

MERRY MISS KRIS

written by

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HOLIDAY / FANTASY / ROMANTIC COMEDY

\$\$\$ POTENTIAL OF MRS. DOUBTFIRE / TOOTSIE

A young sheltered city man finds love with a wild country girl when he treks to North Carolina to meet his dying father (a hetero secret cross-dresser) and help give away his/her beloved birds a day at a time: a partridge, two turtledoves, three French hens, four calling birds, etc..

INDUSTRY SCRIPT EXPERT: "A very commercial and heartwarming story with a sincere spiritual component that earns its emotional payback."

\* \* \* \* \* 3 SHOW-OFF ROLES

Lovable mature cross-dressing male

Younger male romantic lead.

Young female romantic lead (quirky, singer).

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FADE IN:

**EXT. TRAILER PARK - NIGHT**

SUPER: DECEMBER 23 CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

Holding a GUITAR, cute skinny SISSY SPARKS (30) with long stringy green hair and floral arm tattoos tiptoes into a trailer park.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Sissy Sparks! You owe me!

Sissy tiptoes faster but the sleezy TRAILER PARK MANAGER outruns her to her trailer door and throws a PADLOCK on it.

TRAILER PARK MANAGER

You owe me two months rent!

SISSY

I'm tryin' sooooo hard to get a job.

TRAILER PARK MANAGER

Borrow money from your family.  
Where's your family?

SISSY

Back in Lake Lure. North Carolina.

TRAILER PARK MANAGER

Fancy mountain community, Lake Lure.

SISSY

They don't got no extra money.

TRAILER PARK MANAGER

(sleezy)

Not my problem ... Give me a kiss.

SISSY

I'd rather kiss my freezing car.

He grabs her guitar.

TRAILER PARK MANAGER

I'm keeping this until you pay me.

She struggles to pull the guitar away from him.

SISSY

I need my guitar to make money!

TRAILER PARK MANAGER

You play lousy! You sing worse! I can  
sell the guitar and get a few bucks.

Eventually she rips the guitar away and runs off, STRUMMING  
it aggravatingly loud.

**EXT. BUSINESS DISTRICT - NIGHT**

SUPER: MEANWHILE IN CHICAGO

A BLIZZARD assaults the windy city's SKYLINE.

CLOSER: SNOW falls on a door reading CHICAGO TAX ATTORNEYS.  
GRANT (30, handsome, blond, orderly, shy) exits. MR. CONER (60,  
regal, glasses) exits and grabs Grant's collar.

MR. CONER

Grant! I need you back in my office.

GRANT

I got a flight to North Carolina.

MR. CONER

You have to postpone your flight.

A car horn BEEPS. Grant looks.

GRANT

I can't. That's my mom picking me up.

Coner waves over Grant's mom, IDA (50, glasses, prudish).

MR. CONER

Ida, Grant needs to stay longer and  
complete financial documents.

IDA

This late?? Well, of course the  
office is Grant's priority. Is your  
lovely daughter at the office tonight?

MR. CONER

Yes she is.

IDA

Grant is quite taken with her.

Grant looks at her, "what??!" and shakes his head no.

IDA (cont'd)

Don't be surprised if he asks her  
out to the opera.

Grant looks at her, "what??!" and shakes his head no. Ida  
brushes snow off Coner and bats her eyes at him.

IDA (cont'd)

I wouldn't be surprised if you ask  
me out to the opera.

Coner's eyes widen in fright. He gulps.

IDA (cont'd)

I'll book Grant a later flight.

GRANT

Wait! Mom! You told me this was the  
only time I could ever see my father?

IDA

(awkward, to Mr. Coner)  
Grant's father is ... dying.

GRANT

He's dying?! How? Of what, Mom??

IDA

He didn't say.

GRANT

Mom, what exactly did he say?

IDA

Grant, I was shocked to hear his  
voice. I haven't heard it since our  
... I don't know how many years ago.

GRANT

Yes, you do. You told him I'm his  
son? I'm thirty. So your whatever  
was thirty years and nine months ago.

MR. CONER

Nice seeing you, Ida. Grant, come in as soon as you can. We have work to do.

Coner goes inside. Ida looks away from Grant.

IDA

I was so embarrassed to get pregnant by a loser. And in North Carolina.

GRANT

A "loser"? My father's a "loser"?

IDA

We didn't need him, I gave you everything you needed, right?

GRANT

Except a dad. I can't believe I have a dad ... What is he like?

IDA

Nothing to look at. Boring. Nothing special. Not like you. Now go help your boss, and ask out that daughter. You're going to marry into a good family.

GRANT

I don't find her attractive.

IDA

Her money and dignity is very attractive. Old money, pillars of the community. You're going to marry her.

She brushes snow off him, pinches his cheek.

GRANT

Mom! If I miss the flight I may never get to meet my father!

He steps to her car. She yanks him back to the building door, making them both slip on the ice and fall. Half sitting, with her feet, she pushes him into the building door.

IDA

Grant! Go to Coner's office right now!

GRANT

But what if my dad dies tonight??

IDA

(dramatically)

Stop being so dramatic! You'll get  
to Lake Lure in the morning!

Relenting, he crawls into the building, defeated.

**INT/EXT. CLUNKER CAR - DOWNTOWN - NEXT DAY**

SUPER: DECEMBER 24 CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

Dressed Sissy wakes in the backseat of her purple CLUNKER CAR. She throws off the BLANKET and grabs her guitar.

**EXT. DOWNTOWN - CHATTANOOGA - DAY**

Sissy sings to OFFICE WORKERS entering the buildings.

SISSY

*Lady in blue suit and hat, I love your  
white hair like that, how do you do,  
going to your office are you? ... Hello  
Miss, can I please give you my resume?*

Sissy reaches down to grab a resume next to her TIP JAR.

SISSY (cont'd)

*I worked at a store, a café, two bars.*

The WOMAN ignores her so Sissy sings to TWO BUSINESSMEN.

SISSY (cont'd)

*Oh we got a meetin' today, isn't that  
great oh hey, our ties match and so do  
our shoes. Some people win, some people  
lose.*

She LAUGHS and holds out a resume.

SISSY (cont'd)

*You guys need an assistant? Or maid?  
Or nanny? I can be your driver, or cook?*

They look at her with pity and pass by.

SISSY (cont'd)  
Jerks! One-percenters! Elitists!!

**EXT. LAKE MOUNTAINS - DAY**

SUPER: MEANWHILE IN LAKE LURE, NORTH CAROLINA

Aerial view of North Carolina's stunning forested Lake Lure and the surrounding mountains. Winter but no snow.

**INT. BAGGAGE CLAIM - AIRPORT - DAY**

Shy Grant at BAGGAGE CLAIM smiles at an approaching MAN (60, looks like an older version of Grant). Grant wipes a tear, inhales and HUGS HIM. The man is confused.

GRANT  
I love you no matter what.

MAN  
(weirded out)  
I ... love you ... too.

The man grabs a SUITCASE off the conveyor belt and runs away. Devastated Grant chases him.

GRANT  
Dad! What did I do?! Dad!!

KRIS (65+, holiday dress, blonde, but even much make-up can't get her to pretty) stops Grant.

KRIS  
Now tell me, would your name be Grant?

GRANT  
I am Grant, in a hurry to catch my dad.

KRIS  
That's not your dad. I'm your father's sister, Kris. Welcome to North Carolina.

Eye contact. Suddenly in pain, Kris holds her chest, then from her PURSE she grabs a PILL BOTTLE and swallows a PILL.

GRANT  
You going to be okay?

KRIS

No. To quote my doctor, "Your heart don't work no more. You gonna die."

GRANT

That's scary. Do you sign up for a heart transplant or something?

KRIS

No, I'm ready to cross over and let me tell you something, Grant. Years ago I was beat into a coma and I crossed over.

MONTAGE OF EVENTS AS KRIS DESCRIBES THEM:

**IN AN ALLEY**, A YOUNGER KRIS is beat by DARK FIGURES.

**IN A HOSPITAL**, her EGK MACHINE FLATLINES and Kris's SPIRIT FOG rises through the ceiling.

KRIS (V.O.)

I flew through a tunnel and was in glorious light surrounded by angels!

MONTAGE OF EVENTS AS KRIS DESCRIBES THEM:

-Kris's spirit fog flies through a **TUNNEL**, then into a LIGHT, then flies among ANGELS.

**-IN A HOSPITAL**, Kris and other angels heal CHILDREN.

**-ON A ROAD**, Kris and angels heal VICTIMS of a CAR ACCIDENT.

END OF MONTAGE

KRIS (V.O.)

We healed sick people, so young man, I am ready to cross over for good.

She takes one of his SUITCASES, guides him to the exit.

GRANT

Because your life is boring? Like mine.

KRIS

I wouldn't say boring, but limiting.



GRANT

Mine, too. Limiting. And all I do  
is follow directions.

KRIS

Same here and I for one am damn tired  
of following directions.

Before he steps out through the OUT DOOR, she stops him, then she defiantly marches out through the IN DOOR.

KRIS (cont'd)

Nobody tells Kris what to do anymore!

He CHUCKLES, tries the same - but is flattened by an incoming LARGE MAN. Each time he tries to stand, HURRIED TRAVELERS knock him down. Kris pulls Grant out of the line of danger.

**EXT. BARN - DAY**

Outside a barn house with a small pond, Grant watches Kris milk a COW. Grant locks eyes with JUAN (48) in the distance, repairing FENCING, and assumes it's his father. Grant rises, smiles, opens his arms as a long distance loving embrace, then hugs the air, closing his eyes in gratitude. Juan, confused, returns the dramatic air-hug ... then resumes work.

GRANT

My ... father ... just blew me off.

Kris follows Grant's eyes to Juan.

KRIS

Oh sweetie, that's Juan the handyman.

Grant blushes. LIGHTNING flashes, then THUNDER.

KRIS (cont'd)

Pray we have a white Christmas tomorrow  
but it's more likely only light rain.  
How about you try to milk Tokyo?

GRANT

Me? Nah, I don't want to milk Tokyo.

Kris gingerly takes Grant's hands, steers them toward the cow utter. Grant gets squirted by milk, rises upset.

KRIS

Allow me to apologize. You told me you're tired of following directions.

GRANT

No, I just ... I mean why should I milk Tokyo? I'm not a farmer.

KRIS

We were afraid you'd say that. Grant, your father's health is no better than mine. He's ... in the hospital.

GRANT

Mom said he's dying? Of what?

KRIS

He is bequeathing you this small farm and this delightful barn house.

Grant is speechless, steps towards the pond, sees SWANS, GEESE and a few big HENS on the large property.

GRANT

He's giving me all this??

KRIS

You also inherit his feathered family. Seven swans. Six geese. Three French hens. Sound familiar?

Grant kneels to pet GUS the one GRAY GOOSE - who bites him - and chases him.

GRANT

(running from the goose)  
No. Wait, I can't move here! I am almost a tax attorney in Chicago!

KRIS

But this is a more relaxing life!

GRANT

This is not relaxing!! What would I do out here? All alone??

Kris eventually catches and restrains Gus the violent goose.

KRIS

My dear, you would have the ability to sell or lease the property and go elsewhere if you find it necessary.

GRANT

Sorry but I can't live on a little farm.

KRIS

If you ... won't live here ... we need you to secretly give away the birds.

GRANT

Give them away? ... Secretly??

**INT. BACK BARN - DAY**

The swans, geese, hens and Grant follow Kris into the barn with a HUGE CAGE housing TURTLEDOVES, CALLING BIRDS and SANDPIPERS.

GRANT

Wow! What kind of birds here?

Kris opens and walks in the cage, shuts the cage gate behind her. The sandpipers PIPE HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL NOTES/MUSIC.

KRIS

Eleven sandpipers pipe that glorious music. There are four calling birds on branches and those two are turtledoves. Now does that sound familiar?

GRANT

Turtledoves? This is like that Christmas song? "Twelve Days Of Christmas?"

Grant fingers the cage from outside, like a zoo visitor. Inside, Kris paces (subtext of a caged animal).

KRIS

Bingo. These wonderful feathered beings are my Christmas gifts to your father the past few years. No one else dare know of our pathetic gift exchange and how lonely and pitiful he is, singing "The Twelve Days Of Christmas" to himself.

Kris refreshes bird WATER, kneels, picks up a PARTRIDGE.

KRIS (cont'd)

Meet William the partridge who you  
will sneak in Maria's pear tree.

GRANT

Partridge in a pear tree. You serious?

Kris exits the cage, gives Grant the partridge. It bites him.

GRANT (cont'd)

Ouch! It appears William and I want  
nothing to do with each other!

Grant exits. Out the door, LIGHTNING flashes, then THUNDER.

**EXT. GAS STATION - NEXT DAY**

SUPER: CHRISTMAS DAY CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

Sissy pumps gas into her clunker. A MALE ATTENDANT plugs in  
HOLIDAY LIGHTS on trash bins.

SISSY

Merry Christmas. Will thirty bucks gas  
get to Lake Lure? It's like three hours?

MALE ATTENDANT

Probably will, but I'd cut back the  
sight seeing. Merry Christmas.

SISSY

I ain't goin' to see sights.

MALE ATTENDANT

What ya goin' for?

SISSY

Family. Well, just a sister. Maria.  
Drinks like a fish. But I can't keep  
sleeping in my car, you hear me?

He nods, leaves. She goes into the GAS STORE.

**INT. GAS STORE - CHATTANOOGA - MOMENTS LATER - DAY**

Paying the LADY CASHIER, Sissy drools at a HOT DOG ROTATER.

SISSY

How much for a hot dog?

LADY CASHIER

Two-fifty.

SISSY

Shit. I got one-eighty. Shit. Shit.

A TATTOOED TEENAGER in the candy aisle LAUGHS.

SISSY (cont'd)

You snickerin' at my hair? I don't know why I dyed it green. I know I look stupid. I make bad decisions.

TATTOOED TEENAGER

I didn't laugh at your hair, I laughed cuz you said "shit" so many times.

The teen waves her over.

TATTOOED TEENAGER (cont'd)

(whispers)

I'll give you the extra dollar for the hot dog if you distract the cashier so I can steal this stuff.

In his hands: 10 PROTEIN BARS.

SISSY

We can't be robbin' her.

TATTOOED TEENAGER

It's not robbing her, it's robbing a billion dollar corporation that overcharges and owes us anyway. Jesus.

Sissy shakes her head "no" and moves back to the cashier.

SISSY

How much is an apple fritter?

LADY CASHIER

Dollar-fifty.

Sissy grins, gives her all her money, takes the FRITTER.

LADY CASHIER (cont'd)  
Here, you get thirty cents back.

SISSY  
That's your Christmas present. Go buy  
yourself a yacht and a private jet.

**EXT. GAS STATION - CHATTANOOGA - MOMENTS LATER - DAY**

Devouring the fritter, Sissy sees a \$20 BILL trapped under her tire. Driving the car an inch, she grabs it, ecstatic.

The cashier SCREAMS chasing the teen thief into the street. Sissy sits in her driver's seat, freaked, talking to herself.

SISSY  
Stupid cashier!? Don't risk your life  
for stupid protein bars. The stupid  
billionaire companies don't care about  
you. Some people got too much money.

The cashier is nearly hit by a new ROLLS ROYCE and new TESLA.

SISSY (cont'd)  
A lot of people got too much money.  
And they need to be sharin' it. Or us  
poor people will start to be stealing.

She turns the key in the ignition but her car won't start. She tries it again, and again, and again. It finally starts.

**EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

SUPER: MEANWHILE IN LAKE LURE, NORTH CAROLINA

In between small farms is a small stone home with a stream in front. Grant represses screams as the partridge bites his fingers through a BOX. He puts it and a NOTE by a PEAR TREE, rings the doorbell, dashes away, trips, falls, then limps to Kris's pink jeep. Kris ducks in the passenger seat.

KRIS  
Hurry! Maria can't see my jeep!

Grant drives away. Kris pushes Grant's leg down on the gas.

MARIA FLOREZ (32, sensitive dark eyes, pretty, brunette) comes out, drunk, and finds the box and reads the note.

**INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Drunk Maria offers FOODS to the partridge on the COUCH but it won't eat. Her CHRISTMAS TREE has PHOTO ORNAMENTS of a boy.

**EXT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

Sissy exits with bag of FRUIT. The DOOR SIGN reads "Coffee Free With A Joke I Never Heard." Window CHRISTMAS LIGHTS spell "Free Speech Café Market." Maria stumbles in (she did not see Sissy).

