

MARINA WANTS TO BE A SPINSTER

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FADE IN:

EXT. THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO - DAY

Open on a Montage: the "Columbus Love" sign, the Capitol Building complete with surly protesters, drunk 20-somethings in the Arena District, the "cool folks" in the Short North, and finally, people of all types enjoying Goodale Park in Victorian Village.

EXT. A PICTURESQUE NEIGHBORHOOD IN VICTORIAN VILLAGE

Each Victorian home is well manicured. Elderly couples sit on their front porches waving at younger couples walking by with their pets.

The neighborhood is filled with straight couples, gays, the active and fit, as well as the fabulously full figured.

People are running, walking, and a few are simply standing on the sidewalk gossiping.

On Dennison Avenue in the front yard of a lovely home, tending her garden, is GERALDINE, 60s, Precise.

Geraldine pulls a flower up to her face and gets a whiff of... something unexpected. She puts the flower down and sniffs again.

Geraldine looks up and sees MARINA GIBBS, 40s, African American, kind, but weary, walking by.

Geraldine stands, wipes her hands on her apron and makes her way over towards Marina.

She does three quick sniffs.

GERALDINE

New to the neighborhood?

Marina jumps.

MARINA

Sweet Octavia E. Butler!

(beat)

Uh, moved in six months ago.

Finally taking a little stroll to explore. Cute.

GERALDINE

And quiet. Nothing ever happens around here. Maybe once you get settled you'd like to come over for tea?

MARINA

I'm free now.

GERALDINE

(Quickly)

No! I mean... no. I mean... I have plans and the place is a mess and, well, you know, I need to do a full background check on you to make sure you're not some grifter trying to fleece old ladies.

Marina is uncertain. Geraldine breaks into a smile.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

Kidding. But I do plan to do that background check. What's your name?

Marina relaxes.

MARINA

Marina. Marina Gibbs. I'm a writer.

GERALDINE

Never heard of you.

MARINA

Actually, I'm a best-selling--

Geraldine checks her watch.

GERALDINE

Oh, I need to skedaddle, but I'm certain we'll run into each other again.

Geraldine grabs her gardening tools and briskly walks towards her front door.

MARINA

Romance novelist who specializes in stories that contain elements of the supernatural.

A WOMAN (30-ish) and her DAUGHTER (8-ish) walk by.

DAUGHTER

Mommy, that woman is talking to herself.

MOTHER

Don't make eye contact.

INT. - GERALDINE'S HOUSE

Geraldine enters her airy, bright, kitschy house. She stops at a table and picks up a framed photograph.

The photo features five ladies: Geraldine, IRMA, An older woman who is looking in the opposite direction,, CLAUDETTE, an older glamor puss wearing just a little too much make-up, and ODESSA, older, African American, who is staring at the overly made-up woman and is not smiling.

Also in the photo is a "NORMAL" LOOKING WOMAN whose smile is pensive.

INT. GERALDINE'S BEDROOM

Geraldine, now humming to herself, is sliding on a black ceremonial robe complete with hood.

INT. GERALDINE'S LIVING ROOM

Fully robed, Geraldine picks up a vase of flowers. Her wall moves revealing a dark corridor.

INT. A DARK CORRIDOR

Geraldine, still humming, walks to a door and enters a code. A door moves away. She walks inside.

INTERIOR. A DARK ROOM

The pensively smiling woman (LENORE), is now quite scared. She's strapped to a chair. Light is showering her face.

GERALDINE

Comfy, Lenore?

Already inside are the other Three Women from the photograph.

They too, are dressed in ceremonial robes.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)
Hello Irma.

Irma looks up, surprised.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)
Claudette.

Claudette is fluffing her hair.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)
And Odessa.

ODESSA
Mm-hm.

GERALDINE
Shall we begin the invocation.

The ladies join hands.

THE SPINSTERS
*Your tongue is free, your mind is
clear.
Your breasts they sag, as does your
rear.
But with this soul, you'll be
renewed,
Your mind be crisp, your spirit
shrewd.
Now take this essence and share
with us.
That's all she wrote, no mess, no
fuss.*

LENORE
Why are you doing this?! I thought
we were friends! We took that photo
together!

Lenore screams as, what appears to be her soul, leaves her
body.

The essence floats into the air and is quickly absorbed into
the spinsters.

INT. A BATHROOM

Marina, in bathtub filled with bubbles, snaps awake to
someone KNOCKING on a door.

MALE VOICE

(O.S.)

Marina, hurry up! We'll be late for your birthday dinner.

MARINA

Sorry, I fell asleep.

JOSHUA

I know baths help with your writer's block, but we need to go. I laid out some outfits for you.

Marina smiles.

MARINA

Joshua, I love...

JOSHUA

(O.S.)

What? I can't hear you.

MARINA

I love... when you do that.

JOSHUA

(O.S.)

Alright, hurry up.

EXT. MILESTONE 229 RESTAURANT - LATER THAT EVENING

This charming eatery has an outdoor seating area with a scenic view of the Scioto River in downtown Columbus.

Several groups of people are dining outdoors. It's a hip, relaxed vibe.

Marina, clearly tipsy, is standing. Watching her are her brother YACHT (African-American, late 30s, kind) his wife, PENELOPE, (African-American, mid 30s, not so kind) and Marina's boyfriend, JOSHUA, (late 30s, Caucasian, tries hard to be a good boyfriend.)

She has a cocktail in her hand and is precariously close to sloshing it all over Joshua.

MARINA

This man right here is something. A birthday dinner at one of the best restaurants on the water, comma, downtown. And, by the way, sexier than Fabio on any romance novel cover.

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

We've been together long enough so
I'm ready to say it. Joshua James
Keller, I love you.

Everyone eating outdoors is now listening. Marina is smiling
as she looks at Joshua.

Joshua is not smiling.

MARINA (CONT'D)

I said, "I love you."

JOSHUA

You want to talk about this here?

PENELOPE

Well Yacht, birthday ruined.

YACHT

Hush, Penelope.

MARINA

Josh... I love you.

Joshua attempts to smile. Instead, he quickly turns his head
as the contents of his stomach hit the ground.

YACHT

(Yelling)

Can we get some champagne over
here?

A SERVER rushes over with glasses of champagne.

CUT TO:

Yacht, Penelope, and a group of SERVERS are singing a half-
hearted rendition of "Happy Birthday" while Marina struggles
to keep a smile on her face.

Joshua is sitting with his head in between his legs trying to
breathe.

EXT. IN FRONT OF MILESTONE 229 RESTAURANT

Joshua is standing with Marina.

JOSHUA

Are we okay?

Marina nods yes.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm gonna go get the car.

As Joshua leaves, Yacht and Penelope approach her.

PENELOPE

Well, this car ride home is gonna be--

MARINA

Penelope, if he doesn't say it, I have to end things, right? I mean, you don't stay with someone after you tell them you love them and they answer with, "you want to talk about this here?" I have to end things, right?

YACHT

Don't jump to conclusions, Marina. Men don't always tell you how they feel, but they show you, right Penn?

Penelope cocks her head as she looks at Yacht.

PENELOPE

Do you want to talk about this here? I keep asking you to impregnate me and your answer is to buy me chocolates. That's not how I want to gain weight, Yacht!

YACHT (CONT'D)

Don't try and compare me to some kinda "Joshua." I tell you I love you all the time even though I think you're crazy to want to a baby!

MARINA

Can we focus on my crisis, please?

YACHT

Give him some time to figure stuff out. I bet he's just looking for the right way to tell you.

MARINA

Penelope?

PENELOPE

Keep your trap shut, smoke a little weed, and listen to some Björk while you take one your long baths.

YACHT

Except, don't listen to Björk. Her music is scary.

MARINA
Fine. I won't say anything.

Yacht raises an eyebrow.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Or listen to Björk.

Joshua pulls up. He rolls down the window.

JOSHUA
You guys good?

INT. A CAR - LATER

Joshua is driving, Marina is staring out the window. Yacht and Penelope are sitting in the back not wearing their seatbelts.

YACHT
(V.O.)
Give him some time.

MARINA
Dinner was nice.

JOSHUA
I'm really glad you liked it.

They drive a bit more in silence.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
The champagne was really...

MARINA
Bubbly?

JOSHUA
Yeah.

PENELOPE
(V.O.)
Keep your trap shut.

More silence.

MARINA
Why don't you love me?!

PENELOPE
Here we go.

JOSHUA

Shit, I knew you weren't gonna let this go. My stomach.

MARINA

I'm sorry me telling you, "I love you" makes you nauseated, Josh.

JOSHUA

Marina, I show you all the time how I feel. Isn't that enough for now?

MARINA

We've been together for four years, Josh. Why is it so hard to say?

JOSHUA

Marina, you're spinning.

MARINA

Then help me stop. How do you feel about me?

YACHT

Sorry to interrupt, but you just drove by our street.

PENELOPE

Let him keep driving. This is gettin' good.

JOSHUA

I... I...

MARINA

"I... I..." don't want to do this anymore. Stop the car!

Marina grabs the wheel trying to pull over to the side of the road.

Penelope and Yacht go flying to the side of car.

YACHT

Owww!

PENELOPE

What the fuck, Josh!

EXT. THE ROAD

Joshua pulls the car over and stops.

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR

Joshua takes a deep breath.

MARINA

What are we doing, Josh?

JOSHUA

I... I feel like we're walking on a bridge.

Marina cocks her head, followed immediately by Penelope and Yacht.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

The bridge is real high and surrounded by clouds and stuff. I can't really see where it's goin', but I wanna keep walking... with you next to me.

MARINA

What kind of extreme outdoorsman white boy nonsense are you talking about?

YACHT

I didn't understand any of that.

PENELOPE

Yeah, black people don't talk that way.

JOSHUA

Look Marina, I've... I've never been in love before. I don't know what it feels like.

MARINA

Josh, you know what I've learned from being a romance novelist?

PENELOPE

(whispered)

That you just write the same story over and over again but swap out the names, places, and dates?

YACHT

Penn.

MARINA

It's that this is how men are. They are afraid of a real relationship. You can't tell me you love me because--

Joshua hurls.

PENELOPE

Aw, hell no!

YACHT

Damn, Joshua!

MARINA

I guess that sums up how you feel about me, huh?

Marina gets out of the car. Joshua rolls down the passenger window.

JOSHUA

You're making this into something that it's not!

Marina turns towards the open window.

MARINA

That's the most honest thing you've said to me since we started dating.

Joshua is searching for something to say.

JOSHUA

It's supposed to rain.

MARINA

Great. I'm going to let the rain wash away this horrible day.

JOSHUA

Marina, I love...

Joshua throws up again.

YACHT

Good God, man!

PENELOPE

Learn how to deal with your fucking emotions, Josh!

Marina takes a deep, cleansing breathe. She feels a raindrop hit her face.

MARINA
Goodbye, Josh.

Joshua slowly pulls away. From the back seat Yacht and Penelope look at each other, then at Marina.

Marina lifts her head twirling and laughing as the rain starts to pour harder and harder.

CUT TO:

EXT. AN OVERPASS - MOMENTS LATER

The rain is coming down in violent sheets. Marina, soaked, is shivering under the overpass.

A dark blue car pulls up. The window rolls down revealing Yacht in the passenger seat. Penelope is driving.

YACHT
How's the cleansing?

Marina dissolves into ugly crying.

PENELOPE
Son of a bitch. She's moving in with us, isn't she?

YACHT
Looks that way.

TITLE: SIX MONTHS LATER

INT. MARINA'S BATHROOM IN THE HOME OF HER BROTHER YACHT AND HIS WIFE PENELOPE - EVENING

Marina's sleeping in a bathtub filled with bubbles. The bathroom is dimly lit with only a handful of candles giving off light. Soft music is playing.

As Marina's eyes open, she sees Penelope sporting a full-on sour expression, standing over her.

PENELOPE
You got more cat tchotchkes delivered.

Marina jumps. Water splashes everywhere.

MARINA

Holy Brontë Sisters, Penelope! You nearly scared my unshaven leg hair right off of me.

PENELOPE

Gross. So, the ceramic cats, the leg hair, and the fact that you haven't written anything in a while... Is it time for an intervention?

MARINA

I've made a decision. I'm ready to become a spinster.

Ominous THUNDER is HEARD followed by howling wind, and, is that laughter echoing in the air?

PENELOPE

Well, can you lean into Spinsterhood without all these damn cat knick-knacks?

MARINA

Nope. I'm leaning all the way in.

PENELOPE

Okay, one more question: are you planning to--

MARINA

Put all my pain I've suffered over the last six months into my latest novel?

PENELOPE

No, planning to get out. Get out and get your own place.

YACHT is now standing in Marina's bathroom doorway.

YACHT

Penelope!

MARINA

Yacht!

Marina splashes about hoping she's all covered.

PENELOPE

Your sister got more cat stuff delivered.

YACHT

You're pushing, Penn. This is exactly what Dr. Jun was talking about.

PENELOPE

Dr. Jun is a hack. I know it, you know it, his surly receptionist Jolene knows it. Besides, if I don't push, things don't get done. Just like, I'm still waiting for you to put a baby in me.

