

# A Room for Rent

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. LORI'S HOME -- SAN DIEGO -- DAY

DAVID MATRONE, 36, looks at a newspaper ad, an item is circled. He compares the address in the ad to the house address. A nice home, two story, typical Southern California stucco construction, three car garage. No cars are in the driveway. He approaches the home and rings the bell. A woman, KATIE MCGUIRE, 30 something, answers.

KATIE

May I help you?

DAVID

Yes, I think so, I hope so. I'm in answer to your ad... about the room for rent.

Katie confused, remembers.

KATIE

Oh... yes, yes of course. Sorry, not my home...

David confused.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I live next door, the woman you want to see is Lori Weber, she owns this house. She's not here right now.

DAVID

Oh...

Still confused.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Do you know when she'll be home?

KATIE

A couple of hours. Josh will be coming home about that time.

DAVID

Josh?

KATIE

Her son. He'll be coming home from school in a couple of hours.

David unsure what to do.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I know she wants to rent the room... maybe you could come back in a few hours.

David nods.

DAVID  
Thank you, I will.

As David walks away, Katie looks approvingly at him.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- LATER

KITCHEN

A woman, LORI WEBER, about 30, shoulder length sandy hair, pretty, looks at Katie. She's getting coffee for the two of them. They sit at the kitchen table.

LORI  
So you think this guy will be alright?

KATIE  
Seems like a nice guy.

LORI  
You talked to him what... all of two minutes... and he seems like a nice guy?

KATIE  
Hey, you're lucky I was here, at least I got a look at him.

LORI  
And...

KATIE  
Not Brad Pitt handsome, but not bad looking. You could do worse.

LORI  
Trying to set me up again?

KATIE  
When opportunity comes knocking...

Lori looks at her. A young boy of about twelve, JOSHUA (JOSH), comes in. Goes to the refrigerator,

LORI  
Only milk... dinner will be ready shortly.

Josh gets a glass of milk as Katie and Lori look at the boy. Josh looks at the two women,

JOSH  
What?

KATIE

You look more like your father every day.

LORI

He does doesn't he?

Katie nods. She turns sad.

KATIE

I miss him...

LORI

You miss him...

KATIE

He was my brother...

LORI

And he was my husband.

Josh looking...

JOSH

Are you two going to cry again?

LORI

No.

JOSH

Instead of you fixing dinner tonight Mom, why don't I take you and Aunt Katie out for pizza?

LORI

With what money young man?

JOSH

An advance on my allowance... maybe?

LORI

That sounds tempting but...

JOSH

But what?

LORI

Katie tells me we may have a future boarder coming over later... maybe.

JOSH

Somebody to rent the room?

KATIE

Maybe. He said he would come back.

JOSH  
What's he like?

KATIE  
Nice looking...

JOSH  
What's that mean? He's not like a  
serial killer or something is he?

KATIE  
Didn't look like one...

LORI  
If he comes back...

JOSH  
Mom, do you really need to rent the  
room?

LORI  
Honey they've cut my hours at work...  
what with this economy... we need  
the money.

JOSH  
But we don't need no serial killer...  
don't you ever watch the news?

LORI  
I gave up watching the news a long  
time ago. But no... no serial killer.  
I think I might be able to spot one  
of those.

JOSH  
No one can ever spot a serial killer  
Mom. They look normal. Just like  
you and me.

LORI  
Oh, so you're saying that you've  
become a serial killer now?

JOSH  
Mom...

LORI  
Go wash for dinner, it'll be ready  
in about twenty minutes. What about  
homework?

JOSH  
Almost all done. I'll finish it  
after dinner.

LORI

After dinner, now go wash up.

Lori looks at him as he leaves.

LORI (CONT'D)

He will be a heartbreaker when he matures...

KATIE

Don't I know it. Just like his father. Does he miss him?

LORI

He never talks about it. It's been three years, hardly a word...

KATIE

That worries you...

LORI

It's not normal, he should be asking some questions, nothing.

KATIE

Josh was lucky to survive the accident, so were you. The doctor said the trauma of it may affect him for a long time.

LORI

I know... I just wish... I just wish he would open up.

Concerned as Katie observes her hunting for the words,

KATIE

With kids you never know... It will work out. He'll come around in time.

LORI

I hope. Speaking of kids when are you and Mack going to have some? You've been married for four years now... isn't it past time?

KATIE

I don't know Lori. We're only here for three years...

LORI

And six months of it has already gone by...

KATIE

Hey, we were lucky to buy the house.

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

Now with this deployment... do you have any idea what it's like to move from location to location?

LORI

You're the one that married a sailor, not me.

KATIE

You have no idea about military life...

LORI

But you tell me every chance you get...

The doorbell rings,

KATIE

Maybe that's him.

LORI

Only one way to find out.

They move to the

FRONT DOOR

David stands there as Lori answers. Katie stands behind her.

DAVID

I'm interested in the room you have for rent, I was here earlier and told to come back later...

LORI

Yesss... my sister-in-law told me about you.

DAVID

Sister-in-law?

KATIE

That'd be me.

David nods.

LORI

Please come in.

David enters as Lori closes the door. Unseen Josh waits at the top of the stairs, looking at the man and listening. Katie gives a slight goose to Lori.

KATIE

We haven't been formally introduced,  
I'm Katie McGuire, this woman is  
Lori Weber, the owner of this place.

DAVID

I'm David, David Matrone.

They shake hands.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Your ad said that you were looking  
for a boarder, someone to rent a  
room to?

LORI

The right person yes. Please in  
here.

They enter the

LIVING ROOM

Lori motions and they sit, Katie next to Lori. David does a  
quick look around at the elegance of the room and prominent  
portrait of a man, which hangs over a large fireplace. David  
looks at the portrait. He sees additional photos on the  
mantle.

DAVID

The portrait of your husband is nicely  
done. My compliments to the  
photographer.

LORI

Thank you. But how did you know he  
was my husband?

DAVID

Photos on the mantle.

LORI

You can see those from here?

DAVID

I have 20/15 eyesight.

So your husband is ok in renting a  
room to a complete stranger?

Lori looks unsure,

KATIE

My brother died three years ago in a  
car accident.

David taken aback,

DAVID  
I'm sorry, thank you for your time.

Gets up to leave.

LORI  
Where are you going?

DAVID  
It's very evident that you would prefer a female boarder in light of the situation.

Lori and Katie look at each other.

LORI  
Excuse me?

DAVID  
As a widow it would be unethical for me to be here. To live here.

KATIE  
Ethical? Who the hell has ethics these days?

LORI  
Katie. Please Mr. Matrone sit, please sit down.

David hesitates but sits.

LORI (CONT'D)  
I knew that when I placed the ad I would get either a male or female boarder. I'm prepared for that.

Lori enlighten,

LORI (CONT'D)  
But are you prepared for that?

DAVID  
Excuse me?

LORI  
Living with a widow and her son, are you prepared to do that?

David unsure.

KATIE  
Why do you want to rent a room Mr. Matrone? Why don't you rent an apartment? San Diego is a big town.

DAVID

I'm only here for a couple of months, an apartment would tie me down. I only require a short term living solution.

LORI

Short term?

DAVID

My job. As soon as I finish this assignment I'm off to another location, another city, another state.

LORI

And what is it exactly that you do Mr. Matrone?

DAVID

I'm a Technical Documentation Specialist. Freelance.

The women look at each other but not sure,

JOSH (O.S.)

What's a Technical Documentation Specialist?

David and the women look to see Josh standing there. David looks him over.

DAVID

You must be Josh.

JOSH

Short for Joshua. How'd you know?

DAVID

Your aunt mentioned you earlier today. So what grade are you in?

JOSH

Seventh.

LORI

He's advanced for his age. Private school.

David nods. Josh comes over and sits by Lori. She shows pride in him.

LORI (CONT'D)

Top of his class. I'm so proud of him.

DAVID

I can see why. He's a good looking kid, takes after his father.

JOSH

How'd you know?

DAVID

The portrait.  
(to Lori)  
It must be hard for you.

LORI

Sometimes. Carl left us well off, but there are limitations.

KATIE

That's why she needs to rent the room, additional income.

LORI

That and they cut my hours at work.

JOSH

Do you play ball Mr. Matrone?

DAVID

I've been known to pitch a ball or two in my time.

JOSH

Do you and your dad play ball?

DAVID

Yes we did.

JOSH

Still?

DAVID

No, my father died several years ago from cancer. I was eighteen when he died.

JOSH

What about your mother?

LORI

Josh, too many questions. You know better.

DAVID

(hesitates)

My mother died when I was three. I don't even remember her.

KATIE  
No other family?

LORI  
Katie.

David smiles.

DAVID  
No, just me. Dad never remarried.  
He loved Mom too much. And I was a  
handful as it was.

Lori considers.

LORI  
The room is 350 a week and that  
includes breakfast. Lunch and dinner  
you're on your own.

David considers.

LORI (CONT'D)  
If the cost is too much...

DAVID  
No, the cost is fine...

LORI  
But...

Considering.

DAVID  
Nothing. I'll take it.

KATIE  
So where are you staying now Mr.  
Matrone?

DAVID  
Please call me David, Mr. Matrone  
sounds so formal.

KATIE  
David. So where are you staying  
now?

DAVID  
The Hampton Inn. But it gets a little  
pricey. I need someplace cheaper.

LORI  
You can move in tomorrow if that's  
ok with you?

DAVID  
Tomorrow's fine.

LORI  
Well, let me show you where you'll  
be staying.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- EVENING

The two women are washing, drying and putting the dishes  
away. Josh not seen.

KATIE  
He seems like a nice man.

LORI  
Yes he does. Josh liked him.

KATIE  
Not a typical serial killer?

LORI  
It's strange that Josh would like  
him so much. Did you hear all the  
questions he peppered him with?

KATIE  
Poor Mr. Matrone. What has he gotten  
himself into? I wonder if he knows?

LORI  
Except for breakfast the chances are  
we will never see him. The room  
does have it's own entrance. And  
the door leading into the main part  
of house will always be locked.

KATIE  
He was pretty surprised when he found  
out that you were a widow. I wonder  
where he learned such manners?

LORI  
His father maybe.

KATIE  
Did he tell you how long he was  
staying?

LORI  
You heard him, just a couple of  
months.

KATIE  
Too bad...

LORI

Katie...

KATIE

Well I'm just saying, that maybe...

LORI

Maybe what?

KATIE

Given time... maybe the two of you could find some common ground.

Gives Katie a look,

KATIE (CONT'D)

Oh come on girl, it's been three years. Carl would want you to move on. When was the last time you went out on a date?

LORI

I just went out on a date.

KATIE

When?

LORI

Just last...  
(can't remember)

KATIE

Yeah, that's what I thought. For your information it was fourteen months ago.

LORI

Are you keeping track? You weren't even here fourteen months ago.

