

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SECRET SANTA MYSTERY by Thom Bierdz

FADE IN:

EXT: MARIA'S COTTAGE - DAY

Winter, no snow. Old stone cottage with streams in front, lake and mountains in back. Sunrise shows a yellow note next to A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE. Pretty and drunk MARIA FLOREZ, 42, brunette, in sweatsuit, finds it.

EXT: BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Fighting the cold morning wind, tipsy Maria, in same sweatsuit, tries to walk soberly toward Brick's small country grocery store, unaware that:

A brand new silver jeep going 3 miles an hour trails her, the handsome black-bearded driver, KEVIN OLSON, 45, studying her.

The jeep breaks before it hits a small, thin brown-haired hippy chick with tattooed arms, JENNY CLARK, 25, running across the street with a guitar.

JENNY

Watch where you're going, you
demented loser!

Jenny kicks his front bumper and screams. Kevin jumps out to stop her. Little Jenny hits muscular Kevin.

KEVIN

Stop kicking my jeep, you punk!

Rattled Maria enters Brick's grocer, just as tall, wide-shouldered DAN PETERS, 45, comes out, pulling out a small gun from his waist. He points it at Kevin.

DAN

Break it up.

KEVIN

Hey, no need for a gun, I was just
trying to stop her from kicking my
jeep.

Jenny kicks his bumper one more time, then backs away.
Kevin, hands raised, slowly gets back in his jeep.

INT. BRICK'S GROVER - DAY

Dazed Maria enters the charming small mountain grocery store, followed by Dan. Large middle-aged bald man in an apron, BRICK EVANS, works behind the counter, near a display of priced Santa hats.

BRICK

Dan, I wish you wouldn't even bring
that gun in here.

DAN

North Carolina. Right to carry.

He tucks his gun away. A few locals sit in the coffee area at the curved stained glass window.

DAN

Maria honey, you look dazed. Forget what
you came for?

She whisks her fingers at him, smooths the sweatsuit, shivers. Dan sits next to GEORGIA JOHNSON, 70, African-American, nicely dressed.

GEORGIA

Shoulda worn a coat, Maria.
(to Brick, friendly)
Hey Baldy, 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.

DAN

He means your PLUS-SIZE African-American DERRIERE.

Georgia grabs the milk from the fridge, swishes flamboyantly back.

GEORGIA

I'll have you know men around the world
coveted my deluxe espresso curves, and
three proposed.

BRICK

(misty)

You married the best of them. Still
can't believe COVID killed Roy last
year.

DAN

Or was it the vaccine?

GEORGIA

Well, the four shots did not help him,
we know that.

BRICK

Neither did your cooking.

DAN

We come here for your abuse, Brick, even
on Christmas morning. Until Amazon can
start delivering inappropriate jokes at
a cheaper price.

Ancient GARY RICHARDS, 85, thick glasses, enters, bundled
warmly, balancing on a cane.

GEORGIA

Merry Christmas, Gary.

GARY

Merry Christmas, Georgia, Dan, Maria, Brick.

Maria turns, loses her balance. Gary tries to steady her,
but being so weak, he falls to the floor, as does Maria.
Georgia and Dan help them both to stand.

BRICK

Gary, get yourself some hot coffee
before Dan drinks it all. Was some

lightning storm last night, eh?
Too bad no white Christmas.

GEORGIA

White?! Every year you want a
WHITE Christmas. Never have you
hoped for a BLACK Christmas.

DAN

Everything's racist today.

GEORGIA

The power is gone from that
overused word now. Kids do not
know the level of racism I
experienced. Blacks weren't even
allowed into white schools until
1954.

BRICK

We love you, Georgia.

GARY

And we love the thunder. Did you
all meet my handsome grand nephew
yet?

BRICK

I met Kyle. Looks like a movie star.
Tall. Dark, handsome, chiseled jaw.
Strong features, light hazel eyes,
is he Arab or Israeli or Moroccan or
Italian or Greek or Egyptian or from
Turkey or what? Broad shoulders,
slim. Not a blemish - looks cartoon
handsome really. Stares you right in
the eyes and listens to every word.
He could be a politician. But let's
hope he ends up being something less
embarrassing - like a proctologist.

From the back of the store, SHARON HINET, 47, plops her
basket of groceries by the register. She flips her dyed
blonde hair, adjusts her crooked glasses and finger-pats
her under-eye cream.

SHARON

That the one helping you at your farm?

GARY

Yep, my dead brother's daughter's son. My only kin.

DAN

Look. Maria is lost.

MARIA

Stop flirting, Dan, you're married.

GEORGIA

Honey, did you come in for gin?

MARIA

No.

GEORGIA

Someone's telling a fib.

BRICK

She only buys that at closing. You come in for the Lucky Charms, Maria?

MARIA

I just had some - don't need it.

DAN

Maybe cigarettes and a dirty magazine?

MARIA

No, I am a good girl, just joined Christian Singles, so there.

GEORGIA

I was hoping Santa would put cigarettes and a dirty magazine in MY stocking. Only got coal. It's like he's not even listening.

SHARON

Maria, if you have no Christmas plans, please join my daughter and I. Georgia, of course you're

welcome, too. Gary, I have asked you a hundred times to game night these past ten years and you always refuse. None of us have ever met your family. Can you extend the invite to your grand nephew? My single daughter's losing her looks as fast as a cut morning glory.

GEORGIA

Sharon Hinet, Delilah is gorgeous.

SHARON

(points to her own wrinkles, large butt)
Women have a window of beauty. She's 28 and her window's cracking. She ain't no Disney princess anymore. Not like the crossdresser on Mile Road.

DAN

Did that tranny freak come in here yet?

MARIA

Bird food! Brick, you got bird food?

BRICK

For chickens or for wild birds, Maria?

MARIA

It's a pigeon or something. Was in the front yard, in the tree this morning. There was a card that said please take care of me, my name is William.

DAN

Maria's seeing things! No one would ask you to take care of anything, seeing as how you took care of your husband and daughter-

MARIA

You're one to talk, never letting your wife out of the house, Dan. She

got monkey pox all these years or
what? Maybe you married your sister
and she looks too much like you
because you both have the same
mustache?

BRICK

Simmer it down, please. No one gets
to be rude here, except me.

SHARON

Not Maria's fault her husband took
off with the kid.

DAN

(his hand indicating drinking)
Was so.

GARY

Was the bird tangled in a tree?

MARIA

Nope, it just sat on a branch. Now
it just stays wherever I put it.
It's on the couch and refused to eat
rye toast with orange marmalade or
Lucky Charms, so I need to bring it
actual bird food.

BRICK

Take a handful of chicken feed. I
won't charge you, until we know what
kind of bird it is and what it eats.

LATER:

A sober Maria enters again, opens her denim coat to reveal
William the partridge. Georgia, Gary, Sharon, Brick and Dan
react.

DAN

That's a partridge. Bake it with honey
and black pepper.

MARIA

I'm not gonna cook it! I am gonna care for it. Somebody sent it to me. Maybe God did.

GEORGIA

Might be a good idea. Might be good company for her. Maybe I need myself a partridge.

MARIA

What do they eat?

SHARON

(reading her iPhone)

Seeds from wheat, barley, oats, corn, sunflower, foxtail, ragweed, and Russian thistle.

BRICK

(assembling ingredients)

I'm on it.

EXT. JO'S HOUSE - NEXT MORNING - DAY

Sunrise shows TWO TURTLEDOVES kissing on a branch. A yellow note is nearby.

INT. JO'S HOUSE - DAY

Handsome, studly, JO LUDDEN, 35, rises from his bed, kicking the orange wig and pink lingerie into his messy closet.

As he pees, he shaves his beard stubble, hating what a testament to testosterone he is.

A few minutes later he sips coffee, pulling back frilly curtains, surprised to see the turtledoves and a yellow note outside.

EXT. JO'S HOUSE - DAY

The birds fly around the yard, always returning near the yellow note. Muscular Jo in pink robe steps out, reads the yellow note:

*We're turtle doves named Madge and Moe.
If you make us a wall hole, we're trained to come and
go.*

EXT. BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Jo, in jacket and jeans, walks into Brick's grocery store, but holds the door open, his deep concerned eyes on the outside turtledoves.

INT. BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Brick works behind the counter as Dan, Georgia, Sharon and Maria talk over coffee by the window. The sexual chemistry between Dan and Maria is obvious. A wealthy woman in a mink coat exits with grocery bags.

BRICK

That was the governor's wife, staying in
Lake Lure for the holidays. Don't know
why.

DAN

(to Jo)

Buddy, close the door so the heat stays
in.

JO

(confrontational)

I was wondering if the doves would
follow me inside.

GEORGIA

Doves?

JO

They're now by the old man who's walking
here slowly.

GEORGIA

Is it old Gary? He's got to be the
oldest man ALIVE.

Gary enters, turtledoves almost entering above him.

SHARON

They like Gary.

GARY
(to Jo)
Are those your doves?

JO
Got them this morning.

GEORGIA
Are you new to Lake Lure?

JO
Yeah. Moved in after Thanksgiving. I'm
Jo. J. O.

SHARON
No E?

JO
I outgrew the E. I bought the stucco
home with the French doors-

SHARON
Oh, with the roof tiles. I always wanted
to see the inside, and so has my
vivacious beautiful lovely available
single daughter 36-26-37, Delilah.

BRICK
(shaking Jo's hand)
Welcome to Lake Lure. Did you see the
view from Chimney Rock yet? The
waterfalls at Hickory Nut Falls are the
highest east of the Mississippi.

JO
Not yet.

BRICK
Two bucks for a map. You'll be seeing a
lot of me and my wife Bridget and our
teenage boys Brad and Brian cuz we own
the only grocery for miles and miles.
The soft-looking Swedish blonde always
playing with her phone and glasses, is
Sharon Hinet, she and her brunette
daughter live in the yellow house on

Market Pier. 400 year-old Gary here has a farm with cows just south of here. That finely aged ebony woman is Georgia Johnson, lives in the ivory house with the best bay view. Black-eyed Spanish Maria Flores lives in the gorgeous stone home with creeks all over it, and know-it-all Scandinavian Dan Peters and his wife who may be his sister with a mustache and their kid live somewhere off Crop Drive.

DAN

I did not marry my sister.

JO

Nice to meet you all. Well, I've only been here two weeks, away from the big city and I love it so far. The new me.

BRICK

(pricing cans)

You'll get along fine if you don't mind playful ribbing, as long as you don't talk politics. These days Dems and Repubs hate each other for no reason which is why none of you know what I am. Because I need your business. Special on canned kidney beans today, 25% off for Dems and 25% off for Repubs.

DAN

Most the DemonRATS stay in the city. Thank god.

MARIA

The RepubliTARDS always judge, like cowboy Dan here, who thinks he's better than the rest of us.

DAN

I don't mind most brainless whiny Dems, but the new ones push it on our kids. I hear there's a tranny in the neighborhood, and, ick, but let's just agree to keep it away from kids.

JO

Just because a person of one gender identifies as another gender has nothing to do with other people's kids-

DAN

(pulls out his gun, waves it)
Let's keep it that way.
(tucks gun in waist)

JO

I mean, a person's sexuality has nothing to do... I mean, transvestites are not pedophiles-

GEORGIA

Of course not. I've lived in big cities and knew a hundred drag queens. They don't lust for kids. They lust for Denzel Washington just like the rest of us.

BRICK

No more drag queens or politic talk. Let's just all agree big corporations are destroying mom and pop shops like this, and that all congresspeople do what they are bribed to do, and not what they promise us voters.

MARIA

Looks like we all can agree on the last point.

DAN

But capitalism NEEDS big corporations, Brick. Thank you AT&T for 30 years of employment, and Sharon sells real estate for a big company, what is it?

SHARON

Coldwell Banker.

DAN

And Georgia's husband worked for a huge company-

GEORGIA

Bio-Rad laboratories. Animal studies,
testing. And Maria works as a loan
officer for Bank Of America.

BRICK

Giant monopolies devouring us little
guys.

JO

(peeking out at turtledoves)
I need turtledove food.

GEORGIA

How did you get turtledoves?

JO

(pulling out note)
It says they are Madge and Moe and
trained and will reside with me I guess
if I give them a way inside my house?

MARIA

Same yellow note paper that I got
yesterday! With my partridge!

SHARON

Who is giving people birds?

DAN

Two turtle doves? Maria, was your
partridge in a pear tree? Pear tree.
Partridge in a pear tree?

MARIA

Yes! In my pear tree...

DAN

Two turtle doves. Like the song. This is
weird.

GARY

How does the song go?

DAN, MARIA

(singing)

*On the first day of Christmas, my true
love gave to me-*

SHARON

(reading iPhone)

*The 12 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 25, Christmas, and
runs through January 6.*

BRICK

Who anonymously gives people live birds??

A NATIVE AMERICAN MAN enters with flyers, printed on yellow paper.

NATIVE AMERICAN MAN

Can I put up a notice somewhere?

BRICK

(pointing to a bulletin board)

Right there. What's it for?

NATIVE AMERICAN MAN

(putting it on the board)

Native-American petting zoo is going to
open in the Spring. We need publicity.
Thanks, Brick.

After he exits:

SHARON

His flyer is on the same yellow paper!
Here's more from the Catholic News
Agency material. *12 Days Of Christmas is
an English Christmas carol. From 1558
until 1829, Roman Catholics in England
were not permitted to practice their
faith openly. Lyrics have a surface
meaning plus a hidden meaning. The 'True
Love' means Jesus Christ, because truly
Love was born on Christmas Day. The
partridge in the pear tree also
represents Him because that bird is
willing to sacrifice its life if*

*necessary to protect its young by
feigning injury to draw away predators.*

MARIA

So I got the partridge because someone
thinks I am Jesus? Jesus-like?

DAN

Maybe because you have a pear tree?

JO

How fun. I'm in a small mountain town
two weeks and already a mystery fit for
a TV detective like *Murder She Wrote*-

GEORGIA

Lord, let's hope it doesn't involve
murder.

DAN

To avoid murder, keep the trannies away
from our kids...

JO

(rolls his eyes, moves to Brick)
What food can I give the birds?
(to Sharon)
What does it say about the symbolism
for the turtledoves?

SHARON

OK, let me find it. Ann Ball in her
book, *HANDBOOK OF CATHOLIC SACRAMENTALS*
says *the two turtle doves symbolize the
Old and New Testaments.*

JO

Sorry, not familiar with both
testaments.

DAN

I'll bring you mine.

JO

No thank you.

DAN

Bible is the word of God.

JO

Which god?

BRICK

Dan, there are 4300 religions, aren't there like 3000 gods? And y'all believe yours is the only real one.

JO

I listened to 10 hours of the Bible on YouTube last year. But that Bible god kept killing people, and I just don't think God kills people.

DAN

God has to kill evil. He has to kill the Devil, devils-

SHARON

(reading from iPhone)

There are 160 separate killing sprees in the Bible for which God is to blame... A total of 2,821,364 deaths either directly orchestrated by God, or carried out with his assistance or approval. Satan, on the other hand, notches up only 10 kills.