MARINA

Should I leave? Even though I'm literally in the middle of a bath and you two have the entire rest of the house to--

PENELOPE

She's talking about becoming a spinster. Right under our roof!

MARINA

Seriously, you guys could argue in any other room--

YACHT

Penelope, if you can't be kind sister, how do you think you'll be fit for motherhood?

MARINA

Okay, so you are going to argue here.

Marina steps out of the tub quickly grabbing a towel and leaves the bathroom.

PENELOPE

How many baths does one person need to take in a single day?

YACHT

Marina's fragile right now. Ever since we were kids, baths have made her feel better. Can't you see she's miserable and suffering because Josh doesn't love her?

MARINA

(O.S.)

Thanks for the reminder.

YACHT
Sorry, Marina.

PENELOPE
Okay, let's forget about the creepy
cat figures and talk about the fact
that our water bill is gonna be sky
high!

MARINA
(O.S.)
I can send back the cats... and
take fewer baths.

PENELOPE
Didn't mean for you to hear all
that.

MARINA
(O.S.)
Seems like that's exactly what you
meant.

YACHT
You're a heartless bitch!

PENELOPE
And you're a freakin' pussy!

YACHT
You want to do it in the tub like
we saw in the video last night?

Penelope nods, "yes." Yacht goes to drain the tub.

PENELOPE
Leave the water in.

Yacht and Penelope start making out.

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM

Marina is looking at herself in the mirror. She HEARS Yacht
and Penelope having sex.

YACHT
(O.S.)
You're... a crazy... bitch!

Marina sits at her desk. She opens her laptop. She begins to
write. As she writes, the scene turns into what she is
describing.

MARINA

(V.O.)

It was a dreamily perfect day. All the pain she'd endured seemed to dissipate just like the clouds she spied earlier that morning. As she stood outside of the new coffeeshop, she turned to her left and watched three handsome white guys playing cornhole. What a delightful game... with an atrocious name. She turned to her right and smiled as she caught sight of a lovely old lady who, with the help of a handsome young police officer, was returning the items she'd pickpocketed off of a young couple. Slowly, directly in front of her appeared two shadowy figures, one, an older female, the other, a younger male. They both beckoned for her to come to them. As she contemplated which one to approach, she felt a strong pull in her limbs. From the young man, she heard the words, "I will love you." From the woman, she heard, "I will devour your soul."

Marina stops typing. She's confused, exhilarated, and also anxious.

TITLE: TWO HOURS LATER

Marina is still sitting at her desk. She hasn't typed anything new.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Can't think of where this story goes. I feel like a hack. Maybe it's really time to just become a spinster.

A HOWL of wind blows by.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Or maybe I just need take a bath.

INT. MARINA'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Marina is in the tub covered in bubbles.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

YACHT

(O.S.)

You okay in there, sis?

MARINA

Yeah. Just need a good soak.

YACHT

(O.S.)

And baths help with your writer's block. Tell me if you need anything, 'kay?

MARINA

Will do.

(beat)

Yacht... thanks for letting me stay here.

YACHT

(O.S.)

Enjoy your bath.

Marina shuts her eyes and drifts off.

DISSOLVE INTO:

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INT. A COFFEE SHOP

Marina is at the counter. A PERKY YOUNG BARISTA (Female, 22, Attractive) greets her.

BARISTA

Hello! What can I get started for you?

MARINA

Do you have...

BARISTA

A coffee that gives you purpose, energy, and makes you look ten years younger... as opposed to a woman dangerously close to embracing loungewear as fashion?

MARINA

What did you just say to me?

BARISTA
I asked if you'd like to try our
new tea.

MARINA
Oh. What type of tea?

BARISTA
Spinster-berry.

MARINA
Say what?

BARISTA
Elderberry.

MARINA
Uh... just give me a dark roast
with a shot of espresso.

BARISTA
Tea is really good at fighting free
radicals and can make your skin
look like--

MARINA
Give me the damn coffee!

BARISTA
You're the queen, queen. Name for
the order?

MARINA
Marina.

Marina walks down to the end of the counter to await her
coffee. LAWRENCE (Handsome, African American, 24) is staring
at her.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Sorry, I've had a rough--

LAWRENCE
Day?

MARINA
Few months. I just want something,
anything to go my way.

LAWRENCE
I'd like to go your way.

MARINA
I'm sorry?

LAWRENCE

*I was born long ago, I am the
chosen, I'm the one.*

(beat)

I can see from your blank stare you
have no idea what I'm talking
about.

MARINA

I do not.

LAWRENCE

The Lenny Kravitz song, "Are You
Going to Go My Way?" Let me start
over. I'm Lawrence. You up for some
Summer Berry Grunt.

Marina tries to get the Young Barista's attention.

MARINA

Excuse me, I think I'm being
sexually harassed.

LAWRENCE

No, no, no, no, no. It's a dessert.
Interested?

Marina looks Lawrence up and down.

MARINA

I am not.

LAWRENCE

I came on too strong, didn't I?

(To himself)

Damn it, Lawrence, do it the way
Dr. Jun told you to do it.

(Aloud)

Hi, I'm Lawrence. And you are?

MARINA

Lola.

BARISTA

Coffee with a shot of espresso for
Marina.

(beat)

Oh, here you go, Marina. Have a
great day, queen.

The Barista sets the coffee down on the pick-up counter. Both
Lawrence and Marina stare at it.

LAWRENCE

You gonna get that... Marina?

MARINA

It's not mine. As we've established
my name is "Lola."

The Barista comes back.

BARISTA

Is your order wrong, Marina?

MARINA

I don't know what you're talking
about foolishly forgetful barista.
My order was the Spinster-berry, I
mean, Elderberry Tea for Lola.

BARISTA

No queen, you said...

MARINA

You know what? Forget it. I'm going
somewhere else.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE COFFEE SHOP

Marina is on the sidewalk trying to pull herself together.
She looks inside and sees Lawrence. He waves.

She puts on a pair of dark sun glasses, and pretending not to
see him, turns and bumps into:

GERALDINE

Wow, you're in some hurry.

MARINA

Oh, hi. You're the lady that...

GERALDINE

I see you're getting out and about.

MARINA

Yeah. Who knew getting a cup of
coffee was going to be a whole
thing?

Marina stares back at the coffee shop.

GERALDINE

I don't like that place. The waitstaff is too young and perky. I don't know why but that one...

Geraldine points to the Barista working inside. The Barista waves at them. Both Geraldine and Marina half-heartedly wave back.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

I just wanna cut her in two and suck out her entire being.

MARINA

I'm sorry, what?

GERALDINE

Just the ravings of an old lady. Anyway, that's why me and my spinster sitters rarely venture out. Say, have you ever considered becoming a spinster?

THUNDER booms.

MARINA

Was it supposed to rain today?
(beat)

That's so funny, I was just telling my sister-in-law that I was ready to lean all the way into spinsterhood.

Geraldine pulls out a card. It reads, "The Spinsterhood Sisterhood."

MARINA (CONT'D)

Catchy name. I like catchy names... because I'm a writer.

GERALDINE

Still never heard of you, but I'm sure you're work is fine.

MARINA

The New York Times called my writing, "story-like with a heroine, two love interests, some supernatural stuff and--"

GERALDINE

Hey! This may be very forward, but why don't you come and meet the girls.

(MORE)

GERALDINE (CONT'D)
We'll have some tea, talk cats, and
well, we talk about cats a lot. You
in?

GERALDINE (CONT'D)
That sounds--

LAWRENCE
(O.S.)
Hey Lola-slash-Marina.

Both Geraldine and Marina turn around.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Sorry about that inside. When I
meet a really attractive woman I
tend to go...

Marina stares blankly at Lawrence.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Overboard.

Lawrence looks at Geraldine. He extends a hand.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Hey, I'm Lawrence.

Geraldine glares at Lawrence.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Um... okay, well it was nice
meeting you, Marina-slash-Lola.

Lawrence walks away. Geraldine hands Marina a card.

GERALDINE
Give me a call tomorrow and we'll
set up a time for us to drain your
soul.

MARINA
What?

GERALDINE
Listen to Janet Jackson's album,
"Control." Toodles.

Marina looks at the card, shrugs, then puts it in her pants
pocket.

EXT. GOODALE PARK

Marina is sitting on a park bench. Next to her are CHERYL, (Bi-racial, 30s), very "direct." and AMANDA (Caucasian, late 30s, burning with optimism.)

MARINA

What do you guys think about me becoming a spinster?

AMANDA

Well, if it makes you happy...

CHERYL

Are you fuckin' kiddin' me? Bitch, you ain't ready.

AMANDA

Cheryl, language. There are children present.

TWO YOUNG GIRLS in school uniforms, pigtails, and carrying *Hello Kitty* backpacks (15-ish) walk by.

GIRL #1

I told him, "if you don't lick the crack, then motherfucka' you is whack!"

Girl #2 nods.

AMANDA

They looked so innocent.

MARINA

Hello? My problem.

AMANDA

Well, the ladies sound nice. And now that you're single...

CHERYL

Nope, nope, nope. You just need to find some new dick. And hopefully the guy attached to it won't be a dick like Joshua was.

MARINA

Joshua wasn't a dick.

Amanda and Cheryl look at each other.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Wait, you both thought he was a
dick?

AMANDA
He wasn't so much a male genitalia
as an...

CHERYL
Emotionally stunted man-child who
always threw up in the face of
conflict.

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR - FLASHBACK

Marina, Joshua, Penelope and Yacht are inside the car.

MARINA
Why don't you love me?

Joshua throws up.

INT. JOSHUA AND MARINA'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

Marina is standing in front of Joshua who is reading her
manuscript.

MARINA
Well, what did you think?

Joshua throws up.

INT. A RESTAURANT -FLASHBACK

Marina and Joshua are sitting across from each other.

MARINA
Do you want to split an order of
calamari?

Joshua throws up.

EXT. GOODALE PARK - PRESENT

MARINA
Wow, he really does not handle
conflict well.
(beat)
But he wasn't all bad. Or maybe I
was just too blind to see it.

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)
 And maybe that's why I'll never
 find a man again and should just
 embrace spinsterhood.

BOOM of Thunder.

MARINA (CONT'D)
 The sky is totally clear.

AMANDA
 Look, give the ladies a chance
 before you make up your mind.

MARINA
 What do you think, Cheryl?

Cheryl is smiling at a guy.

MARINA (CONT'D)
 Cheryl?

CHERYL
 Shut up. I'm tryin' to get some
 dick.

Cheryl gets up and walks away. Marina looks at Amanda who
 shrugs and follows after Cheryl.

MARINA
 Hey, will you please stop trolling
 for dick!

The Mother and Daughter from

DAUGHTER
 Mommy, it's that lady who talks to
 herself.

MOTHER
 Don't make eye contact.

INT. THE HOME OF GERALDINE - EVENING

Geraldine is standing at a podium.

Sitting in chairs facing her are Irma, Claudette and Odessa.

GERALDINE
 I call to order the 185th meeting
 of the Spinsterhood Sisterhood.
 Roll Call--

IRMA

I'll have a Ciabatta Square Bun,
please.

GERALDINE

Wrong kind of roll, Irma.

IRMA

Oh, okay.

GERALDINE

But now I know you're present.

CLAUDETTE

Tell us more about 'zis new
potential member.

GERALDINE

Claudette, let me finish the roll.

IRMA

So, there are rolls?

GERALDINE

No rolls, Irma. Odessa?

ODESSA

You literally said hi to me five
minutes ago.

GERALDINE

Odessa is here... and surly.

ODESSA

Has this potential member invoked
the call?

GERALDINE

She said she was leaning all the
way into Spinsterhood.

The SOUND of ominous thunder.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

When I formed this sisterhood, I
wanted it to honor the women who
used to spin wool, and were coined
"spinsters." Those women, who never
married, worked their fingers to
the bone, were given lower paying
wages and basically, treated like
second-class citizens. But just
like the Black community reclaimed
the word ni--

ODESSA

Nope!

GERALDINE

Sorry, just trying to make a point. Anyway, we are now reclaiming the word, "spinster" for our group of older, unmarried women who chose to live on our own terms.

ODESSA

And all it took was making a pact with a supernatural demon named Yuki-onna that requires us to suck out the essence of younger women.

IRMA

Is that what we do?

CLAUDETTE

She 'as ze memory of a gnat, and 'alf ze personality.

ODESSA

New diet, Claudette?

CLAUDETTE

Yes. I can only eat ze baby food. Et je déteste pureed legumes!

IRMA

Parade fumes?

GERALDINE

Pureed legumes!

(beat)

As you can tell from Irma's condition things are dire. We need a new member as soon as possible or what's happening to her will be the fate of us all.

(beat)

I'll continue to lay the groundwork when I run into our potential new member tomorrow at the grocery store.

The ladies all break into laughter. Irma immediately stops.

IRMA

Is that where you're going to pick up the rolls?

GERALDINE

Forget about the rolls, Irma!

ODESSA

We've got to get this Marina to commit, and soon!