KATIE

Don't change the subject. And yes, I am keeping track.

I remember when Carl brought you over to meet Mom and Dad the first time.

LORI

If I remember correctly you hated my guts.

KATIE

I did. How dare you steal my older brother. He was meant for Beth.

LORI

Don't you mean you wanted him to marry Beth? Looked how well that turned out.

KATIE

How was I to know that Beth was a funny girl... But I must say he got the better part of the deal with you.

Lori smiles as the last of the dishes put away. Josh comes in.

LORI

Homework done?

JOSH

All done. Mom...

LORI

Yes?

JOSH

What do you think about David?

LORI

You like him don't you?

JOSH

Yeah I do.

KATIE

Not a serial killer?

JOSH

No. He's nice. But what's a Technical Documentation Specialist? He never said.

LORI

I don't know kiddo. I don't know. Ok, one hour of television then off to bed with you.

JOSH

Ok. Night Aunt Katie.

KATIE

Night kiddo. Love you.

JOSH

Love you.

He disappears into another room.

KATIE  
He needs a father...

LORI  
Don't go there Kate.

KATIE  
Kate. Ok. But he still needs a  
father. See ya tomorrow.

Katie leaves as Lori looks at the empty kitchen.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- NIGHT

Lori in her bedroom crawls into her bed. She takes the picture of Carl off the nightstand and looks at it. She holds the photo close to her heart. Tears come down her cheek.

LORI  
(softly)  
Oh baby I miss you so much. I hope  
I'm doing the right thing. Please  
tell me I'm doing the right thing.

She puts the photo back and wipes her tears. She turns off the light and cries herself to sleep.

EXT. LORI'S HOME -- AFTERNOON

David parks his vehicle in front of Lori's home. He hesitates, not getting out.

DAVID  
(to himself)  
What the hell am I doing? I know  
better than this. Why am I here?  
If I had any sense I'd leave right  
now. Why don't I?

Josh comes out of the house. David gets out of the car, grabs a suitcase and locks the vehicle as Lori meets him at the door.

LORI  
Ready to move in?

DAVID  
I am. You mentioned something about  
an outside entrance?

LORI  
This way.

Lori leads him through a side gate towards a set of stairs.

LORI (CONT'D)

The gate stays locked but I'll get you a key.

(hands him a key)

This key is for the door to your room. Shall we?

DAVID

After you.

Lori leads the way up the stairs into

INT. LORI'S HOME -- DAVID'S ROOM

LORI

I did a little cleaning since you saw it yesterday. As I told you, the door to the main part of the house stays locked except for breakfast which is seven A.M. sharp. I hope you understand. One cannot take any chances these days.

DAVID

I do.

LORI

I will leave you clean linen twice a week along with clean towels. You're responsible for your own toiletries. You have your own bathroom, small refrigerator, television, work desk. I have cable so there's no extra charge for that. Any questions?

David looks over the room. One bedroom, bathroom to one side.

DAVID

Internet outlet?

LORI

None, sorry. The closest one is in the dining room.

DAVID

No problem.

Lori looks at him, he pulls out a five hundred dollar bill. She looks at it.

LORI

This is five hundred dollars.

DAVID

Yep.

LORI  
This is too much. I'll have to go  
to the bank for change.

DAVID  
No need, just keep it.

LORI  
I'll apply it to next week's rent.

David nods and continues to look over the room,

DAVID  
Don't worry about breakfast for me.  
I'll probably be gone by the time  
you wake up.

JOSH  
What time do you get up?

DAVID  
It will depend... depends on what I  
have to do that day.

LORI  
So what is it exactly that you do  
David?

DAVID  
I'm a Technical...

LORI  
...Documentation Specialist. Yes  
you told us. But what is that  
exactly?

David smiles.

DAVID  
Thank you for renting to me. I do  
appreciate it.

Lori nods, takes Josh by the shoulders,

LORI  
So you said you're only here for how  
long?

DAVID  
No more than two months tops. Maybe  
less. It all depends upon how fast  
the engineers get me the data I need.

JOSH  
You work with engineers?

DAVID  
All the time.

JOSH  
Are you an engineer?

DAVID  
No.

LORI  
Come on sweetie, enough questions,  
David needs his privacy.

As they leave Josh turns,

JOSH  
Do you think we could play catch?

DAVID  
Sure.

JOSH  
When?

DAVID  
Anytime you want.

JOSH  
After dinner?

DAVID  
After dinner it is. Say about six.

Josh smiles as they leave.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
(softly)  
What the hell have I gotten myself  
into?

EXT. LORI'S HOME -- TWILIGHT

Josh and David outside in the backyard playing catch, Lori  
and Katie watching from an enclosed patio.

KATIE  
It's been a long time since Josh  
wanted to play catch.

LORI  
He hasn't played catch since the  
accident, so why now?

KATIE  
A father figure...

LORI

Katie...

FOCUS ON JOSH AND DAVID

In the backyard playing catch.

DAVID

You're pretty good.

JOSH

So are you. How often do you play ball?

DAVID

Rarely. The last time I played catch was just before my father died.

JOSH

Me too.

David stops, looks at the boy, stays quiet. Josh sad.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Dad and I played the day of the accident. We were going for pizza... Dad was killed instantly, Mom and I...

(choking)

DAVID

You miss your father a lot don't you?

Throws the ball to Josh.

JOSH

Yeah, I do. I miss him an awful lot.

DAVID

You two were close.

JOSH

Yeah. We did all sorts of stuff together. Do you miss your dad?

DAVID

Everyday. You know you were lucky in someway's...

JOSH

How?

DAVID

As horrible as it sounds, your father didn't suffer. You didn't have to watch him...

Stops throwing.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It took Dad five months to die, and I watched him everyday for those five months. I watched him suffer everyday, his pain, his anguish. And there was nothing I could do. Nothing. That was the worse part, that I could do nothing.

(on the verge of tears)

But, life goes on, we go on. All we can do is remember them for the great persons they were, and thank God that we had the opportunity, that we were lucky enough to be their sons.

Begins throwing again.

FOCUS ON LORI AND KATIE

LORI

I wonder what they're talking about?

KATIE

Whatever it is, looks serious.

Lori moves to the patio door and yells,

LORI

Josh! Time to come in, homework.

The two stop playing and head for the

PATIO

LORI (CONT'D)

Homework young man.

JOSH

Ok.

(to David)

Can we play again tomorrow?

DAVID

Sure, if you want... and if I don't have to work.

JOSH

You sound just like Dad.

Lori and Katie look at each other.

DAVID  
Like your mother said, homework.

Josh leaves.

LORI  
Thank you.

DAVID  
For what?

LORI  
Josh hasn't played catch since his father died. I think you brought something back to him.

DAVID  
All I did was catch the ball. Well if you ladies will excuse me, I have some work to do.

David leaves as the two women watch him disappear around the corner of the house.

KATIE  
Like I said, a father figure.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- NIGHT

JOSH'S BEDROOM

Josh ready for bed as Lori enters his room. Begins to tuck him in bed.

LORI  
So, what did you and David talk about?

JOSH  
Dad, and his dad. He told me I was lucky.

LORI  
Lucky in what?

JOSH  
That Dad died so fast.

LORI  
(angry)  
That was rather cruel of him...

JOSH  
No, not really. He said that I didn't have to watch Dad suffer like his father.

(MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

He said he watched his dad suffer everyday for five months before he died. I guess he was in a lot of pain. He said the worse part was he could do nothing to help his dad. He also said we were lucky to be their sons.

Lori considers.

LORI

You like him don't you?

JOSH

Yeah I do. He reminds me of Dad.

LORI

Good night kiddo.

JOSH

'Night Mom.

Lori kisses his forehead, walks to the door and turns out the light. She stands there for a few moments. Then as she gazes upon her son, she whispers,

LORI

I guess we were lucky at that.

As she leaves she closes the door.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- ONE WEEK LATER -- DAY

Lori in the kitchen fixing food as Katie comes in.

LORI

Hey Sis.

KATIE

Hey. Just got off the internet with Mack.

LORI

How is he?

KATIE

Missing me.

LORI

Say anything important?

KATIE

Not really. Can't tell me where he's at, or what they're doing, same old routine.

LORI  
That's the Navy. You married into  
it.

KATIE  
I know. So what's new?

LORI  
Nothing.

KATIE  
How's your house guest?

LORI  
I hardly ever see him. When he is  
around he spends the time with Josh,  
playing catch, you've seen them.

KATIE  
Doesn't he come in for breakfast?

LORI  
Never. Not once. In fact he's gone  
before I even wake up. Most nights  
he comes in late... Up early, in  
late.

KATIE  
Good thing you're not married to  
him...

LORI  
Real good thing. I couldn't take  
that schedule. I thought Carl was  
bad, this guy...

KATIE  
More hours cut?

LORI  
Yeah. I'm down to fifteen hours a  
week now. I'm starting to get  
worried.

KATIE  
You still have the trust fund.

LORI  
I'm not going to touch that unless I  
have to.

KATIE  
So what are you going to do?

LORI  
Find another job I guess.

KATIE

You have a lot of freedom with this job.

LORI

I know, and I like it there, but I can't survive on fifteen hours a week.

KATIE

The hours will come back. At least you're not laid off.

LORI

Yeah. Poor Becky got the axe yesterday. These are scary times.

KATIE

Don't I know it. So... did you ever figure out what David does for a living?

LORI

I did. Asked my boss, apparently he's nothing more than a technical writer.

KATIE

A technical writer?

LORI

Yeah. How's that for a let down? Here I was thinking he was someone special. A lousy technical writer. We have those at work. And if David is typical of those at work... No wonder he didn't want to say.

Josh comes in carrying books.

LORI (CONT'D)

Hey sweetie.

JOSH

Hey Mom, Aunt Katie.

KATIE

Hey kiddo. How's school?

JOSH

Tough. Lot's of homework tonight. I am so sick of homework. I think David is too.

LORI

What do you mean?

JOSH

He drove up as I was coming home, he was carrying a lot of books. Said we can't play catch tonight because he has so much studying to do.

Lori and Katie look at each other.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- EVENING

The doorbell rings as Lori answers it. A PIZZA DELIVERY youth stands there.

PIZZA DELIVERY

That'll be fourteen seventy-five please.

LORI

I didn't order a pizza. JOSH!

JOSH (O.S.)

Yeah Mom!

LORI

Come here.

Josh approaches,

LORI (CONT'D)

Did you order a pizza?

JOSH

No.

PIZZA DELIVERY

This is 1292 isn't it?

LORI

It is. What's the name on the delivery slip?

PIZZA DELIVERY

David Matrone.

LORI

Oh. Josh go get David please.

Josh leaves.

LORI (CONT'D)

Sorry, a little mix up. David will be here in a moment.

David and Josh approach.

DAVID

Good. How much?

PIZZA DELIVERY  
Fourteen seventy-five.