GEORGIA

Dan, perhaps a better way to share your faith is to BE a loving, Jesus-like soul yourself -

MARIA

- to new neighbors, like this handsome Jo.

DAN

God is supposed to be feared. I am a God-fearing man.

JO

Not me.

MARIA

I believe in a nice god, but not a mean
god I would fear.

DAN
(exiting)
Time to go hunting.

JO
Killing innocent animals. Is that
supposed to be godly, too?

GEORGIA
I couldn't hunt.

SHARON
You got fresh pork, Brick? Delilah's
been bugging me for my pulled pork.

GEORGIA
You do make a wonderful pulled pork.

BRICK
Jo, oh no, you another vegan?

JO
What right do I have to take another
life??

BRICK
I don't carry no vegan fake meat here,
but just got in barrels of apples,
corn, lettuce and celery. Tomatoes too.

JO
Thanks. I'll come back later - want to
get going so these birds don't freeze.
I'll buy whatever you think they'll
eat.

EXT. GEORGIA'S LAKESIDE HOUSE - DAY

Sunrise shows THREE FRENCH HENS and a yellow note in the
beautiful yard of Georgia's house, with great bayside
views. Georgia, in her robe, screams in joy discovering
them and reads the note.

INT. BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Brick is drawing directions for all his morning customers.

BRICK

Secret Santa strikes again! Go to
Georgia Johnson's home and see Three
French Hens!

The mink-wearing governor's wife suspiciously watches
Brick's customers from a distance.

GOVERNOR'S WIFE

The Lake Lure Secret Santa Mystery!
Everyone's talking about this
dreadfully needed good news. How
exciting.

EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Georgia is as delighted by the three French hens as she is
by the dozen visitors. Dan picks up a hen.

DAN

They're fine to eat, like regular
chickens. They look bigger but it's all
feathers-

GEORGIA

Nobody eats my babies!
(holds up the yellow note)
*Please take care of Dinah, Diane and
Debbie, who will need heat in these
cold months.*

Jenny (25, who kicked the jeep outside Brick's grocery
store on Christmas morning) reads nervously from her phone:

JENNY

*This breed originated in France in the
late 16th century.*

GARY

(to small crowd)
I'm Gary and this is my handsome grand
nephew, Kyle.

KYLE

We're building the hens a pen and will
put a heater in it.

GEORGIA

(hugs Kyle)

Oh we gotta make them a doggy door into
the kitchen!

An Asian couple, dressed wealthy, wife QI LONG and husband
LI XONG, 45, pet the hens.

QI

Dirty animals though.

LI

You don't want hen poop in kitchen.

GEORGIA

Then they'll only be allowed in part of
the kitchen. It's too cold to make them
stay outside!

DAN

Maria was given a partridge, and
Maria's lonely.

MARIA

Fact.

DAN

Georgia was given hens, and Georgia's
lonely.

GEORGIA

Would I hang around y'all if I wasn't?

DAN

Is the Secret Santa giving pets to
lonely folks?

Sharon exits her car, along with her pretty
daughter, DELILAH, 28.

DELILAH

(yelling to Georgia)

I want a gift! What comes next?

DAN

Four Calling Birds tomorrow! Then Five Golden Rings in two days. I hope I get the golden rings so I can hock them for a M16 rifle.

JENNY

That's where I've seen you. You were the psycho with a gun outside the grocery store.

DAN

You were the psycho kicking a jeep?

GEORGIA

Nobody needs an M16.

(hugs Dan)

This mystery is so exciting, isn't it?

SHARON

(reading from her phone)

3 French Hens symbolize Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues.

GEORGIA

It's me to a T. Must be given to me by someone who knows me - or - knows I NEED faith, hope and charity?

DELILAH

(reading aloud from her phone)

Georgia, this says, French hens produce 150-200 eggs per year on average.

GEORGIA

You are all coming back for many omelets! Many!

DAN

You'll need a rooster.

GARY

No, actually hens will lay eggs without a rooster, but the eggs won't develop into chicks.

DAN

I'm hungry already.

GEORGIA

Oh for heavens' sake, y'all need to come inside and I'll make up lunch. I am a prepper, stocked up in case of nuclear war, so I can easily whip up a great meal for... 14... 15... 16... all 17 of us! My husband Roy would turn over in his grave, me having all you white people, even strangers, inside our home. He never wanted people over. He did not trust the cable man or gas man.

Georgia ushers her guests in one by one, but Jenny inches away to leave.

GEORGIA

Now darling, I know we never met, but please join us inside.

JENNY

Thanks so much. I'm Jenny and your house is soooo fantastic. I mean, wow, it's like a dream. Never been in expensive places like this.

GEORGIA

Where you from?

JENNY

I grew up in the trailer park with the slide off the I40 highway.

GEORGIA

How lovely.

Georgia waves to a man walking over in wig and pink dress, not convincing as a woman. It's Jo.

GEORGIA

Are you here to see my hens?

JO

Is this the place that got three French hens? I got the two turtle doves.

GEORGIA

Oh my goodness, you're Jo. J. O. I did not recognize you as a... female impersonator. Please come inside and join the party and see my hens.

INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Georgia proudly shows everyone her immaculate holiday tree and endless husband's photos and historical books on African-American inventors. Sharon and Delilah work alongside her to prepare and serve the neighborly guests a hearty meal while the French hens play inside and out.

EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Outside, Maria and weak old Gary help his grand nephew Kyle to build a pen.

MARIA

You guys want me to bring you drinks and sandwiches?

GARY

Not for me.

KYLE

Sure, that'd be great, Maria.

Maria and Kyle have chemistry. She smiles, goes inside.

GARY

Like any of these girls?

KYLE

Maria's very pretty, and so is the little hippy chick. Delilah is sexy, so is her mom in a way.

INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Maria drinks and eats, but away from the crowd so she can check her phone:

On her phone: Christian Singles dating site.

She browses, then puts away her phone and squeezes into Dan's chair with him. Kyle passes-

KYLE

Which way's the bathroom?

MARIA

Oh, I forgot to bring you a drink and food.

KYLE

That's okay. I'll get it.

Dan points Kyle to the bathroom, then shakes his head in disgust at Jo, who glares back.

DAN

Why do guys want to dress up as girls?

JO

Why do married men share their chairs?

DAN

Maria is my friend.

Jo rolls his eyes.

Exiting the bathroom, Kyle watches the group from a distance, and his side view catches Jenny in Georgia's bedroom, her hands feeling through a dresser drawer.

KYLE

What you looking for?

JENNY

(caught)

Nothing. I just love antiques.

Nervous, she withdraws her hands, twisting a ring onto her finger. A big ring. A man's ring.

JENNY

What's your name?

KYLE

Kyle. Yours?

JENNY

Jenny. I'm renting a log cabin between here and Chimney Rock.

KYLE

I don't know where that is. I'm new here, from Chicago. Here to help my uncle do a few things before he dies.

JENNY

Oh he's dying? I'm so sorry.

KYLE

He's not sorry. He's ready, says in the afterlife he will be better off.

JENNY

I don't believe that, do you?

KYLE

Maybe. Why not?

JENNY

Because we're flesh and guts and intestines and organs and we can see plainly those do not get better off after death.

KYLE

I'm an optimist.

JENNY

Sure, anyone who looks like you would be.

KYLE

You're not so bad yourself.

JENNY

When my hair is dolled up and my make-up on, and frilly sleeves over some of these tattoos, I can be kinda hot.

KYLE

It's a date. Dinner it is. We either eat at Brick's tonight, or your place, or my uncle's farm - plenty of room.

JENNY

OK, I'm up to it. Come over. I even have a fireplace.

KYLE

Let me put your number in my phone.

As she recites the info, he types it into his phone, then she goes into the bathroom, and he tiptoes away-

EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Kyle brings drinks and sandwiches to his uncle.

KYLE

Take a meal break. Um, the hippy, Jenny, I think she stole a man's ring from this lady's dresser.

GARY

She did?

KYLE

Yeah.

GARY

I have to tell Georgia.

KYLE

I'd want my friend to tell me.

INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Gary whispers the news to Georgia, whose happy demeanor quickly dissipates. She immediately puts down her food, points to Jenny across the room.

GEORGIA

What's your name again, sweetie?!

JENNY

Jenny Clark. Hi everyone. I'm renting a log cabin on Oak Forest Road between here and Chimney Rock. It's so much better than Travis Trailer Park. With the slide you can see from the highway?

Georgia puts out her arms to embrace her, and as she does, roams through her pockets - and pulls out the stolen ring.

JENNY

That's not mine. I don't know how it got there.

GEORGIA

My husband Roy was right! Get out of here! What kind of evil nerve possesses you, child?

Jenny, blushing, slinks toward the door - then turns:

JENNY

You pompous elites. You lucky rich Republican vultures have so much money you get to buy these crazy expensive homes with Taylor Swift views like this! You get, get, get! Yeah I know I am trailer trash and dreamed of fitting into some Stepford community like this but you're all boring and obnoxious! Nothing ever works out anyway for me! I whored on the street at 14 to crackpot boring vultures like you.

GEORGIA

Honey, stop. You don't fit in by stealing.

JENNY

I needed money for rent because I got fired and miscarried. Screw you. Screw all of you, you lying predator hypocrite clowns! In your fake sweet perfect Martha Stewart cottages! You are JOKES!

JO

The trash is taking itself out.

EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Kyle's apologetic eyes watch Jenny run to her Mustang clunker and speed away.

EXT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

Five cows graze outside an old barn.

INT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

Gary's hands shake trying to take pills, so Kyle assists.

GARY

What will you do with the five cows?

KYLE

What do you want me to do with them?

GARY

Find them a loving home.

Kyle puts his Uncle Gary to bed and turns on the old phonograph, playing old country holiday music.

KYLE

I decided I'm still going to see Jenny tonight.

GARY

Poor little Jenny. Can you help her?

KYLE

How?

GARY

Her victim energy attracts victim circumstances. The only way she can start to attract an easier life is for her to emit an easier energy. She needs to switch from negative to positive.

KYLE

I'll try to explain that.

GARY

She won't be able to understand, from where she is. She first needs to feel like a winner. Go make her feel like a winner.

Kyle kisses his uncle's forehead and leaves the room.

EXT. JENNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kyle's car pulls up. He walks toward the door, not expecting Jenny to kick it open and come at him wagging a butcher knife.

KYLE
What the heck??

JENNY
What are you doing here?!

KYLE
We had a date.

JENNY
I didn't think you'd still want it. YOU
TOLD THAT LADY I STOLE HER RING!?

KYLE
Yes.

Neither says anything.

JENNY
Are you going to bring me to the cops?

KYLE
No.

JENNY
Then what?

KYLE
Look, you made a huge embarrassing
mistake but we all make embarrassing
mistakes. We all need dinner, too. Can
I come in?

Trembling, she doesn't answer. He picks up the guitar on
the porch and poorly plays and sings until she laughs and
relents.

INT. JENNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Log cabin décor.

KYLE
You're trembling. Have you been
drinking?

JENNY
No, I'm crying at what a horrific good-
for-nothing zero nutcase psycho I am.

KYLE
Nah, you're a ten.

JENNY
Don't lie to me.

KYLE
A nine.

She laughs, hurriedly puts on make-up.

JENNY
A seven and a half. I've got a
fireplace! I don't know how they work
but I always wanted a fireplace! Can
you get it to work?

KYLE
I got this.

He builds a fire. She heats a can of soup and makes salads.

They sit by the fire, eating and talking.

He washes dishes as she scoops them ice-cream.

He lights candles as she plays guitar and sings softly.

They make love in front of the fireplace.

When the fireplace is embers, he carries her to the
bedroom, where they sleep entwined until -

- the sun rises.

KYLE
Oh, I got to get to my uncle's and take
care of him!

Kyle dresses in a hurry.

KYLE
I'll call you later.

JENNY
A gorgeous guy like you doesn't call a
skank girl like me later.

KYLE
Time for "Spank The Skank."

She rolls under the covers, laughing. He playfully spansks her, then leaves.

EXT. WATERFALL HOUSE - DAY

An abandoned Tudor house flooded by a waterfall. A yellow note pinned to tree bark:

Four calling birds. Now free.

The FOUR CALLING BIRDS chirp and fly around Dan, who is welcoming curious locals, like Maria, Sharon, Delilah, Kyle, Gary, Jo (not in drag) and others approaching.

DAN
Brick told you I found the note! See the birds? They're still near here. Did you hear them calling! Chirping? An orange one is in that tree - a blue one in that tree there - two orange birds, one yellow bird...

GEORGIA
(pinches his arm)
How in the world, with hundreds of homes in this area, did you happen to find a small yellow note on the flooded Tudor property? Maybe you're the Secret Santa, Dan??

DAN
Sharon, please read the spiritual relevance of four calling birds.

SHARON
(reading aloud from her phone)
The four calling birds symbolize the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

GEORGIA
(slapped Dan's butt)
You ARE the culprit doing this, aren't you?

DAN
Doubtfully.

MARIA
Maybe Dan's wife raises birds or something?

DAN
Maybe she doesn't.
(to Jo)
You're not a woman today?

JO
I am always a woman.

DAN
No, you're not, you're a man. God made two genders.

JO
I am a woman inside.

DAN
You look like a man.

Jo socks Dan hard in the chest. Dan reaches for his gun, but Georgia takes it.

GEORGIA
No violence in Lake Lure. Ever. This is not the city! Do you men, I mean people, understand?

Jo looks away, angry.

DAN
God only made two genders.

MARIA
Jo, we don't care what clothes you wear or what gender you want to be, but we don't hit each other in this town.

JO
But Dan started it.

MARIA

He did not. He has free speech in America and so do you. YOU started the violence.

JO

Speech is violence.

MARIA

Bull! Speech is just words!

GEORGIA

Children hit! People missing brains hit! Gangs hit! Refined adults do not hit, now apologize to Dan.

JO

I'm sorry. That you judge me.

DAN

Same.

Fade out.

EXT. JENNY'S HOUSE - DAY

The sunrise shows a yellow note and FIVE GOLDEN RINGS around skinny tree branches outside Jenny's cabin.

Looking at them from a distance is Dan, sitting in his car.

INT. JENNY'S HOUSE - DAY

Jenny appears to be asleep, Kyle lays next to her in her bed, scrolling through his phone.

JENNY

Searching hot babes in the neighborhood?

KYLE

Hardly. Checking messages on Facebook.

JENNY

So, what's new on Facebook?

KYLE

Same old bullying Dems will do anything to demean Trump. Their new attack is-

JENNY
You like Trump??

KYLE
He's got balls to call out the corruption in Washington-

JENNY
He IS the corruption-

KYLE
Let me guess. You watch CNN.

JENNY
So what if I do?

KYLE
That's all the info I need to know. Now I know exactly 100% of your beliefs programmed onto you.

