

What They Had

by

Elizabeth Chomko

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1 INT. CONDO, RIVER FOREST, ILLINOIS - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 1

A clock ticks.

We are close on a black and white photograph, nestled among the evergreen needles of a moonlit Christmas tree.

The **photo** is in a simple frame. Summer of '53. A YOUNG MAN in front of a movie theatre. Aloft in his arms is a plump YOUNG WOMAN. They grin madly at the camera. Her legs hang limp.

The clock ticks. Another **photo** on the tree:

The same couple, in color, 1954. She beams from an armchair in dark taffeta; he rests on the chair arm in Navy dress blues. A tiny diamond on her hand, a cane against her skirt.

Another tick, another **photo**:

Black and white, 1960. He's dashing in a suit and Buddy Holly glasses. She's stunning, a strapless gown and opera gloves.

They are BERT AND RUTH KELLER, and this is a love story.

2 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - SAME 2

The same clock ticks. A pair of feet touch down on blue shag carpeting. The feet are small, old, the toes polished red.

The feet pad softly over the carpet. In the silvery moonlight, blue veins peek through translucent skin.

1 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - A PHOTO ON THE TREE 1

The clock ticks. Another **photo** on the tree:

1964. A hand-colored family portrait. Bert and Ruth on a loveseat near their Christmas tree. BRIDGET, age 6, on Daddy's lap; NICHOLAS, 8, Indian-style on the floor.

2 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - SAME 2

Ruth, **now 73**, sits on a chair, her raised leg a silhouette in the moonlit window, pulling on silk stockings. She is thinner now, but not frail. She is still very beautiful.

1 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - A PHOTO ON THE TREE 1

Tick, tick. **Photo:** The crowded lawn of a college, 1977. Nicholas' bell bottoms peek under his gown. Ruth and Bridget, 19, on his left. On his right, Bert bursts with pride.

Tick. **Photo:** A wedding portrait, yellow-tint, 1979. The altar of an elaborate Catholic Church. 21 year-old Bridget, head-to-toe lace, smiles lovingly at EDDIE, 27, top-hat and tails.

Tick. **Photo:** The wedding reception. Bert, 47, at a microphone, mid-speech. Top-hat and tails, tinted glasses, shit-eating grin. Scotch in one hand, cigarette in the other.

2 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - SAME 2

Ruth, in coral lipstick, sifts through a jewelry box on her vanity. A rosary is draped over the mirror, funeral cards tucked into it's frame.

A plaque on the vanity names Ruth The Alzheimer's Association's 1996 Administrator of the Year. In a framed photo, Ruth, 59, accepts the plaque in a '90s power suit.

Ruth selects pearl earrings from the box and quietly closes the lid. She steps away from the mirror as she clips them on.

1 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - A PHOTO ON THE TREE 1

Tick, tick. **Two Poloroids**, side by side. 1984. On the left: Nicholas, 30, in a canoe, holding a huge rainbow trout. On the right: Bert, 54, in the same canoe, holding a minnow.

3 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - SAME 3

In the moonlight, Ruth steps to a long antique mail table. She checks her appearance in the mirror above it.

1 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - A PHOTO ON THE TREE 1

Tick, tick. **Photo:** Spring of '85, outside a church. Bridget holds an INFANT in a Christening gown. Ruth to her right, Bert to her left, holding EMMA, 5, tearful, missing a shoe.

3 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - SAME 3

Ruth pulls a mink coat over her shoulders. She lifts her purse from the table and starts down the hall.

4 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - A PHOTO ON THE TREE 4

Tick, tick. **Photo:** 2001. Bert in a hammock, Ruth in his lap. She kisses his cheek like she means it, dislodging his rose-tinted glasses. He grins like the Cheshire cat.

As the clock ticks, we slowly pull back and see the whole tree. There are lights on this tree, and tinsel, but no ornaments. Just the pictures we've seen and a dozen others.

Next to the tree, sheer curtains float in a breeze.

Behind them, sliding glass doors to a ground floor patio.

The doors are open. And Ruth stands between them.

She faces the snowy night, her purse dangling at her side. The lights of houses decorated for Christmas twinkle faintly through the snowfall.

In her sensible heels, she steps into the snow.

5 INT. SUR LA TABLE OUTLET STORE - FREMONT, CA - NIGHT 5

The store is closed. Christmas Pop over the speaker system.

Bridget, now a young-looking 53, red apron embroidered with "Bridget", stands at the sink of the cooking class kitchen, distractedly drying a fruitcake pan that is completely dry.

She doesn't wear a wedding ring.

TRICIA (O.S.)

He just thought staying home with
the boys meant --

TRICIA, 36, new-age-y, comes around the corner, rolling up the sleeves of her oxford, revealing arms full of tattoos.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

-- dicking around on Pro Tools all
day and throw a frozen pizza in
their face at 8:30. Sorry, pal, but
welcome to parenting, you know?

Bridget is still rubbing the very dry pan.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

(re: the pan)

Think that one's dry, babe.

Bridget puts the pan down and starts on another. Tricia pulls a stack of bills from an envelope and sorts them.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

Does he really need three hundred dollar noise canceling headphones? I dunno what noise he's so desperate to cancel, the boys are outta the house all day.

She resumes counting the bills.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

So I got him a Crock Pot.

BRIDGET

Oh, a Crock Pot, that's great --

TRICIA

Right? He throws a pork shoulder in in the morning, a beef stew --

BRIDGET

A whole chicken, tuck a lemon in the cavity --

TRICIA

But then I kept thinking how you said all Eddie ever gets you is kitchen gadgets --

BRIDGET

Kitchen gadgets or socks.

TRICIA

Which I'm sure is part of why you're at where you're at with him.

BRIDGET

I just hate kitchen gadgets.

TRICIA

So I got him the headphones too.

Tricia finishes counting the cash and returns the bills to the envelope. She picks up a dishcloth and helps Bridget dry.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

You didn't get Eddie anything, did you?

BRIDGET

No. I think it would be weird.

TRICIA

Totally. So weird.

BRIDGET

And I mean, what would I get him?

TRICIA

Exactly.

They dry. Then Tricia has a thought.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

What if he gets you a kitchen gadget?

6 INT. BRIDGET'S CAR - NIGHT

6

Bridget drives down a cul-de-sac of basically identical houses. They are basically identically decorated for Christmas with tidy white lights.

In front of the house at the end, a sad strand of colored lights on a small tree in front. Bridget's eyes widen at it.

BRIDGET

God. Can he not *see*?

She parks on the curb in front.

7 EXT. EDDIE'S HOUSE - NEXT MOMENT

7

Bridget is standing at the car's open passenger door, holding a fruitcake, contemplating a wrapped rectangular box.

She makes a decision. Closes the door, leaving the box. Picks up a shopping bag on the curb. Heads toward the house.

A few steps in, she stops. Goes back for the box.

Then stops. Turns back toward the house.

Stops. Opens the car door, contemplates the box. Until Emma, now 30, comes out of the front door.

EMMA

Mom.

Bridget whirls around. Emma starts down the walkway.

EMMA (CONT'D)

What are you *doing*?

A diamond flashes on Emma's hand.

BRIDGET
 (quietly; as Emma gets
 closer)
 Did your father get me a gift?

EMMA
 I don't know. Did you get him one?

BRIDGET
 Yes.

EMMA
 What'd you get him?

A beat.

BRIDGET
 A Crock Pot.

Emma stares at Bridget.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
 He can throw a pork shoulder in in
 the morning. Or a whole chicken.

Emma snatches the fruitcake out of her hands.

EMMA
 Put your ring on.

Bridget looks down at her finger. She forgot. She leans into
 the car and fishes it out from the pennies in the cupholder.

BRIDGET
 (emerging from the car)
 I just - I take it off for work --

But Emma has already started up the pathway.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
 Wait!

Emma turns.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
 Should I give him the present?

EMMA
 I don't know.

Bridget grabs the box and follows Emma up the walkway,
 glaring at the pathetically decorated tree as she passes.

Bing Crosby Christmas croons in the background.

Bridget sits on one side of the dining table. Emma is across, along with her fiance DAVID, 33, handsome and put together. Emma's telling a funny story.

EDDIE, Bridget's husband, now 59, sits at the head of the table, smiling at the story. He's a man's man. He wears a simple gold wedding band.

LUKE, 26, their son, sits at the other head. In a couple years, he'll be a man's man too.

He's cracking up at Emma's story between gulps of wine.

EMMA

-- into the Colosseum, people everywhere, Swedish, Germans, a whole bus load of Japanese tourists--

LUKE

With cameras.

Luke reaches for the wine bottle and pours generously into his glass.

EMMA

So we're walking around, you know, oh, how cool, and all of a sudden there is this - voice -
 (she sings loudly; arm raised dramatically)
O Say Can You See --

They are all cracking up.

EMMA (CONT'D)

So I turn around and it's *Dad* --

DAVID

No way --

EMMA

-- in his shorts and U of I sweatshirt --

DAVID

(to Eddie)
 You sang the one line?

EMMA

He sang the whole thing!

EDDIE
Illini glee club baritone, baby.

EMMA
So he finishes the song, right, the
last note is *hanging* in the air --

EDDIE
(to David)
You shoulda heard the acoustics.

EMMA
And the Japanese tourists go *crazy* -
clapping, taking pictures, jumping
up and down --

They're all dying.

EMMA (CONT'D)
-- and then they *rush* him -- like
he's Michael Jackson --

Luke is laughing so hard that he's crying.

And then he really is crying. Bridget is the only one who
notices.

Luke leaves the table. Bridget stares into her wine, guilty.

9 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT 9

That clock ticks.

In the bed, Bert Keller, now 79, reaches his arm to the other
side of the bed.

Feeling it empty, his eyes open. He sits up and reaches for
his glasses. His grey comb-over stands on end.

10 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - A MOMENT LATER 10

Bert flips on the light and squints in the brightness. He
wears boxers and a sleeveless undershirt. A gold crucifix
glints in his salt and pepper chest hair.

BERT
Ruth?

He feels a draft and stiffens.

11 EXT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - PATIO - NEXT MOMENT 11

On the snowy patio, Bert scans the landscape urgently. He spots Ruth's snowed-over footprints in the blanket of snow.

12 INT. EDDIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - A BIT LATER 12

Bridget does the dishes. Emma puts leftovers in Tupperware. From the den comes the distant sound of SportsCenter.

EMMA
(quietly to Bridget)
Are you staying the night?

BRIDGET
(without turning)
I wasn't planning on it.

Emma stares at Bridget's back.

EMMA
So are you not moving back?

Bridget turns to Emma.

BRIDGET
Honey.

A cell phone rings faintly with the "alarm" ringer - the one that sounds like an accident at a nuclear power plant.

EMMA
Whose phone is that?

BRIDGET
Mine.

EMMA
That's your *ringer*?

BRIDGET
Only for Uncle Nicky.

Emma chuckles begrudgingly.

EMMA
That's kind of hilarious.

BRIDGET
Thank you.

EMMA
It's late there.

BRIDGET
I'll bet he's just leaving the bar.

EMMA
On Christmas Eve?

The phone rings again. Same ringer.

Bridget goes to her purse and pulls the phone out.

BRIDGET
(into phone)
Hello --

Concern flashes over her face.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
(into phone)
What do you mean she's gone?

13 INT. EMMA'S CAR - NIGHT

13

Emma drives. Bridget is on the phone, writing down flight information on a receipt.

BRIDGET
(into phone)
-- 9:35 AM, O'Hare... I wrote it
down, Eddie, thanks for booking
it... yeah, we'll - talk when I get
back... you too.

Bridget hangs up the phone.

EMMA
(pointedly)
That was nice of him.

BRIDGET
He's a wonderful man. It's not
about that.

EMMA
Then what's it about?

BRIDGET

It's about -- distance, and things--
 ya know, it's a long journey,
 honey, very long for us and maybe
 it's possible that journey might
 have run it's course, or maybe it's
 just a time when you have to feed
 yourself first for a change, maybe
 for the first time ever, which I
 know is not easy, for anybody or
 for me, feeding yourself first
 means people you love are going
 hungry so don't think for a second
 it isn't very very hard for me.

Emma turns to her.

EMMA

What the fuck are you talking
 about?

BRIDGET

When you've been married thirty two
 years you'll understand.

EMMA

Oh, that's great, Mom. That's super
 helpful to me right now as I plan
 the *wedding* I'm having in *June*.

BRIDGET

No, I - didn't mean it like that.

Bridget's phone rings. Nick's ringer. She picks it up.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Did you find her?...

Emma waits for the answer. Bridget shakes her head.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

(into phone)

9:35 at *O'Hare*, okay, *O'Hare*...
 shh, stop yelling... well last time
 you went to *Midway*, so... Hello?

He's hung up on her.

EMMA

So I shouldn't get married then,
 that's what you're saying?

BRIDGET

What?

EMMA

I mean Jesus, Mom, you're telling me I shouldn't get married.

BRIDGET

You're putting words in my mouth, Emma, that's not what I'm saying --

EMMA

Then what are you *saying*?

BRIDGET

I'm saying I'm not *happy*, that's all I'm saying --

EMMA

Why aren't you happy?

BRIDGET

Because, ya know, that's - *life*.

EMMA

Right, Mom, that's life!

14 EXT. O'HARE AIRPORT - DAY

14

Bridget waits on a bench outside O'Hare airport, freezing in her light Northern California jacket. She scans the cars.

A used Range Rover pulls up to the curb in front of her. Nick Keller, now 55, leans toward the open passenger window.

NICK

Hey dickhead!

15 INT. NICK'S RANGE ROVER - DAY

15

Bridget buckles her seat belt. Nick hands her a Starbucks.

NICK

Gotcha a ten dollar coffee.

BRIDGET

Thank you. Where's Dad?