GERALDINE

As leader of the Spinsterhood Sisterhood, I'm going to make certain that we get the essence of Miranda Gibbs or my name isn't... umm...

ODESSA

Geraldine.

GERALDINE

Damn, it's starting to happen to me too!

INT. THE KITCHEN OF YACHT AND PENELOPE - THE NEXT DAY

Penelope is sitting at her kitchen table drinking a cup of tea. Marina comes into the kitchen in a cat-print robe.

PENELOPE

I need a favor.

Marina looks jumps.

MARINA

For the love of Anne Rice, Penn!

PENELOPE

Such dramatics. Can you stop by the store and pick up some liver, asparagus, and any kind of mature cheese?

MARINA

Mature cheese?

PENELOPE

Like an aged parmesan. They're good fertility foods and they'll boost my odds of conception.

MARINA

I thought my brother wasn't ready to be a father.

PENELOPE

He wasn't ready for me when we first started dating and look how well that turned out. So, you'll go to the store?

MARINA

I was planning on taking a bath...

Penelope purses her lips.

MARINA (CONT'D)

But I guess I can fit in a trip to the grocery.

INT. A GROCERY STORE - LATER THAT DAY

Marina is wearing a trench coat and standing in the middle of the cat food aisle with a blank stare.

Geraldine walks up behind Marina.

GERALDINE

What kind of cats you got?

Marina jumps.

MARINA

Geraldine!

GERALDINE

Sorry. So, what kind of cats?

MARINA

Oh, round, white, with only whiskers and eyes... and made of ceramic.

GERALDINE

Ah, you're a tchotchke cat mom. Love it.

MARINA

And you?

GERALDINE

Oh, I haven't had a cat since twenty-twelve when I had to temporarily live with my nephew, Dean and his "roommate," Tyrone. I don't know why he wouldn't just admit that they were taking trips to pound town.

(MORE)

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

Those walls were as thin as Vanna White and twice as useless.

MARINA

So, I guess like me, you're just staring at bags of cat chow for no good reason?

GERALDINE

It's what you do when you're a spinster.

CRASH of THUNDER. Marina looks around noting the oddness of the sound.

MARINA

And I guess you have a lot of free time to randomly run into people.

GERALDINE

After living through two wars, four tornadoes, and the "accidental" death of three best friends, I have tons of free time.

MARINA

Oh, uh, okay.

(beat)

Do... do you ever get... lonely? I've been single for six months and I can feel myself wrapped in the constricting arms of my ever-growing heartache.

GERALDINE

Oh, right...

MARINA

I'm a writer.

Marina picks up a cat toy and sighs.

GERALDINE

Okay, okay. Tell me what happened.

MARINA

I was in love. He wasn't. So, I'm not doing the love thing anymore. Been there, done that, got the T-shirt.

Marina opens her trench coat. She is wearing a T-shirt that says, "I broke up with my boyfriend and all I got was this lousy T-shirt."

GERALDINE

Men break hearts. It's why we ladies at the Spinsterhood Sisterhood took an oath to never be with a man ever again.

MARINA

But I'm only 44.

GERALDINE

Perfect!

(Catching herself)

I mean, you're perfect to join the Spinsterhood Sisterhood.

MARINA

I just love that name.

GERALDINE

I came up with it a few years ago. Odessa Jenkins didn't like it, but after our cat fight, I was declared the winner and the name stuck.

MARINA

You actually duked it out?

GERALDINE

No, no, no, no, no, we used cats.

Marina's eyes get big.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

Oh God, not real ones. Big, plushy, stuffed ones that are great for smacking old ladies who have brittle bones.

MARINA

Uh, okay.

(beat)

Well, Marina Gibbs is ready to be your newest spinster!

Marina reaches out her hand for Geraldine to shake. Geraldine's eyes take on a sinister quality as she is about to touch Marina's hand.

The moment is broken when...

LAWRENCE
 (O.S.)
 Lola?

Shit. MARINA Shit. GERALDINE

Lawrence, coming down the aisle with a shopping cart full of cat toys and food, sees Marina and Geraldine.

LAWRENCE
 Heard it was a good way to meet the ladies.
 (To Marina)
 Two days in a row. How lucky am I?

Marina pulls Geraldine aside.

MARINA
 I can't seem to shake this guy.

GERALDINE
 We're having a get together tomorrow night. Can I expect you?

MARINA
 You know what? Yes.

GERALDINE
 Good, because we plan on stealing of your essence.

MARINA
 What?

GERALDINE
 Give you presents. We give new members presents. Toodles.

Geraldine waves at Marina. As she leaves she walks by Lawrence wrinkling up her nose.

Marina and Lawrence stand in awkward silence.

LAWRENCE
 How's it goin' Lola? Or is it really Marina?

MARINA
 Lawrence, you're a good-looking young man--

LAWRENCE

Thank you. You're good-looking,
too.

MARINA

Please let me finish my thought
before I forget it.

LAWRENCE

Oaky, what's your thought?

MARINA

(beat)
Damn it, I forgot.

LAWRENCE

You started with: "You're a good-
looking young man."

MARINA

I know what I started with. I can't
remember where I was going!

LAWRENCE

I think I dig you.

MARINA

Do not dig me. I'm not interested
in catching what you're throwing.

Lawrence turns away. He turns back and throws a balled up
piece of paper at Marina.

It hits her in the face.

MARINA (CONT'D)

What the hell?!

LAWRENCE

You were supposed to catch it. Then
our "how-we-met" story would've
been, "She said, 'I'm not
interested in catching what you're
throwing,' but then I threw a
balled up piece of paper at her--

MARINA

Lawrence, I'm becoming a spinster!
Now leave me alone.

More awkward silence as they stare at each other.

LAWRENCE

Well, you can't fault a guy for
tryin'.

Lawrence shrugs then turns and leaves.

MARINA

(to herself)

I will not be some Calpurnia
Hartwell who is looking to tame
some good-looking rake. I'm
becoming a spinster!

INT. THE HOME OF YACHT AND PENELOPE - LATER THAT DAY

Penelope is drinking a cup of tea.

Yacht enters. Penelope doesn't acknowledge him.

YACHT

What did I do now?

Penelope takes a gentle sip of her tea. She then hurls the
cup across the wall where it shatters into a ton of pieces.

PENELOPE

(Calmly)

Why don't you want to have a baby
with me?

YACHT

Penn, we just got married a year
ago, my sister's been here for a
few months-

PENELOPE

Six months. She's been here one
hundred and eighty three days.
That's four thousand, three
hundred, and ninety-two hours. Do
you know how many seconds that is?

YACHT

We're not ready to bring a child
into this house.

PENELOPE

Fifteen-million, eight-hundred
eleven thousand, and two hundred
seconds.

YACHT

Did you just calculate that in your head?

PENELOPE

I'm smart! You're kinda smart too. Our baby would come out pretty smart.

(beat)

Yacht, I know she's your sister, but I want her gone.

Marina enters carrying the groceries. She's fighting back tears.

MARINA

I bought the mature cheese.

Marina sets the groceries on the table and turns to go.

PENELOPE

(Calling after her)

Marina. I'm sorry. I'm ready to start a family, but you being here is ruining my...

The front door slams.

INT. A CHIC LOFT-STYLE APARTMENT - LATER THAT EVENING

Amanda is mixing a cocktail. Cheryl and Marina are sitting on a couch looking out of Amanda's large window.

MARINA

And of course as soon as I decide to become a spinster I keep running into this Lawrence guy.

CHERYL

Let me get this right. You're turning down hot, young dick for a room full of old ladies who smell like mothballs?

AMANDA

Joshua crushed her spirit and she's too old and feeble to go through that again.

MARINA

Amanda's right. I'm a woman over forty.

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

I might as well be invisible. So why not wallow in sorrow with like-minded women who love to talk about cats.

CHERYL

You're doin' too much.

AMANDA

Cheryl, be nice. Spending time with those old ladies might do her soul good.

CHERYL

You're startin' to sound like a Marina.

MARINA

(A nerve has been struck)
Excuse me for having a man not reciprocate my love and letting it break my world apart. And excuse me for wanting to find a group of supportive women who get that.

AMANDA

Marina, I think those spinster ladies can support you and make you feel less alone in a world that doesn't value older, single women. I wished I'd valued my Grandma Zajic more before she died choking on a Polish Slim Jim she stole from me.

MARINA

You told me you hated your Grandma because she always said you were "nearing your expiration date and close to spoiling."

AMANDA

I did. Which is why I smiled the whole time she was choking.

Marina and Cheryl look at Amanda.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

I really wanted that last Slim Jim. Anyway, if becoming a spinster is what's going to make Marina happy--

CHERYL

Fuck that! I'm 41 and sexy AF. My milkshake still brings the boys to the yard. Remember last week when we were walkin' through the park and that guy yelled, "Hey, get off my frisbee!"

AMANDA

Cheryl, you were actually standing on his frisbee.

CHERYL

His words said, "get off my frisbee," but his eyes said, "I want you all up on my frisbee."

MARINA

I really thought Josh loved me, even if he couldn't say it. But it's been months and he hasn't called, texted, or even...

Tears begin to stream down Marina's face.

AMANDA

Maybe he's waiting to hear from you.

CHERYL

Nope. He's probably already got a new girlfriend. And you know the fucked-up thing? He's already told her he loves her.

AMANDA

Cheryl!

Marina sobs into her hands.

CHERYL

Sorry, but she needs to hear the truth. Forget Josh. There's a shit-ton of interesting guys for you to meet, baby girl. Why don't you finish that cocktail and come with Amanda and me to 'de club.

Marina falls apart.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Oh Lord, she's ugly-cryin'.

Amanda goes over and hugs Marina.

Marina has a realization. She stops crying and says as she's wiping away her tears:

MARINA

I am ready to embrace a life filled with women who will allow me to simply be me so that I don't have to wither away in solitude as I clothe myself in a robe of desolation and isolation. I'm ready to fully be a spinster.

Ominous THUNDER echoes.

CHERYL

Such dramatics. You sound like one of them basic-ass bitches you write about. They don't know shit.

MARINA

Cheryl, you just don't understand!

Marina sets her drink down and storms out of Amanda's apartment.

Cheryl rolls her eyes, then turns to Amanda.

CHERYL

That bitch straight up needs some dick.

(beat)

Speakin' of, you wanna go accidentally bump into some guys?

AMANDA

Okay. But this time can we try bumping into them without using an actual car?

EXT. GOODALE PARK - LATER THAT EVENING

The evening is quiet.

Marina is sitting on a bench lost in thought.

The sweet OLD LADY PICKPOCKET from earlier appears in front of her.

OLD LADY PICKPOCKET

Give me your phone.

MARINA

I'm sorry, what?

OLD LADY PICKPOCKET
Your phone. Give it to me.

The Old Lady Pickpocket has her hand in her pocket pointing it towards Marina implying it's a gun.

Marina offers up her phone.

MARINA
It's an iPhone 5.

The Old Lady Pickpocket wrinkles up her nose.

OLD LADY PICKPOCKET
Okay, give me your money.

MARINA
I don't carry cash.
(beat)
Can I ask you a question?

OLD LADY PICKPOCKET
What? Why?

MARINA
How did you end up here? Being an old lady pickpocket?

OLD LADY PICKPOCKET
Oh, well, I lost all my money in a Ponzi scheme back in the early 2000s... How the fuck do you think I ended up here?! I'm a lady over the age of forty-five and society kicked me to the curb.

MARINA
So, you're a spinster?

The Old Lady Pickpocket looks confused.

OLD LADY PICKPOCKET
What the fuck? I don't want my essence sucked out. Now, stop distracting me and give me your wallet!

Suddenly, Lawrence flies through the air tackling the Old Lady Pickpocket.

LAWRENCE
Leave her alone!

Lawrence looks down and sees that the assailant is an old woman.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Shit. Did I hurt you?

The Old Lady does a quick wrestling move and now has Lawrence pinned.

OLD LADY PICKPOCKET
You're lucky I have to go home and
take my Joint Care medication
otherwise I'd stay here and kick
your ass.

The Old Lady gets up, spits on Lawrence and stalks off.

MARINA
Oh my god, are you okay?

Lawrence nods.

MARINA (CONT'D)
I hate to ask after having just
been saved and all, but...

LAWRENCE
Am I stalking you?
(beat)
I am.

Marina looks uncomfortable.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
I'm joking. But I do have a bone to
pick with you. You, Lola-slash-
Marina, have captivated my heart.
(singing)
*She's unlike anyone I've ever seen,
I want to make her my queen,*

MARINA
No, no, no. Don't do that.

LAWRENCE
*I think I saw her in a dream,
I like her so, even though she's so
mean-*

MARINA
Please, stop everything you're
doing.

LAWRENCE

*I want to know her real name,
because what she told me is insane,
She told me Lola,
but I also heard Marina,*

A SHOT is HEARD. Lawrence and Marina turn around and see the Old Lady Pickpocket holding an actual gun.

OLD LADY PICKPOCKET

You do not come up into my park
with nothing for me to steal while
at the same time singing terrible
lyrics!