David hands him a twenty.

DAVID  
Keep the change.

PIZZA DELIVERY  
(happy)  
Thanks.

David takes the pizza and looks at Josh as Lori closes the door.

DAVID  
Too much for me, want to share?

JOSH  
Mom?

DAVID  
(to Lori)  
You too.

Lori looks at Josh and David. Josh anticipating.

LORI  
I guess it is better than left over  
meatloaf.

JOSH  
Yes!

LORI  
To the kitchen, both of you.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- KITCHEN -- LATER

As they finish the pizza,

JOSH  
Can I have that last piece?

DAVID  
Go for it.

LORI  
What do you say?

JOSH  
Thanks. Thanks for the pizza.

DAVID  
My pleasure.

JOSH

Can I ask you a question?

DAVID

Sure.

JOSH

You said you had a lot of homework to do, what do you mean? You don't go to school.

DAVID

Ahh but I do. You see Josh that's one of the fallacies of being a grown-up. Kids think that adults don't go to school, and in most cases, they're right. Many adults quit learning when they leave high school, they think they know it all. But therein lies the trap. As soon as we stop learning we begin to die. A slow miserable death. Those who stop learning stop living. So I'm always learning. Always learning something new.

You asked me once what a Technical Documentation Specialist was. I'm a writer. I write technical manuals.

JOSH

That's important?

DAVID

It is. Technical manuals are everywhere, even your text books are a form of technical documentation. They take complex items and make them simple. That's really all I do. I make the complex simple.

Lori quiet.

JOSH

So what are you writing about now?

DAVID

(considers)

I'm working on an Air Force project. That's about all I can tell you.

JOSH

Top secret?

DAVID

Very.

JOSH

Are you good? At your job.

DAVID

I'm one of the best. So yes I'm very good. It's why this project is paying me a half a million dollars.

Lori really surprised.

JOSH

Wow.

DAVID

Yeah, that's what I said when the Air Force offered me the job.

LORI

How do you do that? How do you make that much money?

DAVID

Like I said I'm always learning something new. I never let myself go brain dead. I always keep up with new technologies. It's why I'm so good at my job. It's why I'm always employed and in demand.

JOSH

Do you go to school?

DAVID

Sometimes. But mostly I read. Talk to engineers.

JOSH

So what about all those books?

DAVID

Theories and applications on particle physics.

JOSH

Is it hard?

DAVID

For someone who got a D in science in high school, yeah, very hard. But, it's what I do. It's what I chose to do. It's how I make my living. So I have to learn, always learning. I never stop learning. It's why school is so important. The more you learn now, the easier it is to learn in the future.

David looks at Josh and slightly smiles at the boy,

JOSH  
I guess I better go finish my  
homework. Thanks again for the pizza.

Josh leaves.

DAVID  
He's a good kid. You're doing well.

LORI  
Thank you. I am proud of him.  
(thinks)  
Would you... like a glass of wine?

Considers.

DAVID  
Yes, yes I would. Thank you.

Lori gets the glasses and wine and sits them on the table.

LORI  
It's not an expensive brand, but I  
like the flavor. What should we  
toast to?

David thinks.

DAVID  
To Joshua. May he never stop  
learning.

Lori nods.

LORI  
To Josh.

They drink.

LORI (CONT'D)  
So tell me... are you really earning  
a half a million dollars on this  
project?

DAVID  
I am. You seem surprised.

LORI  
I am. I know technical writers. We  
have them at work and they don't  
make near that much money. Not even  
close.

DAVID

Most don't. But most refuse to learn, to expand their knowledge. They settle for a job and vegetate. They just accept what is given them.

LORI

But you don't.

DAVID

No. I'm willing to go and do whatever the job demands. I'm always traveling.

LORI

Is that why you're not married?

DAVID

Partly. But there were other considerations.

LORI

Like what?

DAVID

Things.

Lori doesn't press. David studies her,

DAVID (CONT'D)

You miss him don't you?

Lori looks at him,

LORI

Yes, I do. Very much.

DAVID

How long were you married?

LORI

Ten years. We had Josh when we were two years married.

DAVID

How come only one child?

LORI

I wanted more. So did Carl. But... he got injured. Bad.

DAVID

What was his line of work?

LORI

Insurance.

DAVID

And he got injured?

LORI

Playing touch football of all things. Somebody just hit him wrong. In the wrong place. His eh...

DAVID

A groin injury is nothing to laugh about. I'm sorry.

LORI

So was I. Carl could never... have children after that. The injury... Yeah...

DAVID

So how does Katie fit into all this?

Lori smiles at the change of subject.

LORI

My sister-in-law. Carl's younger sister. Her husband Mack is a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy. He got transferred to the USS Ronald Reagan about six months ago. The house next door was up for sale, they bought it. Then four months later Mack gets orders to sail. He's been gone two months on a, only the Navy knows how long, deployment.

DAVID

How long have they been married?

LORI

Going on four years.

DAVID

No children?

LORI

Katie and I have had a lot of discussions on that subject. She keeps telling me one day...

DAVID

What's his job?

LORI

Something about the flight deck, I'm not sure... Katie tried to explain it to me once. But... How long have you been a technical writer?

DAVID  
A few years.

LORI  
Just a few years? Not forever?

DAVID  
No. I eh... a few years.

LORI  
What did you do before that?

David considers.

DAVID  
What are you doing this weekend?  
Any major plans?

LORI  
Not really, why?

DAVID  
I was just wondering if you and Josh  
would join me for lunch.

LORI  
Where?

DAVID  
Fisherman's Wharf.

LORI  
(surprised)  
In San Francisco?

DAVID  
I'm flying up early Sunday morning  
and coming back that afternoon.

LORI  
Not Saturday?

DAVID  
I have to work Saturday, at least  
part of the day. So how about it?

LORI  
You're going to buy airline tickets  
for the three of us, for one day,  
just for lunch?

DAVID  
So?

LORI  
You're crazy.

DAVID  
I already have reservations. You  
want to go or not?

Lori surprised and confused. Considers.

LORI  
Ok. If you want to spend your money  
in that foolish manner, then who am  
I to stop you. Will I need to pack?

DAVID  
Nope. Just for lunch. We'll be  
home by six. But we need to leave  
here by seven in the morning.

LORI  
(nodding)  
Ok.

DAVID  
Ok. Lunch it is.

They drink wine.

EXT. MONTGOMERY AIRPORT SAN DIEGO -- EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

David drives up to GIBBS FLYING SERVICE and parks. Lori  
surprised, looks at Josh in the back seat.

LORI  
I thought we were going to Lindbergh?

DAVID  
For what?

LORI  
Tickets to San Francisco.

DAVID  
I never said anything about tickets.  
I just said we were flying.

David gets out as Lori and Josh follow him into

INT. GIBBS FLYING SERVICE

A pretty teenage girl, LISA, 16, is behind the counter as  
David walks up, Lisa smiles a sexy smile at him and in an  
attempted sexy voice,

LISA  
Morning David.

DAVID  
(firmly)  
Morning Lisa. Where's your dad?

LISA  
Servicing the planes.

Lisa sees Lori and Josh.

LISA (CONT'D)  
Are they with you?

DAVID  
Yes they are. Now be a good little girl and go get your dad.

LISA  
I'm not a little girl any more David.  
Or haven't you noticed?

DAVID  
Go.

Lisa pouts and leaves the counter. Lori approaches David,

LORI  
An admirer?

DAVID  
A pain. Sixteen and she thinks she's all grown up.

David looks at Josh who is still looking at, and for Lisa.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Down sport. She's way too old for you.

LORI  
And way to young for you.

David looks at Lori who is enjoying the moment. An older man, TOM, followed by Lisa comes in. David and Tom shake hands.

TOM  
She's ready to go David. Just untie her.

Tom looks at Lisa who is looking at David. Josh looking at Lisa.

TOM (CONT'D)  
Lisa, go help your mother.

LISA  
Dad! Mom can handle the books on her own...

TOM  
Go.

Lisa pouts and leaves. Tom shakes his head.

TOM (CONT'D)

You're all she thinks about these days.

David shows some frustration.

TOM (CONT'D)

Hey, you're the one that saved her life. Don't blame me if she has a crush on you.

Lori surprised.

LORI

Saved her life?

TOM

Lisa was servicing a plane when she overreached and the ladder gave way. David caught her. The girl would have broken her neck if he hadn't been there and broken her fall.

DAVID

If I knew where it was leading...

TOM

She's at that age David. She'll outgrow it.

DAVID

I hope.

TOM

You have not introduced us...

DAVID

Oh... I'm sorry. Tom, this is Lori Weber and her son Josh. This is Tom Harkins, General Manager of this place.

TOM

So this is the lady you're staying with?

DAVID

Yeah. Thought I would treat them to lunch.

JOSH

In San Francisco.

TOM

Fisherman's Wharf.

DAVID

I need to file a flight plan. Excuse me.

David leaves.

LORI

Where's he going?

TOM

To file his route to 'Frisco.

JOSH

So David is a pilot?

TOM

You didn't know that?

LORI

No... we didn't know that. There's a great many things about David that we don't know. Do you know him well?

TOM

A couple of years. He flies in here, three, four times a year. Maybe more.

LORI

Three or four times a year? I got the impression this was his first trip to San Diego.

TOM

Oh no. He's here all the time.

Lori and Josh look at each other.

LORI

So, where has he been staying all this time?

TOM

With a woman by the name of Rita Hathaway.

Lori confused,

LORI

So... why isn't he staying with her?

TOM

Rita was 86, she had a big home, a bed and breakfast type. David would stay there when we was in town.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

But she died a few months back and the family sold the home. The new owners didn't want the hassle of renting out the rooms so that put David on the street. I guess you were at the right place at the right time.

David returns.

DAVID  
Ready?

LORI  
I guess.

DAVID  
Later Tom, back by six.

TOM  
Safe flight.

David leads them to the

EXT. GIBBS AIR SERVICE AIRPLANE TIEDOWN RAMP

He approaches a Mooney Ranger aircraft. Sleek and beautiful, white with blue trim.

LORI  
You own or rent this?

DAVID  
Technically the bank and I own this.

JOSH  
Wow. This is cool. Way cool.

LORI  
I thought the car was yours.

DAVID  
That's just a rental. When I travel I travel in this.

David begins to inspect and remove the tiedowns from the aircraft, then onto the wing and opens the door.

JOSH  
Can I sit up front? Please!

David looks at Lori.

LORI  
Ok, I guess so.

Lori enters the plane and settles into the back seat. She fastens her seat belt. David enters, then Josh. David secures the door and makes sure Josh is secured. David and Josh wear headphones.

Lori watches as David proceeds through the checklist, he starts the plane and taxis out. The plane takes off. Josh with wonder at the instruments, looking outside. Lori not able to hear what they say as she watches the two of them interact. David explaining, Josh seeming to understand. Her eyes settle on David as she thinks.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- KITCHEN -- EVENING

Lori lost in thought as she gets a cup of hot tea and sits at the table. Katie comes in.