NICK

He's lookin' everywhere, every single freakin' place she's ever been in her life.

BRIDGET

Did you check the hospitals?

NICK

Hospitals, St. Vincent's, went ta the nursing home like maybe she thought she was still workin' there.

BRIDGET

What about the police?

NICK

They're lookin' for her.

BRIDGET

They have Dad's number?

NICK

Dad's, mine, yers, the Condo's and Marion down the hall just in case.

BRIDGET

Is Dad okay?

NICK

He's out of his mind, white as a ghost. When he called I thought he was havin' another heart attack.

BRIDGET

Poor guy.

NICK

We all knew this was gonna happen, we been tellin' him fer years, figure out whatcha wanna do with Mom when the time comes, 'cause we all know it's comin', we all know how this thing works.

BRIDGET

It's hard for him.

NICK

I'll tell ya what's *hard*, Biddy, *hard* is her turnin' up next week in a block a goddamn ice.

Bridget's stomach drops. Nick shakes his head.

NICK (CONT'D)

This is it. She can't be at the
condo anymore and they sure as hell
can't go to Florida. She's gotta
be someplace safe and he's gonna
haveta let her.

Nick pulls Pall Mall's from the pocket of his parka.

BRIDGET

(re: the cigarettes)
What happened to quitting?

NICK

Life, Bidy. Life happened.

BRIDGET

Wait 'til we're outta the car,
wouldja, I'm chemically sensitive.

NICK

I'll roll the windows down.

BRIDGET

Are you nuts? It's freezing.

NICK

Well what kinda dumbass comes to
Chicago in December with a freakin'
windbreaker?

He shoves the Pall Mall's back in his pocket.

BRIDGET

Everything's my apartment, I didn't
have time to go there before the
flight.

Nick eyes her.

NICK

Menopause's a real bitch, huh?

BRIDGET

(exasperated)
It's got nothing to do with
menopause.

NICK

Then what's it gotta do with?

BRIDGET

It's gotta do with a number a
things.

NICK

Like?

Nick's phone rings. They both jump. He answers it.

NICK (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Dad.

Her eyes are glued to him.

NICK (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Is she alright?...

BRIDGET

He got her?

Nick nods. Bridget exhales in relief.

NICK

(into phone)

Aurora? How'd she get way the hell out there?

16 INT. RUSH HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

16

Bridget and Nick hurry down the hospital hallway, looking for the right door.

They arrive at Ruth's room and push the door open.

17 INT. RUSH HOSPITAL - EXAM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

17

Ruth sits on the exam table, legs dangling like a little girl under her mink and nightie. She looks at them meekly with big eyes. She knows she screwed up.

Bert sits on a chair opposite, reading the paper.

BRIDGET

Is she alright, Dad?

BERT

She's fine, Biddy.

Bridget and Bert kiss on the lips. It's a Midwestern thing.

Suddenly Ruth lights up - she knows the gestures of family.

RUTH
(with glee)
Is that my baby?

Ruth jumps off the table and throws her arms around Bridget.

BRIDGET
You alright, Mom?

BERT
She's fine.

RUTH
Oh, I'm so happy ta see ya!

NICK
She's alright?

BERT
She's fine!

Ruth sees Nick behind Bridget and beams.

RUTH
(re: Nick)
And this baby!

She lets go of Bridget and throws her arms around Nick.

NICK
You're okay, Mom?

BERT
I'm tellin' ya, she's fine.

BRIDGET
What'd the doctor say?

BERT
He hasn't come in yet.

Ruth pulls away from Nick and holds him by the shoulders.

RUTH
Do ya need money?

BERT
Sit down, Ruth, he's fine.

RUTH
He is not, ya turkey, where's my
purse?

BRIDGET
Here, Mom, sit down.

She guides her to the table. She sits.

NICK
(to Bert)
How'd she get to Aurora?

BERT
She got on the train. Rode the
damn thing back 'n forth 'til the
conductor screwed his eyeballs in.

BRIDGET
And then what?

BERT
Police picked 'er up, took 'er back
to the station, she taught 'em all
the jitterbug.

Bridget chuckles.

BRIDGET
She did not.

RUTH
I sure did. They were a hoot, too,
just tickled pink.

NICK
Where'd she get on the train?
Berwyn?

BERT
I dunno, Nicholas, you'll haveta
ask her.

RUTH
Me? I got on at Berwyn.

BRIDGET
Are you okay, Dad?

BERT
I'm fine.
(pointedly)
How are you?

RUTH
(to Bridget, with concern)
Oh, are you not feelin' well?

Ruth feels Bridget's head for a fever.

BERT
She's fine, Ruth.

RUTH
I spent thirty years in geriatrics,
I know what I'm doin', thank you
very much.

Ruth sits Bridget down on the table and, with remarkable agility, kneels behind her and rubs Bridget's shoulders.

BERT
(to Bridget)
What's this about you gettin' yer
own apartment?

Bridget shoots daggers at Nick.

NICK
I didn't tell him.

BERT
My grandson called, sounded three
sheets ta the wind.

The guilt hits Bridget like a ton of bricks.

BRIDGET
He drinks too much.

BERT
What the heck's goin' on?

BRIDGET
Nothing. I just - need a little
space, that's all.

RUTH
Good fer you, honey.

BERT
Space fer what?

BRIDGET
To, you know, to think.

BERT
Whassa matter with the thinkin' ya
did thirty years ago before I
walked ya down the aisle?

Bridget is saved by a knock at the door.

BRIDGET
 (gratefully)
 Come in!

DR. ZOE, 30, cheerful, Santa Hat, pops her head in the door.

DR. ZOE
 Hello hello, Merry Christmas.

RUTH
 There's my baby!

She jumps off the table and throws her arms around Dr. Zoe.

18 INT. RUSH HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 18

Dr. Zoe stands outside Ruth's door, surrounded by Bert, Nick and Bridget.

DR. ZOE
 -- she's between stage five and six now, so we'll see more wandering, sleeplessness, compulsions, and delusional behavior which can lead to aggression and even violence. And it's usually directed at the caregiver.

(turning to Bert)

Mr. Keller, bravo. My hat is off to you for the way you've cared for her. But at these later stages the decline can be rapid, and my concern is her safety *and* yours.

(smiles all around)

There is *good* news, and that is that memory care is not what it was a decade ago. There are *fantastic* facilities, and I've seen patients thrive there, better than they did at home --

19 INT. RUSH PARKING GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER 19

Tight lipped, Bert pushes the door open into the parking garage and marches in, muttering under his breath.

BERT
 Goddammed Rush, goddammed teenage doctors --

Bridget trots after him, followed by Nick, who holds Ruth's purse, and Ruth, who is holding Nick's arm.

NICK

Dad!

Bert whirls around.

BERT

What.

NICK

(gesticulating left)

I'm this way.

BERT

So take yer mother, then! We'll
meet ya back at the Condo.

(to Bridget)

Let's go, Biddy.

He whirls back around and marches down the aisle of cars.
Bridget trots up and puts her arm on Bert's back.

BERT (CONT'D)

I'll tell ya what yer problem is.
California, that's what, read in
the paper people out there dolin'
out hard-earned money to be *self-*
actualized, what the heck is that?
Ya are who ya are. I'm a husband, a
father, an antiques dealer, a
Catholic, I know it and I never
once had ta think about it.

They walk.

BERT (CONT'D)

Love is about commitment. Not
bells and whistles, commitment.

Bert turns toward a black '59 4-seat Thunderbird Convertible.

He pulls out keys and unlocks the trunk. Bridget gapes.

BRIDGET

What happened to the Camry?

BERT

I'm seventy-nine years old, Biddy,
ta hell with the Camry.

He pulls a blanket out of the trunk, tosses it to her, and
marches to the driver's door.

BERT (CONT'D)

Let's go, ya turkey!

Bridget grins.

20 INT. BERT'S THUNDERBIRD - MOMENTS LATER 20

Sinatra croons on the radio.

Top down, they drive a street where every house is elaborately decorated for Christmas.

Bridget watches them pass, wrapped in the blanket, smiling.

21 INT. NICK'S RANGE ROVER - NIGHT 21

Ruth turns to Nick and smiles coyly.

RUTH

I had the most *wonderful* time tonight.

He looks at her. She bats her eyes. He quickly looks away.

She reaches over and puts her hand on his thigh. His eyes go wide.

22 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - NIGHT 22

Bert and Bridget enter. Bert carries a plastic take-out bag.

BERT

Ho ho ho.

Nick comes around the corner, wide-eyed.

BRIDGET

We got Chinese.

Ruth wanders in, wringing her hands. Nick leans away.

RUTH

I can't find my purse.

BERT

You don't need yer purse, honey, c'mon, I gotcha an egg roll.

Bert walks into the kitchen with the bag. Ruth follows. Nick stares at Bridget, shell-shocked.

BRIDGET

What?

NICK
 (quietly)
 She *hit* on me.

BRIDGET
 What?

NICK
 She - she - put her hand on my
 leg, batted her eyes, she -- *hit* on
 me.

Bridget starts to laugh.

NICK (CONT'D)
 It's not funny.

Which makes Bridget laugh harder.

NICK (CONT'D)
 It's not funny, asshole, I'm
 freakin' traumatized, alright?

BRIDGET
 (through chuckles)
 So what'd you do?

NICK
 I kept sayin' *Mom!* Thank you *Mom*,
 had a nice time too *Mom*, real glad
 ya *birthed* me, *Mom* -- wouldja stop
 laughin' for chrissake --

Bridget's is dying.

BRIDGET
 Your face - when we walked in, your
face --

Finally Nick can't help himself - he starts to laugh.

NICK
 (through laughs)
 It's not funny.

They're both cracking up.

BERT (O.S.)
 (from the kitchen; angry)
 God damn Oriental places, how ya
 s'posed ta eat rice with a stick?

Which makes them laugh harder.

23 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

23

Bridget stands at the tree, looking at the pictures. Nick paces the patio on the phone, smoking.

She bends down to look at the two gifts under the tree. One has a tag marked in shaky block lettering - TO RUTH FROM BERT. The other is marked TO BERT FROM RUTH - in the exact same lettering.

Nick sticks his head in from the patio.

NICK

Ya wanna see the bar?

24 INT. NICK'S RANGE ROVER - NIGHT

24

They drive, Bridget in her mother's mink coat.

NICK

I talked ta Tom Francesconi.

BRIDGET

Who?

NICK

My fraternity brother.

BRIDGET

Which one?

NICK

With the wife with the tits.

She turns to him, disgusted.

BRIDGET

Who?

NICK

Tom, Tom, you know Tom. He's the big lawyer.

BRIDGET

Oh! Tom the *Lawyer*, yes, the *lawyer*. Now I know who you're talking about.

NICK

He's on the board of the best memory center in Chicago, got a waiting list a mile long.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

He can get Mom in there and Dad in a two bedroom condo two buildings down.

BRIDGET

They can't be together?

NICK

Not in memory care, it's it's own thing, lock down, dementia only, Dad'd be rippin' his hair out in there anyway. He can have lunch with her every day if he wants, assisted living's twenty yards away.

BRIDGET

Dad doesn't want assisted living.

NICK

They don't wipe his ass, Bidy, they do his laundry, give him a meal plan, he gets chest pains he pushes a button.

BRIDGET

Sounds expensive.

NICK

Not if they sell the Condo.

BRIDGET

Dad's not gonna sell the Condo.

NICK

He doesn't have a choice, Bidy, Medicare doesn't cover anythin' havin' ta do with memory.

Nick parks on the curb. Bridget looks out the window at the bar, then back at Nick excitedly. He grins at her.

25

EXT. NICK AND JOE'S - CURB IN FRONT - NIGHT

25

The sign reads Nick and Joe's. Bridget beams at it as Nick unlocks the door.

BRIDGET

Nick as in, like, you Nick?

NICK

No, there's another owner named Nick.

BRIDGET

Really?

NICK

A course that's me, ya bonehead.

26

INT. NICK AND JOE'S - CONTINUOUS

26

They walk in the bar, Bridget's eyes wide. It's beautiful - high ceilings, long copper bar, leather stools.

BRIDGET

Wow. It's *beautiful*.

He steps behind the bar.

NICK

Want a Manhattan so good you'll shit yer pants?

BRIDGET

Sure.

She sits on a bar stool as he expertly mixes her manhattan.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Has Dad been here?

NICK

And face the fact that his only son isn't a goddamn accountant?

BRIDGET

Well, so bring him.

He pours her manhattan in front of her.

NICK

I shouldn't haveta bring him.

She takes a sip. It's really good.

BRIDGET

That's really good. Like, really good.

Nick rinses out the mixer, smiling proudly.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

How's Rachel doin'?

Nick frowns. He doesn't want to get into it.

NICK
She's at her sister's.

Which is nothing new.

BRIDGET
God, just marry her fer chrissake
if it'll make her happy.

NICK
'Cause marriage made you so happy?

BRIDGET
I was happy, I was happy for a long
time.

NICK
Then outta the blue you need yer
own apartment fer a "number a
reasons?" Yeah, sign me up.

BRIDGET
Well, that's different, that's --

From the darkness behind them comes the sound of the back
door opening.

NICK
(calling out; surprised)
Joey?

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
(from the darkness)
Nicky?

NICK
Dommy?

DOMMY (O.S.)
(still in darkness)
What're you doin' here?

NICK
Lettin' you in, I thought.

DOMMY (O.S.)
Joe gave me his key.

NICK
Christ. Why the heck's he tellin'
me ta come letcha in?

From the darkness, DOMMY DELUCA steps out - 53, tall and
built, ponytail.

DOMMY
 Prob'ly drank a gallon a eggnog
 tryin' not ta kill Peg's mother.

Bridget stares at Dommy, trying to see if it's really:

BRIDGET
 Dommy DeLuca?

He sees Bridget. His eyes light up.

DOMMY
 Biddy Freakin' Keller? Holy shit!

BRIDGET
 What are you doin' here?

DOMMY
 Fixin' yer brothers' sink.

BRIDGET
 (to Nick)
 I didn't know Dommy fixes your
 sinks.

NICK
 Yer interested in my sinks?

DOMMY
 Why, you need a sink fixed?

NICK
 (to Dommy)
 Sorry ta drag ya out here on
 Christmas.

DOMMY
 Better'n fixin' a burst pipe.
 (to Bridget)
 'Round the reunion you were doin'
 cookin' classes, right? You a big
 chef now?

NICK
 She sells pots 'n pans.

BRIDGET
 I'm an assistant culinary educator.

NICK
 I thought ya worked at a cooking
 store.

BRIDGET
I do. As an assistant culinary
educator.

DOMMY
(impressed)
Wow, yer a teacher!

BRIDGET
Yeah, well, for now. I got a few
other things - brewing, so --

NICK
What things?

BRIDGET
I dunno, I was kinda thinkin' about
writing a book, or maybe --

NICK
Writing a *book*? What book?

BRIDGET
I dunno, I haven't written it yet.

DOMMY
I could see ya writin' a book.

BRIDGET
Yeah?

DOMMY
You were always real creative.

BRIDGET
Thank you.

They're beaming at each other like school kids. Nick frowns.

27

INT. NICK'S RANGE ROVER - MOMENTS LATER

27

Nick drives. Bridget is a little giddy in the passenger's
seat. In her hand is Dommy's business card.

BRIDGET
He looks really good, don't you
think?

NICK
I think he looks like a Village
Person.

BRIDGET
He does not.

NICK
Yer in there makin' googly eyes at
him.

BRIDGET
What *googly eyes*?

NICK
(highbrow voice)
I'm an *assistant culinary educator*,
I'm *writing a book* --

BRIDGET
I *am* an assistant culinary
educator.

NICK
You told me you were workin' the
register.

BRIDGET
Only when they're short-staffed.

NICK
Guy's been in love with ya since
the sixth grade --

BRIDGET
What?

NICK
When he used ta freakin' *sniff* you.

BRIDGET
Sniff me?

NICK
Got all creepy close to ya and --

He sniffs in deeply.

BRIDGET
He did not, he had asthma.

Nick parks in front of the condo building.

NICK
You should call him. Start a book
club.

Nick pulls his Pall Mall's from his pocket.

NICK (CONT'D)
Tell him I love his ponytail.

28 EXT. RIVER FOREST CONDO BUILDING - SIDEWALK - NEXT MOMENT 28

Bridget walks toward the condo. Nick follows her, smoking.

NICK
So here we go, alright, ya gotta
put yer foot down.

She turns to him.

BRIDGET
Now?

NICK
Yeah now, he gets her down ta
Florida there's nothin' we can do.

BRIDGET
Well, let him get a good night's
sleep first for god's sake.

NICK
Ya think he's gonna sleep?
Worryin' she might feel like
another midnight stroll?

It's a good point.

NICK (CONT'D)
There's never gonna be a good time
ta have this conversation, gonna be
hell either way. We just gotta grow
a pair and get it over with.

She looks at him a moment, deliberating. Then:

BRIDGET
Gimme that.

She takes the cigarette from his hand and drags on it.

29 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - A MOMENT LATER 29

Bridget and Nick come in the front door quietly.

BRIDGET
(quietly; hopefully)
Well, he's prob'ly asleep, so --

BERT (O.S.)
Hello Biddy.

30 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NEXT MOMENT 30

Bridget and Nick enter. Bert is on his recliner, reading the paper. He wrinkles his nose at them.

BRIDGET
Hi Dad.

BERT
Ya smell like an ashtray.
(to Nicholas; re: the
smoking)
When're ya gonna quit?

NICK
I dunno, when did you? Second
heart attack? Third? Fourth?

Bert scowls.

BERT
Why aren'tcha home with Rachel?
It's Christmas fer god's sake.

BRIDGET
She's at her sisters.

Nick glares at her. Bridget shrugs. It just came out.

Bert frowns at Nick. It's nothing new to him either.

BERT
Fer chrissake, Nicholas, ya been
with her ten years, shit or get off
the pot.

NICK
Listen, Dad --

BERT
Ya think somethin' better's out
there, lemme tell ya, there's not.
There's no bells and whistles. Ya
pick somebody ya can stand, make a
commitment and stick to it.

NICK
Dad.

BERT

Have her meet us at Mass in the mornin', I'll take everybody ta breakfast.

NICK

(firmly)

We need ta talk about Mom.

Bert scowls and tosses his paper down.

BERT

Goddamn Rush, Med students tellin' ya the sky is fallin', that little girl shouldn't a been allowed anywhere near yer mother.

NICK

What little girl?

BERT

The teenager paradin' around callin' herself a doctor. I shoulda known better, takin' her ta Rush on Christmas Day.

NICK

The doctor was a doctor, Dad.

BERT

She was *not* a doctor and she didn't know what the hell she was talkin' about! Yer mother's doin' fine, trust me.

NICK

Then why is she wandering off in the middle of the night?

BERT

Well, I gave her too much scotch, if ya wanna know, which I never do but it was Christmas Eve so I said what the hell.

NICK

So she walked off 'cause she was drunk.

BERT

She can't drink hardly at all with her medications.

NICK

And not because that's what happens
in stage six.

BERT

Oh, those stages are horse shit,
everybody's brain is diff'rent and
everybody knows it.

NICK

Everybody except the doctor?

BERT

She was not a doctor!

Nick shoots a look to Bridget, prompting her.

BRIDGET

So, okay, then maybe we get a
second opinion.

BERT

I got an appointment next week with
her geriatrician in Florida, I'll
letcha know what he says.

NICK

You can't go to Florida, Dad.

BERT

A course we're goin' ta Florida,
Nicholas, best geriatric doctors in
the world down there, yer mother
loves it, every year down there she
does better.

NICK

I talked ta Tom Francesconi.

BERT

Who?

NICK

With the wife with the tits.

BERT

Oh. The lawyer.

NICK

He sits on the board of a place --

BERT

I'm not puttin' yer mother in a nursing home, Nicholas, I been telin' ya that fer years. She worked thirty years in nursing homes fer chrissake, I know everything there is ta know about 'em.

NICK

It's not a nursing home, it's a Memory Neighborhood.

BERT

(chucking)

A *Memory Neighborhood*? Who the heck they think they're foolin'?

NICK

It's the best memory care in Chicago, and they got prayer service, an indoor pool --

BERT

A pool? Yer mother can't swim fer chrissake. Ya wanna drown her?

NICK

She's not gonna drown in a waist-high pool, Dad.

BERT

She's terrified a water!

NICK

She used ta be terrified a Berwyn too, now she's walkin' down there in a nightie.

BERT

Well, she's not gettin' that much scotch again, that's fer sure.

NICK

There's a two bedroom condo right next door, they do yer laundry, they cook for ya --

BERT

Fer what?

NICK

For you. Yer twenty feet away.

BERT
Are you outta yer mind?

NICK
You can sell the condo --

BERT
What?

NICK
Biddy feels the same way.

BERT
Don't tell me what Biddy feels, how
the heck do you know what she
feels?

Nick looks at Bridget. It's now or never.

BRIDGET
I know it's not an ideal situation--

NICK
There is no ideal situation, this
is the best situation.

BERT
(to Nick)
Wouldja quit tellin' her what ta
say fer chrissake?

NICK
I'm not tellin' her what to say.

BERT
Then be quiet!

They turn to Bridget.

BRIDGET
I know it's - hard but I think this
is a good solution that is
definitely worth considering.

Nick glares at her.

BERT
And I've spent the last eight years
considerin' it and the answer's no.
Thank you fer the suggestion, Merry
Christmas, I'm goin' ta bed.

He gathers his paper and scotch glass and starts to exit.

NICK

Fer chrissake, Dad, she's wandering off in the middle of a goddamn snow storm.

Bert turns to him.

BERT

I'll tell ya what, Nicholas. It doesn't snow in Florida.

Bert exits. A beat later, a door shuts down the hall.

Nick looks at Bridget, furious.

NICK

Definitely worth considering?

BRIDGET

(an apology)

Maybe we shouldn't split them up.

He whirls around and storms out to the patio.

31 EXT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - PATIO - MOMENTS LATER 31

Nick smokes, facing out. Bridget is behind him, wrapped in an afghan.

NICK

Ya know why she got on that train to Aurora? That's the train used to run to Amboy. Her dad worked that train.

He turns to her.

NICK (CONT'D)

She was tryin' to go *home*.

It takes her breath away.

NICK (CONT'D)

You see the way she sits? How she bounces off the walls? She thinks she's a little kid, thinks her mother's worried sick about her back in Amboy. Hears her callin' to her, tellin' her ta come home.

He drags on his cigarette.

NICK (CONT'D)

All she wants ta do is get back to her poor mother, and she can't figure out why she's stuck here with some old man.

He turns and looks out. His eyes are misting.

NICK (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ. Must be freakin' terrible.

Bridget looks like she got the wind knocked out of her.

NICK (CONT'D)

(fighting the emotion)
Just - talk to 'im, wouldja?

BRIDGET

Okay.

Emotional, he hops the railing and starts toward his car.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

(calling to him, fighting
tears of her own)
Merry Christmas.

He waves his cigarette hand to her without turning.

32 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT 32

Bridget sits on the edge of her bed, the phone up to her ear, listening to Emma's voicemail greeting.

EMMA (V.O.)

(the voicemail greeting)
-- It's Emma, leave a message.

BRIDGET

Hi sweetheart, I know it's late,
just couldn't not call my girl on
Christmas.

33 INT. EDDIE'S HOUSE - DEN - SAME MOMENT 33

Emma, David, and Luke are reclining on Eddie's couch, watching home videos. Eddie snores in an armchair, his cell phone in his lap.

Emma has her phone up to her ear, listening to Bridget's message. Luke watches her, drinking wine, a little tipsy.

On the coffee table, Luke's phone dings - a missed call and voicemail from Mom.

LUKE
(to Emma)
What'd she say?

EMMA
Merry Christmas.

Luke gets up and tipsily tiptoes to Eddie.

EMMA (CONT'D)
(quietly)
What are you doing?

Luke gingerly presses the button on Eddie's phone. There are no missed calls.

Eddie rouses. Luke jumps back. Eddie blinks at the TV.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Dad, go to bed.

Eddie sits up and looks at his phone. Sees that there are no missed calls. He stands and heads out of the room.

EDDIE
(mumbling as he exits)
Merry Christmas.

LUKE AND DAVID
Merry Christmas.

EMMA
Love ya, Dad.

He exits. Luke sits back down.

LUKE
She didn't call him. On Christmas.

34 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - GUEST BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 34

Bridget runs the water in the sink to get it warm. She looks at herself in the mirror; lifts up her brow. It's close to how she looked before 50 years of gravity.

She bends down to wash her face.

35 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 35

Bridget tiptoes into the living room. Bert sits in his recliner, a scotch in his hand, staring at the tree.

BRIDGET
Thought you went to bed.

BERT
I did.

She goes to the couch next to him and sits.

BRIDGET
Nice tree.

BERT
Yer mother likes the pictures.

BRIDGET
You got both the presents, didn't
you?

He looks at her.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
They're both your handwriting.

BERT
She'd feel terrible if she thought
she didn't get me somethin'.

BRIDGET
You take good care of her.

BERT
Marion down the hall's a big help,
takes her on poker night and so
forth. Works out real well - Marion
can talk her damn head off, yer
mother says somethin' crazy
Marion's not listenin' anyway.

He stands.

BERT (CONT'D)
C'mon, I'll letcha win a game.

BRIDGET
You're not too tired?

BERT
Fer my daughter who never visits?

Bridget and Bert are at the kitchen table, playing Chinese
Checkers, each with a scotch glass in front of them.

BERT

Ya know yer mother walked out on me
once?

BRIDGET

She did? Why?

BERT

It was before she started workin',
you were 'bout four. I went on a
business trip, didn't call fer a
week.

BRIDGET

That wasn't very nice.

BERT

Wasn't like these days when
everybody's got a phone in their
pocket.

He chuckles at the memory.

BERT (CONT'D)

Got her Irish up good that time.
Face red as a darn tomata. She
spent the night at Edna's, made her
point, came back in the mornin'. I
never did it again.

He sips his scotch.

BERT (CONT'D)

Point is, you've made yer point by
now. Whatever yer point is.

He plays his turn.

BERT (CONT'D)

Yer brother too. Don't know why the
heck he won't marry her.

BRIDGET

Because she's not Cindy.

BERT

Oh for pity's sake. Cindy's been
dead thirty years.

She plays her turn. He eyes her.

BERT (CONT'D)

(gently)

Ya know, I seen a lotta marriages
come outta an affair even stronger.

BRIDGET

It's not an affair.

BERT

Then what is it?

BRIDGET

It's - a lotta things.

BERT

We took an oath, honey. Better or
worse, sickness and health, death
do us part. I promised yer mother
that. You promised Eddie.

BRIDGET

(gently)

She's gonna get worse, Dad.

He stiffens.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

(so very gently)

She's gonna forget everything.

He stares down into his scotch. His eyes are misting.

BERT

She's my girl, Biddy.

Her heart breaks for him.

BRIDGET

I know.

BERT

Ya *don't* know. Ya think I can go
on without her.

He rises from the table.

BRIDGET

Dad.

BERT

Turn the tree off.

He exits the kitchen.

37 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - GUEST BATHROOM - DAY 37

Bridget, in one of Ruth's nighties, runs the water for her shower, checking the temperature as she brushes her teeth.

A knock at the door. Bert sticks his head around the door, eyes squeezed shut. He's dapper in his Sunday best.