The Old Lady Pickpocket fires another shot into the air.

Lawrence grabs Marina and they run.

OLD LADY PICKPOCKET (CONT'D)

And don't come back here until you
get that damn phone upgraded!

EXT. OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCE TO GOODALE PARK - A MOMENT LATER

LAWRENCE

Guess my improv songs aren't as
good as I thought they were.

MARINA

You are correct.

They giggle.

Lawrence happens to catch a glimpse of the text on the sweater Marina is wearing. It says, "This is what a crazy cat lady looks like."

Lawrence opens his jacket. He's wearing the exact same sweater. Marina breaks into a smile.

LAWRENCE

You want to grab a cup of coffee
and talk about the best places to
find weird cat sweaters?

MARINA

That would be...I... shouldn't. I
mean, I can't.

It starts to drizzle.

LAWRENCE
A walk in the rain, then?

MARINA
I don't like rain. Turns out
twirling in it is only fun for
about two minutes. Then you just
end up with soggy panties.

LAWRENCE
I'll keep your panties from getting
soggy.

Awkward look between Marina and Lawrence.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
(to himself)
"I'll keep your panties from
getting soggy?" What the hell,
Lawrence. Get it together, man.

MARINA
I... I should go.

Marina turns to walk away.

LAWRENCE
I look forward to the next time I
run into you. Whatever your name
is.

Marina turns back to Lawrence.

MARINA
Marina. My name's Marina.

She turns around hoping to conceal the little smile that's
forming on her face.

The rain begins to pour.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Ahhh!!!

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM

Marina is in a deep sleep. She's tossing and turning.

INT. A NON-DESCRIPT DARK ROOM

Marina opens her eyes. She's in a chair. To her left, all smiles, is Geraldine. To her right, also all smiles is Lawrence.

Marina looks back at Geraldine. Geraldine is not smiling.

GERALDINE

You can't be a spinster and a
whore!

Marina frowns.

LAWRENCE

You haven't done anything to make
you a whore... yet.

Marina smiles.

GERALDINE

One, he's too young for you. Two,
you said you wanted to be a
spinster. You can't change your
mind now. And three...

A large, dark shadowy figure appears from behind Geraldine. As she speaks, the VOICE of the shadowy figure doubles her.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

And if you don't keep your
word, we'll be forced to do
something terrible!

SHADOWY FIGURE

And if you don't keep your
word, we'll be forced to do
something terrible!

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM

Marina snaps awake. She's sweating.

MARINA

Damn, no more Pringles and Malbec
before bed.

INT. THE BOOK LOFT OF GERMAN VILLAGE - THE NEXT DAY

The Book Loft consists of 32 rooms each representing a specific genre of book. The rooms are connected by stairs and narrow passageways and feels as if each room leads deeper down a rabbit hole.

Marina is standing in the "YOUR BEST SELF" section leafing through "Solo Sex and the Spinster; Go Ahead and Touch It, No One Else Will" by Kitty Clawson.

LAWRENCE
(O.S.)
Hey, Marina.

Marina jumps.

She turns and sees Lawrence.

MARINA
Okay, it's official. You're
stalking me, right? Are we going to
have an all-out fisticuffs right
here in the Self-Help aisle?

LAWRENCE
I wouldn't begin to know how to
stalk someone by using their social
media algorithm, advanced global
positioning software, or by
creating challenging situations
where I can swoop in and play the
hero.

MARINA
So, fisticuffs it is.

Marina sets the book down and assumes a fighter stance.

Lawrence points to the book.

LAWRENCE
How is it?

MARINA
Is this how you fight?

LAWRENCE
You really wanna be a spinster?

Marina, caught off guard, lowers her fists.

MARINA
Lawrence, I'm a single woman of a
certain age whose no longer looking
for love. So, I want to learn to
get in touch with my...

A FEMALE STORE EMPLOYEE looks up from shelving books.

FEMALE STORE EMPLOYEE
Ma'am, we don't do that here.

The Female Employee points to a sign that says: "No ACTUAL
getting in touch with yourself."

The Female Employee's head disappears behind a shelf.

LAWRENCE

So, you were saying something about getting in touch with your...

MARINA

Lawrence, you are so very, very, very, very, very, very, very handsome and if I were a little bit younger--

The Female Employee pops her head over the book shelf.

FEMALE STORE EMPLOYEE

By at least 15 years.

MARINA

This Louise Hay book needs to reshelfed.

Marina hurls the book at the Female Employee who ducks just in the nick of time.

LAWRENCE

I think the Universe is conspiring to bring us together.

MARINA

No. The Universe is a cranky old lady who is tired of everyone making fun of her precious ceramic tchotchkes.

LAWRENCE

You're adorable.

MARINA

Lawrence, please stop with the flirting. Go find a girl who's never had her heart broken. You two can fall in love, realize you're wrong for each other, break up, then spend years wondering why the hell things fell apart. I've been through that already.

Marina goes into another room, the "ROMANCE" section. Lawrence follows her.

They look up and see a smiling Geraldine.

GERALDINE

Hello, Marina.

(beat)

Young man. I see you're still buzzing around my friend like a gnat drawn to mucous around someone's eyes.

(beat)

I just read about it in a book over in the anatomy section. Anyway, what a surprise running into you.

LAWRENCE

Marina, I wanna take you out.

GERALDINE

Lawrence, is it?

LAWRENCE

How did you know my--

GERALDINE

This woman is still healing from her relationship with Joshua and she's not interested in starting something with the likes of you. Now, beat it, you scamp!

Lawrence looks at Marina hoping she'll say something.

LAWRENCE

Well Marina, if you change your mind--

GERALDINE

She won't. Toodles.

Lawrence, hurt, walks off.

Marina makes her way back to the "YOUR BEST SELF" section. Geraldine follows.

MARINA

That was a bit harsh, but thanks for getting rid of him.

GERALDINE

We Spinsters have to stick together. By the way, I read one of your books.

The SOUND of Thunder.

MARINA

The weather has been so confusing lately. What'd you think?

Geraldine shrugs and picks up Kitty Clawson's book and begins leafing through the pages.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Wait, did I mention Joshua when we met at the grocery the other day?

She finds what she's looking for and hands the book to Marina.

GERALDINE

Check out page seventy-two.

Marina looks at the page. She seems confused. Geraldine changes the position of the book.

MARINA

Oh.
(beat)
Oh...
(beat)
OH!

GERALDINE

Impressive, right? Now, you're all set to meet the ladies tonight. You like Jell-O molds in the shape of cats?

MARINA

Who doesn't?

GERALDINE

WONDERFUL. Now, you swear you'll come?

MARINA

Yeah, I'll come.

GERALDINE

Swear it.

MARINA

What?

GERALDINE

I need you to swear you'll be there.

MARINA
 (a little confused)
 Okay Geraldine, I swear.

The SOUND of THUNDER echoes.

GERALDINE
 It'll be a night you'll never
 remember.

MARINA
 Huh?

GERALDINE
 Forget. A night you'll never
 forget.

FEMALE STORE EMPLOYEE
 (Loudly)
 Ma'am, are you planning on
 purchasing, "Solo Sex and the
 Spinster; Go Ahead and Touch It, No
 One Else Will?"

MARINA
 I... um... my friend here...

Marina turns toward Geraldine hoping for help. Geraldine is gone.

INT. THE HOME OF YACHT AND PENELOPE - THAT EVENING

Marina comes down the stairs wearing a lovely (?) dress. Upon closer inspection it's revealed that the print is actually many small cats.

Penelope notices her... and the cat dress.

PENELOPE
 What in the hell are you wearing?

MARINA
 I'm going to hang with a bunch of
 ladies who call themselves the
 Spinsterhood Sisterhood.

PENELOPE
 And that's what you're wearing?

MARINA
 I like this outfit. I feel strong,
 and confident.

PENELOPE

All that outfit is saying is, "I'm old, sad, and lonely."

MARINA

Well, I kinda am.

PENELOPE

Marina, before you go rushing off into spinsterhood why not have a little bit of fun.

MARINA

I wouldn't even know where to go.

PENELOPE

Fine, stop badgering me. I'll take you to one of my old haunts before I met your brother.

Penelope gets up, walks over and examines Marina.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

But first, a very necessary refresh on your outfit and make-up. You game?

MARINA

Do I have a choice?

CUT TO:

EXT. A SIDEWALK - LATER THAT EVENING

Penelope walks around a corner. She is wearing a tight black top with sleek vinyl black pants and a smart, but sexy pump.

PENELOPE

Hurry up!

Marina rounds the corner. She is wearing a pair of tight dark jeans, a tight maroon sweater and eyelashes that are way too much.

MARINA

I can barely see with these bat wings blocking my eyes.

PENELOPE

It's not about you being able to see them, it's about them being able to see you.

Penelope stops. Marina runs into Penelope.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
Watch where you're going!

MARINA
I can't. Again, the bat wings.

Penelope looks up and sees a sign for "The Catch Club."

PENELOPE
Never mind. We're here.

INT. THE CATCH CLUB - A BIT LATER

The Catch Club is circa 1990s, complete with a mostly black interior, a large wrap-around bar, and very few clientele.

Marina and Penelope are sitting at the bar. Penelope is a bit tipsy. Marina is fidgeting with her "new" eyelashes.

PENELOPE
I'm assuming you sense the weirdness in the house.

MARINA
It's hard to take a bath with you two alternating between fighting and having loud sex.

PENELOPE
I think our relationship might be in trouble.

MARINA
Whose isn't?

PENELOPE
Yours... 'cause you don't have one.

MARINA
I thought Joshua was the "one."

PENELOPE
Oh God, don't you know there's no "one." There's just the guy that makes you happy... until he doesn't.

MARINA
What's the problem with you and my brother?

PENELOPE

I'm ready to have kids, but he doesn't think I'm "stable enough." Nobody who brings a child into the world is stable.

MARINA

Most parents seem a bit crazy.

PENELOPE

Well, with you under our roof he's even less in the mood to knock me up.

MARINA

So, if I pull myself together then you two can--

PENELOPE

Start the renegotiation of having kids.

MARINA

I was going to say identify what your real problems are and begin the long process of fixing them.

PENELOPE

That's your romance novelist talking. If every couple looked under the surface of every problem they had, they'd realize they should've never committed to being together in the first place.

MARINA

And I thought I was cynical. You sure you don't want to join me when I meet the spinsters?

PENELOPE

I'm too young, hot, and sexy to have my essence sucked out of me.

MARINA

What?

JOSHUA

(O.S.)

Marina?

Marina turns around to see who it is, but she can't make them out because of the "bat-wing" eyelashes. She rips them off.

MARINA

Owww!!!

(beat)

Joshua? What are you doing here?
Penelope, did you have something to
do with this?

PENELOPE

Are you accusing me of calling your
ex and getting you to
"accidentally" run into each other
so you two can work out your shit
in the hopes of getting you and
your extensive ceramic cat
collection out of my house?

JOSHUA

Can we talk?

PENELOPE

You want somebody to serve as a
mediator? I did it for my friends
Bernard and Alicia... right before
they permanently split up.

MARINA

We'll be okay.

Penelope shrugs, grabs her cocktail, and walks away.

MARINA (CONT'D)

So?

JOSHUA

I needed some time to process what
you said.

MARINA

You mean, when I said, "I love
you," and you're devastating
silence caused my heart to shatter
into a million cracked pieces?

JOSHUA

So, you're back to writing?

Marina nods.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Look, I... I... I've been miserable
without you.

MARINA
Then say it, Josh.

JOSHUA
I... I...

Joshua turns to the Bartender.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
I need something to settle my
stomach. You got any Alka-Seltzer?

The BARTENDER turns and walks away.

Marina stares expectantly at Joshua. Joshua looks away from her.

The Bartender returns.

BARTENDER
Here's a beer. Now, stop stalling
and tell this woman what she wants
to hear.

The Bartender sets the beer down and walks away.

JOSHUA
Look, I don't know why this so
tough... I...

Joshua almost vomits.

LAWRENCE
(O.S.)
Marina?

Marina and Joshua turn around and see Lawrence. He's dressed in a suit with an open collar shirt. With him is BLUE (20s, Attractive, Quirky)

JOSHUA
Who's that?

MARINA
He's either my guardian angel... or
the guy who's gonna be implicated
in my mysterious disappearance.

Lawrence and Blue walk over.

LAWRENCE
I wouldn't expect a soon-to-be
spinster to be out at the Catch
Club.

MARINA

I'm here with my friend, Penelope.

Lawrence and Blue look at Joshua.

BLUE

Isn't Penelope a girl's name?

Blue giggles.

LAWRENCE

Um, this is Blue. We're on a date.

BLUE

We met on an app for people with colors for names. I tried to get my friend, Beige, to join, but she's soooooo boring.

Again, Blue giggles at herself.

BLUE (CONT'D)

Anywho, this date's not really going well, but I don't want people to not see my outfit.

JOSHUA

We're in the middle of something.

MARINA

Joshua was just leaving, weren't you?

JOSHUA

But I...

Joshua is struggling. He wants to stay and say... something.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Yeah. Guess I should go.

