

A Book About That

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1 INT. DR. JEFF BELLAMY'S OFFICE - WEDNESDAY - MORNING 1

JEFF BELLAMY is reading one of his psychology textbooks. He stops to open his mail. He examines a Cruise Line brochure and picks up a picture of a young woman with his free hand.

JEFF

(Heavy sigh)

Well Beth, would a cruise be what the Doctor ordered? If this doesn't get us back together, I don't know what will.

He sets the picture down and highlights the toll free reservation number. He picks up his phone dials the number.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Hello? Yes, I'd like to know what time your ship leaves on monday?
Four o'clock in the evening?

(Writes down time)

What are the destinations?

Before he writes them down, ISABEL CIDADE (Ci-da-gee), the resident Physiotherapist pushes the door open and grabs the phone out of his hand and hangs it up. Jeff lays the picture frame face down and smiles at Isabel. His face turns flush.

ISABEL

(Agitated)

Did you give Ms. Penny permission to start using the new exercise equipment?

JEFF

(Stunned)

What new equipment?

ISABEL

The equipment delivered on Monday!?

JEFF

(Stutters)

What are you t-t-t-talking about?

ISABEL

(Raises voice)

The one you signed for!

Isabel shakes an invoice in Jeff's face. Jeff takes it from her and looks at it. She points to his signature.

JEFF

I was the only one here.

Isabel grabs Jeff by the arm and pulls him up out of his chair.

ISABEL

You must come with me now!

Jeff stumbles forward and knocks a stack of books perched on the corner of his desk onto the floor.

JEFF

Why?

ISABEL

I have to show you!

Isabel drags him out of his office into the hallway.

2 INT. HALLWAY BETWEEN JEFF'S OFFICE AND EXERCISE ROOM 2

Isabel drags Jeff along as amused staff members turn to watch and cheer them on.

AIDE 1

That's the way to do it girl!

AIDE 2

(Raspy voice)
About time Jeff.

JEFF

What is this all about?

ISABEL

You will see!

They reach the door of the exercise room and Isabel pulls him inside.

3 INT. EXERCISE ROOM 3

MS. PENNY BOLTON, a resident, is attempting to lift a small barbell with two hands. She has a strained, but bemused look on her face.

ISABEL

(Points at Ms. Penny)
She might hurt herself.

JEFF

Why - why don't you stop her?

ISABEL
How do I, when you tell her it's
OK?

JEFF
(Puzzled)
I didn't tell her that!

ISABEL
(Frustrated-in Portuguese)
Voce e um babaca!
(Subtitle)
"You're so immature."

JEFF
Huh?

Before Isabel can say anything else Jeff is paged over the intercom.

MRS. SUTTER'S VOICE
Jeff Bellamy to the Lobby, please.
Jeff to the Lobby.

Jeff quickly leaves the room while Isabel gently takes the barbell away from Ms. Penny.

ISABEL
Are you alright Miss Penny?

Ms. Penny smiles sweetly and nods her head. Satisfied no harm is done, Isabel retreats into her office and closes the door. ANTON & ROBERTA BANKS enter, drawn by the commotion of Jeff and Isabel's confrontation.

MRS. BANKS
What was that all about?

MR. BANKS
They weren't yelling at you, were they Penny?

Ms. Penny looks up at her two friends and clasps both hands together next to her head.

MS. PENNY
They're in Love.

As soon as Jeff reaches the Lobby REGINA MAE SUTTER, the Director of The MAGNOLIA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY hands Jeff the chart for ROBERT GRANT.

MRS. SUTTER
 I pay you to handle these
 admissions, not read books all day!

Mrs. Sutter hurries away. Jeff's hands shake as he scans the admitting notes. One detail catches his eye. Grant smiles at the young man standing in front of him.

JEFF
 You read the newspaper in the
 nude...
 (Looks at Grant)
 In front of your grand daughter and
 her children?!

MR. GRANT
 So what. It's perfectly natural.
 (Pulls at clothes)
 These are only flimsy conventions.

JEFF
 (Continues)
 But your six year old great grand
 daughter stripped in front of her
 class for "Show and Tell" at school
 that very same morning.

MR. GRANT
 (Shrugs)
 Am I responsible for everything the
 brat does?

JEFF
 We - We should meet later to
 discuss this.

MR. GRANT
 (Loud inhale)
 If you must.

Jeff picks up Mr. Grant's suitcases and leads him to his room. Mr. Grant follows him with his hands in his pockets, whistling.

5 INT. DINNING ROOM - LUNCH - NOON

5

Ms. Penny, Anton and Roberta Banks sit at a table eating their lunch.

MR. BANKS
 This stew tastes terrible!

MRS. BANKS

(Scowling)

You've done nothing but complain about the food since you moved here.

MR. BANKS

When I got her it was palatable.

(Points at bowl with spoon)

Lately it's become absolutely atrocious.

MRS. BANKS

Well... just put some more salt on it.

(Turns to Ms. Penny)

Penny, what makes you think Jeff and Isabel are in Love?

Ms. Penny gives Mrs. Banks a "I just know" kind of look as she chews her food.

MR. BANKS

How can you think that when all they do is argue with each other?

MRS. BANKS

You're such an old fool.

(Hits her husband)

We women know these things.

Mr. Banks rolls his eyes.

6

INT. MRS SUTTER'S OFFICE - FOLLOWING LUNCH

6

Mrs. Sutter talks on the phone in her office.

MRS. SUTTER

We have more than we need.

(Checks desk calendar)

It leaves on Monday at four. Can you and your brother come by here tomorrow?

(Writes note on calendar)

If anyone asks just tell them your the new landscapers...

(Pauses)

Of course I'm certain. Only two people here who could figure it out.

(MORE)

MRS. SUTTER (CONT'D)
 The man is our resident shrink, but he just graduated from Medical School and he still can't do anything unless he consults a book. The woman is our Physical Therapist and she's from Brazil. I'm keeping them both so busy they don't have time for anything else...

7 INT. DINNING ROOM CORNER TABLE

7

After the residents leave, Jeff and Isabel remain to have coffee and discuss the latest arrivals.

JEFF
 His name is Robert Grant. He prefers to be called "Bobby."

ISABEL
 Does he have any special needs?

JEFF
 Uh...
 (Flips through chart)
 I don't see any.

ISABEL
 Let me ask that a different way. Does he have any peculiar behaviors I should know about?

JEFF
 (Avoids looking up)
 You - You know I can't discuss that right now.

Jeff nervously leafs through the pages of the DVM. He can't seem to find what he's looking for.

ISABEL
 The last time you told me that, the old man I had to work with kept grabbing my butt.

JEFF
 I intend to counsel Mr. Grant tomorrow.

ISABEL
 Great. What about this Captain who arrives this afternoon?

JEFF

Lewis Schaffer? Mrs. Sutter hasn't given me his chart yet.

Isabel closes her note pad and leans back in her chair folding her arms over her chest.

ISABEL

Get your head out of that book. You are going to have to learn how to improvise.

Isabel stands, picks up her charts and leaves. Jeff smiles after her as she disappears. Mrs. Sutter pages Jeff over the intercom, interrupting his daydream.

MRS. SUTTER

Jeff to the Lobby ... Jeff to the lobby.

Jeff haphazardly shoves all his notes into a folder and attempts to finish his coffee, spilling some down the front of his white coat. He walks to the Lobby. Mrs. Sutter shoves CAPT. LEWIS SCHAFFER's chart at him with a scowl and hurries away.

8 EXT. MAGNOLIA ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON

8

A cab dumps CAPT. LEWIS SCHAFFER in front of the Magnolia. He carries his bags to the front doors and tries to enter, but the front doors close on him.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

"Pretty place. You'll see." Baa.

9 INT. LOBBY

9

Capt. Schaffer puts his bags down as Jeff walks up and offers his hand. Capt. Schaffer looks into Jeff's face.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

(Squints)

Who are you?

JEFF

I'm Dr. Jeff Bellamy, Captain Schaffer. I'm the resident Psychiatrist.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

A shrink!? There ain't nothing wrong with me.

JEFF

I'm not suggesting there is Captain. I'm here to help our residents deal with the problems of aging.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

Since you like to talk so much, you should have been at my house yesterday." You could have talked my daughter out of putting me here!

JEFF

Captain Schaffer...

CAPT. SCHAFFER

You're wasting your time young fellah. You're hardly out of diapers. What makes you think you can tell me how to grow old?

10

INT. HYDROTHERAPY ROOM - LATE PM

10

Mr. Grant skinny dips in the stainless steel tub used for physical therapy patients.

MR. GRANT

(Singing)

Oh Danny Boy. The pipes, the pipes are calling...

An aide enters the room to swap out fresh linens.

MR. GRANT (CONT'D)

(Standing up)

Hi, sweetheart.

The aide freezes as she looks wide-eyed at Mr. Grant.

AIDE

Who - Who are you?

MR. GRANT

Bobby Grant. (Offers his hand) I just arrived today.

The aide drops her stack of towels and runs out of the room screaming. Mr. Grant nonchalantly gets out of the tub and follows the aide into the hallway.

MR. GRANT (CONT'D)

Wait!

(Waves)

I just wanted to ask you...

The screams trail off into the darkness. Mr. Grant retrieves one of the towels to dry himself off.

11 INT. JEFF'S OFFICE - THURSDAY - MIDMORNING

11

Mr. Grant sits comfortably opposite of Jeff. Jeff reads the night shift's notes. Mr. Grant smiles. Jeff wears a strained look on his young face as he leafs through the pages of the DVM.

JEFF

Mr. Grant. Do you know why we're meeting this morning?

MR. GRANT

No.

JEFF

You were skinny dipping in the Hydrotherapy tub. The aide was hysterical when we found her.

MR. GRANT

She should have knocked first.

JEFF

No! No one is supposed to be in there that time of night. Who gave you permission?

MR. GRANT

Nobody. I was a seminarian when I was a kid and a priest told me that if I asked permission, I gave others the power to say NO.

JEFF

(Looks back down at book)

I'm certain he meant something different than what you're suggesting.

(Taps book with pen)

You seem to have an almost pathological need to walk around undressed.

MR. GRANT

I used to be a private detective.
I'm tired of (quotes with fingers)
"hidden things".

Mr. Grant leans in toward Jeff to get a closer look at the book he's reading. Jeff lifts his head up and they nearly bump heads.

JEFF

Apparently even your body.

MR. GRANT

So what. Why should I hide what I have?

JEFF

It's not a matter of hiding Mr. Grant. There are norms
(Gestures to book)
and standards decent people follow.

MR. GRANT

Who says? That stupid book? Where did you get *your* degree? A Cracker Jack box??

JEFF

I don't think that's fair Mr. Grant.

MR. GRANT

I'm not surprised. You're such a cold fish, you've got your head so far up your butt you can't see what's in front of your face!

JEFF

What are you talking about?

MR. GRANT

Isabel, that Brazilian beauty, she really digs you.

(Takes book from Jeff)

You won't find all of life's answers in this!

JEFF

(Raises voice)

Alright Mr. Grant. That's enough.

(Takes his book back)

(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)
 Ms. Cidade and I maintain a
 perfectly professional
 relationship.

Mr. Grant makes a jacking motion with his right hand and arm
 imitating someone masturbating.

JEFF (CONTINUING) (CONT'D)
 (Shyly looking away)
 Didn't your mother warn you about
 that?

MR. GRANT
 So did my sergeant in the army
 until I caught him one day in the
 barrack showers!

JEFF
 Mr. Grant!

MR. GRANT
 Listen Jeff, I've seen too many
 young guys like you fresh out of
 school. You need to take her out on
 a boat, where you can really get to
 know her (starts feeling himself).
 You can't read about how to do it
 in a book!

Jeff is about to respond when Isabel shoves his door open.

JEFF
 Isabel! Er, Ms. Cidade, didn't you
 see the sign on the door?

ISABEL
 (Looks back at door)
 Oh, that sign. I don't pay
 attention to that.

JEFF
 This is a private counseling
 session.

MR. GRANT
 I think we're done.

Isabel points outside the door and tries to speak, but Jeff
 cuts her off.

JEFF
 (To Isabel)
 Please leave. Now!
 (MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)
 (To Mr. Grant)
 We're not done Mr. Grant!

Isabel turns and walks out, slamming the door behind her.