BERT

Why aren't cha comin' ta Mass?

Bridget spits in the sink.

BRIDGET

'Cause - I don't really - do Mass anymore.

Bert scowls, his eyes still closed.

BERT

And yer wonderin' why ya don't know who ya are?

BRIDGET

Goodbye, Dad.

BERT

Don't clog my drain.

He closes the door. Bridget pulls her nightie over her head.

38 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - GUEST ROOM 38

Bridget sits at the edge of the bed in a towel, holding her phone and Dommy's card.

Her thumb hovers over the "send" button a moment.

She presses it.

39 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - CLOSET - SAME 39

Bridget, in the towel, scans through her mother's rack of hanging clothes.

A sheer ivory blouse catches her eye. She pulls it out.

40 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 40

Bridget looks in the full length mirror, wearing her jeans and the sheer blouse. Her black bra is visible underneath.

41 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - NEXT MOMENT 41

Bridget digs through her mother's dresser. She pulls an orange out of the drawer, then a spatula, then a toothbrush.

The doorbell rings.

42 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - FRONT DOOR - NEXT MOMENT 42

The front door swings open. Dommy stands there, hulking in his Carhart jacket, beaming.

43 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 43

Bridget walks with two mugs of coffee out of the kitchen.

DOMMY (O.S.)

I can do a second deadbolt on the front door no problem -

44 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 44

Dommy kneels at the open sliding glass door.

DOMMY

With these sliders, ya can stick a long piece a wood in the track there, door won't open.

He leans away from the door. Bridget hands him his coffee.

DOMMY (CONT'D)

Think that'd work?

BRIDGET

Oh. Yeah, that should work.

DOMMY

I'm sure I got a one-by floatin' around the truck somewhere.

BRIDGET

A one-by?

DOMMY

The - piece a wood.

BRIDGET

Oh! Fantastic.

He grins at her. A beat.

BRIDGET
So how's Ronnie?

DOMMY
How's Eddie doin'?

They laugh.

DOMMY
You first.

BRIDGET
Go ahead.

DOMMY
Uh, well, Ronnie and me split up,
be two years round October. Hear
she's doin' great.

BRIDGET
Oh, I'm sorry.

DOMMY
Nah, it's better this way.
Everybody's happier.

BRIDGET
Good.

DOMMY
How 'bout you? How's the kids?

BRIDGET
Good, good, Emma's gettin' married.

DOMMY
Oh my god, are we old!

BRIDGET
Luke's just finished his MBA.

DOMMY
Chip off the old block, then.

BRIDGET
In a lotta ways he is.

DOMMY
Good fer him.

Bridget nods. A beat.

DOMMY (CONT'D)
And Eddie's good?

BRIDGET
Eddie's fine.

DOMMY
Takin' good care of ya?

BRIDGET
Mm-hmm.

45 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - KITCHEN - A BIT LATER 45

Drilling and classic rock comes from the front hall.

Bridget sits at the table, mindlessly playing Chinese Checkers with herself.

46 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - NEXT MOMENT 46

Dommy, in his toolbelt, screws in the last screws of the deadbolt with a screwdriver.

Bridget stands at the other end of the hall, gathering her nerve.

BRIDGET
Eddie and I separated.

47 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 47

Bridget, scotch in hand, is trying to open the sliding door as she talks a mile a minute, but it won't budge.

Dommy is across the room at the bar, getting his own scotch.

BRIDGET
-- all his life he's been checking
off this checklist, college, check,
master's degree, check, big job,
buy a house, get married, check
check check, have a daughter, have
a son--
(re: the door)
What am I doing wrong here?

Dommy lifts the one by out of the track of the door.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Oh. So I started thinking --

She opens the door. Dommy puts an afghan on her shoulders. They step out onto the balcony with the scotch bottle.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
-- I'm a check mark? My whole life
is based around being one check
mark --

He pulls a pack of smokes out of his pocket. Offers her one.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
(re: the cigarette)
No - yes --

She takes one.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
-- one check mark in a laundry list
of check marks? Which, he's a
wonderful man, really, I was just
so young when we got married,
barely 21, I mean, --

He lights it for her. She inhales and coughs.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
(through coughs)
Luke at 21 could hardly tie his
shoes and Emma, God, at 21 Emma
thought she was a lesbian.

Dommy raises an eyebrow.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
(off his look)
I mean, no, it was a phase, she was
experimenting, which - good for
her, she should be experimenting!
How else are you supposed to know
what you want from your one life,
'cause that's what ya get, ya get
one life, one.

DOMMY
Amen.

BRIDGET

And now she's marrying David 'cause she knows the difference between him and everybody else, which is actually when it hit me - when they got engaged - I said to myself god I hope she's not a check mark and all of a sudden I was like, if I don't want her to be a check mark, why don't I want me to be a - to not be a check mark - I mean - sorry, I'm not making any sense --

He lights his own cigarette.

DOMMY

Yer makin' perfect sense.

Bridget sighs. It feels so good to finally be validated.

BRIDGET

God, I can't tell anybody this stuff, everybody thinks I'm nuts.

DOMMY

I don't think you're nuts.

She smiles at him and drags on her cigarette.

NICK (O.S.)

Biddy!

Bridget chokes on the smoke. Nick is on the sidewalk, a shirt and tie under his parka.

NICK (CONT'D)

What the hell? Ya change the locks?

(to Dommy; civil)

Hi Dommy.

DOMMY

Hey Nick.

NICK

We're standin' at the front door, ya dope!

Bridget rushes into the living room with the cigarette. Then she rushes back and hands it to Dommy, who chuckles.

DOMMY

Breathe, Biddy.

She takes the scotch bottle and glasses and races back through the living room, waving smoke away.

48

INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

48

The classic rock plays on the portable stereo on the mail table. Bridget stashes the scotch and her glass on a shelf holding Lladro statues. She shuts off the music.

The new deadbolt locks the door from the inside; the key is in the lock. Bridget turns the key and opens the door to a pissed-off Bert.

BERT

What the heck's goin' on in here?

BRIDGET

Sorry, Dad, the music --

BERT

You changed my locks?

BRIDGET

No, I --

Bert sniffs the air.

BERT

Yer smokin' in here?

RUTH (O.S.)

(gleeful)

Is that my baby?

BERT

Yer smokin' in my house?

BRIDGET

No, I -

Ruth pushes past Bert to get to Bridget.

BERT

Ya are too smokin' in my house.

Ruth throws her arms around Bridget.

RUTH

Oh, I'm so happy to see you, honey!

BRIDGET

Hi Mom.

BERT
 (re: Bridget's blouse)
 What the heck ya wearin'?

Ruth holds Bridget by the shoulders.

RUTH
 Are ya married yet?

BERT
 Is that yer mother's church blouse?

RUTH
 Whose mother?

BERT
 That I just had dry cleaned?

The sliding doors shut in the living room. Bert peers down the hall.

BERT (CONT'D)
 Who the heck's that?

BRIDGET
 It's Dommy --

BERT
 Who?

BRIDGET
 Dommy Deluca.

Bert walks down the hall toward the living room.

49 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

49

Dommy stands bashfully in front of the glass doors.

TOMMY
 Dommy Deluca, Mr. Keller, nice to
 see ya again.

Bert looks at Bridget.

BERT
 What is this, a date?

BRIDGET
 Dad! No.

DOMMY

Bridget asked me to do some work on
yer doors, sir --

Nick enters the living room and looks Bridget up and down.

NICK

What the heck you got on?

BERT

Work on changin' my locks?

NICK

(to Bridget)

Is that Mom's blouse?

BRIDGET

We didn't change the locks --

NICK

Dad just got that dry cleaned.

BERT

Ya broke my damn door, then, 'cause
I couldn't get in.

BRIDGET

He put in a *second* lock, Dad, you
lock it with a key on the *inside*.

DOMMY

Then ya can put the key wherever.

BRIDGET

(quiet, so Ruth doesn't
hear)

Somewhere she can't find it, and
then she can't get out.

Ruth wanders into the living room.

RUTH

Who can't get out?

BRIDGET AND NICK

Nobody, Mom.

BERT

Nobody, Ruth.

Ruth sees Dommy. Her eyes light up with glee.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Is that my baby?

She goes to him, beaming, arms outstretched like a kid.

DOMMY
Hi Mrs. Keller.

She throws her arms around him.

RUTH
I'm so happy to see you! Do you --

BERT BRIDGET AND NICK
He's fine, honey -- He's fine, Mom.

50 EXT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER 50

Dommy packs up the back of his pickup. Bridget stands near him, her pen and checkbook poised.

DOMMY
(re: the checkbook)
Put it away --

BRIDGET
No, now, come on --

DOMMY
Put. It. Away.

She smiles gratefully at him.

DOMMY (CONT'D)
Listen, ya wanna talk, ya call me,
okay, 'cause I get it. Now c'mere.

He pulls her into him and holds her tight. He closes his eyes, and - very, very discreetly - *he sniffs*.

51 EXT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - BACK ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER 51

Bridget walks up, arms wrapped around herself in the cold. Nick is smoking by the back door of the condo building.

He holds out his pack of Pall Mall's as she approaches.

NICK
Or is yer chemical sensitivity
back?

BRIDGET
He just got divorced, okay, and it
was nice ta talk to somebody who
didn't just tell me ta get over it.

NICK
Ya wanna divorce you aughta tell
Eddie before freakin' Dommy.

BRIDGET
Thank you.

She goes to open the door to the condo building.

NICK
Wait, didja talk to Dad?

BRIDGET
Yeah.

NICK
What'd he say?

BRIDGET
He said she was his girl and he
couldn't go on without her.

NICK
What'd you say?

BRIDGET
Nothing, he walked away - look, the
locks are on, I think we just say
Dad, ya can't go to Florida, but
you can stay here, until - until -

NICK
Until when? She thinks the stove
is a drinking fountain? She sticks
a wet knife in the toaster?

BRIDGET
So we get a nurse.

NICK
Ya know how much a 24 hour nurse
costs?

BRIDGET
It doesn't need to be 24 hours,
he's fine with her, Marion down the
hall helps.

NICK
A man in North Carolina pulled a
knife on his wife. Tried ta kill
her. Stage five. Mom's stage six.

A beat.

BRIDGET
She's between five and six.

NICK
Oh fer chrissake --

BRIDGET
Well, she is.

NICK
What if he has another heart
attack? What if --

The building door flies open. Bert leans out.

BERT
Wouldja get in the house, please?
Marion's over with a corned beef,
between the two of 'em I'm goin'
outta my mind.

They head in.

BERT (CONT'D)
(to Bridget)
Whatcha puttin' my scotch next ta
the damn Lladros for? Took me ten
minutes to find it.

52 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 52

MARION DOWN THE HALL, 80, plump, Italian, tinted glasses,
sits grandly at one head of the table, holding court.

Ruth is next to her, nodding as Marion talks.

Bert sits at the other head of the table, and Nick next to
him, both reading the paper, both with a scotch.

MARION
(to no one in particular)
-- so I said to Margie after,
Margie, honey, lemme tell ya, if
one a my kids or grandkids or great-
grandkids ever --

Bridget walks in, wearing an apron, and sets plates of corned
beef and cabbage down in front of Bert and Nick.

MARION (CONT'D)

(to Bridget)

Bridget honey, fer heaven's sake,
yer so skinny, don't they feedja in
California?

BRIDGET

Oh, well --

MARION

(to no one in particular)

-- if any one of my kids or
grandkids or great-grandkids *ever*
behaved like that in front a
company, oooh nelly --

RUTH

I was fat once, and consequently --

Bert and Nick start to eat.

MARION

(to Bert and Nick)

Boys, boys, wait a minute, just a
minute --

(calling to Bridget)

Bridget honey, there's some mustard
there --

BRIDGET (O.S.)

(from the kitchen)

Yep, I see it--

MARION

(calling to Bridget)

In a Tupperware, honey, with a blue
lid --

BRIDGET (O.S.)

(from the kitchen)

I got it, Marion --

MARION

(to Bert and Nick)

Can't have corned beef without a
good mustard --

(calling to Bridget)

In the Tupperware, honey --

BRIDGET (O.S.)

(from the kitchen)

Got it.

MARION
 (calling to Bridget)
 -- got a blue lid on it --

Bridget comes into the dining room with a plate for Ruth and the Tupperware of mustard.

BRIDGET
 Right here, Marion.

MARION
 (re: the Tupperware)
 Lemme see now, is that the one with
 the blue lid?

BRIDGET
 Blue lid, yup.

Marion has to see for herself.

MARION
 Yep, that's the one, that's it.

Bridget puts the mustard on the table and the plate in front of Ruth.

BRIDGET
 Did you want some, Marion?

MARION
 (back to nobody in
 particular)
 And that's the another thing I said
 to Margie, I said Margie honey --

Bridget exits back to the kitchen.

MARION (CONT'D)
 -- that baby eating the way she
 does, she's gonna be big as a
 house, but Margie's Margie, so --

Bridget comes back in with a plate of corned beef for herself, sits down at the table, and begins to eat.

RUTH
 I was very fat because I was sick.

MARION
 That baby's gonna be big as a
 church steeple, mark my words.

There's a sudden silence as Marion takes a sip of her coffee. She makes a face and reaches for the sugar bowl.

RUTH
 (matter-of-fact)
 I'm having a baby.

All except Marion stop chewing and look at Ruth. Marion puts several spoonfuls of sugar into her coffee.

MARION
 (to no one in particular)
 'Cause I'll tell ya, I'm glad I
 won't be around ta see the world
 when these spoiled kids grow up.

Bridget and Nick glance at each other. It is all either of them need to burst out laughing.

Marion looks confused, then assumes she said something funny and chuckles along.

MARION (CONT'D)
 Absolutely, if we weren't laughin'
 we'd be cryin'.

Bert begins to chuckle. Which makes Bridget and Nick laugh harder. Ruth starts laughing too. Marion looks put out.

MARION (CONT'D)
 (indignant)
 I'm not sure if it's *that* funny.

Bridget is laughing so hard that she's crying.

And then she is crying.

She gets up and leaves the table before anyone notices.

53 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 53

Bridget barely makes it out of the room before she sobs next to the shelf of Lladros.

54 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT 54

Bridget paces, the phone to her ear.

LUKE (V.O.)
 (the voicemail greeting)
 Hello, you've reached Luke Ertz.
 Please leave a message.

BRIDGET
 (into phone)
 Hi sweetie, sorry ta bug ya, I just
 - miss ya, kiddo, call yer mother!

She hangs up.

55 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - A MOMENT LATER 55

Bridget comes in from the guest room. Nick and Bert are trying to keep their voices down.

NICK
 All I'm askin' is fer you ta come
 see the place.

BERT
 And I'm tellin' you I don't give a
 hoot what it looks like, I'm not
 puttin' her there, end a
 discussion.

Nick turns to Bridget and gesticulates, behind Bert's back, for her to speak up. Bert doesn't miss a thing.

BERT (CONT'D)
 Yer sister's her own person,
 Nicholas.

Nick looks at Bridget pleadingly. She rallies.

BRIDGET
 Dad, what if - ya just don't go to
 Florida?

BERT
 We're goin' ta Florida, Biddy. We
 go ta Florida and then we drive out
 fer Emmie's wedding.

NICK
 Christ. So that's why ya got that
 stupid car.

BRIDGET
 (to Nick)
 Shh - you're gonna wake Mom --

BERT
 Neither a you have ever seen 'er in
 Florida, she's always better down
 there.

NICK
That's not how it works, Dad.
Every day she gets worse, no matter
where ya take her.

RUTH (O.S.)
Who?

Ruth walks in in her nightie.

BRIDGET AND NICK
Nobody, Mom.

BERT
Nobody, Ruth.

BERT
Go back ta bed, honey.

She turns to go. Nick puts his arm around her.

NICK
Hang on, Mom --

Nick points at Bert in front of Ruth.

NICK (CONT'D)
Who is that?

BERT
(to Nick)
What are you doin'?

BRIDGET
Nicky.

NICK
(to Ruth)
Do you know who that is?

BERT
A course she knows.

RUTH
(pointing at Bert)
Him?

BERT
Ya know who I am, honey.

NICK
(to Bert)
Shh.

BERT
Oh, fer cryin' out loud.

NICK
Who is that?

Ruth smiles at Bert coyly.

RUTH
My boyfriend.

BERT
See?

NICK
See what?

BERT
Whatever the hell it is yer tryin'
ta prove.

NICK
Are you her boyfriend?

RUTH
A course he's my boyfriend.

Nick looks at Bridget.

NICK
(to Bridget)
Feel free ta chime in here.

BRIDGET
Well, he's not *not* her boyfriend.

NICK
Yes he is.

BERT
What?

RUTH
Who?

NICK
Dammit Bidy --

BRIDGET
Well, I dunno --

NICK
Ya do too know!

BRIDGET
Know what?

BERT
Know what?

NICK (CONT'D)
 (to Bert)
 That yer not her boyfriend!

RUTH
 Who?

BERT BRIDGET
 You, Ruth. Dad, Mom.

RUTH (CONT'D)
 Me?

BRIDGET
 He's your husband, Mom --

NICK
 Don't *tell* her, Biddy, Jesus!

BRIDGET
 Oh! Sorry --

BERT
 She knows I'm her husband.

NICK
 She does not!

RUTH
 I know he's my husband.

NICK
 No you don't.

RUTH
 I don't?

BRIDGET
 (to Nick)
 Well, now *you're* tellin' her.

NICK
 What?

BERT
 Ya just told her she didn't know
 I'm her husband.

NICK
 She *doesn't* know.

BERT
 She just toldja she knew!

NICK
'Cause everybody told her!

RUTH
I'm married?

NICK
See?

BERT
Ya know yer married, honey --

NICK
Stop *tellin'* her, yer ruinin' it
when ya tell her --

BERT
Ruinin' *what*?

The home phone rings.

RUTH
(re: the phone)
I'll get it.

She goes to the table with the phone on it.

NICK
The point I'm tryin' to prove!

BERT
What point?

RUTH
(into the phone)
Hello? Hello?

The phone is still ringing.

NICK
That she doesn't know us!

BRIDGET
But when we *tell* her she knows.

NICK
Because yer tellin' her!

RUTH
(loudly into the phone)
Hello! Hello!

They finally notice that the phone is still ringing. They look at Ruth.

BRIDGET

Mom?

She turns to them, befuddled. She's speaking into the remote control for the TV.

RUTH

(to them)

This damn thing.

(into the remote)

Hello!

She jabs at it and puts it back to her ear.

RUTH (CONT'D)

(into the remote)

Hello! Hello!

The ringing stops. Ruth shakes her head.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Damn thing never works.

Bridget bursts into laughter. Bert chuckles.

BERT

That's the remote, honey.

RUTH

What?

BERT

Fer the TV, Ruth, the remote fer the TV!

Ruth looks down at it, then cracks up.

RUTH

What the heck am I doin' with this?

Bridget, Bert and Ruth laugh. Nick stares at them, angry.

NICK

Yeah, everything's so funny, life is just one big riot.

BERT

Oh, give it a rest, Nicky, wouldja, fer god's sake?

NICK

She doesn't know who you are, Dad. You are a *stranger* to her and you know it.

Bert turns to him, suddenly very angry.

BERT
So ya think yer a doctor, is that
it?

NICK
Ya don't listen to doctors.

BERT
Yer a bartender, Nicholas. Not a
doctor. A *bartender*.

Bert struck a nerve. Nick starts to lose it.

NICK
I own the bar, Dad. I own. The
freaking. Bar.

BERT
Ya co-own the bar.

NICK
Yeah! I'm an owner!

BERT
Yer a co-owner and yer a bartender.

Nick turns on his heel and storms out of the room.

BERT (CONT'D)
(calling after him)
Yer not a doctor!

In the foyer, the front door slams behind him.

56 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - KITCHEN - MORNING

56

Ruth sits at the table, a towel draped over her shoulders, a
bottle of Ensure in front of her. She sips a cup of coffee.

Bert stands behind Ruth in an apron and plastic gloves, dying
her gray roots strawberry from a box.

Ruth puts the coffee mug down. Bert grabs it.

RUTH
Hey!

BERT
You can have it back when you drink
the Ensure.

RUTH

Meanie.

Bridget enters sleepily.

BRIDGET

Morning.

Ruth sees Bridget and her eyes light up with joy.

RUTH

There's my baby!

She jumps out of the chair.

BERT

Watch yer head, Ruth --

BRIDGET

Hi Mom.

Ruth throws her tiny arms around Bridget.

RUTH

I'm so happy to see you! Do you need anything?

BRIDGET

Yeah, I need coffee.

BERT

Sit down, Ruth.

Ruth sticks her tongue out to Bert petulantly.

BERT (CONT'D)

Ya got dye all over ya, ya turkey, now sit down and let me finish.

Ruth huffs but sits. Bridget sits next to her with a mug.

RUTH

(gesturing to Bert)

My boyfriend, Mister Bossy.

Bridget pours coffee from a carafe on the table.

BERT

Drink the Ensure, Ruth.

Ruth turns around to Bert.

RUTH

(coy)

Whatcha gonna do for me?

BERT

(slyly)

Drink it and see.

She smiles and drinks the Ensure. Gags dramatically.

BERT (CONT'D)

Oh fer chrissakes, ya turkey,
tastes just like a chocolate malt.

RUTH

Yer the turkey, wouldn't know a
chocolate malt if it bit ya in the
tush.

(to Bridget)

I was a fountain girl, in...

BERT

Amboy.

RUTH

Amboy, and consequently... my dad
JP worked on the trains, he's a...

BERT

An engineer.

RUTH

An engineer, he'd get off the
trains and bring me chocolate malts
'cause I was sick, very sick with --

BERT

Polio.

RUTH

With polio, and all I did was drink
chocolate malts all day, and
consequently...

BERT

Ya got fat.

RUTH

I got fat.

BRIDGET

She was not fat, Dad.

BERT
She was fat.

RUTH
No, he's right, I was very fat.

Bert finishes Ruth's hair and pulls the gloves off.

RUTH (CONT'D)
(to Bridget)
Are ya married yet?

BERT
Ya know she's married, Ruth.

RUTH
And are ya happy? Out in... in...

BERT
California.

RUTH
Oh, I love California! Just love
it, and consequently... Where's my
purse?

BERT
She doesn't need money.

RUTH
Oh you hush, she does too.

Ruth stands.

BERT
Watch yer head, Ruth, don't touch
anything.

RUTH
I'm not gonna touch anything, I'm
going ta get my purse.

Ruth exits. Bert washes his hands. Bridget reads the paper.

BERT
Ya givin' me a hand today or ya got
another date?

Bridget puts the paper down indignantly.

BRIDGET
He's an old friend, Dad, he did the
locks as a favor, I hadn't seen him
in twenty years.
(MORE)

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
 We had a drink, you came home,
 goodbye, have a nice life, that's
 it.

BERT
 Good.

Bert sits at the table. They both pick up the paper.

BERT (CONT'D)
 (looking at the paper)
 Eddie's as much a son ta me as yer
 brother is.

BRIDGET
 And sometimes I think you like
 Eddie more than you like me.

Bert looks at her over the paper.

BERT
 Fer God sakes, Biddy.

RUTH (O.S.)
 Hello?

BRIDGET
 In here, Mom.

BERT
 (to Bridget)
 Ya ready ta gimme a hand?

57 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BATHROOM - DAY

57

The mirrors are fogged.

BRIDGET (O.S.)
 Keep rinsing.

Two sets of nighties and panties are strewn on the floor.

IN THE SHOWER -

Ruth, naked, thin, stands in the stream of water running red
 from the dye. Bridget soaps her own body.

Ruth steps out of the water.

RUTH
 Yer turn.

BRIDGET
Gimme your hand.

Ruth does. Bridget squeezes shampoo into Ruth's hand. Ruth stares at it, not sure what to do.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Rub it on your hair.

Ruth does, wide-eyed. Bridget steps into the water and wets her own hair. Shampoo drips down Ruth's forehead.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Close your eyes, Mom.

Ruth closes her eyes as Bridget wipes the shampoo away.

RUTH
It's so nice of ya to do this for me.

BRIDGET
You did it for me. Rinse your head.

Ruth steps into the water. Bridget shampoos her own hair.

As Ruth rinses, her face, usually twisted in anxiety, relaxes for a moment - she has a memory.

RUTH
I did, didn't I? When you were little, you and Nicky too.
(chuckling)
Boy, he hated the bath, just hated it, so I said ta hell with it, let him stay dirty.

She suddenly looks at Bridget with concern.

RUTH (CONT'D)
I should have been a better mother.

BRIDGET
You were a great mother.

RUTH
Yer father was the one who raised ya, I was always workin'.

BRIDGET
You had a big job.

RUTH

I shoulda spent more time with ya,
taught ya things, made sure...

Ruth's face searches the memory for more, behind her closed eyes, and then suddenly her face goes slack. Her eyes pop open, blank. Her mind has "reset" - she's lost the memory.

Her face tenses. It's the anxiety of not knowing who she is, where she is, and why the hell she doesn't know these things.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Do I need to wash my hair?

BRIDGET

You did already. Here.

Bridget puts a bar of soap into her hand. Ruth stares at it.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Wash your whoo-ha, Mom.

Ruth does. Bridget rinses her own head, then turns to rinse her face. Ruth begins to soap Bridget's back. Bridget's eyes open in surprise. She smiles. It feels good.

RUTH

I was with Nicky when Cindy died.

BRIDGET

I know.

RUTH

I told him God sends everybody
their love, their one perfect love.
God wouldn't take yer love away,
He doesn't forget anybody. Yer love
is out there, she's waitin' for ya.

Bridget is listening, remorseful.

BRIDGET

You never told *me* that.

RUTH

Didn't I? Tellin' ya now, I guess.

Suddenly, Ruth's mind resets again. She stares at the soap.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Do I need to wash my hair?

BRIDGET

Rinse your whoo-ha, Mom.

Ruth rinses her whoo-ha. And gasps in surprise. She looks delightedly at Bridget.

RUTH

Whoo!

58

INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

58

Bridget passes by the kitchen, one towel around her torso and another turbaned on her head.

Bert is in the kitchen, reading his paper.

BERT

(as she passes)

Luke says hello.

She comes back into the doorway.

BERT (CONT'D)

Called while you were showerin'.

BRIDGET

He didn't wanna talk to me?

BERT

Had ta go to a concert, some fella with a funny name.

BRIDGET

What did he say?

BERT

Said hello, like I toldja.

BRIDGET

What *else* did he say?

Bert puts his paper down and looks at her.

BERT

Said the 'niners won, he's goin' golfin' tomorra with the Big Bertha Eddie gave 'im, said Eddie and Emma're out shoppin' and ta give Grama a kiss.

BRIDGET

Shopping? For what?

59

INT. SMALL BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - ALAMEDA, CA - DAY

59

Emma stands on a pedestal surrounded in oatmeal tulle. She looks a little pained as she faces Eddie, who sits on a round tufted piece of furniture with Emma's purse in his lap.

Eddie squints at the dress, also slightly pained.

EDDIE

It's nice.

Emma sighs in frustration.

EMMA

Dig deep, here, Dad, wouldja? You said that about all of 'em.

He furrows his brow at the dress, digging deep.

EDDIE

Well. It's not really... white.

EMMA

So you don't like it.

EDDIE

It's nice, it's just - not white.

Emma's phone rings in her purse. She floats off the pedestal and pulls the phone out. Looks at it, silences it, gives the purse back to Eddie and gets back on the pedestal.

EMMA

Which one is gonna make David be like, wow, she is the most gorgeous creature I ever laid eyes on?

Eddie thinks very hard about this. Then:

EDDIE

That one.

Which is definitely not what Emma would have picked.

EMMA

Really?

She turns and examines herself dubiously in the mirror.

Eddie's phone buzzes in the holster on his hip. He pulls it out and sees Bridget's name on the phone. He stands.

EDDIE
 (into phone; nervous)
 Hello!

INTERCUT WITH:

60 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY 60

Bridget stands in her towel, her phone to her ear, upset.

BRIDGET
 (into phone)
 You took her *dress shopping*?...
Why?

BACK TO EDDIE --

EDDIE
 (into phone)
 Because she asked me to.

A beat, then Eddie holds the phone out to Emma. She sighs and takes it.

EMMA
 (into phone)
 Hello?

BACK TO BRIDGET --

BRIDGET
 (into phone)
 You asked your *father* to go dress shopping?

BACK TO EMMA, on the pedestal --

EMMA
 (into phone)
 I didn't know you wanted to go.

BACK TO BRIDGET --

BRIDGET
 (into phone)
 Of *course* I wanna go, I'm your *mother* for god's sake, mothers always help pick the dress!

BACK TO EMMA --

Emma rolls her eyes, lifts the tulle skirt and floats around the corner to a display of veil and crystal wonderland.

EMMA
 (into phone)
 Okay, well, first of all, you told
 me I shouldn't get married ---

BACK TO BRIDGET --

BRIDGET
 (into phone)
 That is *not* what I said, Emma.

BACK TO EMMA --

EMMA
 (into phone)
 Whatever, that I was gonna be over
 my marriage thirty years from now
 and secondly, like, you have all
 these regrets about your life and
 being a wife and being a mother --

BACK TO BRIDGET --

BRIDGET
 (into phone)
What? Being a mother is the best
 thing that's ever happened to me --

BACK TO EMMA --

EMMA
 (into phone)
 -- so I thought I'd, like, relieve
 you of some motherly duties even
 though it's like the worst possible
 timing because I could really use a
 mother right now.

BACK TO BRIDGET --

BRIDGET
 (into phone)
 I could really use a mother right
 now. I'm going through hell here.

BACK TO EMMA --

EMMA
 (into phone)
 Yeah, it's kinda horrible when your
 family's falling apart, isn't it?

Touche.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Look, I can't talk right now, I'm surrounded in tulle. If it makes you feel any better, Dad is fucking horrible at this, so.

(I'm still kind of pissed, but)

I love you.

BACK TO BRIDGET --

BRIDGET

(I'm still kind of pissed too, but)

I love you too.

BACK TO EMMA --

Emma floats back to Eddie, who has been watching at a respectful distance, holding the phone out to Eddie.

EDDIE

(into phone)

Hello?

Bridget's gone. He tucks the phone back into his holster.

BACK TO BRIDGET --

Bridget tosses the phone on the bed. From outside the door comes the sound of Nick and Bert, arguing loudly.

She grits her teeth and hikes up her towel.

61 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 61

Bert is standing in the foyer, pulling his coat and cap from the closet. Nick is standing in the dining room.

Bridget appears in the dining room in her towel.

NICK

-- it's selfish! It's the best damn Memory Care in Chicago and the only reason you won't let her go is 'cause you can't let her go.

Bert comes into the doorway in his coat, holding his cap.

BERT

Lemme tell ya somethin', Nicholas. Those pictures on the tree in there?

(MORE)

BERT (CONT'D)

Finishin' her sentences for her?
Tellin' her how she takes her
coffee and how many cubes go in her
scotch 'cause she doesn't remember
what she likes and doesn't? *That's*
memory care. I was *there* fer every
damn memory she made the last sixty
years, and if I wasn't there I've
heard about it half a dozen times.
So *I'm* the best memory care in
Chicago. I bathe her, I feed her, I
give her her pills and I do it a
helluva lot better than some
goddamn *aide* who doesn't have the
first clue a the person she spent
the last seventy years becomin'.

He puts his cap on.

BERT (CONT'D)

Yer mother's at Marion's, I'll be
back in an hour.

He leaves. The front door closes behind him.

Bridget bursts into tears.

Nick turns to her, startled.

NICK

Whassa mattter?

She's inconsolable. Nick has no idea what to do.

Finally, he guides her to a chair at the dining room table.

NICK (CONT'D)

Alright, here, here, sit down.

He helps her sit.

NICK (CONT'D)

Watch that towel, though, I really
don't wanna see yer crotch.

She adjusts the towel as she sits, still crying. He trots to
the kitchen and comes back with a box of tissues.

He sits next to her for a beat, waiting for it to be over.
Bridget can't pull it together. It's all coming out.

NICK (CONT'D)

Jesus, Bidy. You gotta get a grip.

She takes a tissue and blows her nose. Calms down a bit.

BRIDGET

No one will ever love me like that.

NICK

That's what yer cryin' about?

Bridget calms a little and blows her nose.

BRIDGET

It's - everything, Mom and Dad,
Emma thinks I don't wanna be her
mother, Luke won't talk to me...

NICK

(trying to be helpful)
Well, he's mad at ya. His family's
fallin' apart fer no good reason.

Bridget's jaw clenches. She stands up, suddenly angry.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm not tryin' ta be a dick here --

BRIDGET

You think I would do this to
everybody for no good reason?
I mean, ya think I'm some *idiot*,
some hysterical - hormonal, wishy
washy -

NICK

I do think you oughtta have yer
hormones checked.

Bridget gapes at him.

BRIDGET

Fine, you wanna know? I'm not
happy. You all pushed me into
getting married --

NICK

What? Who?

BRIDGET

I was too young, I lived in Dad's
house one day and Eddie's the next,
I didn't have the first clue who I
was and I never had a chance to
find out 'cause Mom had her big
career and I was the housekeeper.

NICK
Oh fer chrissake, Bidy --

BRIDGET
Who ironed your shirts? Who got
dinner on the table every night?

NICK
Well if ya didn't wanna do it why
the hell'd ya do it?

BRIDGET
Because *somebody* had to!

NICK
Why'd ya think it had ta be *you*?

BRIDGET
'Cause I was the girl!

NICK
So?

BRIDGET
So that's what daughters did!

NICK
Said who? It wasn't 1950, it was
woman's freakin' lib!

BRIDGET
Well, nobody told me that! While
Mom was busy bein' liberated, Dad
was tellin' me ta lose ten pounds
and learn how ta cook!

NICK
Oh, for chrissake, Bidy, ya gotta
let this little stuff go. My
fiancee up and died two weeks
before our wedding, ya don't see me
tortured about it thirty years
later.

BRIDGET
Then why is Rachel at her sisters?

NICK
That's different. There's a number
a things goin' on there that ya
can't understand 'cause yer not in
it.

BRIDGET

You don't say. A number a things I can't understand, huh?

He frowns. Touche.

NICK

Well, then do somethin' about it fer chrissake. Ya wanna be liberated, freakin' *liberate!* Jesus, here I am screamin' at Dad, sayin' things nobody should ever say to their father, yer sittin' there like a damn church mouse.

BRIDGET

Because I don't know! Maybe she *should* stay with Dad, maybe she *does* do better in Florida --

NICK

What? Oh my god --

BRIDGET

How the hell do you know? God, yer like a freakin' *bulldozer!* Bullyin' everybody about everything when you *don't know!*

NICK

Ya wanna know why they can't go ta Florida? I'll tell ya. He gets her down ta Florida, there's nothin' we can do, we got no legal recourse and I guarantee ya he's not bringin' her back.

Bridget is stunned.

BRIDGET

Legal recourse? What, *suing* him? *Suing* him for custody of Mom?

NICK

See, this is why I didn't tell ya, I knew you couldn't handle it --

BRIDGET

What is the *matter* with you?

Nick stands and starts to go. He's had it.

NICK

Ya know what, just - go home,
alright, go home, write yer book,
ponder yer life, do yer thing. Ya
don't wanna be a grown up, fine,
I'm used to it, but do me a favor
and go home. Get outta the way.

He's out the front door. It slams behind him.

62

EXT. TRAIN STATION PARKING LOT - NIGHT

62

Bridget, in Ruth's mink, sits with Dommy on the open back of his pickup, passing a bottle of scotch back and forth.

BRIDGET

-- and it's so easy for him, he
doesn't give a shit what anybody
thinks, he prides himself on bein'
a freakin' asshole.

Dommy looks at her admiringly, chuckling.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

He walks away, all he's hurting is
Rachel. I walk away, God, we've
been married thirty years, my
family is his family, my friends
are his friends, everything and
everybody that is mine is ours.

(turning to him)

Ya know?

As soon as she turns to him, he is kissing her. *Really*
kissing her.

For a moment, she is paralyzed. Then she pulls away.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Whoa, whoa, I - I - I'm - I
appreciate the - I - I -

He looks at her, crestfallen.

DOMMY

No?

BRIDGET

Well, I'm - *married*.

He blinks.

DOMMY

Right.

He abruptly rights himself. Bridget recovers.

BRIDGET

Um. What were we talking about?

A silent moment, and suddenly he is kissing her again.

63

INT. DOMMY'S TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

63

Dommy drives, gushing an apology. Bridget is shell-shocked.

DOMMY

-- I just - thought when you called
- and ya wore that see through
thing so I - I just had a thing for
ya forever and - I'm real sorry.

BRIDGET

Yeah, it's just - then you did it
the second time.

DOMMY

Well, 'cause yer gettin' divorced,
aren't you?

She looks out the window. They can't get back soon enough.
He drives, kicking himself for blowing it.

DOMMY (CONT'D)

(one final try)

Look, ya wanna come over?

64

INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

64

Bridget sleeps. The door is open.

Ruth, in her white nightie, passes by the doorway several
times, wringing her hands, as she paces the dark hall.

Finally she peers into Bridget's room. Goes to her.

Bridget starts awake and gasps. Ruth's face is inches from
her own.

RUTH

There's a man in my bed.

Bridget lets her breath out.

BRIDGET
It's Dad, Mom.

RUTH
I sleep with my dad?

BRIDGET
My Dad. Your husband.

RUTH
I married him?

BRIDGET
Yes.

RUTH
What'd I marry some old coot for?

BRIDGET
You're an old coot too, Mom.

Ruth chuckles.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Go back to bed.

Ruth touches Bridget's cheek tenderly, then pads softly out of the room.

65 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - A MOMENT LATER 65

Ruth crawls back into bed, next to the sleeping mound of Bert. He rouses. Bridget watches from the doorway.

BERT
Whatcha doin', honey?

RUTH
My feet are cold.

BERT
Stay in bed fer chrissake, wouldja?

RUTH
Mister Bossy.

BERT
Ya turkey.

He puts his arm over her and pulls her close.

66 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - GUEST ROOM - DAY 66

Bridget is just waking up. She rolls over to her phone, charging on the night table. The phone says that it's 10:37 and that she's got a missed call and voicemail from Eddie.

67 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 67

Bridget brushes her teeth, her phone on the counter, Eddie's voicemail playing on speaker.

EDDIE (V.O.)
 (recorded on voicemail)
 Hi it's - me, just - got off the
 phone with your dad, he gave me
 your flight information and I
 wanted to confirm you weren't
 checking a bag --

Bridget stops brushing and looks at the phone, confused.

EDDIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 (recorded on voicemail)
 -- as I recall you didn't check one
 on your way over, but I wanted to -
 confirm that would be the case, uh,
 today. So. If you are checking a
 bag, gimme a call; otherwise I'll -
 see ya tonight.
 (a pause)
 Bye bye.

Bridget blinks at the phone.

BERT (O.S.)
 (from the other room)
 Bidy?

68 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 68

Bert and Ruth have just walked in the front door.

BERT
 Gimme yer coat, Ruth.

RUTH
 Well, I don't want her to be upset.

BERT
 Who?

RUTH
Whoever's closet that is.

Bridget marches in, holding her phone, in her nightie.

BRIDGET
You booked me a flight?

Bert and Ruth look up at her. Ruth's eyes light up.

RUTH
(with glee)
Is that my baby?

She bounces to Bridget and throws her arms around her.

BERT
(to Bridget)
Yer just wakin' up? It's eleven
o'clock, ya turkey.

Ruth pulls away and holds Bridget at arms length.

RUTH
Do you need anything?

BRIDGET
(to Bert)
You booked me a flight and told
Eddie to pick me up?

BERT
Flight's on me, Merry Christmas.

RUTH
(to Bert)
Where's my purse?

BERT
She's fine, Ruth, she doesn't need
money.

Ruth starts down the hall. Bert lets her go and heads into the kitchen. Bridget follows.

BRIDGET
(to Bert)
Why would you do that?

BERT
'Cause I don't needja, honey.

Bert goes to the coffeepot and pours a cup. Bridget stands in the doorway.

BRIDGET
You don't *need* me?

Bert turns and looks at her like she's nuts.

BERT
A course I don't needja, and ya got a family at home that does so I bought ya a plane ticket. What, ya wanna stay here forever? Here.

He holds out the coffee to her.

BRIDGET
(re: coffee)
I don't want it.

BERT
A course ya do, here.

Bridget loses it.

BRIDGET
I am a *grown up*, Dad! I am a grown up!

He looks at her, holding the coffee, taken aback.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
If I don't want the coffee, I don't want the coffee!

BERT
(befuddled)
Don't have the coffee then, I don't give a hoot.

BRIDGET
If I don't wanna go home yet, I don't wanna go home!

BERT
Welp, fine, stay here, but ya go gallavantin' 'til all hours with some fella when ya got a husband at home, don't expect me ta like it 'cause it's not the daughter I raised and I don't like it one bit.

She stares at him.

BRIDGET

Why don't you want me to be happy?
Why?

BERT

What're ya talkin' about? A *course*
I wantcha ta be happy.

BRIDGET

All my life you tell me there's no
bells and whistles when right in
front of me is bell after whistle
after bell after whistle!

BERT

What?

BRIDGET

You and Mom! She's losing her mind
and you *still* can't live without
her. Why didn't you want that for
me?

BERT

That's *all* I want for ya, honey,
that's why I been tellin' ya, ya
gotta work at it.

BRIDGET

I worked at it for thirty years!

BERT

And ya work thirty more if ya want
what we got, ya stick with it. Ya
don't take the easy out.

Bridget gapes at him.

BRIDGET

The *easy* out? This is *torture*, Dad!
I'm hurting every person I've spent
my life protecting. Every single
person I thought I never could.

She is trying hard not to lose it.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

I mean, Jesus, I'm not telling you
you can't keep Mom, I'm not saying
that you're wrong and that what you
want doesn't matter. *Why don't I
matter?*

BERT
A course ya matter, honey --

BRIDGET
Why didn't you send me to college?

BERT
What?

BRIDGET
You *forced* Nicky, he didn't even
wanna go.

BERT
Nicky was a boy, he had ta be a
breadwinner. I didn't know ya
wanted ta go ta college or a *course*
I woulda sent ya. I thought - ya
loved cookin' for everybody, I -
thought ya wanted ta be a mother.

BRIDGET
I did, I did want to, I just...

She is so close to really losing it.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
I wish I'd had a *life* first.

Bert is flabbergasted. He had no idea.

A quiet beat. Then Bridget realizes just how very quiet it
is.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Mom?

Bert and Bridget lock eyes for the briefest of moments.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Didja lock the door?

Bert's stomach drops. He leaps up.

70

INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - NEXT MOMENT

70

Bert rushes around the corner and looks at the door.

It is ajar.

He races out as the home phone starts ringing.

71 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - BUILDING HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 71

Bert runs down the hallway followed by Bridget, still in her nightie. She has slipped on a pair of Bert's shoes.

BRIDGET

Mom? Mom!

72 EXT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - BUILDING ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS 72

They bolt out the doors and scan the landscape for Ruth. She's nowhere. Bert takes off at a sprint.

Bridget goes the other way, hand over her eyes, scanning into the sun for Ruth.

Marion Down The Hall waddles out the front door.

MARION

Honey! Honey! Bridget honey!

Bridget hears her and turns.

MARION (CONT'D)

I got her, honey! She's with me!

Bridget whips around to Bert.

He is sitting on the ground, his head down. Bridget races to him, clumsy in Bert's too-big shoes.

BRIDGET

Dad!

MARION

I was just callin' the house,
nobody picked up the phone --

BRIDGET

(to Bert as she runs)

Are you okay? Are you okay?

He raises his hand up to her. She arrives at him and kneels, terrified. He is sweating and wheezing heavily.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Are you having a heart attack?

He shakes his head no, unable to speak.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Are you sure?

He nods.

73 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 73

Bert sits at the table quietly. He's recovered, a dishcloth around his neck, a glass of water in front of him.

After a beat, Bridget comes in the front door and kicks off Bert's shoes.

BRIDGET

She's fine, they're having coffee,
Thank God Marion went to get the
mail. Are you okay?

He nods. She sits next to him, concerned.

BERT

Yer wedding was the best damn day a
my life.

He shakes his head.

BERT (CONT'D)

Thought ya got what every girl
wanted. Thought ya hit the jackpot.
(beat)
Hell. What did I know?

BRIDGET

I - did. I couldn't have married a
better man. For a long time I was
happy, we were happy. We're just -
not anymore. He deserves better.
(beat)
I deserve better.

BERT

That plane ticket's refundable, so
ya do what ya want with it.

BRIDGET

Well. I was thinking - if I
stayed, helped you with Mom,
Nicky'd back off. I could go to
Florida with you.

He smiles at her, immeasurably proud of the person she is.

BERT

Not a chance in hell, Biddy. Ya
been a good daughter too damn long.

74 EXT. O'HARE AIRPORT - CURB - NIGHT

74

Bert's Thunderbird is parked on the curb. Bridget and Bert hug. She holds him tight. As they parts, he forces a few hundreds into Bridget's hand.

BERT
Here. Fer Emmy's dress.

BRIDGET
(protesting)
Dad.

BERT
Go help her pick it out.

BRIDGET
She doesn't want my help.

BERT
'Course she does, ya turkey. How
many mothers ya think she's got?

Bert goes back to the driver's door. Bridget pokes her head into Ruth in the backseat of the car.

RUTH
Am I getting out?

BRIDGET
Come gimme a hug, Mom.

Ruth gets out of the car and puts her arms around Bridget.

RUTH
Oh, I love ya, honey.

BRIDGET
I love you too, Mom.

They part. Ruth looks at her, tears in her eyes.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
I'll be back in a couple months.

RUTH
Oh, I won't be here.

She's so earnest it's almost funny.

BRIDGET
Oh! Where ya goin'?

RUTH
 (it's the most obvious
 thing in the world)
 I expect my mother'll want me home
 by then.

Bridget stares at her. It's so jarring.

BERT
 (from the car)
 Let's go, Ruth, it's cold!

Bridget helps Ruth into the car and bends into the window.

BRIDGET
 Love you guys.

RUTH
 I love you, honey.

BERT
 Love you.

Bridget watches them go.

75 EXT. OAKLAND AIRPORT - CURB - NIGHT 75

Bridget walks out of the airport and scans the cars.

Eddie's Lexus sedan is parked right out front.

76 INT. EDDIE'S LEXUS - MOMENTS LATER 76

Talk radio plays as they drive. They are silent, on totally different planets. As usual. Finally:

BRIDGET
 Emma pick out a dress?

EDDIE
 No. They were all nice and she
 couldn't decide.

They drive.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
 Thank you for the Crock Pot.

BRIDGET
 You're welcome.

EDDIE
 Learning to cook has definitely
 been on my checklist, so.

BRIDGET

Good.

EDDIE

Your present is in the backseat.

BRIDGET

Thank you.

They drive.

77 INT. BRIDGET'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT 77

Bridget walks in the front door with her bag and Eddie's present wrapped in a Christmas gift bag.

Her apartment is a generic shoebox of a dump. Beige carpeting, blank white walls, ugly rented furniture.

She drops her purse and plunks down at the kitchen table.

She breathes a moment, then opens Eddie's gift: a very fancy cheese grinder and a pair of nubby-bottomed socks.

78 INT. NICK AND JOE'S BAR - DAY 78

A quiet day shift. Golden sun bounces off the copper bar.

TWO QUIET REGULARS watch the Bears game on the flat screen above the bar.

Nick is behind the bar with a clipboard, doing inventory.

The front door jingles. Nick looks.

Bert is walking in, wearing his coat and hat, checking it all out. He sits at the bar.

NICK

Wanna drink?

BERT

I'll take a manhattan.

Nick smiles to himself. This very moment is the reason he has perfected his manhattan. He expertly mixes it.

Bert watches as Nick pulls a frosted martini glass from the fridge, puts it down in front of Bert and pours.

BERT (CONT'D)

I decided not ta go ta Florida.

Nick's eyes move from the glass to Bert and back again.

NICK

Good.

He finishes the pour and dumps the ice. Bert takes a sip.

It's really, really good.

BERT

Damn good manhattan, Nicholas.

Nick smiles.

79

INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

79

The tree is lit. Bing Crosby Christmas plays.

Ruth sits cross-legged on the floor next to the tree, looking at all the pictures. Bert walks over and hands her a scotch.

He sits on the chair beside her. She looks at him, wide-eyed.

RUTH

Is it Christmas?

BERT

Ya got drunk on Christmas.

RUTH

(pious)

I did not.

BERT

Get the presents, ya turkey.

She grabs the two presents. Looks to Bert for instructions.

BERT (CONT'D)

Here, I'll go first.

He takes the gift he bought himself and rips the paper open.

RUTH

(a little anxious)

Did I get you that?

BERT

Ya sure did.

Ruth wrings her hands nervously. She doesn't know what she got him but she hopes it's something good.

Bert gets the box open.

BERT (CONT'D)
Chocolate covered macadamias!

Ruth lights up, delighted and relieved.

RUTH
You love those!

BERT
I sure do. Thank you, honey.

She beams at him as he leans down. They kiss.

BERT (CONT'D)
Now yer turn. You open that.

She looks down at the box, not sure what to do. Bert reaches down and gently pulls open a flap.

BERT (CONT'D)
There, now rip it.

She starts to, unsure.

BERT (CONT'D)
Just rip it, ya turkey.

She does. Inside is a long skinny jewelry box.

BERT (CONT'D)
Open it up.

She does, carefully, and gasps. It's a large antique locket on a silver chain.

RUTH
Oh, it's beautiful!

BERT
C'mere, now, lemme show ya.

Ruth shuffles spryly to him on her knees. He opens the locket and shows her the picture inside.

BERT (CONT'D)
Ya know who that is?

She stares at it hard for a moment. Then she remembers.

RUTH
That's you 'n me.

BERT
That's right. You 'n me.

He struggles not to get emotional.

BERT (CONT'D)
(brightly)
So when ya forget, ya can just look
at it. Alright?

Tears well in her eyes. She knows exactly what he means.
She throws her arms around his neck and holds him tight.

RUTH
I'm sorry, Bertie. I'm so sorry.

He blinks back tears and holds her just as tightly.

BERT
It's alright, honey. I'm alright.

80 EXT. WHEATON, ILLINOIS RANCH HOUSE - NIGHT 80

Nick, freshly shaved, approaches the front door of a small house, holding a bouquet of roses. He rings the bell.

RACHEL'S SISTER, early 40s, answers the door. Sees Nick and gives him a very dirty look.

RACHEL'S SISTER
(over her shoulder; still
glaring at him)
Rach!

She stares him down until RACHEL, 40s, steps into the doorway. She smiles just a little.

81 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 81

It's New Year's Eve. Ruth's soprano hums Auld Lang Syne.

In the light of the tree, Bert and Ruth slow dance, her cheek on his chest.

82 INT. EMMA AND DAVID'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 82

Emma and David are curled up on the couch in front of a movie. She is fast asleep on his shoulder.

David's cellphone is on the arm of the couch, reading 11:59. At 12:00, he kisses her forehead, careful not to wake her.

83 INT. EDDIE'S HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT 83

Eddie and Luke are sprawled on the sofa, two almost-empty glasses of red wine on the coffee table in front of them, as ESPN counts down the New Year on TV.

They are clones of each other: heads back, mouths open, fast asleep, each with a hand tucked into their pajama pants.

84 INT. BRIDGET'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 84

Bridget sits on her ugly couch, wrapped in a blanket, a glass of champagne in her hand. Alone. As the ball drops on her rented TV, she is still.

85 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT 85

Ruth and Bert sleep peacefully in bed.

Bert's eyes open.

86 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - KITCHEN - NEXT MOMENT 86

Bert, now in his robe, sits in a kitchen chair, dialing a number on the house phone.

87 INT. NICK'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 87

Nick sleeps in his bed with Rachel beside him, her arm tucked around his waist.

His cell phone rings on the side table. Rachel moans. Nick grabs for the phone, looks at it. Sits up as he answers.

NICK
(into phone)
Dad?

88 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - KITCHEN - NEXT MOMENT 88

Bert puts the phone on the receiver. He pauses. Then opens a drawer and pulls out a long kitchen lighter.

89 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - FOYER - NEXT MOMENT 89

He stands at the hall closet, slowly buttoning his wool coat over his robe. He reaches for his hat on the shelf.

90 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NEXT MOMENT 90

In his coat and hat, Bert opens the glass curio cabinet where he keeps the biggest Lladros and most expensive china. He takes a large tea pot from a shelf and lifts the lid.

Inside is a brand new pack of Pall Mall's.

91 EXT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - PATIO - NEXT MOMENT 91

Bert steps out onto the patio from the living room. He closes the door tightly behind him.

He sits on the ground, square in front of the sliding door, his back firmly against the glass.

He opens the pack of Pall Mall's and pulls one out. Puts it between his lips and lights it with the long kitchen lighter.

He takes a deep drag, puts his head back, and smiles.

92 INT. BRIDGET'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT 92

Bridget is asleep, cocooned in her bed. On the side table, her cell phone rings. Nick's ringer.

She reaches for it, half asleep, and puts it to her ear without sitting up.

BRIDGET
(into phone)
Nicky?

She lays for a long time, listening, expressionless, until:

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
(into phone; softly)
'Kay.

She hangs up. She slowly rises and sits at the edge of the bed, still for a long moment.

A wave of emotion hits her like a Mack truck. She sobs.

93 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BATHROOM - DAY 93

Bridget stands in front of the mirror in Bert and Ruth's bathroom, wearing a black jacket and skirt, pulling open a package of waterproof mascara.

She applies it to her eyelashes with a shaky hand.

94 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - A MOMENT LATER 94

Ruth sits in the middle of the couch, beautiful in a black suit, surrounded by Emma and Luke, Eddie and David, Nick and Rachel and Marion. She is showing off her locket, beaming.

Bridget enters and comes to Ruth to see.

BRIDGET
Can I see, Mom?

Ruth turns the locket around to show her.

Inside is a copy of the very first photo of Bert and Ruth, the one with Bert standing in front of the movie theatre, holding Ruth aloft in his arms. Bridget smiles at it.

RUTH
My boyfriend gave it to me.

BRIDGET
Your first date, right?

RUTH
Yup. I was very fat.

She snaps the locket shut and looks at everyone brightly.

RUTH (CONT'D)
All you turkeys ready?

95 INT. FUNERAL HOME - VIEWING ROOM - DAY 95

It's a large viewing room, and it's full. The family stands in front of Bert's casket, receiving a long line of guests.

Ruth is amazing. She is on fire, either really remembering everybody or doing a damn good job of faking it.

Marion stands nearby, holding court to a group of unsuspecting guests whose eyes are glazing over.

Dommy passes through the line in a too-tight sport coat. When he gets to Bridget, she smiles politely. He hugs her tightly, getting in a good sniff.

Nick doesn't miss it. He swoops in.

NICK
Hey Marion?

Marion comes right over.

MARION

Yes honey?

NICK

Show Dommy the guest book, wouldja?

Marion takes Dommy by the arm and immediately starts yapping as she leads him away.

96

INT. FUNERAL HOME - VIEWING ROOM - NIGHT

96

It is much later and much quieter. Bridget and Nick are near the casket, greeting the last few stragglers.

Eddie, Luke and David sit patiently in one corner. In another, Ruth sits with Emma beside her, her arm draped protectively over Ruth's chair.

Ruth is staring down at the cover of the folded paper program for the wake. On it is a recent picture of Bert.

Ruth looks up from the program and looks around, confused.

RUTH

This looks like a wake.

(to Emma)

Is this a wake?

EMMA

Yes, Grama.

Ruth nods thoughtfully.

RUTH

See, that's what I thought.

Ruth looks down at the program again. Bridget walks over.

BRIDGET

(quietly to Emma)

How's she doin'?

Emma shakes her head. Bridget sits on the other side of Ruth.

EMMA

(quietly to Bridget)

Should I take her home?

BRIDGET

(to Ruth)

You ready to go, Mom?

Ruth is concentrating on the picture of Bert on the program.

RUTH

I just - I can't, for the life of
me, figure out whose wake this is.

She opens the program and puts her finger on the name inside.
Traces along as she reads the words out loud.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Bert. Ivan. Keller.

She inhales sharply, softly. She understands.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Oh.

She looks up.

RUTH (CONT'D)

No. I'll stay 'til the end.

She looks out distantly at the room.

RUTH (CONT'D)

How could I have forgotten that?

97 INT. FUNERAL HOME - VIEWING ROOM - LATER

97

Nick sits alone in the first row of chairs, facing Bert's
casket. Bridget enters with their coats. Sits next to him.

Together, quietly, they look at their dad.

NICK

I said to him when he called me, I
said Dad, hang up right now, hang
up and call 911. He went out to the
patio, put his back up against the
patio door so she couldn't get out
'til I got there and had a smoke.

He pauses.

NICK (CONT'D)

Why did he do that?

Bridget doesn't have an answer. They stare at the casket.

98 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

98

Bridget, in her nightie, tucks herself quietly into Bert's
side of the bed. She turns to face Ruth, who is asleep.

Bert's smell is everywhere. Bridget starts to cry.

Ruth's eyes open. She takes Bridget's hand.

RUTH

It was the perfect time.

Ruth smiles.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Any later, I woulda forgotten him.
Any earlier, I'd a missed him too
much. Right now, it's perfect.
I'll hardly ever know the
difference.

It takes Bridget's breath away. She looks at Ruth, and Ruth at her, until Ruth's eyes close.

99

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

99

Bert's casket is closed at the altar, an American flag draped over the top. Sunlight streams through the stained glass.

Bridget walks to the podium.

BRIDGET

Dad grew up in Amboy, Illinois.
It's a small farm town about 90
miles west, the kind of place where
everybody knows everything about
everybody. From grade school on,
Dad had a thing for my mother,
Ruthie O'Shea - even though she
wouldn't give him the time of day.
A decade later, when Dad went off
to Korea, Mom got polio. And when
Dad came back, and his mother told
him that poor Ruthie O'Shea hadn't
been out of bed in six months and
would never walk again, Dad marched
over, picked her up and carried
her, in his arms, to the movies.

In the front row, Ruth nods, dry-eyed, smiling.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

The best part is that Dad never
thought that was anything special.
He loved her. That was it, that
was all that mattered. He loved us
all that way.

She smiles.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
He loved like he meant it.

100 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT 100

Bridget lies, wide awake, on Bert's side of the bed. Beside her, Ruth is fast asleep.

101 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - HALLWAY - A MOMENT LATER 101

Bridget walks down the hallway, tying Ruth's robe around her. A faint light is on in the living room.

102 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 102

The tree is lit. Otherwise, the room is dark. Luke sits in Bert's chair, scotch in his hand, looking at the tree.

Bridget sits on the couch. They stare at the tree.

LUKE

I was laying in bed thinking about how this Christmas sucked, which was making me really pissed at you, which was making me really pissed at *myself* 'cause A. your dad just died and B. of course I want you to be happy so what the hell's my problem?

He takes a drink of his scotch.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I mean, you were the best Mom outta all my friends 'cause you're just like Grampa, you know, you love like you mean it, so moving out was probably the hardest thing you've done in your whole life.

A smile crosses Bridget's face.

LUKE (CONT'D)

So I thought maybe if I come out and sit in Grampa's chair it would help me be more like him too.

BRIDGET

Is it working?

LUKE

Well, when you came in I was thinking yeah, Christmas sucked, but so did last Christmas and the Christmas before, which made ma lot less mad. So yeah. I guess it's helping.

Luke sips.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Could also be the scotch.

103

INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - DINING ROOM - DAY

103

Nick and Bridget, both in reading glasses, sort through a sea of documents strewn around coffee cups and Bridget's laptop.

Nick is antsy. He wants to wrap this shit up.

NICK

Alright, so you do the Veteran's thing and the funeral stuff, I'll put the condo on the market.

BRIDGET

Emma's staying to help go through everything.

NICK

That's nice of her.

BRIDGET

That's what daughters do.

NICK

What about the car?

She looks at him. She wants the car.

BRIDGET

You hate the car.

NICK

I don't hate the car.

BRIDGET

Yes you do.

NICK

What, you *want* the car?

BRIDGET

Yes.

NICK

How're ya gonna get it ta
California?

BRIDGET

It's a *car*, Nick. I'll drive it.

Nick snorts.

NICK

Christ, you want it that much, take
the damn thing. Hope ya got Triple
A. What else?

Bridget steels herself.

BRIDGET

I wanna take Mom.

NICK

Take her where?

BRIDGET

With me.

Nick chuckles. He thinks she's kidding.

NICK

Yeah, Thelma and Louise, you and
Mom and that dumbass car, what a
freakin' riot.

BRIDGET

I'm serious.

NICK

No you're not.

BRIDGET

I found a great place really close
to me.

He gets that she's serious and gapes at her.

NICK

You are *retarded*.

BRIDGET

No I'm not --

NICK
 You wanna drive Mom across the
 country? In that idiot car? *By*
yourself?

BRIDGET
 Not by myself. With Emma.

NICK
 You are outta yer mind, that is the
stupidest thing I have ever heard --

BRIDGET
 It's not stupid.

NICK
 It is *stupider* than stupid, Tom's
 takin' her at the end a week, it's
 a great situation, why the hell
 wouldja *drive* her out ta
 California?

BRIDGET
 Because I want her.

NICK
 Then come visit.

Bridget is suddenly furious.

BRIDGET
 I want her, dammit, I'm takin' her
 'cause she doesn't have anybody and
 I don't have anybody and I'm
 puttin' my goddamn foot down and if
 you tell me I'm crazy one more time
 I am gonna knock yer fuckin' teeth
 out, I swear to God.

Nick's eyes are wide. He and Bridget are frozen a moment,
 staring each other down.

Until Nick grabs her face with both hands and plants a big,
 fat, wet kiss on her cheek.

NICK
 I am so freakin' *proud* a you! Did
 that feel good or what?

Bridget and Emma stand on either side of the bed, folding
 piles of stuff and packing it in boxes.

Emma holds up an enormous pink oxford with stains on the bottom for Bridget to evaluate.

BRIDGET

Keep.

EMMA

What are you gonna do with it?

BRIDGET

I'm gonna wear it.

EMMA

Wear it where?

BRIDGET

Just - give it to me.

Bridget snatches it and folds it. Emma bends down and pulls another box of clothes from under the bed.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Gramma loved this shirt on him.

Emma begins sorting the new box.

EMMA

You know, I never knew that story, about him carrying her to the movies.

BRIDGET

You didn't?

EMMA

That's what you want, isn't it?

BRIDGET

What?

EMMA

What they had.

Bridget stops folding for a moment, wondering if it's that simple. It pretty much is.

BRIDGET

Yeah. I do.

Emma nods as she folds.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

For me and for your dad.

Emma nods. Bridget resumes folding.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

The thing I will never figure out is how they had what they had, but Grampa could look me in the eye and tell me there are no bells and whistles. That may be the greatest mystery of my life.

EMMA

How the hell would he know?

Bridget looks at her.

EMMA (CONT'D)

She was the only person he ever loved. He never tried to love anybody else. How would he know he hit the jackpot on the first try? I'm sure he thought it was like that for everybody.

Emma packs the last item and grabs another box from under the bed. Bridget stands there, her mind blown.

EMMA (CONT'D)

You alright?

BRIDGET

Thank god for you, kid.

Emma smiles, then opens the box. Bridget resumes folding.

EMMA

Oh my god.

Bridget looks over. Emma is staring down in to the box.

Inside the box is another box. It has a see-through cover.

Inside *that* box is Ruth's wedding dress.

105 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - MASTER BEDROOM - A MOMENT LATER 105

Bridget is gingerly pulling the dress up over Emma's torso.

Emma is swimming in it.

BRIDGET

God. It's huge.

Emma looks down at it.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
I guess she *was* fat then.

EMMA
Could we take it in?

BRIDGET
Yeah. I'll have ta hold it for now
or it's gonna fall off.

EMMA
I wanna see it.

BRIDGET
Go in the bathroom.

Carefully, they walk, Bridget holding the dress closed.

106 INT. RIVER FOREST CONDO - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 106

They round the corner into the bathroom and step before the full length mirror.

It takes Emma's breath away. She stares at her reflection until tears come to her eyes. Behind her, Bridget smiles.

107 INT. BERT'S THUNDERBIRD - DAY 107

Sinatra plays on the radio.

The top is down. The car heads into the sun, past California wine country, pulling a small U-Haul behind.

Bridget drives. Ruth is in the front seat, a scarf on her head, singing happily with Frank. Emma sits in the backseat.

All three wear aviators.

108 EXT. BRIDGET'S NEW HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY 108

It's a golden California afternoon. On the front porch of a small Victorian, Bridget and Ruth rock on a porch swing.

Bridget's arm is draped across the back of the swing. There is no ring on her finger.

RUTH
'Cause I was a fountain girl, in...

BRIDGET
Amboy.

RUTH

In Amboy, and my father would come home on the trains, he was a - a...

BRIDGET

An engineer.

RUTH

And he would bring me chocolate malts every day when I had...

BRIDGET

Polio.

RUTH

Polio, that's right, he brought me chocolate malts every day and consequently...

BRIDGET

You got fat.

RUTH

Yup. I got very very fat.

Ruth turns to Bridget.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Who are we missing? Aren't we missing somebody?

Bridget takes Ruth's locket, opens it and puts it in her hands. Ruth looks at it.

RUTH (CONT'D)

My boyfriend.

She closes the locket and kisses it.

RUTH (CONT'D)

He's home, he's waitin' for me.

BRIDGET

Is he?

RUTH

Oh, sure. He's always hangin' around, bossin' me every which way, that turkey.

She sips her scotch.

RUTH (CONT'D)

This is such a nice house.

BRIDGET
Isn't it?

RUTH
Whose house is it?

BRIDGET
It's my house.

Ruth turns to her.

RUTH
Good for you. Are ya married?

BRIDGET
No.

RUTH
Oh, yer love is out there waitin'
for ya. God doesn't forget. Your
love is out there and when he finds
you, he is never gonna let you go,
never ever ever. You'll see.

They rock in the swing. Ruth sips her scotch.

109 INT. NURSING HOME - LONG HALLWAY - DAY 109

Bridget and Ruth walk arm in arm down a long hallway with double doors at the end. Ruth rubs Bridget's arm.

RUTH
Oh, I'm so proud a you, honey. I
love ya so much I can hardly stand
it.

They arrive at the double doors. Bridget punches a code into a keypad on the wall. The doors unlock with a click.

110 INT. NURSING HOME - MEMORY NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS 110

It is bright and cheery. Vintage clothes, old movie posters line the walls. A sign reads *Welcome To The Neighborhood!*

A FEMALE AIDE walks through a doorway and smiles at Ruth.

RUTH
(to the Aide; with glee)
Is that my baby?

She lets go of Bridget and throws her arms around the Aide.

The Aide hugs her back, waving at Bridget over Ruth's shoulder.

Bridget quietly watches Ruth guide the Aide down the hall, arm in arm - just as she did with Bridget a moment before.

RUTH (CONT'D)
 (to the Aide)
 Are ya married yet, honey?

AIDE
 Not yet.

RUTH
 Oh, yer love is waiting for ya, he
 is never gonna let you go, never
 ever ever...

Bridget watches them disappear around the corner. Ruth never once looked back at Bridget.

It never gets easier to be forgotten.

111 EXT. NURSING HOME - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER 111

Bridget walks to Bert's Thunderbird, parked in the lot with the top down.

She gets in. Starts the engine. Frank Sinatra begins to sing.

She looks over her shoulder and backs out of the parking space, then puts the car in Drive and faces forward.

Gasps.

An ENORMOUS WILD TURKEY stands directly in front of the car.

It is staring right at her.

She stares back at it.

Their eyes are locked for a long moment.

And then Bridget laughs.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.