Joshua leaves. Blue looks up from her phone.

BLUE

Hey, Bartender! Make me a Vodka Collins!

BARTENDER

Poof, you're a Vodka Collins.

Blue giggles.

BLUE

I love this place! I'm going the girl's. Be back in a hop, skip, and a jump.

Blue hops, skips, and attempts to jump, but stumbles over her extremely high heels. She giggles as she walks away.

MARINA

She's...?

LAWRENCE

A lot. Been trying to ditch her all night. Pretend to be my ex and I'll tell her we're getting back together.

MARINA

You can't just dump her on the spot. Be a chivalrous gentleman, and at least order her a car.

Lawrence pulls out his phone, It's inside a cat case.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Cute phone case.

Lawrence smiles.

Blue returns with a STRANGE MAN.

BLUE

It looks like there's a hoppin' party over at 400 West. Also, this is my date now. You don't really do it for me. Hope this doesn't make things awkward.

BARTENDER

It does. Here's your Vodka Collins.

Blue gobbles down the drink.

BLUE

De-lish-ous! Whelp, see you squares later. Let's go, Tommy.

STRANGE MAN

It's Horace.

Blue giggles.

BLUE
 No, I'd never date a guy with that
 kinda' name.

Blue prances out of the bar.

BLUE (CONT'D)
 (O.S.)
 Let's roll, Tommy!

Horace shrugs, then follows after Blue.

LAWRENCE
 My mother warned me about girls
 like her. You remind me of--

MARINA
 Don't you dare say I remind you of
 your mother! That makes the hair on
 my legs--that I intentionally
 haven't shaved--stand on end.

LAWRENCE
 No! I was going to say, Regina
 Hall.* You remind me of Regina
 Hall.

(* This name will be the actual actress playing Marina)

MARINA
 Really? She's very pretty.
 (breaking the fourth wall)
 And an American treasure.

LAWRENCE
 Can I buy you a drink?

MARINA
 I've had enough to drink--

LAWRENCE
 Dinner, then?

MARINA
 Spinsters don't eat after 7 pm.
 We're like Gremlins.

LAWRENCE
 But you're too sexy to be a
 spinster.

MARINA

Lawrence, all I want out of life right now is to find rare cat trinkets, take hours-long baths where sometimes I fall asleep and wake up in freezing water, and to watch every episode of "Murder, She Wrote."

(beat)

And is it me, or is Cabot Cove the murder capital of New England?

Marina notices Lawrence's smile.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Anyway, I've found a group of older women who understand and support my desire to be alone.

LAWRENCE

But what about romance? Love?

MARINA

I know all about love. I write moderately sexy romance novels.

LAWRENCE

I love romance novels. How many have you written? Do you know Nora Roberts?

MARINA

Okay, okay, okay. Clearly you're a romance novel fan. And, not to toot my own horn, but toot, toot, I've written three. And yes, I know Nora. But we don't speak... because she's doesn't know me.

LAWRENCE

I wonder if I've read any of your stuff.

MARINA

My books are pretty much all the same: heroine is in a relationship, major obstacle tests relationship, things fall apart, woman meets a wise sage of a woman who may or may not have some connection to a supernatural power that advises her to give up on love.

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

Then a new man enters complicating things and just as the heroine is about to choose, new love interest gets kidnapped, confusion, confusion, confusion, then things magically work out... usually because the heroine concocts some kind of ruse that involves switching places with another character.

LAWRENCE

Sounds a lot like "A Wrinkle in Time" just a Weird Smile." I love that book.

MARINA

I wrote that book.

LAWRENCE

Wait, you're R.L. Nixon?

Marina smiles.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm totally fanboy-ing right now!

Lawrence and Marina look into each other's eyes. She turns away.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

My parents met because of a romance novel.

MARINA

Really?

LAWRENCE

My mother was sitting in a bookstore café reading Judith Krantz's "I'll Take Manhattan."

MARINA

That book made me want to become a romance novelist.

LAWRENCE

It's our family's favorite book. We used to sit around in the evening and reenact it for each other.

MARINA

That sounds...

LAWRENCE

Amazing, right? Anyway, my father saw my mom sitting there and told her that she was absolutely glowing.

MARINA

Aww, that's romantic.

LAWRENCE

Her office was next to some abandoned nuclear power plant, so turns out she actually was glowing. Anyway, he asked her if she had read any other Judith Krantz novels and before you know it--

MARINA

They rushed to her place. Tore off each other's clothes and had the most incredible sex ever.

LAWRENCE

You think my parents were whores? No, they exchanged numbers and dated for six months before there was even any under-the-sweater action.

MARINA

Under-the-sweater action? How old are you?

LAWRENCE

Twenty-four.

MARINA

Sweet Sylvia Plath!

LAWRENCE

How old are you?

PENELOPE

(O.S.)

She-knows-what-a-rotary-phone-looks-like old.

Penelope sits next to them at the bar. She's drunk.

MARINA

Penelope.

PENELOPE

She-was-living-her-Carrie Bradshaw-Sex-and-the-City-fantasy-when-you-were-a-zygote old.

MARINA

Penelope!

PENELOPE

She-has-both-a-CD-Compact Disc-and-a-CD-certificate-of-deposit old.

MARINA

Please stop talking!

PENELOPE

Well this little piece of man candy should know he's flirting with someone so old that she was there the first day of school... evah!

Penelope cracks herself up. She immediately loses her balance and falls off the bar stool.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

(O.S.)

Somebody moved my stool.

MARINA

You'll have to excuse her. She's been hitting the sauce pretty hard.

Penelope has managed to get half-way up the stool.

PENELOPE

My husband won't put a baby in me.

LAWRENCE

That's a lot to share.

PENELOPE

I like to tell it like it is.
Example: Marina here told her ex, Joshua, that she loved him, but he didn't return the senti...
sentim...

(beat-she's having trouble
saying the word)

Feeling.

MARINA

All right, Penelope. We're calling you a car.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE CATCH CLUB - NIGHT

Marina and Lawrence are putting Penelope in an Uber.

MARINA

Sir, please see that she gets home safely.

The DRIVER offers a kind smile to Penelope.

PENELOPE

(To the Driver)

You're cute.

(beat)

You interested in putting a baby in me?

The Driver looks at Marina.

MARINA

(To the Driver)

Please don't.

They drive off. Lawrence turns to Marina.

LAWRENCE

Wow, this evening, huh? I think I could go for some ice cream.

MARINA

I do love ice cream.

LAWRENCE

Would you accompany me to Jenni's over by the park?

MARINA

I'd like that, but I'm supposed to go to this thing and--

Penelope appears next to them.

PENELOPE

Yes!

MARINA

Penelope, why are you not in the car?

PENELOPE

I'm not ready to go home and see
(having trouble saying the following)
Yaaaaacht yeeeeeeet.

(MORE)

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
(She gets it)
Yacht yet.

Penelope is proud of her achievement.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
Let's go. I want to try that
Blackout Chocolate Cake flavor
before I actually black...

Penelope blacks out.

MARINA
I'm calling my brother, Yacht.

LAWRENCE
Yacht is a person?

MARINA
My parents were obsessed with
water. They thought the idea of
being able to live near or on the
water was the epitome of luxury, so
hence the names. They also smoked a
lot of pot.

LAWRENCE
Why don't I just drop you both off
and we call it a night.

MARINA
That's sweet of you to offer, but--

LAWRENCE
I insist.
(beat)
It's a good way for me to show you
that I'm a stand-up kinda' guy.

MARINA
Well, since she can't stand up...

Lawrence and Marina struggle, but manage to get Penelope up
and are able to help her towards Lawrence's car.

PENELOPE
Did we already have the ice cream?

MARINA
Yes, it was delicious.

INT. GERALDINE'S HOUSE

Geraldine, Odessa, Claudette and Irma are sitting in a dark room with their hoods on.

CLAUDETTE

You said 'zis Marina was due to arrive any minute.

GERALDINE

I'm sure she's on her way.

TITLE: THIRTY MINUTES LATER

ODESSA

That bitch ain't comin'.

INT. THE HOME OF YACHT AND PENELOPE - LATER THAT EVENING

Penelope is lying with her head on the kitchen table while Yacht is standing over her, stroking the back of her neck.

Marina and Lawrence are stealing awkward glances.

YACHT

Thanks for bringing her home. She hasn't been drunk since our first date where she screamed at the server for getting her drunk.

LAWRENCE

Interesting family.

MARINA

We come from free spirits...

MARINA (CONT'D)

...who smoked a ton of weed.

YACHT

Who smoked a ton of weed.

PENELOPE

No more cat stuff!

YACHT

Time to take you bed. You ready to go night-night?

PENELOPE

You're ready to go night-night.

Yacht helps Penelope down the hall towards their bedroom.

MARINA
You should probably go... because
of work.

LAWRENCE
I'm an escort. I make my own hours.

Awkwardness continues.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Kidding, I'm an entrepreneur.

MIRANDA
Um... let me walk you to the door.

LAWRENCE
The bum's rush, huh?

MARINA
It's late, and I'm supposed to go
this thing, but all I really want
to do is take a bath.

LAWRENCE
You like to soak in your own filth?

MARINA
First of all, I'm not filthy.
Secondly, it's the only time the
world is perfect. I do my best
thinking when I'm in the bath.
Everything is so quiet and--

PENELOPE
(O.S.)
Cat stuff everywhere!

Marina and Lawrence look at each other.

MARINA
Anyway, you should go.

Marina leads Lawrence towards the front door and opens it.

As he walks past her, his gaze intensifies.

LAWRENCE
You know what I really like about
romance novels?

MARINA

Doing the research to make certain that the fictional town you've set it in, seems realistic enough to represent the historical period you're trying to emulate?

Lawrence takes a step closer to Marina.

LAWRENCE

That tense moment right before the heroine gives herself over to the hero. We don't know when it's going to happen, but we know that--

Marina flings herself at Lawrence.

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM

Marina and Lawrence, kissing intensely, stumble into her room.

Clothes are being ripped open, hands are grabbing everywhere, and Marina is allowing her guard to finally come down.

CUT TO:

Marina and Lawrence are now in bed.

Lawrence is under a sheet and in between Marina's legs.

MARINA

Wow, what is that thing you're doing?

Lawrence pulls the sheet from over his head.

LAWRENCE

I read about it in a Willow Winters novel.

Marina pulls the sheet back over Lawrence's head.

MARINA

OH. MY. GOOOOOOOOOOOOD!

FADE OUT.

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM - A BIT LATER

Marina and Lawrence are lying in bed. They look exhausted, yet content.

MARINA

That was amazing. And a little weird, right? I mean, you blew one of my socks off.

The sock is on an in-motion ceiling fan. Smoke is wafting off of it.

LAWRENCE

This is going to sound crazy, but--

MARINA

You want to know how a soon-to-be spinster is so flexible?

LAWRENCE

Umm, none of that crossed my mind.

Lawrence turns away from Marina. He takes a deep breath, then turns back to her.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Marina, I feel like we're both artists holding paintbrushes and that we're about to create a beautiful masterpiece of a relationship together.

(beat)

I... I love you.

Marina's eyes go wide, her jaw goes agape.

Lawrence jumps out of bed and starts dressing.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Damn it! Too soon, right? I can hear Dr. Jun now, "Lawrence, don't tell the hot, sexy woman that you're in love with her on your first sort-of date. What's wrong with you, man?!"

MARINA

Lawrence, calm down. Sometimes men say and do crazy things because of... the vagina.

Lawrence turns back towards Marina.

LAWRENCE

Should I go?

MARINA

No!

(Catching herself)

No. Stay. Let's see if we can get my other sock on the ceiling fan.

Lawrence rips off his clothes and jumps back into bed with her.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Sunlight is shining on a sleeping Marina and Lawrence. She is wrapped up in his arms.

She wiggles out from under his arms and goes into her bathroom.

INT. MARINA'S BATHROOM

Marina is looking at herself in the mirror when suddenly her shower curtain pulls back revealing...

MARINA

Geraldine!

GERALDINE

Where were you, you whore?

MARINA

How did you--

GERALDINE

We don't look kindly on being stood up.

MARINA

I'm sorry, but something came up last night. But I still plan to--

GERALDINE

We waited for you all night.

(beat)

Actually, we all fell asleep around 10 o'clock, but the point is, we don't take kindly to broken promises!

MARINA

Look Geraldine, I said I was sorry,
but I don't appreciate being called
a--

GERALDINE

Whore? Fine. We'll give you another
chance. However, for breaking your
promise, there will be
consequences. Remember: you swore.

Geraldine pulls the shower curtain closed. Marina pulls it
open, but Geraldine is gone.

MARINA

What the hell?

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM

Marina, confused, walks in. Lawrence stirs.

LAWRENCE

Good morning.

MARINA

It was.

LAWRENCE

Are you regretting the weird sex?
That book is really racy.

MARINA

No, it's not you. Geraldine was in
my shower and... you know what?
Forget it. Besides, I've got brunch
plans.

Marina gets up and starts to dress.

LAWRENCE

You're kicking me out?