MR. GRANT
 Wow. It's worse than I thought.
 She's really got the hots for you.

JEFF
 (Looses control)
 That's it Mr. Grant!

MR. GRANT
 What are you going to do? Throw
 your book at me?

Mr. Grant gets up and walks out of Jeff's office, laughing.
 Jeff falls into his chair letting his book fall to the floor,
 he buries his head in his hands.

12 INT. ISABEL'S OFFICE - THURSDAY - AFTERNOON 12

Isabel is reading a memo from Mrs. Sutter.

ISABEL
 "All of the exercise equipment you
 just ordered will have to be
 returned due to budget
 constraints."
 (Crying)
 No. She can't do this!

Isabel crumples the memo in her fist and rushes out of her
 office.

13 INT. JEFF'S OFFICE - SAME TIME 13

Jeff is reading a memo about a set of Rorschach Test Cards he
 ordered.

JEFF
 "Your order has been canceled."
 (Stares up at Diploma)
 Why did I even bother to come here?

He folds the memo back up and slips it back into the
 Interoffice Envelope it arrived in. He drops the envelope in
 his out tray and slumps back in his chair.

14

INT. MRS. SUTTER'S OUTER OFFICE - SECONDS LATER

14

Isabel walks right past CHRIS WEBER, Mrs. Sutter's Executive Assistant and barges in on a meeting. Two young men stand nearby. Mrs. Sutter looks up over the top of her glasses.

MRS. SUTTER

Brad ... Brook, I'll see both of you next Monday.

They nod and leave. BRAD, who is missing a middle tooth leers at Isabel. She ignores him and slams the memo down on Mrs. Sutter's blotter. Brad hurries out of the office.

ISABEL

What is the meaning of this?

MRS. SUTTER

Is there something you didn't understand?

ISABEL

I understand your English just fine. I was not a child born last year.

Mrs. Sutter gingerly picks it up as if it was some soiled thing, reads it for a moment and then looks back up at Isabel.

MRS. SUTTER

You know I don't like to repeat things said to me in confidence, but "Jeff" told me simple aerobic exercise and the medicine balls we bought last year are enough to...

ISABEL

He did?! Well, "Dr. Bellamy" and I will have to have a little talk.

Isabel turns on her heel and begins to leave Mrs. Sutter's office. She stops in the doorway when Mrs. Sutter calls her name.

MRS. SUTTER

Isabel. Just remember, don't tell Jeff you heard that from me.

Isabel nods and leaves.

15

INT. EXERCISE ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

15

Isabel is repacking the exercise equipment when ROBERT GRANT (shirtless) and Mr. Banks enter the Exercise Room. An old mystery movie is playing in the adjacent entertainment room.

MR. BANKS
(Staring)
What's wrong Isabel?

ISABEL
(Wipes tear off cheek)
I have to send all of this back. We cannot afford to keep it.

MR. GRANT
Is there anything we can do?

ISABEL
No. Unless you have \$6,000 American dollars to pay for this.

Mr. Grant elbows Mr. Banks in the ribs.

MR. GRANT
(Whispering)
You're on money bags.

ISABEL
What was that?

MR. BANKS
What my friend here was trying to suggest is that there might be a way for us to keep all of that...
(Swallows hard)
Equipment.

ISABEL
But how?

MR. BANKS
I know someone who might be willing to donate the necessary funding.

A look of joy spreads across Isabel's face as she stares wide-eyed at the two men. She stops what she is doing and runs over to them, hugging and kissing them both.

ISABEL
(Breathless)
That would be so ... wonderful.

MR. BANKS

I'll have it for you tomorrow morning.

ISABEL

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

MR. GRANT

You're welcome.

Jeff stands in the doorway smiling. Isabel turns around and sticks her tongue out at him before she retreats inside her office. Embarrassed, Jeff leaves.

MR. BANKS

Don't you think you're being a little bit too generous with my money?

MR. GRANT

So? Are you saving up for college or some new business venture? Face it Banks old boy, we're at the end of the road.

MR. BANKS

Speak for yourself Grant. I don't intend on checking out just yet.

MR. GRANT

(Runs around Mr. Banks)

Maybe, if you're lucky, you'll live another five to ten years before the game is over. Help some people out and enjoy what's left of your life and your money.

The TV in the other room increases in volume while two other residents argue about the movie's mystery.

MR. BANKS

What's the disturbance all about?

RESIDENT ONE

He says the robber will try and escape by train through the Andes, I say by boat. What do you...

MR. GRANT

That's it? That's all?

(Throws hands up and walks out)

No one ever escapes by boat.

(MORE)

MR. GRANT (CONT'D)
It's too slow of a get away...
You'll get caught.

16 INT. DINNING ROOM - FRIDAY - BREAKFAST

16

BANKS and GRANT are sitting at a dinning room table discussing Jeff and Isabel.

MR. GRANT
(Picking at his food)
There's something very funny going on around here.

MR. BANKS
Beside your constant need to show off your hairy chest?

MR. GRANT
What's wrong with my hairy chest?

MR. BANKS
It's not the hair so much, it's your - what did my son call them - man boobs and your...

MR. GRANT
(Pats his stomach)
Sixpack?

MR. BANKS
No. I'd call that a keg.

MR. GRANT
So what are we going to do?

MR. BANKS
(Frowns)
It's your stomach, not mine.

MR. GRANT
I'm talking about our two love birds.

MR. BANKS
Jeff and Isabel? What about them?

MR. GRANT
There's a reason for all of this bickering.

MR. BANKS
It seems pretty straight forward to me.

(MORE)

MR. BANKS (CONT'D)
 He won't do anything unless he
 consults one of his text books. She
 lives by inspiration.

MR. GRANT
 True enough, but I also see Mrs.
 Sutter pushing them into their
 little feuds.

MR. BANKS
 You think she's pitting them
 against each other on purpose?

MR. GRANT
 Sure. She's trying to hide
 something. If Mrs. Sutter keeps
 them off balance all the time, who
 else is going to know when she's
 screwing with the works?

MR. BANKS
 That's not all. She's been cutting
 corners with the food, and look at
 the shabby landscape of this place.
 The money's going somewhere and I'm
 sure that this is just the tip of
 the iceberg. What do you propose we
 do?

MR. GRANT
 Leave that to me.

MR. BANKS
 (Pats mouth with napkin)
 Hopefully you'll have better luck
 with that project than you've had
 with your stomach.

17 INT. MARIETTA POLICE - DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - MIDMORNING 17

The phone rings at the Captain of Detectives desk. A middle
 aged man in a white shirt and navy blue tie, loose around an
 open collar, answers the phone.

CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES
 Captain Frank speaking.

He pulls a pad over in front of him and begins writing some
 notes.

CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES
 The Magnolia Retired Community?
 What makes you think that?
 (Sips coffee)
 (MORE)

CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES (CONT'D)
 OK Bobby. I'll send someone over to
 check things out. Right. Goodbye.

CAPTAIN FRANK sits back and looks around the squad room. He
 gets up from his desk and walks over to a desk in the corner.
 He hands the sheet of notes to LT. DELMAR GRUFF.

CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES
 Delmar. I just got a call from
 Bobby Grant. There might be
 something cooking at the Magnolia.

LT. GRUFF
 The old folks place?

CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES
 Yeah.

LT. GRUFF
 Old people are always imagining
 stuff. How do you know this is
 legit?

CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES
 Bobby Grant used to be one of our
 guys before he became a Private
 Dick.

LT. GRUFF
 Oh.

CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES
 Besides you can check the place out
 now before you retire next year.

LT. GRUFF
 Great Captain. Nice to know you're
 watching out for my future.

Lt. Gruff puts the notes in a small binder. He slips on his
 suit coat and pulls his hat over his head and leaves.

18

EXT. MAGNOLIA MAIN ENTRANCE - JUST BEFORE NOON

18

Lt. Gruff walks up to the front door of the building.

LT. GRUFF
 (To an Aide)
 Can you tell me how to get to the
 Director's office?

AIDE
 Straight down this hallway
 (Points)
 2nd door on your left.

LT. GRUFF
 Thank you.

19 INT. MRS. SUTTER'S SECRETARY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER 19

Lt. Gruff enters the Director's office. Chris sits with his feet on his desk, filing his finger nails. As Lt. Gruff stops, Chris blows on his nails in the Detective's direction.

LT. GRUFF
 Is this the Director's Office?

CHRIS
 (Laughing)
 Do I look like the director?

Lt. Gruff opens his mouth to speak, but CHRIS cuts him off.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
 Besides, you don't have an appointment.

LT. GRUFF
 (Flips his badge open)
 I think this is appointment enough.
 My name is Lt. Delmar Gruff.

Chris sits up quickly in his chair and hits the intercom button.

CHRIS
 Mrs. Sutter, there's a Lt. Ruff here to see you.

LT. GRUFF
 That's Gruff.

CHRIS
 (Barks into the intercom)
 That's "Gruff" Mam.

Jeff exits. Mrs. Sutter sticks her head out the door and smiles at Lt. Gruff.

MRS. SUTTER
(To Jeff)
Remember Jeff, don't tell her I
told you about that. That'll be all
for now.

Jeff frowns as he solemnly nods his head and leaves.

MRS. SUTTER
(Offering her hand)
Lt. Gruff.

LT. GRUFF
Mrs. Sutter. I'm here to
investigate a complaint from one of
your residents.

MRS. SUTTER
Won't you come in Lieutenant.

Chris wheels a chair in behind Lt. Gruff. The Lieutenant sits
down. Chris continues to stand behind Lt. Gruff.

MRS. SUTTER
(To Chris)
That will be all.

Chris rolls his eyes and exhales loudly, slamming the door
behind him as he walks out.

MRS. SUTTER
(Smiling)
Good help is so hard to find these
days.

LT. GRUFF
Mrs. Sutter...

MRS. SUTTER
You can call me Regina Mae, if you
like.

LT. GRUFF
Alright. Regina Mae, have there
been any conflicts or difficulties
between any of your staff or the
residents?

Mrs. Sutter gets up and walks to her little refrigerator and
takes out a small bottle of liquor. She unscrews the cap and
hands it to the Lieutenant.

MRS. SUTTER
May I offer you a drink Lt. Gruff?

LT. GRUFF
I'm not supposed to... Oh, Why not.
(Takes a drink)
You can call me Delmar.

MRS. SUTTER
Thank you "Delmar." You will find
this to be an entirely harmonious
community. Everyone gets along here
just fine. I can be especially
agreeable.

Mrs. Sutter removes his hat and loosens his tie and runs her hand down the front of his shirt. She removes her glasses and unbuttons his shirt.

20 INT. MRS. SUTTER'S SECRETARY'S OFFICE - SAME TIME 20

Chris' Boyfriend sticks his head in the door.

BOYFRIEND
Hay girlfriend. What's up?

Chris hooks his thumb toward Mrs. Sutter's office as they both hear a loud crash of items being knocked off her desk, quickly followed by a loud moan.

MRS. SUTTER
(Through closed door)
Oh! (Softer) Oh, Delmar.

Chris and his boyfriend fall into each other's arms laughing hysterically. They separate long enough for Chris to imitate Lt. Gruff doing the pelvis thrust causing even more hilarity.

21 INT. MAGNOLIA LOBBY - A HALF HOUR LATER - MID AFTERNOON 21

Mrs. Sutter opens the door to her office and walks arm-in-arm with Lt. Gruff to the main entrance. Before he turns to leave, she straightens his tie and kisses him on the cheek.

LT. GRUFF
(Big smile)
I'm real glad you explained
everything to me so thoroughly.

MRS. SUTTER
I think my late husband would
approve of you.

LT. GRUFF
I had no idea he used to be the
Warden of Roger's State Prison.

MRS. SUTTER
(Winks)
I've always had a weakness...
(Runs tongue over lips)
For men with a badge.
(Strokes badge on belt)

LT. GRUFF
Maybe I could take some time off
and go on that cruise with you.

MRS. SUTTER
That would be lovely.

22 INT. DINNING ROOM - DINNER

22

Mrs. Banks and Ms. Penny sit at a table having some tea. They watch Lt. Gruff and Mrs. Sutter walk toward the front entrance.

MRS. BANKS
Mrs. Sutter seems happy. She has
that look of...

MS. PENNY
Satisfaction?

MRS. BANKS
Yes. Do you think she and the
Lieutenant had a little afternoon
delight?