KATIE

Hey adventurer. So how was lunch?

Helps herself to hot tea.

LORI

Good. Very good. David definitely knows the good restaurants.

KATIE

All the way to San Francisco, wow.

LORI

In his own plane no less.

Katie stunned.

KATIE

His own plane?

LORI

Yep.

Katie sits, intrigued,

KATIE

Don't spare the details.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- FEW DAYS LATER -- AFTERNOON

Lori getting clean sheets and towels, she heads towards

DAVID'S ROOM

when she hears Josh and David,

JOSH (O.S.)

Wow! She's beautiful.

DAVID (O.S.)

Yes she is. And look at her form.  
Her lines are amazing.

JOSH (O.S.)

What's her name?

DAVID (O.S.)

They call her Miss April, but Miss  
June is better. Far more beautiful.  
Better profile too. Her lines are  
just... to die for.

Lori stunned, she barges into the room. Josh and David at  
the desk looking at a magazine, they look up stunned. Lori  
heading for the magazine, grabs it,

LORI

(angry)

How dare you expose my son to...

Looks at the magazine,

LORI (CONT'D)

Sailboats?

JOSH

Yeah. Aren't they beautiful?

Lori looks at David who smiles at her,

DAVID

You didn't really think...

Lori embarrassed.

LORI

(grabbing for words)

I'm his mother. I have...  
responsibilities to him...

JOSH

What? Mom you thought...

LORI

Enough! Clean sheets and towels.  
And you young man, don't you have  
homework?

JOSH

All done. David was just telling me  
all about sailing.

LORI

You sail? You fly and you sail?

David nods.

JOSH

David owns a sailboat, a sixty footer,  
right David?

DAVID

My father and I built her. We named  
her Miss June, after my mother. Her  
name was June.

JOSH

Show her the pictures David.

DAVID

I don't think your mother would be  
interested...

JOSH

Sure she would. Wouldn't you Mom?

LORI

(still flabbergasted)

Yes... yes I would.

David pulls out a set of photos. A man stands in the pictures  
with a younger David. Lori looks at the pictures of the two  
men and a large sailboat with the name "Miss June". Pictures  
of a beautiful sailboat.

LORI (CONT'D)

Your father?

DAVID

Yeah.

LORI

Nice looking man.

DAVID

Yes he was. He and I spent three  
years building her. When she was  
finished we decided to call her Miss  
June. No other name seemed to fit  
her.

Silence, then with sadness...

DAVID (CONT'D)

I never knew my mother. She died  
when I was three...

LORI

You told me.

DAVID

Did I?

Lori nods.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Sorry. I never knew her but Dad told me about her. Every detail of her personality, her likes, dislikes. How they met. He loved her so much.

LORI

How did she die?

David quiet, then softly,

DAVID

She was murdered.

Stun.

DAVID (CONT'D)

She went out to get a gallon of milk at a convenience store, it was late, Dad said he would go, but he was sick in bed with the flu, Mom also wanted to get some extra meds for him. It was wet and cold that night. Some thug walked in, high on drugs, Mom was standing by the cash register, when the old man moved too slow the bastard shot him, then he turned the gun on my mom. The police cornered and killed him a few days later. But not before he killed two other cops.

LORI

I'm sorry.

DAVID

Like I said, I never really knew her, much less remember her.

LORI

So... where do you keep her? The boat...

DAVID

Florida. Key West in fact.

JOSH

You live in Key West?

DAVID

Yes I do. Mom and Dad built their home there, I inherited it. We're right on the ocean. She even has her own slip. I take her out every chance I get.

JOSH  
That is way too cool. So you swim  
in the ocean?

DAVID  
I go scuba diving all the time, when  
I'm home.

LORI  
(surprised)  
You scuba dive?

DAVID  
Yep. The ocean around the Keys is  
beautiful. Great scuba diving water.

JOSH  
That would be so cool to do. How  
old were you when you started scuba  
diving.

DAVID  
I was around your age. Dad taught  
me. I wasn't legal, but he taught  
me well.

JOSH  
Could you teach me?

LORI  
Josh!

JOSH  
Mom, why not? That would be so cool.

DAVID  
Maybe we ought to wait until you're  
a little older, legal age at least.

JOSH  
We could go diving here...

DAVID  
No... not really.

JOSH  
Why not?

DAVID  
The waters here are too cold, too  
murky. Lousy diving conditions most  
of the time.

JOSH  
People do it all the time.

DAVID  
Maybe so, but Key West is far superior.

LORI  
Enough. No scuba diving.

JOSH  
Mom...

LORI  
I said enough.

DAVID  
Your mothers right. Give it a few years. Everything comes in it's own time.

LORI  
Thanks a lot...

DAVID  
You're welcome.

Lori flabbergasted.

JOSH  
Can David eat with us tonight Mom?

LORI  
(thinking)  
I can't see any reason why not, if he wants. Oh damn it!

JOSH  
Mom!

LORI  
Sorry. I forgot to put out the meat. It's all frozen.

JOSH  
Leftovers again?

LORI  
Sorry kiddo.

DAVID  
Maybe it's not that bad.

Lori and Josh look at him,

LORI  
What are you thinking?

DAVID  
Let me fix dinner.

LORI

You cook?

DAVID

I've been known to throw a dinner or two together in my time.

Lori unbelieving.

LORI

Knock yourself out.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- KITCHEN

David looks through the refrigerator. He pulls dishes of leftover food out as Lori and Josh watch him. He looks over the supply in front of him,

DAVID

Got any pasta?

LORI

In the pantry. What are you going to make?

DAVID

With all this chicken here, Chicken Alfredo.

David finds the pasta and begins the process of creating dinner.

JOSH

Where did you learn to cook?

DAVID

I had to create documentation for some cookware once, so I decided to take some cooking lessons at the local college. I got hooked. Found out that I really like making deserts. That's my favorite type of cooking. I have a sweet tooth.

Josh go to my room, you'll find a pouch of CD's there. Would you bring them to me please.

Josh leaves.

LORI

CD's?

DAVID

I noticed you have a CD player. I like to listen to music when I cook.

Josh returns. David puts one of the CD's in the machine. BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN begins to sing "DANCING IN THE DARK". David begins to sing/dance coordinated to the music, having fun in the kitchen as he prepares dinner. Takes Lori and tries to dance with her, but she's not very cooperative. The song ends, another starts. Settles down, gets more serious. Making dinner.

JOSH

You have a lot of fun cooking don't you?

DAVID

Sometimes. Most times. Yeah.

JOSH

What kind of music do you like?

DAVID

Most kinds. Soft and easy, Celtic, Classical, soft rock. I have even been known to go country on occasion.

Josh looks through the collection.

JOSH

None of these are store bought.

DAVID

No, they're my own mix. I have a lot of records my dad left me, plus I download songs, all legal of course.

LORI

(sarcastically)

Of course.

DAVID

I have a program that transfers songs from LP records to MP3 format. Dad left me a nice stereo setup, ancient, but nice.

The music continues as Lori studies him making dinner.

LORI

How long before dinner?

DAVID

About half an hour, that ok?

LORI

Fine. I'll be back.

JOSH

Where you going Mom?

No answer as Lori leaves and goes next door to

INT. KATIE'S HOME -- KITCHEN

Katie in the kitchen making a sandwich as Lori barges in, her expression one of confusion, rage, amazement. Katie looks at her.

KATIE

What?

LORI

(through clinched  
teeth)

He's... So... Damn... PERFECT!

She begins to pace as Katie watches her.

LORI (CONT'D)

Everything he does is perfect! Even  
his music is perfect!

KATIE

Who? What?

LORI

That man! Damn it! Why can't he be  
normal, like me! No! He has to be  
perfect!

Katie amused,

KATIE

What's he doing now?

LORI

Making dinner. Chicken Alfredo. Is  
there nothing he can't do?

Katie looks at her dead sandwich.

KATIE

Chicken Alfredo?

LORI

And probably desert as well.

KATIE

What kind of desert?

LORI

I don't know! But it'll be perfect.  
Did you know he has a sailboat and  
scuba dives?

KATIE

Not until just now. A sailboat?

LORI

A sixty footer, named for his mother,  
Miss June.

Lori turns soft,

LORI (CONT'D)

His mother was murdered.

Katie stunned.

LORI (CONT'D)

Damn it!

Sits frustrated.

KATIE

Girl you got it bad...

LORI

He's just so....

KATIE

Perfect?

LORI

Wonderful. Josh is really...

KATIE

Sounds like you are too.

Lori looks at Katie.

LORI

He's the first man since Carl that's  
given me goose bumps.

Katie looks at Lori, her lame sandwich,

KATIE

Chicken Alfredo... How long till  
dinner?

LORI

He said about half an hour.

Katie quickly puts the sandwich in the refrigerator, puts  
other items away.

LORI (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

KATIE

Chicken Alfredo. Time for dinner.

Katie rushes out the door as Lori follows.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- LATER

Sitting around the dinning room table, finishing the meal.

KATIE

That was outstanding. You learned to cook in a college class?

DAVID

Well part of it. I took the college class to evaluate the cookware. A lot of it I learned from Dad. He was a great cook.

JOSH

You were close to your dad weren't you?

DAVID

Just like you and your dad. Very close.

David's cell phone rings.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

Answers.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Matrone speaking... Yes General how... Now! Can't it wait... Yes sir I understand.... I'm on my way.

Hangs up, looks at the others.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Sorry. I have to leave. Sorry for leaving you with the dishes.

LORI

Work?

DAVID

Yeah.

LORI

Don't they ever give you a break?

DAVID

This is a high profile project. I have to get it done. Deadlines and such. But... I'm taking Saturday off for sure. Got plans for Saturday.

JOSH

What kind of plans?

LORI

Josh.

DAVID

I'm going to Otay Lake.

JOSH

What's there?

DAVID

There's a skydiving setup there.  
I'm going to get in a few jumps.

LORI

You skydive?

DAVID

Yep.

KATIE

You mean like... jumping out of  
airplanes?

DAVID

Yep.

JOSH

Cool! Can I go with you?

David looks at Lori.

DAVID

That's up to your mother champ.

JOSH

Mom! Please! Can I go?

DAVID

You're all invited, if you want.  
They have picnic areas, we can do a  
picnic maybe.

Think about it, I have to go.

Gets up and leaves. Lori watches him go out the door.

KATIE

I wonder what time he'll be home?

LORI

Knowing him, late. He skydives?

Lori astounded.

LORI (CONT'D)

Is there nothing he can't do?

KATIE  
He's an adventurer.

JOSH  
Can we go Mom? Can we go with him?

Lori looks at Josh,

KATIE  
I would like to see that...

Looks at Katie,

LORI  
Ok. We make a picnic, and we watch  
him kill himself. Skydiving... what's  
next, walking on the moon?

