually, some in their work clothes, bib-overall or jeans.

The hall is decorated in red, white, and blue with the American flag prominently displayed along with The farm bureau logo.

Round tables fill the hall and to one side is a buffet table filled with sandwiches, snacks, and drinks. On the other side is a bar with beer on tap.

The crowd is loud and lively.

Molly, Patrick, and the girls have arrived. Patrick is carrying the shoe box.

PATRICK

There's a table next to the bar.

Patrick places the shoebox on the table between himself and Mary. Mary peeks inside.

Patrick stops at the bar and purchases two glasses of beer. He hands one to Molly as he sits at the table.

MAGEE

Mom, can we get something to eat?

MOLLY

Sure. Help Mary.

MAGEE

Okay.

MOLLY

And bring me and grandpa a sandwich.

MAGEE

Okay.

Jeb and Liz Anderson enter the hall and approach molly's table.

LIZ

(upbeat)

Are the little ones here? Where are the little ones?

MOLLY

They're over at the food helping themselves.

LIZ

I better go, the food goes fast.

JEB

Good to see you, folks, here. They always put on a good feed. Mind if we sit with you?

MOLLY

No, feel free. I thought I might learn something.

JEB

Good for you. I hear they're coming out with a better draught resistance seed. My corn is lagging this year.

MOLLY

Mine was knee-high by the fourth then it slowed. I may need to irrigate. An added expense.

Liz and the girls return to the table. The girls are balancing their plates and drinks. Liz is carrying an over-filled plate and a drink.

JEB

Where's mine?

LIZ

One thing at a time. I only got two hands.

Liz returns to the buffet.

MOLLY

Sold my first batch of chickens.

JEB

How did that go?

MOLLY

Shitty! The rep. Was nice enough, a little condescending.

JEB

Make any money?

MOLLY

A whole \$2.30 Between Patrick and me.

JEB

At least that's something. You should make up for it on your corn and soybeans.

MOLLY

Yeah, but still. It's wrong.

JEB

Yes, it is.

Liz returns with Jeb's plate. As she sits to eat she watches Mary slowly lift the lid on the shoebox a crack and place something inside.

LIZ

What ya got there, Mary?

MARY

Princess.

LIZ

Princess?

MOLLY

Mary has a pet chicken who can not be home alone.

LIZ

I see. My Jason had a pet goat.
Pain in the ass that goat.

Into the hall walks Jeb and Liz's daughter, Sheri.

JEB

Hi, hun.

She hugs and kisses her mom and dad.

LIZ

Dear, have you had supper?

Sheri looks at her mom's plate.

SHERI

Is there any left.

JEB

You better hurry. Your mom's going
back for seconds.

LIZ

Very funny. I didn't have lunch.

SHERI

Hi, Molly, good to see you and the
girls.

MOLLY

Hi. I'm surprised to see you here.

SHERI

I thought I might drum up some
business.

MOLLY

Smart. Oh, I almost forgot, this is
my father-in-law, Patrick. He moved
all the way from Ireland to help
out.

PATRICK

Hi, good to meet the neighbors.

JEB

Good to meet you.

LIZ
Yes, you all will have to come over
for a picnic, soon.

MOLLY
We will.

SHERI
I better get a plate.

Liz scoots over to make room.

LIZ
How do you know our daughter?

MOLLY
I stopped in her office to talk
about the chicken situation.

JEB
Bet you didn't get far.

MOLLY
No. I did hear an interesting story
about a Billy somebody running into
a ditch. Not sure if it's true.

JEB
Billy Hodges. Damn right it's true.
Most people in this room will tell
you about Billy.

LIZ
I went to school with him. He was a
good guy. Damn Dupree!

Sheri returns to the table as Mike Hanson takes the
microphone.

MIKE
Thank you, thank you all for coming
to our annual farm bureau, meet and
greet.

The crowd applauds.

There is sporadic talking throughout.

MIKE (CONT'D)

There is still plenty of food left
and the ladies will bring out the
pies soon.

More applause.

MIKE (CONT'D)

And don't forget the bar is open
for a minimal price.

Louder applause.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Now I will take any questions you
may have.

MAN 1

Are we done fighting with China? I
have soybeans to sell?

MIKE

I have studied the new trade
agreements and I believe when
everything settles you'll be happy.
It is a better deal for us.

MAN 2

When can we start shipping? My bins
are full.

MIKE

I spoke with the shipper in San
Pedro, California, and the Chinese
ships are on their way.

A content murmurs throughout the crowd.

MAN 3

Have the new seeds been tested? Are
they on the market?

MIKE

Yes. They should be delivered for
the next planting.

Small applause.

MIKE (CONT'D)

We've all noticed the summers are dryer than usual. The new seeds should help.

MAN4

I can't fix my new million dollar tractor. I have to take it back to the dealer and he charges an arm and a leg. It's got those damn computers that only the dealer knows how to fix.

A lot of yahs and head nodding from the crowd.

MIKE

This is the biggest complaint I've heard recently. They don't tell you that when you buy one.

MAN4

My son took computer classes and he says they have exclusive rights or something.

MIKE

That's right.

MAN4

Well, what can be done?

MIKE

Nothing. Nothing unless you can get your state legislators to pass a law.

MAN4

Hell, that will never happen.

Time passes.

MIKE

Any last questions.

The crowd murmurs. No one responds.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Well then,

Suddenly Molly speaks up.

MOLLY
I have a question.

MIKE
Okay, young lady.

MOLLY
I'm Molly McBride and I've been
here less than a year. I'm trying
to raise chickens.

A murmur throughout the crowd. Molly looks around nervously.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
(stammers)
I just wonder why things are the
way they are. Everyone should be
paid for their work.

More murmuring and heads nodding in agreement.

MIKE
Hunny, that's just the way things
are. Farming is a risky business.
You win some you lose some. Why did
you get into chicken farming?

All eyes are on Molly.

MOLLY
I didn't know. The salesman made it
sound like a sure bet.

MIKE
I take it you bought from Dupree?

MOLLY
Yes.

MIKE
Well, he's a snake Hunny. You have
to avoid snakes least you get bit.
And you got bit.

The crowd chuckles.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Rest assured you're not the only
one to be bit by Dupree.
(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

Most everyone in this room has been in his debit at one time or another. Most still are.

Most everyone in the room shakes his head in agreement.

MOLLY

Seems like we should be able to do something about it.

MIKE

That could cost you dearly. Best to leave things as they are. Well, if there aren't any more questions, thank you all for coming and for all of your insurance needs. Stop into our office on Main street.

More head nodding.

The hall is clearing out. Sheri stops Molly.

SHERI

You sound determined.

MOLLY

It just bugs me. It's so unfair.

SHERI

Have you ever thought of running for the statehouse?

MOLLY

Oh, hell, no! I wouldn't know the first thing.

SHERI

I watched the crowd. They were interested in what you had to say. And many of them still have Billy Hodges stuck in their craw. Wilbur Queen has been in office for too long. Nobody likes him. He's a Dupree man.

MOLLY

That's more than I can imagine.

SHERI

Tell me you'll think of it. I'll help.

MOLLY

I don't know.

SHERI

The crowd was listening to you.

MOLLY

They were, weren't they?

Sheri shakes her head in agreement.

SHERI

You know where to find me.

INT. MCBRIDE FARMHOUSE - DEN

Molly is sitting at her desk studying her ledger by lamp-light. Mary is asleep on her lap. The house is quiet.

A voters guild sits on the desk.