Ms. Penny smiles a large smile. She looks off to the side as if remembering some of her own past. Mrs. Banks puts a hand on Ms. Penny's arm.

MRS. BANKS
We need to get Jeff and Isabel on a
cruise.

MS. PENNY
A cruise? What for?

MRS. BANKS
If we got them someplace they
couldn't get away from each other,
they just might see it too.

Ms. Penny looks into her cup with a wistful look.

23 EXT. MARIETTA BANK - 4 PM

23

Mrs. Sutter drives her car up to the front of the bank. She walks in just as Lt. Gruff drives up out front to watch her enter.

TELLER

Do you have the letter of authorization for these transfers.

MRS. SUTTER

Yes, I do.

She hands the Teller a forged letter from the Corporate Home office.

TELLER

This looks a little strange.

MRS. SUTTER

I know.

(Sighing)

They faxed it to me. Seems no one there wants to waste the money on official stationary.

The Teller and Mrs. Sutter laugh.

TELLER

I understand completely. The other day we caught an embezzler because the letter was too perfect.

MRS. SUTTER

Yes. Corporations are becoming far too complacent these days.

The teller walks behind the cages and turns in the request to the head teller.

TELLER

The transfer should be completed in just a few moments. Have a seat over there. My supervisor will be out shortly with your new pass books.

In a half hour the head teller walks up and hands Mrs. Sutter three new pass books. She slips them in her purse and walks back outside.

24

EXT. HIGHWAY LEADING OUT OF TOWN - 6 PM

24

She gets back in her car and starts up the engine. Lt. Gruff does the same. She drives away and follows the same route back. She stops at a Travel Agency and goes in.

CLERK

May I help you Mam?

MRS. SUTTER

(Purposefully gives wrong name)

My name is Regina May Shutter. I called yesterday and made reservations for a Royal Caribbean cruise leaving this Monday at 4 PM.

CLERK

Let me check and see if that's ready for you.

The clerk goes back to her desk and pulls up the reservation and prints out a ticket.

MRS. SUTTER

Does that state room have a view of the ocean?

CLERK

Yes it does.

MRS. SUTTER

Can I have meals delivered to my cabin if I don't feel like dinning with the rest of the passengers?

CLERK

Yes you can.

MRS. SUTTER

Thank you. I haven't had a real vacation in so long that I just want to spend the first couple of days by myself.

CLERK

I understand completely. Don't forget now that the ship leaves at 4 PM sharp. There will be an early boarding call at approximately 2:30 PM.

MRS. SUTTER

Thank you so much.

The clerk hands Mrs. Sutter the tickets. She gets into her car. Driving off, she passes a sign pointing to the Magnolia. Gruff stops by the sign and gets out of the car to watch her drive off as he lights up a cigarette.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE UP FROM
BLACK:

25 INT. MAGNOLIA DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - SATURDAY - MORNING 25

The morning sun rises over the gardens of the Magnolia Retirement Community. Normal activity gives way to chaos. Jeff and Isabel talk with Chris.

CHRIS

(Shrugs shoulders)

I don't know where she is. The last time I saw her was when she left to make the deposit.

ISABEL

Should we call the bank?

JEFF

No. Today is Saturday. It won't be open.

ISABEL

What about the drive through?

CHRIS

They won't know anything.

ISABEL

What if something happened to her?

Mr. Banks and Mr. Grant join Jeff and Isabel.

MR. GRANT

(To Jeff and Isabel)

We need to talk.

CHRIS

Don't let me stop you.

MR. BANKS

Alone.

CHRIS

Well!

Chris walks back into Mrs. Sutter's office suite in a huff and closes the door. The group strolls toward the Lobby.

MR. GRANT

Anton and I think she's been embezzling funds from the Home's accounts.

ISABEL

You mean stealing?

JEFF

(To Isabel)

You know, that makes sense. That's why she told us to send so many things back.

(Whiny)

I was crushed when she canceled my order of Rorschach Cards.

MR. GRANT

(Under his breath)

Thank goodness.

MR. BANKS

(Whispers)

What do you mean. I've played that game before it's kinda fun.

Jeff, Isabel, Mr. Grant and Mr. Banks reach the front entrance as Lt. Gruff enters the building.

26

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE

26

LT. GRUFF

(To the group)

I'm Lt. Delmar Gruff.

(Shows badge)

I understand that Mrs. Sutter has gone missing?

ISABEL

How did you find out so quickly?

LT. GRUFF

Chris Weber called me.

MR. GRANT

(Whispers to Banks)

That answers the Chris question.

LT. GRUFF

I'm going to interrogate the staff
and see what I can find out. Where
is Chris Weber?

ISABEL

I think he's in the Director's
office.

MR. GRANT

(Winks at Lt. Gruff)
Be careful Lieutenant. I think he
likes you.

LT. GRUFF

(Under his breath)
Oh boy.
(Points at Jeff & Isabel)
I'll talk to you two before lunch.

Lt. Gruff heads off to the Director's office a little less
enthusiastically than when he walked in.

MR. GRANT

(To Jeff)
This gets more fishy by the moment.

27

INT. ISABEL'S OFFICE - NOON

27

Jeff and Isabel talk in her office. Grant, Banks, Schaffer,
Ms. Penny and Mrs. Banks huddle just outside in the Exercise
room listening.

ISABEL

Did that horrible policeman leave
yet?

JEFF

I think he's talking with the new
chef.

ISABEL

That little troll?

Jeff recoils a little at Isabel's description, but manages a
smirk as he leans against the wall.

JEFF

(Scratches chin)
I got a phone message during lunch.
The Corporate man will be here
tonight.

ISABEL
Everything will be swept under the
carpet!

Jeff shrugs his shoulders. Isabel throws an overnight bag on top of her desk and begins to pack.

JEFF
Where are you going?

ISABEL
I will not just sit here and let
her get away with this!

JEFF
How are you going to find her?

ISABEL
When I went in her office to
confront her about my equipment,
(Holds up brochure)
I saw this.

Isabel shows Jeff the schedule inside.

JEFF
Royal Caribbean ... Leaving at 4 PM
on Monday. You're driving down to
Miami? But nobody makes a getaway
on a ship.

ISABEL
That's what she hopes everyone will
think. I will board the ship and
catch her with the money.

Isabel turns to face Jeff.

ISABEL
Come with me?

JEFF
We can't just leave our jobs - our
responsibilities.

Isabel lowers her voice and her head and takes Jeff's hands in her hands.

ISABEL

Jeff. (Pause) Dr. Bellamy. When that corporate man arrives, he will hire a new director and that person - whoever it is - will bring in their own staff. Mrs. Sutter hired us, we don't have jobs here any more.

Jeff appears to turn very pale. He leans back against her desk and breaks out in a cold sweat. Out in the Exercise room the group of seniors quietly sneak out.

MRS. BANKS

Do you think he will listen to her?

CAPT. SCHAFFER

He should.

MR. GRANT

It would be good for him because there are no books to tell him what to do.

MR. BANKS

He'll have to make it up as he goes along.

MS. PENNY

Maybe they'll start listening to each other.

MRS. BANKS

Can we help them?

Out in the hallway Grant suggests a plan of action.

MR. GRANT

(Waves everyone closer)

I gave this some thought. Jeff doesn't have a car and Isabel's hardly makes it to Atlanta anymore. So...

(Holds up keys)

They're going to have to take the community van. Go grab a few things. We're going with them.

28

EXT. COMMUNITY VAN - NOON - FOLLOWING LUNCH

28

A silhouette sneaks out to the van and unlocks all the rear doors behind the driver's seat. One by one people arrive and climb inside.

MR. GRANT
(Waves Mr. Banks forward)
Come on. Hurry up!

They lay down on the floor and some on the seats, covering themselves with blankets left in the van.

CAPT. SCHAFFER
Whatever else you do Grant, so help me I'll kill you if you try to take your clothes off.

MR. GRANT
Don't get your panties all tied in a knot Captain. This is too important.

Mrs. Banks calls out to Mr. Grant.

MRS. BANKS
How long will we have stay like this Mr. Grant?

MR. GRANT
At least a half hour.

MR. BANKS
I'm beginning to regret this already.

Jeff and Isabel approach the van talking to each other.

MR. GRANT
Shh. They're coming.

ISABEL
How long do you think it will take us to get there?

JEFF
If we keep driving straight through we could be there by tomorrow morning. Unfortunately Florida is a very long state.

ISABEL
I always flew from Atlanta to Miami when I'd fly home to Rio to visit my family.

29 EXT. COMMUNITY VAN - AFTERNOON

29

Jeff climbs into the passenger seat and Isabel gets behind the steering wheel. She starts up the engine while Jeff opens up a road atlas.

ISABEL

What would be the fastest way to get to Miami?

JEFF

(Looking at atlas)

I-75. I think it would be smart to use the service drive to leave, that way no one inside would be able to see us.

She pulls away from the loading dock and quickly navigates the streets of Marietta heading straight for I-75.

30 EXT. I-75 SOUTH HEADING TO FLORIDA SEVERAL HOURS LATER

30

Isabel continues to drive. Jeff turns on the radio loud enough so that the seniors relax. Mr. Grant and Mr. Banks whisper to each other.

MR. BANKS

When should we tell them we're here?

ISABEL

What is that smell?

JEFF

No! (Wrinkles nose) Maybe we drove by a landfill

ISABEL

I don't think so...

The seniors roll out and sit up from their seats coughing.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

GRANT!

MR. GRANT

Every fox smells his own, Captain.

Jeff flags the smell away from his face with his hand.

JEFF

What are you all doing here?!

Jeff and Isabel look at each other. Isabel steers the van onto the shoulder of the road and the two of them turn around in their seats and look toward the back.

CAPT. SCHAFFER
OK everyone. We've been had.

The seniors disentangle themselves from behind the seats.

MR. BANKS
We were not about to let you go charging off to Miami without us.

MR. GRANT
You both seem pretty smart, but I used to be a Private Detective.

JEFF
So, you shouldn't have come. We have enough to worry about without having to look after the five of you.

CAPT. SCHAFFER
Excuse me! I was rescuing people out of burning buildings before you were born and I could still do it. Just cause one doctor signs a paper saying something, it doesn't make it so.

MR. BANKS
And I had made my first million when I was in High School. Besides, how do you think you're going to pay for this little safari?

JEFF
Well, um... We hadn't thought that far yet.

MR. BANKS
Sorry, but you'll need us to help you. I can pay for our food and lodging.

JEFF
No offense Mr. Banks. But if that's true, why were you staying in the Magnolia?

MR. BANKS

It was Roberta's idea. All our friends were already there.

MRS. BANKS

That's right block head, blame it on the woman again.

ISABEL

No. No. No. We're turning around and taking you all back.

MR. GRANT

And how do you intend to explain to everyone what you were planning in the first place? Besides, if you take us back we'll just simply tell them you kidnapped us.

All the others nod their heads in agreement. Isabel looks at Jeff as he shrugs his shoulders. Isabel pulls back on to the highway as the seniors cheer.

MS. PENNY

I love field trips.

31

EXT. VALDOSTA HOTEL - SUNSET

31

The Van drives off I-75 at Exit 16. It slowly turns into a hotel parking lot. The occupants get out.

MR. BANKS

(Hooks thumbs in lapels)
Jeff, we're going to be caught if we keep stopping like this.

JEFF

I can't just drive straight through, your bladders wouldn't be able to stand it.

Isabel hits Jeff in the arm, frowning at him. He rubs his shoulder.

JEFF

Besides, I think we need some time tonight to figure out what we're going to do once we arrive in Miami.

MR. BANKS

Well, you maybe right, but I think you young guys are too cautious.

(MORE)

MR. BANKS (CONT'D)
 Wait till you get to be our age.
 When you don't have a lot of time
 left you...

MRS. BANKS
 (Hits her husband's arm)
 Stop picking on Jeff, Anton, unless
 you want to drive in the dark?!

ISABEL
 Roberta, calm down. You know how
 your blood pressure gets.

Isabel hits Jeff again and Mrs. Banks hits her husband again.

MRS. BANKS
 You! Stop it!

Mr. Banks opens his mouth, but his wife raises her hand to
 strike him again. He shuts his mouth.

MRS. BANKS
 That should help my blood pressure.

Mr. Banks meekly gives Mr. Grant money for the hotel rooms.