INT. LORI'S HOME -- NIGHT

Lori and Katie in the den drinking wine. Silence.

KATIE  
What's on your mind?

LORI  
I was just thinking...

KATIE  
About what?

LORI  
Carl. I wonder what he would think  
of David?

KATIE  
Knowing my brother, he would be  
envious.

LORI  
Envious?

KATIE  
David is everything that Carl wasn't.  
Carl always played it safe, especially  
after the... after the injury.

LORI  
He was terrified of losing me...

KATIE  
He couldn't perform any more.

LORI  
It did put a strain on our marriage  
at times. Sometimes a huge strain.

KATIE

You never knew this, but he would confide in me at times, asking for my advice. He knew you wanted more kids, and it scared him, scared him that he wasn't a man anymore.

LORI

What did you tell him?

KATIE

What could I tell him? I didn't have any answers, I still don't to this day. I knew what you needed, but he couldn't give you, couldn't provide. More than once I could hear the tears in his voice. He was so frustrated, so scared.

LORI

I loved him so much.

KATIE

In the last few months, before the accident, he began to accept that. It took him years, but he began to be more at ease with himself, with his situation. He was even considering adoption.

LORI

He never told me that.

KATIE

He asked me to stay quiet, to keep it quiet. After the accident there was no reason to even mention it. Forgive me?

Lori smiles at her.

LORI

You've always been there for me, for Josh. I don't know how to repay you.

KATIE

We're family. You'll be there for me if I ever need you. So what about David?

LORI

I don't know.

KATIE

You and Carl always played it safe.

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

You never took any real chances with life. Don't you think it's time you took a chance?

LORI

He scares me. It seems like he takes so many chances. Just like you.

KATIE

Me? Think again girl.

LORI

You married a sailor.

KATIE

I know Mack's job is dangerous, I know that I could be a widow at any time, just like you. But I love him so much. If something happened to him, I... I don't think... I could be as strong as you.

LORI

You think I'm strong?

KATIE

Yes. The way you've handled Carl's death, I don't think I could do that.

LORI

You would find the strength.

KATIE

Would I?

LORI

You would.

KATIE

It's just not knowing, that's the worse part. Not knowing where he's at, or what he's doing.

LORI

Life is so short, so unpredictable.

KATIE

So true. So I ask again, what are you going to do about David?

Silence.

EXT. OTAY LAKE -- EARLY SATURDAY MORNING

Lori, Josh, Katie and David wonder the area. Many people are there, families, individuals in jump suits, packing

parachutes, instructors with students, planes loaded with adventurous skydivers take off. The four settle at a picnic table. They watch the parachutes fall back to earth.

LORI

So you're telling me that you intend to get in one of those planes, go up in the air, and jump out?

DAVID

Yep.

LORI

You're crazy. No, worse than that, you're out of your mind!

DAVID

What's the worse that can happen?

LORI

You can die.

DAVID

Not likely. Too many safe guards.

JOSH

How long have you been skydiving?

DAVID

About ten years now. I've got over three thousand jumps.

KATIE

Don't you ever get tired of it?

DAVID

Never.

LORI

What made you start skydiving?

DAVID

Early in my life I made a promise to myself that I would do three things, learn to fly, learn to scuba, and skydive.

JOSH

And you've done it!

DAVID

Yeah. Yeah I've done it. And I'm glad I did.

LORI

Why?

DAVID

I don't know. I think it's something Dad told me once, he said what good is living if you're afraid of living? Real living means taking chances, to reach out, to embrace those things that we're afraid of.

Lori and Katie look at each other.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Living should be fun, not a bore. We only go around once in this life, why waste it.

Looks at Josh,

DAVID (CONT'D)

But living large does not mean living stupid. There is no reason to take unnecessary risk. There's no reason of acting like a macho, or doing dangerous things to impress somebody, anybody. Dad taught me this lesson well, life is a risk. So why not use that risk to our advantage? Live life, but live it smartly. Enjoy the moment, for the moment is all we have. For the next moment may never come.

Lori watches Josh as he considers,

JOSH

So you live life?

DAVID

Yes.

LORI

But skydiving is dangerous...

DAVID

(looks at Lori)

Which makes the quiet moments all the more sweeter. Life is a balance, how we live that life, how we use our life will determine how we will be judged in the end.

KATIE

How do you want to be judged David?

Thinks,

DAVID

I think I want my epitaph to read...  
 "Here lies a man who died many deaths,  
 but lived a full life."

I think that's better than saying  
 "Here lies a dull boy that always  
 played it safe and never lived."

Lori and Katie again look at each other.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Well, if you will excuse me, I think  
 I need to go get ready. My take-off  
 time is coming up.

JOSH

Can I go with you?

DAVID

Sure, if it's alright with your  
 mother.

(to Lori)

I'll make sure somebody brings him  
 back.

Josh looks at Lori, she nods. The two leave. Katie  
 approaches Lori,

LORI

He takes so many chances...

KATIE

Don't you think it's time you took a  
 chance?

LORI

You don't mean...

KATIE

Why not? It could be a big step for  
 you.

LORI

I'd wet my pants...

KATIE

Probably. But you never know unless  
 you try.

LORI

I must be out of my mind... to even  
 consider it...

KATIE

I'll hold the fort.

Lori considers, starts to leave, stops, looks at Katie,

KATIE (CONT'D)

Go on. I hear it's all the rage...

Lori takes a deep breath,

LORI

(to herself)

I must be crazy...

She leaves to find David and Josh.

EXT. PARACHUTE PREPARATION AREA

Lori sees David and Josh as he is getting ready. Another man, ALAN, is helping him as Josh observes. Lori approaches, they do not see her, but she listens in.

JOSH

So how high are you going to go?

ALAN

This flight will take him to thirteen thousand feet.

JOSH

Wow. Wish you could take me.

DAVID

Your time will come.

JOSH

Not fast enough.

DAVID

Wrong, it'll come too fast. Enjoy these days of youth Josh, for they will never come again.

JOSH

Dad use to say something like that. I always thought he was full of it.

DAVID

And now?

JOSH

Now I wished I had listened to him more. Dad was pretty smart wasn't he?

DAVID

I think your father was very smart. I think he was probably one of the smartest men I never knew.

JOSH  
Why do you say that?

DAVID  
Because he married your mother and  
had you.

Lori chokes a little.

JOSH  
Mom's always so scared that something  
will happen to me.

DAVID  
Mothers are like that, or so I've  
been told. I think it's in their  
job description.

JOSH  
Do you have a grandmother?

DAVID  
No. No, my grandparents died when  
Dad was young. I'm the last Matrone  
in my family.

JOSH  
So why don't you get married? Get  
married and have some kids.

DAVID  
Easier said than done. Still...  
Sheila might be willing.

JOSH  
Who's Sheila?

LORI  
(whispering)  
Sheila?

DAVID  
Never mind.

David looks around and sees Lori standing there.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Where did you come from?

JOSH  
Mom!

Lori approaches.

LORI  
Getting ready I see.

DAVID

Almost. You come for Josh? Alan would have made sure he got back.

Lori looks at Alan.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Oh, manners. Alan this is Josh's mother Lori, Lori Weber. Lori this is Alan... something or other.

Lori confused.

ALAN

My last name is Russian, just call me Alan. Keeps things simple.

The two shake hands.

LORI

You don't sound Russian...

ALAN

Forth generation.

DAVID

Alan is one of the best instructors around. He has over eight thousand jumps to his credit.

LORI

Really? So... do you think... you could teach me?

JOSH

Mom! You want to skydive?

David surprised.

LORI

Katie thinks I should take a chance, do something wild...

DAVID

What do you think?

LORI

(without thinking)

I think I'm going to wet my pants...

Catches herself,

LORI (CONT'D)

I can't believe I just said that...

She looks at the three males who are smiling, trying not to laugh.

ALAN

I can teach you, if you want. And...  
you're not the first woman, or male,  
that has told me that.

Lori a little relieved. Lori looking at David, he at her,  
Alan at the two of them.

ALAN (CONT'D)

However, I think you might be more  
comfortable with David. He's not a  
bad instructor, for a newbie.

DAVID

Thanks for the vote of confidence.

ALAN

Just trying to be helpful.

DAVID

Do you really want to step out of an  
airplane at thirteen thousand feet?

LORI

Not really no. At least I don't  
think so... well maybe... HELL I  
don't know!

JOSH

Maybe you should Mom. David can  
take care of you, right David?

DAVID

I can take care of her. IF she wants  
to go up.

Lori nervous, scared.

LORI

What do I have to do?

EXT. THIRTEEN THOUSAND FEET UP

Lori looking at the ground so far below. The pilot and Alan  
are the only two others in the plane. She looks at David,  
he smiles at her. She's scared and shows it. The two are  
hooked together.

EXT. PICNIC AREA

Katie and Josh watching through binoculars.

KATIE

I can't believe she's doing this.

JOSH  
I know. My mother skydiving. Wait  
till I tell the kids at school!

Katie looks at Josh. Katie nervous and scared.

KATIE  
I never should have talked her into  
this.

JOSH  
She's with David, she'll be alright.  
David will take care of her.

KATIE  
So who will take care of David?

JOSH  
Aunt Katie...

KATIE  
I know, I know.

They continue to watch the plane as it approaches the drop  
zone.

EXT. THIRTEEN THOUSAND FEET UP

DAVID  
(loud, over the noise)  
Are you sure you want to do this?

Lori looks down at the earth.

LORI  
(scared)  
No.

She looks at David as he smiles.

DAVID  
You want to go back?

LORI  
(very scared)  
No.

Alan taps David's shoulder.

DAVID  
Ten seconds. Ready?

LORI  
No.

DAVID  
Just remember what I told you.

Lori nods her head. As she and David leave the airplane she screams.

EXT. EARTH

The two touch the earth as David helps her keep her footing. They pick up the chute and head for the side, off the target range. Josh and Katie await them. Katie stunned at the huge grin on Lori's face.

LORI  
(to David)  
THAT WAS SO GREAT! Can we go again?!

DAVID  
Sure, if you want.

LORI  
If I want! Damn right I want!

JOSH  
Mom?

LORI  
Oh honey, that is so fantastic!  
(to David)  
We gotta go again! How soon?

DAVID  
About an hour. We need to repack  
the chute.

LORI  
Great! Let's get started!

She walks away. Katie and Josh look at each other, David smiles.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- KITCHEN -- EVENING

Katie at the window looking in the backyard, she sees David and Josh playing catch. She approaches Lori, sitting at the kitchen table drinking hot tea. Katie sits and prepares her tea.

KATIE  
Those two, they get along so well.  
I still can't believe you went  
skydiving. How many jumps?

LORI  
Three. All from thirteen thousand  
feet. What?

KATIE  
You. You look different.  
(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

It's been a long time since I've seen that face.