Marina, smiling, turns to Lawrence.

MARINA

You should come with me? It's a
great place. And super close.

CUT TO:

INT. THE DINING ROOM OF YACHT AND PENELOPE

Marina and Lawrence are sitting across from Yacht and Penelope.

LAWRENCE

Not where I thought we'd end up.

PENELOPE

Had I known we were having a guest, I would have picked up more pancake mix... and instituted a five-dollar fee for unexpected breakfast visitors.

YACHT

Still a bit...

PENELOPE

Hungover? Yes.

YACHT

Nice to meet you, Lawrence.

PENELOPE

I thought I was having dreams about seals in the wild, but apparently it was you two having some kind of weird sex.

MARINA

(Smiling)

It was weird.

(beat)

After it was over Lawrence told me that he loved me.

Yacht spits his coffee out all over Lawrence.

YACHT

Well, that sounds, uh... Penelope?

PENELOPE

Wonderful! Will you two be moving in together? Like, this week?

Lawrence is wiping the coffee off of his face.

LAWRENCE

I just went with my feelings.

PENELOPE

I remember, "feelings."

YACHT

And I remember weird sex.

MARINA

Wait, what you guys do you don't consider, "weird?"

PENELOPE

Not since Yacht decided he didn't want to put a baby in me.

YACHT

You know what, Penn? You would make a terrible mother. There I said it.

PENELOPE

I come from a long line of good mothers! No woman in my family ever lost a child... for more than a few days.

YACHT

Can you even hear yourself?

PENELOPE

No! Because my biological clock is ticking louder than Big Ben!

Lawrence stands.

LAWRENCE

I should go.

PENELOPE

Sit down and finish your damn pancakes!

YACHT

Sit down and finish your damn pancakes!

Lawrence sits back down.

YACHT (CONT'D)

Real talk, Penn. Why are there so many phone calls to a bunch of unknown numbers on your cell? Tell me that!

PENELOPE

I've been working on arranging a...

YACHT

(softening)
Surprise for me?

PENELOPE

Okay, let's go with that.

YACHT

You're so damned hot when you're sneaking around doing stuff behind my back.

PENELOPE

Well, you're so damned hot when you're accusing me of sneaking around behind your back.

Yacht and Penelope clear the dining room table and start going at it.

LAWRENCE

Now. I should go now.

Lawrence gets up quickly and heads out of the dining room.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

(O.S.)

I'll call you tomorrow, Marina!

Marina see what an off-screen Yacht and Penelope are doing.

MARINA

How is that not considered "weird?!"

EXT. SCHILLER PARK - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

The same two joggers from Goodale Park are stretching before their run.

The Old Lady Pickpocket, is also here and is taking something from one of the jogger's pockets.

Marina, Cheryl, and Amanda are strolling around a small pond in the center of the park.

CHERYL

So, you two fucked?

AMANDA

Was Lawrence just a last hurrah before you officially quit men? Or is there potential for something more?

CHERYL

I knew that spinster shit was just a phase. Some good dick and she's back in the saddle.

MARINA

He blew my socks off. Like,
literally. I can't get the one down
off the ceiling fan.

(beat)

I was all set to become an old maid
who talks to herself, complains to
everyone about everything, and no
longer has to pretend that I care
about looking at people's ugly kids
on Facebook.

CHERYL

People have some ugly-ass kids.

MARINA

But Lawrence - his name is Lawrence
- he sees me. And isn't that all
I've ever wanted? To be seen... and
loved?

AMANDA

Did he say the word, "Love?"

CHERYL

And was it before, during, or after
he was inside you?

MARINA

He did say, "love," and it was
definitely after.

AMANDA

And did you say it back?

MARINA

No. I was so caught off guard. I
mean, I was ready to give up on
love and surround myself with a
bunch of old ladies who talk about
cats.

CHERYL

That sounds like a fuckin'
nightmare.

MARINA

He said it with no fear. He just
flung it out there like the lead
guy does when he's stalking Shay in
Leann Ashers's book "Butcher."

AMANDA

But is it wise to emulate love plots from romance novels? Yes, Lawrence and you had good sex--

MARINA

Amazing sex. Socks-blowing-off-of-my-feet sex. I mean, weird sex and love. Ladies, he might be the "one."

CHERYL

First of all, it's highly unlikely that he actually loves you. Maybe your moist snatch--

AMANDA

Cheryl!

(beat)

But she might have a point. Also, you made a promise to those sweet, old ladies. Imagine how disappointed they'll be if you change your mind.

MARINA

You're both right. Anyway, how many men are that comfortable just saying "I love you" to someone they've just met?

AMANDA

Princes, Swashbucklers...

CHERYL

Psychopaths, Emotional Vampires... Actors.

AMANDA

I say you go apologize to the spinsters and spend the rest of your time talking about cats.

CHERYL

Nah bitch. You need to get as much dick as you can. From Lawrence, that guy over there. Hell, even Joshua.

Marina sits on a bench.

MARINA

I need to talk to Lawrence. What I felt was...

AMANDA

Love?

CHERYL

Him breakin' off in your business?

MARINA

I... I... don't know. Part of me wants to leave while the party's cresting, you know? I had fun, but I don't need to try and find love anymore.

Amanda and Cheryl both look concerned.

MARINA (CONT'D)

But another part of me wants to go over to Lawrence's house and tell him that I--

AMANDA

Could fall in love with him?

CHERYL

Want to feel his sausage in your bun?

MARINA

Want to see where things could go.

AMANDA

I think that's a wise choice.

CHERYL

As long as it ends with his sausage in your bun.

They all laugh. Amanda and Cheryl walk away.

The Mother and Daughter from earlier are walking by. They see Marina, sitting alone on the bench laughing.

DAUGHTER

Mom, It's that crazy lady talking to herself again.

Marina sees them and waves. The Mother grabs her daughter.

MOTHER

Don't make eye contact.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF LAWRENCE'S HOME

A nervous Marina is standing at the front door .

MARINA

"Hello, Lawrence. Thank you for saying I love you." No, that's too fast. He'll need some sort of build up like, "Hello, Lawrence, what a lovely flower bed you have. Also, thank you for saying I love you."

(beat)

Is this crazy?

LI JUN

(O.S.)

Yes.

Marina turns around and sees LI JUN (Asian, mid 50s) standing on the side walk.

MARINA

Sorry, I'm a friend of Lawrence's... well, maybe more than a friend. We had sex last night. He professed his love for me. And now I'm here to... you know, I'm not sure what I'm going to say, but like Ava in Ilsa Madden-Mills's novel--

LI JUN

Clearly, you need to see a mental health professional.

Li Jun walks over and hands her a card. It reads, "Dr. Li Jun, Therapist."

LI JUN (CONT'D)

Call me.

Li Jun walks away.

Marina turns back to Lawrence's door. Gathering her courage, she knocks. There's no answer.

She knocks harder. The door, unlocked, slowly open.

MARINA

Maybe everybody in this neighborhood leaves their front door unlocked.

INT. THE HOME OF LAWRENCE

Marina sees an overturned bookcase, papers scattered about, and what looks like blood on the floor.

MARINA

Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God.

A phone on Lawrence's table RINGS. Marina picks it up.

GERALDINE

Hello Marina, it's--

MARINA

Oh my God, Geraldine!

GERALDINE

Geral... oh, you knew it was me.
Anyway, we're prepared to give you
another chance. We've taken--

MARINA

Lawrence is missing!

GERALDINE

Will you please stop interrupting
me?! Yes, Lawrence is missing.

Marina looks outside the window and sees Li Jun staring back at her. He is finishing a phone call.

MARINA

How do you know Lawrence is
missing?

Geraldine laughs.

MARINA (CONT'D)

What is going on?

GERALDINE

Dear, we told you there'd be
consequences. Well these are the--

MARINA

Consequences?!

GERALDINE

Stop interrupting me!

MARINA

What have you done to him?

GERALDINE

He's fine.. But now you're going to come to my house and follow through on your desire to be a spinster.

MARINA

But I'm not sure I'm ready to become a spinster now. Lawrence and I had to the most amazing, and dare I say it, weird sex I've ever had. I mean, Joshua and I had good sex. Normal sex. Missionary, sometimes doggie-style, but--

GERALDINE

Be here in an hour!

The call ends. The split screen becomes a single one.

MARINA

Guess spinsters don't talk about doggie-style.

The SOUND of SIRENS are approaching.

Marina looks outside and sees Li Jun gesturing "handcuffs."

Marina looks at the mess inside Lawrence's apartment.

She grabs Lawrence's phone, then dashes out the front door running past Li Jun.

LI JUN

Where are you going? You can't leave the scene of the crime! This is why you need to see a mental health professional.

INT. THE HOME OF GERALDINE - MOMENTS LATER

Geraldine is standing at a podium. Odessa, Claudette, and a confused Irma are sitting in front of her.

IRMA

Is this the meeting when we get the rolls?

GERALDINE

Still no rolls, Irma.

IRMA

But they're on their way, right?

ODESSA
She's gettin' worse.

CLAUDETTE
My craving for essence is, 'ow do
you say... stronger 'zan Odessa's
stinky perfume.

ODESSA
Don't come for me, Frenchie! I may
be old, but I'll take off this
girdle and whip yo' tail with it!

GERALDINE
Ladies!
(beat)
We need to remain a stable presence
when she arrives so that we can...

IRMA, ODESSA, CLAUDETTE
Suck out her essence and remain
spinsters who are...

IRNA
Sharp.

ODESSA
Smart.

CLAUDETTE
And beautiful.

THUNDER echoes outside.

ODESSA
That gal betta get here soon.

GERALDINE
Don't worry. I have a feeling
Marina will be showing up any
second.

EXT. A DOOR

Marina is standing in front of it pacing back and forth. She
makes up her mind to KNOCK.

The door opens revealing Joshua.

JOSHUA
Marina?

MARINA

I didn't know where else to go.
(beat)
Can I come in?

INT. JOSHUA'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Joshua and Marina are sitting on a couch.

Joshua's facial expression is neutral.

JOSHUA

Marina, that's crazier than what
happened in your last novel, "The
Runner who Runs Away from Love."
(beat)
Do you want me to draw you a bath?
It'll make you feel better.

Marina leans into Joshua and begins to cry.

MARINA

Josh, I swear you're the only
person in the world who gets me.

Joshua puts his arms around her.

JOSHUA

Marina, I...I...

Marina looks up at Joshua.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Uh, I've got some, um, leftover
Valium drops from my anxiety days.

Marina cocks her head to one side and smirks.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

But just one drop. They're really
strong and have lots of side
effects if overused.

MARINA

Got it. One drop.
(beat)
When did you suffer from anxiety?

JOSHUA

During most of our relationship.

INT. JOSHUA'S KITCHEN - LATER

Joshua is drinking a cocktail. Marina enters in a bathrobe, her hair in a towel.

MARINA

I was rummaging through that box in your bedroom that had my old notebooks, a bunch of costumes and make-up from my theater days, and this robe. I forgot I left this stuff here. Why did you keep it?

JOSHUA

I guess I figured if I kept it you might come back one day.

(beat)

I made you a drink.

He pushes a cocktail over to Marina. She smiles at him.

MARINA

Thanks. This all seems crazy doesn't it?

JOSHUA

The fact that you broke into someone's house and are eluding the police, or that you've already slept with some guy and he told you he loves you.

MARINA

Well, he wasn't afraid to say those three words.

JOSHUA

I don't know how to respond to that.

MARINA

Holy Joyce Carol Oats, Josh! You say, "Marina, I love you. I adore you, I want to lick whipped cream from in between your toes!"

There's a KNOCK at the door.

JOSHUA

You know I don't like feet.

Joshua goes to the front door. He opens it and finds TWO POLICE OFFICERS, ANITA DOMINGUEZ, 30s, strong-willed, but gentle and PAUL CHERWINSKI, mid 50s, haggard, cantankerous.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI

Good evening, sir. We're Officers
Cherwinski and Dominguez. Are you
Joshua Keller?

JOSHUA

Yes. What can I do for you
officers?

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

Have you heard from Marina Gibbs
recently? She's a person of
interest in a disappearance case.

JOSHUA

(Yelling so Marina can
hear him)

No, officers! I have not seen
Marina Gibbs in six months!

OFFICER CHERWINSKI

Why are you yellin', son?

JOSHUA

(Still yelling)

Yelling? I'm just a loud talker! I
have a very large larynx and thick
vocal cords!

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

Sir, is Marina Gibbs here?

INT. JOSHUA'S BEDROOM

Marina, trying to figure out what to do, sees the box with
the costumes in it.

MARINA

Time for a ruse.

INT. THE FOYER OF JOSHUA'S HOME

JOSHUA

(Still yelling)

No, Marina Gibbs is not here!

Marina is now standing behind Joshua.

She's wearing a gray wig, gray facial hair, a baggy brown
suit, a white shirt, brown tie and brown loafers.

MARINA
(As "Benson")
Good evening, Mr. Keller.

Joshua whips around and sees Marina in disguise. His eyes go wide.

Marina gives a quick wink.

Joshua turns slowly back to the police trying to appear normal.

MARINA (CONT'D)
I see you have company, sir. Shall
I make some tea?

JOSHUA
Would you officers like to come in
and have...

MARINA
Benson.

JOSHUA
Yes, Benson, um... make you some
tea.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
I'm sorry, Mr. Benson, who are you?

MARINA
Oh, no mister needed, just Benson.
I'm Mr. Keller's butler.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
You have a butler?

JOSHUA
Umm, yes?

MARINA
I clean up a lot of condoms with
this one.

INT. JOSHUA'S KITCHEN

Marina, as Benson, is setting down three cups of tea. One for Joshua and one for each officer. Marina also sets down a tray of cookies.

Officer Dominguez is glaring at "Benson" as "he" keeps leaning in and placing things on the table—sugar, spoons, more sugar, butter, etc...during the conversation.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI

When was the last time you saw Ms. Gibbs?

JOSHUA

We broke up six months ago and we haven't spoken since.

MARINA

I usually add a little sugar to my grapefruit tea. But to each their own.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

Has Ms. Gibbs ever exhibited any signs of mental illness?

JOSHUA

I mean, everyone's a little bit crazy.

Marina kicks Joshua as she walks by.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Oww! Sorry. Banged my knee against the table. I mean, we went through an emotional break-up and that can make a person seem a little whacked out.

Marina kicks him again.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Oww! Damn table. But she's... fine.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

What was the reason for your break-up?

MARINA

More sugar for your tea, officer? They broke up because he was afraid to tell that extraordinary woman that he loved her.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

I'm sorry, Mr. Benson--

MARINA

Just Benson.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

Fine, Benson. Can you give us a moment?

MARINA
 (to Officer Cherwinski)
 Another little dash of sugar for
 you?

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
 Yeah.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
 Benson! Do you mind?

Marina leans over adding another dose of sugar to
 Cherwinski's tea while simultaneously giving Dominguez the
 "stink eye."

MARINA
 Looks like my work here is done.
 Off to search for more condoms.
 This guy, I tell you.

As Marina slowly shuffles out of the room, both Officers
 Dominguez and Cherwinski takes several sips of their tea.

Once Marina is gone, they resume talking.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
 Interesting fellow.

JOSHUA
 Quite. Umm, any more questions?

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
 I think that's it.

Officer Dominguez stands, but, she begins to experience a bit
 of dizziness.

JOSHUA
 Are you all right, officer?

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
 A little lightheaded, I guess.

She wobbles. Officer Cherwinski is scratching.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
 My arm is on fire. What the hell?

Officer Dominguez is trying to keep her balance. She can
 barley make it back into the seated chair at the kitchen
 table.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
 My vision's getting blurry.

Officer Cherwinski looks at Joshua.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
(slurred)
Was somethin' in that tea?

Officer Dominguez is now drooling.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
Drugging a police officer is a
major felo...

Officer Dominguez slides off the chair. Joshua jumps up.
Officer Cherwinski can't stop scratching his arm.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
Mary, Joseph, and the sweet baby
Jesus! What the hell?!

JOSHUA
Marina! What did you do?
I told them you weren't crazy! Oh,
my stomach.

Joshua turns and projectile vomits all over Officers
Dominguez and Cherwinski.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
I'm so sorr--

He vomits all over them again.

INT. A DARK HALLWAY

Geraldine, Claudette, Odessa, and Irma walk up to a large
metal door.

Geraldine punches in a code.

It opens.

INT. A DARK, MUSTY ROOM

Tied to a chair in the center of the room is Lawrence. The
flooding of light causes Lawrence to squint.

LAWRENCE
I've always heard you shouldn't
take candy from strangers, but I
never would've suspected elderly
ladies peddling Werther's Originals
door to door.

GERALDINE

Don't trust anybody. We were given a generous sum of money to kidnap you. By the way, you're lucky you're a man, otherwise we'd just steal your essence and be done with all of this.

IRMA

Does he at least have any rolls?

INT. JOSHUA'S KITCHEN - A BIT LATER

Officers Dominguez and Cherwinski, still covered in Joshua's vomit, are tied to a chair. They are both groggy from the Valium.

Marina, now dressed as herself, is dabbing them with a towel trying to clean them up. It's not really working.

Joshua is sitting in a chair rubbing his stomach.

Amanda and Cheryl are standing by the entrance to the kitchen watching.

On the table is Lawrence's phone.

MARINA

I needed you to listen, so I added valium to your grapefruit tea. The combination of the two can increase the chance for side effects like dizziness, slurred speech, and itching. I learned about it when I was researching my third novel, "The Woman in Black who often Smoked Crack."

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

Ms. Gibbs, you were seen in Mr. Worthington's home and--

OFFICER CHERWINSKI

You tyin' us up makes you look like a freakin' nut job!

MARINA

I'm hearing your anger and am really sorry, but this group of spinsters is trying to make me join them, so they kidnapped Lawrence to get me to follow through.

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

But truly, I'm not sure I want to be one now since Lawrence and I had the blow-your-socks-off sex. So, that's why I had to flee the scene, dress up like Benson, lace your tea with Valium and--

CHERYL

Damn girl, when you say it out loud, it does sound crazy!

MARINA

Officers, my friends Amanda and Cheryl here can confirm that I was with them earlier this afternoon and couldn't have gotten to Lawrence's place before Dr. Jun saw me.

Marina gestures to Amanda and Cheryl.

AMANDA

Marina, we'd love to but--

CHERYL

Bitch, we ain't real! We're just imaginary characters you made up to help you cope with life.

EXT. GOODALE PARK - FLASHBACK

DAUGHTER

Mommy, that lady's talking to herself.

INT. GROCERY STORY - FLASHBACK

DAUGHTER

Mommy, it's that crazy lady talking to herself again.

INT. JOSHUA'S - FLASHBACK TO JUST A MOMENT AGO

CHERYL

Bitch, we ain't real!

INT. JOSHUA'S KITCHEN - PRESENT

Marina, realizing the truth, slowly sits down.

AMANDA

I know this is probably not the best time to talk about this, but when are you going to put us in one of your novels? I've always wanted to do it with a guy in tights.

Marina looks confused.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Well, just get back to us. We'll see you later.

Amanda and Cheryl slowly vanish. Marina turns back towards the rest of the room.

MARINA

So, those friends, the ones I said were here to confirm my alibi...

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

Cheryl and Amanda?

MARINA

Are apparently figments of my imagination.

Officers Dominguez and Cherwinski look at Joshua. He vomits.

Lawrence's phone RINGS.

Marina picks it up.

A WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

Lawrence, when are you getting her to move out?

Marina throws the phone across the room.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI

Was that your imaginary friends calling to tell you that they're actually real?

Marina's gaze goes slowly, dramatically, from the thrown phone to Joshua.

MARINA

No, but I did recognize that voice.

Marina sprints out of the room. Joshua looks at the tied up officers, his stomach growls uncontrollably. He smiles awkwardly, then takes off after Marina.

INT. THE KITCHEN OF YACHT AND PENELOPE - LATER

Yacht and Penelope walk in. The kitchen is dark.

PENELOPE
You didn't leave any lights on.

YACHT
I thought for sure I did.

Penelope flips a light switch on.

They are both shocked to see Marina sitting in a chair at the kitchen table.

She is facing the wrong direction.

PENELOPE
What the hell?

Marina quickly swivels around.

MARINA
Sorry, I got turned around in the dark.

There is the SOUND of the flushing toilet. A weary Joshua emerges from the bathroom.

YACHT
Marina, what's going on?

Marina stands.

MARINA
Excellent question, Yacht. What is going on... ?

Marina does her best detective-about-to-solve-the-case turn to:

MARINA (CONT'D)
Penelope!
(beat)
It was you that just called Lawrence's phone.

Penelope's face goes from "aha, I'm caught" to "Fine, I'll confess."

PENELOPE

Okay, I was the mastermind behind you meeting Geraldine and the Spinsters, your whirlwind romance with Lawrence, and you accidentally-on-purpose running into Joshua.

YACHT

What?

JOSHUA

Too many twists and turns. Not good for my tummy.

Joshua rushes out of the room.

MARINA

But, why?

PENELOPE

I don't think it's any secret that I don't like you.

MARINA

You don't?

YACHT

You don't?

Joshua is standing in the doorway.

JOSHUA

You don't?

PENELOPE

Oh, I guess it was a secret. Marin, you being in our house made it very hard for Yacht to focus of giving me his seed in order to procreate. I needed you out, so I devised a three-pronged strategy that involved you either becoming a spinster, falling in love with a new man, or returning to non-committal Joshua over there. Because your the overly dramatic, always processing shit in the bathtub type, I knew you'd make a choice sooner rather than later and I'd finally be rid of you and all these damn ceramic cats.

MARINA

So, Lawrence saying he loved me...

PENELOPE

Was part of his \$500 a week contract.

YACHT

You said that money was going towards therapy with Dr. Jun!

PENELOPE

I said it was going towards making me better. You just assumed therapy.

Marina, stunned, sits.

Yacht and Penelope stare at each other.

MARINA

Yacht, did you know about this?

YACHT

I mean, I knew that she wanted to fix you up with some guy, but I didn't know she was, like, "masterminding" a plan. I guess it all makes sense since my wife is... crazy!

PENELOPE

This is what happens when I don't have a child to occupy my time. They say idle hands are the devil's workshop! So, just give me a damn baby to keep my hands busy!

YACHT (CONT'D)

Penn, this is the exact reason why you're unfit to be a mother! You're literally ruining my sister's life. Imagine what you'd do to our child! Call Dr. Jun!

MARINA

But why have the Spinsters kidnap Lawrence?

PENELOPE

They planned that all on their own. Again, proof, if a woman doesn't have what she wants in her hands, she create something else to put in them.

There is a KNOCK at the door.

INT. FRONT HALLWAY

Marina goes to the front door.

She is followed by Yacht, Penelope, and Joshua.

Marina opens the door.

Standing there are Officers Dominguez and Cherwinski.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
Marina Gibbs, you've moved from
person of interest to main suspect.

MARINA
Please come in officers. There's
more you need to know.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
Who's talking? Damn it, I'm still
seeing double!

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
I'll guide you in, Cherwinski.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM

Marina is sitting on the sofa. Next to her is Joshua. He's holding her hand. Yacht and Penelope are standing in an archway looking on.

Officer Dominguez is seated opposite Marina and Joshua in a chair. Officer Cherwinski, occasionally still scratching, is standing.

The room is tense.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
So, your sister-in-law paid Mr.
Worthington to have sex with you.

MARINA
Yes.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
And she paid a group of old ladies
who call themselves, "The
Spinsterhood Sisterhood" to
befriend you so you'd join 'em?

MARINA
Yes.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI

And what about this guy that threw up all over us? Did she pay him, too?

MARINA

No, he threw up on you for free.

JOSHUA

I get nauseous when confronted with conflict.

MARINA

Technically, you're not "nauseous," but you get "nauseated." I'm writer, so I know the difference between--

Joshua rushes out of the room. The SOUND of his vomiting can be HEARD by everyone.

Joshua comes back inside.

YACHT

Hey Josh, I'll send you Dr. Jun's contact info. He's a great therapist.

Yacht glares at Penelope.

YACHT (CONT'D)

Especially if you go.

PENELOPE

Don't talk to me like that!

YACHT

Well, how do you want me to talk to you?!

Yacht and Penelope are staring at each other.

MARINA

We should go into the next room.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

But I need to ask her some quest--

Penelope launches herself at Yacht. They begin ripping off each other's clothes.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ (CONT'D)

Oh, wow! Yup, into the other room.

INT. THE KITCHEN

Marina, Joshua and the Officers are sitting around the table.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
This is bonkers. Your family seems
bonkers.

MARINA
We're not really that--

PENELOPE
(O.S.)
Put a baby in me now!

YACHT
(O.S.)
You'd be a teeeeeeeeeerible
mooooooooother!!!

MARINA
Yeah, our parents smoked a ton of
weed.

Lawrence's phone, still on the kitchen table, RINGS. Everyone
stares at it.

Marina picks it up, puts it on speaker and sits it on the
table.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Hello?

DISSOLVE INTO:

INT. A DARK ROOM IN GERALDINE'S HOUSE

A hand is holding a phone up to the gagged mouth of Lawrence.
He struggles to speak.

The hand holding the phone moves away from Lawrence's mouth
and slowly reveals that the phone holder is Geraldine.

She is flanked by Odessa, Irma, and Claudette. They are in a
dark room where Lawrence is tied to a chair.

GERALDINE
Hello, Marina.

MARINA
(O.S.)
Geraldine!

GERALDINE

It's your old friend, Geraldine...
oh, you just said that. Your
Lawrence, he's... well, he's a bit
tied up at the moment.

Geraldine laughs.

IRMA

After this we're getting rolls,
right?

CLAUDETTE

No rolls, stupide!

Geraldine pulls the phone away from her mouth.

GERALDINE

(Loud whisper)

Will you two knock it off?

Geraldine returns the receiver to her mouth. We go to a split
screen.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

We've got--

MARINA

Lawrence and you want me to come
there and commit to being a
spinster so you can suck out my
essence. Once you have it you'll
continue to be young, appease the
supernatural entity you made a pact
with and be able to let Lawrence
go. Right?

GERALDINE

Well, you really know how to take
the wind out of someone's sails.
Oh, one more thing, don't bring
anyone, especially not that crazy
sister-in-law of yours.

PENELOPE

(O.S.)

I want a baby!!

MARINA

I won't bring her.

Both Officers Dominguez and Cherwinski are shaking their
heads, "no."

Marina hangs up. The split side with Geraldine vanishes.

INT. THE KITCHEN OF YACHT AND PENELOPE

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
What the fuck is are you doin'?!

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
Cherwinski!
(beat)
What my partner means, Ms. Gibbs,
is, that you shouldn't have agreed
to meet them without a--

MARINA
Solid plan? Oh, I have one.

JOSHUA
(To himself)
And it's going to involve a massive
ruse.

MARINA
(Excited)
And it's going to involve a massive
ruse.

The scene **FADES OUT** as Marina motions for Joshua and Officers Dominguez and Cherwinski to join her in a huddle.

INT. THE HOME OF GERALDINE

Geraldine, Odessa, Claudette, and Irma are standing next to a clear tank filled with water.

A KNOCK at the front door snaps Geraldine to attention.

GERALDINE
Ladies, she's here.

CLAUDETTE
Tres bien. I need 'zat essence, or
I will become as unattractive as
Odessa.

ODESSA
Bitch, you ain't as pretty as you
think.

Another KNOCK.

Geraldine makes her way over to the door and opens it revealing Marina.

MARINA

I'm here.

Marina almost throws up, but stops herself.

GERALDINE

Come in.

Marina enters.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

We know that you love baths, so we prepared this for you.

Geraldine points to a tank filled with water.

MARINA

Before I get in that contraption I need to know you're gonna release Lawrence.

Geraldine gestures towards the tank.

GERALDINE

We'll let him go as soon as we finish the ritual.

ODESSA

The ritual.

CLAUDETTE

'Ze ritual.

The Spinsters all gather around her.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUST A FEW FEET FROM GERALDINE'S HOUSE.

A black, unmarked van is parked across the street.

INT. THE BLACK VAN

Inside it, Officers Dominguez and Cherwinski are standing behind, DEAN, late 20s, a tech guy who is wearing headphones.

Sitting in the back of the van is Joshua, looking determined.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

Are you certain this plan will work?

JOSHUA

89.25%. What's happening inside?

DEAN

They're talking about a tub,
chanting, and stealing her essence?

OFFICER CHERWINSKI

They're friggin' witches?

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

(With a huge realization)

No! They're spinsters! Where's that
back-up, Dean?

INT. THE HOME OF GERALDINE

Marina, hands tied to the tank, is submerged in water up to
her neck.

Marina is secretly trying to free one of her hands.

Odessa is putting a shower cap on Marina's head.

ODESSA

Girl, if you're like me, you do not
want to get your hair wet.

MARINA

Umm, right.

Marina, still trying to free her hand, accidentally splashes
Odessa.

ODESSA

Ahhhhh! Careful with that damn
water!

Odessa's skin sizzles.

EXT. A PARKED CAR OUTSIDE OF GERALDINE'S HOUSE

Penelope and Yacht are sitting inside.

YACHT

I've never been on a stakeout
before. Have you?

PENELOPE

Twice.

(beat)

Yacht, I want a child.

YACHT
Am I not enough, Penn?

PENELOPE
No.
(beat)
I want a little person who I can show the world, share what I've learned, and try and make into the best possible person ever.

YACHT
That's why you want a child?

PENELOPE
Yes. And to have someone take care of me when I'm old and feeble. I'll take care of them for 18 to 25 years, then they'll take care of me from 60ish until I die. Unless I accidently leave them somewhere. But we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

Yacht truly sees Penelope.

YACHT
Let's make a baby.

PENELOPE
Like they did in that Swedish porno?

YACHT
Like they did in that Swedish porno.

They begin making out.

INT. THE HOME OF GERALDINE

The Spinsters are now gathered around Marin in the tub.

They are holding hands and with eyes closed:

THE SPINSTERS
Your tongue is free, your mind is clear-

MARINA
Wait, wait! You swear you'll release Lawrence.

GERALDINE
Once we complete--

MARINA
Swear!

GERALDINE
Okay. I swear.

A huge RUMBLE of thunder echoes.

As the Spinsters say the invocation, the room grows dim, the lights flicker.

SPISNTERS
*Your tongue is free, your mind is
clear.
Your breasts, they sag, as does your
rear.
But with this soul, you'll be
renewed,
Your mind be crisp, your spirit
shrewd.
Now take this essence and share
with us.
That's all she wrote, no mess, no
fuss.*

EXT. OUTSIDE THE VAN

The skies have gone black and the clouds above are swirling.

INT. THE VAN

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
Where's that back-up, Dean?!

DEAN
They should be here faster than my
roommate Tyrone's wine order.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
Your...?

DEAN
Long-term roommate. Yes.

JOSHUA
I've got to do something!

Joshua opens the van and dashes outside. Officer Cherwinski leans out of the van.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
Where the fuck are you goin'?!

EXT. IN FRONT OF GERALDINE'S HOUSE

Joshua is running and stops at the parked car of Yacht and Penelope.

INT. THE CAR

PENELOPE
Yes, yes, yes! I want a girl!!!

YACHT
But I want a boy!

Penelope throws her head back.

PENELOPE
Why do you ruin everythiiiiiiiiiii-

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CAR

Joshua wrinkles up his nose

JOSHUA
They have to know that's weird.

He runs off towards Geraldine's house.

INT. GERALDINE'S HOUSE

GERALDINE
Your essence will be ours!

Geraldine throws her arms into the air. A CRACK of lightning whips through the room. Then it beomes quiet.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)
Why is nothing happening?

Marina continues to struggle to free her hand.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE PARKED CAR OF YACHT AND PENELOPE

Officers Dominguez and Cherwinski are now running after Joshua.

Officer Dominguez, in the lead, rushes past the car without noticing Yacht and Penelope..

Officer Cherwinski stops in front of Yacht and Penelope's car. He smiles.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
(O.S.)
Cherwinski!

Officer Cherwinski returns to the moment and runs towards Geraldine's house.

INT. INSIDE GERALDINE'S HOUSE

Joshua bursts into Geraldine's house.

JOSHUA
Get away from her you Spinsters!

Odessa releases the hands of the others and, from behind a couch, grabs a large stuffed cat.

She rushes towards Joshua swinging it.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
What in the Ayn Rand?

Geraldine, Claudette, and Irma join Odessa. They too have stuffed cats and begin beating Joshua with them.

The stuffing inside the cat is flying everywhere.

MARINA
Leave him alone!

Marina nearly hurls. Officers Dominguez and Cherwinski enter Geraldine's house, guns pointed.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
Freeze!

Everyone stops mid motion what they are doing.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI (CONT'D)
(to Dominguez)
Thirty years on the beat and I
can't believe this is first time
I've busted up a coven of witches.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
They're not witches, they're
spinsters! All right. I need
everyone to keep their hands up
where I can see 'em.

Geraldine, with hands raised, slowly makes her way towards Marina inside the tank.

GERALDINE

(In a harsh whisper)

I will have your essence!

(beat)

Your tongue is free, your mind is clear.

You breasts, they sag, as does your rear.

Joshua rushes over and tackles Geraldine simultaneously knocking over the tank with Marina inside.

Marina tumbles out as the water inside splashes all over Geraldine.

Geraldine screams as the water touches her. The other ladies, seemingly connected to Geraldine's pain, scream as well.

They all slowly curl into balls on the ground as darkness escapes from their bodies.

The darkness gathers itself into a giant shape that nearly encompasses the entire room. As it continues to grow, it's pull on the spinsters causes their bodies to tremble.

Then, with a giant **POP**, it vanishes.

OFFICER CHERWINSKI

(to Officer Dominguez)

So... they are witches?

Drew and a slew of officers rush in.

OFFICER #1

Arrest all the black people, right?

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ

No, you jackass! We're taking in the old ladies. And see if you can locate Lawrence Worthington.

Officer #1 sets off to find Lawrence.

He accidentally hits the fake plants on the table thus releasing the wall revealing a gagged and tied-up Lawrence.

Officer #1 sets him free.

The other officers grab the old ladies and put them in handcuffs.

IRMA

I only did it for the rolls.

Joshua helps Marina out the tank. They embrace.

INT. GERALDINE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Drew hands them both towels. They begin scrubbing their faces and arms revealing that Joshua is actually Marina and Marina is actually Joshua.

The Ruse!

JOSHUA

You came up with a great plan.

MARINA

By switching places, we were able to fool the spinster. You, being a man, meant they couldn't steal your essence and we could capture them and save Lawrence.

Officer #1 is escorting Geraldine past Marina and Joshua.

GERALDINE

(To Marina)

Marina Gibbs, you've ruined everything! But you can bet your bottom dollar that... that... damn, I can't remember what I was going to say!

MARINA

Geraldine, you ladies made a conscious choice to embrace spinsterhood. So, why the need to steal people's essence?

GERALDINE

Having the essence of a younger person kept us vital, powerful, alive... like cheetahs. Also, we made a pact with an evil entity named Yuki-onna.

MARINA

That is a new one.

GERALDINE

I would do anything to protect these ladies. They're all the family I have.

DREW
Aunt Geraldine?

GERALDINE
(To Marina)
Okay, all the family I have that I
care about.
(To Drew)
You might as well come clean about
you and your "roommate" Tyrone! We
all know!

Odessa shakes her head in agreement.

Dean escorts Geraldine out. The other officers take the other
Spinsters away.

EXT. OUTSIDE GERALDINE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

JOSHUA
Marina, there's something I want to
say--

Lawrence, now free, approaches.

MARINA
Josh, give us a minute.

Joshua nods. He glares at Lawrence as he walks by him.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Well, I hope you invested your
pretend-like-you-love-me money
wisely..

LAWRENCE
I put it towards my escort agency.
That's how your sister-in-law found
me.

MARINA
Look at you being a small business
owner.

LAWRENCE
Guess saying I'm sorry won't really
help.

MARINA

Lawrence, I've learned something. Even though I'm 44 and considered "old," I can write an ideal life for myself just like I do for the heroines in my books.

LAWRENCE

Maybe this whole crazy ordeal will inspire your greatest novel yet. And for the record, the sex was--

A vase flies by Lawrence's head. It CRASHES on the sidewalk out of view.

Lawrence sees a fuming Joshua. Lawrence nods adieu and leaves. Joshua walks over to Marina and grabs her hands.

JOSHUA

As I was saying--

A disheveled Yacht and Penelope run up to Geraldine's front yard.

YACHT

What'd we miss?

PENELOPE

We were off having weird sex.

Joshua smiles. Marina does not.

Joshua, inspired, gets down on one knee. He pulls a small box out of his pocket.

JOSHUA

Marina Gibbs, I love you! Will you marry me?

He opens the box. Marina stares at the ring. It's terrible.

MARINA

No.

JOSHUA

But... but I said it.

Marina takes Joshua's face in her hands and pulls him up so they are face to face.

MARINA

Josh, I love you, too. But I think that's enough for us right now. Don't you?

Josh smiles. Penelope applauds. Yacht cries.

Officers Dominguez and Cherwinski walk over to Yacht and Penelope

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
Ma'am, we need to discuss your role
in the illegal activities of
soliciting a prostitute, arranging
a kidnapping--

OFFICER CHERWINSKI
Really hot public indecency.

OFFICER DOMINGUEZ
And lying to the police.

YACHT
Penn, I think you're in big
trouble.

Penelope smiles at Yacht as she pats her tummy.

PENELOPE
Totally worth it.

The Officers escort Yacht and Penelope away.

Joshua and Marina launch into a deep kiss.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE BATHROOM FROM THE BEGINNING

Marina is in the bathtub.

PENELOPE
(O.S.)
Marina, you've been in that tub for
almost two hours! We need to talk!

Marina snaps awake.

YACHT
(O.S.)
Leave her alone!

Marina quickly sits up quickly.

MARINA
Can it wait? I was just struck by
inspiration. I need to write!
(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

By the way, I'm going to start
looking for my own place tomorrow.

CUT TO:

INT. A STAIRWAY

Penelope is standing in the stairway holding a large box
overhead that says, "Fragile: Cat Tchotchkes."

Yacht is standing at the top of the steps trying to take the
box from her.

She slowly lowers the box after hearing Marina's news.

PENELOPE

Well, we've loved having you here,
but if you feel it's time for you
to go...

Yacht takes hold of the box and wrestles it out of Penelope's
hand.

YACHT

Write away, sis. We love and
support you.

INT. MARINA'S ROOM

Marina is clicking away at her laptop. She's in the writing
zone.

She gets a text message. She peeks at the name, it's Joshua.
It says, "I love you." She smiles, puts the phone down and
keeps on writing.

FADE OUT.

CREDITS.