JENNY
You watch FAUX NEWS?

KYLE
I have. So you supported Black Lives Matter groups burning up cities and killing people, but you think January 6th was unforgiveable.

JENNY
It was unforgiveable! What gives citizens the right to overthrow the government?!

KYLE
A stolen election? It's a constitutional duty to overthrow the government in the case of a stolen election. Or do you excuse stealing?

Furious, she pushes him off the bed.

KYLE

I wasn't referring to YOU stealing two days ago.

JENNY

I couldn't marry a Trumptard Republican.

KYLE

One, I did not say I was a Republican. Two, I didn't ask to marry you.

JENNY

Why don't you marry Ivanka Trump!

KYLE

She's taken, but she's totally hot.

JENNY

Ewww!!

Jenny, nude, stomps out of the bedroom and into the kitchen, puts on the coffee pot.

KYLE

I prefer fiery street urchins like you! Boring guys like me need dramatic chicks.

She screams. They both laugh. Her piercing blue eyes go to the oak trees outside. Squinting, she tries to make out what on the tree branches was reflecting the morning sun.

JENNY

So your sweet ancient old uncle is also a racist, homophobic, machine-gun wielding rich Trumptard Republicidiot?!

KYLE

You're parroting TV narratives. None of that was correct except the Republican part, my uncle is that.

JENNY

Republicans hate blacks! They hate abortions! They hate Mexicans! They hate gays!

KYLE

No they don't. He IS gay!!

JENNY

Your ancient old uncle performs
fellatio?

KYLE

Probably not as good as you!

He flies out of the bedroom with a sheet to catch her. She shrieks in delight, being chased inside and outside.

EXT. JENNY'S HOUSE - DAY

He catches her and wraps her in the sheet, kisses her softly. She beams, glows - almost as much as the rings on the tree branches.

Not noticing the rings, they make love on the crumpled forest leaves, the tight sheet barely concealing their genitals.

After orgasm, they lay looking up and notice the rings, and Dan looking on from the street. Embarrassed, they rise, awkward, tightly together, sharing the sheet as cover.

KYLE

Dan?! What are you doing here?!

DAN

The five golden rings! I was inching
toward the note when I heard Jenny
scream.

JENNY

Dan, you put five golden rings in my
yard?!

DAN

Not from me, but maybe I know who's
doing it.

Kyle grabs the yellow note and hands it to Jenny.

JENNY

Five Golden Rings. We've been together so long, now you must send us on our separate journeys.

KYLE

What does that mean?

Dan steps closer, studies the rings, hands them to Jenny.

DAN

These are real gold.

JENNY

Real gold?

KYLE

Looks maybe 14karat, a diamond in one, with gold about a thousand bucks an ounce, my guess is you just got about ten thousand dollars, give or take.

JENNY

(wiping tears)

Who would give these to me? Everyone in town knows I tried to steal a ring two days ago... who would give ME these?? ME?? Oh my god.

Kyle shrugs and Dan shifts uncomfortably.

JENNY

(to Dan)

I'm so sorry what I did the other day. It was stupid. I am an absolute stupid worthless zero scrapper thief.

KYLE

A few more zeroes have been added, darlin.

JENNY

I'm rich!

(holding Dan's lapel)

You have to get everyone together. I need to apologize and show them these rings... we need to go see Georgia, and

the drag queen who hates me, and all
the others...

DAN

Okay, I'll start calling them.

JENNY

Tell them I am a no-good psycho trailer
witch trashy nasty two-faced lying
robbing zero who wants to apologize.

EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eight cars parked on the gravel road by Georgia's beautiful
home front.

INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sharon and Delilah help Georgia serve drinks and food to
the crowd. Jenny sits wearing the five rings and large dark
sunglasses, her trembling hand holds Kyle's. Next to him,
his Uncle Gary, takes a pill with a glass of wine.

Across the room: Qi and Li Xong talk to Dan, who mimes
shooting a rifle:

DAN

...and the buck froze, staring right at
me...

Maria checks her phone:

On her phone: Christian Singles messages.

Brick arrives with his wife, BRIDGET, a studious red-head.

Jo enters, in orange wig and red gown, heavily adorned with
cosmetic jewelry.

JO

I was not going to be upstaged by five
golden rings, so I'm wearing ten. The
broach is from Britain. Costume jewelry
but isn't everything costume anyway?

DAN

Ooh la la.

GEORGIA

Jo, have a seat. We're about to hear
Jenny's apology.

Kyle removes Jenny's sunglasses, hiding swollen eyes.

JENNY

You all know I got the Five Golden
Rings, which is the most embarrassing
gift because you also all know I tried
to steal a ring from here two days ago.

Many shift, anxious.

JENNY

Who would give me these?

She looks around, no one confesses.

DAN

(reads from his phone aloud)
*The five golden rings represent the
first five books of the Old Testament,
which describe man's fall into sin and
the great love of God in sending a
Savior.*

GEORGIA

Here is the savior. Dan!

DAN

It's not me. Have you ever known me to
give away ten thousand dollars to make
a point?

GEORGIA

Dan never even bought me a MUFFIN.

MARIA

Me neither.

SHARON

Who has got so much money or jewelry to
throw away? Does the jewelry have any
inscriptions?

JENNY

(removing the rings)

This one with the diamond says '*We have eternity*' and this wide one says '*Secret Love*' and the other ones don't have any writing.

She passes them to Kyle, who inspects, passes to Gary, who inspects, passes to Maria, etc..

JENNY

I want to give these away.

KYLE

No!

GARY

Let her speak.

JENNY

I never gave anything big away to anyone, but I want to, I feel I ought to. Georgia, would you like them all?

GEORGIA

Honey I don't need more jewelry. I don't need anything. What's an old 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, what I can hold onto.

JENNY

Someone gave these five rings to the no good psycho spaz thief, me, and maybe it was to embarrass me further?

(long awkward silence)

I applied at two restaurants today so I'll be a waitress soon, I just know it, so I don't need hand-outs.

KYLE

But your rent is due. Sell at least one ring to pay your rent-

MARIA

Keep them all. I would.

LI

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

People laugh, Jenny blushes, puts back on her glasses, sinks in her chair.

JENNY

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

GEORGIA

Yes, there is. You are the charity, honey. We all go through that stage needing charity. You need. You got. Feel relieved, wherever it came from.

DAN

It came from God.

EXT. SHARON'S HOUSE - DAY

The sun rises revealing a shadowy figure gently releasing SIX GEESE outside a house near the lake pier.

EXT. RESORT SHOPS - DAY

Charming stores, one sells jewelry. Kyle and Jenny enter.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - DAY

The JEWELRY EXPERT examines Jenny's rings.

JEWELRY EXPERT

Selling family heirlooms?

JENNY

Five Golden Rings. Some Secret Santa gave them to me.

The governor's wife, trying on jewelry, eavesdrops.

GOVERNOR'S WIFE

Oh I heard about those mysterious presents. 12 Days Of Christmas! How

delightful and exciting. Everyone's talking about it.

JEWELRY EXPERT
I can give you \$7,500.

JENNY
We were told they were worth \$10,000.

JEWELRY EXPERT
How about \$8,000?

KYLE
\$8,500 and it's a deal.

They agree, shakes hands. Jenny claps in excitement.

EXT. SALON - DAY

Kyle follows Jenny inside.

INT. SALON - DAY

A HAIRDRESSER gives Jenny a new hairdo, her long mousy hair getting a puffy blonde movie-star look. She answers her ringing phone.

JENNY
Hello?...Yes, oh fantastic!... Yes, I
can start next week!
(hanging up phone, clapping)
Got one of the waitress jobs!

Kyle smiles, gives thumbs up, pets the store dog.

KYLE
Looks like my dog waiting for me back
in Chicago.

EXT. CHARMING SHOPS - DAY

Kyle and Jenny walk.

JENNY
This is the luckiest week of my entire
life!

KYLE

I could say that, too.

EXT. SHARON'S HOUSE - DAY

Sharon shows the six geese to Georgia, Maria and Dan.
Sleepy Delilah saunters outside.

SHARON

Delilah! We got the six geese! *On the 6th Day Of Christmas my true love gave to me, six geese a-layin!*

DELILAH

Who is doing this?? What are we going to do with six geese?

DAN

They roast well with potatoes.

GEORGIA

Which one, you meanie? Which one you going to pluck and kill and tear apart and cook? Look at them, how adorable.

Dan blushes, does not speak.

SHARON

Well, they are free to roam, of course, they're not indoor pets.

(reads the yellow note)

Six Geese A-layin. Adopted by Sharon and Delilah, but we'll roam Lake Lure at our leisure.

DELILAH

Should I get them a blanket or something?

DAN

Wild ones won't come near humans. These were somebody's pets.

GEORGIA

Maybe from those Indians who are starting the petting zoo?

MARIA

Why would Native Americans be giving away their pets?

SHARON

Their flyer was on the same yellow paper.

MARIA

For publicity? To advertise their upcoming petting zoo?

GEORGIA

That's it! Brilliant.

DAN

(reads his phone aloud)

The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.

DELILAH

(reads her phone)

For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

SHARON

Delilah is born again.

DELILAH

Four months ago, we don't tell many people.

SHARON

How does the spiritual meaning apply to me and Delilah? I don't know what we are supposed to get from this?

DELILAH

I'd honestly rather have the gold rings.

Sharon

I think the Governor's wife is the Secret Santa.

GEORGIA

What is her motive?

SHARON

I can't figure it out yet. Brick knows
to send folks here to see the geese.
Delilah, get dressed and put on make-up
in case that dreamy Kyle comes over.

DELILAH

He likes that hippy girl. She got him
AND the five golden rings. I got geese.

The sound of a car door catches their attention. It is Jo,
in jeans and a T-shirt, no wig.

DELILAH

It's that drag queen guy.

SHARON

(calling to him)

How's your turtledoves doing?!

JO

In and out! Just like the note said!
Madge chirps and chirps and Moe just
sleeps and eats! How are the hens?!

GEORGIA

Two eggs this morning, and sure they
cluck and make a mess! - in part of the
kitchen, but it's nice to have them.

As Jo arrives Georgia rubs his back.

MARIA

William the partridge is sick I think.

GEORGIA

What's wrong with the partridge?

MARIA

I don't know. He's not eating and he's
losing feathers.

Kyle and Jenny exit their parked car. Delilah runs inside.

JENNY

Hi guys! You got six geese?!

SHARON

And they're as friendly as can be! Come see!

KYLE

Good morning, guys.

SHARON

We figured out they did not come from the wild.

DAN

Do you know anything about partridges?

SHARON

Maria says the partridge is sick.

KYLE

My uncle might. He has cows.

MARIA

Can he come see the partridge?

KYLE

Probably best for you to bring it to him. It's hard for my uncle to even walk today.

EXT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

Kyle, Jenny, Maria, holding a sad-looking William the partridge, walk to Gary, milking a cow on his farm.

GARY

Damn it. My prehistoric fingers are too brittle, but the cows need to be milked. But I can't do it.

(to Maria, petting the partridge)
What is wrong with William the partridge?

MARIA

He's restless and squawks and doesn't eat anything I give him.

GARY

Partridges are not good pets, Maria,
they are wild and want to roam.

With that he let the partridge walk off to investigate the
farm.

GARY

He's probably lonely.

Maria

But I'm right there with him on the
couch watching Hallmark movies when I'm
not at work.

GARY

I meant William might be lonely for
other birds.

JENNY

Do you have other birds here?

KYLE

No.

GARY

There might be some swans at the pond
today. Let's go look.

Gary, slowly, with a cane, follows excited William through
the barn and outside to a beautiful pond where SWANS bathe.
Kyle, Jenny and Maria join a few seconds later.

MARIA

Do I need to find another partridge or
something so William won't be lonely?
Am I a bad mother again?

GARY

Maybe leave him here overnight. Look at
him, he's squawking and playing with
the swans.

Maria looks concerned. Jenny watches the birds, then her eyes widen.

JENNY
(whispering to Kyle)
Seven? Seven swans?

KYLE
Shhhh.

JENNY
(whispering to Kyle)
The Secret Santa gave your uncle the
seven swans?

KYLE
Shhh.

EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY

The sunrise shows SEVEN SWANS swimming in the stream. Their noise brings out Maria, in her bathrobe, cradling William the partridge.

She reads the yellow note pinned to her door:

*Make sure we have a warm shelter. We eat pondweed,
stonewort and wigeon grass, tadpoles and insects.*

MARIA
These are from Gary's farm!
(pulls out her phone, dials)
Gary, now you get over here and explain
these swans.

She stares at a gin bottle, but fights the urge to drink.

LATER: Kyle, Jenny and wobbly Gary walk the stone path to Maria's front door. She opens it, holding William, wet swans speed past her to Gary, who hugs them.

MARIA
So you're the mystery Santa, Gary
Richards?!

GARY

Yes, I am. Before I die I needed to find my animals homes.

JENNY

The five golden rings? You gave them to me??

GARY

Where I'm going I can't take jewelry.

JENNY

You could have sold them and kept the money.

GARY

I wanted to give them.

Out of breath, Gary sits on the step.

KYLE

He was hoping no one would ever find out he was behind this, because none of you ever really knew who he was. He's a very private man, said he watched you all from the outside, and wanted to find his beloved animals homes.

JENNY

But the rings?

GARY

No one knows I am a...

(in pain, as if a heart attack)
...homosexual. Forty years ago a carpenter named Tony and I had a private ceremony, a gay pretend wedding in front of our farm animals, and when he died, I tried it again with Jim Hollister the postman, anyway, then I also had my college class ring. I either give the five rings away or leave them to Kyle, who is not a farm man and will sell the farm anyway.

MARIA

Silly old fool. We don't care if you're gay.

GARY

(emotional)

You used to. It was a crime in my youth. Gays were sentenced, convicted, tortured, killed. My parents disowned me for it in 1967 and never talked to me again.

MARIA

(hugging weeping Gary)

They were horrible parents.

JENNY

So on Christmas day, Gary snuck a partridge in Maria's pear tree?

KYLE

Gary's idea, but I was the one who did the physical work for him. Yes, Maria was the only one with a pear tree.

JENNY

Then Kyle brought the drag queen two turtle doves?

GARY

The town was talking about a tranny. I figured he needed support. Animals don't judge. They love.

JENNY

Then Kyle sneaks three French hens into Georgia's house?

KYLE

Outside her door. She was also alone and my uncle wanted her to have company.

JENNY

The four calling birds?

GARY

It didn't matter where they went because they would fly away and finally

be free. I had them in my enormous barn cage for years.

MARIA

Wait - how did you just so happen to have seven swans, six geese, four calling birds, three hens, two turtledoves and a partridge??

GARY

Three years ago when my cats died I bought them all, in these numbers, for myself, at Christmas. Thought it was cute and funny. I never told anyone, cuz they'd think me a disturbed pitiful old man.

JENNY

Uhuh, it's adorable. You're adorable. And after I stole a ring, you figured you'd teach me a lesson and give me five rings?

GARY

Not a lesson, no. You had a victim tantrum and I felt your unbalance. I used to be you. You yelled at how life was unfair, so to help you, I tried to get you in a place where you felt empowered, winning - so you would then have a different energy to attract better things to you.

KYLE

Her energy has changed indeed.

JENNY

Yesterday, Kyle, you snuck six geese to Sharon's?

KYLE

That was not easy - six geese in a car!

GARY

Sharon's a wonderful mom to Delilah. I want my six geese to have a wonderful

mom. Geese are fantastic pets.
Intelligent, affectionate, loyal.

KYLE

Dan knows I'm doing it. His car has been following me for several days. His car was also on my tail this morning with the swans, so I brought them to another lakeside house, just hoping to throw him off, so when he drove home I gathered them again and brought them here. You have no idea how hard it is to gather up and carpool seven swans.

MARIA

And today I get Seven Swans A-Swimming because William needs company?

GARY

William got sick without the swans. And you have a wonderful nature paradise pond and stream. Swans need a lot of space and a lot of food. They'll eat grains, even vegetables and potatoes.

MARIA

What if they fly away?

GARY

They are pinioned so cannot fly away. Amputated wing parts. That's how they came when I bought them.

MARIA

I thought Dan was behind this, so he could preach the Bible.

KYLE

What would Dan say now?

(searching phone, reading aloud)
Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

MARIA

Wait. So, even though online WE found spiritual symbolism for the 12 Days gifts, YOU never really intended any spiritual message behind these?

GARY

Well, consciously, I did not have any spiritual subtext, but how can any of us know what spiritual messages are behind what we do? Behind, or above? There has to be more to life than what we see.

JENNY

Explain that please.

GARY

As a spiritual seeker all my life, after Catholicism sentenced me to Hell for being a homosexual, I explored all other religions, options, theories... read a thousand books, because I knew a loving god would not hate a loving me, when I could not help my attraction to men. The two wonderful romances I had in my life never hurt a soul. Right now, as far as my god thoughts, I have arrived at believing more of a Law Of Attraction intelligent design to the universe. We souls are consciousnesses plugged into this electrical manifestation grid we call Earth, and the Unified Field Of Potentiality has no choice but to vibrate back to us whatever we vibrate.

KYLE

Law of attraction. Hm. So the universe, or a god, does not karma punish us or have any destiny in store, rather it is a reflective force that can only give us what we vibrate, our energy, beliefs, actions?

JENNY

Like if I am a whiny abused victim, the universe, or god, can only give me

circumstances where I am a victim,
abused?

GARY

The universe is only a mirror to
consciousnesses. We are so powerful the
universe cannot override our energies.
Governments do not want citizens to
know how powerful we are as
individuals, so they tell us otherwise,
even creating some religions to keep us
needy and limited.

JENNY

And if I feel and act like a winner, I
attract good things?

GARY

Don't you?

KYLE

But Uncle Gary, how can there be ghosts
and spirits but no white-bearded god in
a white robe?

GARY

I did not say I do not believe in a
god. I believe in all 4300 religions,
all 3000 gods. I believe in a million
gods. Everything exists. We ourselves,
our souls' consciousnesses, decide what
is real to us, so whether there is a
god or not in my afterlife, I DO expect
to see Jesus, because I believe in him,
as a role model... and angels, because
why not... and my past loves will be
there I hope. Can you understand why I
just don't believe in a Bible god who
kills people or sends gays to Hell?, a
God who decides Grammy's and football
winners and orchestrates eight billion
human lives at once?, as well as
endless trillions of animals' fates,
too? An intelligent design makes more
sense to me.

MARIA

But you believe in Jesus and spirits
like I do?

GARY

It can't hurt to believe in such a
sweet miracle worker like Jesus was
said to be, and yes, it is believable
to me that souls who are not in human
costume can flutter around us and
interact, angel like, maybe help us a
few times.

KYLE

So maybe our actions are guided at
times? Two weeks ago out of the blue my
uncle begs me to come here, and, for
the first time in my life I was not
working, so boom I have time, and he
gives me his entire world, changes my
life.

JENNY

It was a strange turn of events that
brought you to me. Was it guided?

GARY

The Lake Lure mystery is now over and
solved. Kyle, will you take me home to
my bed, and you can tell Brick and the
others the suspense is over?

MARIA

Wait, I was hoping we could keep this
going to eventually see Dan's wife.

JENNY

How?

MARIA

Tomorrow would be Eight Maids A Milking
and Gary said he needed his five cows
milked.

JENNY

But only five.

MARIA

But eight milkmaids can milk five cows.

GARY

I could use the help and need to find
someone who can take the cows
permanently.

MARIA

Nine Ladies Dancing in two days. Can we
show up at Dan's for Nine Ladies
Dancing? Then we can see his wife.

GARY

If he wanted us to meet her, he
would've arranged that. This way seems
deceitful.

MARIA

Dan deserves it. Perfect. I'll figure
out the details...

KYLE

Maria, you making the moves on Dan?

MARIA

Not if he's really married. I've never
seen his wife. He's hiding some big
secret of his own, I just feel it.

Gary fell asleep. Kyle lifts him, carries him to the car.
Gary wakes in his arms and waves good-bye to the swans.

EXT. SHARON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kyle and Jenny enter the house, there's a party inside.

INT. SHARON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sharon welcomes in Kyle and Jenny.

SHARON

Happy New Year's Eve!

JENNY

Happy New Year!

KYLE

We had to come for game night.

Sharon eyes heavily made-up Delilah, pushes her to Kyle.

DELILAH
(to Kyle)
Happy New Year's Eve.

JENNY
Am I invisible?

Georgia plays poker with Brick, Brick's wife Bridget, the Xongs, Dan and Jo, in drag.

DAN
(to Kyle)
Wasn't I following you, Kyle? Tell them! Didn't I figure it out days ago?!

KYLE
Yep, Dan knew and kept the secret!

DAN
Maria, come join us at poker.

Maria smokes a cigarette, pets the affectionate geese.

KYLE
None of us knew my uncle very well, not even me, but he's dying and pouring out his soul at the end of his life, and he gave us his beloved partridge, William, Madge and Moe the turtle doves, Diane...

GEORGIA
Dinah and Debbie, my gorgeous French hens.

KYLE
He freed the four calling birds, I don't remember their names...

JENNY
Gave me his cherished five golden rings, which I sold like the complete fraudulent cuckoo heartless psycho loser ho that I am.

DELILAH

Well said.

GEORGIA

Jenny, you needed money more than rings. No shame in that. You made good with them. Honestly.

LI

But the bedroom door is locked tonight so no more stealing.

GEORGIA

(laughs with everyone else)

Well no one needs to go in there.

KYLE

My uncle gave his beloved geese to Sharon...

SHARON

Look how affectionate they are. They just adore Delilah.

DELILAH

And I adore Harry, Lewis, Phyllis, Cory, Max and Ferdinand Jones.

KYLE

And his seven swans he gave to Maria...

MARIA

Now William is finally eating again, thanks to Roger, Micehawk, PineTop, Wauwatosia, Jolene, Nathaniel Guttenberg Otterham and Saucy Sue.

BRICK

And now I'm making a fortune selling bird food.

KYLE

My uncle was a lonely man, a closeted gay, and these birds were his family, but he carefully decided which of us needed his family members most...

MARIA

None to Dan because Dan would eat them.

Dan shrugs, lights his pipe. Maria sits, sharing his chair.

KYLE

You didn't know my uncle because he was too afraid to let people know him these past decades, but he knew you, and he tried to help you in his own weird way.

GEORGIA

Always a nice guy to me and Roy.

KYLE

And we were all lifted in our hearts this past week feeling there was a magical mystery that included us. The 12 Days Of Christmas Secret Santa Mystery. As I got to know you, you all seemed to get even closer with each other. Maybe friendlier than normal.

DAN

(shakes Joe's hand)

This freak plays a good game of poker.

JO

Same to you.

KYLE

Uncle Gary did a huge thing for Jenny.

JENNY

He changed my life. I can't believe you guys welcome me here. I have over seven thousand dollars in the bank! I never even had two thousand at one time. Pizza's on me if you guys want to order it.

KYLE

Tomorrow we as a group can help my uncle in return.

GEORGIA

How?

DAN

I ain't giving him a blowjob. Again.

Laughter erupts.

KYLE

Let's do all 12 Days Of Christmas. We can keep the magic going. Today is the seventh, and we found out he was behind it. Tomorrow is the eight day of Christmas and the song-

JENNY AND DELILAH

(competitively singing)

Eight Maids A-Milking...

KYLE

Let's make eight maids a milking real, and the weird coincidence is his cows do need milking and his frail hands can't do it.

GEORGIA

Never milked a cow but count me in.

DELILAH

I'm in.

DAN

Sure, get someone to milk his cows but come on, we don't need eight milkmaids.

JENNY

It's fun.

SHARON

I'm in.

DAN

I don't get why.

KYLE

Our energies so far produced very positive results and it seems we should

continue it to the end to allow any
more positive stuff to happen.

Jo does The Twilight Zone theme music, bringing a laugh,
helping him feel included.

EXT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

The sunrise shows Sharon and Georgia exiting a car.

INT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

Kyle answers the door, shushes Sharon and Georgia.

KYLE
Gary's still asleep.

SHARON
Can you help Delilah carry in the beer?

EXT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

Delilah, in much make-up, stands seductively by the car.

KYLE
Let me grab that beer for you.

DELILAH
You like girls who destroy their skin
with tattoos? I just don't get her
appeal, I mean, she's a thief and said
she was a prostitute at 14 and just
miscarried. Someone like me saves
themselves for the right man.

KYLE
She's, I don't know, authentic.

DELILAH
(moving in for a kiss)
I'm authentic.

Jenny races over, suspicious.

DELILAH
We were just talking about how pretty
you are.

KYLE
Authentic.
(pointedly)
Few girls are as authentic.

INT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

Kyle, Jenny and Delilah enter Gary's bedroom. Georgia and Sharon are holding Gary's hands. Jenny picks up and plays her guitar.

DELILAH AND JENNY
(singing, in competition)
*On the 8th Day Of Christmas, my true
love gave to me. Eight maids a milking!*

Jo enters, in maid outfit. All five "ladies" remove scarves from their pockets and tie them on their heads to be maids.

GEORGIA
Master Gary, I got to please my master!

Jenny and Kyle look horrified.

GEORGIA
The current social rules say because I'm black, I can joke about black slavery.

GARY
(in stereotypical queenly gay voice)
And next time girls, I want rainbow scarves.

They laugh.

GARY
You can't do that voice today, right, Georgia? But I can, because I am homo.

JO

I am allowed to make gay jokes, and I guess Dan and I are the only ones who can make fun of trans?

DELILAH

Well, Dan's not supposed to.

JENNY

And only I can joke about trailer trash? My parents are cousins.

KYLE

Hot.

JENNY

Kidding. Jo, are you gay or straight?

JO

I am a milkmaid trapped in a man's body, and I am attracted to your Kyle.

DELILAH

Who isn't?

JENNY

Awkward.

SHARON

Jo, you are such a fine looking man.

JO

I hate that the same as you would if I told you that you were a fine looking man.

SHARON

Ok, I hear ya, but your triggers are not my responsibility. If my well-intentioned compliment insults you, that's on you I think, not me.

JO

You're saying I can't tell you what are my correct pronouns?

SHARON

You can say anything you want,
sunshine, but it's not my job to speak
what you want said. In America we have
free speech. I think you should put the
effort on how you hear things.

GEORGIA

When I was a girl, in the 1950's, they
called me the N-word. It hurt. You can
say I was triggered. Now if someone
calls me that, I am not triggered at
all because of the changed meaning I
apply to the word. It is mean-spirited
and from fear, so if anyone dare call
me it, I know to avoid that person, and
I hear their fear and drama in it,
which I want no part of. As a child I
believed that word meant I was dirty
and disgusting, not quite human, and it
hurt because I believed I must be that.
I stopped believing I was less than
white people, oh about 60 years ago.
Jo, how do you feel if someone calls
you a fag?

JO

I expect my friends to.

GEORGIA

See? It's what we hear in the word that
matters. It is not my job to silence
any other human from using their mouths
to form any consonants or vowels they
want.

(holds Sharon's mouth closed)

It's a ridiculous idea to think I could
control peoples' mouths and stop them
from making consonants and vowels
together, and it would only lead to
repression, which makes everything
worse.

(Sharon shuts Georgia's mouth briefly)

My power is hearing, listening, and
deciding how best to avert drama and
nonsense. I am all for free speech. If
anyone wants to use the N-word, I say
go ahead, so I know who to avoid,

unless it's a friend, and I know their intent is not harm. Everyone has a right to say any word and believe anything they want to.

GARY

(to Jo)

There's a Latin guy that cleans out the barn who might like you.

MARIA

(joking, Latin accent)

If he's Latin, he snuck here illegally, wears a sombrero, eats tacos and is planning to steal all our jobs.

GARY

He's cute but he thinks I'm too old for him.

GEORGIA

Honey, you're older than most of Saturn's moons.

JO

Fix us up, Gary. Now girls, we got cows to milk. Walk this way.

They strut comical dance choreography out the door, to the old man's laughter. In the hall are many framed photos.

GEORGIA

(pointing to a framed photo)

That's my husband, Roy. Why do you have a photo of my husband on your wall?! If you tell me he was a secret gay I'll drop my bleeding heart right here and STAIN YOUR HOMOSEXUAL FLOOR.

GARY

Roy and I rooted for the same baseball teams every year. You're in the photos, too. Keep looking.

JENNY

This one, Georgia, this is you.

GEORGIA

Oh my lord, that's our wedding photo!

GARY

Cut from the newspaper. Brick and
Bridget's newspaper photo announcing
their second son is there, too.

Georgia sees the photo showing happy Brick and
Bridget holding a one year-old and newborn.

GEORGIA

(reads newspaper headline)

Grocery Owner & Wife Have 2nd Son.

JENNY

(whispers)

Gary was so lonely. Look, here's Dan
and Maria-

MARIA

We look like a couple. From Brick's
birthday party. Three years ago?

DELILAH

Here's me in like third grade!

SHARON

When you won the Spelling Bee.

GEORGIA

The whole town is here in pictures.
Everyone from the neighborhood, since I
have been here. I am seeing a lot of
people who have passed on, too.

Jo did his Twilight Zone melody.

JENNY

This one must be Kyle growing up. And
probably Kyle's dad who died long ago,
Gary's brother.

SHARON

Maybe this is Gary's parents? They sure
don't look friendly.

The 1948 photo shows a very stern woman wearing a cross and a man holding a Bible and a baby.

MARIA

I hate that they disowned him.

Jo finds photos of Gary and his deceased lovers, secret husbands. CLOSE-UP on those photos.

EXT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

Kyle carries Gary to an outside porch chair by an iced tub of beers. They laugh at the five milking the five cows, poorly.

Brick and Bridget and Qi Xong arrive at the porch.

QI

Here to milk your cows.

KYLE

Brick, you milking?

BRICK

No need. You'll have eight maids.

Sharon waves the two ladies over to the cows in the field.

A car parks and Dan and Maria exit it.

DAN

Have you done this milking before?

MARIA

(flirtatious)

If I had a dime for every time I was asked that. Answer is always yes.

Maria hugs Gary, Kyle, and Brick, grabs a beer and then goes to the field by a cow.

Kyle snaps photos from the porch. Gary hands Brick and Dan beers.

DAN

(reads from his phone aloud)

The eight maids a-milking symbolize the eight beatitudes.

KYLE

What are beatitudes?

DAN

The Beatitudes are sayings attributed to Jesus, eight blessings recounted by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew.

KYLE

Read them to us?

DAN

(reading, proudly)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

KYLE

Could've been Jenny last week.

DAN

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

GARY

Georgia. Maria. Grieving long and deep for their husbands. Me, too.

DAN

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

GARY

My grand nephew.

KYLE

Me? I am meek?

GARY

You're meek. You go along, sweet as can be. Never angry, never bossy.

DAN

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they shall be
satisfied.*

Gary coughs, cannot speak, gestures towards Brick.

KYLE

Brick feeds us all, and Brick's store
is like a church, a gathering place.

DAN

Brick is a righteous man.

BRICK

(blushing)

Can an atheist be righteous?

DAN

*Blessed are the merciful, for they
shall obtain mercy.*

KYLE

Jo? Vegan? He is merciful to all
animals and look, we gave him our
mercy.

DAN

I mean, where else on Earth would he be
included like this?

KYLE

A lot of places, Dan. You're out of
touch with how the world is changing.

DAN

Oh I cringe when I see the liberal
news. Drag queen story time in schools?
High school boys winning girls' sports?
Boys in girl's bathrooms? Banning
Bibles from schools? Taking down
American flags to put up rainbow flags?
Sanctuary cities?

BRICK

Sanctuary cities seem pretty Jesus if
you ask me.

DAN

*Blessed are the pure of heart, for they
shall see God.*

Kyle points to his sleeping uncle. Brick nods.

DAN

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they
shall be called children of God.*

BRICK

That's me a bit, in my own gruff way,
and Georgia, usually.

DAN

Maria when she's sober.

(reading)

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for
the sake of righteousness, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.*

BRICK

Persecuted? Jo has been. Dan persecuted
him, in the name of righteousness, and
Dan persecuted Maria as a drunk many
times.

DAN

Because she is. Look, I have been
persecuted for being Republican and
Christian, and Jo persecutes me for
eating meat. Everyone's persecuted at
some time.

KYLE

Well, what I get from the eight
beatitudes is that everybody gets into
the kingdom of heaven. Right?

DAN

Except sinners who don't repent.

Kyle and Brick roll their eyes.

DAN

What birds do I hear?

KYLE

Oh he's just got the eleven sandpipers left. In a cage half the size of the back barn. And these five cows. Brick, who around here might take the cows?

BRICK

Let me ask my wife.

DAN

I'll take one or two.

KYLE

These are his friends, he doesn't want his friends butchered.

Dan rolls his eyes. Jenny, covered in milk, walks to Kyle, kisses him.

JENNY

I didn't get the hang of it.

BRICK

You can't stay here and take over the farm, Kyle?

KYLE

I need the city. The big city. I'd die of boredom here.

JENNY

I don't understand how dangerous Chicago is better than this. How is Gary doing?

KYLE

He hates that his body failed him like this.

DAN

It won't fail him in heaven.

KYLE

So you're okay with gays going to heaven?

DAN

Well not all of them, not pedophiles or
gay politicians or porn stars or CNN
anchors or Anderson Cooper or Ted
Haggard or Jeffrey Dahmer. But Gary has
a heart of gold. His kindness and love
will be rewarded in Heaven.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Nine Santa hats (with price tags) on a car roof outside
Dan's beautiful lakeside house. Quietly exiting two parked
cars are Maria, Georgia, Jenny with guitar, Kyle, Sharon,
Delilah, Qi, Bridget and Jo.

Maria shushes and hands one hat to each of the eight women
(Jo included) who wear red dresses. Maria, wearing a hat and
carrying an extra hat and red dress, tiptoes toward Dan's
house, leading the others.

Before they knock on Dan's door, a little freckled pig-
tailed girl, AMY, 8, opens it. Dan steps outside, closing
the door, pushes Amy inside.

MARIA

Aw she's so cute!

DAN

That's Amy.

MARIA

Today is Nine Ladies Dancing. Ta da!

GEORGIA

Your house is magnificent! Why haven't
you had us here before?

DAN

Not here. Not today. Or let's do it up
the road a bit.

MARIA

We got eight. Your wife will make nine!
I brought her a Santa dress.

DAN

My wife won't do that.

MARIA
Is she too good for it?

GEORGIA
Ask her!

Georgia knocks on the door. Dan pulls her away, but Amy opens the door.

DAN
Close the door, Amy.

AMY
Christmas was last week, this is January second.

MARIA
Amy, this is the 9th day of Christmas, didn't your dad tell you what is going on?

AMY
No.

MARIA
Like the song.

JENNY AND DELILAH
(competitively singing)
*On the ninth day of Christmas, my true
love sent to me Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a-milking, Seven swans a-
swimming, Six geese a-laying..*

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

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

In a wheelchair, Mrs. WENDY PETERS, 45, natural blonde, deep-set blue eyes, paints a picture of a flower, a paintbrush in her mouth. She is an obvious quadriplegic with no use of her arms or legs.

WENDY
(the brush in her mouth)
You must be pretty Maria.

MARIA

Hi, you must be Dan's wife.

WENDY

I'm Wendy. Come on in. I can finally see Dan's friends. Call them all in.

DAN

They were just leaving-

WENDY

Let me meet your friends.

Blushing, Maria locks eyes with Dan.

DAN

(reluctantly)

Come on in, my wife Wendy would like to meet you all.

Everyone enters. Dan removes the paintbrush and wipes drool from Wendy's chin. Awkward.

WENDY

Dan didn't tell you about the hunting accident?

Even more awkward. Finally -

AMY

Want to see the new dolls I got for Christmas? I have 61 dolls now.

GEORGIA

61? Oh I have never seen 61 dolls.
Where can we see these dolls of yours?
In another room maybe?

Amy gestures to her bedroom, where Georgia immediately follows, as does everyone else -

- leaving only Dan and Maria by Wendy. Awkward.

MARIA

You have a beautiful home.

WENDY

Dan does everything, of course.

MARIA

Does he make gin and tonics?

WENDY

Actually, I'd like one as well. Dan?

DAN

We're out of liquor today.

Dan pushes Wendy's wheelchair into Amy's room.

INT. AMY'S ROOM - DAY

Amy shows her 61 dolls to all. Awkward. Eventually -

WENDY

I only count seven dancing girls.

JO

I'm eight.

WENDY

Oh, well, seems you came here for Nine Ladies Dancing - was I suppose to be number nine? Sorry, I only dance at strip joints on Fridays. Maybe Amy can be number nine?

AMY

Yes!!

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Maria wheels Wendy to the porch as Kyle photographs the ladies outside, waiting for Amy.

INT. AMY'S ROOM - DAY

Dan enters, finding Jo alone with Amy, dressing her in a red dress.

DAN

No grown man touches my daughter!

Jo rises, insulted, raises his hands, and Dan pushes him into the closet door. Jo swings back, levels Dan, who falls, then grabs his gun. Amy gets between them and cries.

Jo leaves.

Dan dresses his daughter, then brings her outside.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Amy joins. The 9 ladies do choreographed kicks and jazz hands. Dan and Wendy applaud. As the ladies bow,

Dan smiles and wheels Wendy inside.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Amy waves good-bye to the group. Dan closes the door.

WENDY

They seem like nice people.

DAN

They're the best. They did not tell me they were coming.

WENDY

I probably pooped and peed a gallon.
Did you hear me fart? Do I stink?

DAN

No.

He wheels her into the bathroom, lifts her, lowers her skirt, changes her dirty diaper. Long silence.

WENDY

I like Maria.

DAN

She's great, when she's sober.

WENDY

I like her for you.

DAN

What are you talking about?

WENDY

People with working bodies have sexual needs.

DAN

Don't.

WENDY

I would understand if Maria could satisfy you in ways I used to.

DAN

I married you for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer, in sickness and
in health, to love and to cherish,
until parted by death.

WENDY

Yada yada yada. I'd understand, I'm
just saying. It would be okay with me
if you had a sexual relationship with
Maria.

DAN

It would not be okay with God.

WENDY

I don't think God really cares.

Later, Wendy paints and Amy plays with her dolls.

Dan sits in a chair, smoking a pipe, introspective.

On his computer: *Nine ladies dancing means the nine fruits
of the Holy Spirit: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience,
Goodness, Mildness, Modesty, Modesty, Fidelity, Continency
/ Chastity.*

INT. BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Bridget hangs up the grocery phone, looks to Brick:

BRIDGET

Nope, our house is not zoned for cows.
The boys are gonna be upset.

Maria rips open a bag and devours potato chips.

MARIA

Did Dan come in this afternoon?

BRICK

Nope. Dan always comes in in the morning.

MARIA

Okay, I hope Dan does tomorrow.

BRICK

Dan always has.

MARIA

I hope Dan does.

(gives him money)

For three bags of chips.

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

A moment later, Kevin (black-beard, in the jeep following Maria on Christmas) enters, buys juice.

KEVIN

Was that Maria Flores?

Brick, protective, doesn't answer.

KEVIN

Was that Maria Flores?

BRICK

Who are you?

KEVIN

A friend of hers.

BRICK

A friend would know if was her.

He exits.

BRIDGET

Call her and warn her.

BRICK
I'm on it.

INT. GARY'S BARN - NIGHT

Kyle seats Gary at the dinner table. Jenny, in pink pajamas, sets the table. The doorbell rings.

JENNY
I get to sleep on a farm. I get to
sleep on a farm.

Kyle kisses her then opens the door. It's an AFRICAN-AMERICAN PIZZA DELIVERY GIRL.

PIZZA DELIVERY GIRL
\$28.15

Kyle reaches in his wallet to pay but Jenny is quicker, handing the girl a couple twenties.

JENNY
Keep it. I'm rich.

PIZZA DELIVERY GIRL
Wow, thanks!

She leaves. They eat.

GARY
Thank you for staying here instead of
Jenny's cabin tonight.

JENNY
Of course. We're gonna put flannel
blankets over the hay where the hens
were, is that okay?

Gary nods. Between bites, Kyle shows his uncle photos of the dancing ladies at Dan's. Gary points to one photo of Wendy in a wheelchair.

Kyle
Quadriplegic. It seems Dan accidentally
shot Wendy while they were hunting. She
can talk, has a good sense of humor.

JENNY

Paints well, but the paintbrush has to
be put in Wendy's mouth!

GARY

Dan's so nice.

JENNY

If you like Republitalds.

KYLE

But even though Dan is a Christian
Republican, he does feel you, gay Uncle
Gary, will go to Heaven. I asked him.

Gary winks, smiles.

JENNY

Bible says tattoos are sins. Does Dan
think I will go to Hell? Does he know
the Bible says to stone wives if they
are not virgins? Maybe that's what
happened to Wendy? Maybe he stoned her
to paralysis?

KYLE

Cut it out, you hater.

JENNY

Well, I don't know of any women who
were virgins when they got married. Not
one.

EXT. BRICK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bridget parks on a gravel road, walks past beautiful
foliage to their lakeside brick house.

INT. BRICK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bridget enters their beautiful home, hands her car keys to
her sons, BRAD, 19, and BRIAN, 17, both growing mustaches.

BRIDGET

You dad's waiting for you guys to take over. Tell him to bring home a CRANBERRY bread. I forgot.

BRAD
Are we getting the cows?

BRIDGET
No, this land is not zoned for cows.

BRIAN
Can we move?

BRIDGET
Move?

BRAD
To a place that allows cows. I was all excited that my career would be farming since I keep flunking school.

BRIDGET
Tell that to your dad.

They leave.

EXT. LAKE ROADS - NIGHT

The teenagers' car drives through idyllic forested lake roads to Brick's store.

INT. BRICK'S GROCER - NIGHT

Brad and Brian put on work aprons.

BRAD
Oh. Mom says to bring home a bread.

BRICK
Did she say what kind? Banana? Pumpkin? Cranberry? Nut?

The teenagers look at each other then shrug "no."

EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

There's a light inside the beautiful bay view home.

INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Georgia kneels by her bed, sips wine, prays.

GEORGIA

Oh Roy, did you see me today? Mortified to crash in on that poor cripple? Bless her heart. I miss you Roy. It's been so long since you've gone, I wish you'd spend just an hour with me, one hour. Just an hour! ROY, ONE HOUR!

INT. GARY'S BARN - NIGHT

Kyle puts his uncle to bed, kisses his forehead, tiptoes out the room to the back barn area - where Jenny lays out blankets and pillows over the hay.

JENNY

Doesn't smell bad.

KYLE

I hosed the barn down earlier.

JENNY

What are those birds?

11 SANDPIPERS live in an enormous cage that stretches outside over the pond.

KYLE

The last of his birds. Sandpipers.

JENNY

Eleven pipers piping?

KYLE

Yup. So, if we keep on schedule, in two days those have to find a new place.

JENNY

You don't think it would be cool to live here forever?

KYLE

Nah. Do you?

JENNY

Yes!

KYLE

Oh Jenny I'm not a farmer.

JENNY

I know.

KYLE

And you really don't strike me as a farmer either.

JENNY

I don't know.

As they make love, the pipers sing an otherworldly beautiful whistling symphony, thus the name pipers from their pipe-like bills. After sex, Kyle strokes her fancy blonde hair.

KYLE

The pipers are saying we fly low because we eat crustaceans, insects, worms. We stand on one leg to reduce half the amount of heat lost through our unfeathered limbs.

JENNY

Did your uncle tell you that?

KYLE

No, they did. Just now. Can't you understand birds? They say you are pretty and dramatic and original and interesting and the best sex ever and that people like you because you're so authentic.

JENNY

Yes, I speak bird. Listen. They say they think you and I are a great match because we're so different and opposites attract. Oh, and that even though you lied to us all, somehow you come across with great integrity, which

is weird. They say they don't want you
to go back to Chicago.

They're both misty-eyed as they hold each other tight.

Later, the sun rises as Jenny awakes in his arms. She pulls
him up.

KYLE

What? What's wrong?

She runs outside in the cold, naked. He follows her, naked.

JENNY

I just wanted to streak with you!

INT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

In his bedroom, Gary awakes to bacon and eggs, served by
Jenny, in pajamas.

GARY

Oh, good morning. This looks great. Is
Kyle here?

JENNY

No, he's at Brick's store.

EXT. BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Kyle parks his car by the store as Dan enters.

INT. BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Maria is drunk, slurs.

MARIA

Brick, Brick, Brick, I don't know a guy
with a black beard.

She sees Dan enter, who nods to her, Brick, son Brian,
Sharon, Georgia and the Xongs.

MARIA

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

LI

Maria was a fool.

QI

Because Maria has a crush on Dan. No harm was meant.

DAN

Now you know. Wendy is wonderful.

Awkward silence as he pours himself coffee and sits.

GEORGIA

She's wonderful. Bless her heart.

MARIA

Bless. Her. Heart!

QI

Wendy's very pretty.

DAN

Now you know why I also need to get out of the house in the morning.

BRICK

It's not for my coffee and muffins?

Kyle enters.

KYLE

Happy 10th Day Of Christmas.

GEORGIA

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

KYLE

Black, like my older women.

She winks.

DAN

How is Gary?

KYLE

Not good, but Jenny's watching him. So,
who is going to be 10 Lords A Leaping
today?

DAN
We still doing that?

KYLE
Just 3 more days. Today, we need 10
guys to leap - how easy is that?
Tomorrow - nobody needs to do anything,
I'll set the 11 sandpipers free. 11
Pipers Piping, and then in two days we
all bang a drum. Then done.

SHARON
I don't get it. This is to fool your
Uncle Gary?

KYLE
No, he won't be fooled. It's just to
complete what we started. To keep our
synchronized high vibrations going.
Keep the engine running.

No one but Kyle was enthused.

BRICK
What YOU started.

SHARON
I don't see the point, though, of ten
guys leaping.

GEORGIA
Put them in gray sweatpants and I do.

KYLE
Like yesterday, nine ladies dancing.
How much fun was that?

From the looks of all, no one thinks it was fun.

MARIA
It was all my fault!

DAN

Amy had a good time, and Wendy was grateful to finally meet all of you.

KYLE

See? How great is that that Wendy got to meet Dan's buddies?

DAN

I don't feel like leaping today.

BRICK

Me either.

BRIAN

Dad, I don't have to leap, do I?

BRICK

No, Brian, no one has to leap. Kyle, you'll just have to find nine other men besides yourself to leap today.

KYLE

I don't know anyone else in town.

MARIA

Brian plays drums!

BRIAN

Mine are ripped, well, the bass is.

KYLE

You have drums?

BRICK

Brian and Brad have lost interest as drummers in the band. Can you just imagine how much practice that took at home? How much loud drum banging?

KYLE

I think I can. Brian, I'll pay you and your brother to drum in a couple days.

BRIAN

How much?

KYLE

Contingent on you getting 12 drummers total.

BRICK

Contingent means for you to get paid you need to get 12 drummers total.

KYLE

How is \$50 each. For all 12. For fifteen minutes?

BRIAN

Absofockinutley!

BRICK

Hey!

BRIAN

I mean absolutely, thank you, sir. Pay up front?

KYLE

(opening his wallet)

Here's three hundred. Three hundred more after the job.

BRIAN

Where are we drumming?

KYLE

You know what? It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter one bit. Just swear to me that on January 5th, you 12 drummers will drum together like 15 minutes. Swear on it.

BRIAN

I swear.

EXT. ROADS - DAY

Driving, Kyle sees SIX YOUNG FISHERMEN walking. He gets out of the car and follows them.

KYLE

I know this sounds ridiculous, but I'll pay you each \$50 if you leap for like fifteen minutes.

FISHERMAN 1

Leap?

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

KYLE

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

FISHERMAN 1

Gosh, I just can't leap.

KYLE

Maybe your jeans are too tight?

FISHERMAN 2

Maybe we can just leap in our underwear?

KYLE

Sure, and I'll join the six of you, and we'll get three more guys.

Fisherman 2 pushes Kyle to the ground, but his friends pull him off him before he punches him.

FISHERMAN 3

Pervert.

FISHERMAN 4

I'm calling the cops.

They run, then some leap away, laughing, calling the police.

INT. KYLE'S CAR - DAY

Kyle drives.

KYLE

God, or Jesus, or angels or ghosts or whatever, please help this 10 Lords A-

Leaping day. I feel my Uncle Gary really needs this day. I don't know why. 10 Lords A-Leaping they say symbolizes The Ten Commandments?

INT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

JENNY

He just died!!

Hysterical Jenny performs CPR on lifeless Gary. Kyle enters and tries to revive him.

JENNY AND KYLE

Gary! Gary! Can you hear us? Gary?

Gary's fog-like spirit leaps out of its body, floats toward the ceiling corner, watches frantic Kyle and Jenny.

GARY'S SPIRIT

Am I dead??

Gary looks at his spirit body but sees only fog. Suddenly, that fog flies into Jenny's brain and hears her thoughts:

JENNY'S THOUGHTS

Kyle's going to think I wasn't watching you but I was!

FLASHBACK to earlier when she peeked in on him, four times, and he was either sleeping or reading.

Gary's spirit fog flies into Kyle's head and hears his thoughts:

KYLE'S THOUGHTS

Gary wants to die and said he was looking forward to it, and would definitely die soon anyway, so should we even try to keep him alive?

GARY'S SPIRIT

No need to save me. Like your dog? I can feel you love me like your dog?? You have a dog?

INT. KYLE'S CHICAGO APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Gary's spirit fog flies into the apartment of Kyle's heavy neighbor KITTY who watches the IRISH SETTER.

Gary psychically sees a MONTAGE including:

Kitty is a nurse at a hospital.

GARY'S SPIRIT

Your name is Kitty and you're a part-time nurse, with a teenage son named Drew.

INT. KITTY'S APT - NIGHT

Kitty serves dinner to her teenage son, DREW. Gary flies into Kitty's brain.

INT. MOLESTER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kitty, 5, is being raped by a MOLESTER.

GARY'S SPIRIT

Oh no, Kitty, you were molested then added weight to block your sexual appeal to keep safe?

Suddenly Gary's spirit fog is in her five year-old body as she is raped.

INT. MOLESTER'S LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Gary's spirit fog flies into the next room, where a HARDENED WOMAN smokes and drinks, eyeing the bedroom wall, hearing little Kitty scream.

HAREDENED WOMAN'S THOUGHTS

Just get through this, Kitty, it's better than if he kicks us out again and we're on the street.

GARY'S SPIRIT

How do I get out of here??

Orbs of light appear and Gary's spirit fog follows them out.

INT. GARY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - DAY

Gary's spirit fog follows the light orbs above an old family scene of FIVE-YEAR-OLD GARY and GARY'S MOTHER and GARY'S FATHER.

GARY'S MOTHER
Happy Birthday, Gary.

His mother cuts him a piece of pie. His rigid father adds ice cream. They all look happy.

GARY'S SPIRIT
That is still my best memory ever.

FADE TO DARK:

Gary's spirit fog watches a scene years later in the same room with 30 YEAR-OLD GARY and his aged parents arguing.

GARY'S AGED FATHER
You are going to propose to her!

30 YEAR-OLD GARY
I just can't lie to her. I'm... gay.

GARY'S AGED MOTHER
You are not gay.

GARY'S AGED FATHER
You must resist the evils of homosexuality.

30 YEAR-OLD GARY
It can't be evil.

GARY'S AGED FATHER
Get out of this house and never even think of coming back in it! You are not my son!

Gary's spirit fog flies into his mother's brain.

GARY'S AGED MOTHER'S THOUGHTS
I raised him wrong. I let him have pets instead of hunting them. But we can keep his homo all quiet. No one has to know. He doesn't have to leave.

GARY'S AGED MOTHER

(to her husband)
He doesn't have to leave.

GARY'S AGED FATHER
Don't you intercede or I'll kick you
out, too.

Gary's spirit fog flies into his father's brain.

GARY'S AGED FATHER'S THOUGHTS
You lazy, weak boy! I resisted it!

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Gary's spirit fog sees his father's memory of when Gary's
drunk father battled temptation to have sex with a sailor.

STRANGE VOICE
Gary! Gary... Gary!

GARY'S SPIRIT
Who's calling me?

EXT. DARKNESS - NIGHT

Gary's spirit fog flies to a dark wasteland. He ignores the
calling voice.

GARY'S SPIRIT
I want it blackness. I don't want to
see anything else right now.

MONTAGE shows Gary's spirit fog in many positions in this
blackness (showing passing of time).

A CLOUDLIKE LIGHT TUNNEL appears above. Gary's spirit fog
flies into it. It becomes a friendly light tornado, where
SMEARS OF LIGHT pass him.

GARY'S SPIRIT
You're souls. I know you're souls. I
know you somehow, don't I??

Quickly, the tunnel stops and a GROWING LIGHT appears.

GARY'S SPIRIT
Dad?

The growing light leaps into Gary's spirit fog.

ANOTHER ANGLE shows Gary and his father's SEE THROUGH HUMAN BODIES in deep embrace.

GARY'S FATHER

Take my light and energy, son. I am so proud of the man you became.

GARY'S SPIRIT

(crying)

I love you, too, Dad. And I love Mom wherever she is-

INT. GARY'S PARENTS' BEDROOM - DAY

Gary's spirit fog flies above his bedridden dying (years ago) mother. He flies into her brain.

The flashback moment they disowned him is stuck on replay in her brain. Angles show her guilt and hurt.

GARY'S SPIRIT

Oh, enough of that guilt. That guilt killed you.

As her body dies, her foglike spirit rises above her body. Gary's spirit fog rushes to her and together they pulse a strong heartbeat light.

GARY'S SPIRIT

I forgive you, Mama! I understand everything now. I see your whole life!

Now forgiven, her dead human face becomes happy and younger and younger.

MONTAGE: Gary's mother's LIFE REVIEW plays quickly, showing events of her life, ending to when she was a GIRL playing with animals.

GARY'S SPIRIT

I feel your love for them. That's where I got mine.

GARY'S MOTHER

Animals never let me down like people did. Your father's coldness let us all

down. Your brother died and let me
down. And even you, Gary, I felt let
down when you lived fine without me.
You never came back.

STRANGE VOICE

Gary! Gary... Gary!

Gary's spirit flies back through the tunnel with light
smear beings. Four light smears push him to the side where
he sees -

INT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

The light smears leave as Gary's spirit fog solidifies into
his previous 40 year-old body, just as the body of TONY,
40, Mexican, solidifies.

GARY'S SPIRIT

Tony!

TONY

My greatest love.

EXT. BARBECUE - NIGHT

Tony and Gary meet.

TONY

Love at first sight.

MONTAGE (of memories):

Gary and Tony buy the barn.

Gary and Tony enjoy a candlelit dinner.

Gary and Tony in a car accident - Tony dies.

A JESUS FIGURE appears.

JESUS FIGURE

You can stay with me, Tony - or go
back. You'll lose a leg and it will be
painful. But it's your choice. There's
no wrong answer. Experience is the
goal, and it doesn't matter where you

experience or what you attract to
experience.

TONY

Gary, now that you know what the after-
life is like, now that you feel this
love that is not on Earth, you can
understand why I chose to not go back
to you. But I have been near you, in
spirit.

GARY'S SPIRIT

I so missed you.

TONY

I am here for you. We need to leap up
to finalize.

GARY'S SPIRIT

Leap up?

TONY

Yes.

Tony takes Gary's hand and Tony leaps - Gary does not.

TONY

Gary? Gary, leap up! Leap up and away
from your Gary Richard's life.

GARY

Leave it all behind?

TONY

That was only a tiny part of your
overall existence. Come leap up and see
all that you really are. Leave the
Earth life behind.

GARY

I can't leave it.

INT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

RETURN TO PRESENT DAY. Gary's spirit is sucked into his
dying body. He chokes, inhales, opens his eyes to see Jenny
playing guitar and singing.

JENNY

Gary!! Gary!!!

Kyle runs in, hugs Gary.

KYLE

How did you do it??

JENNY

For the past hour I just kept playing guitar and singing about Gary, singing his name, singing he was loved.

GARY

My father's light leaped into me. I leaped into the after-life but Tony wanted me to leap again, away from this Earth life forever. Three leaps.

KYLE

The 10th Day Of Christmas? Ten Lords A-Leaping?

GARY

I was dead, I flew. Everywhere. I saw mom and pop and Tony. Oh, and I saw your Irish Setter and Kitty.

JENNY

Kyle, you have a cat?

KYLE

No, there's a woman named Kitty taking care of my Irish Setter.

GARY

She's tall and heavy, wearing a tan top with fake pearl necklace in an apartment three doors down from Kyle's. Kyle has lime walls in most the apartment but blue walls in the bathroom. Beige carpeting in his living and bedroom with framed posters of New York. Kitty has all white walls and gray appliances and checkered black and white curtains and dark gray carpets

and a rooster cookie jar for dog treats.

KYLE

There's no way you could know this.

JENNY

Unless his soul actually left his body and somehow lived another life.

KYLE

Which he just PROVED. Oh my god!

All three are aghast at the magnitude of this miraculous moment.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Jo, not in drag, leaps to Dan's door and pounds on it. He has notes in his back pocket. Amy answers.

AMY

Did you want to see the doll's evening gowns for tonight's beauty pageant?

JO

Maybe later. Is your dad home?

AMY

They're in the bathroom.

JO

Just tell your dad I am on the porch whenever he is available. No hurry.

A minute later, wiping his wet hands on his jeans, Dan comes outside, making sure to close the door behind him.

JO

You and I have ice-skating practice.

DAN

You're a piece of work.

JO

Look, I realize that in the news there are gays bringing kids into drag bars, and I wanted you to know I would never

do that. Drag bars are adult, and sexual, and inappropriate for kids. Just as straight bars are. I wanted to tell you I understand why you got upset when I was helping Amy dress. I get it. I look like a grown man.

DAN

You ARE a grown man.

JO

I feel like a woman and I am attracted to men, not little girls, but I was proud that I could understand your upset and wanted to tell you I get it and I will never help Amy or another little girl dress, because I know what it looks like, innocent or not.

DAN

Thank you.

JO

Okay, well, I still feel awkward coming here.

DAN

You liberals push crazy stuff, what you're teaching kids in school is so darn perverse. You think Amy's teacher should ask her if she wants to be a girl or a boy and what her asinine pronouns are??

JO

I don't know. If I was asked that when I was her age my life would have been easier. If she IS trans-

DAN

She's not trans!! The pharma-sponsored media is just looking for ways to make your kids lifetime pharma customers! Just stay away from kids, Jo. Unless their parents are in the room. Look, let's go somewhere else and talk. I

don't want Wendy or Amy disturbed by
any of this.

JO
I know a bar-

DAN
I am not walking into any bar with you.

INT. BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Jo and Dan converse at Brick's store, in the window chairs.
Brick is behind the counter and Maria is in the background,
shopping.

JO
You Christians push crazy stuff too,
though.

DAN
Like what? The Ark?

JO
Well, yeah, duh. What about all the
people living way above sea level in
mountain areas? They wouldn't have been
killed by a flood.

(pulling his notes out, reading)
But also like *Deuteronomy 25:11-12.*
When Fighting Another Man, Chop Off His
Wife's Hand If She Grabs Your Genitals.

DAN
She shouldn't be grabbing another man's
genitals.

JO
Leviticus 19:19. Don't Wear Clothes
Made of Both Linen And Wool.

DAN
It says that?

JO
Yeah, and *Leviticus 10:6. Don't Tear*
Your Clothes.

DAN
That's, well, stupid.

JO
Should it send you to Hell? *Leviticus, Don't Sit Where A Menstruating Woman Has Sat.*

DAN
Unless the chair is clean. Duh.

JO
It doesn't say that. It says ever. *Book of Numbers says Women Suspected of Adultery Have To Drink Dirty Water.*

DAN
I'd be okay with that.

JO
Exodus, If Your Slave Refuses Freedom, Pierce Their Ear.

DAN
These were written for a different time.

JO
Exactly! A very uneducated time where rulers lied to keep their citizens scared and needy.

DAN
Some things don't change.

JO
Exodus 22:2-3, You Can't Kill A Burglar During The Day. Just informing you in case you forgot. Leviticus 19:19, Don't Plant More Than One Kind of Seed In A Field.

DAN
That's stupid. Some of these sins we just have to ignore as they don't make sense in today's world.

JO

Some? Not ALL?

(pats Dan's belly)

Don't Eat Fat. *Leviticus 3:17 It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood.* I'm going to interpret that as vegan is more holy than killing innocent animals and eating them.

DAN

You're a gatherer. I'm a hunter.

(shows his gun for a second)

JO

Leviticus 5:2 If a soul touch any unclean thing, whether it be a carcass of an unclean beast, or a carcass of unclean cattle, or the carcass of unclean creeping things, and if it be hidden from him; he also shall be unclean and guilty - also - You Can't Leave Open Pits Around For Animals To Fall Into. Exodus 21:33-34. And Leviticus 19:10: You Have To Leave Fallen Grapes On The Ground For The Poor To Eat.

DAN

What's wrong with that?

JO

The HAVE TO part, Dan, The HAVE TO part is not okay. I got a dentist appointment. Say hi to Wendy and Amy, ok?

DAN

(lighting his pipe)

Thanks for saying you were wrong about Amy.

JO

I didn't say I was wrong. I was not wrong. I was innocent. I said I understood why you thought I was wrong,

and to be nice to you, I would not do that again.

(touches Dan's shaved beard area)
Leviticus 19:27 Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard - and I know this may be too close to home for you, but Leviticus 21:18-21 No man who has any defect may come near: no man who is blind or lame, disfigured or deformed; no man with a crippled foot or hand, or who is a hunchback or dwarf, or who has an eye defect, or who has festering or running sores or damaged testicles. No descendant of Aaron the priest who has any defect is to come near to present the food offerings to the Lord. He has a defect; he must not come near to offer the food of his God. Where does that leave Wendy?

Dan is speechless. Jo hands his notes to Dan, then leaves.

BRICK

Who else lets you smoke a pipe in their business?

DAN

Just you, Baldy. And I love you for letting me break the rules.

BRICK

Rules are meant to be broken.

MARIA

Hey, number one rule breaker here.

She exits with her groceries.

DAN

Wait! What's your hurry?!

She reenters, smiling, approaches him, sits, crosses her legs, removes her jacket.

DAN

You look great. Even eye-shadow on your beautiful dark eyes? Got a date?

MARIA

I wish.

DAN

Did anyone figure out who's the bearded guy asking about you? Your ex?

MARIA

Probably more like the IRS, or a subpoena, or handsome serial killer - with a wife.

Extreme sexual chemistry.

DAN

Wendy said she'd be okay if you and I had sex.

MARIA

She did not.

DAN

I swear on a Bible she did. Her exact words.

He smokes his pipe. Long uncomfortable silence. Maria pretends to focus on a young clingy HETERO COUPLE entering. The woman traces hearts on the man's back. Maria traces hearts on her leg, to make fun. Dan snickers, then he also traces hearts on Maria's leg, leaving his hand there.

Neither look at each other, until the couple leaves and Brick hums a song as he sweeps.

MARIA

Wanna come over?

DAN

Really?

MARIA

To see the swans and the partridge.

DAN

I'll be there in ten minutes.

She gathers her jacket and bags and leaves.

INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Maria opens her door and Dan leaps inside.

She feeds the swans, he follows. She reaches for the gin bottle. He takes it and pours it down the sink. She watches, furious, then ashamed, then raw and vulnerable.

MARIA

So are we going to have sex?

DAN

You want to?

MARIA

I haven't had sex in two years.

DAN

Three for me. Besides whacking,
thinking about you.

MARIA

Give me five minutes to shower.

He dials the phone.

INTERCUT with Wendy as Amy holds the phone to Wendy's face.

DAN

I'm at Maria's and she asked me to fix
her TV.

WENDY

Okay. Okay. That is fine. Thank you for
letting me know.

DAN

Of course. I have always told you
everything.

WENDY

I know. And me, you.

DAN

Are you really okay with me fixing her TV?

WENDY

I told you before. Yes. She has a lovely TV. I want you to fix it.

DAN

This feels wrong. I love you.

WENDY

She has those swans, right? I want you to enjoy her swans.

DAN

If you told me to come home right now I would.

WENDY

No. Really. I would feel better if you fixed her TV and played with her swans.

DAN

That's all it would be. Just fixing what's broken and playing. Nothing emotional. I love YOU.

WENDY

Amy can take care of me tonight. A broken TV may take all night to fix and that is okay with us. Fix her TV until it works perfectly and play with her swans until they are happy and come back in the morning.

DAN

I'll come home if you want right now.

WENDY

I really want you to fix her TV and play with her swans. For me. Do it for me. That would take pressure off me.

DAN

Okay then. For you I will fix her TV.

WENDY

We'll see you in the morning. Hang up
the phone, Amy.

The phone hangs up. After a beat, eyes misty, Dan saunters
to Maria's room, undresses.

EXT. GARY'S BARN - NIGHT

Brick, Bridget and their teenage sons knock on the barn
door.

INT. GARY'S BARN - NIGHT

Jenny opens the door, waves them in.

JENNY

Gary died and came back to life! He's
telling us all about the other side!

The atheist Evans family surrounds Gary's bed.

GARY

Brick, Bridget, Brian, Brad, you were
singing in the car. A rap song about a
fire. You just finished eating a
casserole with tomatoes and hot dogs.
There's \$212 in Brick's wallet.

(it's true - all are astonished)
I can read your mind. You want to
switch houses.

BRICK

That's why we came!

GARY

You want your family here to start
teaching your boys farming and you
wanted to ask if Kyle will take your
gorgeous property in trade since it's
about the same value.

BRIDGET

You read his mind.

GARY

Bridget, you have four thousand dollars
in a plant pot. Your sister has a name

that sounds like June or Joan and she will visit you when she passes by next month. She has a secret to tell you.

BRIDGET

Joan. Wow. What secret?

JENNY

Oh my god! How can you do that?

GARY

I am half dead and half alive for a very short while - that was just whispered in my ear. I can exhibit some abilities which seem extraordinary, but get this, the voice said they're really not that extraordinary as much as our learned limitations have subdued them.

KYLE

Wow.

GARY

Brick made a leap today to change his whole family plan. Jo made a leap today, surrendering his pride to Dan, and Dan also made a leap today, and I can see exactly what he is doing but it should remain private.

JENNY

Should we be recording you or something?

Jenny, Kyle and Brad start to record Gary with their phones.

GARY

Brian, I owe you a thank you for something you will do.

Gary collapses, dies. Kyle shakes him awake.

GARY

I saw all 10 Lords A-Leaping. I shared six. I leaped into death earlier, my father who disowned me, his spirit

leaped into my heart, my beautiful Tony's reunion in the afterlife and asking me to leap completely away from Earth, Brick's family plans, Jo's ego and Dan's whatever. These four ladies will benefit from the last four leaps which will happen before midnight: Jenny, Georgia, Maria and Wendy. It's going to be incredible. Thank you for letting me love you.

Gary dies. His foglike spirit levitates out of his body.

He looks down from the ceiling POV and sees Brick and Kyle trying to revive him.

Gary's spirit floats through the ceiling.

EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF LAKE - NIGHT

Gary's spirit fog rises through the attic and up into the sky.

It frolics through clouds overlooking gorgeous Lake Lure.

EXT. SHARON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Gary's spirit's POV sees Sharon and Delilah playing with the affectionate geese outside their pier home.

Gary's spirit fog swoops down and hugs the geese. They react but Sharon and Delilah only see an odd wind cause excitement for the geese.

Gary's spirit fog jumps into Delilah. She literally lights up from inside.

Another view shows her normal, just getting goosebumps.

Gary's spirit fog merges into Sharon.

He sees her entire LIFE REVIEW.

EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF LAKE - NIGHT

Gary's spirit fog flies over more lake homes and sees Georgia's house.

EXT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Gary's spirit fog flies in through her window.

INT. GEORGIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

His POV seeing Georgia pet a French hen while playing Solitaire.

Gary's spirit fog twists and becomes a light, then a spinning 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 though to Georgia.

GARY'S SPIRIT

Roy's in the room.

Frightened of a bodyless voice, she jumps, confused, then:

GEORGIA

Roy, did you say something?

ROY

Yes.

Georgia cannot hear or see Roy, or see Gary's spirit fog.

GARY'S SPIRIT

He's here.

GEORGIA

Old Gary??

GARY'S SPIRIT

No, YOUNG Gary. I just died and Roy is with you, and always has been, and always will be, he says.

Georgia cries like a baby, hugging the hen.

GEORGIA

Oh Roy, I love you so much.

GARY'S SPIRIT

You asked for an hour. He will be here, in this room, for one hour. He will be able to move things a tiny bit to prove to you he is here.

EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF LAKE - NIGHT

Gary's spirit fog flies over more homes, eventually diving down to Dan's house.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Gary's spirit fog sees Amy struggling to move Wendy from her wheelchair into her bed.

GARY'S SPIRIT
(to spirit world)
Does this woman need to be paralyzed?!
(to Wendy)
Why are you paralyzed, Wendy?

Wendy hears the bodyless voice, and answers with her thoughts, not her voice.

WENDY'S MIND
My husband shot me.

GARY'S SPIRIT
Do you take any accountability for your medical condition and diagnosis?

WENDY'S MIND
What can I do about it?

GARY'S SPIRIT
Do you take accountability?

WENDY'S MIND
No, it was Dan's fault. I told him a hundred times to get rid of his disgusting guns.

GARY'S SPIRIT
If you take accountability, you can start to heal.

WENDY'S MIND
But I didn't shoot me. You mean like a car accident where insurance says anyone is ten percent at fault being there?

GARY'S SPIRIT
No.

WENDY'S MIND
It wasn't my doing.

GARY'S SPIRIT
It wasn't?

WENDY'S MIND
No!!

GARY'S SPIRIT
Join me, if you want, reviewing and
reexperiencing your entire life. Here
we go.

Wendy watches her LIFE REVIEW - from her birth - to toddler
- to child -

EXT. FIELD - DAY

CHEERLEADER WENDY is upset losing a QUARTERBACK's
attention.

INT. WENDY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - DAY

Cheerleader Wendy 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.

WENDY'S MOTHER
No, you said you'd tell me by noon. You
didn't tell me until one thirty.

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 THOUGHTS

She always found ways to punish him.

Gary's spirit fog leaves -

EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF LAKE - NIGHT

Gary's spirit fog floats up over the scenic bay and mountains, then - into the Earth's orbit and above the planet.

EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Black bearded Kevin rings Maria's doorbell.

INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

In her bedroom, Dan makes love to Maria, but the doorbell keeps ringing. Finally, she gets on her robe and maneuvers through swans to answer the door.

EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

MARIA

Hello?

KEVIN

Maria Florez?

MARIA

Do I know you?

KEVIN

Christian Singles. Kevin. We chatted a few times.

MARIA

Oh, right. You live around Chimney Rock. The photo with the jeep and a white pit-bull.

KEVIN

Sweetest dog ever. Am I seeing swans in your living room?

MARIA

Nothing wrong with your eyes. Kevin, uh, what are you doing here?

KEVIN

Am I a crazy stalker? Oh I hope not. I just pursue and investigate, which is why I am so successful at buying and selling I guess. I liked you online but usually the women don't look as good in person and it's so awkward when we meet, so I spy a bit before I meet the women just to see if they really are what they present, and not using 10 year-old photos. I just try to avoid hurt feelings. I look like my photo and so do you.

MARIA

Oh.

KEVIN

Beautiful. Your eyes are like a mysterious work of art. But you deleted your profile so I couldn't message you.

MARIA

Oh.

Dan tiptoes, eavesdrops and listens.

KEVIN

So, anyway, uh, here is my card. Call me when I can take you to the best dinner of your life.

MARIA

Okay. Thanks, Kevin.

KEVIN

Forgive me for surprising you like this. When I see something I like, I leap for it, put myself out there. Relationship material. Looking to settle down, monogamous, you know, no drugs, no drink, great income and job. My relatives and are even functional.

MARIA

Ok, thanks. This is a lot to take in.

He bows, kisses her hand, smiles, hands her a rose from behind his back and walks away, leaping from stone to stone over her creeks.

EXT. GARY'S BARN - NIGHT

Kyle and Jenny somberly watch the paramedics wheel away the deceased body of Gary Richards.

INT. GARY'S BARN - NIGHT

Jenny and Kyle walk back into the house.

JENNY

This place is so empty without him.

KYLE

I know, right?

JENNY

It totally feels deserted. Wow.

KYLE

Totally. Eerie. Little guy was such a big energy.

JENNY

He loved this place.

KYLE

And he gave it all to me.

JENNY

Are you going to trade it with Brick's?

KYLE

I've never seen Brick's house. Let's check it out tomorrow.

JENNY

Okay.

KYLE

And Jenny, will you marry me?

JENNY

Oh my god what has gotten into you?

KYLE

This is my leap. I know it doesn't make sense. My Chicago life made complete sense, but the joy level was about 3 there. Since I've met you, my joy level is always 10.

JENNY

No. Of course I'm not going to marry any guy after knowing him a week, even if he seems like Prince Charming. That's absolutely zonkers, but thank you for leaping anyway. I mean, I might say yes in the future but not after one week, you spaz.

He laughs, picks her up, carries her through the farmhouse, to the back. The sandpipers sing. Jenny picks up her guitar and sings along with them with her pretty soft voice.

JENNY

Maybe Brick, if he takes over, wants to keep the pipers?

KYLE

It doesn't matter. They have to be released. I just feel it's part of the 12 day thing that has to happen. Tomorrow they will be free of all cages.

INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Morning. Maria lays awake in her bed, listens to her phone radio.

PHONE RADIO

After every election, there is always an organized protest. Ours will be January 6th and...

Snoring Dan's arms are around her. She has mixed emotions. He farts. She jumps out of bed -

Maria, in her robe, flees to the kitchen, where she relieves herself with farts.

EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Maria sits on her doorstep, watching the swans and partridge.

INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Maria sips coffee, then boxes up her Christmas lights and manger nativity set.

Dan enters in his pants and socks and pulls on his shirt and shoes. They catch eyes, smile politely, have nothing to say. Finally:

MARIA

January 6th protest is gaining steam.

DAN

I can't leave Wendy. I've got to get home.

MARIA

Sure. Have a good day.

DAN

Will you be going to Brick's for coffee?

MARIA

No, I had some here today.

He pulls her into a deep embrace, not sexual, but of gratitude, kisses her cheek, leaves.

INT. DAN'S CAR - DAY

Driving home, Dan talks to God.

DAN

I did it for Wendy. She asked me to, so it doesn't count as a sin. I couldn't even get totally hard, because I was right with you, Lord. So, I wasn't even inside her vagina fully erect, so, it was not intercourse by definition. I was limp inside her, not hard, thinking about you, Lord.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Dan enters his house, guilt-ridden. Amy jumps into his arms. He kisses her.

DAN
Where's your mommy?

AMY
She's still in bed. It was too difficult to get her there so we waited for you to get her back in her chair.

DAN
(walking toward Wendy's bed)
Hey honey!

WENDY
Good morning. How was your night?

DAN
Not great. How was yours?

WENDY
Pretty great.

DAN
Really? Why is that?

WENDY
Look. My fingers.

Dan sees the slightest movement in her fingers. He screams in excitement.

DAN
Holy Moly! What happened??

WENDY
Babe, it was out of this world. Literally, like a spirit came and we had a talk and he asked me if I was accountable in any way for my paralysis, and I said no, it was your fault.

He nods, holds her limp hands together.

WENDY
(emotional)

And he kept asking and I kept repeating
it was your fault and then he took me
to my childhood where I saw how Mom
punished Dad and, well, part of me
liked being paralyzed because it
punished you for having guns when I
told you not to.

DAN

You can move your finger!!

WENDY

I felt a tingling in it a couple hours
ago, and now I can move it. I feel a
tingling near my right toe now. Maybe
in an hour I can move it?

Dan hugs her. On her toe: not moving. They do not see
Gary's spirit fog circling it.

DAN

Oh honey I love you so much.

WENDY

I know you do, Dan, and I love you,
too, and I'm through punishing you and
making you wrong. We both suffered
enough. Damn, if I just get one finger
back I'll be thrilled. Who knows if
I'll get more back? I just have to
think positive and keep my vibration
high and stop making you wrong.

DAN

I'm so sorry what I did to you.

WENDY

Last night??

DAN

No, the shooting accident.

WENDY

It doesn't matter anymore. I don't care
anymore if you're sorry. I am no longer
a victim. And it feels better.

He wipes her drool and kisses her tenderly.

DAN

I was wrong last night.

WENDY

You certainly were not. I sincerely wanted that for you, because I love you and want your happiness.

DAN

She doesn't make me happy. You make me happy.

WENDY

He said while changing his wife's diarrhea diaper.

INT. BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Brick bags groceries for a customer. Sharon sips coffee alone by the window area. Georgia enters.

GEORGIA

Morning, Baldy! Oh I beat Dan in today! I'm taking his chair. Supposed to snow tonight.

She sits next to Sharon. Brick comes over.

BRICK

Did you hear guys Gary died?

SHARON

Gary died?

BRICK

Yesterday in his bed, but 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 literally read our minds like Long Island Medium and said he was flying on other dimensions with his dead dad and mom until he just went splat, D-E-A-D.

GEORGIA

He came to me, yesterday, I did not know he was dead but I recognized his voice OUT OF THIN AIR and I said, old Gary? And he said, no, YOUNG Gary!

Astonished, Sharon spills her coffee.

GEORGIA

He told me Roy would be with me one hour because somehow he knew I begged Roy to just come for one hour - and Roy did and Roy even moved my Jack Of Clubs closer to my Queen Of Hearts just when the lights flickered and I know the hens saw him because they kept looking to my left.

SHARON

I'm so glad Roy came.

GEORGIA

My Roy came back.

BRICK

Tell Roy to come to me sometime.

GEORGIA

ROY CAME FOR AN HOUR!!!

Three people enter, survey her, think she's crazy.

GEORGIA

My Roy CAAAAAME for an HOOOOUUR!!!!

EXT. GARY'S BARN - DAY

Kyle follows Brick measuring the farm property.

BRICK

It goes this far?

KYLE

To the fence there, and all the way to the other fence by that cow.

BRICK

Well, I'm telling you, Kyle, my sons are not too bright nor do they work well with others or have any drive, and they keep losing jobs because they show up late or not at all, so I need to find them occupations, so this farm might do that for them. Your property is so much larger than I expected, but mine is appraised about the same value because of my location.

KYLE

Let's go take a look.

BRICK

And no pressure.

KYLE

No pressure.

EXT. BRICK'S HOUSE - DAY

Jenny hangs on Kyle as they explore Brick's lush property.

JENNY

This is the most beautiful land I've ever seen.

INT. BRICK'S HOUSE - DAY

Brick shows around Kyle and Jenny.

KYLE

Look, if they appraise similar, sure, we can switch. This is a lot prettier but I still prefer Chicago.

JENNY

This is less than 45 minutes to Hendersonville or Asheville or Greenville or Spartanburg or Shelby, and only an hour to Charlotte.

KYLE

Let's get an appraiser on it.

JENNY

Can we sleep here tonight?

BRICK

Sure thing, we have a pull-out couch.

KYLE

Nah, that's not what she meant.

BRICK

Oh, Alone?? Oh, well, sure, the Evans family can sleep at the farm tonight, in fact, that's probably a smart idea so we can feel it out before we make such a drastic change. My boys would love to sleep at the farm.

INT. BRICK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kyle and Jenny, strumming guitar, look outside to see a snow flurry. They are near a bird cage with the 11 pipers.

JENNY

Unbelievable. Like how did neurotic zero trailer queen get here in the perfect house on the perfect property with the perfect man?

KYLE

Let's free the birds. Eleven Pipers Piping. They say the spiritual significance is for the eleven faithful apostles.

He opens the house doors, then the cage door. The birds fly around confused but not out the house. Eventually one flies into the chimney, and up it.

KYLE

Oh no. What if he gets stuck in there?

All eleven birds flap their wings wildly, but only fly in circles inside - until they find the chimney. They finally fly out the top into the sky, piping a symphony of joyful music.

INT. GARY'S BARN - NIGHT

Things not going so smoothly. Brick can't find the heater and Bridget drops a casserole.

BRICK
What happened?

BRIDGET
My fingers are like ice. Can't you find
the heater?

A cow pushes the door to get inside the barnhouse. Brian
cannot push back hard enough.

BRIAN
Help me keep this cow out!

The cow gets in, knocks all the picture frames off the hall
walls, except the framed newspaper clipping of Brick and
Bridget holding their one-year old Brad and newborn Brian.

BRIAN
I can't close the door because there's
too much snow!

In the morning, all family member shiver in their beds.
Bridget moves around the sleeping cow to answer a knock on
the door.

Kyle and Jenny enter, carrying in the boys' drums.

JENNY
It's freezing in here.

BRIDGET
We can't turn on the heat.

Kyle turns on the heat, sees coughing Brian, points to the
drums.

BRIAN
Not today, it's snowing and I got a
cold.

BRICK
You made a promise and you took this
man's three hundred dollars.

BRIAN
I'll give it back.

BRICK

You will not give it back! You will keep your promise.

BRIAN

We can't drum in the snow. We'll slip.

BRIDGET

Do you think farming is going to allow you to stay out of bad weather?

Brian shrugs. Brad leaves the room.

BRICK

You get back here, Brad. You and your brother are going to get ten more drummers drumming today. Do you understand?

KYLE

I'll raise it to \$1,000.

BRICK

No, Brian made a deal for \$600 and took 50% down. My son BRIAN WILL FULFILL HIS COMMITMENT AND PROMISE for once!

Brian shakes his head and angrily grabs his phone and starts calling his contacts.

BRIAN

But it doesn't make any sense!

BRICK

A man's word is all he has.

BRIDGET

Does your father ever break his word?

Brian shook his head no.

BRIDGET

If the grocery customers saw Brick breaking his word, what would happen?

BRIAN

They'd shop at Walmart.

BRICK

Exactly. My small business thrives because when I tell a customer I will do something, I do it. I am careful with my words, Brian. Very careful because I know if I lie once, I lose a customer forever.

BRIAN

But Kyle is paying us to drum for a man that DIED.

KYLE

Yes. I am. And you promised to.

BRIAN

But he was alive when I promised.

KYLE

The man that died, who you saw full of superpowers as he was dying, said that we are consciousnesses plugged into an electrical manifestation grid we call Earth, and that as consciousnesses we create our lives - our bodies and circumstances - by our vibrations, words, actions, energies. Let me ask you this, if you do as you promised and drum 15 minutes today, how will your night be after that? Proud, wealthy? Happy? Jazzed. Confident. Clean, with proud parents. If you do not do as you promised, what will you attract? Awkwardness, shame? Embarrassment? Low vibration? Guilt? Punishment? Nightmares? And think how a man's year is, that always keeps his word. Then think about how a man's year is, that lies everyday. Brian, what will your energy attract tonight? What will your energy attract the next 50 years?

BRIAN

(thinking long and hard)

Brad, come on! Let's do the drumming and get it over with!

Brick breathes relieved, winks at grateful Kyle.

INT. BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Brick rings up customers. Sitting by the window drinking coffee, enjoying the snow flurries, are Kyle, Jenny, Dan, Georgia, Maria and Sharon. In the distance, the sound of drums.

DAN

(reading aloud from his phone)
*The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes
the twelve points of belief in The
Apostles' Creed.*

JENNY

What the heck are those?

DAN

*1. I believe in God, the Father
almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
Praise God. And number 2 is I believe
in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our
Lord. To which I say, Praise Jesus.*

MARIA

Praise Jesus.

DAN

*Number 3. Who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary.*

JENNY

I just don't think virgins give birth.

SHARON

(reading aloud from her phone)
*Number 4. Suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried.*

KYLE

Who knows?

SHARON

(reading aloud from her phone)

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

JENNY

Jesus went to Hell? Why did Jesus go to Hell?

KYLE

Doesn't make sense to me.

MARIA

Hell may be symbolic, like meaning a bad place.

KYLE

I think everything in the Bible is symbolic.

SHARON

(reading aloud from her phone)
He ascended into heaven; He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

GEORGIA

With my Roy. My Roy is there.

KYLE

Do you know Roy is alive, existing in the after life, or do you know he is in a literal Heaven? because I think there's a difference.

GEORGIA

Well he didn't text me any photos today, Geraldo.

SHARON

(reading aloud from her phone)
7. And He will come to judge the living and the dead.

DAN

The good from the evil.

SHARON

(reading aloud from her phone)
8. I believe in the Holy Spirit.

KYLE

Spirits! Yes! Holy might mean higher consciousness beings, more enlightened spirits, yes.

JENNY

Gary showed us that is real, that the after life is real.

The drums speed up, get louder.

SHARON

(reading aloud from her phone)

9. The holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints.

GEORGIA

Politics these days though, I think politics ruined the credibility of the church.

MARIA

I just don't trust the church anymore since they forced auto-tithing. The church is a business and asks your bank account info so they can withdraw a certain percentage every week whether you go to church or not.

GEORGIA

That's not right.

SHARON

(reading aloud from her phone)

10. The forgiveness of sins.

KYLE

Which makes no sense to me. A God came to Earth as his son and let him die a horrific tortuous death on a cross so that no human ever would ever be accountable for their negative actions?

JENNY

Yeah, that doesn't make sense to me either.

DAN
Praise Jesus.

JENNY
I bet I've sinned more than any of you
and I think we need to forgive
ourselves. I don't think it would
matter whether Jesus forgave me or not.

SHARON
(reading aloud from her phone)
11. The resurrection of the body.

JENNY
We saw it! Gary showed us!

GEORGIA
I heard Gary's voice when he was
resurrected. That showed me someday I
will also be YOUNG again. Until then I
will use my Retinol cream.

SHARON
(reading aloud from her phone)
12. And the life everlasting. Amen.

KYLE
Amen.

DAN
Amen!

Georgia stood up and raised her hands high just as a loud
drum roll ended with a cymbal crash.

EXT. BRICK'S GROCER - DAY

Smiling Brian leads his young drummer friends toward the
store. Among the drummers is Delilah, Jo and the Xongs. A
group of birds flies above them.

JENNY
Look, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven.
It's the pipers.

KYLE

They're playing our song.

The 11 pipers fly above the drums.

Many people step out from their cars or homes to watch.

Squirrels and barking dogs are also attracted.

Above, more birds chirp excitedly joining the pipers.

DAN

Thirteen I count.

GEORGIA

Fifteen.

DAN

The two orange birds and the one yellow
and one blue bird. I saw those before.
Four Calling Birds. At the flooded
Tudor house last week.

KYLE

They found each other! The drums! This
beat, this rhythm, this resonance
somehow summoned the eleven pipers my
Uncle Gary had, and also it called the
four calling birds that he had in the
same huge cage in his barn!

JENNY

Wow, now they're together again.

The four calling birds chirp and the eleven sandpipers pipe,
and together they fly in and around the drummers, then fly
into the grocery store, and out again, and up to the sky,
and disappear.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

The drums miles away match Wendy's loud, intense heartbeat
as she sits in her wheelchair in her living room, looking
shocked.

AMY

What's wrong, Mom?

WENDY
(trembling)
Nothing at all. Nothing is wrong,
honey.

Wendy's hands come to life slowly, gripping her wheelchair sides. She does not see Gary's spirit fog around them.

WENDY
I want you to get all the pillows in
the house and put them all around me.

Amy brings pillows as Wendy concentrates hard to lift herself up, gripping the wheelchair sides. Amy watches intensely as Wendy's lifeless feet begin clenching.

WENDY
It's time for Mommy to stand up.

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. With her hands still gripping the heavy chair, Wendy screams as she forces her butt and stomach and chest to rise.

Mother and daughter beam in astonishment at this miracle, as drum beats louden.

EXT. ASSORTED HOUSES - DAY

FINAL MONTAGE shows how Gary's gifts helped everyone, as THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS song plays:

Brick, Bridget, Brad and Brian enjoy the cows and farming.

Maria and Kevin play with the 7 swans.

Sharon and Delilah study the Bible, surrounded by 6 geese.

Kyle puts a wedding ring on Jenny.

The 4 calling birds and 11 sandpipers explore new nature.

3 hens play by Georgia as she makes dinner for Dan and Wendy, who can now walk.

Jo and a Mexican boyfriend snuggle like their 2 turtledoves.

William the partridge flies and sits in the pear tree.

FADE OUT.

THE END

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