LORI

It's been a long time since I felt this way.

KATIE

How do you feel?

LORI

Alive. When David and I were hanging from that chute, I had no fear. I felt that he, we, could do anything. Only Carl made me feel that way. But with David I felt something more, something I never felt with Carl...

KATIE

What?

LORI

Safe. Completely safe.

KATIE

Safe?

LORI

Yeah. Carl was a great man, but like you said we always played it prudent. We never really took chances. I think I'm beginning to understand how David feels every time he does something. It makes him feel alive. To know that death is only, can be, only moments away. But to defy it. To beat it. To laugh in the face of danger.

Lori sits back, reflecting.

KATIE

You got all that from skydiving?

LORI

I know, it sounds weird doesn't it?

KATIE

Beyond weird. Coming from you, strange. Are you sure that altitude didn't affect your judgment?

LORI

Maybe it did. I don't know.

Josh and David come in.

LORI (CONT'D)

So soon?

JOSH

David got a call.

LORI

What type of call?

DAVID

I have to go to work.

LORI

On Saturday night? I thought you were taking the weekend off.

DAVID

That was the plan... but plans change.  
(to Josh)  
We'll pick this up tomorrow ok sport.

JOSH

Ok. Why do you have to work so much?

DAVID

Just the way it is. I'm getting paid very well...

KATIE

Very well...

DAVID

(smiles)

I have a job to do. It's that simple.  
Later.

David leaves as Lori watches him. She turns to Josh,

LORI

Hungry?

JOSH

Not so much. Mind if I watch TV?

LORI

No, go ahead.

Josh leaves.

KATIE

He works an awful lot.

LORI

Too much.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY -- MONDAY EVENING

Lori, Josh, Katie and David bowling. Josh and David one team, Lori and Katie another. David looks miserable. Lori smiles big as she looks at the scores. David is losing.

LORI  
I cannot believe that you do not  
know how to bowl.

DAVID  
Well believe it.

JOSH  
David, Mom and Aunt Katie are kicking  
our ass!

LORI  
Joshua!

JOSH  
Sorry Mom.

DAVID  
Sorry sport, I'm just not a bowler.  
Never have been.  
(to Lori)  
How in the world I ever let you talk  
me into this...

LORI  
You worked all weekend... you needed  
a break. I saw how exhausted you  
were when you walked in last night.  
I just figured you needed a change.

DAVID  
By being humiliated? What's my score?

LORI  
Eighty-six. You have made more gutter  
balls... I never thought it possible.

DAVID  
Thought what possible?

LORI  
That you couldn't do something. You  
really are a lousy bowler.

David looks at her score.

DAVID  
Am I reading that right, you're at  
two ninety-six? Isn't three hundred  
a perfect score?

KATIE

Lori and Carl were on the company bowling team for six years. And Lori got very good at it.

LORI

Carl was a good bowler too. It's one of the things we did very well together.

David quiet.

JOSH

Don't take it so hard David, not very many people can beat Mom at bowling.

David frustrated. Outloud to no one,

DAVID

I think I need a beer.

Lori and Katie look at each other.

KATIE

Come on Josh, let's go get us something to drink. What kind of beer David?

DAVID

No I didn't mean...

LORI

Just bring him something.

David embarrassed. Katie and Josh leave.

DAVID

I didn't mean...

LORI

I know. Still, you work hard... Long hours. You need to relax.

DAVID

I do relax.

LORI

Really? When?

DAVID

Saturday when we went skydiving...

LORI

True, but not true. You had to look after me. But I had a great time. A really great time. Thank you.

DAVID  
You're welcome.

LORI  
So... who's Sheila?

David caught off guard.

DAVID  
She's someone... an engineer I work  
with.

Lori studies him. David uneasy.

LORI  
How's the project going?

David relieved a little.

DAVID  
It goes. It goes well. I'm in the  
final stages now.

LORI  
(alarmed)  
It's only been a little over a month.

DAVID  
Not true. I began this project over  
two years ago.

LORI  
But you just got to San Diego...

DAVID  
Sorta. I started in Seattle, then  
White Sands in New Mexico, then here.  
Plus back and forth between here and  
the Keys. I was staying with Rita  
until she died. Now the project is  
coming to a close.

LORI  
How long?

DAVID  
Another three weeks or so.

LORI  
Then what?

DAVID  
I'm going home, and take a long break.

LORI  
How long a break?

DAVID  
(serious)  
At least twenty-four hours...

Lori smiles, small laugh. David smiles at her.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
You look good when you smile. May I  
ask you something?

LORI  
Sure.

DAVID  
How long have you lived in San Diego?

LORI  
I was born in Michigan but decided  
to go to collage at San Diego State.  
They were offering a program I wanted  
to major in. I was a freshman when  
I met Carl. He was a junior and  
captain of the debate team. Anyway  
we dated a couple of years, he  
graduated and we got married. Two  
years later I had Josh.

DAVID  
So you settled here?

LORI  
We did. We bought the house before  
Josh was born and I've been there  
ever since.

David debating.

DAVID  
So, if I may be so bold, how do you  
make the house payment?

LORI  
We had insurance. When Carl died  
the house got paid off. And he left  
us well off, along with a healthy  
trust fund for Josh, I'm the executor  
of it. If I really get in a bind I  
can pull from that. What about you?

DAVID  
What about me what?

Katie and Josh return and pass the drinks around. David  
takes his beer. Josh looks at him,

JOSH  
 You're not going to be driving after  
 drinking that are you?

David confused.

LORI  
 The man that hit us was a drunk  
 driver. Came out of it without a  
 scratch.

David nods and puts the beer down.

LORI (CONT'D)  
 Don't worry, I'm driving.

David accepts and drinks the beer. He and Lori look at each other.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- NIGHT

Lori and Katie sitting in the den drink wine.

KATIE  
 At least you know one thing...

LORI  
 What's that?

KATIE  
 He's not perfect. He's a horrible  
 bowler.

LORI  
 That he is.

Lori considering something.

KATIE  
 I know that look, what is it?

LORI  
 I've been thinking about what you  
 said, that Josh needs a father.

KATIE  
 Are you considering it?

Silence. Katie gives her a look.

LORI  
 I admit... I've thought about him.  
 Maybe too much.

KATIE  
 Or maybe not enough. How do you  
 feel about him?

LORI  
Why do you think he and Josh get  
along so well?

KATIE  
My honest opinion?

LORI  
Is there any other kind?

KATIE  
I think it's because they have  
something in common, they both lost  
their father to horrible  
circumstances.

LORI  
A common trait. Something they can  
relate to. Something that brings  
them together.

KATIE  
The question is, can you relate to  
it?

LORI  
He's leaving in a few weeks...

KATIE  
You knew that...

LORI  
Yeah. Yeah I knew that. Still, it  
took me by surprise when he mentioned  
it.

KATIE  
When?

LORI  
Tonight, at the bowling alley.

KATIE  
So what are you going to do?

LORI  
I don't know. I really don't know.  
What do you think I should do?

KATIE  
Are you in love with him?

Lori looks at Katie, but does not answer, reflecting.

EXT. LORI'S HOME -- AFTERNOON

David pulls up and parks, Josh coming from school approaches him.

JOSH  
Are you home early?

DAVID  
A little. The project is beginning to wind down, allows me to leave early sometimes.

JOSH  
So does that mean you will be leaving us?

DAVID  
Yeah.

JOSH  
When?

DAVID  
Soon.

JOSH  
Do you have to?

DAVID  
Yeah Josh, I have to.

A noise as they see Lori trying to handle a big trash can, David moves to help.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Let me...

LORI  
Thank you. Rather full this time. You're home early.

DAVID  
When's trash day?

LORI  
This afternoon.

David slaps himself up the side of the head.

DAVID  
(to himself)  
Stupid!

LORI  
What?

DAVID

The trash never entered my mind. I should have been taking it out for you. What the hell was I thinking? I'm sorry.

Lori watches him as they walk the trash to the curb.

LORI

You always left early and most days came home late. Why are you home so early?

DAVID

The project is winding down.

LORI

I thought you said another three weeks.

DAVID

I did. But, ahead of schedule.

LORI

So how soon?

DAVID

A week, maybe less.

Lori looks at Josh, the hurt in his eyes.

LORI

So what happens when the project is finished.

DAVID

I go home, maybe.

LORI

Maybe?

DAVID

That depends upon the General. He may have another project for me. Can never tell.

JOSH

But you will come back won't you?

DAVID

Sure, when I need to.

JOSH

How long will that be?

DAVID

Three, four months. Maybe longer.

LORI  
What are you not telling us?

DAVID  
What makes you think I'm not telling  
you something?

LORI  
Experience with Carl. I knew when  
he was hiding something from me.  
What are you hiding?

David considers.

DAVID  
I have the opportunity to work on an  
important project in London. It's a  
two year commitment.

LORI  
London, as in London England?

DAVID  
Yeah.

JOSH  
Are you going?

DAVID  
I haven't made up my mind yet. I  
have the boat and plane to consider.  
The house, a lot of details. But,  
it's a great opportunity.

LORI  
When will you know?

DAVID  
The General wants an answer by Friday.

LORI  
This Friday?

DAVID  
Yeah.

JOSH  
So... when would you go? To London.

DAVID  
If I accept I have to be there by  
the end of next month.

LORI  
For two years...

DAVID

Yeah. It's a job that is going to be hard to walk away from. The doors it would open... anyway I haven't made up my mind yet.

INT. KATIE'S HOME -- LATE AFTERNOON

KATIE

London?

LORI

Yeah.

The tea pot starts to boil, Katie fixes hot tea. They sit at the table.

KATIE

Is he going?

LORI

I don't know. He said he hasn't made up his mind yet.

KATIE

Where is he now?

LORI

Playing catch with Josh. What am I going to do Katie?

KATIE

Why don't you tell him how you feel?

LORI

That's the problem, I don't know how I feel. My mind...

Silence.

KATIE

What does your heart tell you?

LORI

I don't know. I just don't know. If I knew how he felt about me...

KATIE

Do you think he has feelings for you?

LORI

He doesn't show it. He has feelings for Josh, but for me? I don't know.

KATIE

How can he have feelings for Josh  
and not for you?

LORI

I don't know.

KATIE

You don't know a damn thing do you?

LORI

No, no I don't. What am I going to  
do Katie, what am I going to do?

Lori begins to cry, Katie holds her.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- NIGHT

The clock shows 7:45. The doorbell rings. Lori moves slowly,  
sadly and opens the door. A very beautiful blonde woman,  
SHEILA, stands there holding a briefcase type bag.

LORI

May I help you?

SHEILA

I understand David Matrone is staying  
here.

LORI

Yes, yes he is. And you are?

SHEILA

Sheila, Sheila Jackson. David and I  
work together. Is he here? I really  
need to talk to him.

LORI

(shocked)

Yes, yes he is, please come in.