Through a window, we can see the wind blowing and spitting snow.

We hear the kitchen door open and close.

Patrick enters the room rubbing his hands.

PATRICK

Winters coming.

MOLLY

Yes, it is. Chickens put to bed?

PATRICK

Yes, I had to turn up the heat.

MOLLY

More money. There goes our profit.

He sees the ledger.

PATRICK

How did you do?

MOLLY

Not horrible. We made a profit. The soybeans gave the most profit. We should plant more next year. Wish I could dump the chickens.

PATRICK

They are more work than field crops.

MOLLY

And little or no profits. I have a check for you. It's only 10,000. Not much for all the work you did.

PATRICK

A check! Oh, dear no! Put it back into the farm or for the girls. Room and board are enough for me. And besides, I get a pension each month, pays for my beer.

MOLLY

Are you sure?

PATRICK

Yes, darling. You gave me a family. I love you and the girls.

MOLLY

Thank you, grandpa.

Patrick exits the room. Molly picks up the voter's guide and starts to read.

INT. WAGONER AND ANDERSON LAW OFFICE - DAY

Molly and Mary enter to a smiling Pam.

PAM

Hi, you two! What brings you to town?

MOLLY

Registering to vote and doing a little shopping. Is Sheri in?

PAM

Sure is. Let me get her.

PAM (CONT'D)
(intercom)
Miss Anderson, your neighbors are
here to see you.

INTERCOM
Send them back.

PAM
You can leave Mary up here.

Upon reaching Sheri's desk she raises to shake Molly's hand.

SHERI
Hi, what brings you in?

MOLLY
I came to register to vote.

SHERI
And.....

MOLLY
I've been thinking about what you
said, about running for office.

SHERI
Great! Why not. I hoped you might.

MOLLY
How would I go about it?

SHERI
First, you have to fill out the
paperwork. This can be done at the
same place you go to register to
vote.

MOLLY
Okay.

SHERI
Next, you would have to raise
money.

MOLLY
Raise money, how?

SHERI

You may not know it but you have a good start. You made an impact at the farm bureau meeting. People will remember you.

MOLLY

So, how do I go about it?

SHERI

Like all politicians, you go to the farmers and explain your position.

MOLLY

And they give me money to run a campaign?

SHERI

That's right.

MOLLY

That easy?

SHERI

That's how it's done.

MOLLY

Okay.

SHERI

They give to Queen, why not you.

MOLLY

I guess.

SHERI

Sell yourself. Like you did at the meeting. They are ready for a change and they all remember Billy Hodges. Mention him.

MOLLY

So drive out to their farms?

SHERI

Drive out to the farms, go to all the stores. And take the kids. And be prepared to eat a lot.

MOLLY
I could do that.

SHERI
I'll help you any way I can.

MOLLY
Campaign manager, maybe.

SHERI
Sure, I can get posters printed up
and get the word out.

MOLLY
That would be encouraging.

SHERI
Get out and meet the people. Let
them know you're sincere.

MOLLY
I could do that.

INT. MCBRIDE FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Molly is inspecting the girls.

MOLLY
All cleaned up

MATTIE
Mom! It's Saturday, why do we have
to put on our good clothes?

MOLLY
We're going, visiting.

MATTIE
Who?

MOLLY
Our neighbors.

MATTIE
Why?

MOLLY
Who, why, what! My inquisitive
daughter.

MAGEE

(whining)

We wanted to play on the farm.

MOLLY

You can later. Now put on your coats, let's go.

EXT. ANDERSON FARM - DAY

Jeb comes out of the barn as Molly drives up.

JEB

Well, hi neighbor. Come for a visit?

MOLLY

I came to talk to you about something.

JEB

Running for office. I talked to Sheri. Sounds like a good idea to me. Come on in, I bet there are some cookies.

Liz greets them at the door.

LIZ

Wonderful, company. Come on in, get out of the cold.

Time passes:

The McBrides are leaving. Each girl has a sandwich bag with cookies. Molly is holding a check. Liz and Jeb are at the door.

JEB

You can count on us. We'll spread the word.

LIZ

You come back for supper sometime, maybe Sunday after church.

MOLLY

We will.

JEB

Keep heading east, you'll run into more farmers that will talk to you.

MOLLY

Thanks.

INT. FORD PICKUP - DAY

MOLLY

That wasn't so bad, now was it?

MATTIE

You didn't tell us we were going to get cookies.

Start montage.

The pickup is driving onto a lane. They pass a mailbox that reads, "Hanover."

Molly is leading the girls out of the house and she is placing a check into her purse. Magee is smiling as she carries half a pie.

The pickup is driving onto a lane. They pass a mailbox that reads, "Snyder."

The McBrides exit the house. Molly is placing a check into her purse. Each girl has a piece of cake in a Tupperware container and is smiling.

The pickup is driving onto a lane. They pass a mailbox that reads, "Beyer."

The McBrides exit the house. Molly is placing a check into her purse. Magee is carrying a large ham.

The pickup is driving onto a lane. They pass a mailbox that reads, "Klahn."

The McBrides exit the house. Molly is placing a check into her purse. Every girl is carrying a candy bar.

End montage

INT. FORD PICKUP - DAY

MATTIE

Mom, this is great. People are so nice.

MOLLY

Farm folks, nicest in the world. Save the sweets tell later.

MARY

I'm hungry.

MOLLY

One more stop and then we'll go to town and get some burgers.

The pickup drives onto a lane. They pass a mailbox that reads, "Larsen."

They are greeted at the door by a smiling Ed and Judy Larsen. Ed and Judy are a very fit, seventy-year-olds.

ED

We heard you were coming.

JUDY

Come on in. Get out of the cold.

They enter a well-kept house. The dining room table is set with a feast. There are slices of ham and turkey on a platter, bread and buns, potato and macaroni salads, and pitchers of tea and lemonade.

JUDY (CONT'D)

We're all ready for you. I hope you're hungry. And I have homemade donuts for dessert.

MOLLY

Oh, my. That's some spread.

JUDY

Ed takes their coats. You've got growing girls. Have a seat and dig in.

Later: The feast is finished.

MOLLY
That was amazing.

JUDY
There's plenty more. And there are
donuts. Made them this morning.

MOLLY
Girls.

Blank looks from the girls.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
I think there full.

JUDY
You'll have to take some donuts
with you.

MOLLY
Thank you so much. I won't have to
feed the girls for days.

Ed gets up from the table and returns with his checkbook.

ED
Now, I know what you came for. Jeb
called. The whole valley is talking
about you.

JUDY
We think the future is with you,
what with these three young-ones.

ED
I hate that Queen guy anyway. He
was the only game in town.

Ed is writing a check.

ED (CONT'D)
Here, this should help.

Molly looks at the check.

MOLLY
Oh, my. I promise I will listen to
you and do my best.

ED
I'm sure you will.

MOLLY

Thank you so much. This makes me think I'm doing the right thing.

ED

Give it a try. It's about time. But look out for those politicians. Remember Billy Hodges.

MOLLY

Yes. Again thank you.

EXT. FORD PICKUP - DAY

MAGEE

Mom, I'm full.

MATTIE

Me, too.

MARY

Me, too. Tummy hurts.

Molly laughs

MOLLY

Okay, girls, enough for today, let's take some ham home to grandpa.

MAGEE

And donuts and cake and cookies and candy and pie.

INT. WAGONER AND ANDERSON LAW OFFICE - DAY

Monday morning and the snow is starting. Molly and Mary enter the law office. Pam smiles wide.

PAM

Well, I'm seeing a lot of you two.

MOLLY

Yes, back to see Sheri.

PAM

She told me, I'm excited. I'm telling everyone I know!

MOLLY

Thank you. I'm getting support. I'm starting to think it's the right decision.

PAM

Why not? I'll get Sheri.

ENGAGES INTERCOM

Sheri, It's Molly and Mary.

INTERCOM

Send her back.

PAM

(to Mary)

Stay up here with me Hunny, we'll play on the computer.

MOLLY

Thank you.

Sheri stands and hugs Molly as she enters her cubical.

SHERI

You were out this weekend.

MOLLY

Yeah, I'm still stuffed.

SHERI

I told you. I love farm people.

MOLLY

How did you know?

SHERI

Word is out. Word spreads fast here. Especially something as exciting as this. People have been wanting to get rid of Queen for some time.

Molly pulls the checks from her purse.

MOLLY

Look at these.

SHERI

Yup. People are excited. They like you.

MOLLY

What's next?

SHERI

We go over to the bank and open an account. It's the law. We must keep good books.

MOLLY

Okay.

SHERI

People know you're honest, but we may have to show the books to the election commission.

MOLLY

And then?

SHERI

You keep doing what you're doing and I'll get posters made up. We'll blanket this town and all the towns in the area. And the farms.

MOLLY

Okay.

SHERI

We'll work up to having a meet and greet.

MOLLY

Okay.

SHERI

Let's go to the bank and then we can work on a slogan. And we need a nice picture of you and one of you and the girls.

MOLLY

Yes, okay. Thank you so much for your help.

SHERI

This is what campaign managers do.

Start montage:

Sheri is carrying a big pile of posters out of the printers. The posters have a large picture of a smiling Molly and the words, "Isn't it about time for a change."

On another day we see Sheri attaching posters to light poles. These posters have Molly and the girls smiling. The posters read, "A family you can trust."

On another day we see Sheri coming in and out of several stores placing posters in the windows.

We see shoppers stopping to read the posters and nodding in agreement.

We see Molly attaching a poster on a utility pole at a four-way stop out in the country. Mary is in the pickup.

We see several autos pausing at the stop sign reading the posters.

End montage:

INT. WHITE SEDAN - DAY

An elderly farm couple is inside.

FARMER

Well, look at that, something we haven't seen in years.

FARM WIFE

She looks nice. And look at those darling children.

FARMER

She's the lady at the farm bureau meeting.

FARM WIFE

Well, she has my vote.

FARMER

Why not.

EXT. CARROLL, IOWA - MAIN STREET - DAY

Driving slowly through town is a red Cadillac.

INT. CADILLAC - DAY

Two bloated white males, Fred and Chuck, are inside.

FRED
Nice little town, good food.

CHUCK
How long have you been coming here?

FRED
Years. Ever since Mr. Queen ran for office. This is my territory.

Suddenly he jerks the auto in front of a poster.

FRED (CONT'D)
What the hell!

CHUCK
What!

FRED
That sign!

He jumps out of his auto and rips the sign off the pole. He returns to his auto with the sign.

CHUCK
What's that?

FRED
(angry)
Shit! Some dumb-ass woman is going to try to go up against us! Never happen!

CHUCK
She is pretty.

FRED
Not when I'm done with her!

He spits gravel as he takes off.

CHUCK
What are you going to do?

FRED
Get rid of her. Scare her off.

EXT. CASEY'S GENERAL STORE - DAY

Fred stops his Cadillac in front of a store directly in front of Molly's poster in the window. He is now dressed in a sports jacket.

FRED
Good-damn! Another one of those signs! They're everywhere.

CHUCK
Those must be her kids. Cute kids.

FRED
Shut up!

CHUCK
I'm just saying.

FRED
Fuck it! I always get a good donation from the manager here. Let's see.

He produces a black address book. He scans through it.

FRED (CONT'D)
That's it, Paul Peters. I got it. I'll be right back. Let's see what we can get.

INT. CASEY'S GENERAL STORE - DAY

He enters the store and approaches, Edna, a sixty-five-year-old clerk, with white hair and glasses.

His demeanor has changed to charming as he takes her hand.

FRED
My dear lady, didn't I see you here last time I passed through?

EDNA
 Could be, I've been working here
 for twenty years.

FRED
 Is Paul still the manager?

EDNA
 Manager and owner. He's been here
 longer than I can remember.

FRED
 Could I speak with him?

EDNA
 Yes, I'll call him.

She pushes the intercom.

EDNA (CONT'D)
 Mr. Peters, you're wanted up-front.

After a minute a very slow, seventy-year-old, slender, and
 frail-looking, Mr. Peters arrives.

MR. PETERS
 What's the need, Edna?

EDNA
 This gentleman wants to see you.

Mr. Peter puts on his glasses.

MR. PETERS
 Yes, what can I do for you? You
 don't look like any salesman I
 know.

FRED
 I'm not. Don't you remember me? I
 work for Mr. Queen.

Mr. Peter's demeanor turns sour.

MR. PETERS
 Oh, yes, I remember now. We see you
 every election time, begging for
 money.

FRED
 Now I wouldn't put it that way.

MR. PETERS

I would, what else do you call it,
a shakedown.

FRED

MR. Queen has done a great job
representing this county. It takes
donations to run a campaign.

MR. PETERS

That's your opinion. Can't think of
a thing he's done for us.

FRED

Now I'm sure -

MR. PETERS

And besides, we have someone who is
one of us.

FRED

You don't mean that pretty lady, do
you?

MR. PETERS

That's right, Molly McBride, she's
one of us!

EDNA

And very nice.

FRED

She couldn't possibly be effective
in the state capitol.

MR. PETERS

We will see.

FRED

So no money for Mr. Queen?

MR. PETERS

Nope. She got it.

Fred stares for a minute before storming out.

EDNA

Now there's trouble.

Mr. Peters shakes his head in agreement.

EXT. CARROLL FEED - DAY

The Cadillac stops in front of the store. Chuck points to a poster of Molly in the window.

FRED

Damn!

Fred enters the store.

Shortly Fred exits the store a disgusted look on his face.

CHUCK

Well.

FRED

(anger)

Fuck em! That bitch!

EXT. DAIRY QUEEN - DAY

The Cadillac stops at a stall and orders through an intercom.

FRED

Hungry?

CHUCK

Yeah. Burger and fries and a root beer.

INTERCOM

May I take your order?

FRED

(into intercom)

Yes, miss. Two number sixes.

INTERCOM

Thank you. It'll be right out.

A carhop brings the food.

As Fred looks up he sees the carhop has a Molly for State Senate button on her lapel.

Fred's face turns sour.

FRED

What is it with that lady?

CARHOP

Lady? Oh, Molly, she's great. The whole town is talking about her.

FRED

I see.

CHUCK

This is shit. Mr. Queen is going to be pissed. No money.

FRED

I know. I'm not stupid!

EXT. CARROLL, IOWA - MAIN STREET - DAY

The Cadillac is slowing driving down the street.

The two men are pointing to all the "Molly for State Senate," signs.

INT. CHEAP HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Fred is laying on the bed, clothes on.

Chuck is sitting at the table eating vending machine food.

CHUCK

(mouth full)

What's next?

FRED

I'm thinking.

CHUCK

Could she really be a problem?

FRED

Hell, she already is. She got all Mr. Queen's donations.

CHUCK

He's going to be mad.

FRED

(angry)

Fuck, I know it!

CHUCK
We better do something.

FRED
(louder)
I know! Shut the fuck up! Let me think.

Moments pass. Fred suddenly sits up in bed.

CHUCK
What!

FRED
I got it!

He jumps out of bed.

CHUCK
What?

FRED
Easy, send a message. Kill her chickens. That will discourage her!

CHUCK
She'll know not to mess with us.

FRED
Yeah. And it'll be easy.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - NIGHT

The Cadillac is slowly driving past the McBride farm. The house is dark. A dim light burns in the chicken house.

It stops on the road behind the chicken house, out of sight of the farmhouse.

Patches of snow are on the ground. It is a quiet night.

INT. CADILLAC - NIGHT

FRED
This is it. Real easy.

CHUCK
Okay, now what.

FRED
 Piece of cake. These places aren't
 made to keep people out.

He grabs a crowbar out of the backseat.

FRED (CONT'D)
 Let's go. Quiet, we don't want the
 chicken to make a fuss.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - BEHIND THE CHICKEN HOUSE - NIGHT

The pair move from the road through the ditch, over the
 fence, and towards the back door of the chicken house.

FRED
 Look around to the house, see if
 anyone is coming.

Chuck complies. Fred uses the crowbar and easily pops the
 back door open.

FRED (CONT'D)
 Come on!

CHUCK
 It's clear.

Fred rushes over to a heater unit.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
 Should we smash it?

FRED
 Naw. Just turn it off. That will
 send a message.

Fred turns off the heater.

FRED (CONT'D)
 Let's go!

Chuck stops to close the door.

FRED (CONT'D)
 No! Leave it open. We want them to
 know we were here.

They retrace their way back to the Cadillac.

INT. CADILLAC - NIGHT

The two are laughing like teenagers who just did a prank.

FRED
That will teach that bitch!

CHUCK
Yeah!

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - DAY

Patrick is walking towards the chicken house.

He opens the unlocked front door and steps inside.

INT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - CHICKEN HOUSE - DAY

He immediately sees the back door open and feels the cold.

With horror, he sees the dead frozen chickens.

He runs about picking up several chickens, a bewildered look on his face.

He then moves to the back door and examines the pry marks.

After closing the door, he walks over to the heater and turns it back on.

He looks around before exiting the building.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - DAY

Patrick is walking at a fast pace back to the house.

INT. MCBRIDE FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Patrick, frantic, enters the kitchen as Molly and Mattie are finishing the morning dishes. Molly notices something is wrong.

MOLLY
Grandpa?

PATRICK
You should come with me.

He looks cautiously at Mattie.

MOLLY

But, what?

PATRICK

Just you. I have something to show you.

MOLLY

Ah, Mattie, finish getting ready for school, I'll be right back.

MATTIE

Yes, mom.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - DAY

Patrick is walking at a fast pace. Molly moves to keep up.

MOLLY

What's wrong?

PATRICK

The chickens.

MOLLY

What?

PATRICK

They're dead.

MOLLY

Dead? All of them?

PATRICK

Yes.

Molly jogs ahead of Patrick.

Molly burst through the front door closely followed by Patrick.

She stands looking around before moving from chicken to chicken. A tear forms in her eye.

MOLLY

What happened?

PATRICK
They're frozen.

Molly picks one up.

MOLLY
They are.

PATRICK
The back door was pried open and
the heat was turned off. I turned
it back on but it was too late.

MOLLY
Somebody did this.

PATRICK
That's right, on purpose.

MOLLY
Why?

Patrick shakes his head.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
I get along with everyone.

PATRICK
Maybe kids.

MOLLY
I have to take Mattie and Magee to
school. I want you to stay in the
house with Mary. I don't want them
to see this.

They both take one last look around before leaving.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - DAY

A Carroll county police car is parked in front of the chicken
house.

INT. CHICKEN HOUSE - DAY

Officer Malloy is up-front speaking with Molly holding a dead
bird.

Officer Reed is walking up from the back.

REED

There are pry marks on the back door. And tracks from the road to the back. Looks like two men.

MALLOY

(to Molly)

And you say the door was wide open and the heater was off.

MOLLY

Yes. My father-in-law checks on the birds every morning. He found it that way.

MALLOY

He turned the heat back on?

MOLLY

Yes. And closed the door.

MALLOY

You lost your whole crop. Do you have insurance?

MOLLY

Only on the building.

MALLOY

(to Reed)

Go ahead and see if you can get some prints.

REED

Okay.

MALLOY

We'll do what we can. I'll get the word out. If it's some local kids, we'll find them.

MOLLY

Thank you. What else could it be?

MALLOY

You got me. This kind of stuff doesn't happen around here. We get kids pulling pranks but not destroying property like this.

Molly shakes her head.

MOLLY

Okay.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD FRONT OF THE CHICKEN HOUSE - DAY

A Denison rendering truck is parked in front of the chicken house. Two men are wheeling wheel barrels full of dead chicken and shoveling them into the truck.

Molly is pacing in front with her head down.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - DAY

The farm is quiet. The front door to the chicken house is open as Patrick is sweeping it out.

Slowly he hears a rumble. He looks around curiously.

Down the road, he sees a caravan of pickups approaching the farm.

Molly hearing the same and exits the house with Mary.

The rumble gets louder as twenty pickups approach.

Mattie and Magee join Molly, Mary, and Patrick in front of the chicken house.

PATRICK

What the?

MAGEE

What is it, mom?

MOLLY

Our neighbors.

The pickups line up with two at a time backing up to the front door of the chicken house.

Jeb, Liz, and Sheri Anderson are in the front pickup. Liz pops out of the pickup carrying a tupperware container. She is quickly followed by a line of farm ladies all carrying food containers.

LIZ
We'll just put these in your house.
Come on, girls.

Liz puts her arm around Mary.

Jeb and the other men start to unload chicken from their pickups into the chicken house.

MOLLY
(tearing, to Sheri)
What's this?

SHERI
We stick with our own.

MOLLY
I can't believe this.

SHERI
We're not going to let Queen beat us this time.

MOLLY
Queen?

SHERI
Yes, his men were in town. We're sure they had a hand in this.

JEB
That's right. They came by the farm for their handout. When I didn't give in, they got real mad.

STAN
Same with me. He was mad as hell. So, we're replacing all the chickens you lost with ones the same age.

MOLLY
Oh, my God! Thank you!

JEB
And Henry's going to put an alarm on the doors.

HENRY

And on your house. Got to protect those little girls.

Molly is tearing.

MOLLY

Thank you. Thank you. I won't let you down. I'll beat that Queen!

A cheer goes up.

JEB

Well, let's get unloaded so we can eat.

INT. IOWA SENATE OFFICES - DAY

Fred and Chuck are walking shoulder to shoulder, in silence, through the halls of the Senate building. They are sweating and have worried looks on their faces.

Before entering without knocking, they pause and take a breath at a door that reads "Senator Wilbur Queen."

Entering, they find Senator Queen at his desk. Senator Queen is a sixty-year-old, white male with an even more blotted body than Fred and Chuck. He is doubled chinned, balding, and wears a suit that is stretched across his ample belly.

A glass of scotch sits within arms reach.

The ornate office is large but cramped being filled with mementos from years on the job.

The Senator is holding "The Daily Times Herald."

The Senator has a hard look on his face.

SENATOR QUEEN

Well.

FRED

Ah, we had a little trouble.

SENATOR QUEEN

(tense)

Trouble! Where's my money?

FRED
Ah, there is none.

SENATOR QUEEN
None!

He slams his fist on his desk.

SENATOR QUEEN (CONT'D)
None!

FRED
(more nervous)
There's this lady.

Senator Queen tosses the newspaper on his desk facing Fred.

The front page is a picture of Molly and the girls. The headline reads, "Our next Senator?"

SENATOR QUEEN
(louder)
This bitch!

FRED
Yeah, that's her.

The Senator picks up the newspaper and shakes it at him.

SENATOR QUEEN
(loud)
You let this little Mary Poppins
get it over on you!

FRED
She has the town behind her.

SENATOR QUEEN
That's my district! Those are my
people!

FRED
(head down)
Yes, sir.

SENATOR QUEEN
What the fuck, Fred! I remember
when you were fearless.

FRED
Yes, sir. Still am.

CHUCK
We did kill her chickens.

SENATOR QUEEN
Chickens! Chickens! There was a
time you killed a guy for me.
Remember, Fred?

FRED
Yes, sir.

SENATOR QUEEN
If you don't get rid of that bitch,
we're out of business.

FRED
Yes, sir.

The Senator stands and walks around his desk. He puts his
hand on Fred's shoulder. His demeanor softens.

SENATOR QUEEN
Do what you have to do. Make it an
accident.

FRED
Yes, sir.

SENATOR QUEEN
The next headline I want to read
puts an end to this, understand.

FRED
Yes, sir.

The Senator walks back around and sits down. He picks up a
playboy magazine.

SENATOR QUEEN
Now I have to get back to work.

Fred and Chuck exit into the hall.

CHUCK
What now?

FRED
Hell if I know.

EXT. CASEY'S GENERAL STORE - DAY

Fred and Chuck, driving a white Toyota pickup, stop at the pumps.

FRED

We don't want to leave a trail. Go in and give them this 5 dollars. We don't want them seeing us fill this gas can.

INT. CASEY'S GENERAL STORE - DAY

Edna is manning the cash register.

CHUCK

Hello, mama. 5 dollars on the pickup.

EDNA

Thank you.

Chuck immediately exits the store. Edna's eyes follow him.

Edna sees Fred in the driver's seat and sees Chuck filling a gas can. A curious look on her face.

EDNA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Odd.

Later. Mr. Peters comes to the cash register

MR. PETERS

Ready for your break?

EDNA

Yes. Oh, it may not be anything but you know that Fred, the guy that works for Mr. Queen?

MR. PETERS

Yes. Is he back?

EDNA

Yes, with another man.

MR. PETERS

Did he say anything?

EDNA
No, he stayed in his truck.

MR. PETERS
Really.

EDNA
They filled a gas can.

MR. PETERS
Gas can! Why would they need to
fill a gas can?

EDNA
I doubt they're mowing any yards.

MR. PETERS
The sheriff should know this.

He reaches for the phone.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - NIGHT

On a moonless night, Fred stops the pickup at the same spot
behind the chicken house.

FRED
Let's make this fast.

CHUCK
I don't like this.

FRED
Don't worry, we'll start a little
fire. They'll have enough time to
get out of the house.

CHUCK
Okay.

FRED
We're sending another message.

They exit the pickup and Fred grabs the gas can. They start
for the house.

As they reach the side of the house, a thunderous roar and
Jeb Anderson's pickup and two others come screaming from the
back of the house.

Molly and Patrick along with Jeb, jump out of the pickup shotguns and rifles in hand. The others in the pickups join them.

A screaming siren as the sheriff arrives along with six other neighbors.

MOLLY

Put it down! Put it down. Try to burn my girls, you bastards.

Molly, shaking, sweating and visibly angry, raises her gun, and takes aim. Jeb puts his hand on the barrel and lowers the gun.

JEB

Let's let the law have them.

Eight pickups are in the yard as the sheriff with Fred and Chuck in the backseat departs.

JEB (CONT'D)

It's over. Why don't you pick up the girls in the morning? Come over for breakfast.

MOLLY

Okay.

EXT. AMERICAN LEGION HALL - NIGHT

The parking lot is full as vehicles continue to arrive.

Families are arriving and most are carrying dishes of food.

A banner across the front reads, "MOLLY MCBRIDE - OUR FUTURE."

A black sedan with three men inside sits idling.

INT. BLACK SEDAN - NIGHT

The man in the back seat is SENATOR DUPREE. He is a distinguished seventy-year-old with silver hair and a mustache. He is nicely dressed in an expensive suit.

The two men in front are his driver, Mark, forty years old and fit and his advisor, Bruce, sixty-years-old and showing his age.

SENATOR DUPREE

What do you see, Bruce.

BRUCE

Something I haven't seen since you started out.

SENATOR DUPREE

That's what I was thinking. What should I do?

BRUCE

Sir, I don't think there's much we can do.

SENATOR DUPREE

That dumb-ass Queen tried some of his shit, tried to scare her.

BRUCE

That's not the way to go. Look at how popular she is.

MARK

Yeah, she has those kids.

SENATOR DUPREE

It helped me a lot of years ago when my kids were young.

BRUCE

You have nothing to worry about. You're a lock. It's Queen.

SENATOR DUPREE

I know.

BRUCE

Queen may have outlived his usefulness.

SENATOR DUPREE

Yes.

BRUCE

We may want to back her.

SENATOR DUPREE

I agree.

BRUCE
Queen is not going to go quietly.

SENATOR DUPREE
He'll go.

BRUCE
Then what?

SENATOR DUPREE
We corrupt Miss McBride.

Bruce shakes his head in agreement.

SENATOR DUPREE (CONT'D)
Everyone's corruptible. What do we know about her?

BRUCE
She moved here from Omaha with her husband and three daughters. They inherited.

SENATOR DUPREE
So, they own their land.

BRUCE
Yes. He died, heart attack.

SENATOR DUPREE
She's doing it all by herself.

BRUCE
She has her father-in-law, to help.

SENATOR DUPREE
I wonder what possessed her to run for office?

BRUCE
Like you, it must be something inside her. Leadership, few have it.

SENATOR DUPREE
Queen is done with. It's jail for him.

BRUCE
Yes, sir.

SENATOR DUPREE
Back to Des Moines.

MARK
Yes, sir.

EXT. CARROLL, IOWA - MAIN STREET - DAY

A parade is underway. The town has gone all-out with the local high school's bands, floats, and merchants handing out mementos.

A banner strung across the street reads, "MOLLY MCBRIDE - pride of Carroll."

Molly, Patrick, and the girls are on a flat-bed, being pulled by a new Ford pickup.

The streets are packed with cheering people.

The flat-bed pulls into the courthouse and stops. People fill the area.

Microphones are brought onto the flat-bed.

The crowd quietens when the mayor takes the stage.

MAYOR
Thank you. What a turn out.

The crowd roars.

He turns to Molly.

MAYOR (CONT'D)
They love you.....

Molly smiles wide and waves.

MAYOR (CONT'D)
What a wonderful day for our town.
This little lady has come to our
town and showed us strength and
determination.

The crowd roars.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

I couldn't be more proud! And to think we are all here at the start of her career. It will be so rewarding to have someone who fights for the farmers.

The crowd roars.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Now, how about a few words from Iowa's newest senator, Molly McBride.

The crowd roars.

MOLLY

Thank you. You are so wonderful. When Liam and I and the girls moved here, it just felt right. When I lost Liam, I was lost.....
I am not lost anymore.

The crowd roars.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

I have such a big wonderful family here and I love you all. Foremost I promise you honesty, integrity.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - DAY

Molly and the girls along with Jeb, Liz, and Sheri Anderson are standing next to an SUV. The mayor and his wife are sitting in their Ford sedan.

MAYOR

Are we ready?

JEB

I believe so. Let's go.

The Anderson's and the McBride's enter the SUV with Patrick driving and all head down the road.

EXT. IOWA SENATE CAPITOL - FRONT STEPS - DAY

The party is standing, staring in awe, at the massive, ornate, Iowa legislative building. Patrick is carrying a cardboard box.

MOLLY

What an amazing building.

MAYOR

And to think it was built from 1871 through 1886.

JEB

That was craftsmanship back then.

MAYOR

Only five dome building in the country. Wait until you see the inside.

They are out of place in their plain clothes as several others, mostly men, dressed in expensive suits, walk past, seeming not to notice. Several bumps into them and continue on their way. Liz is almost knocked down.

JEB

Hey buddy!

The man keeps on walking with no acknowledgment.

LIZ

How rude.

MAYOR

Get used to that, this isn't Carroll.

MOLLY

Girls, stay close to your mama.

Two men pass the group, turn and snicker.

MAN 1

(to man 2)

The farmers are in town.

INT. IOWA STATE CAPITOL - DAY

The group has moved inside.

In silence, heads are moving side to side, up and down as they look in amazement at the architecture.

After a few minutes.

MOLLY

Okay, I have to find my office.

She looks around until she spots Henry a security guard. Henry is a fit, fifty-year-old, with graying hair and a mustache.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

Hi, excuse me.

GUARD HENRY

Yes.

MOLLY

I'm looking for my office.

GUARD HENRY

Office?

MOLLY

Yes, I'm Molly McBride. I won the election to the Crawford county seat.

GUARD HENRY

Really. I hadn't been informed. So Mr. Queen finally lost.

MOLLY

Yes.

The guard chuckles.

GUARD HENRY

I'm sorry. Mr. Queen has been here forever. And to have a female beat him. Precious, very precious. Do you have your paperwork?

MOLLY

Yes.

She produces a letter.

GUARD HENRY

Okay, come with me. The offices are in a restricted area.

MOLLY

Can they come?

He looks them over.

GUARD HENRY

Sure.

Down a hall at the end, they enter an office.

The office is small with one window. They stand looking around. Patrick puts the box on the desk.

MOLLY

Well, it's functional.

GUARD HENRY

This is where the new people start out. You move to a bigger office once you get established and get on prime committees. And when people leave.

MOLLY

I see.

GUARD HENRY

There was a mad scramble for Mr. Queens office. He had one of the big ones.

MOLLY

How about Mr. Dupree's office?

GUARD HENRY

He's in another wing. He has a suite. He's committee chairman on several committees. He holds meetings there.

MOLLY

Thank you. We won't be long, I'm just moving in.

GUARD HENRY

Take your time. And feel free to
take the tour.

Mary is getting a sad look on her face. She hugs her mother's
leg. Molly notices.

MOLLY

What's wrong hun?

MARY

Mommy, are you going to stay here?

She points to the box.

MOLLY

Oh, no, dear. There will be a few
nights I have to stay but not very
often. And besides your sister and
grandpa will be home.

LIZ

And you and your sisters can come
over and stay with aunt Liz
anytime.

Mary nods her approval.

MOLLY

I've been so busy, I almost forgot
the effect this has on my girls.

MAGEE

We're okay mom. I'll take care of
her.

Mary moves over and holds onto Magee's leg.

MOLLY

You're growing up so fast. Should
we take a look around?

INT. MOLLY'S SENATE OFFICE - DAY

Molly is at her desk, reading. A knock at the door.

MOLLY

Come in.

Enters Emily, a Paige, carrying an armful of literature.

Emily is a beautiful African American grad student.

EMILY

Hi, I have something for you.

MOLLY

A lot of something.

EMILY

They want you to read all of these.

MOLLY

They?

EMILY

The committee heads.

MOLLY

Okay.

EMILY

Just between you and me, this has never happened before. I've been a Paige for a year now and I've never seen this.

MOLLY

Really!

EMILY

Yeah, they're messing with you. Don't expect much help from them. They ignore me.

MOLLY

Good-o-boys club.

EMILY

Yes. You got rid of one of theirs.

MOLLY

Queen?

EMILY

Yeah. They were really mad.

MOLLY

Okay.

A knock at the door.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

Come in.

Henry enters.

GUARD HENRY

Oh, excuse me. I didn't know you was busy.

MOLLY

That's okay, come in. Have a seat.

GUARD HENRY

I just wanted to see if you needed anything?

MOLLY

This chair is kind of a pain.

GUARD HENRY

I'll talk to maintenance. I'm sure they gave you the worse they had.

MOLLY

Emily has been telling me they are upset that I won.

GUARD HENRY

Upset is mild. Mr. Queen was their guy. He brought in the girls.

MOLLY

Girls?

GUARD HENRY

Oh, yeah. Saturday night is party night. Mr. Dupree's office turns into a strip club.

MOLLY

Are you kidding!

GUARD HENRY

Swear to god. The guards are ordered to stay away but you can hear the music and they bring the girls in through the rear entrance.

MOLLY

Oh, my god! I'm shocked!

EMILY

It was a shock to me when I found out. It was suggested I dance for them I told them to go to hell. I'm going to be a lawyer.

MOLLY

Good for you.

GUARD HENRY

There are some rooms in Dupree's wing that we can't enter. I think they have beds in them.

Molly chuckles.

MOLLY

I never would have guessed. In Iowa!

GUARD HENRY

Keep this between us. I don't want to lose my job.

MOLLY

Yes. Is this normal here? Does everyone do that?

GUARD HENRY

Oh, no, no! There are some very decent people here. Hard-working people.

MOLLY

Good, I'd hate to think.

GUARD HENRY

Just be careful. They won't make it easy.

MOLLY

I know.

Molly jesters to the stack of reading material Emily brought in.

Emily nods in agreement.

EXT. IOWA SENATE CAPITOL - FRONT STEPS

Molly is struggling up the steps carrying the pile of reading material. She slips and almost falls as she drops the stack of reading material.

Several men see this and no one offers to help.

Molly regains the material and continues on her way.

INT. MOLLY'S SENATE OFFICE - DAY

Molly is at her desk, reading. The stack of reading material is now divided into two stacks, one large and one small. She finishes reading a pamphlet and places it on the large stack.

A knock at the door.

MOLLY

Come in.

Through the door comes senator Dupree carrying a bouquet of flowers. Molly has a shocked look on her face.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

Oh.

SENATOR DUPREE

Hello, little lady, I'm Senator Dupree. I brought you a welcome to the senate gift.

MOLLY

Oh, okay.

SENATOR DUPREE

I had to meet the lady who unseated the great Queen. He was rock-solid around here.

MOLLY

Well, maybe he got complacent. They didn't think much of him back home.

SENATOR DUPREE

I bet you had something to do about that? Well, that's politics, you have to stay on top of your game.

MOLLY

I find the people to be pretty smart. They know when they are being conned.

Senator Dupree stares. It turns to a scow.

SENATOR DUPREE

Well, I have lots of work to do. I see you got your homework.

He snickers.

MOLLY

Yes, and I have some questions.

She opens a file.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

When we vote on appropriations, what is the procedure?

SENATOR DUPREE

(hesitant)

I, a, rely on my people.

MOLLY

(smiling)

I'll figure it out.

SENATOR DUPREE

(leaving)

Let me know if you need anything.

MOLLY

(still smiling)

I just did.

Outside Molly's office door.

SENATOR DUPREE

(to himself)

Bitch!

INT. SENATOR DUPREE'S OFFICE - DAY

Senator Dupree's office is large, ornate, with several windows. It is filled with mementos and pictures of him with celebrities and every recent president.

Senator Dupree is sitting with his feet on his desk and his hands clasped behind his head.

A knock at the door.

SENATOR DUPREE

Yeah!

Enters senator Phil Douglas and senator Carl Meyers, coffee cups in hand.

Senator Dupree does not look happy and they notice.

SENATOR MEYERS

Bad day, boss?

SENATOR DUPREE

Let's just say, bad feeling.

SENATOR DOUGLAS

Why?

SENATOR DUPREE

I visited the new senator yesterday. What a bitch!

SENATOR DOUGLAS

I figured that.

SENATOR MEYERS

Yeah, if she beat Queen, she has to be, or real smart.

SENATOR DOUGLAS

What do we have here, another Margaret Thatcher?

SENATOR DUPREE

Maybe.

SENATOR DOUGLAS

I don't see you worried very often.

SENATOR DUPREE

If she looks too deep, we're screwed.

SENATOR MEYERS

What do we do?

SENATOR DOUGLAS

Kill her.

SENATOR DUPREE

Boy, would I like to..... We can't.

SENATOR DOUGLAS

She doesn't scare.

SENATOR MEYERS

After what Queen attempted,
anything would look suspicious.

SENATOR DUPREE

And we don't want to end up like
him.

Both men nod in agreement.

SENATOR MEYERS

Fraud and cooking the books is one
thing, murder is another.

SENATOR DOUGLAS

She'll never find the books.

SENATOR MEYERS

No, this office is locked at night
and besides this wing is off-
limits.

SENATOR DOUGLAS

She wouldn't know to look.

Both nod in agreement.

SENATOR MEYERS

No need to worry over nothing.

INT. IOWA SENATE OFFICES - NIGHT

Late at night and the chambers are quiet. The only sound is
the shuffling of a guard's feet.

The shuffling stops in front of senator Dupree's office.

Guard Henry takes a set of keys from his pocket and unlocks
the door. He enters after looking up and down the hall.

INT. SENATOR DUPREE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Guard Henry thumbs through a bookshelf and from behind several books, he removes a file. He looks through it before making copies.

He returns the file to its place mistakenly leaving one book out about an inch.

INT. IOWA SENATE OFFICES - NIGHT

Faster shuffling down the hall.

The shuffling stops in front of senator McBride's office.

Guard Henry takes his keys and unlocks the door and enters looking up and down the hall.

INT. MOLLY'S SENATE OFFICE - NIGHT

Guard Henry places the papers on Molly's desk.

He opens the door a crack to peer outside before departing.

INT. MOLLY'S SENATE OFFICE - DAY

Molly arrives to work. Immediately she notices the papers on her desk. She starts to read.

INT. SENATOR DUPREE'S OFFICE - DAY

Senator Dupree arrives for work. After sitting at his desk he glances up and sees the book to be out of place. He stares a minute before standing and removing the book and the hidden file. The file is upside down.

SENATOR DUPREE

(to himself)

That's not right.

He thumbs through the file.

SENATOR DUPREE (CONT'D)

(on the phone)

Grab Phil and come into my office.

Shortly senator Douglas and senator Meyers enter.

SENATOR DOUGLAS
What's up boss?

SENATOR DUPREE
The file, someone was in it.

SENATOR MEYERS
Someone got into your office? How?

SENATOR DUPREE
I don't know. The file wasn't as I
left it.

SENATOR MEYERS
But it was there?

SENATOR DUPREE
Yes.

SENATOR MEYERS
So, someone read it and put it
back?

SENATOR DUPREE
I guess so.

SENATOR DOUGLAS
Or they made a copy.

Senator Douglas moves over to the copy machine.

SENATOR DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
These things keep a log.

He manipulates the machine.

SENATOR DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
Yup, there it is.

SENATOR DUPREE
You're kidding! Holly-shit!

SENATOR MEYERS
That's trouble. What do we do,
boss?

SENATOR DUPREE
First, we have to find out who
stole our file. How could anyone
get in here?

SENATOR MEYERS

You got me. The building is locked down at night.

SENATOR DUPREE

They would have to have keys.

SENATOR DOUGLAS

Unless they were professionals. I know a couple guys who could get in here. Government men.

SENATOR DUPREE

They would have to get past the guards.

SENATOR MEYERS

How about the guards?

The three men look at each other.

SENATOR DOUGLAS

That guard Henry has been real friendly with McBride. He brought her one of the new chairs.

SENATOR DUPREE

Security. Security, there are security cameras in the halls.

He pops up and opens the door and looks up and down the hall.

SENATOR DUPREE (CONT'D)

Yes. You two go down to the security room, look at the video from last night.

SENATOR MEYERS

Okay.

SENATOR DUPREE

Tell them, tell them, tell them, you're looking for rats in the building. Make sure this Henry is not around.

SENATOR MEYERS

Got it.

Senator Meyers and senator Douglas quickly depart.

Later:

Senator Meyer and senator Douglas burst through the door.

SENATOR DOUGLAS

It's him!

SENATOR MEYERS

You can see him plain as day.

SENATOR DUPREE

Did the other guards know what you were doing?

SENATOR MEYERS

No, we erased it.

SENATOR DUPREE

Good. Smart.

SENATOR DOUGLAS

Now what?

SENATOR DUPREE

Teach a lesson.

EXT. GUARD HENRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Henry's house is in a nice middle-class neighborhood. It is a two-story wood frame with a driveway on the right side.

Several autos line the street. Many large trees block the light from the streetlights making it a dark street.

A black sedan sits down the street. A shadow of a man is inside.

A shadow of a man emerges in the driveway walking backward as he wheels a trash-can out to the curb.

The sedan starts. As the man reaches the curb, the sedan speeds up.

With a sudden jerk, the sedan rams into the man tossing him into the air. The sedan speeds off.

EXT. GUARD HENRY'S HOUSE - DAY

The neighbors are out in force. On the lawn is a crying family. Police cars and an ambulance are blocking the street. A body on a gurney, under a sheet, is being loaded into the ambulance.

INT. SENATOR DUPREE'S OFFICE - DAY

Senator Dupree is at his desk. In walks Senator Meyers and Senator Douglas.

SENATOR DUPREE
You heard.

SENATOR MEYERS
Yeah, good work.

SENATOR DUPREE
That should scare her.

SENATOR DOUGLAS
Unless she's stupid.

Senator Dupree hands senator Douglas the file.

SENATOR DUPREE
Put this in your office in a secure place. Just in case.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

A funeral is underway. A photo of guard Henry in a military uniform is on an easel.

The funeral is large. All of the senators and support staff are present.

Molly and Emily are among several women. Tears are flowing.

Dry eyed, senator Dupree is flanked by Senator Meyers and Senator Douglas.

Services are underway.

Molly looks over at Senator Dupree. Their eyes meet. Senator Dupree grins. Molly's expression turns hard.

INT. FBI BUILDING - DAY

Molly, briefcase in hand is at the front desk.

RECEPTIONIST
Hello, may I help you?

MOLLY
Yes. I am Senator McBride and I
would like to speak with someone.

RECEPTIONIST
Can I say what this is about?

MOLLY
I'd rather not.