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

Working behind the counter in an apron and ugly Christmas sweater is jokester BRICK EVANS (46, shaggy bangs/hair, two gnarled fingers on his left hand). At the center pine COFFEE STATION, GEORGIA JONAS (75, African-American, plump, expensive coat) LAUGHS with PAUL LEITER (40, blond, handsome, mustache, cowboy hat, flannel coat). Maria enters, drunk.

BRICK

Merry Christmas, Maria.

He shoots her with a SANTA SQUIRT GUN. She smiles, tipsy.

MARIA

Merry Christmas, Brick. Are you wearing a new sweater? Knitted by your wife?

BRICK

Ugliest thing I have ever seen. And this sweater, too.

Fighting her grin, she playfully slaps him. He LAUGHS.

PAUL

Merry Christmas, pretty gal.

MARIA

Merry Christmas, Paul. What did your wife get you for Christmas?

Maria walks to Paul. They fight their sexual attraction.

PAUL

Just to be a good mom and good wife.

MARIA

No one has seen her for years.

PAUL

A woman's place is in the home.

MARIA

Chauvinist! Why did I come in here?

PAUL

To dance with a cowboy?

Paul pulls her into a slow dance. She grins, secretly in love with him. Brick pushes a button to play a COUNTRY BALLAD.

BRICK

You come in for cigarettes? Adult toys?  
Firecrackers? Whoopie cushion? Gin?

GEORGIA

I was hoping Santa would put firecrackers  
and adult toys in my stocking. Only got  
coal. It's like he's not even listening.  
Hey Brick, Georgia needs more milk!

BRICK

(kidding)

Well, Georgia can get her big black butt  
to the refrigerator. Georgia, you know  
where the milk is.

GEORGIA

Oh no you didn't.

BRICK

I mean your big African-American butt.

PAUL

He means plus-size derriere of color.

Brick presses a counter button. "The Stripper" SONG plays. Georgia good-naturedly swishes and bumps to the saxophone, grabs the MILK from the fridge, swishes back, as Paul, Maria and Brick cheer her on. Kris enters, LAUGHS.

KRIS

Is Georgia dancing for quarters?



GEORGIA

Fifty-cent pieces! Miss Kris is so old  
Benjamin Franklin is in her yearbook.

KRIS

Georgia's so old that the key on Benjamin  
Franklin's kite was to her apartment.  
Some lightning storm last night but it's  
a shame no white Christmas.

GEORGIA

White?! Never have you wished for a  
black Christmas.

BRICK

We love you, Georgia.

Kris grabs EGGS and a LOAF OF BREAD.

MARIA

Bird food! Brick, you got bird food?

BRICK

For chickens or wild birds?

MARIA

It's a pigeon or something.

BRICK

Take a handful of chicken feed.

KRIS

Brick, please put bananas, eggs and  
your moldy bread on my tab. In a  
hurry. My nephew's waiting in the jeep.

Kris grabs BANANAS and exits. Everyone looks confused.

GEORGIA

Nephew? Miss Kris has a nephew?

PAUL

Kris has a sister or brother??

BRICK

News to me. I thought I knew  
everything about all of you clowns.

**EXT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY - MINUTES LATER**

Exiting the market, the wind blows off Kris' blonde wig! She chases it and puts it back on before anyone can see. She sees across the street Sissy showing Grant how to connect JUMPER CABLES from the jeep to Sissy's clunker.

SISSY

Go to your jeep and press on your gas  
and rev it and maybe my car will start.

Grant gets in Kris's jeep and floods the gas. Sissy gets in her driver's seat, turns the keys and her car starts.

SISSY

Thank you tons! You gave me what I  
wanted for Christmas! Heat!

GRANT

You did all the work!

SISSY

Want an orange? I splurged on fruits!

GRANT

No, that's okay!

She throws an orange in his jeep and drives off. He sees Kris approaching as he undoes cables, puts them in the jeep trunk.

GRANT (cont'd)

Nice girl. Cute smile. Thought I'd  
only see green hair in Chicago.

KRIS

I assure you that everything you have  
in Chicago we have here. Well maybe not  
the crime because I hear that in Chicago  
a guy gets stabbed every minute.

GRANT

That poor guy. You'd think he'd move.

KRIS

(giggles)

Brick requires inappropriate jokes at  
his store so I'll bring you in soon.

GRANT

Just bring me to see my dad. Which way is the hospital?

KRIS

Grant, uh ... he's in I.C.U..

GRANT

Intensive Care??

KRIS

We would not be helping him if we went today so I'll bring you there tomorrow.

**INT. DINING ROOM - BARN - NIGHT**

At the table, Kris pets Gus the goose and hands PAPERS to Grant. Grant slowly touches the goose - who snaps at him.

KRIS

Gus! No bite! Gus is sorry. Grant, just sign and it's all legally yours.

GRANT

This is so ... generous. Doesn't he have other kids?

Grant signs. Kris fondles a large brass COWBELL.

KRIS

No other kids. Your mother always sent holiday cards so we did see photos of you as you matured but my brother had no inkling he was your father. Now did your mother ever marry?

GRANT

She's too bossy. Did my dad marry?

KRIS

Your mother was the only woman he dated.

GRANT

Aw come on. Maybe he told you that, but I am sure he had many ladies -

KRIS

She was the only woman he ever dated.

Grant is skeptical. Kris takes Grant's tense hand and makes him slowly pet Gus, who finally welcomes it. Grant grins.

GRANT

I'm not gonna hurt you, little Gus.

**EXT. JOE'S CABIN - MORNING**

SUPER: THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Outside a small stucco cabin, TWO TURTLEDOVES in a SMALL CAGE on a branch are discovered by JOE (49, edgy, long black hair, ominous). He reads the NOTE, curious.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

Paul, Georgia and Maria coffee clutch by the window. Brick lowers prices on SANTA HATS. Joe, pretending he's blind with DARK GLASSES and a CANE, enters with the cage of turtledoves.

JOE

Would this be a grocery store?

BRICK

It is, and a coffeehouse.

JOE

Excellent. May I carry in these birds?

BRICK

Just don't tell the health department  
I ignore their rules ... Are you blind?

JOE

Legally blind. I see shapes, big  
grainy shapes.

GEORGIA

That eerily describes me. Merry  
Christmas. I'm Georgia.

Brick moves to Joe, guides Joe to sit in a CHAIR.

BRICK

Sit here. Make yourself comfortable.

MARIA

Hi, I'm Maria.

PAUL

I'm Paul. If you need anything.

JOE

I'm Joe and I only need peace and quiet, but I imagine that's the reason we all left the crime metropolises?

MARIA

What kind of birds you got there?

Kris enters, exciting the turtledoves. Kris pets them.

JOE

I haven't a clue. A stranger deposited them where I am currently leasing.

Kris waves her hand in front of Joe to see if he's blind.

KRIS

Oh my. Where do you lease?

JOE

The stucco cabin. Tile roofing. Until I decide on which mansion to purchase.

KRIS

Did Roger move out??

JOE

Unless he's hiding in dark corners. Brick sir, would you carry the nutrition these birds require?

GEORGIA

Joe, Brick will sell you anything, even the skin off the back of his bad hand.

With his gnarled hand, Brick shakes Joe's hand.

BRICK

Don't worry, my gnarled fingers are not contagious. Feel them? War injury.

With his other hand, Brick slowly moves his JOKE HAND BUZZER toward Joe's hand, waiting for the locals to react.

GEORGIA

Don't! Joe, Brick's gonna buzz you!

Brick BUZZES Joe. Joe YELLS. Brick LAUGHS.

BRICK

Hand buzzer. Joking is the rule here. I'm Brick. You'll be seeing, uh, I mean, hearing, a lot of me and my wife. We own the only market around here.

KRIS

Welcome to our crazy little community.

JOE

Charmed to meet you townspeople.

BRICK

Losers. Say "Nice to meet you all, losers, or rejects, or clowns." Here the rule is to joke. About everything. Politics, religion, health, blindness, you name it. No holes barred in here.

GEORGIA

Joke about Brick's overpriced weak coffee and homemade muffins -- which taste like sawdust. Only drier.

BRICK

Kris, your cranberry bread is almost done. Can you smell it?

KRIS

Smell this.

Kris points to, then sits on, a WHOOPIE CUSHION. LAUGHTER.

JOE

Eww! Did we forget our manners?!

GEORGIA

Check your diaper, Kris!

KRIS

Joe, it was only a whoopie cushion but it is time to check my diaper anyway.

Kris adjusts her dress. All LAUGH. Brick shoulder-hugs Kris.

BRICK  
If I wasn't married!

GEORGIA  
Oh please. Kris is older than Saturn.

KRIS  
Georgia's so old she took her driving  
test on a brontosaurus.

Joe CHUCKLES, pulls out the note.

JOE  
Might someone be sympathetic enough  
to read this to me?

Brick takes the note.

BRICK  
"These Turtledoves are Madge and Moe  
and will come and go if you give  
them an opening in your home."

MARIA  
Same note paper I got yesterday --  
with my partridge.

GEORGIA  
Partridge? Two turtle doves?? Come on.

PAUL  
Maria, did they put the partridge in  
your pear tree?

MARIA  
Yes! Who put a partridge in my pear tree?

GEORGIA  
How does that song go?

PAUL  
(singing)  
*On the first day of Christmas, my true  
love gave to me ...*

Paul tries to hold her hand but she searches her PHONE.

MARIA

(reading her phone)

"The twelve days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December Twenty-Fifth and runs through January Fifth."

JOE

How grand! A small town mystery, is it? And I suspect my sudden appearance may be a mystery gift in a way as well to you "clowns" and dare I say you may not appreciate me once I am unwrapped.

Joe mimes playing a drumroll and hitting the cymbals. The locals exchange looks, not sure what to make of him.

**INT/EXT. JEEP - FARM ROAD - BEFORE DAWN**

SUPER: THE THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS

**OUTSIDE KRIS'S JEEP:** small farms on both sides of the road.

**INSIDE JEEP:** Kris pets two French hens on her lap. One pecks her wig askew. She quickly straightens it before Grant, driving, can see. He's affectionately petting the other hen.

GRANT

So we gave the turtledoves to a blind guy by mistake?

KRIS

We did! How stupid can I be?

GRANT

So stupid. I love it. Hysterical. This is the first stupid thing I've been a part of! Besides sending cheesy air hugs to Juan the handyman, and assaulting an old man at the airport. My mom never let me do stupid things.

KRIS

I promise to help you do more stupid things! Tell me more about your mother.



GRANT

Mother, smother. She loves me so  
much but controlling, manipulative.  
I hate women like that.

A hen jumps down on the brakes. They SCREAM as the jeep heads  
for a TREE. Grant grabs the hen and brakes just in time.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAWN - MOMENTS LATER**

Sunrise shows Georgia's CHRISTMAS-LIT Tudor house with bayside  
views. Grant sneaks the 3 French hens and NOTE into a NATIVITY  
MANGER on the porch. Running to the car, he bangs his head  
against a branch and tiptoes to the car, muffling his YELPS.

**INT/EXT. JEEP - GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAWN**

Grant drives away. Upset passenger Kris wipes tears.

KRIS

My poor hens. Can you imagine your  
mother dropping you at a strange  
house and just driving away?

GRANT

Awww. We'll go check on them later.

**INT. BEDROOM/LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - GEORGIA'S HOUSE - MORNING**

Georgia gets out of bed, puts on a GOLD CHIFFON ROBE,  
shuffles to her luxurious living room, picks up a PHOTO OF  
ROY (75, African-American) by a Jewish MINORA.

GEORGIA

I have nothing to do without you, Roy.

She shuffles to the kitchen and sits, lonely, as the 'STAR OF  
DAVID' CLOCK TICKS. She hears hens CLUCKING and rises.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - MORNING**

Georgia exits, discovers the hens and SHRIEKS in joy.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

Brick hands a MUFFIN to Joe in dark glasses. Maria eats one.

BRICK

Joe, here's your everything muffin.

Joe YELLS, feeling (and secretly seeing) a ROACH on it.

MARIA

"Everything" includes fake roach.

Brick hands a TRAY OF MUFFINS to Maria.

BRICK

Bring this tray of muffins to Georgia's?  
Secret Santa gave her the French hens!

MARIA

Georgia got hens!?

(laughing)

Joe, you have to come with me to see  
Georgia with hens. Hear. Come and hear.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Kris, Grant, Maria, and Joe sit on Georgia's porch. Nearby,  
Georgia chases the three French hens. Paul catches a hen.

PAUL

They're tasty as regular chickens. They  
look more meaty but it's just feathers.

GEORGIA

Nobody eats my babies.

From her clunker car, green-haired Sissy approaches.

MARIA

I don't believe this. Is that my sister!?  
With green hair. Sissy, you don't add up.

Sissy nervously walks to them.

SISSY

Brick told me come and see French hens.

MARIA

You plan to ignore me?

SISSY

You're the one kicked me out, Maria.

MARIA

Not gonna get into it now. Get over here, let me hug you.

Maria goes to Sissy, they awkwardly hug, then Sissy walks near the door where Grant builds a pen directed by Kris, now with the hens cuddling her legs (they miss her).

KRIS

Sissy, I didn't recognize you in green hair! Where have you been hiding, dear?

SISSY

I've been finding myself -- in a Chattanooga trailer park.

GEORGIA

I'm just glad you didn't find me there.

Joe LAUGHS and mimes a drum roll and cymbal hit. Grant shyly smiles and waves at Sissy.

SISSY

You! You jumped my car! I love you!

KRIS

This is Grant, my brother's son.

GEORGIA

Miss Kris, we didn't even know you had a brother, much less a nephew!

GRANT

You didn't know she had a brother?

KRIS

(whispers to Grant, lying)  
She's joking.

Georgia comes over and hugs Grant and parts his hair.

GEORGIA

Grant's adorable! Grant, can you make the hens a doggy door into the warm kitchen so they don't freeze!?

GRANT

As long as my aunt shows me how.

An Asian couple, dressed wealthy, wife QI XONG (40) and husband LI XONG (40), approach and pet the hens.

LI

Dirty animals though.

QI

You don't want hen poop in kitchen.

GEORGIA

Don't tell me that, tell the hens that! Kris, can we fence just a small part of the kitchen for them?

KRIS

Will do, but isn't it racist to keep Chinese people in a small kitchen area?

LAUGHTER. Li and Qi hug Kris.

LI

Qi like it. She like bondage.

Li steps back and comically pretends to whip Qi.

QI

I no like bondage!

Qi pretends to shoot Li. Li pretends to die overdramatically.

GEORGIA

Speaking of kinky, here comes Delilah!

DELILAH (35, conservative brunette beauty) hugs Georgia.

DELILAH

She's kidding. I'm saving myself for marriage, but the whores get all the good men ... Who gave you these hens?!

MARIA

Who put a partridge in my pear tree?!

GEORGIA

Wish I knew! Who raises hens up here?

PAUL

Kris, you got a farm, don't you?

KRIS

If five cows is a farm ... but look,  
Georgia's neighbors raise chickens.

Kris points to farms across the road.

PAUL

Now you're making me hungry.

GEORGIA

Brick sent stale muffins and I'll make  
latkes and cheese blintzes. Come in!

MARIA

Latkes? Blintzes? What are blintzes?

GEORGIA

Like sour cream crepes, potato pancakes.  
Oh. Wait. Wait. Ah, there's something  
you neighbors should know -- why I never  
invited you ... indoors.

KRIS

You're a chainsaw serial killer clown? Or  
worse -- you're a politician?

People LAUGH. Joe plays the imaginary drumroll and cymbal.  
Georgia paces by the nativity set.

GEORGIA

These decorations I do every year --  
they're for you. Inside ... I'm Jewish.

KRIS

Oh honey, what difference does it make??

DELILAH

Who cares? I'm just glad I can finally  
see your home! Why did it take so long?!

Delilah enters it. Georgia blushes, points to the hens.

GEORGIA

I have three little daughters needing  
company now.

Georgia ushers in her guests. Sissy is last, reluctant.

GEORGIA (cont'd)  
Come on in, green-haired wonder.

SISSY  
Serious? Me? In a fancy house this big?

GEORGIA  
Any sister of Maria's is a sister of mine.

**INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Georgia proudly shows everyone her photo of Roy and HANUKKAH DECORATIONS and expensive elaborate home. Sissy is amazed.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Kris and Grant screw CHICKEN WIRE in place. Maria is puzzled at the hens cuddling Kris's legs.

MARIA  
The chickens really like you!

KRIS  
(thinking fast)  
Because I am such a hot chic myself!

GRANT  
Maria, did you know Kris has a brother?

MARIA  
News to me. Want me to bring you guys some of Georgia's kooky food?

GRANT  
I'm starving, thanks Maria. Please.

Maria massages Grant's shoulders then goes inside.

GRANT (cont'd)  
How could your neighbors not know about my dad?

Kris raises her brows and mimes drinking to indicate Maria is an alcoholic.

**INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Maria meanders, eats away from the crowd and checks her phone.

On her phone: CHRISTIAN SINGLES dating site.

She browses, then puts away her phone and squeezes into Paul's chair with him. Paul winks, grins. Grant passes.

MARIA

Kill me, Grant! I forgot to bring you breakfast plates.

DELILAH

Let me bring Grant food. We'll call it our first date, that a deal, Grant?

GRANT

I'd be so lucky. Thanks, Delilah. Which way's the bathroom?

Delilah shrugs. Georgia points to it.

#### **BEDROOM/HALL**

Grant peeks in the bedroom to see Sissy, her hands feeling through a DRESSER drawer.

GRANT

What are you looking for?

Sissy twists a RING onto her finger, then into her pocket.

SISSY

Pretty dresser. Georgia has so many antiques and pretty expensive things.

GRANT

You're not so bad yourself.

SISSY

You're lying. But if I grow out this green hair and put on my dress with puffy sleeves that cover these tattoo mistakes ... I came in third at Trailer World's beauty contest. Six times.

GRANT

You're so cute. And unusual.

SISSY

So unusual no one will hire me.

GRANT

Unusual and unemployed? Your just the type of girl my mother would forbid me to date ... So -- you wanna have dinner?

SISSY

Me? You and all that handsomeness want to sit across a table from me? By all means!! Call me! I'll be staying 'cross town with my sister -- if she don't say no. She hates me like your mama would.

GRANT

Let me put your number in my phone.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Kris secures the chicken wire fence with Grant.

GRANT

Are you closer to Georgia or Sissy?

KRIS

Georgia's my best friend, not that I'd ever tell that old medieval loon.

GRANT

Well Sissy stole a ring from your best loon's dresser.

Delilah hands them BREAKFAST PLATES.

KRIS

Sissy stole a ring?

GRANT

I think so. Should I say something?

KRIS

Georgia must be informed.

DELILAH

Let me tell her. Neighbors have to look out for each other.

**INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

In the crowded room, Delilah whispers to seated Georgia.



DELILAH

Grant saw that nasty tattooed girl  
take a ring from your bedroom. I'm  
going to lock your front door so  
that scum can't run away with it.

Georgia rises and points to Sissy.

GEORGIA

What's your name again, Maria's sister?

SISSY

Sissy. Sparks last name. Maria and I  
got the same crazy momma, not the same  
crazy papa. Hers come from Mexico.  
Maybe mine from Mars? Would explain  
why he never around. And my ears.

Georgia puts out her arms to embrace Sissy then roams through  
Sissy's pockets and finds the stolen ring.

GEORGIA

What demon possesses you, child?!

SISSY

Who put a ring in my pocket?! I din't!

MARIA

Sissy, all you do is disappoint!

Sissy slinks toward the door, but it's locked.

KRIS

Biting the hand that feeds you, Sissy!

SISSY

Save me finger-waving lectures, rich  
bitches one-percenters.

Maria dials her phone.

MARIA

I'm calling the cops!

SISSY

Y'all hypocrites. In your perfect Martha  
Stewart "cottages" and fake lives! This  
lady faking she's not Jewish.

Sissy points to Delilah's IMITATION GUCCI PURSE.

SISSY (cont'd)

This shrew here flaunting a fake Gucci.

DELILAH

It's a real Gucci, you trailer trash.

Sissy takes it, turns it over and points to stitching.

SISSY

It's fake. Maria fake as shit --  
pretending she happy to see me when she  
really a mad hornet her husband was  
clawing me. And blind guy's accent is  
fake tryin' to impress you loaded haters.

JOE

The trash must take itself to the curb.

SISSY

You cramp their style, too. You think  
these rich types want handicaps by 'em?

Delilah unlocks the door and trips Sissy as she runs out.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Grant exits, watches Maria run to Sissy, and the sisters argue in the distance. He grins, infatuated with Sissy. Delilah comes out and grabs Grant's hand.

DELILAH

Where should we finish our first date?  
The Yacht Club tonight?

GRANT

Sorry, I got plans tonight.

DELILAH

Not with that insolent street trash?  
I never met anyone like her. The vulgar  
way she talks back and breaks rules.

He stares at Sissy, infatuated, grinning.

GRANT

I know, right?

**EXT. BARN - DAY**

Five COWS graze outside.

**INT. BATHROOM - BARN - DAY**

Kris, REALLY A MAN IN RECEDING GRAY HAIR, shaves his face.

GRANT (O.S.)

You done with your bath yet??

Startled Kris quickly puts on make-up and his/her robe.

KRIS

Almost ready for our walk! Grant,  
honey, what will you do with the cows?

GRANT (O.S.)

Let's go ask my dad what he wants.

KRIS

We have to find someone with land but  
not Paul. He'll make sausage of 'em.

Kris puts on the wig just as Grant throws open the door.

GRANT

I've been here three days and don't  
appreciate you playing games ...  
keeping me away from my dad.

Terrified Kris adds more make-up.

KRIS

This morning he went into a coma and  
you're too young and healthy to be  
burdened with sickness and the dying  
so go on and have fun with Delilah.

GRANT

Delilah is a knock-out, but Sissy's  
got something.

KRIS

Probably herpes. And your wallet.

GRANT

She's just down on her luck.

KRIS

Delilah's gorgeous and successful and dignified -- so get to know Delilah, not cuckoo Sissy. Sissy's trouble.

Shy Grant feels pressured, paces.

**EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Maria steps out to the porch to YELL.

MARIA

Sissy, get out of here! Bad seed!  
Delinquent! Rotten apple!

Maria throws a BEER CAN then storms back inside her house.

IN THE STREET: Sissy sits in her parked car watching the beer can FIZZ. KNOCKING on her window is Joe in dark glasses.

SISSY

Joe?! Why you here?!

JOE

What you said. About these people not wanting me either. Probably true.

SISSY

Why you talkin' normal now and not so haughty?

JOE

Maybe we can get the upper hand?

SISSY

What you talking about?

JOE

Thief to thief, we ought to combine business. Sweet! I love me some chocolate chip.

He reaches for COOKIES on her seat and eats one.

SISSY

You can see?!

JOE

Lake Lure people got too much money.

SISSY

You faking blind? So you can steal?

Grant's jeep pulls up. Joe stumbles away using his cane to a waiting CAB. Grant walks towards Sissy's car door.

GRANT

What was that about?

SISSY

I don't know. He strange. Why you here?

GRANT

We had a date. You didn't return my call.

SISSY

You told that lady I stole her ring!?

GRANT

I'm sorry but yeah. You did, right?

SISSY

I'm freezin'. Maria won't let me inside.

GRANT

Come stay with me at my Aunt Kris's.

SISSY

Yeah, right. You pervert maximus.

GRANT

As friends. I don't have any friends in this town and my aunt goes to bed so early. Why not play cards or something?

SISSY

You caught me stealing. I'm a mess. Psycho. Totally unstable. Ain't got no plan. Never been one to organize.

GRANT

I love all that about you. So cool to meet a unique girl who doesn't have rules and an agenda. Or any dignity.

He smiles, stares into her confused eyes. He kisses her softly, then walks to the jeep, waits a minute, then drives. He BEEPS the horn, waves her to follow. She debates, then does.

**INT. KITCHEN - BARN - NIGHT**

Grant HUMS as he pulls out FOOD from the FRIDGE for Sissy.

GRANT

Maria didn't know Kris has a brother.

SISSY

Don't remember Kris ever mentioning him. I never seen him.

Sissy picks up the cowbell and RINGS it.

GRANT

Don't do that unless you want the cows to come. Do you know how cute you are?

She GIGGLES. From her PURSE, she hurriedly puts on make-up.

Looking pretty, she sways to MUSIC helping Grant cook.

They sit by the ROARING FIREPLACE, eating and talking.

He washes DISHES as she dries.

He lights CANDLES as she plays guitar and expertly SINGS, unaware Kris watches from a doorway.

SISSY

(improvising lyrics)

*I'm so young but my heart is old, been  
broken, burned but now it's cold, but  
warming some, since you come, to town.  
Pretty city boy, don't you let me down.*

Grant and Sissy fall asleep in front of the fireplace. When the fireplace is embers, he carries her to the couch, where she sleeps. He sleeps on the floor, grinning, in love.

DISSOLVE INTO - DAWN:

SUPER: THE FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Grant talks into his cell phone as Sissy sleeps on the couch.

GRANT  
 (into phone)  
 You have no one with that name? How  
 can my dad not be in your hospital?

He hangs up, bothered, then presses his face against Sissy's.

GRANT (cont'd)  
 I have to drive my aunt somewhere.  
 You go back to sleep. If you take  
 off, I'll call you later.

SISSY  
 A city slicker like you don't call  
 a country skank like me later.

GRANT  
 Time for "Spank The Skank."

He spanks her. She rolls under the covers, LAUGHS.

**EXT. WATERFALL CABIN - DAY**

An abandoned cabin by a waterfall with a NOTE on SLIPPERY  
 ROCKS that reads: "Four calling birds. Now free." The four  
 calling birds CHIRP and fly around Paul, who struts to Maria,  
 Delilah and Georgia who all exit Georgia's MERCEDES.

DELILAH  
 Brick told us Secret Santa came here!

PAUL  
 Come see the note. It's over there.

He points. They balance on slippery rocks to reach it.

GEORGIA  
 With hundreds of homes in this town, how  
 did you happen to find four calling birds  
 and a tiny note? Impossible unless you  
 are the Secret Santa, Paul!

PAUL

Maybe. Or maybe I figured out who it is and been following them at dawn.

MARIA

Who put a partridge in my pear tree??

He zips his lips. Maria pokes him playfully, which causes him to fall in the water. LAUGHING, he pulls her down with him for a romantic moment as Georgia and Delilah rush away.

MARIA

Why didn't your wife come with you?

PAUL

It's complicated.

Though she's in love with him, she rises and walks away.

**EXT. KRIS'S BARN - DAY**

Transgender wigged Kris milks a cow as Grant pets it lovingly.

KRIS

(not pleased)

Did you have fun with Sissy?

GRANT

Yeah, she's so easy to be around.

KRIS

Now take out Delilah to the Yacht Club.

She hands him CASH. He refuses. She shoves it in his pocket.

KRIS (cont'd)

Better food and better jazz singers than Chicago... Maybe I lied about the jazz singer. And maybe I lied about the food -- but it's sophisticated. Kinda.

She rises and pulls five golden RINGS from her pocket.

KRIS (cont'd)

Five golden rings which we need to get to Delilah before dawn. But it'd be much easier for you to do it tonight.



She winks. He takes the rings and studies them.

GRANT  
These looks expensive?

KRIS  
Not that Delilah needs it. Her family's loaded. She can afford real Gucci purses.

GRANT  
I called the hospital. My father's not there.

Kris gets a heart spasm and steps away. Grant pockets the rings, takes over milking the cow like a pro, petting it.

KRIS  
My heart's racing too fast.

GRANT  
Now I doubt every single thing you said.

KRIS  
There's been ... complications.

GRANT  
Do you just pick up young guys at airports pretending to be their aunts?!

Kris turns around. Stare down. She inches nearer, crouches.

KRIS  
You have seen your father.

GRANT  
What? What do you mean I've seen him?

KRIS  
You have seen him and he adores you.

GRANT  
Where have I seen my father? Juan?  
Juan is my dad!

Grant rises, looks to where he originally saw Juan.

GRANT (cont'd)  
Or Brick? Is Brick my father?!

Grant searches into Kris's eyes but she closes them.

GRANT (cont'd)

It's Joe? My dad's blind. I have a  
blind dad. I could have been blind.  
I'm gonna go blind.

Kris rises, her fingers clutch onto Grant's shirt.

KRIS

He's afraid you will despise him.

GRANT

I don't despise blind people.

KRIS

Just give us one more day. Your father  
thinks you're the sweetest, kindest ...  
he loves you more than anything so you  
have to trust me.

GRANT

How can I trust you?

Grant walks away. Overwhelmed, Kris faints, hitting her head,  
knocking off her wig. Grant turns around and squats over  
Kris, tapping her face.

GRANT (cont'd)

Kris?! Wake up! Kris, are you okay?!

KRIS'S SPIRIT FOG RISES OUT OF HER BODY.

KRIS'S SPIRIT POV: From the sky, looking down on her  
unconscious wigless body.

KRIS SPIRIT THOUGHTS (V.O.)

Oh no, he can't see me like that!

KRIS'S SPIRIT FOG RETURNS TO HER BODY which opens her eyes.

GRANT

Oh good, you're awake! You fainted!

She rises, grabds her wig and hurriedly puts it on.

GRANT (cont'd)

I didn't know you wore a wig.

KRIS

I need my heart pills.

He/she runs away, his/her skirt askew, showing very hairy legs. Watching him/her, Grant's eyes widen, baffled.

**EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Sissy, playing guitar, SINGS on the porch, shocked to see Grant approaching.

SISSY

*I'm so young but my heart is old, been  
broken, burned but now it's cold, but  
warming some, since you come, to town.  
Pretty city boy, don't you let me down.*

GRANT

You look so shocked to see me.

SISSY

Shocked if you wanna second date. Not  
shocked if you brought the sheriff.

She surrenders her wrists to be cuffed. He pretends to cuff her against the door. They fall inside as Maria, drinking a BEER, opens the door.

MARIA

Get in, damn it. But if you steal  
anything again I'm dialing the police.

SISSY

I never stole from you.

MARIA

Just my husband.

SISSY

He pawed at me and everyone 'cuz you  
was too busy in Margaritaville.

Maria, hurt, looks away in denial.

**INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - MINUTES LATER**

Sissy and Grant sit on the couch, petting the partridge, concerned the partridge is losing feathers everywhere.

Sissy makes DINNER, serves Grant, and Maria who chugs beer.

They play CHARADES, LAUGHING at outrageous Sissy.

Sissy plays guitar and SINGS.

SISSY

(improvising lyrics)

*Mister, got only one sister, she ain't  
as fun, as a man but she's the only one,  
sister 'til my life is done, mister ...*

Grant adores her. Maria SINGS along - badly.

The three watch TV, Sissy falling asleep in Grant's arms.

Drunk Maria covers sleeping Sissy and Grant with BLANKETS.

**EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - MORNING**

SUPER: THE FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

The sunrise shows a NOTE and five golden rings around skinny tree branches. Looking at them from a distance is Paul, standing by his car. Suddenly, GIGGLING Sissy runs outside, chased by Grant who catches her. Paul slowly approaches.

SISSY

Paul?! Why you here?!

With his cowboy hat, Paul gestures to the rings in the tree.

SISSY (cont'd)

What on these branches?!

PAUL

Rings.

Grant finds the NOTE, hands it to Sissy.

SISSY

"Sissy. Five golden rings. Sell as you please." Paul? You the Secret Santa?

PAUL

Nope, not me. I swear not me.

Paul steps closer, studies the rings, hands them to Sissy.

PAUL (cont'd)

This one fourteen karat, a diamond here.  
You just lucked into maybe ten grand.

SISSY

Who would give me these? Y'all know I  
tried to steal a ring! Why would someone  
give me rich people rings to sell?

Paul stares at Grant, who shrugs, acting innocent.

SISSY (cont'd)

The way I carried on! Stealing and  
yelling! Like a worthless scrapper thief  
- psycho, nutcase, zero.

GRANT

A few more zeroes have been added.

SISSY

I'm rich like they are! Paul, can you  
assemble them? I need to fully apologize  
and show them these rings! To the rich  
old black lady and all of 'em.

PAUL

Sure. Want me to call them for you?

SISSY

Please do it??

As if she won the lottery, Sissy holds the rings high and runs  
excitedly through the yard. Grant watches, in love with her.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Many cars park.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Georgia excitedly serves CHOLENT, KUGEL and SCHNITZEL.

GEORGIA

This is "cholent." This is "kugel." This  
is "schnitzel," the way my Roy liked it.

Nervous Sissy sits wearing the five rings, her trembling hands hold Grant's. Next to him, wigged Kris shakes her head at Grant disapprovingly. Across the room, Qi and Li Xong talk to Paul and Joe with cane and dark glasses. Coyly lowering his glasses, Joe and Sissy meet eyes. Sissy looks away.

JOE

Is that Sissy girl present? Might she explain the intention of this meeting?

SISSY

I'm right here, blind man. People, I was gifted five golden rings, which embarrasses me, as it should, because y'all know I tried to steal a ring.

DELILAH

I vaguely remember that.

SISSY

Who gave me five golden rings?

Everyone looks around curious.

JOE

Who can see if the rings are inscribed?

SISSY

Let me see. Hm ... I don't see no words.

She passes the rings to Grant, who inspects, passes to Kris, who inspects, passes to Maria, etc..

SISSY (cont'd)

I wanna give these out to you all.

DELILAH

Fine, I'll take them.

GRANT

No! Delilah, you don't need money. Sissy, you need money.

SISSY

I never gave nothing worth anything to no one, but I ought to now. Georgia, may I please gift these to you?

GEORGIA

What's a prehistoric woman gonna do with more jewelry? Someone gave them to you. The ring you tried to steal was my husband's. I do not want it for value, I want it because it's part of Roy, a memory of our years together.

SISSY

I heard that. Okay. But this assembly ain't 'sposed to be only to embarrass me. Is it? "Let's stare at the useless loser in green hair."

(long awkward silence)

Furthermore, I filled out applications at three restaurants, even the Yacht Club, believe that? -- so I'll be a waitress soon, I feel it in my bones, so I don't need hand-outs. Get it straight.

DELILAH

Yacht Club's never going to hire you.

GRANT

Sissy, sell at least one ring so you can pay bills.

KRIS

Oh just keep them all, scallywag ... sell them if you need money.

LI

I feel better if you keep rings. If you have money, you no steal from me.

People CHUCKLE. Sissy blushes and sinks in her chair.

SISSY

I don't know what to do. Is there a charity that needs ring money?

GEORGIA

Yes, there is. You are the charity, Sissy. We all go through that stage needing charity. You need. You got. Don't even question where it came from. Just be grateful.

LATER:

Joe corners Sissy. They whisper.

JOE

Good acting.

SISSY

I don't act.

JOE

Then give me the rings.

SISSY

No, you got more money than me.

JOE

Honey, I don't only steal for money. I steal to injure people like they injured me. They stole my opportunities because my family was no good. Today they stole your dignity, making you crawl back here and apologize. You're the punchline.

SISSY

Dignity. Grant said I got no dignity.

Sissy blushes, gets paranoid hearing LAUGHTER.

JOE

You're not his girlfriend, you're his amusement. They're all laughing at what a low-life you are. Grant is out of your league. You should be dating me.

Sissy digests his insults and proposition. She searches for Grant and gets paranoid seeing him LAUGH with Delilah.

**EXT. DELILAH'S HOUSE - BEFORE DAWN**

SUPER: THE SIXTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Grant gets six geese out of the jeep and onto Delilah's yard, in a PORTABLE CHICKEN WIRE PEN. He tiptoes to the jeep, unaware Gus goose follows him back. Grant pulls out "female" Kris. She resists.



GRANT

How did Delilah get such a nice house?

KRIS

I hear the family is well-to-do.

GRANT

Come out and see this sunrise. We don't get these colors in Chicago.

KRIS

You're not still mad at me?

GRANT

Because you lied my dad was in the hospital? And I've yet to see him? Because the neighbors never met your brother? Nah, why would that make me mad? Nah, nah, nah! Are you still mad at me?

KRIS

You didn't follow my directions.

GRANT

For the first time in my life I didn't follow directions -- because Sissy needs the dough. Delilah doesn't.

He raises arms in victory as Gus the goose cuddles his leg.

GRANT (cont'd)

Awww Gus. I'm gonna miss you too.

He hugs and pets Gus.

GRANT (cont'd)

Awww, I love you too, Gus, but you have to go back to your new home.

Kris, emotional, wipes her tears of sadness leaving Gus.

KRIS

Grant, you can do better than Sissy.

GRANT

Look at this sunrise! Come out, see it.

KRIS

My heart is skipping beats, dear, so  
standing now would be quite a gamble.

Grant hands Kris the goose, then picks Kris up, and carries them toward Delilah's as the sun rises.

GRANT

Did my dad ever want kids?

KRIS

He didn't think he'd be a good father.

Grant winces, a tear trails his cheek.

GRANT

I love you anyway.

KRIS

What ... are you ... implying?

GRANT

Dad. Look at the sunrise. Dad.

KRIS

Dad? You think I am your father?!

GRANT

How many sunrises will you get to  
see with your son?

Grant lowers stunned Kris to stand. Delilah opens her door. Grant runs behind a tree as Kris dives to the ground, hiding from Delilah as she approaches the geese pen.

DELILAH

Geese! I need photos! Where's my phone!?

Delilah runs in the house where a RICH OLD MAN looks out from the door. Grant runs to Kris and carries Kris to the jeep.

**EXT. RESORT SHOPS - DAY**

Charming stores, one sells jewelry. Grant and Sissy enter.

**INT. JEWELRY STORE - DAY**

The JEWELRY EXPERT examines Sissy's rings.

JEWELRY EXPERT

I can give you seven-thousand.

SISSY

We was told they worth ten.

JEWELRY EXPERT

How about eight?

SISSY

Lordy! A deal has been made!!

She dances then answers her RINGING cell phone.

SISSY (cont'd)

(into phone)

Howdy? ... Yes, the green dye can be changed ... Oh my, my! Thank you tons!

She hangs up -- and then looks suspiciously at Grant.

GRANT

The waitress job?

SISSY

Me! A waitress at the Yacht Club!

(suddenly suspicious)

Or was that a friend of yours playing a joke on me? She sounded like Delilah.

GRANT

I don't know what Delilah does but I don't play jokes on you.

She studies him, unsure.

**EXT. SALON - DAY**

Grant follows Sissy inside.

**INT. SALON - DAY**

Grant smiles as a HAIRDRESSER transforms newly-confident Sissy's long green hair into a blonde movie-star look.

**EXT. RESORT SHOPS - DAY**

Gorgeous Sissy sashay-walks as Grant pets a Shopper's DOG.

GRANT

I miss my dog in Chicago!

SISSY

Blessed dog. Blessed me. Most blessed week of my entire life!

GRANT

For me, too.

SISSY

Oh. Because your father, inheriting everything. You scored. Jackpotted.

GRANT

No ... this is the luckiest week because ... I met you.

She studies his gorgeous face, unsure if he's joking.

GRANT (cont'd)

You don't believe me?

SISSY

I ain't in your league. I trailer trash.

Sissy grimaces and tries to hide her tears. He wipes them away and kisses her.

GRANT (cont'd)

You're so original. So real. I love you.

SISSY

Love??

(looks around suspicious)

Is some evil camera filming us? Delilah watching us and laughing? Grant, how could someone like you ever love me?

He softly kisses her - a long while - until she believes him.

**EXT. DELILAH'S HOUSE - DAY**

Grant parks the jeep. He and Sissy, hand in hand, approach the geese petted by Delilah, Maria, Georgia and Paul who waves his cowboy hat.

DELILAH

I wake up and I have geese!

Gus the goose runs to Grant, snuggles into his chest.

DELILAH (cont'd)

He loves Grant! But who doesn't?!

Delilah holds Grant's other hand. Neither she nor Sissy will let go of his hands for the rest of the scene.

GEORGIA

Will your geese play with my hens?

PAUL

Seems so. These geese were someone's pets. Wild ones don't come near us.

MARIA

Who put a partridge in my pear tree??  
Now he's sick. He just won't eat.

GRANT

My aunt Kris might know about birds.  
We can ask her about the sick partridge.

MARIA

Perfect! Can Kris come by and see him?

GRANT

Better for us to bring it to her. She  
couldn't stand up yesterday.

**EXT. BARN - DAY**

Grant, Sissy and Maria who cradles the partridge walk to the barn front door. All three enter the barn foyer.

**INT. KITCHEN/FOYER/BATHROOM - BARN - DAY**

SOUND of a bathtub filling. Kris, a pasty man with one day beard stubble, hairy legs and receding short gray hair, out of make-up and in a robe, drinks JUICE in the kitchen. Maria does not see him.

MARIA

What an adorable place this is!

Kris panics to hear people enter and runs to the bathroom.

GRANT

Kris?! Sissy and Maria are here!

Grant follows the fleeing robe toward the bathroom. In the kitchen, Sissy picks up Kris's blonde wig, curious.

SISSY

Kris! You wear a wig like Brick!!

Silence. Finally:

KRIS (O.S.)

Brick doesn't wear a toupee!

SISSY

Of course he does. A bad one!

Grant knocks on the bathroom door.

**BATHROOM**

Panicked Kris shuts off the BATH FAUCET, puts on make-up.

MARIA (O.S.)

Kris?! My sick partridge needs help!

KRIS

What is wrong with your partridge?!

GRANT (O.S.)

Aunt Kris?? Can I come in?

Kris opens the door so Grant can sneak in.

KRIS

You told them I'm a man!

GRANT

No, no, but they won't care.

KRIS

You can't tell them -- they'd despise me -- or beat me like in that alley.

Frightened with PTSD, Kris ducks into a corner.

MARIA (O.S.)

My partridge won't eat anything and  
he's losing feathers more and more!

KRIS

Sweetie, put William down on the floor!  
And you just follow him! Let him free!

**EXT. BARN - DAY**

Maria grabs Sissy's hand and they follow the partridge to the pond where it excitedly plays with swans.

SISSY

All of a sudden William's happy now!

MARIA

So. This Grant thing. Is it serious?

SISSY

Ask him. I don't monitor his brain.

MARIA

He's a tax lawyer? That's so respectful.  
Not exactly your type.

SISSY

You sayin' he out of my league.

Grant finds them and fully-dressed, jumps in the pond, loving that the swans play on top of him.

SISSY (cont'd)

Seven?? Seven swans?

Grant runs to her to shut up her revealing the secret.

SISSY (cont'd)

The Secret Santa gave your aunt seven  
swans??

To shut her up, he carries her into the pond and kisses her. Adding to the scenic romance, the swans swim around them.

**INT. BACK BARN - NIGHT**

Inside the huge birdcage, Grant studies Kris's beard-stubbed man face as they eat dinner on a FOLDING TABLE and CHAIRS.

The seven swans nestle Kris's legs. Sandpipers fly by him.

KRIS

Animals don't care what you wear.

GRANT

I don't care what you wear. I just feel bad you've been hiding your whole life.

KRIS

Only from humans -- but with animals, life is simple, wondrous.

(crying)

They are my children. Can you even imagine how much it hurts to give away your children??

Grant wipes Kris's tears.

GRANT

Well, you can't get rid of me.

He grips Kris's hand.

GRANT (cont'd)

Sissy likes you. Tell her you're a man. She won't care.

KRIS

Why tell anyone? No one needs to know.

GRANT

This is not about "them." This is about you. You need to tell. You need to be free. For your bad heart.

KRIS

My bad heart is on its last bad beat.

GRANT

Then for your soul. You said life goes on after death, right?

KRIS

It does indeed.



GRANT

And when you die, does your mind,  
your experiences, your memory go on  
to the afterlife?

KRIS

They do indeed.

GRANT

Then why bring baggage into Heaven?  
Why die feeling scared ... or hiding?  
Isn't it better to die feeling free?

Kris absorbs that profound point.

**EXT/INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - MORNING**

SUPER: THE SEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

In Maria's stream, seven swans HONK, shocking Maria opening her door, in her bathrobe, cradling William the partridge. She is overwhelmed and grabs her phone and dials.

MARIA

(into phone)

Kris, come over and get your swans.  
This madness gonna push me to drink.

Inside, Maria opens the FRIDGE, grabs a BEER but fights the need to drink. She caresses a PHOTO of her SON (8) on the counter. Sissy enters, hair in a TOWEL, stands behind Maria.

SISSY

It's eight A.M.! Lord knows you got  
reason to drink. But it ain't helpin.

Maria shakes her head, CRIES, turns around to hug Sissy - but she's gone. Maria hugs the air, so very alone - fights her pain - then struggles to put the beer back in the fridge.

**INT/EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY - LATER**

Grant helps weak Kris (dressed female) walk the stone path to Maria's front door. The swans follow. Sober Maria pulls them all inside. Grant hurries Kris to the rocking chair where Kris cradles her adoring swans.

MARIA

Kris put a partridge in my pear tree?!

From the bathroom, Sissy enters, pulling on a sweatshirt.

SISSY

What?? Kris did??

KRIS

Yes, before I cross over I needed to find loving homes for my beloved birds.

Confused Sissy kisses Grant hello.

GRANT

Kris flew me here to help.

MARIA

So I get seven swans a-swimming because William needs company?

KRIS

William convinced me this is the best place for my swans and you're a devoted mother and will be a devoted mother to our, your, feathered family now.

MARIA

I am not a devoted mother. Ask my son. When you find him.

SISSY

After I stole a ring, you figured you'd teach me a lesson, Kris -- and give me five rings?

KRIS

Grant insisted you have them, to sell.

SISSY

They were your rings? Or your brother's?

KRIS

Yes.

Kris holds his/her racing heart, holds Grant's hand - then slowly removes the blonde wig.

MARIA

Your look like Dracula.

Kris CHUCKLES, then worriedly wipes off his/her make-up, revealing two days beard growth. He/she pulls out his falsies, lifts his dress to show hairy legs, shocking Maria and Sissy.

SISSY

You in menopause?

GRANT

She, he, is a man.

Maria sits down in shock.

SISSY

You're Grant's papa?

Grant pats Kris's back.

GRANT

I found out yesterday I got a gay dad.

KRIS

I'm not a homosexual.

GRANT

You're straight? You like women?

KRIS

I experimented with your mother, but she can tell you I never had much desire. I just always saw a woman in the mirror.

MARIA

Are you taking hormones?

KRIS

With this heart? I could get deep vein thrombosis and cause clots and why change my equipment anyway? I don't ever use it.

MARIA

I don't use my equipment either.

SISSY

Today, ain't nobody care if you trans.

KRIS

When I was a teenager my dad kicked  
me out for wearing mama's dress.  
Never ever saw my parents again.

Maria walks toward the fridge, opens a beer and drinks.

MARIA

You deserved better parents!

KRIS

I worry Paul may beat me.

MARIA

Paul's a loose cannon, why is it I find  
him so irresistible?

SISSY

He's married.

MARIA

Is he? Nobody's seen his wife for three  
years. Kris, tomorrow would be eight  
maids a-milking and you have cows.

KRIS

The five best cows on Earth. But we can't  
tie them to someone's porch. And we can't  
sneak a twenty foot cage of sandpipers on  
someone's porch. I'll have to let them  
free. So now that the rest of my feathered  
family has new homes, there's no reason to  
keep up the Secret Santa facade.

MARIA

I can get eight milkmaids to milk five  
cows tomorrow, eight maids a'milkin'.  
Then next day nine ladies dancing. We  
have to keep this going and show up at  
Paul's for nine ladies dancing. Then we  
can see if he really does have a wife.

Obsessed with Paul, Maria looks off in the distance.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Grant and Sissy holding VEGETABLES enter the house party.

**INT. FOYER/LIVING ROOM - GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Grant and Sissy enter. Delilah, made-up, gorgeous in a low-cut dress, sips a CHAMPAGNE FLUTE and hands one to Grant.

SISSY

Happy New Year! I'm makin' salad.

DELILAH

You weren't even invited. Grant was.  
Happy New Year's Eve, handsome man.

GRANT

Happy New Year.

Sad Sissy goes into the kitchen, then Delilah traps Grant.

DELILAH

Why should we fight this chemistry? I  
see in your eyes and lips you want me.

GRANT

(gulps, helpless)  
You look like a model tonight.

THEIR POV: Georgia plays poker with Paul, the Xongs and Brick, arm around pretty wife BRIDGET (39, red hair, buxom).

PAUL

What detective was onto you, Grant?

GRANT

You! Paul knew! He was following Kris's  
jeep for days!

PAUL

Maria, come sit down by me.

Maria smokes a cigarette, sees Grant grinning at Delilah, gets upset and marches to Grant.

MARIA

Grant! Don't you have a girlfriend??

GRANT

Sissy's in the kitchen.

Maria reaches into the kitchen and pulls out Sissy.

MARIA

Sissy's here, Delilah! Open your eyes!

SISSY

Did y'all hear Kris gave me the rings?

PAUL

Yup! And Brick told us Kris is a guy!

BRICK

How dare Kris lie to me! To all of us!

GRANT

My dad's heart is beating so fast he can't sleep. Tomorrow Maria is leading eight maids a-milkin' at his barn.

PAUL

Don't expect me. I stay where men dress like men.

BRICK

Screw Kris! Playing us for fools!

GEORGIA

Brick, you require us to joke! Kris played the biggest joke on us all for years! We'll see him tomorrow and laugh.

BRICK

Bridget and I have no time for fakes.

SISSY

Hypocrite. Brick, your hair is fake.

BRICK

It is not!

SISSY

And those are fake.

Sissy points to Bridget's fake breasts.

BRIDGET

These are real.

SISSY

You all lying in this town.

GEORGIA

Brick, Bridget, you have a right to tell Kris how you feel. We all do. Tomorrow we will. All of us. We're all going. Paul, damn it, you too.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT - MINUTES LATER**

Delilah pulls Grant outside on the porch, by the hens.

DELILAH

Come see our house -- just next door.

GRANT

Our house?

DELILAH

Of course, once we're married everything is fifty-fifty. I even called a local tax office and recommended your employ.

GRANT

Whoa. Delilah, I'm in love with Sissy.

DELILAH

You'll be over her in a month. Like a venereal disease.

She pulls his arms around her, then kisses him, then shoves a PAPER in his pocket.

DELILAH (cont'd)

Phone me when it's clear. I'm going home to our bedroom. Come over later.

He grins and watches her as she seductively swishes away.

**INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Grant, Sissy and the others play poker.

They all COUNTDOWN to midnight then New Year CHEER.

Grant and Sissy kiss as the TV shows New Year FIREWORKS.

**EXT. BARN - MORNING**

SUPER: THE EIGHTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Georgia exits her car.

**INT. BARN - MORNING - MINUTES LATER**

Grant answers the door, sees Georgia and Joe (in dark glasses).

GRANT

My dad's heart is racing but finally he's sleeping. So be as quiet as possible --

GEORGIA

Kris!!!! Get up!!! Get up dinosaur!!  
Get up transvestite hag!! Grant, can you help Delilah carry in the beer?

**EXT. BARN - DAY**

Delilah, in much make-up, waits seductively at the car.

GRANT

Let me grab that beer for you.

DELILAH

I dreamt about your strong arms all night.

Delilah kisses Grant. Sissy races over, suspicious.

SISSY

Grant got on lipstick. Like his dad.

Mad Sissy takes the case of beer, carries it to the house.

**INT. BARN - DAY**

Georgia sits next to Kris in bed, as a man, three days beard growth, no make-up. Many FRAMED PHOTOS are on the walls.

KRIS

Is it bizarre to see me not in a dress?

GEORGIA

It's bizarre to see you not in a suit.  
A Suit Of Armor riding a horse to battle because you're so old.



Joe enters in dark glasses and silently steals the WALLET from Georgia's open PURSE. Sissy sees the theft as she enters with the beer.

GEORGIA (cont'd)

My old friend, how could I hate you just because you want to eat, drink and be ...

KRIS

Mary? Shout out to you for your compassion. Shout out because you're so ancient you can't hear!

They LAUGH. Sissy secretly grabs Georgia's wallet from Joe's pocket. Joe struggles to keep it. It falls.

SISSY

Did somebody drop something?

They look down. Georgia picks it up.

GEORGIA

I'd lose my own head if it wasn't attached.

Sissy smirks at Joe, proud she stopped him from stealing.

**EXT. BARN/PORCH/FIELD - DAY - MINUTES LATER**

Grant and Delilah carry out weak Kris to a PICNIC TABLE. Grant hands the cowbell to Kris who RINGS it. Walking to the field, Sissy, Georgia and Joe milk the first cows to come. Qi and Li arrive at the porch picnic table by Kris and Grant.

QI

Oh, look, you Kris? As man?

KRIS

The real me. Hideous.

LI

No more hideous than all Caucasians. What you call a bench of white people?

KRIS

What do you call a bench of white people? I don't know the punchline. What?

Bridget approaches, stares into Kris's eyes, hugs Kris.

BRIDGET

You're beautiful either way.

Bridget releases Kris then guides Qi, Li and Delilah to the field near the cows.

KRIS

Li! Qi! What do you call a bunch of white people?!

They don't hear Kris. A car parks. It's Paul. Maria runs over.

PAUL

You good at milking, pretty gal?

MARIA

Maybe after dinner and a slow dance.

Long lustful eye-contact. He pulls her into a slow-dance. Their COUNTRY BALLAD replays. Intense chemistry. Romantic.

MARIA (cont'd)

Should you be dancing with me?

PAUL

I can't help how I feel for you.

**AT THE PORCH:** Brick yells at Kris.

BRICK

I give you guys everything, tell you everything! I trust you to go in my cash register! How would you feel about a friend who lied to you every minute they knew you? Stay away from my store!

Brick paces, furious. Paul and Maria also approach Kris.

KRIS

I expect you despise me too, cowboy?

PAUL

I don't hate you. But if I saw you out in public? Just best to stay away.

KRIS

We use to go to the State Fair together.

PAUL

Wasn't I a fool?

Upset Maria pokes Paul. Paul shrugs. Kris blushes, nods.

**EXT. RESTAURANT - YACHT CLUB - NIGHT**

Posh restaurant off the marina lit with PIER LIGHTS.

**INT. RESTAURANT - YACHT CLUB - NIGHT**

CROWDED BOOTHS face the lake or the BAD JAZZ SINGER and PIANO. With overly curled hair and overly made-up face, nervous Sissy waits tables. She hands MENUS to her customers, looks up to see they are Qi, Li, Georgia, Delilah and Grant. Sissy gulps, scared and cornered. Delilah LAUGHS at Sissy.

SISSY

What, is my hair too big?

GRANT

You look fantastic.

SISSY

So do you. You all do. Nice dress, Delilah. They didn't have it in your size? Can I bring you cocktails?

LATER: Sissy brings them DRINKS, takes their order, leaves, trips, due to Delilah's leg secretly tripping her.

The Xongs dance, quite showy, entertaining the crowd.

Sissy brings them FOOD. Grant looks adoringly at her, but Sissy grimaces seeing Delilah finger Grant's arm. Seated shy Grant inches away from Delilah, falling out the booth. Delilah helps him stand and yanks him to the dance floor, as the bad jazz singer SINGS.

Delilah dances clinging to Grant. He eyes Sissy and raises his arms to say he's helpless. Sissy flips him the bird.

Delilah sees her rich old man tapping Grant's shoulder.

DELILAH

Excuse us one dance, Grant. This is my ... uh, accountant.

Grant smiles, nods, goes to find Sissy. The rich old man holds Delilah near him as they slow dance.

DELILAH

You're not supposed to bother me in public.

RICH OLD MAN

I want you again tonight.

DELILAH

I'm not available tonight.

RICH OLD MAN

Call me when you're free. And by free I mean the regular price.

**EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NEXT MORNING**

SUPER: THE NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Quietly exiting parked cars, wearing SANTA HATS and red dresses, are Maria, Georgia, Delilah, Qi, Bridget, and Sissy. Grant and "blind" Joe wear regular coats and jeans. Maria carries extra Santa hats and leads the group as she tiptoes toward Paul's house and knocks on the door. Paul opens it, panics, steps outside then closes the door behind him.

GEORGIA

Paul! Your house is charming!

MARIA

Today is nine ladies dancing. Ta da!

PAUL

Can ... you go dance up the road a bit?

MARIA

Six ladies dancing drove here. Your wife and daughter will make eight! Kris was supposed to be nine but she's sick.

PAUL

My wife is not a dancer.

MARIA

If she exists, tell her to put on a red dress and come out and try to dance.

PAUL

What do you mean if she exists?

GEORGIA

Can't she speak for herself?

Georgia KNOCKS on the door. AMY (8, pig-tails) opens the door.

PAUL

Close the door, Amy.

AMY

Santa hats? Christmas was last week.

MARIA

Amy, this is the ninth day of Christmas,  
did your dad tell you what is going on?  
The Secret Santa Mystery?

AMY

No.

Maria maneuvers around Amy and steps into the house. Before Paul can stop her, Maria sees Paul's wife.

**INT. MAIN AREA - PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY**

In a WHEELCHAIR, WENDY (40, blonde, pretty) makes BREAKFAST, but has no use of her legs.

WENDY

Aren't you Maria? We met years ago?

MARIA

Oh. Oh. Hi.

WENDY

Come on in. Thank you for coming here.  
It's a damn hassle for me to go out.

PAUL

They just stopped by for a second and  
now they gotta get on.

WENDY

Who else is out there?! Get them in here!

Embarrassed Maria locks eyes with humiliated Paul.

PAUL

(reluctantly)

My wife Wendy says come on in.

Pushy Delilah yanks in Grant. Sissy follows them, jealous. All others enter, all stunned to see Wendy in wheelchair.

WENDY

Paul, you didn't tell them about the hunting accident?

Paul blushes. All eyes go to the MANY MOUNTED WILDGAME HEADS on the walls. Eventually Amy breaks the silence.

AMY

Want to see the new dolls I got for Christmas? I have sixty dolls now.

GEORGIA

Sixty? Can you take us to another room where we can we see sixty dolls?

Amy skips off to her bedroom. Georgia immediately skip-follows, as does Qi, Bridget, Sissy and Joe. Delilah yanks along Grant, leaving only Maria by Paul and Wendy. Awkward silence.

MARIA

What. A. Beautiful. House.

WENDY

Paul practically built the whole thing. He can do anything.

MARIA

Does he make mojitos?

WENDY

The best! I'd like one as well. Paul?

PAUL

No. Maria can't handle her liquor.

Paul pushes Wendy's wheelchair to Amy's room. Maria follows.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY - SAME**

Brick stocks shelves. Kris, no drag, four days beard growth, wobbles in the otherwise empty store.

KRIS

My cab is waiting outside.

Brick ignores Kris who holds back tears.

KRIS (cont'd)

I was wondering if you and Bridget  
would share your land with my cows.

Kris throws produce at Brick, but Brick still ignores Kris.

**INT. AMY'S ROOM - PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY - MINUTES LATER**

Joe sneaks out the room. Sissy glares at Grant for tolerating Delilah's hands on him. He shrugs, "What can I do?". She flips him the bird. The rest watch Amy show 60 DOLLS.

AMY

...Fifty-eight. Fifty-nine. Sixty.

WENDY

Sixty dolls. And nine ladies dancing?

MARIA

Not quite nine.

WENDY

Was I suppose to dance? I only dance at highway strip joints -- but hand me the hat. I can't pass this up.

Maria hands a hat to Wendy, and also one to Amy.

AMY

Can I, Dad?

PAUL

Sure, if you want to, princess.

**EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - MINUTES LATER**

With his phone, Grant photographs Maria, Georgia, Bridget, Amy and Sissy outside, choreographing a dance.

**INT. BEDROOM - PAUL'S HOUSE - MINUTES LATER**

Joe searches DRAWERS and JEWELRY BOXES. Paul creeps in.

PAUL

What the hell you stealing?

JOE

Is this not the restroom?

Paul grabs Joe and throws him. Joe swings back. Paul tackles him. Joe slithers out, kicks Paul's neck. Paul reaches for his GUN, FIRES. Wendy wheels herself in and seeing Joe's dead body, SCREAMS.

WENDY

You killed him!?

PAUL

He was robbing us blind.

WENDY

A blind man was stealing?! You killed a blind man!?

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY - SAME**

Kris wobbles to Brick and pulls on Brick's shirt sleeve.

BRICK

I reserve the right to refuse service.

Kris accidentally pulls off Brick's toupee, shocking them.

KRIS

You're pretending to be someone else??  
Just like me? But I don't hate you for it  
and I won't tell a soul you wear a toupee.

Brick puts on his toupee. The cab BEEPS. Kris wobbles out.

**INT. BEDROOM - PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY**

Paul stands over dead Joe. Exasperated Wendy dials the phone.

WENDY

(into phone)

Nine One One.

Joe moves slightly!



JOE  
Please do not bother the paramedics.

PAUL  
Look who's all better.

Wendy hangs up.

WENDY  
You're not shot?

JOE  
Such a relief I say, it appears not.

WENDY  
We're so, so sorry --

PAUL  
His hands were on your jewelry!

Joe crawls up, still feigning blindness and meanders out the room with his cane. Paul shrugs, perplexed.

WENDY  
Go help him!

When Paul passes Wendy she punches his back, furious.

**EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - MINUTES LATER**

The ladies do kicks and jazz hands. Wendy does her best from the wheelchair. The men applaud. The dancers bow.

**INT. BATHROOM - PAUL'S HOUSE - MINUTES LATER**

Paul wheels Wendy into the bathroom and lowers her skirt.

WENDY  
I bet we both pooped our pants today.  
I like Maria. Sweet energy.

PAUL  
Yeah, when she's sober.

WENDY  
I like her for you.

PAUL

For me?

WENDY

People with working bodies have sensual needs.

PAUL

I married you. Better, worse, for richer, for poorer, sickness, health.

WENDY

But you have needs I can't fulfill. And you shooting a gun! Coulda killed that poor man! Paul, you're trigger-happy! God help you. You have to release that tension. Maria can help you.

**EXT. PAUL'S HOME - DAY**

Delilah leans in Georgia's Mercedes window.

DELILAH

Go on. I'll make Grant drive me home.

GEORGIA

Girl, don't be too pushy. He's too shy.

Georgia's Mercedes drives away.

Grant's jeep pulls up to Sissy's clunker car.

GRANT

Sissy, Kris asks about you.

SISSY

I'll go check on her, him, sometime.

GRANT

What happened between us??

SISSY

You don't need me. You got ever'thing.

GRANT

Except you.

Delilah walks between them, gets in Grant's jeep door.

DELILAH

Georgia took off. Grant darling, you  
have to give me a ride. Bye Sissy!

Sissy rolls her eyes and turns her key but her car won't start. Grant jumps out the jeep, opens both their hoods, gets the jumper cables and clasps them to the batteries, smiling. Sissy turns her key over and over to no avail. To escape her humiliation, Sissy disconnects the cables, slams her hood and pushes her car downhill. Then she jumps in and turns the key and it starts. Grant looks amazed, still in love with Sissy.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY - LATER**

Bridget enters with all the Santa Hats and hands them to Brick who is pricing goods.

BRICK

Remember when we bought our land? Was it  
zoned for livestock?

BRIDGET

No, I wanted to have horses, remember?

Maria enters and rips open a bag and devours POTATO CHIPS.

MARIA

Did Paul come in?

BRICK

Paul only comes in in the morning.

MARIA

Put three bags of chips on my tab.

She chooses two more varieties, opens all three bags, and leaves while shoving food in her mouth.

BRICK

No customers. You know what that means.

BRIDGET

I'm on it. Boss.

Bridget presses the button for "The Stripper" song, then she bumps and grinds and shakes her falsies so much that one falls on the floor. Brick hands it back and comically strips in return. LARRY (40, handsome, black-beard) enters.

LARRY  
 Sorry to interrupt. Was that Maria  
 Flores a minute ago?

Brick doesn't answer.

LARRY (cont'd)  
 That brunette. Is her name Maria Flores?

BRICK  
 Who are you?

LARRY  
 A friend of hers.

BRICK  
 A friend would know if it was her.

Larry looks uncomfortable and exits.

BRIDGET  
 Call Maria and warn her some stalker --

BRICK  
 I'm on it. He's not from around here.

**INT. BARN - DAY**

Kris ("male," four days beard growth) stares into the dwindling  
 fireplace. Grant paces while dialing his cell phone.

KRIS  
 You're phoning scallywag Sissy again?

GRANT  
 She won't pick up.

KRIS  
 Worry about her later. We have a guest.

Delilah enters with COFFEE and shows her PHONE VIDEO to them.

DELILAH  
 Fortunately, our Santa hats and red  
 outfits are so distracting that no one  
 will see what a bad dancer Sissy is.

KRIS

Poor girl can't dance ... but she can  
sing ... that girl has a special voice.

Grant nods. Kris points curiously to Wendy on the video.

GRANT

Paul's wife. Seems Paul accidentally  
shot her while they were hunting.

KRIS

Awww. I wish I could help her.

GRANT

How can you help her? You can hardly  
move yourself.

KRIS

I cannot help her but I wish I could.

GRANT

Just saying. You can't help her.

KRIS

Fine! I cannot help her! Happy?!

GRANT

You're mad because I'm giving facts?

KRIS

I'm mad ... that I can't help her!

(fighting a nervous breakdown)

What did I do with my life? A joke here  
and there. Tons of make-up and  
pretense. A life should be more. I feel  
rotten. I feel rotted. So full of  
regrets. Why didn't I help people more?  
I was so centered in me, trying to be  
okay to look at, to be with, but I'll  
be in a grave soon and what will be my  
legacy? A hider, a bad drag queen? If I  
could do it all over again, I'd be  
there for others so much more.

GRANT

You helped me.

KRIS

You can help me if you take Delilah out for a nice dinner at the Yacht Club.

GRANT

Nah, I just want to stay here.

DELILAH

Kris is right. We're going to the club, Grant. Won't you please join us, Kris?

KRIS

No, I can't be seen like this.

GRANT

I'll go only if Kris goes. Like that. No make-up.

Kris looks terrified.

KRIS

People can't see me like this!

Kris rushes to a mirror, disgusted at his face. He grabs make-up to apply. Grant, stern, pulls it away.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

There's a light inside Georgia's beautiful bay view Tudor.

**INT. BEDROOM - GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Georgia eats ICE CREAM in her bed.

GEORGIA

I miss you, Roy. Been so long since you snored me to hit you with pillows, I wish you'd spend just an hour with me. Just an hour! Roy, one hour, for mercy's sake.

**EXT. RESTAURANT - YACHT CLUB - NIGHT**

The restaurant off the marina.

**INT. RESTAURANT - YACHT CLUB - NIGHT**

With less curled hair and less make-up than last time, Sissy waits tables, not pleased to see Kris ("male"), Grant and

Delilah at a table served by another WAITRESS. Delilah caresses Grant but he looks at Sissy longingly, guiltily.

Terrified drunk Kris darts her eyes around the room, seeing Paul at another table with HUNTERS. Paul ignores Kris.

The Xongs see Kris and go to his table.

KRIS

I still don't know the punchline. What do you call a bench of white people? What??

Distracted by MUSIC, the Xongs dance. Kris drinks heavily, then steps to the center microphone amid GASPS and WHISPERS.

KRIS

May I please have your attention?

All eyes are on him. Sissy steps nearer, curious. Paul leaves.

KRIS (cont'd)

You wonder, oh is this where the freak is revealed and embarrasses himself, herself and yourself? That was my plan a minute ago ... but it occurred to me that when I cross over, you people don't come with me ... I can only take memories of who and what you are, so I pledge to remember you all with what you wear at this minute ... polite smiles ... and I'll also take many images of our good times over these long years ... I love each and every one of you to bits, always have -- but enough about me. Let's discuss Sissy the new waitress screwing up everybody's orders. She's not a very talented waitress, is she? Honestly now?

Kris points to Sissy who hides her face. Grant stands.

GRANT

She's a fine waitress! She needs this job!

KRIS

Come up here, Sissy Sparks, and show these people what you're hiding behind that apron. This girl's got big city talent -- wait 'til you hear her sing.

Sissy freezes, shocked. Grant stands, APPLAUDS. Delilah looks jealous. Drunk Kris extends his hands and Sissy takes them. Kris moves to the piano player, WHISPERS. The man plays PIANO.

SISSY

(nervous)

Y'all already know I'm a bad waitress.

Well, okay, cool, I know this song.

(singing)

*Summertime, and the livin' is easy  
Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high  
... Oh, your daddy's rich and your ma is  
good-lookin' So hush little baby, don't  
you cry ...*

A star is born! Everybody is riveted, except Delilah. Sissy seductively removes her apron and sings her heart out.

SISSY

*One of these mornings You're gonna rise  
up singing, Yes you'll spread your wings  
And you'll take to the sky ...*

**INT. BEDROOM - BARN - DAY**

SUPER: THE TENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Kris, five days beard growth, hangover, wakes to EGGS, served by Grant who holds Kris's wrist to time a heartbeat.

GRANT

You have a real slow heartbeat.

KRIS

Blame my hangover.

Kris tries to sit up but is too weak. Grant looks worried.

**EXT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

Grant parks the jeep just as Paul walks into the store.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

Brick rings up Georgia and the Xongs. Sissy steadies drunk, paranoid Maria.



MARIA

No I don't know a guy with a black beard, Brick. -- I got me a stalker?

Paul enters and waves his cowboy hat to everybody.

MARIA (cont'd)

Paul! I'm a fool! I'm so so sorry we invaded your lovely home.

LI

Maria was a fool.

QI

Because Maria has crush on Paul.

GEORGIA

Maria wasn't sure Paul had a wife.

PAUL

You all saw Wendy ... Wendy is fine.

Awkward silence as Paul pours himself coffee.

PAUL (cont'd)

Truth though? Truth is Wendy is ungrateful. Refusing to use what I bought her for Christmas. A trampoline.

Everyone is shocked.

PAUL (cont'd)

Just a joke! The rule here is to joke! I get a free coffee for that joke, Brick? Wendy actually gave it to me.

BRICK

You get a free coffee. Bring one to Wendy, too. The establishment encourages tasteless and inappropriate content.

Grant enters and moves to kiss Sissy who rejects him.

GRANT

Everybody loved your singing!

SISSY

Except your girlfriend, Delilah?

GRANT

Kris forced me to take her out.

SISSY

Poor little baby Grant! Delilah's perfect for you. Yacht Club asked me to sing three nights a week! Thanks for clapping so much last night. You got everybody to. I owe you.

GRANT

You could help me. Today is ten lords a'leaping. Can you get ten guys to leap?

SISSY

What?

GRANT

I'm a stranger here. I can't go up to ten guys and ask them to leap.

SISSY

Poor baby. Why do ten guys need to leap?

GRANT

We're not finished until the twelve drummers drum.

SISSY

Everybody knows Kris and you was the Santa. Ain't no people gonna leap today.

GRANT

Just ask them. Please.

SISSY

You ask them! Are you a man or a spineless weak pushover puppet??

Embarrassed and hurt, Grant looks away.

GEORGIA

How do you like your coffee, Grant? Let me make it for you.

GRANT

(summoning courage, confidence)  
Like my women. Black and full-bodied.

GEORGIA

Listen to the city man. Preach.

Brick presses the button for "The Stripper" SONG, and Georgia good-naturedly swivels as she gives Grant coffee.

GRANT

So, who is going to be ten lords a-leaping today?

PAUL

Real men don't leap.

GRANT

Today we need ten guys to leap. Tomorrow I'll set the eleven sandpipers free, then in two days we all need to drum, okay?

PAUL

You think jumping up and down is gonna get Kris's heart to beat right?

GRANT

No, nothing can. But don't you feel there is something bigger guiding this now?

PAUL

God?

GRANT

Maybe God, or momentum. Kismet. Favorable astrology. Like a Vegas winning streak.

SISSY

It's baby Grant's jackpot week. Got a new aunt, and papa, and estate, and a virgin with a lake house. Sorry if I don't see the point of ten guys leaping.

GEORGIA

Picture them in gray sweatpants.

BRICK

Count me out.

MARIA

Leap! Like a ballet!

Maria leaps, struggling for balance. Paul steadies her.

SISSY

Don't lead her on! Let's go home, Maria.

MARIA

Life is a ballet! Hey! Joe plays drums!

GEORGIA

Hm, we've seen Joe play invisible drums,  
not sure if he plays real drums ... I  
can find out, Grant.

GRANT

Thanks, Georgia! Let me know.

Sissy pulls out dancing Maria, but Maria embarrasses herself further, peeking her head back in, slobbering.

MARIA

Paul, you're Romeo and I'm Juliet ...  
but you already have a Juliet.

**INT/EXT. JEEP - COUNTRY ROADS - DAY**

Driving the pink jeep, Grant speaks into his phone.

GRANT

I'm sorry but I don't know when I'll be  
back ... my dad is still dying.

**INT. TAX ATTORNEY OFFICE - CHICAGO - DAY**

Coner is on the phone.

MR. CONER

He's been dying ten days.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

GRANT

He probably only has a few more.

MR. CONER

Bury him and be here tomorrow.

Coner hangs up.

**OUTSIDE THE JEEP:** Grant sees MANY FISHERMEN walking. Summoning courage, he gets out and chases them.

GRANT

Guys! Just a sec! I know this sounds ridiculous, but I'll pay you if you leap.

FISHERMAN 1

Leap??

Grant leaps as if in a ballet. Half the men speed up to get away, half stop in their tracks in disbelief.

GRANT

Fifty bucks each. Just to leap a bit like this.

FISHERMAN 1

Gosh, I just can't leap.

FISHERMAN 2

Look at his pink jeep.

GRANT

A hundred bucks each?

FISHERMAN 3

Wrong town, pervert.

They shove him, punch him, run away, some leaping in jest.

**INT. BEDROOM - BARN - DAY**

Grant enters to see Sissy perform CPR on lifeless Kris (five days beard growth).

SISSY

Kris died!!

SISSY AND GRANT

Kris! Kris! Can you hear us? Kris?

Kris's fog-like spirit leaps out of its body and floats toward the ceiling and up.

GRANT

I'm shocked to find you here.

SISSY

I came by to check on him, not you.

**EXT. CHICAGO BUILDING - DAY**

A modest brick apartment building with "Chicago Flats" SIGN.

**INT. KITCHEN - IDA'S APARTMENT - CHICAGO BUILDING - DAY**

Kris's spirit flies in the neat apartment where Ida cooks, sharing SCRAPS with an IRISH SETTER DOG.

**INT. KRIS'S PARENT'S HOUSE - DAY**

Kris's spirit follows LIGHT ORBS above an old family scene of FIVE-YEAR-OLD BOY KRIS and KRIS'S MOTHER and KRIS'S FATHER.

KRIS'S MOTHER

Happy Birthday, Kris.

His mother cuts him PIE. His rigid father adds ICE CREAM.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

That is still my favorite memory. Who's calling me?

A CLOUDLIKE TUNNEL appears above. Kris's spirit flies into a FRIENDLY LIGHT TORNADO where SMEARS OF LIGHT pass him.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

You are souls?? I know you're souls. I know you somehow, don't I??

Quickly, the tunnel stops and a GROWING LIGHT appears.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

Dad?

The GROWING LIGHT LEAPS into Kris's spirit fog.

ANOTHER ANGLE: Kris and his father's SEE THROUGH HUMAN BODIES embrace.

KRIS'S FATHER

Please forgive me. Take my light and energy, son. I am so sorry for how I treated you, son.

KRIS'S SEE THROUGH BODY  
 I love you again, too, Dad and I love  
 Mama again wherever she is. Mama? Mama??

Kris's spirit fog rushes to his MOTHER'S SPIRIT and together  
 they pulse a strong HEARTBEAT LIGHT.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)  
 I forgive you for disowning me, Mama,  
 because I understand everything now and I  
 see the challenges in your life!

Now forgiven, her SPIRIT FACE becomes happy and younger.

LIFE REVIEW MONTAGE: Kris's mother's LIFE REVIEW plays  
 quickly, showing events of her life (sped up STUCK FOOTAGE),  
 ending to when she was a GIRL playing with RABBITS.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)  
 Mama, I feel your love for animals.  
 That's where I learned to value animals.

KRIS'S MOTHER (V.O.)  
 Animals never let me down. Your father's  
 coldness let us down. I was let down when  
 we kicked you out and you never came back.

STRANGE VOICE (V.O.)  
 Kris! Kris ... Kris!

**EXT. HEAVEN - DAY**

Kris's spirit flies into a heaven with a robed ANGEL.

ANGEL  
 You can stay here -- or go back a short  
 while. There's no wrong answer.

KRIS (V.O.)  
 I am overwhelmed here! So much love!  
 Every cell in my being is excited to be  
 here!! I need to stay with you.

ANGEL  
 Then leap up fully. Leap up and out of  
 your coma body.

KRIS (V.O.)

I don't deserve this. This "heaven" is for givers. Why am I here??

ANGEL

All souls knew this life before you incarnated. All are welcome back.

KRIS (V.O.)

I can't stay here. I need to give more on Earth. My son. Sweet Grant needs me.

**INT. BEDROOM - BARN - DAY**

Kris's spirit is sucked back into his dying body. He opens his human eyes to see Sissy playing guitar and Grant, sad.

SISSY

(singing)

*One of these mornings You're gonna rise  
up singing, Yes you'll spread your wings  
And you'll take to the sky ...*

GRANT

He opened his eyes! He's back!

KRIS

I leaped into the after-life and my father's light leaped into me and an angel wanted me to leap further away from this Earth life forever. Three leaps.

GRANT

The tenth day of Christmas. Ten lords a-leaping.

KRIS

I crossed over. I flew and I saw Mama and Dad and I saw Ida and your Kitty.

SISSY

Grant, you got a cat?

GRANT

No, that's my dog's name. "Kitty." I never told you guys that.



KRIS

Grant's mother, Ida, is cooking in her kitchen, wearing a tan top with pearl necklace in an apartment three doors down from Grant's. Grant's interior is gray with blue walls in the halls and beige carpeting in his living room. His bedroom has framed posters of New York but one poster is set to fall out of the glass and be on the floor in a day or two. How do I know this? I don't know how I know. Ida has cream walls and burgundy appliances and checkered burgundy and cream curtains and a rooster cookie jar for dog yumyums, but she'll drop the cookie jar and break it, I can see it. She's cooking penne with mushrooms and drinking seltzer with lemon and baking a banana cream pie but she forgot to add vanilla. Ask her. She can't find her pearl earrings.

GRANT

There's no way you could know this.

SISSY

Unless his soul flew outta his body.

GRANT

Whoa!!!

SISSY

Amazing!! Unreal!!

All three are aghast at the miracle. Grant dials his phone.

GRANT

(into phone)

Mom, are you cooking?

**INT. IDA'S APARTMENT - CHICAGO - SAME**

Ida, on the phone, drops the rooster cookie jar, breaking it.

IDA

(into phone)

Oh! There goes the cookie jar!

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

GRANT

She broke the cookie jar!  
 (into the phone)  
 Did you forget the vanilla in the pie?

IDA

That's what I forgot! I knew I forgot something. Hey! What is this??

**AT THE BARN:** Kris signals he wants the phone. Grant hands it to him.

KRIS

Ida, this is Kris. Remember me?

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

IDA

Kris? ... How are you, Kris? Long time.

KRIS

I just flew in your kitchen, Ida, and see you're still drinking seltzer with lemon.

IDA

You flew?? You're weirding me out!

KRIS

I don't want to weird you out but I only wanted to thank you for raising our boy because you did wondrous.

IDA

I did, didn't I!

KRIS

Your pearl earrings are in the key bowl.

**IN IDA'S APARTMENT:** Ida finds the KEY BOWL and below coins are her PEARL EARRINGS. She SCREAMS in joy.

KRIS

Not like I gave you those earrings, Ida. I only found them for you. I need to give more. Please angels let me give more.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

Brick rings up Maria's items. At the window seat, Paul sits and lights a PIPE.

BRICK

Paul, who else lets you smoke a pipe  
in their place of business?

PAUL

Just you. My favorite rule breaker.

Sober Maria sits next to Paul. Paul strokes her hair.

PAUL (cont'd)

Wendy told me to have fun with you  
and she wasn't talking shuffleboard.

MARIA

She did no such thing.

PAUL

Swear on my life.

Maria searches his eyes then looks away.

MARIA

Wanna come by?

PAUL

More than anything.

MARIA

To see the swans and the partridge.

PAUL

Go. Give me five minutes behind you.

She excitedly gathers her jacket and bags and leaves.

**INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Maria opens her door and Paul leaps inside. He follows her as she feeds the NOISY swans. She reaches for a beer can but he pours it down the sink. She watches, mad.

MARIA

I need me a beer!

PAUL

No more beer. I got to call Wendy.

MARIA

Well what am I going to drink?!!

He pours her a GLASS of water as he dials the phone. She throws it in the sink, breaking the glass.

PAUL

(into phone)

I'm at Maria's. And. She asked me. To fix her TV.

**INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY - SAME**

Amy holds the phone body as Wendy speaks into the receiver.

WENDY

(into phone)

Amy and I can hear you. That is fine.  
Thank you for letting us know.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

PAUL

I tell you everything. Fixing her TV is your idea.

WENDY

I am A-okay with you fixing her TV.

PAUL

You sure? Fixing. Her. TV?

WENDY

Do it. Yes. Fixing her TV can take pressure off me. Off you.

PAUL

Fixing her TV feels guilty, I don't know. I love you. Tell me to get home right now and I will.

WENDY

Don't you dare. Fix her TV for me. Amy can take care of me tonight. Hang up the phone, Amy.

**INT. BEDROOM - MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY - MINUTES LATER**

Eyes misty, Paul saunters to Maria's room and removes his shirt. Their COUNTRY BALLAD replays. This is the moment they have fantasized for years. Maria lays in bed in a NIGHTGOWN - then suddenly conflicted, she rises, opens a closet and puts on a thick full-body PARKA coat. Paul tries to take it off her but she keeps it on, even zips up the hood.

**EXT. BARN - NIGHT**

There's a KNOCK on Kris's barn door.

**INT. FOYER/LIVING ROOM/BEDROOM - BARN - NIGHT**

Sissy opens the door and pulls in Brick and Bridget.

SISSY

Kris died and revived! He's telling secrets 'bout the other side!

BRICK

What other side?

**BEDROOM**

Grant, Sissy, Brick and Bridget surround Kris's bed.

BRICK

Get well, Kris. Come back to the store.

KRIS

Brick, Bridget, you argued about me in the car and you ate a casserole with broccoli and there's two-hundred-four dollars in Brick's wallet.

Brick pulls out his WALLET and counts his money.

BRICK

Exactly right.

Kris grabs and holds Brick's gnarled fingers.

KRIS

I can read your mind. You want to switch houses!

BRICK

That's why we came!

KRIS

You want Grant to take your gorgeous property in trade since it's about the same value so you can farm and raise cows and horses here. Oh thank you!

Kris's fingers pulse as he holds Brick's fingers.

BRIDGET

I always dreamed of having a farm.

KRIS

Bridget, you have Brick's first love letter to you in your underwear drawer.

SISSY

Lordy be! Listen to him!

KRIS

Sissy, the angels say you need to write a song about me. I don't know why. I don't know how I ... I am both dead and alive for a very short while. That was just whispered in my ear.

GRANT

Unbelievable.

KRIS

Brick made a leap today to change his house and Paul made a leap today, and I can see exactly what he is doing but it should remain private.

Kris releases Brick's hand. It is no longer gnarled!

BRICK

You fixed my fingers?!

KRIS

The molecules have been reprogrammed, changing cell memory. I have access to extraordinary energy and abilities that we have after death because ...

(MORE)

KRIS (cont'd)

... I am dead and alive, in both realms, a glitch for a very short while. When we souls are born on Earth into a baby's form, we agree to dismiss our unearthly magical abilities and it appears that my plug is loose -- almost unplugged -- so instead of being limited to Earth's rules, one current, one channel, one radio station, I have them all back -- for glorious seconds or minutes.

SISSY

We got to be recording this!

Sissy records Kris with her phone. Kris collapses and dies. Seconds later Grant shakes him awake, alive.

KRIS

I saw all ten lords a-leaping. I shared five. The angels tell me I can help blind Joe "leap". It is a chance for me to give ... These four ladies will benefit from the last four leaps. Sissy, Georgia, Maria and Wendy -- now I'm going to fly and go see Wendy. You told me I couldn't help her. Well I am going to try!

His spirit leaves his body - leaving a smile on his face.

**EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF LAKE - NIGHT**

Kris's spirit flies over homes, diving down to Paul's house.

**INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Kris's spirit, only with much concentration, helps Amy struggling to move Wendy from her wheelchair into her bed.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

Does this woman need to be paralyzed?!

(to Wendy)

Wendy, why are you paralyzed?

Wendy hears the bodyless voice, and answers with her thoughts.

WENDY'S MIND (V.O.)

My husband shot me.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

Do you take any accountability for your physicality?

WENDY'S MIND (V.O.)

What can I do about it?

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

Do you take accountability?

WENDY'S MIND (V.O.)

It was Paul's fault. I told him a hundred times to get rid of his guns.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

If you leave the power with him, you cannot have the power.

WENDY'S MIND (V.O.)

I didn't shoot me. He did.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

Let's take your power back.

WENDY'S MIND (V.O.)

What??

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

Join me, review and reexperience your Earth life. Here we go.

LIFE REVIEW MONTAGE: Wendy watches her LIFE REVIEW (sped up stock footage) - from her birth - to toddler - to child ...

**INT. WENDY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - DAY**

Wendy (18) watches WENDY'S MOTHER, in bathrobe, nag WENDY'S FATHER, in suit.

WENDY'S FATHER

Can you help me tie this tie?

WENDY'S MOTHER

We're not going to the party.

WENDY'S FATHER

Oh come on. Get dressed.



WENDY'S MOTHER

No, you said you'd confirm by noon.

WENDY'S FATHER

You had five hours to get dressed.

WENDY'S MOTHER

The point is you did not do what you said. I'm not going.

WENDY'S MIND (V.O.)

Ma always found ways to punish Father.

**INT. LARRY'S VAN - FOREST - MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Black-bearded Larry, driving, is terrified when the VAN miraculously drives on it's own, stopping outside Maria's.

**EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Larry, shaken, confused, rings the DOORBELL.

**INT. BEDROOM/LIVING ROOM - MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

In her bedroom, Maria, wearing the parka, slow dances with naked, frustrated Paul. Their COUNTRY BALLAD love song stops.

MARIA

My husband cheated on me. I can't do that to Wendy.

PAUL

But she sent me to you.

The doorbell RINGS again.

**EXT/INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Maria, in parka, opens her door to see Larry.

MARIA

Hello?

LARRY

Maria Florez? I can't believe my van drove to your house!

MARIA  
Have we met before?

LARRY  
Online dating site. Stockbroker Larry.

MARIA  
Is that right? Oh I recognize you.

LARRY  
Am I a crazy stalker? Oh I hope not. I just pursue and investigate, which is why I'm so successful at buying and selling I guess. I liked you online but usually the women don't look as good in person, so I spy a bit before I meet the women to see if they really are what they present, and not using ten year-old photos. I just try to avoid hurt feelings. You look like your photo. Do I?

MARIA  
You do exactly.

LARRY  
Your face is like a mysterious work of art. But you deleted your profile so I couldn't message or find you.

MARIA  
I got confused, about looking.

LARRY  
Maria, here is my card. Call me when I can take you to the best dinner of your life. You like country dancing?

MARIA  
I do. Interesting. Thank you, Larry.

Larry touches her parka and steps inside.

LARRY  
Let me fix your heater, you're freezing.

MARIA  
No!

She pushes him out.

LARRY

Well then next time. I'm relationship material. Looking to settle down, monogamous, you know, no drugs, no drink, great income.

MARIA

No drink?

LARRY

Never even tried it.

MARIA

Well don't you think you should at least try it?

LARRY

Maria, if ever I would try alcohol, it is right now after the crazy day I had.

MARIA

I don't have any booze here to give you.

LARRY

I don't want it. Even today.

MARIA

We'll continue this another time.

He smiles and leaps away from stone to stone over her creek.

**EXT. BARN - NIGHT**

Grant and Sissy climb into an AMBULANCE with Kris's GURNEY.

**INT/EXT. AMBULANCE - STREET - NIGHT**

INSIDE: Grant and Sissy caress unconscious smiling Kris as a PARAMEDIC tries to revive him with SMELLING SALTS.

PARAMEDIC

Come on, old man. You're smiling so that means you're still with us.

GRANT

Or -- a smile like that might mean he is  
some place better?

The paramedic issues ELECTRIC SHOCKS, forcing Kris into convulsions and to awake in pain. Kris SCREAMS, then goes unconscious again, no longer smiling.

**INT. BEDROOM - DELILAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Kris's spirit flies down to hug Gus the goose. An odd wind is all that is noticed by nearby Delilah who is disrobing by her bed as the undressing rich old man hands her CASH for sex.

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

Kris lies motionless. A NURSE checks his BEDSIDE MONITOR.

NURSE

Nothing we can do but wait.

The nurse leaves. Grant and Sissy lay on the floor a PIZZA BOX apart.

GRANT

Want to check out Brick's house tomorrow?

SISSY

I don't see why not.

GRANT

And will you marry me?

SISSY

Marry? You? What's wrong with your head?

Grant shuffles over to her and cuddles her.

GRANT

This is my leap. I know it doesn't make sense. My Chicago life made sense, but the joy level was one there. Since I've met you, my joy level is always ten.

SISSY

Delilah seems to make you joyous.

GRANT

Kris made me take her to the Yacht Club.  
I'm not into her.

SISSY

Bullshit, baby Grant. You acting helpless  
while dancing with that beautiful bitch.  
No grown man is helpless. Only babies.

GRANT

I'm used to my mom telling me what to do,  
so it's an old habit of just following  
directions, like the place I work.

SISSY

I'm not gonna marry a baby that can't  
stand up for himself or any man I known  
for a week. You done lost your mind.

**INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

SUPER: THE ELEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Morning. Maria lays awake in her bed, wearing her hooded parka, with mixed-emotions for sleeping Paul.

**EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Maria, in parka, feeds the swans and partridge.

**INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Maria, in parka, sips coffee. From the bedroom, Paul enters in cowboy hat, dressing. They catch eyes, smile politely.

PAUL

I got to get home.

MARIA

I understand.

PAUL

See you at Brick's for coffee?

MARIA

No, gonna have mine here today.

He awkwardly leaves. She finally removes her parka.

**INT/EXT. CAR - FOREST ROADS - DAY**

As Paul drives home, he gets happier and happier.

**INT. BEDROOM - PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY**

Paul hurries in to see Wendy in bed.

WENDY

Good morning. How was your night?

PAUL

A mistake. How was yours?

WENDY

One of the best nights of my life.

PAUL

What?? Without me??

WENDY

Look. My toes.

Paul sees the slightest movement in her toes.

PAUL

Holy Moly! You moved your toes!!

WENDY

I feel a tingle by my right ankle now!

PAUL

I'm so sorry.

WENDY

About last night??

PAUL

No, the shooting accident.

WENDY

That doesn't matter. I don't care anymore if you're sorry. You've been sorry three years. I am no longer a victim.

He looks confused.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

With two perfect hands, Brick bags food for Georgia.

BRICK

Did you hear Kris is in a coma?

GEORGIA

In a coma?

BRICK

Yesterday in her, his, bed at his barn  
he told us she, he, was happy to go,  
and just got back from a Near Death  
Experience and was telling us all about  
the superpowers he had. Now you know I  
think all that spiritual mumbo jumbo is  
hogwash, but he-she literally read our  
minds and then he-she did this!

Brick shows off his healed fingers.

GEORGIA

Your fingers aren't twisted!

BRICK

Said she had access to different energies  
than we do because he-she was not plugged  
into the Earth life.

Georgia's eyes widen in amazement.

**EXT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

Georgia exits with groceries, talking to herself.

GEORGIA

I want a miracle, Roy. Can you hear me?  
Why can't I have a miracle?? Roy!?

**EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF LAKE - DAY**

Kris's spirit fog flies over homes, then into the Xong's.

**INT. KITCHEN - XONG'S HOUSE - DAY**

Li and Qi tango to TV instructions. The TV suddenly shuts  
off. Li and Qi comically turn in synchronized tango as

APPLIANCES blink on in all directions. They freeze, freaked as REFRIGERATOR LETTER MAGNETS magically move to spell N-B-A.

QI

NBA?

LI

NBA? National Basketball Association?  
Kris is ghost!? I ask Kris what you call bench of white people. White people not good as black people at basketball so white people sit on bench. What do you call bench of white people? NBA.

QI

Kris is poltergeist??

**EXT. BARN - DAY**

Grant and Brick approach Juan, fixing the fence. Recalling Grant sending air-hugs the prior week, Juan sends Grant air-hugs. Embarrassed Grant returns the air-hugs.

GRANT

Brick, the property goes to the fence.

BRICK

This land is larger than I expected, but mine is appraised about the same value because of my location.

GRANT

Let's go take a look.

BRICK

And no pressure.

GRANT

No pressure. I have to move back to Chicago anyway.

**EXT. BRICK'S HOUSE - DAY**

Sissy hangs on Grant as they explore Brick's lush property.

SISSY

Most beautiful place I ever seen.



GRANT

Right? Like a fantasy! Like a dream.

SISSY

I love you, Grant, more than anyone.  
But you can do better. Delilah's better.  
I hate her but she's better.

GRANT

I don't want to do better. I am in  
love with you. Skank.

SISSY

(laughing)  
That is the nicest thing anyone ever  
said to me.

She climbs on him. He spins around, kissing her.

**INT. BRICK'S HOUSE - DAY**

Brick shows Grant and Sissy the house interior.

SISSY

Can we sleep here tonight?

BRICK

Sure thing, there's a pull-out couch.

GRANT

Can we be alone?

BRICK

Gotcha. Bridget and I can sleep at the  
barn. Sure. We can feel it out before  
we make such a drastic change.

**EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF LAKE - DAY**

Snow. Kris's spirit flies over homes then into Georgia's.

**EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Kris's spirit flies in through Georgia's window.

**INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Kris's spirit flies above lonely Georgia who pets hens. Kris

twists and becomes a LIGHT, then ANOTHER LIGHT is pulled to him. This other light leaps across the room and assembles into ROY'S SEE-THROUGH HUMAN BODY, not visible to Georgia.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

Georgia! Roy's here.

Frightened of a bodyless voice, she jumps, confused.

GEORGIA

Roy, did you say something??

Georgia cannot hear or see Roy nor see Kris's spirit fog.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

Roy's here.

GEORGIA

Old Kris??

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

Young Kris, you old fool. Roy is with you and always has been and always will be.

Georgia wipes a tear and hugs the hens.

GEORGIA

Oh Roy, I miss you so much.

KRIS'S SPIRIT (V.O.)

He will be here, in this room, for one hour. My gift to you, you old weirdo.

An HOURGLASS on her shelf magically turns upside down!!

GEORGIA

Of course you'd time me, you chincy hag!

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

Sissy smiles at Grant who puts Kris's blonde wig on unconscious Kris in the hospital bed. Sissy puts lipstick on Kris. Grant answers his RINGING phone.

GRANT

(into phone)

Hello? ... I'm in his hospital room now.

**INT. IDA'S APARTMENT - CHICAGO - DAY**

Ida paces in her apartment as she speak into the PHONE.

IDA

Do you have to be there when he dies?

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

GRANT

I don't have to be, I want to be.

IDA

Well I want you to be at the tax office.  
Mr. Coner will fire you if you're not  
back immediately.

GRANT

Okay, that sounds great. Fire me. Maybe  
I'll just stay here forever.

He hangs up, surprising himself - and Sissy.

SISSY

Who is this strong defiant man before me?

GRANT

Your strong fiancé.

SISSY

Not even fiancé. You're strong because I  
tell you to be strong?

GRANT

Yes.

SISSY

Then you still the same weak lost boy  
doing what you ordered. Fact. I don't  
wanna tell you what to do, Grant.

Grant is confused.

**EXT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

Georgia runs in, excited.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY - MINUTES LATER**

Joe, in dark glasses, inches toward the OPEN CASH REGISTER as Brick SWEEPS. Georgia races in and hugs Brick.

GEORGIA

Got me a miracle, Brick! Roy came. Too much to believe, but it happened!

BRICK

What? Roy's ghost came to you??

GEORGIA

Yes! Same old Roy! He came!! Hi Joe.

JOE

Dare I congratulate you on whatever brings such exuberance.

GEORGIA

Nothing, just miracles!! Joe, do you play drums?

JOE

Drums and keyboard tend to occupy my time most productively, why do you ask?

GEORGIA

Grant needs twelve drummers drumming.

**INT/EXT. GEORGIA'S MERCEDES - JOE'S CABIN - DAY**

Georgia parks her car. She and Joe get out, walk to his door.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - JOE'S CABIN - DAY**

Joe blindly leads in Georgia.

GEORGIA

You kept the decor.

JOE

There's a reason blind people don't win awards for interior decorating.

GEORGIA

Half the time I forget you're blind. Where are the turtledoves?

JOE

I don't hear them now. They come in and out through a hole on the wall above the cage. Do you see it?

GEORGIA

I see it.

JOE

They usually come when I play music and they sing along and dance.

GEORGIA

How do you know they dance? Do you feel them?

JOE

(caught, lying)  
Yes, I feel them.

GEORGIA

But aren't your hands on the instruments?

Georgia looks confused at the KEYBOARD and DRUMS. Joe sits there and plays HAUNTING MUSIC then SINGS FOLKSY JAZZ. She holds her heart, profoundly moved, relaxing more with each song. She closes her eyes, asleep. Joe sees the doves fly in but he can't see Kris's invisible body appear and pet them.

JOE

Excuse me as I use the powder room.

Joe inches toward the bathroom and quietly steals Georgia's wallet and DIAMOND WATCH from her open purse.

#### **BATHROOM - MINUTES LATER**

CREDIT CARDS and MUCH CASH and the diamond watch are laid out on the bathroom sink. Joe grins at himself in the mirror.

Suddenly the MIRROR shows KRIS'S FACE instead!

KRIS

You create your world. You created being blind.

Kris disappears. JOE IS SUDDENLY REALLY BLIND - seeing only BLACK. He panics, moves nearer the mirror, flicks the light

switch - but nothing brings back his sight. He blindly shoves the bracelet, cards and cash back in Georgia's wallet.

**LIVING ROOM**

Georgia sits back, eyes closed, smiling, HUMMING. Joe stumbles in quietly, feeling blindly for Georgia's purse to put back the wallet. Then he stumbles to find his chair, drums and keyboard. Georgia opens her eyes.

GEORGIA

You're so talented. You could go pro.

JOE

(panicked)

Sadly I am too unconventional to elicit a large audience.

GEORGIA (O.S.)

You sound commercial to me! I'm going to recommend you to the Yacht Club!

Joe plays MUSIC and SINGS. His new reality of blindness adds depth, noticed by them both. He wipes his tears. So does she.

GEORGIA

I'm taking you to lunch since you treated me to the most magnificent concert.

JOE

You go. I'm not hungry.

KRIS (O.S.)

Listen, Joe. You must go with Georgia.

GEORGIA

What did you say?

JOE

I ... I must? ... go?

Georgia rises and sees her wallet and diamond watch hanging out of her purse.

GEORGIA

I need to get a new purse. Good thing you're not a thief.

JOE

Like that deplorable Sissy character.  
You should get a restraining order.

GEORGIA

Hush! All she steals now is hearts.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

Many LOCALS shop and eat. Delilah, Xi and Li drink coffee in the window. Sissy and Grant eat at a table by the coffee station. Georgia guides in Joe who is really blind.

SISSY

Georgia, want this table? We're leaving.

GEORGIA

Yes! Thanks, precious.  
(to Joe)  
I'll go order.

Georgia walks to the counter where Brick and Bridget work.

GRANT

(to Sissy)  
I need to pay.

Grant also goes to the counter, leaving Sissy alone at a table, who watches Joe stumble to her. They whisper:

SISSY

I ain't a snitch but you steal from any  
of my friends and I'll break your leg.

JOE

I had her diamond bracelet and I put it  
back. I'm blind. Something happened.

SISSY

You stupid to think I believe bullshit.

JOE

I'm serious. Help me. I can't see  
anything. It's just black.

SISSY

How stupid you think we are?

Sissy cleans off the table, mad at him - then she gets an idea. Suddenly she throws her hands up.

SISSY (cont'd)

Brick, show us your healed hand!

He does. Everyone GASPS or APPLAUDS.

SISSY (cont'd)

I saw it happen. A miracle happened!

Georgia excitedly turns to face the customers.

GEORGIA

I had a miracle yesterday! It's personal but I testify to miracles happening right here in Lake Lure! Believe!!

BRICK

I didn't believe in miracles until this.

Sissy throws Joe's dark glasses down and steps on them.

SISSY

(screaming)

Look at Joe! Look at him! Stand up, Joe!

Sissy pours a CUP OF HOT COFFEE and throws it at Joe, who does not dodge it as she expected. He SCREAMS, scalded.

DELILAH

Sissy, what the hell did you do!?

SISSY

Joe can see!

JOE

No, I can't see!!!!

SISSY

Then maybe another cup of hot coffee on you will help you see?!

Kris's invisible spirit flies in restoring Joe's sight - just as Delilah tries to stop Sissy from throwing more hot coffee on Joe. Sissy throws it. Joe dodges. Unseen Kris flies away.



JOE

I can see now!!!! I can see!!

SISSY

Another miracle! Joe can see!

Sissy pours another cup and throws it at him, which he dodges!  
People APPLAUD.

GEORGIA

Blessed Joe! You can see!

SISSY

Help him out, neighbors!

Qi throws her hot coffee at Joe! He dodges most. People applaud. Li throws his hot coffee at Joe! Joe dodges most. Delilah throws hot coffee but aims for Sissy, burning Sissy's arm - who grabs Delilah and throws her over a table. Humiliated Delilah SCREAMS and punches Sissy. Georgia holds Delilah back as Grant holds Sissy back. Locals throw food at Joe, which he tries to dodge.

JOE

Praise the mysterious forces which  
influence our lives! Halleluia!

Joe gets on his knees, truly grateful. Sissy sees flirty Delilah reaching to caress Grant so Sissy pours a cup of hot coffee, and glares at Delilah, threateningly.

SISSY

Girl, you don't see he's with me?? You must be blind. I throw coffee on blind people. Hoping they get a miracle. So are you blind or can you finally see me?

Delilah backs away, looking down, temporarily defeated.

**INT. BACK BARN - DAY**

Inside the huge birdcage, Juan feeds 11 sandpipers, then exits the cage.

JUAN

I can go home now?

GRANT

Sure, and thanks for coming in. Wait, Juan can you get twelve drums from somewhere? We just need them tomorrow.

JUAN

My cousins have drums.

GRANT

Can we get them for a day? Tomorrow?

Grant pulls MONEY out of his WALLET and hands it to Juan.

JUAN

Sure, if they don't have a gig.

Juan sends air-hugs to Grant who surprisingly pulls him into an actual warm loving embrace. Juan beams and exits. Grant lifts and carries Sissy into the bird cage door.

GRANT

You ready to let them free?

SISSY

Uhuh, not yet. They're playing our song.

The pipers PIPE an otherworldly beautiful whistling symphony (through their pipe-like bills). Sissy enters the cage, coyly undresses and pretends to move like a wild animal. He rips off his clothes, enters the cage, acting like an ape, leaving the gate open. They make love. In the afterglow, she rises.

SISSY

They're gone. Every piper flew out.

GRANT

I hope they'll be okay ... Let's go to Brick's.

**INT/EXT. JEEP - BRICK'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Grant drives slow in the snow. Sissy rolls down her window.

SISSY

(yells out the window)  
Careful driving, Brick! It's slippery!!

**INT/EXT. BRICK'S CAR - BRICK'S HOUSE - SAME**

Brick drives. Bridget waves to Sissy through snowy windows.

**INT. BEDROOM - BRICK'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

In bed, Grant smiles as Sissy sleeps on his muscled chest.

GRANT

Will you marry me?

SISSY

Course not. Maybe you just being "nice"?  
I don't even know who you are yet.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - BARN - NIGHT**

Angry Brick can't find the heater.

BRICK

Where the heck is the damn heater!

He kicks the cowbell which RINGS. Bridget drops a CASSEROLE.

BRICK (cont'd)

So now we don't eat?!

BRIDGET

My fingers are ice! My teeth are  
chattering!

A cow pushes the door to get inside.

BRICK

Help me keep this cow out!

The cow gets in.

BRICK (cont'd)

The door won't shut! Too much snow!

**INT. LIVING ROOM - BARN - MORNING**

SUPER: THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

The cow sleeps next to Brick and Bridget shivering under  
couch blankets with a low fire in the fireplace.

BRICK  
Frostbite is so romantic.

BRIDGET  
If by romantic you mean infuriating!

BRICK  
Gat angrier! We need the body heat!

DOOR KNOCK. Flat-chested Bridget stomps around the cow to answer the door. Juan enters with bags holding 12 DRUMS.

JUAN  
It's freezing in here!

BRIDGET  
We can't turn on the heat.

Juan drops his bags and behind a curtain turns on the heat.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY - LATER**

Brick rings up LOCALS who pet the partridge on the counter by the cage of turtledoves. Sitting by the window, drinking coffee and watching the SNOWSTORM: more LOCALS. In the distance, the SOUND OF DRUMS.

**EXT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - DAY**

In the snowstorm, Joe (no longer "blind") proudly drums, now loving his neighbors. Following him, playing drums not so well: Grant, Sissy, Delilah, Georgia, Maria, Larry, Paul, Bridget, Juan and the Xongs. Three French hens, six geese and seven swans meander among them. LOCALS watch and CHEER. A group of birds flies above them.

SISSY  
Look up! Seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven. The sandpipers.

GRANT  
Sissy, they're playing our song.

The 11 pipers pipe MUSIC and fly above the drums. Drummer Delilah sneaks in between Grant and Sissy. Drummer Maria bumps Delilah over so Sissy is back by Grant. Drummer Delilah sneaks in between Grant and Sissy again.

SISSY

You don't see me, Delilah?!

DELILAH

I see you fine but I'm not talking to you, I'm talking to Grant, who asked me to drum. Grant, how about you and me hitting the Yacht Club later?

GRANT

Delilah, you're fantastic, and some guy is gonna be so lucky to marry you ... but it's not me. Leave. Me. Alone.

Delilah finally gets it, moves away. Sissy smiles at Grant.

SISSY

Did you do that for me?

GRANT

No, I did that for me.

SISSY

Yes I will.

GRANT

Yes? Yes?? Yes you'll marry me??

She nods. Stunned, he gets on his knees to propose.

SISSY

Yes I will. I'm in love with you, Grant, but not the old people-pleaser in you. The real you. I can finally see who you are now. You stood up for yourself with Delilah, and with Kris when he wanted to give his rings to her. You made the decision where they go. I love your standing up even more than the fact I got the rings. And this whole parade was all your doin'. I see who you are now and I want to spend my life with that man.

She kneels to him and kisses him. Locals CHEER the marriage proposal. Above, more birds chirp joining the pipers.

PAUL

Thirteen flying birds now.

GEORGIA

Fifteen total.

PAUL

I see the four calling birds! From the flooded Tudor house, remember?

GRANT

They found the pipers. They're together!

As Gus the goose cuddles Grant's legs, the four calling birds CHIRP and the eleven sandpipers PIPE, and together they magically fly around the drummers, then fly up to the sky, and disappear in the snowy clouds.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY**

The drums a mile away match Wendy's LOUD, INTENSE HEARTBEAT. She sits in her wheelchair in her living room, trembling. On the floor, Amy plays with dolls.

AMY

What's wrong, Mom?

WENDY

Nothing. Nothing is wrong, princess.

Wendy grips her wheelchair sides. She does not see that Kris's spirit is around her legs, focusing fervently to heal her.

WENDY (cont'd)

Will you get all the pillows in the house and put them all around me?

Amy brings PILLOWS. Wendy grips the wheelchair, concentrates hard to lift herself up. Amy watches intently as Wendy's lifeless feet begin clenching.

WENDY (cont'd)

It's time for Mommy to stand.

AMY

Should I call Dad?

WENDY

No, just use all your strength to hold me if I get weak and fall.

Wendy seems electrified, buzzing as she sweats, pushing through excruciating pain to teeter her upper body off the chair and balance over her unsteady legs.

WENDY (cont'd)  
I will. Not! Be! Paralyzed!!

With her hands still gripping the heavy chair, Wendy SCREAMS as HER LEGS RISE, MIRACULOUSLY RESTORING HER LEG MUSCLES, FORCING UP HER BUTT AND STOMACH AND CHEST.

WENDY (cont'd)  
I WILL NOT BE PARALYZED!!

WENDY STANDS! LIGHTNING FLASHES AND THUNDER ROARS.

**INT. FREE SPEECH CAFÉ MARKET - NIGHT**

Partying inside Brick's warm grocer is the rest of the town (all the characters). Sissy plays guitar near Brick who inhales helium from a BALLOON then SINGS.

BRICK  
*On the twelfth day of Christmas, my  
true love sent to me, Twelve drummers  
drumming.*

Joe and 11 other drummers DRUM.

BRICK (cont'd)  
*Eleven pipers piping.*

Bridget and 10 others blow PARTY WHISTLE BLOWERS.

BRICK (cont'd)  
*Ten lords a-leaping.*

10 men link arms and leap.

BRICK (cont'd)  
*Nine ladies dancing.*

Bridget and 8 others dance.

BRICK (cont'd)  
*Eight maids a-milking.*

Bridget and 7 others SQUIRT-GUN milk on Brick, accidentally knocking his toupee off. He blushes, doesn't put it back on.

BRICK (cont'd)  
*Seven swans a-swimming.*

He points to the 7 swans.

BRICK (cont'd)  
*Six geese a-laying.*

He points to the 6 geese.

BRICK (cont'd)  
*Five golden rings.*

Locals show their RINGS.

BRICK (cont'd)  
*Four calling birds.*

Bridget, Sissy, Joe and Juan make BIRD SOUNDS.

BRICK (cont'd)  
*Three French hens.*

BRIDGET  
Or French kisses.

Bridget French kisses Brick 3 times. Locals CATCALL.

BRICK  
*Two turtle doves.*

Joe lifts the cage of turtledoves.

BRICK (cont'd)  
*And a partridge in a pear tree.*

Maria holds up William the partridge, looking healthy. Brick sits on a chair on a WHOOPIE CUSHION. CHEERS. LAUGHTER.

BRICK (cont'd)  
You bananas make every day here a joy.  
I love you, you inappropriate clowns. I  
love I have friends in low places. I  
love my neighbors in low places ...

(MORE)



BRICK (cont'd)  
 ... and my neighbors in high places.  
 Let's say a prayer for our neighbor Kris  
 who might be flying in high places.

Brick's hand gestures show his perfect, healed hands.

GEORGIA  
 Kris somehow bought us miracles!

Georgia puts her arms around Brick - and Joe.

JOE  
 Kris changed my life.

BRICK  
 Sissy, sing something.

SISSY  
 Can I? Cool, cool! Joe, think ya can  
 help me out?

Joe nods, starts a DRUM INTO. Sissy STRUMS her guitar and SINGS a touching ballad.

SISSY  
 (singing)  
*Woke with broken wings, so my fairytale  
 dreams, stayed frozen in the snow, until  
 I got to know, not all birds fly in the  
 sky, some fly low and some fly high ...*

Everyone moves to the beat: Georgia, Bridget, Brick, Li, Qi, Maria, Larry, Paul, Delilah, Grant, Sissy, Joe, Juan and locals. Suddenly Grant stops moving and freezes. Sissy looks at him for an explanation.

GRANT  
 My dad ... he just died.

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

Wigged Kris's bedside monitor BEEPS to announce his/her death. The last of Kris's spirit fog rises through the ceiling.

**EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF LAKE - NIGHT**

The 4 calling birds and 11 sandpipers explore snowy clouds. JOINING THEM IS KRIS'S SPIRIT FOG - FREE, EXHILARATED.

**MONTAGE - ASSORTED HOUSES - DAY**

MONTAGE shows how Kris's gifts helped everyone years later, to Sissy's song:

SISSY (V.O.)

This song is dedicated to someone who changed my life years ago, Kris. *Took so long to see you, because you always hid, you didn't think you mattered, but look how much you did ...*

**-AT THE BARN:** Bald Brick happily milks a cow. Flat Bridget rides a HORSE.

**-AT MARIA'S:** Maria and Larry garden with the 7 swans and partridge. Her missing SON joins them.

**-AT GEORGIA'S:** 3 hens cuddle Georgia as she plays poker with Joe, Qi, Li, Delilah, Paul and Wendy - who can walk.

**-IN A CHICAGO CHURCH:** Ida and her date Mr. Coner APPLAUD as Grant marries Sissy.

**-ON MAGAZINE COVERS:** Sissy and her guitar.

END OF MONTAGE

**INT. STADIUM - NIGHT**

Sissy, now a star onstage, STRUMS guitar and SINGS her hit, as Joe DRUMS and Grant RINGS the cowbell. The CROWD SCREAMS and APPLAUDS.

SISSY (V.O.)

*Took so long to see you, because you always hid, you didn't think you mattered, but look how much you did ...*

THE END