Sheila enters, Lori closes the door. Josh and Katie enter  
the foyer. Katie in mild shock.

LORI (CONT'D)

This is my son Joshua, and my sister-  
in-law Katie McGuire. I'm Lori Weber.

SHEILA

David told me about you. And Josh,  
and Katie. It's nice meeting you.  
You have a beautiful home.

LORI

Thank you. Josh, go get David please.

SHEILA  
That's not necessary. If you can  
just tell me where his room is, I  
can go pump him for the information  
I need.

Lori and Katie shocked.

LORI  
(urgently)  
Josh, go get David.

Josh leaves.

LORI (CONT'D)  
(hesitantly)  
Please, come in and sit down.

SHEILA  
Thank you.

They enter the

LIVING ROOM

SHEILA (CONT'D)  
Your home really is beautiful. Kind  
of reminds me of David's home. Only  
his is on the beach.

As they enter and sit, Lori and Katie not sure what to make  
of the situation. David enters.

DAVID  
Sheila, what are you doing here?

SHEILA  
You.

DAVID  
Me?

SHEILA  
I need some help. Is there someplace  
where we can go?

DAVID  
What kind of help?

SHEILA  
I need you to do a write-up on the  
flight parameters, I have all the  
info necessary.

DAVID  
Why didn't you say something earlier  
or call?

SHEILA

Because the General didn't tell me he needed it until about an hour ago. And we can't use the lab.

DAVID

Why?

SHEILA

You know that security software update they've been talking about, they decided to install it tonight and won't be finished until morning. Fortunately the data is unclassified so we can work on it anywhere. I thought maybe we would use your room.

DAVID

When does the General want this information?

SHEILA

Tonight.

DAVID

Tonight?

SHEILA

Tonight. I told him I was coming over here. So is he.

DAVID

The General is coming here?

SHEILA

Yeah. We better have something by the time he gets here.

Lori, Katie and Josh looking at each other.

DAVID

I guess we can use my room...

Lori thinks,

LORI

(nervously)

Do you need... an internet connection?

SHEILA

It would help.

LORI

There's an internet connection by the dining room table. You can set up your computers there.

David looks at Sheila,

DAVID  
There's no internet connection in my room. I have to use mobile connection. A hard line would be better.

SHEILA  
Ok. The dining room.

DAVID  
Let me go get my computer.

David leaves.

SHEILA  
(to Lori)  
Where do you want me to set up?

LORI  
Josh, show Sheila the internet connection in the dining room.

JOSH  
Sure. This way.

Josh and Sheila depart, Katie pulls Lori aside,

KATIE  
(whispering)  
What are you doing?

LORI  
(whispering)  
There is no way in hell I am going to let that woman be alone with David in my house!

DINING ROOM

David returns as he and Sheila set up their equipment. They begin to work. Josh curious.

LORI (CONT'D)  
Josh...

Josh looks at his mother.

LORI (CONT'D)  
Leave them alone. Go watch some TV.

Josh reluctantly leaves as Lori watches the two sitting at the table.

LORI (CONT'D)

Would you like something, coffee or tea?

SHEILA

Coffee would be fantastic if you don't mind.

DAVID

Coffee sounds good. Thank you.

Lori reluctantly goes to the

KITCHEN

followed by Katie. Lori begins to make coffee.

KATIE

Why are you letting her stay?

LORI

David told me he works with her. If they are working on the project, then fine. At least in there I can keep an eye on them.

KATIE

You don't trust David...

LORI

You're right. I don't. She's too beautiful. And you heard her, she's been to David's home in the Keys. And pumping him for information, God only knows what that means!

KATIE

You sound like a wife... again.

Lori looks at her.

INT. LORI'S HOME -- LATER

Lori watches Sheila and David work, they seem all business. Katie watches Lori. Lori moves to the living room.

KATIE

Well?

LORI

No hanky-panky if that's what you mean.

KATIE

What were you expecting?

LORI

I don't know.

KATIE

Maybe they are just professionals doing a job.

LORI

Maybe. David said she was an engineer, but I've never seen an engineer with her measurements.

Lori looks towards the dining room but can't see the couple.

LORI (CONT'D)

Where's Josh?

KATIE

In bed. While you were busy spying I took care of your son. Tomorrow is a school day. He wanted to wait up for the General. Took awhile to get him settled, but he finally drifted off to sleep.

The doorbell rings. Lori moves to the

FRONT DOOR

An older man stands there, grey hair, distinguished, holds himself upright, a man of importance, GENERAL MERCER. No uniform.

LORI

May I help you?

GENERAL MERCER

Are you Lori Weber?

LORI

Yes I am, and you are?

GENERAL MERCER

I'm General Mercer, U.S. Air Force, I understand David Matrone is staying here.

LORI

The General? David's General?

GENERAL MERCER

Yes.

LORI

Please come in. We've been expecting you.

The General enters.

LORI (CONT'D)  
Please in here.

Lori leads the General to the  
LIVING ROOM

David and Sheila enter.

DAVID  
General...

GENERAL MERCER  
David, Sheila. Status?

SHEILA  
We need at least another forty-five  
minutes sir.

Mercer looks perturbed, but nods.

DAVID  
May I ask what the rush is sir? Why  
couldn't this wait until tomorrow?

GENERAL MERCER  
Wasn't my idea David, the Pentagon  
is pushing for the info. Apparently  
London is pushing them.

SHEILA  
General is there anyway you can  
forestall London, at least for a  
couple of days?

GENERAL MERCER  
I wish, but no. I personally talked  
to the Prime Minister earlier this  
evening suggesting a postponement.  
He said he needed the data. I guess  
he has his reasons. Reasons he is  
not sharing.

(to David)  
He also asked about you. Have you  
made a decision yet?

DAVID  
No sir. You said Friday.

GENERAL MERCER  
So I did. Forty-five minutes you  
said?

DAVID/SHEILA  
Yes sir.

GENERAL MERCER

Don't let me keep you.

David and Sheila disappear. Mercer looks at Lori and Katie.

GENERAL MERCER (CONT'D)

You must be Katie McGuire?

KATIE

Yes sir.

GENERAL MERCER

Your husband is stationed aboard the Ronald Reagan is he not?

KATIE

Yes sir.

GENERAL MERCER

I talked to his commanding officer, he tells me your husband is one fine sailor.

KATIE

Thank you sir.

Katie confused. To Lori,

GENERAL MERCER

It looks like I'm going to be here for awhile, you wouldn't happen to have any coffee available would you?

LORI

As a matter of fact sir I do. It's in the kitchen, I'll bring you a cup.

GENERAL MERCER

Not necessary. Your home is beautiful, and I don't want to be the cause of a mess. I'll take it in the kitchen.

LORI

General that's not necessary...

GENERAL MERCER

Yes it is, my wife would kill me if she discovered I spilt coffee all over your carpet. Believe me, I would rather face a group of terrorist than face her. The kitchen?

LORI

This way General.

Lori and Katie lead the General to the

KITCHEN

Mercer looks around as Lori pours him a cup of coffee.

GENERAL MERCER

Clean. Neat. Well organized.  
Efficient.

LORI

Thank you sir. Sugar?

GENERAL MERCER

No, just black. Thank you.

Mercer sits at the table and makes himself comfortable, Lori and Katie sit, a little nervous.

LORI

I don't entertain Generals very often...

KATIE

Actually, we never entertain Generals...

Mercer smiles. He studies Lori.

GENERAL MERCER

You have a son do you not?

LORI

Yes sir, Joshua. He's going to be so disappointed he missed you.

GENERAL MERCER

Mind if I ask where he's at?

LORI

In bed. Tomorrow is a school day, and it is late.

GENERAL MERCER

Yes it is. David told me about him. About you, and Mrs. McGuire.

KATIE

Katie please.

GENERAL MERCER

Katie it is.

(to Lori)

I must say you look prettier in person.

LORI  
(confused)  
In person?

GENERAL MERCER  
I've only seen photos of you, photos  
that do not do you justice.

LORI  
Where did you see photos of me sir?

GENERAL MERCER  
On David's computer. He has a screen  
saver of you and your son. Candid  
pictures really.

LORI  
Pictures of me?

GENERAL MERCER  
Yes. One in particular, where you're  
trying to unclog the sink...

LORI  
He has a picture of that?

GENERAL MERCER  
Plus others.

Lori and Katie look at each other.

GENERAL MERCER (CONT'D)  
I can begin to understand David's  
reluctance to not...

LORI  
Not what sir?

GENERAL MERCER  
Nothing.

KATIE  
Would nothing have any relationship  
to a job in London?

GENERAL MERCER  
He told you?

LORI  
Yes sir. Said it was an important  
job, but that he hasn't made up his  
mind yet. Is it important?

GENERAL MERCER  
Very important. But he hesitates,  
now I know why.

Lori and Katie again look at each other.

LORI  
Could you be a little bit more  
specific sir?

Mercer observes her.

GENERAL MERCER  
What do you know about David Matrone?

LORI  
Not as much as I would like to.

GENERAL MERCER  
Do you know anything about his past?

LORI  
Not really, no sir. He told me about  
his childhood, he and his father,  
what happened to his mother, but not  
much else.

Mercer considers something as he studies Lori. He is silent.  
Lori and Katie a little nervous. He makes a decision.

GENERAL MERCER  
After his father died David was lost.  
He didn't know exactly what to do  
with himself. I was an up and coming  
officer in the Air Force, I knew  
that David needed to find himself,  
so I suggested he join the military.  
He joined the Marines.

He came up through the ranks to become  
an officer. In time he became a  
helicopter pilot, flew in both  
Afghanistan and the Iraq war. His  
job was medevac, to get the injured  
out of harms way. More than once he  
and his crew risked their lives to  
save others. It was under those  
circumstances he met a Navy doctor  
by the name of Toni Adams.

It was her job to tend to the wounded  
during transit to a field hospital.  
She flew with him on most of his  
evacs and is credited with saving a  
great many lives. Over time she and  
David became quite a team.

Toni was a beautiful woman and it  
didn't take long for David to become  
crazy about her.

(MORE)

GENERAL MERCER (CONT'D)  
 Eventually he asked her to marry  
 him. She said yes.

One day there was a battle, a hard  
 battle. Our guys were being... a  
 lot of men died, many more wounded.  
 David's job was to get the injured  
 out of the hot zone. Toni was on  
 board his helo, they went in to get  
 the wounded, came under heavy attack.  
 On one trip he was hit, wounded  
 himself, but he still managed multiple  
 trips to fly the injured out of that  
 hell. How he managed to save as  
 many as he did...

QUICK FLASHBACK to the battle.

GENERAL MERCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 When they finally landed in a safe  
 area David discovered... Toni had  
 taken a bullet, but she still managed  
 to save multiple lives during transit.  
 Her wounds, if properly treated in  
 time... David... Toni died in his  
 arms.