MR. GRANT
 Is that my per diem?

CAPT. SCHAFFER
 It's more than you've seen since
 you were incarcerated.

MS. PENNY
 Together we stand or divided we
 fall.

MR. GRANT
 (Muttering)
 I thought we've been doing pretty
 good.

The others head towards the hotel.

CAPT. SCHAFFER
 (Begins to Unload the
 bags)
 Hello! I'm not the bellboy here.
 Give me a hand with these.

Mr. Grant walks over and grabs a bag. Mrs. Banks shoves her
 husband toward Mr. Grant.

MRS. BANKS
Go on Mr. Important. That includes
you too.

ISABEL
I think the desk is that way.

MRS. BANKS
Honestly. Men can be such children
sometimes. I don't know what it was
we ever saw in them.

The two older women and Isabel giggle as they follow Jeff
into the hotel.

32 EXT. HOTEL BREEZEWAY - TWO HOURS LATER 32

The ladies follow Mrs. Banks down the breezeway. Ms. Andrews
excitedly stops the others.

MRS. BANKS
I have to admit, that was a great
meal.

ISABEL
I agree. I've been eating Magnolia
slop for so long I almost forgot...
(Puts hand to mouth)
The meeting! We forgot about the
meeting!

MS. PENNY
What time is it?

MRS. BANKS
(Reserved)
My dears, we are ladies. They will
wait for us.

Mrs. Banks grabs the arms of her two companions and pulls
them to a stop.

MRS. BANKS (CONT'D)
Slowly, it's our prerogative to be
fashionably late.

33 EXT. HOTEL BALCONY - AFTER DINNER 33

Mr. Grant and Capt. Schaffer play pinochle at a table they
dragged out on the balcony. Mr. Banks watches. Jeff is lying
on the bed with his eyes closed.

MR. GRANT

We might as well stop having these meetings... we never really decide anything.

MR. BANKS

(Sipping Wine)

We were able to agree on taking this journey.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

(Turns to Banks)

I don't know how you can drink wine. It puts me right to sleep.

MR. BANKS

(Putting his glass down)

Moderation... Everything in moderation.

Grant leans to one side and grimaces as he farts loudly stopping the crickets from chirping. Mr. Grant grins like a schoolboy who has played his best practical joke.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

That includes prune juice too, Grant.

MR. GRANT

(Chuckling)

Did you hear that?

Capt. Schaffer and Mr. Banks stare at Grant.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

I hope to hell you don't do that in your sleep!

Mr. Grant stands up, stretches and yawns scratching his belly as he does so. Jeff sits up on the bed and rubs his eyes. He grabs a pillow and a blanket and walks out the door shaking his head.

MR. GRANT

I think I'll take a shower and get ready for bed.

Mr. Grant disappears into the bathroom. Mr. Banks grabs the plastic pitcher and heads for the ice machine. Capt. Schaffer pulls the table back inside. Moments later Mr. Banks enters the room with the pitcher full of ice.

MR. BANKS

So Captain, smell anything yet?

CAPT. SCHAFFER

Naw. He's just a noisy old windbag.

Mr. Grant strolls out of the bathroom without any clothes on. Capt. Schaffer quickly shuts the door.

MR. BANKS

Whoa Robert! Where's the orgy?

MR. GRANT

Ha! I'm dedicating my life to being
(Holds arms up) as free as
possible.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

Hold on there Nature Boy! Maybe
that's OK for those nudie beaches,
but there's only one bed in this
room and if you're going to strut
your stuff around here, you're
sleeping on the floor.

Mr. Grant frowns. He retrieves a pair of shorts from his plastic shopping bag and slips them on.

MR. GRANT

Satisfied?

CAPT. SCHAFFER

For now. But I still kinda like the
idea of you sleeping on the floor.

Mr. Banks pours a cup of ice water and swallows a couple of pills. Then turns the lights off.

MR. BANKS

Jeff went to sleep in the van.

MR. GRANT

He didn't have to.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

It's no wonder with all the racket
you two were making.

MR. BANKS

I didn't see you making any effort
to keep your mouth shut.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

Blah - blah - blah... (Pumps arm while slapping bicep) Good night.

34 INT. GEORGIA TO FLORIDA I-75 CORRIDOR - SUNDAY - MORNING 34

Mr. Grant and the other seniors scan the The Valdosta Daily Times as the Van crosses the Florida-Georgia state line.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

I've looked through the paper twice now and nothing.

JEFF

You didn't find any mention of a crime or even the van disappearing?

MR. BANKS

No. I told you they wouldn't.

JEFF

Wasn't there some big trial a couple of years ago?

MR. BANKS

Yes. But that made the news only because the government caught them with their fingers in the cookie jar.

ISABEL

So, no one is looking for us?

MR. GRANT

Hey, just because you're mug isn't plastered on the front page don't mean they haven't contacted the police. I bet you dollars to donuts there's a trooper out there now waiting to get us in his sights.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

What are we going to do then? This van sticks out like a sore thumb.

MR. BANKS

A white van?

JEFF

Actually, I think Capt. Schaffer is right. They would be looking for any white van they can see.

(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)

Then, if they spot the five of you,
the next thing they'd look for
would be Isabel and me.

MR. GRANT

Right. I know a friend in Lake City
who owns a paint and body shop. We
should stop there and see if he can
fix up the van so it's not as easy
to spot.

Three miles inside Florida a Highway Patrol car passes going
north. It makes a U-turn. Everyone watches and then the blue
lights come on. The trooper speeds up and passes them to pull
over a trucker in front of them.

MR. BANKS

(Wipes forehead)

Well, I guess that's a big fat
"YES".

(Pause)

So, what's the name of your
friend's business?

MR. GRANT

Waddington's Paint and Body.

ISABEL

How do we get there?

MR. GRANT

No problem. When you get close to
Lake City look for exit 427 and
then east on US 90.

35 EXT. FRONT OF MAGNOLIA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - SAME TIME 35

Lt Gruff strides quickly out of the Magnolia and gets into
his car. He flips open his cell phone and calls the station.

LT. GRUFF

Captain? Yeah, I checked out
Weber's story and it's true.
They took the van after lunch
yesterday...

(Switches ear)

No. I don't think they could've
gotten too far, I mean they took
five old people with them. How do
you want me to handle this?

(Writes notes)

No problem. I can leave right now
and be down to Valdosta before
lunch.

(MORE)

LT. GRUFF (CONT'D)
 Not too many, I would wager they
 crashed at the Motel 9. OK Frank.
 I'll call if I hear anything.

Lt. Gruff slips his cell phone back into it's caddy and
 drives off.

36

INT. LAKE CITY PAINT AND BODY SHOP - NOONTIME

36

A muscular young man paints a white van green. After he
 removes all the tape and paper covering the window, then
 shakes hands with Mr. Grant. Another worker drives the van
 out of the bay.

ARNIE

Listen Mr. Grant, Dad'll kick my
 butt if he found out I took money
 from you.

MR. GRANT

Look Arnie... You're a good kid, but
 I've still got to make my own way
 in life.

The other four seniors, Jeff and Isabel climb into the van.

ARNIE

No Mr. Grant, I can't accept. You
 helped me with my dad when I needed
 it and you two have always been
 good friends ... Please, let me do
 this.

MR. GRANT

I don't know... OK. I'll agree on one
 condition.

ARNIE

Name it.

MR. GRANT

If anyone comes looking for us, you
 never saw us.

ARNIE

You got it Mr. Grant.

Voices beckon Mr. Grant from inside the van. He slips into
 the driver's seat.

MR. BANKS

(From front passenger
 seat)

(MORE)

MR. BANKS (CONT'D)

Grant. What kind of an old fool are you?

MR. GRANT

Who are you calling old?

MR. BANKS

You nearly convinced that guy to let you pay for the paint job. I may be rich, but I didn't get that way by being a spendthrift.

MR. GRANT

Don't worry Anton. Arnie expected me to do that. If I hadn't made the attempt, he would have been more suspicious.

(Winks)

Besides... Arnie won't tell a soul he saw us.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

(From back seat)

And you believed him? I still think that was too risky.

MR. BANKS

Reasonable risks, Grant, not wild gambling will get us where we need to go. More petrol and less gas!

The two older women and Isabel huddle in the back of the Van.

MRS. BANKS

Did you see his muscles.

ISABEL

(Fans her face)

Yes Mrs. Banks, his veins were popping every time he lifted something heavy.

MRS. BANKS

I wouldn't mind if he tried to lift me up. I'm getting all hot and annoyed just thinking about it.

ISABEL

I think you mean bothered, Roberta.

(Whispering)

Too bad Jeff doesn't have muscles like that.

MRS. BANKS

Right you are Isabel, but as nice as they are, muscles aren't everything. But they sure are nice to look at!

Jeff smiles as he continues to try and take a nap.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

Today, young people call that Eye Candy.

MS. PENNY

I like candy.

The three women break into a fit of giggles as Capt. Schaffer and Mr. Banks stare at them.

MR. GRANT

What's gotten into them?

MRS. BANKS

Beats me. I've been married to her for nearly forty years now and I still can't figure her out.

Capt. Schaffer scans a copy of the Lake City Reporter and the Florida Times Union for any news about the Magnolia. Seeing none, he folds the papers up and lays them on the seat.

37

INT. CHEAP MIAMI MOTEL

37

Mrs. Sutter fans herself in a room with a broken window air conditioner and a noisy ceiling fan. She looks at her watch and finally dials a phone number scribbled on a wrinkled piece of paper.

MRS. SUTTER

What's going on?

(Removes Cigarette)

They did what?! No one stopped them? Who? So why doesn't your department put out an ABP ... APB, whatever. Why don't you broadcast that to the other agencies and let them take care of the problem?

(Snaps cigarette in half)

He didn't! Typical corporate suit! I gave up caring about the people in that tower a long time ago.

(Removes a 2nd cigarette)

What about Jeff? Ha! He's a little mama's boy. No.

(MORE)

MRS. SUTTER (CONT'D)
 It's either Isabel or that Grant
 fellah - yeah, wasn't he a private
 detective?
 (Coughs)
 You do that.

Mrs. Sutter hangs up the phone and puts the cigarette between her lips and takes a lighter out of her purse. She lights her cigarette and takes a drag just as a maid opens the front door.

MAID
 Ay! Senora, no fumar.

Mrs. Sutter turns on championship wrestling and takes another drag. The maid runs up and gets in her face to make another attempt to stop her.

MAID
 Senora! No fumar! No fumar!

When Mrs. Sutter fails to put the cigarette out again, the maid fills a cup with water and throws it into Mrs. Sutter's face, putting out the cigarette.

MRS. SUTTER
 (Sputtering)
 Why you harlot!

Mrs. Sutter picks up the ice bucket and throws it at the maid, but misses. The maid lunges at Mrs. Sutter and the two fall to the floor wrestling with each other.

38 EXT. GAINESVILLE REST AREA - LATE AFTERNOON

38

Capt. Schaffer looks through a rack of tourist attraction brochures. He gets back into the van with a handful of them.

MR. BANKS
 We're not on vacation here,
 Captain!

CAPT. SCHAFFER
 I know that.

MR. GRANT
 I think that's a good idea, though.
 In case a trooper were to check us
 out.
 (Lowers voice)
 Like that one is now.

In unison, everyone in the van turns around to face a Florida Highway Patrolman standing next to his car talking on his radio. He closes his door and begins walking in the direction of the van. Mrs. Banks jumps out with a few of the brochures in her hand and quickly finds one. She walks up to the officer.

MR. BANKS

Roberta! Where are you going?

Mrs. Banks ignores her husband and approaches the Highway Patrolman before he reaches the van.

MRS. BANKS

Officer?

PATROLMAN

Yes Mam.

MRS. BANKS

We're taking my daughter and son-in-law down to Orlando to visit the theme parks. Disney Land is near there isn't it?

PATROLMAN

Actually it's Disney World, but yes Mam it is.

MRS. BANKS

This road will take us there won't it. My husband won't ask for directions.

PATROLMAN

(Patrolman smiles)

Right now you're driving on I-75. About another 65 miles you'll need to get onto the Florida Turnpike and that will take you directly into Orlando.

MRS. BANKS

Thank you. I hope I wasn't a bother.

PATROLMAN

No bother at all Mam. I get asked that question all the time.

MRS. BANKS

Goodbye.

The Patrolman doffs his hat and continues walking over to the vending machines. Mrs. Banks gets back into the van and they pull out of the rest area and continue south.

ISABEL

Do you think the policeman knows?

MRS. BANKS

I didn't see anything in his face that would tell me.

MR. BANKS

Well, I thought Jeff was the only shrink here?

MRS. BANKS

If I've told you once, Anton, I've told you a hundred times. Women know these things.

Mrs. Banks raises her hand to her face and Mr. Banks flinches thinking his wife is about to hit him again. Isabel and Jeff look at each other and break out laughing.

39

EXT. TURKEY LAKE SERVICE PLAZA FL TURNPIKE - EVENING

39

Jeff, Isabel, and the five seniors exit the rest area pavilion. Jeff climbs into the driver's seat and Isabel sits in the passenger seat. The van pulls back onto the Turnpike.

JEFF

Isabel, I think it's time we admitted to each other that Mrs. Sutter used us to cover-up what she was doing.

ISABEL

I didn't have any idea what she was doing?

JEFF

No. I was afraid of the old witch. She told me everything you were saying, err supposed to be saying.

ISABEL

And now?

JEFF

Hell yes.

ISABEL

No, me?

JEFF
A little.

ISABEL
Why?

JEFF
Because I like you.

The seniors smile, but remain silent. Mr. Banks leans in close to his wife and whispers to her.

MR. BANKS
Is that your handiwork?

MRS. BANKS
A little.

MR. BANKS
Why?

MRS. BANKS
Do I really need to explain it to you?

MR. BANKS
Maybe later.

Mr. Banks leans in and kisses his wife on the cheek and smiles. She smiles back.

MRS. BANKS
You old fool.

MR. BANKS
What...WHAT?

Isabel stares ahead as the van continues down the Turnpike.

ISABEL
I need to be honest also. I felt angry with you and Mrs. Sutter convinced me that you were going behind my back and I felt betrayed.

JEFF
Why was it so hard for you to believe I wasn't your enemy?

ISABEL
By the way you were acting.

Mr. & Mrs. Banks doze off.

JEFF
You were ignorant of...

ISABEL
What do you mean by calling me
ignorant?

All of the seniors are awakened from their slumber by loud
voices from the front.

JEFF
I wasn't trying to say you were the
only ignorant party, but since
you're from Brazil...

ISABEL
(Irritated)
I will have you know I am a
naturalized citizen of this
country! I am as much an American
as you are!!!

Mr. Grant, Mr. And Mrs. Banks walk up.

MRS. BANKS
What are you two arguing about now?

MR. BANKS
I was just beginning to sleep.

MR. GRANT
(To himself)
They need time.

MRS. BANKS
Well, Ms. Penny's convinced their
both in love. They just don't
realize it yet.

ISABEL
(To Ms. Penny)
Why do you think Jeff and I are in
Love with each other?

MS. PENNY
What I don't know could fill books.

Isabel faces Jeff and looks at him; he looks at her and they
both face forward again without speaking.

40

EXT. BEE-LINE HIGHWAY HEADING EAST - ONE HOUR LATER

40

Jeff and Isabel begin to talk quietly as the van heads south on I-95 while the others sleep.

ISABEL

What did you think about what Ms. Penny said?

JEFF

To be honest with you, the thought had crossed my mind before. I became a psychiatrist to help myself, but I think I only managed to bury my feelings deeper.

(Pauses to swallow)

Ever since I was a kid I learned to keep my feelings to myself. My family would only throw them back in my face.

ISABEL

That's so sad. What did they do?

JEFF

One time when I was arguing with my step brother, he wouldn't listen to me. Later when tempers calmed down he told me that the very next time I felt strongly about sharing my feelings I should just do it.

ISABEL

What happened?

JEFF

A few weeks later I did as he suggested. His answer was, "Grow Up."

ISABEL

What a shit!

JEFF

Wow, your English is improving.
(They both giggle)

ISABEL

Was he an alcoholic?

JEFF

He would never admit it.

ISABEL

Well I promise to always listen. Though, I will warn you, I prefer action over words. People in America just talk. It's nice to have someone show you how they really feel.

Mr. Grant wakes up and listens for a moment and then contributes an opinion.

MR. GRANT

(Clearing throat)

Mrs. Sutter was a very self-centered person and she used you both. She used your greatest strengths to her advantage. If you can accept that, I think that's a good place to build from.

JEFF

How did you know that?

MR. GRANT

My dad, God rest his miserable soul, was an alchie. The only warning we got was the glow of a cigarette when he'd get home and sit out at the picnic table. Some nights I'd sneak out the front door and hide in the woods until I knew he'd fallen asleep.

(Coughs)

Later, I'd sneak up to his bedroom window and listen for his snoring. That's when it was safe to come back inside.

ISABEL

(Whispers to Jeff)

It seems like he can relate.

Jeff grows silent and continues to drive.

41

EXT. PORT OF MIAMI - CRUISE SHIP ROW - LATE NIGHT

41

A Cruise ship pulls into the port amid a ship's whistle and shouting at the dock. Crew and dock hands go about their duties of getting the ship ready for the next day's departure.

42 EXT. TURNPIKE NORTH OF ORLANDO - SAME TIME

42

Lt. Gruff pulls off the Florida Turnpike into Turkey Lake Service Plaza. After grabbing a cup of black coffee he gets back into his car and makes a phone call.

LT. GRUFF

Yeah. Robert Grant. That's right.
He used to be a Private Dick.

(Sips coffee)

Are you kidding. He's a blank space
and she's a hot headed Latino.

Well, Brazil is in South America
isn't it? OK. I'll keep looking.
Either way, I'll meet you at the
docks.

43 INT. CHEAP MIAMI MOTEL ROOM

43

Room in Darkness - Mrs. Sutter talks on the phone in her room. The glow on the tip of her cigarette gives her presence away.

MRS. SUTTER

Don't be late.

Mrs. Sutter hangs up the phone and takes a drag on her cigarette. A muffled sound draws her attention to the bed. She turns on the lamp and walks up to the maid who is bound and gagged with sheets.

MRS. SUTTER (CONTINUING) (CONT'D)

That will teach you to throw water
in my face again.

Mrs. Sutter blows smoke in the maid's face and walks over to the window. She looks out toward the brightly lit skyline of downtown Miami.

MRS. SUTTER (CONT'D)

My husband passed away a few years
back. We had all these plans and
now I have next to nothing.

Mrs. Sutter shakes her head and kneels by the bed, face to face with the maid.

MRS. SUTTER (CONT'D)

You'll be OK. I'm just tired of
people telling me what to do.

Mrs. Sutter pushes the made off of the bed resulting in a loud thud and climbs on top of the bed to go to sleep.

44

EXT. I-95 - SOUTHERN BREVARD COUNTY - LATE NIGHT

44

Jeff is still driving. Isabel has fallen asleep and Mr. Grant is the only other occupant still awake. He and Jeff engage in a little man-to-man talking.

JEFF

Mr. Grant, when you were my age,
were you shy?

MR. GRANT

Of course I was.

(Leans forward)

It's real awkward. I remember my
first date. I almost pissed in my
pants when she tried to hold my
hand.

JEFF

For the longest time I thought
there was something wrong with me.

MR. GRANT

Yeah, I heard you telling Isabel
about what you went through growing
up.

JEFF

I never felt confident enough to
be, you know, romantic.

MR. GRANT

(Chuckles shaking his head
no)

Boys and girls since the dawn of
time have always had to fumble
around in the dark to find each
other's zippers and hooks.

Jeff laughs quietly so as not to wake Isabel up.

JEFF

I learned in my Psychology classes
about those stages of growing up.

MR. GRANT

Too bad you had to read it in a
book. There's nothing like real
life experience. The people of my
generation were just beginning to
go to college.

(MORE)

MR. GRANT (CONT'D)

And mind you, I don't say it's a bad thing, but I think everyone was so determined to avoid all of the embarrassing stuff that they wrote it down in User's Manuals.

(Puts a hand on Jeff's shoulder)

Except you can't write a How to book for this kind of stuff. What works for me won't necessarily work for you.

JEFF

Thank you Mr. Grant.

MR. GRANT

That's OK. Young guys like you need older guys like me to tell you it's alright. That's why so many kids are so screwed up today. There's no old farts in their homes for them to talk to.

Isabel smiles to herself and then yawns, pretending to wake up so as not to embarrass Jeff.

JEFF

(To Isabel)

Have a good nap?

ISABEL

(Stretching)

Yes. Where are we?

JEFF

I just saw a sign that said "Fort Pierce" 20 miles.

ISABEL

I need to take a break and get something to eat. I think our friends in the back could use the same thing.

JEFF

That sounds like a good idea. I could use a rest, then maybe you could drive for a little while?

ISABEL

I would be happy to.

MR. GRANT

I'll wake the others up when we get there.

ISABEL

How far is Fort Pierce from Miami?

MR. GRANT

Let me check.

Mr. Grant flips on the overhead light and opens up the Road Atlas. He locates Fort Pierce on the map and looks at the distance between there and Miami.

MR. GRANT (CONT'D)

According to this it's about 128 miles.

JEFF

So we don't have far to go?

MR. BANKS

Distance isn't the problem. Last year my son drove down there. He wound up driving on I-95 during morning rush hour. From West Palm Beach to Miami it was almost like a giant parking lot. We might make the port in time, but you'd have a pretty cranky group in the back.

ISABEL

Is there any other way to get there without driving?

MR. BANKS

My son said he noticed a train that traveled along side the Interstate. It had Tri-rail written on the side of it.

ISABEL

If the traffic gets too bad we could take that.

JEFF

That's not a bad idea.

MR. GRANT

We could leave the van at one of the stations and pick it up after we caught Mrs. Sutter.

JEFF

Sounds like a plan.

Jeff sees the sign indicating the Ft. Pierce exit is fast approaching. He slides the van over into the right lane and slows down.

45 EXT. PORT OF MIAMI PARKING LOT - MONDAY - MIDMORNING 45

Lt. Gruff stands smoking a cigarette. He throws it on the ground and steps on it. He climbs back in his car and leans back in his seat, pulling his hat over his eyes.

46 EXT. BOYNTON BEACH TRI-RAIL STATION - SAME TIME 46

Jeff and Mr. Banks buy Tri-Rail tickets from the electronic ticket machines. The others take their overnight bags and line them up near some benches and wait for the train to come through.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

You know they have policemen on these trains.

MR. GRANT

We've followed the newspapers and so far there's been nothing.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

Wouldn't it have been more prudent to drive to Miami?

MR. BANKS

Well, it took us a half hour to drive from Palm Beach Gardens to this exit. Then when we turned on the Radio we heard the report about the ten car pileup just north of Ft. Lauderdale.

ISABEL

By taking the Tri-rail train, we'll make it down to the Port of Miami by 1 or 2 PM.

MRS. BANKS

I'm glad we're taking the train.

MS. PENNY

I love trains.

A train horn sounds. The train pulls into the station. Everyone picks up their bags and when it comes to a stop, they board the train.

47 INT. TRI-RAIL TRAIN HEADING SOUTH - HALF HOUR LATER 47

Everyone watches out the window as the train passes the huge accident that forced them to take Tri-rail. Isabel walks to the area between the trains to get some air. A man is standing there smoking.

SMOKING MAN

Hello.

ISABEL

Hi.

The train stops in the Hollywood Florida station.

SMOKING MAN

Where you going sweet cakes?

ISABEL

What? Oh. Miami.

SMOKING MAN

What's a pretty young thing like you doing with those relics and that loser?

ISABEL

He's not...

Isabel decides not to argue with someone who is obviously hitting on her. She turns to walk back into the car with the others. The man blocks her exit. The train pulls out of the station and slowly picks up speed.

SMOKING MAN

Where you going now?

ISABEL

Back to my friends.

The man grabs Isabel, she pushes him and readies herself with the ginga dance for Capoeira (Brazilian martial arts). He stumbles and falls backward. She reaches to help as he continues to fall off the train. He rolls several times until he comes to a stop on his stomach.

ISABEL (CONT'D)

(Yelling)

Serves you right!

Isabel notices a wallet lying on the floor. She picks it up and flips it open. She sees a policeman's badge.

ISABEL (CONT'D)

Oh my.

Isabel hurries back into the car to show the others.

ISABEL

A strange man just tried to make a hit on me. I pushed him. Just to make him let go of my arm. The door between the cars was still open and he fell out. That's when I noticed this on the floor.

Isabel flashes the badge.

MR. GRANT

Georgia state police ... hmm.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

So now we know. They do know.

MR. BANKS

It still doesn't mean anything. It could be a coincidence. He might have been on vacation.

JEFF

We better not take chances. Keep a close lookout until we get on board that ship.

MR. BANKS

As soon as we arrive at the Port of Miami, I'll go and buy the tickets.

MRS. BANKS

(Tugs husband's sleeve)

Remember Anton, I want a room with a view.

MR. BANKS

Yes dear. Any other preferences?

MR. GRANT

How are we doing the roommate thing?

CAPT. SCHAFFER

I still think this whole thing is ridiculous. We should've let the police handle it.

MR. GRANT

By the time they'd gotten on the stick, Sutter could have gotten off the ship somewhere out in the ocean.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

What makes you think she had any accomplices?

48

EXT. PORT OF MIAMI PARKING LOT - 2 PM

48

Lt. Gruff wakes up and wipes his forehead with his handkerchief. He steps out of his car and lights up a cigarette. A cab pulls up next to him and Mrs. Sutter sticks her head out of the rear window.

MRS. SUTTER

Delmar, when did you get here?

LT. GRUFF

I pulled in around 10 AM. I decided to wait in case our friends showed up early.

MRS. SUTTER

You haven't seen anything?

LT. GRUFF

No. I don't think they're far away, though.

MRS. SUTTER

Why don't you ride the rest of the way with me and we'll board the ship together.

Lt. Gruff's cell phone begins to ring. He takes it out his pants pocket and looks at the display.

LT. GRUFF

Huh. It's Captain Frank.

MRS. SUTTER

From the Marietta Police department?

LT. GRUFF

Yeah.

MRS. SUTTER

What are you going to do?

Lt. Gruff throws his cell phone into the intercoastal.

LT. GRUFF

That's what I'm going to do ...
that's the end of my old life.

Lt. Gruff slides into the back of the cab and closes the door.

LT. GRUFF

And this begins my new life.

The cab drives further down to where the Royal Caribbean ship is docked. It stops and Mrs. Sutter and Lt. Gruff get out. The cabbie takes the bags out and leaves them on the pavement.

MRS. SUTTER

Delmar. Would you mind paying the
cabbie for me, I'll take care
(winks)
of you later.

Lt. Gruff pulls his wallet out.

LT. GRUFF

How much for the fare?

CABBIE

That's twenty bucks senior.

LT. GRUFF

Here.

CABBIE

You want a receipt?

LT. GRUFF

No.

49

EXT. DOCK GANGPLANK LEADING INTO THE SHIP

49

Early boarding is announced and Mrs. Sutter reaches to grab her bag when a man dressed in the white crew uniform takes it and winks at her.

MRS. SUTTER

Brook!

Brook puts a finger up to his lips warning her to keep her voice down. Brook cocks his head in the direction of Lt. Gruff.

MRS. SUTTER (CONT'D)

Oh him. Lt. Delmar Gruff, Marietta police department.

Brook scrunches up his face as if he were saying "Ewww." Mrs. Sutter follows her nephew into the ship where he places her bags on a luggage cart.

MRS. SUTTER (CONT'D)

Don't worry about him. By the time he figures out what were really planning, we'll be long gone.

(She looks around)

Where's Brad?

50 EXT. POOL-SIDE BAR ON THE PROMENADE DECK 50

Brad is stocking the Pool-side bar with various kinds of liquors. He reaches into his pocket and takes out a small brown bottle and puts it in the bar's refrigerator. Then he carries the empty boxes away.

51 EXT. DOCK SIDE 51

A water taxi pulls up to the dock directly in front of the ship. Jeff and Isabel climb out and then help the others. Jeff stops a man in the white uniform of the cruise line.

JEFF

We're late in getting here. Who do we check in with so we can board the ship?

SAILOR

If you all will follow me, you'll need to have your identification ready and present your luggage for security screening.

The group follows the sailor to the security checkpoint. They are questioned and screened.

PURSER

OK. Banks party, you're fortunate that there were a couple of cancellations. Is this all the luggage you brought?

MR. GRANT

We didn't have a lot of time to pack more.

MR. BANKS

Besides, there are shops on board where we can buy some evening attire for dinner and such isn't there?

PURSER

Yes. There is. It will be open until 10 PM tonight.

MR. BANKS

Thank you.

PURSER

Here are your keys and there won't be any organized activities beginning until tomorrow morning.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

What would that be?

PURSER

We're hosting the first ever international shuffleboard tournament.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

Can anyone enter?

PURSER

You'll need to speak to the organizer.

(Pulls card out of pocket)

Here is his card. He'll have a table set up outside the main dinning room until dinner begins.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

Thanks.

Everyone passes over the gangplank into the ship. In the hallway leading to their rooms, Mr. Grant questions Capt. Schaffer.

MR. GRANT

What's the big idea Schaffer?

CAPT. SCHAFFER

The tournament will be the center of attention on this cruise. A lot of people will be watching. Mrs. Sutter might just let her hair down so we can catch her.

MR. GRANT

Good thinking, Captain. I should have thought of that myself.

MRS. BANKS

Capt. Schaffer. I'd be more than happy to partner with you if you would like. I used to play shuffleboard at the Magnolia, before Mrs. Sutter tore them out and turned the space into a parking lot.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

Your husband won't mind?

MRS. BANKS

Not at all. He dislikes playing sports. Rather spend his time reading the financial Newspapers.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

Alright, your ladyship.

JEFF

First of all, let's find our rooms and then go up to the emporium to pick out some clothes before dinner.

MR. BANKS

(Whiny)

I suppose I'm paying for that too.

ISABEL

Of course, Mr. Money Bags. None of this could have happened without your...

(MORE)

ISABEL (CONT'D)
(To Mr. Grant)
Deep pockets?

MR. GRANT
You're learning Isabel.

MRS. BANKS
Cheer up Anton. We're having fun
capturing a dangerous criminal.

JEFF
All I can say is that I should have
my head examined after this is all
over.

MR. GRANT
By who? Your self?

Everyone, but Jeff, breaks into uproarious laughter.

MR. GRANT (CONT'D)
I don't even think there is a book
about that!

ISABEL
You're not going to back out on us
are you Jeff?

JEFF
No. It's too late for that. And...

ISABEL
And what?

JEFF
Uh...

MR. GRANT
What's the matter Dr. Bellamy, cat
got your tongue?

CAPT. SCHAFFER
No I think it caught hold of
something else.

Jeff is embarrassed. Isabel bumps into him with her hip and
smiles. Jeff smiles. Ms. Penny beams.

JEFF
I don't like feeling out of
control, but I've never felt more
alive than I do right now.

52 INT. EMPORIUM - MINUTES LATER

52

Jeff, Isabel, Mr. & Mrs. Banks, Mr. Grant Capt. Schaffer and Ms. Penny pick out clothes for the night time events. Mr. Banks is the last and pays for everything.

CASHIER

(To Mr. Banks)

That will be five hundred and fifty dollars and forty-nine cents, sir.

MR. BANKS

That much? OK.

CASHIER

Afraid so.

Mr. Banks hands the cashier his credit card and after it's run through the card swipe, he signs for the purchase.

CASHIER (CONT'D)

Thank you sir.

MR. BANKS

(Looks at receipt)

You're welcome (whistles).

53 INT. MR. GRANT'S CABIN - MINUTES LATER

53

Mr. Grant returns to his room and excitedly calls everyone together for a quick meeting. As soon as they're all inside Mr. Grant tells them the news.

MR. GRANT

Thanks for coming over so quickly everyone.

MRS. BANKS

What's up Bobby?

MR. GRANT

Well after I left the emporium I decided to take a detour through the Promenade deck and I saw Mrs. Sutter!

ISABEL

Where was she?

MR. GRANT

She was sitting at the bar.

JEFF

Do you know where she's staying?

MR. GRANT

No, but one of the crewmen told me to call the ship's operator and ask to be connected to her room.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

So what's the plan?

The five seniors and Jeff and Isabel look each other.

54

INT. SHIP'S DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

54

Jeff, Isabel, and the 5 seniors join everyone in the dinning room. The five seniors are seated at a group table out of hearing distance where Jeff and Isabel will be seated.

JEFF

Thanks again Mr. Banks for buying these clothes.

ISABEL

Yes. It was most kind of you to do this for us.

MR. BANKS

I did it for all of us. And Jeff, I think it's time you called me Anton.

JEFF

Alright, Anton. If you or the others need Isabel or I for anything you know where to find us.

MR. BANKS

That's kind of you, but not necessary. This isn't the Magnolia. And I'm not feeble, yet.

Jeff and Isabel walk to their table while Mr. Grant discusses the plan of action.

MRS. BANKS

That was a bit harsh.

MR. BANKS

Maybe so, but I just feel so patronized sometimes.

MRS. BANKS
That's about you not him.

Mr. Banks shakes his head yes.

MR. GRANT
I'm going to call Mrs. Sutter the
first thing in the morning and
arrange to meet her.

MR. BANKS
What then?

MR. GRANT
We'll discuss the plan after dinner
in my cabin.

Jeff and Isabel order their meals.

JEFF
Maybe now we can relax a little.

ISABEL
Are you feeling tense?

JEFF
A little.

ISABEL
Before you turn in, maybe I could
give you a little massage.

JEFF
God. That would be great.

ISABEL
Don't these ships have Jacuzzis?

JEFF
Sure. They even have a gym and if
you asked, they might let you teach
an aerobic class or two.

ISABEL
Would you come?

JEFF
I'd love to.

55 EXT. POOL SIDE BAR PROMENADE DECK - LAST CALL

55

Mrs. Sutter and Lt. Gruff walk up to the pool side bar and she orders a glass of wine and the Lieutenant orders a Martini, what he doesn't know is that the Bartender-Brad-has drugged it.

MRS. SUTTER
Delmar... Delmar! Are you OK.
(Reaches to steady him)
Did you have anything to drink
before this?

Lt. Gruff slips off of his stool to stand up, but falls down instead. Brad summons the ship's doctor.

MRS. SUTTER (CONT'D)
(To doctor)
It seems as though he can't handle
his liquor too well.

DOCTOR
Perhaps we should take him to his
cabin and let him sleep it off.

Mrs. Sutter hands the doctor Lt. Gruff's key and they take him away. She takes another sip or two of her wine and as she turns to leave, Brad winks and smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE UP FROM
BLACK:

56 INT. MR. GRANT'S CABIN - JUST BEFORE BREAKFAST

56

Mr. Grant looks out at the horizon as the sun rises. He picks up his phone and calls the ship's operator.

MR. GRANT
I missed her at the docks when we
all arrive so she didn't tell me
which cabin she would be in so
could you please ring Mrs. Regina
Mae Sutter for me?
(Waits for a reply)
Thank you.

After a few short rings, Mrs. Sutter answers her phone.

MR. GRANT
Hello Mrs. Sutter...
(Pause)
(MORE)

MR. GRANT (CONT'D)
 Never mind who this is. I know who you are and what you did. I also know what you're trying to accomplish by being on this cruise. If you don't want me to turn you into ship's security, meet me by the pool side bar on the Promenade deck after breakfast...

(Pause)

That's right. I'll be waiting for you. I'll be wearing a Panama Jack hat with a multi-colored headband.

Mr. Grant hangs up the phone and turns to the others.

MR. GRANT
 It's done. She agreed.

Everyone leaves the cabin and heads to the dining room where breakfast is being served. After he finishes eating, Mr. Grant and Mr. Banks head to the Promenade deck.

57 EXT. SHUFFLE BOARD COURTS - TUESDAY - MORNING 57

Banners are fluttering in the wind and various couples have gathered on the shuffle board courts. The captain makes an announcement.

SHIP'S CAPTAIN (V.O.)
 Welcome everyone to the beginning to the first international Caribbean Shuffle Board Tournament.

Capt. Schaffer and Mrs. Banks are paired as a couple. Mr. Banks nods at his wife and Capt Schaffer and begins the first phase of the plan.

58 EXT. TABLE NEXT TO THE COURTS - 15 MINUTES LATER 58

Ms. Sutter walks up onto the deck and notices that half the men there are wearing straw hats with a color band. She walks around looking at each of them and misses Schaffer and Mrs. Banks, who are right next to her. One man wearing one of the hats stands up and offers Mrs. Sutter his chair.

MRS. SUTTER
 (Gasps)
 Jeff! Isabel! And you...
 (To Jeff and Isabel)
 Your name is Robert Grant. Right?

MR. GRANT
 You're right Mrs. Sutter.

JEFF

And from now on, you can call me
Dr. Bellamy.

MRS. SUTTER

Alright. "Doctor" Bellamy.
(To Grant)
What is this all about?

JEFF

I think you already know what this
is about Mrs. Sutter.

MRS. SUTTER

I'm sorry. I really don't know.
(To Jeff & Isabel)
You're supposed to be back at the
Magnolia looking after our
residents. Didn't Chris tell you I
was going on Vacation.

JEFF

Let's cut to the chase shall we.
Chris didn't know about any such
vacation because you weren't
planning on going on a vacation.
In fact, we found out that you
embezzled more than seventy-five
percent of the Community's
operating funds while we chased you
down here.

MRS. SUTTER

And who told you that, one of the
nurse's aides?

MR. GRANT

No. It was the Vice-president of
Accounting. The Corporate office
sent down as soon as we notified
them about what we suspected.

MRS. SUTTER

OK. So now you know. What do you
think you're going to be able to do
about it?

JEFF

Quite simple. The corporation has
been in touch with the Royal
Caribbean Cruise Lines.

(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)

As soon as we give them the word, ship's security will take you into custody and turn you over to the Miami-Dade Police department when we get back to port.

MRS. SUTTER

And just what evidence do you think you will have to support this wild claim. How do I know it wasn't you two who embezzled all the funds?

JEFF

Isabel and I didn't have any authority to conduct business for the home, even after you disappeared. And right now, I suspect, you're pretty desperate to confuse the matter so you can get away.

Mrs. Sutter looks over to the bar and nods to Brad. He gives her a thumbs up. Isabel glances over and sees Brad who gives her a toothless leer.

ISABEL

(Points to Brad)

I saw that man in your office the day I confronted you about my exercise equipment!

JEFF

(To Isabel)

Was anyone else with him?

ISABEL

Yes.

JEFF

So you do have accomplices.

Before anyone can say anything else, Mrs. Sutter jumps up from her chair and runs across the shuffle board courts. Jeff tries to pursue her and is trip up by a puck shot by Mrs. Banks.

MRS. BANKS

Jeff! I'm sorry.

Jeff flies face forward landing on his stomach. Capt. Schaffer runs forward and helps Jeff up. Mrs. Sutter disappears into the crowd.

JEFF

Isabel, Bobby, fan out and see if you can find her. I'll check with our lookout.

59

INT. SHIP'S CASINO

59

Mrs. Sutter darts through the slot machine area and runs toward the crap tables. She fails to spot Brook, but quickly catches sight of Lt. Gruff.

MRS. SUTTER

Delmar. Where have you been?

LT. GRUFF

Don't you know? Didn't you slip that mickey in my drink last night...

(Holds head)

Oh my head hurts.

MRS. SUTTER

Look, Delmar, I didn't do anything to your drink. It must have been that Bartender. I'd seen him before around Marietta. But Jeff and Isabel and five of the residents from the home are here now chasing me.

LT. GRUFF

So, I'm still your partner and you're not trying to get rid of me?

MRS. SUTTER

Of course not Delmar.

LT. GRUFF

Then trust me now and give me the Pass Books.

Mrs. Sutter hesitates. Lt. Gruff holds his hand out and looks into her eyes.

LT. GRUFF (CONT'D)

I don't need to tell you what will happen if they catch you with those Passbooks.

MRS. SUTTER

(Hands him 2 books)

OK. Here!

(MORE)

MRS. SUTTER (CONT'D)
Meet me at the number 23 life boat
later tonight. I'm going to go and
hide somewhere.

She looks just in time to see Jeff and Isabel enter the
Casino. She darts toward the elevators and gets in, pushing
the button to crew area just before they get there. Jeff and
Isabel watch the elevator descend. And note the floor.

MR. GRANT
Hello Delmar.

LT. GRUFF
Ah, the famous Bobby Grant. To what
do I owe the pleasure?

MR. GRANT
I've been following Mrs. Sutter
since we-my compatriots and I-left
the Magnolia to hunt her down.

Jeff walks up behind Mr. Grant.

LT. GRUFF
I'm looking for her too!

MR. GRANT
Wasn't that who you were just with
at the bar?

LT. GRUFF
OK. If you must know I was trying
to catch her with the evidence.

JEFF
Ship's Security should be here any
moment. They'll take you into
custody and when we catch Mrs.
Sutter they'll hold the both of you
in the brig until the ship returns
to Miami.

LT. GRUFF
(playing stupid)
Wait a minute, your trying to
connect me to Mrs. Sutter's crime,
aren't you?

MR. GRANT
We also contacted the Marietta
police department just before the
ship sailed. They found a notation
on Mrs. Sutter's calendar about
your "help."

Lt. Gruff suddenly realizes he has been cornered. He pushes a hostess at Jeff and Mr. Grant. He runs toward the nearest exit and heads for the Promenade deck.

60

EXT. SHIP'S POOL - MINUTES LATER

60

Lt. Gruff weaves his way among the teams who are still competing in the shuffle board tournament. Brad motions for him to hide underneath the bar. Mrs. Sutter passes by the courts. Jeff & Mr. Grant re-emerge on the Promenade deck.

JEFF

Mrs. Sutter! Stop!

MR. GRANT

There is no where on this ship you can hide.

Mrs. Sutter runs toward the pool and dives in swimming over to the opposite side. She climbs out and runs up the port side of the ship toward the stern. She finds an open hatch and blends in with a crowd watching a magic show.

MAGICIAN

I need a willing volunteer from the audience.

Mr. Banks, Mr. Grant and Jeff look inside and spot her, they enter and attempt to grab her just as the Magician asks her to come forward.

MR. GRANT

Oh no.

MR. BANKS

Quick Jeff, you've got to find out where the trap door is.

Jeff spots the Magician's assistant.

JEFF

(To assistant)

Do you know where the magician will be hiding her.

The assistant tells him to be quiet.

ASSISTANT

You should know sir that a magician cannot give away his secrets.

JEFF

This is important. That woman is a crook and we're trying to catch her.

ASSISTANT

Yeah, right! That makes sense, a thief running from the law on a cruise ship.

(Screws up face)

Not!

Mrs. Sutter climbs into the box and the magic words are spoken and when the performer opens his box, she's gone. Jeff runs back to Mr. Grant and Mr. Banks.

JEFF

It's got to be some place underneath the stage. I'll go below and see what I can find.

The ship's security shows up. Mr. Grant and Mr. Bank's tells them what happened. And they rush up to the magician and confront him about where his disappearing woman is.

SECURITY 1

That woman you just made disappear, where did she go.

MAGICIAN

She vanished my good man.

SECURITY 2

Look. We haven't got time for these games. That woman is a criminal and we're trying to stop her!

MAGICIAN

(Pompously)

I would be ruined if I gave away the secrets of my craft!

The security men try to move the magicians cabinet aside to find a trap door. He rushes over and pushes it in the opposite direction to prevent them from moving it. The audience laughs, thinking it is part of the act.

MAGICIAN (CONT'D)

(Shouting)

You're trying to damage my reputation. I will complain to the captain of this vessel about your impertinence.

Mr. Grant and Mr. Banks breathlessly rush back outside just as Lt. Gruff grabs hold of Isabel and threatens to push her overboard if the other two security men come any closer.

LT. GRUFF

I'm warning you, one more step and you can kiss the young lady good bye.

They keep coming and Lt. Gruff is about to push her over the railing when Jeff dives between the two of them knocking Lt. Gruff backwards.

JEFF

Isabel! Hold on to me.

Isabel is able to get a firm grip on the railing and Jeff helps her to climb back up.

ISABEL

Don't let go!

JEFF

Don't worry. I won't.

Lt. Gruff scurries between the legs of the two security men and jumps up to run across the Shuffle board courts. Mrs. Banks swings her cue as he tries to cross in front of her.

LT. GRUFF

You old bat! What are you trying to do?

MRS. BANKS

Stop that man. He's a criminal. Don't let him pass!

LT. GRUFF

Don't you know who I am woman?

MRS. BANKS

I know who you are Lt. Gruff.

Ship's security dance their way across the other courts to capture Lt. Gruff, but he runs toward Mrs. Banks who threatens to beat him with her cue. He tries to avoid her, but only manages to knock her in the pool. When she is able to stand up she is drenched and in a state of mortification and she yells at no one in particular.

MRS. BANKS (CONT'D)

(Screams)

You made me pee!

Everyone who surrounds her in the swimming pool begins to back and away and quickly gets out of the pool.

61 EXT. LOWER DECK - SHIP'S STERN

61

Lt. Gruff switches directions and runs as fast as he can toward the bow of the ship. He reaches a stairway leading down, Jeff and Grant catch sight of him. The ship's crew come rushing up to deal with the calamity on the top decks. As soon as they can, Jeff and Grant head down the stairs. On the deck below Gruff runs along the corridor and reaches a set of double doors. The ship's chapel is occupied by one person; Ms. Penny.

MS. PENNY

Delmar?

LT. GRUFF

Who's there?

MS. PENNY

Don't you recognize my voice?

LT. GRUFF

Penny?

MS. PENNY

Yes.

Gruff walks up and sits down in front of her and turns around.

LT. GRUFF

Penny Bolton. You're the one who figured this whole thing out, aren't you? How?

MS. PENNY

You forget Delmar. We used to date years ago.

LT. GRUFF

(Inhales)

You married Robert Grant. I'd forgotten all about that. The two of you made a pretty good team.

MS. PENNY

I'll take those books.

LT. GRUFF

What books?

MS. PENNY
 (Disappointed)
 Delmar. I could read you like a
 book; still can.

LT. GRUFF
 You knew when I was seeing Linda on
 the side.

MS. PENNY
 Just as I knew you were up to no
 good when I saw you walk out of the
 Magnolia with Mrs. Sutter.

LT. GRUFF
 Did you have plastic surgery?

MS. PENNY
 (Laughs sadly)
 No. I just got old.

LT. GRUFF
 So have I.

MS. PENNY
 (tenderly touches his
 face)
 Except you don't know how to grow
 old gracefully. You turned into
 quite a bitter old man, Delmar.
 That's what pushed you over the
 edge isn't it?

LT. GRUFF
 Yes.

Ms. Penny holds out her hand again. Lt. Gruff reaches into
 his inner coat pocket. He pulls out the Pass books and hands
 them to Ms. Penny.

MS. PENNY
 It'll go a lot better for you.

Lt. Gruff nods his head and Ms. Penny slips the two passbooks
 into her handbag.

LT. GRUFF
 What about Mrs. Sutter's nephews?

MS. PENNY
 You forget. I'm a senile old woman.
 No one in his right mind would give
 me a second look.

LT. GRUFF

(Chuckles)

You were always one of the best actresses I ever knew.

MS. PENNY

That's why Bobby and I made a good team when we were married. I just didn't want to go with him to his nudist resorts.

Gruff gets up and walks out of the chapel. He makes it back up to the top deck and is cornered by Jeff, Grant, and ship security who have Brad and Brook in custody. Ms. Penny sits quietly and transforms herself back into a doddering, old senile woman.

MS. PENNY

(To herself)

Now on to more important matters...
Jeff and Isabel.

62

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - LATER

62

All concerned parties - except Ms. Penny - are gathered in the Captains Cabin to discuss what will be done. The captain addresses the group. He introduces a strange man in a suit and tie who stands just behind the Captain.

SHIP'S CAPTAIN

This is Clinton Rogers. He's the representative of the Corporation that owns the Magnolia Retirement Community.

ROGERS

(To Jeff & Isabel)

I have been authorized by the board of directors to offer you both a generous severance package.

He reaches into his valise and pulls out two agreements. Jeff and Isabel look at their agreements and sign them.

JEFF

(To Isabel)

Looks like you were right about our jobs. I don't think the offers are too bad, do you?

ISABEL

No. I think it's a pretty good start.

ROGERS

(To the seniors)

We are refunding all the money the five of you originally paid to enter the Magnolia. These are the records of the deposits we've made to your personal accounts. Where is Ms. Penny Bolton?

MR. GRANT

I think she's in her cabin. She's been sleeping a lot lately.

ROGERS

(To Jeff)

Would you please give this to her?

JEFF

Yes.

ROGERS

I think this concludes my business. Captain?

SHIP'S CAPTAIN

I want to say, first of all, that this one of the most disruptive cruises I have ever presided over as the master of this or any other vessel. I have every right as the captain of this ship to put you off my ship immediately.

MR. BANKS

Captain. I'm sure you understand that were attempting to hunt down a criminal?

SHIP'S CAPTAIN

I am aware of that sir. That's why I won't put you off my ship. Mr. Rogers has argued on your behalf and I have agreed to show you some clemency. But don't get me wrong. If I hear of any other attempt to disrupt the events aboard this ship I will throw all of you in the brig and put you off at our first port of call. Do I make myself understood?

JEFF

Completely Captain.

MR. GRANT

You won't have any more trouble
from us Captain.

CAPT. SCHAFFER

(Whispers to Grant)

No problems of any kind. Right
Bobby?

MR. GRANT

(Whispers back)

Don't worry. I'll keep my pants on.

JEFF

Captain, Mr. Rogers, what will
become of Mrs. Sutter?

SHIP'S CAPTAIN

My crew are looking for her now. As
soon as we find her she's going to
be locked in her cabin and we'll
turn her over to the authorities
when we return to Miami.

ROGERS

Other than the bank's records,
there is no evidence to connect
Mrs. Sutter to the theft of the
home's funds. Which is just as
well. The Board want's to avoid any
negative publicity about the
matter.

MRS. BANKS

What's going to happen to the
Magnolia?

ROGERS

We've decided to sell it. The
residents who are still there will
be moved to our other Home outside
Atlanta.

ISABEL

I see.

Everyone leaves the Captain's cabin.

63

EXT. PROMENADE DECK - HALF HOUR LATER

63

Jeff and Isabel sit by the empty pool and discuss their
experiences. No one notices a life boat slowly lowering from
the side of the ship.

ISABEL

I feel very frustrated that we didn't catch Mrs. Sutter.

JEFF

(Takes Isabel's hand)

You did the very best you could. We all did. We know she didn't get away with all the money. When I spoke with the Corporate rep at the home, he said that the bank gave Mrs. Sutter three passbooks. Lt. Gruff told Bobby that she gave him two.

ISABEL

What did he do with them?

JEFF

He said he lost them when he tried to throw you overboard.

ISABEL

So they fell in the water.

JEFF

Probably.

(Smiles)

Want to go get in that hot tub?

ISABEL

You bet.

64 INT. SHIP'S SPA - HOT TUB

64

Jeff and Isabel are climbing into a bubbling, hot tub.

JEFF

Oh, my aching muscles. I also didn't know how grimy I felt.

Isabel puts her foot above the water into Jeff's face.

ISABEL

And my aching feet!

JEFF

This is nice.

ISABEL

Yeah, my parents had one like this in our house in Rio.

JEFF

I think I see now why I've always been so attracted to you.

ISABEL

My long toes?

Jeff begins to massage Isabel's feet.

JEFF

Not just those. It's your zest for life; your own as well as the people you try to help. You're so even handed.

ISABEL

That is so funny...

JEFF

What?

ISABEL

Americans are so contradictory sometimes.

(Looks at Jeff)

Did I say that right?

(Jeff nods)

So many people coddle their children and their old people. Yet are so uncaring about people their own age.

JEFF

I think I know what you mean. Beth, my only other girlfriend before you, used to accuse me of being too liberal. She was such a control freak.

ISABEL

Control what?

JEFF

Freak. It suggests that someone is overly obsessive about their attitude toward protecting others.

ISABEL

Ah, I see. So I am your new girl friend?

JEFF

Uh... Yeah. If you want to be.

ISABEL

Yes. I do. We are both very concerned about others. That is very evident to me now.

The pair laugh. Isabel slides over and rests underneath Jeff's arm.

65

INT. MS. PENNY'S CABIN

65

Mrs. Banks wakes up from a brief nap in the cabin she shares with Ms. Penny. She pads softly over to the drawer where she stashed her medicines and takes a bottle out. Ms. Penny wakes up.

MS. PENNY

Are Jeff and Isabel spending some more time together?

MRS. BANKS

Yes, Penny, they are. Are you OK?

MS. PENNY

I'm fine. I was a little tired. I just needed a nap.

MRS. BANKS

Something's different about you.

MS. PENNY

I've decided I'm finished playing a senile old woman.

MRS. BANKS

Why were you doing that in the first place?

MS. PENNY

Because of Jeff.

MRS. BANKS

What? I don't get it.

MS. PENNY

Roberta. I didn't want to say anything to anyone about this, but Jeff is my son.

MRS. BANKS

(Falls into a chair)
Your son?!

MS. PENNY
Actually. I have another surprise.

MRS. BANKS
What would that be?

MS. PENNY
I used to be Bobby Grant's partner.

MRS. BANKS
Oh my.

MS. PENNY
I'm sorry I kept all of this from you, I began my little charade when Jeff was hired as the Psychiatrist at the Magnolia.

MRS. BANKS
Oh. I see. He doesn't know you're his mother.

MS. PENNY
That's right. I had to put him up for adoption because I couldn't care for him.

MRS. BANKS
Does Bobby, I mean his father know?

MS. PENNY
No. He doesn't. I haven't been able to tell him yet.

MRS. BANKS
Are you?

MS. PENNY
Yes. Tonight.

66 INT. DANCE FLOOR AFTER DINNER

66

After dinner, Jeff and Isabel take a whirl on the dance floor.

ISABEL
For an American you're not a bad dancer.

JEFF

Thanks. I once tried to get involved in Ballroom dancing when I was in college. Beth didn't have the time to devote to it.

ISABEL

She wasn't a very good girlfriend, was she?

JEFF

We were never able to make the transition from high school to college. And when I told her that I was going to Medical school, it went downhill from there.

ISABEL

My last boyfriend in Brazil before I moved to the United States was a real pig. He thought I should be willing to take whatever handouts he wanted to give me and be satisfied with waiting for him to come back from his business trips.

JEFF

Wow, Nice. What did you ever see in him?

ISABEL

I was young and he was handsome. I look a lot deeper then that now.

67 INT. MR. GRANT'S CABIN

67

Mrs. Banks enters Mr. Grant's cabin with Ms. Penny. She asks her husband and Capt. Schaffer to leave with her.

MS. PENNY

Hello Bobby.

MR. GRANT

Oh, so you recognize me now?

MS. PENNY

I always knew who you were. I had to play my cards close to my vest.

MR. GRANT

I see. So you were play acting?

MS. PENNY
It started before you arrived
Bobby. By then it was too late to
tell you or let you know.

MR. GRANT
Why?

MS. PENNY
Because I didn't want you to know
that Jeff is our son.

Mr. Grant tries to say something, but nothing will come out
of his mouth.

MR. GRANT
What? How? When?

MS. PENNY
That time we went to San Francisco
for that Murder Mystery convention.

MR. GRANT
Oh. That was a pretty fun time
wasn't it.

MS. PENNY
Yes. It was. And Jeff should be no
mystery then, should he.

MR. GRANT
Yeah. I suppose I always wondered
about that. Are you going to tell
Jeff?

MS. PENNY
Not until I'm certain that he and
Isabel are established on their
own.

68 EXT. AFT DECK OF THE CRUISE SHIP

68

As the moon shines across the water - Jeff and Isabel walk
along and talk.

ISABEL
I don't know if this means anything
to you, but have you ever noticed
that there's a slight resemblance
between you and Ms. Penny?

JEFF
I know. She's my mother.

ISABEL

She is?

JEFF

Yeah. I found out during my residency in Atlanta. I was researching the family history of a patient I was seeing and accidentally found a folder with my name on it.

ISABEL

It belonged to Ms. Penny?

JEFF

Yeah. She had fallen on some bad times and put me up for adoption.

ISABEL

You don't hold it against her do you?

JEFF

No. When I talked to my adoptive parents about it, what they told me made sense.

ISABEL

Is your real father alive?

JEFF

Yeah.

ISABEL

Well?

JEFF

You may not like it?

ISABEL

Why wouldn't I like it.

JEFF

Robert Grant.

ISABEL

Oh.

(Pause)

That's OK.

JEFF

Good. I hope so.

Jeff and Isabel stop at the stern of the ship.

ISABEL

I want you to know one thing. If we are going to continue going together, you need to show me more and talk less.

JEFF

Talk less. More action. Right?

ISABEL

Right. You spend a lot...

Jeff reaches out and pulls Isabel closer and kisses her.

69

EXT. WEST PALM BEACH SENIOR DETECTIVES - MONTHS LATER

69

Mr. Grant and Mr. Banks get out of a car and walk up to the front entrance of "The Senior Detectives."

JEFF

So how was the vacation gentlemen?

MR. GRANT

It was fantastic! I took Banks here, down to Haulover Beach in Miami.

ISABEL

I see he is quite red. Much like a lobster.

MR. GRANT

He's that way all over his body.

JEFF

Wait a second. Isn't Haulover Beach a "Clothing Optional Beach?"

MR. GRANT

Sure is.

MRS. BANKS

Anton Banks. You went nude in public?

MR. GRANT

You should have seen him.

MR. BANKS

I am sore and burning over EVERY inch of my body.

Mrs. Banks walks up and slaps her husband on the butt.

MRS. BANKS
Every inch?

MR. BANKS
OW!

MRS. BANKS
Guess so. You'll get no sympathy
from me nature boy!

JEFF
It's time. Who want's to cut the
ribbon?

70 INT. WEST PALM BEACH SENIOR DETECTIVES

70

Grant, Schaffer, the Banks, Ms. Penny, Jeff and Isabel stand
in the store front of a new Private Detective agency just
before closing.

MR. GRANT
(Lifts his glass)
To all of you, my friends, may our
remaining days be a blast.

OTHERS
Here! Here!

Ms. Penny approaches Jeff and Isabel.

MS. PENNY
I hear you two got engaged.

Isabel flashes her engagement ring at everyone.

MR. BANKS
That's a big bit of bling.

MRS. BANKS
Have you set a date yet?

JEFF
Not yet. We were waiting to see how
the grand opening went.

MRS. BANKS
You are not? What's that got to do
with...

MR. GRANT
You know, there is no perfect time,
and there's never a better time...

JEFF

I was just teasing dad. I know,
there is no time like the present.

MS. PENNY

(To Mr. Grant)

You told him Bobby?

JEFF

No. He didn't have to. Men just
know these things.

MRS. BANKS

Oh they do, do they?

(Looks at her husband)

Sounds like you've been talking to
Mr. Banks.

MR. GRANT

No, he'd found out before he
started working at the Magnolia.

MS. PENNY

I hope you understand why I did
things the way I did honey.

JEFF

I do.

(Kisses her on cheek)

Thank you mom.

Ms. Penny sits down and takes a small barbell in one hand and then another in her other hand. She begins lifting the both of them up and down. After three or four pumps Ms. Penny hands Jeff one barbell and Isabel the other.

MS. PENNY

(To Jeff and Isabel)

Stay strong no matter what anyone
tells you.

FADE TO BLACK.

71 CREDIT ROLL 71

72 EXT. ST. PITTS ISLAND BEACH 72

The cruise ship life boat is empty on the beach.

73

INT. ST. PITTS ROYAL GOVERNOR'S HOSPITAL

73

Mrs. Sutter wakes to find her bag from the Cruise ship next to her. She grabs it and there is still one passbook left in it. A doctor enters the room.

DOCTOR

You're Ms. Sutter?

MRS. SUTTER

Yes. Where am I doctor?

DOCTOR

Your a very lucky woman, We found you washed up on the beach. Your at St. Pitts retirement home.

MRS. SUTTER

Did you say "Retirement?"

DOCTOR

Yes. Why?

Mrs. Sutter turns around and sees a group of older people staring at her. She quickly grabs the passbook book and opens it to find a note.

HANDWRITING OF CHRIS

Surprise! I took it upon myself to make sure that you didn't get away with all the money. The funds from this Passbook went to pay the debts owed by the Magnolia and my back salary. Bon Voyage!

Mrs. Sutter screams.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END