RECEPTIONIST
Okay.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
(on phone)
Sir, there is a Senator McBride
here to see you. No, sir.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
He will be right down.

Shortly, Agent Reyes, mid-thirties, fit and well dressed,
arrives. He offers his hand.

REYES
Senator McBride. I'm, special agent
Reyes.

MOLLY
Thank you for seeing me.

REYES
Is this something serious?

MOLLY
I believe so.

REYES
Okay, let's go to my office.

INT. AGENT REYES'S OFFICE - DAY

AGENT REYES

How can I help you, Senator?

Molly opens her briefcase and hands him the paperwork.

He scans through it.

MOLLY

This is what I believe is proof of corruption in the senate. A scheme to siphon money from almost every program.

AGENT REYES

Where did you get this?

MOLLY

I found it on my desk one morning.

AGENT REYES

Do you know how it got there?

MOLLY

I have my suspicions.

AGENT REYES

Yes.

MOLLY

Henry, a security guard at the capitol.

AGENT REYES

I knew Henry. He was a vet. Was that murder?

MOLLY

I'm sure.

AGENT REYES

Do you have any proof? It looked like an accident.

MOLLY

No, just a snicker from Dupree at Henry's funeral.

AGENT REYES

Oh, Dupree. I see. We've been looking at Dupree for some time.

MOLLY

For something like this.

AGENT REYES

Something like that. These are copies, have you seen the originals.

MOLLY

No.

AGENT REYES

We would need to find the originals.

MOLLY

I'm sure they are in the capitol building somewhere. Probable Dupree's office.

AGENT REYES

How would Henry get a hold of this?

MOLLY

He had keys to everything.

AGENT REYES

It would have to be at night.

MOLLY

Yes, I guess.

AGENT REYES

That gives us enough to subpoena the security tapes. We could see if Henry went into Dupree's or any other office at night.

MOLLY

That's enough for me. Thank you.

AGENT REYES

I'll be in contact.

INT. FBI LAB - DAY

This is a small room set up with audio-video equipment with no windows. Two technicians man the machines. The room is lit by the glow from the machines.

The door opens and in comes Agent Reyes filling the room with light from the hall.

AGENT REYES

Hi, guys. What have you got for me?

TECH. BOB

All done with the analysis of the tape from the capitol building.

AGENT REYES

Good, that was fast.

TECH. BOB

I found a section where it was erased. I think this is what you're looking for.

He puts in a tape and manipulates the machine. They watch.

TECH. BOB (CONT'D)

Now, look here. This blank spot. Watch me do my magic.

He moves some levers and turns a knob and the image of Henry unlocking and entering Senator Dupree's office appears. Moments later Henry is seen exiting the office and locking the door. He has papers in his hand.

AGENT REYES

Amazing.

TECH. BOB

Now, this other tape you brought me has nothing erased.

He switches tapes. They watch as Henry is at Senator's McBride's door with papers in hand. He looks around before unlocking the door and entering. Moments later he emerges from the office without the papers, looks around as he locks the door.

TECH. BOB (CONT'D)

There you are.

AGENT REYES

Great work.

TECH. BOB

I understand this guy was killed,
is that what this is about?

AGENT REYES

It's starting to look like it. Is
this on the same dates?

TECH. BOB

Same dates, minutes apart.

AGENT REYES

Great, good work. Thanks.

TECH. BOB

Good luck.

EXT. IOWA SENATE - FRONT STEPS - DAY

Jogging up the front steps and leading a dozen FBI agents is
special Agent Reyes. People are staring and getting out of
their way.

INT. IOWA STATE CAPITOL - DAY

Agent Reyes along with three other agents are at Senator
Dupree's door. Agent Reyes knocks and they enter to Senator
Dupree's surprise.

SENATOR DUPREE

What's this!

AGENT REYES

Sorry, Senator, but we have a
warrant.

He hands the warrant to the Senator. He examines it.

SENATOR DUPREE

This is nuts! You're looking into
corruption in my office!

AGENT REYES

Corruption and a possible murder.

SENATOR DUPREE

Murder!

AGENT REYES

Yes, sir.

SENATOR DUPREE

This is crap! Get out!

AGENT REYES

No, sir. We have a warrant to search your office and any we deem necessary.

SENATOR DUPREE

Bullshit!

AGENT REYES

Sir, I'm going to have to ask you to vacate the office.

Senator Dupree storms out.

Senator Dupree walks down another hall where he encounters an FBI agent standing guard. Down another hall, he encounters the same.

Senator Dupree comes to Senator Douglas's office and tries to enter. An FBI agent quickly responds.

AGENT 1

Sir, no one is to enter the offices.

SENATOR DUPREE

I'm Senator Dupree!

AGENT 1

Yes, sir, I know, sir.

With a scow on his face, he storms off.

The agent engages his walkie-talkie.

INT. SENATOR DUPREE'S OFFICE - DAY

The office is torn apart.

Agent Reyes is on his walkie-talkie.

AGENT REYES

Copy that.

AGENT REYES (CONT'D)

Keep going, guys. I'm going to go speak with Senator McBride.

Agent Reyes knocks on Senator McBride's door.

MOLLY

Come in.

AGENT REYES

Hi.

MOLLY

Lots of activity out there.

AGENT REYES

Thanks to you. Problem is, we aren't finding anything. We did find Henry on the security tapes breaching Senator's Dupree's office and then yours. That and your papers got us the warrant.

MOLLY

He must have moved them. Stands to reason if they suspected Henry.

AGENT REYES

And I'm sure they did. They erased the security tape.

MOLLY

Then they killed him.

AGENT REYES

Yes, I'm sure.

MOLLY

My, God.

AGENT REYES

Do you have any idea where they might have hid the file?

MOLLY

No idea.

AGENT REYES

This is a big building. How about his buddies?

MOLLY

That would be Douglas and Meyers.

AGENT REYES

Dupree tried to go into Douglas's office, our guy stopped him.

Agent Reyes jumps up.

AGENT REYES (CONT'D)

That could be it. Talk to you later.

He quickly departs.

INT. IOWA SENATE OFFICES - DAY

The hall outside Senator Douglas's office. An agent stands guard at Senator Douglas's door.

Suddenly the door burst open and racing out, carrying the file, is Agent Reyes. He is followed by three agents. The guard follows.

EXT. IOWA SENATE - FRONT STEPS - DAY

On a bright sunny day, the steps of the capitol are packed with fellow Senators, camera crews from all the major networks and citizens of Iowa. In the crowd, we see many of the people from Molly's home town.

Molly is at the top of the stairs close to the doors standing next to Emily.

At the bottom of the stairs are six black government sedans.

Suddenly the double doors swing open. Two agents emerge.

AGENT 1

Okay, people, make way. Let's make an aisle down the middle.

The crowd parts.

Moments later agents start leading handcuffed Senators out of the building one at a time. In the mix are senators Douglas and Meyers.

People start to cheer and clap.

Last to be led out, by agent Reyes, is Senator Dupree.

The cheering and booing gets louder.

The people continue clapping.

When Senator Dupree is placed in a car the crowd continues clapping and pivots to face Molly.

They start to cheer and clap louder. Molly blushes.

EXT. MCBRIDE HOMESTEAD - DAY

On a bright sunny day, the yard is packed with people. Cars are parked up and down the lane. Several tables are set up and food is everywhere. People are eating and having a typical farm feast. Molly and several ladies are serving food. Standing next to a smiling Molly is a smiling and laughing Agent Reyes.

The end:

(CONT'D)