RETURN to PRESENT.

GENERAL MERCER (CONT'D)  
 Both were awarded the Silver Star,  
 our nation's third highest honor,  
 for their actions. Toni posthumously.  
 After that...

After that David left the Marines,  
 and in his pursuit for a new life he  
 became a "technical writer". A damn  
 good one. One of the best. But  
 Toni's death always haunts him. He  
 feels responsible, thinks he could  
 have done something different to  
 prevent it.

Lori chokes.

LORI

Could he?

GENERAL MERCER

No.

LORI

What's your relationship to David  
 General?

GENERAL MERCER

His father and I were good friends. We even dated the same woman for a time, David's mom, June. But, June found more favor with David's father. Despite our interest in the same woman we remained friends, close friends. David is named after me. My first name is David. When his mother died... it was a hard time... David was only three. Then, when his father died... I lost a hell of a friend that day.

I knew the London job would be a boost for David, for his career. I insisted he take it, but he surprised me. He hesitated. I couldn't understand why until I saw your pictures on his computer. Now meeting you, I know why. David's a good man, but after Toni, he's just afraid of losing someone again. Just like you.

LORI

Me?

GENERAL MERCER

You're a widow. You know the pain.

KATIE

What about Sheila?

GENERAL MERCER

Don't let Sheila's looks fool you. She's a hell of an engineer. Top of her class at MIT. And a Ph.D from Harvard. That woman is... unique. But David has no desires for her. They work together, that's all.

LORI

I think Sheila may have other ideas.

GENERAL MERCER

I don't know. That's something you may know better than me. All I really care about is that they work well together. They have collaborated on many projects, and will continue to do so in the future.

DAVID (O.S.)

General!

GENERAL MERCER  
They're finished.

Mercer, followed by Lori and Katie, walk to the  
DINING ROOM

DAVID  
Report is complete sir. Do you want  
it on a flash drive?

GENERAL MERCER  
Yes. Good job, both of you. I'm  
hoping that this keeps London off  
our backs, at least until delivery.

David hands Mercer a flash drive.

GENERAL MERCER (CONT'D)  
I will see you two in the morning.

DAVID/SHEILA  
Yes sir.

GENERAL MERCER  
It was a pleasure meeting you Lori,  
Katie. Give my best to your son.

LORI  
Yes sir I will. It was an honor to  
meet you sir.

KATIE  
Yes sir, a real honor.

GENERAL MERCER  
I'll let myself out, good night.

Mercer departs. Sheila looks at David.

SHEILA  
I could use a drink, join me?  
David thinks.

DAVID  
I don't think so, not tonight. Maybe  
tomorrow.

SHEILA  
I'll hold you to it.

Sheila packs up her gear, addresses Lori.

SHEILA (CONT'D)  
It was a pleasure meeting you. And  
thank you for the use of your table.

LORI  
You're welcome. I think.

Sheila and David walk to the

MAIN DOOR

SHEILA  
I'll see you in the morning.

She gives David a kiss on the cheek.

SHEILA (CONT'D)  
Thanks for the help on such sort  
notice. Couldn't do it without you.  
I can never do it without you. We  
make a great team, you and I. I  
think we're destined to continue  
being one.

Sheila smiles at him and departs. David closes the door and  
turns around. Lori's expression...

DAVID  
I think I'm going to call it a night.  
Thanks for everything.

David departs leaving Lori and Katie standing at the door.

INT. KATIE'S HOME -- EARLY MORNING

Katie in her kitchen, Lori comes in, a look of defeat on her  
face, she sits at the table. Katie gives her coffee, sits  
and says nothing.

LORI  
How can I compete with her?

KATIE  
Compete?

LORI  
I don't think I closed my eyes once  
all night. She's beautiful, smart,  
sexy... Everything I'm not.

KATIE  
Yes, but you have one thing she  
doesn't...

LORI  
And what is that?

KATIE  
Her pictures on his computer screen.

Lori looks at Katie.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Pictures of you trying to remove  
that clog.

LORI

Yeah, that's really gotta be sexy.

KATIE

Maybe it is... to him.

LORI

He's going to London... maybe with  
her.

KATIE

Then stop him.

LORI

How?

KATIE

Become a woman.

LORI

It's been a long time...

KATIE

Then girl, you had better get started.

EXT. LORI'S HOME -- EVENING

David drives up and parks. He looks at the house. He seems sad. He pulls out his wallet, two pictures catch his eye. One is of a woman standing with David's father. The other a picture of a beautiful woman, Toni, in a Navy uniform. He stares at the photos, like he is remembering. Finally he puts them away and gets out. He heads for the

SIDE OF THE HOUSE

The gate is locked. He tries his key. It will not open. He tries again. It still won't open. Confused. He heads for the

FRONT DOOR

He starts to ring the bell when the front door opens. Lori stands there. She is wearing a beautiful, low cut dress. She is beautiful and sexy. David is shocked at the sight of her.

DAVID

(stumbling for words)  
My keee... won't.. work.

LORI

(sexy)

I know.

She opens the door and David walks in, not taking his eyes off her.

INT. LORI'S HOME

She leads him to the

DINING ROOM

Candles on the table, dinner plates, soft music fills the room. He stumbles around. Lori approaches him, softly, sexy.

LORI

Josh is staying with Katie tonight.

She softly rubs her hand against his face. He is nervous.

LORI (CONT'D)

You seem nervous.

DAVID

A little. I wasn't expecting this.

LORI

I know. It's been a long time since...

DAVID

Carl?

Lori unsure now.

LORI

The General told me about Toni...

DAVID

Why?

LORI

I think he felt that I should know...

DAVID

Then you know we both lost someone we cared about. Someone very special to each of us. Someone neither of us can forget. Or should forget.

LORI

But someone we need to, not forget, but let go of. Someone that would want us to move on with our lives.

DAVID

I know.

LORI

Sheila...

DAVID

Means nothing.

LORI

Do I mean anything?

DAVID

When I first met you, I didn't know how to act. I was... concerned that... maybe...

LORI

Maybe what?

DAVID

Maybe you weren't ready to get involved with anybody. I know how deep that pain, the pain of losing someone special, can go. I was scared...

LORI

Scared of what?

DAVID

You.

LORI

Why?

DAVID

I don't know. You made me feel... alive again.

(small laugh)

When I saw you trying to unplug that drain, you were so cute, I had to take a picture. That's when I knew...

LORI

Knew what?

DAVID

That I had fallen in love with you.

Lori looks in his eyes,

LORI

Dance with me...

DAVID

This music sounds familiar.

LORI  
It should, it's one of your disk.

David smiles and holds her as they dance. She begins to melt at his touch. His face close to hers,

LORI (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
It's been so long. So very long...

David looks in her eyes, and kisses her a passionate kiss.

INT. LINDBERGH FIELD -- SAN DIEGO -- 18 MONTHS LATER -- DAY

Inside the air terminal, Katie waiting, sees Lori and Josh come down the escalator. Josh runs to her.

JOSH  
Aunt Katie!

Katie hugs him.

KATIE  
Josh! You are getting big! And that tan... Florida...

Lori approaches, she is carrying a baby, about seven months old, in a baby carrier, labeled LITTLE MISS JUNE, strapped to her front.

LORI  
Katie, I wasn't expecting you to be here!

They kiss each other on the cheek.

KATIE  
Are you kidding? Miss you coming home, not in your life.

LORI  
Where's Mack?

KATIE  
We refuse to pay those outrageous parking fees. He's parked off-site. I'll call him when I need him to pick me up. Oh I'm so glad you're here.

LORI  
It's good to be here.

KATIE  
Let me see her.

Lori pulls the baby out and Katie takes her.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
Looks just like her mother.

Lori looks lovingly at the baby.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
Looks like she has gotten bigger  
since the last photos.

LORI  
She has.

KATIE  
Let me carry her.

LORI  
Are you sure?

KATIE  
I better get use to it.

Katie puts the baby carrier on and puts the baby in it.

LORI  
Five months?

KATIE  
Five months.

LORI  
Do you know the sex yet?

KATIE  
Boy. It's going to be a boy.

LORI  
I'm so happy for you. You know I'm  
going to spoil him rotten.

Katie gives her a look.

KATIE  
I figured that if you could get  
pregnant again, maybe I should start.  
Where is that husband of yours?

LORI  
Renting the car.

Working with the baby to make her comfortable and walking  
towards the luggage terminal.

KATIE  
I thought you would be flying the  
Mooney. I was surprised when you  
said commercial.

LORI  
June's teething. There is no way I'm going to be trapped in a small airplane with a teething child for fourteen hours. Commercial is bad enough.

JOSH  
Mom's learning how to fly.

KATIE  
Really?

LORI  
I figured that if I'm going to be the wife of a pilot, I better learn how to fly it in case of an emergency.

JOSH  
She's also scuba diving now.

KATIE  
(surprised)  
Lori...

Do you still skydive?

LORI  
Every chance I get.

KATIE  
Sounds to me like you're becoming quite the adventurer. Florida agrees with you. You look great!

LORI  
I feel great. At least it's not as humid here. How's the house?

KATIE  
It's good. We got some real good renters now. For awhile...

LORI  
Yeah. Those repair bills really... so these people are good?

KATIE  
Very. A good family. He's in Civil Service and she's in the Navy. Three kids. Older kids, but good kids. When I told them you were coming they said they wanted to talk to you about maybe buying the house.

LORI  
Really?

Katie nods, playing with the baby waiting at the luggage terminal. David approaches.

KATIE

David!

DAVID

Katie!

They kiss each other's cheek.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Why are you here? Wasn't expecting this. Where's Mack?

KATIE

Parked off-site. Parking fees.

DAVID

That bad huh?

KATIE

Worse.

LORI

Did you get the car?

DAVID

I did, and I also got a call from the General.

LORI

Oh?

DAVID

I have to get over to the plant, he wants to brief me about this part of the project. So...

KATIE

No problem, we'll take her and Josh home. How long is this venture?

DAVID

This leg is about three weeks. So no, we are not going to be permanent house guest.

KATIE

Like it would matter anyway.

DAVID

I gotta go. Josh, you're in charge of the luggage.

LORI

Home by six.

DAVID

Lori...

LORI

Home by six, I mean it.

DAVID

The General...

LORI

Tell the General home by six, or your domain will be the sofa. Do I make myself clear?

DAVID

Crystal. By six.

LORI

Good.

She takes his face and kisses him.

DAVID

(smiling)

Definitely home by six.

David departs. Lori smiles after him as he disappears into the crowd.

KATIE

Short leash isn't it?

LORI

Sheila is on this project.

KATIE

And you don't trust David?

LORI

On the contrary, I don't trust Sheila.

So, tell me more about these renters, they really want to buy the house?

KATIE

For sure.

As the two women talk waiting for the luggage we pull out of the air terminal and set our sights on the skyline of San Diego.

FADE OUT: