

Home Sweets Home

by

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EXT. PORCH/YARD - DAY

BEA, an elderly woman stands on her porch and watches. A moving van backs out of her driveway.

A mini-bus pulls up to her house: Ozark Senior Transport Service.

Bea scowls.

Walks haltingly down her steps onto the sidewalk. She pulls her shoulders back. Her stride gets stronger.

A bus driver, wearing a white shirt with a patch OSTS, steps out of the bus and walks toward her.

Bea sees the real estate sign next to her sidewalk.

She tries to pull the sign out of the ground, but upon failing, rips off the sold placard and sails it like a frisbee toward her porch where it clatters as it hits.

The bus driver tries to take Bea's arm.

She slaps his hand away and walks steadily toward the bus.

The driver shakes his head and follows her.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Computer screen: The screensaver is a picture of a man in his early 20s. He wears an Arizona Cubs Rookie League uniform.

An older woman, his mother, leans in and kisses him on the cheek. Another young woman, not much older than he, stands a few feet away looking at them.

The picture changes to a later view of the two with him holding a small child and sitting in the bleachers of a major league baseball park.

The child wears a Molina jersey while the young man wears a Pujols jersey. The woman munches on a bag of popcorn.

The third picture fades in, and it is the same woman a few years older. She wears a Pujols jersey. Sitting beside her is a boy of about 10 with a Molina jersey.

The computer screen fades out.

MIRIAM LANGLEY, the woman in the photo, now in her late 30s, wears ear buds and looks at the computer screen. A big sigh.

She clicks her mouse on a file.

VALERIE HANLON, 30s, walks into the room, looks into a book she holds, shakes her head, and walks toward Miriam.

She touches her shoulder and Miriam jumps. She sees Valerie and stands up.

Valerie studies the computer screen.

VALERIE
What are you doing ...

She looks into the book.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
Miss Langley?

Miriam smiles.

MIRIAM
I'm putting together a commercial
for Joe.

She glances at her book.

VALERIE
Joe's donuts. A regular advertiser,
but you'll need to get him to buy
more. What about ...

She glances at her book again.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
Odetta's Oasis Cupcake Shop.

Miriam smiles.

MIRIAM
As soon as I put the finishing
touches on this commercial --

VALERIE
We have a production team.

She starts to leave, but then stops.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
The station might change formats.

Miriam frowns.

MIRIAM
Is that a good idea?

VALERIE

Why don't we let the station manager decide and you can concentrate on your sales.

Valerie glances at her book once more.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

Speaking of sales. Beginning next week, you're working straight commission.

MIRIAM

I'm a single mother. With a fixed budget.

VALERIE

Do you consider yourself a good salesman?

MIRIAM

Of course I'm a good ... Salesperson ... but I've had some unexpected expenses --

VALERIE

All the more reason for you to be on the streets selling.

She walks away, but turns back for one last salvo.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

Instead of producing commercials and managing the station.

She exits.

Miriam sags into her seat.

EXT. DIFFERENT PORCH/YARD - DAY

LILLY SLOANE, 12, steps through the front door. A Cubs hat, a Cub jersey, and blue shorts, her attire. A well-worn baseball glove in her hand.

She watches a moving truck pulling away.

She slams her glove on the porch. Her dad, HADEN SLOANE. Late 30s, steps through the door.

He walks to her and puts his arm around her, but she twists away and stares forward.

He sighs.

HADEN

Lilly, your mom would agree with me.

LILLY

She's not here to ask.

HADEN

We're moving to a nice town.

LILLY

It's not Chicago.

She retrieves her glove and walks away.

INT. SLOANE HOUSE - DAY

TODD, 12, peers through the kitchen curtains.

Across their yard, big enough for catch or whiffle ball, is a small cottage.

Bea sits on the porch and rocks.

Todd hears footsteps and turns around to see Miriam.

TODD

She took our clubhouse.

Miriam peeks through the curtains.

MIRIAM

She has nowhere else to go.

Miriam wears her business clothes.

TODD

You don't work on Sunday.

She hesitates, but then squeezes Todd's shoulder.

MIRIAM

The station's changing some things.

Miriam reaches into a cookie jar, grabs two cookies, hesitates, and grabs one more.

TODD

They're stale.

She bites into one of the cookies, frowns, and tosses them toward the trash can. One hits the side and bounces to the floor.

Todd bends, picks, it up, and tosses it in the trash.

TODD (CONT'D)
Seth's coming over.

He stares out the window again.

Miriam touches his shoulder. Todd stiffens and she removes her hand.

MIRIAM
She's not well. If your dad --

TODD
He's not.

Miriam leans on the counter.

TODD (CONT'D)
Is she going to die?

MIRIAM
Todd --

TODD
I'm sorry.

She starts to kiss him, but he turns away and the kiss brushes against his cheek.

EXT. AT THE COTTAGE - DAY

Todd walks slowly to the porch where Bea sits and drinks something.

When he draws close.

BEA
Hi, squirt.

TODD
I'm twelve.

BEA
It's been a while --

TODD
Dad's funeral.

Todd looks up and sees Miriam drive away.

Miriam honks as she drives past.

BEA
Is she working on Sunday?

TODD
She does it for me.

BEA
She didn't say nothin' about me
babysitting --

TODD
I don't need a babysitter.

Todd sizes her up.

Bea lowers her tea cup.

BEA
Staring ain't polite.

She smiles but Todd ignores her.

TODD
Do you need any help in the
clubhouse?

BEA
Clubhouse?

TODD
This was my clubhouse.

BEA
I don't need help.

Todd turns to go.

BEA (CONT'D)
It's rude to leave without saying
goodbye.

Anger rises in his face. He whirls around.

Bea laughs.

BEA (CONT'D)
Your face is gonna freeze that way.

Todd says nothing.

BEA (CONT'D)
Do you want some cookies?

His face lights up.

BEA (CONT'D)
I know your mom don't bake.

Todd snuffs his smile.

TODD
I don't want none.

BEA
Double chocolate chunk.

TODD
(weakening)
I'm not hungry.

BEA
Take some home for you and your
mom.

Todd says nothing.

BEA (CONT'D)
Suit yourself.

She struggles to get out of her chair.

Todd starts to help her up but stops himself.

Bea finally stands.

She looks at him briefly and then goes inside her cottage.

Todd watches her close the door and then he walks to it and
knocks.

Bea opens it immediately.

EXT. YARD - DAY

Todd sits on his own porch; a glove and baseball sits beside
him. He bites into a cookie, looks up to see, Bea on her
porch.

She waves at him, and Todd returns it unenthusiastically.

He finishes the cookie and stands.

SETH LUCAS, a little taller than Todd, slightly pudgy pulls up on a bicycle, grabs a catcher's mitt from the basket, and drops the bicycle.

He holds the glove up just in time for a ball to smack into it.

SETH
You throw like a girl, loser.

Todd enters the scene.

TODD
Girls throw better than you.

SETH
Oh, yeah. I'm pitching first.

He tosses the catcher's mitt to Todd who tosses his fielder's glove to Seth.

Todd crouches.

Bea struggles to stand.

In position now, Seth pitches.

TODD
Ball one.

SETH
That was a strike.

TODD
No it wasn't.

BEA
Yes, it was.

TODD
Don't you have some tea to drink.

BEA
It ain't tea.

Todd glares at her and gets ready for another pitch.

As Seth goes through an elaborate corkscrew windup, Bea walks toward the ball.

The pitch smacks into the catcher's mitt.

BEA (CONT'D)
Now, that was a ball.

Todd grins and tosses the ball back.

BEA (CONT'D)
It was an impressive curveball
though.

Todd loses his grin when Bea walks up and stands behind him.

Todd looks at her like what the hell are you doing.

BEA (CONT'D)
I'll umpire.

EXT. YARD - DAY

The pitching continues, but now Todd pitches.

BEA
Ball.

TODD
That was a strike.

BEA
This umpire's never wrong.

TODD
Can you even see?

Seth laughs.

SETH
Better than you.

Todd throws the next one as hard as he can, and it sails high and hits the side of the cottage.

BEA
Don't break my window.

Todd explodes.

TODD
It's not your window.

Bea looks at him, turns away, and walks unsteadily toward her porch.

LILLY (O.S.)
Could I join you?

The boys turn to see Lilly get off a bicycle and drop it next to Seth's.

SETH
We're playing fast pitch.

As Lilly walks toward them.

LILLY
I don't care.

Bea looks back one more time and wearily climbs the steps.

Todd goes after the ball.

SETH
Do you even know how to pitch?

As Todd returns, Seth punches him in the arm and laughs.

SETH (CONT'D)
Give her the ball, ump.

He crouches and prepares to catch.

While she's walking away, Todd tosses her the ball.

She steps on a worn spot in the yard and turns to face them.

SETH (CONT'D)
You can scoot in if you want.

He grins, looks behind his back at Todd, and winks.

He turns back around and sees Lilly already winding up. She pitches and the ball smacks in his glove almost as quickly as he settles back into his crouch.

He stares at her in disbelief.

TODD
Strike.

SETH
That was a ball.

He tosses the ball back to Lilly who grabs it and immediately gets ready to pitch again.

LILLY
This is my curve.

SETH

So you think you can throw --

The ball comes in and drops so sharply that Seth can't catch it.

TODD

Strike.

Seth looks out at Lilly and stands.

SETH

I think I should probably go home.

LILLY

Could you leave your mitt?

Seth tucks his mitt under his arm and walks toward his bike.

Lilly shakes her head and walks toward Todd. Bea comes through the door of her cottage with a plate of cookies.

He puts on his glove.

TODD

You can pitch to me.

Lilly looks at Bea.

TODD (CONT'D)

My grandma.

LILLY

You hurt her feelings.

Bea waves.

Lilly waves back but Todd doesn't.

LILLY (CONT'D)

Don't you like her?

TODD

She bakes great cookies.

LILLY

She's sweet then. That's a rule.

Lilly laughs.

EXT. PORCH - DAY

Lilly walks toward the porch; Todd follows reluctantly.

LILLY
I'm Lilly Sloane. Todd says I
should eat one of your cookies.

TODD
I didn't say that.

Bea sets the cookies on a small table next to her chair tries
to stand, sinks back down.

BEA
You can't eat just one of my
cookies.

When Bea struggles again, Lilly takes her hand and helps her
up.

BEA (CONT'D)
Are you Haden's girl?

Lilly nods.

BEA (CONT'D)
I got something to show you. Grab a
cookie.

She disappears in the house.

Lilly punches Todd in the arm.

TODD
What?

He grabs his arm because the punch obviously hurt.

LILLY
Where's your manners?

Bea comes through the door with a picture in her hand.

Lilly takes a bite of a cookie. Pleasure spreads over her
face.

BEA
Haden went out with Todd's mom, but
she dumped him right before the
prom and latched onto my son.

Lilly and Todd's eyes meet.

BEA (CONT'D)
They got married.

Lilly and Todd again meet eyes.

Todd shrugs his shoulder and bites into a cookie

LILLY
I'm glad she dumped him.

TODD
It turned out good for both of us.

They giggle.

BEA
If you say so.

They fall silent and chew their cookies thoughtfully.

Bea stands by her chair, hesitating, like she's too tired to make the effort to sit.

Todd offers to help her, but she brushes his hand aside, and kind of plops into her seat.

Bea motions for Lilly.

Lilly stands beside her; Todd joins them

Bea shows them an old picture of two high school cheerleaders and two baseball players standing together and smiling. Friends.

LILLY
That's my mom.

BEA
And your dad.

The other couple is Todd's mom and dad.

BEA (CONT'D)
I always liked Haden. He and my boy
were best friends.

She sighs.

BEA (CONT'D)
I always figured your mom would
wind up with my boy. How's she
doing anyway?

Lilly's hand with the cookie stops midway to her mouth and drops. She looks away.

LILLY
A drunk driver killed her.

BEA
My son got killed in Afghanistan.

Todd looks away. Lilly watches him.

BEA (CONT'D)
I'm sure your dad went on and did
great things.

Bea looks longingly at the picture and then puts it face down
on the table.

BEA (CONT'D)
Grant, my son, played baseball for
a while. Scouts said he had great
promise, but he married Todd's mom
and gave up the dream. It all
should have been different.

Todd lurches forward.

TODD
I'm going home.

He shoves half a cookie in his mouth as he goes.

Lilly follows him. As she's leaving...

BEA
Your mom was a lucky woman.

LILLY
Not lucky enough.

EXT. YARD - DAY

Todd walks toward his house but Lilly catches up with him and
takes his hand.

He relaxes.

LILLY
Wslk me to the road.

She smiles.

When they've walked a few steps, Lilly looks back at Bea.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Your grandma is an exception.

She glances behind her once more.

LILLY (CONT'D)
To the great cookie rule.

AT THE ROAD - DAY

Lilly takes one last look at Bea.

LILLY
Is your mom lonely?

Todd nods.

LILLY (CONT'D)
So is my dad.

INT. JOE'S DONUT SHOP - DAY

Miriam walks through the front door of the shop, a bell tinkling to announce her arrival.

JOE GEDDY looks up. He is a little grizzled and could be any age from 40-80.

He wipes his hands on a dirty white apron.

JOE
I thought only old losers like me
worked on Sunday.

Miriam smiles and sits down at a table.

Joe reaches into a display case and pulls out a scrumptious looking donut.

JOE (CONT'D)
Caramel truffle.

He puts it on a plate, reaches for a coffee pot.

When Miriam waves him off.

He puts the plate in front of her.

MIRIAM
I can offer you a good deal on your
next advertising package.

JOE
I don't think so.

Miriam smiles.

MIRIAM
I'll have to talk to Odetta then.

Her voice trails off when she sees Joe staring at the table.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

When Miriam picks up the donut, Joe turns away from her and heads for the counter.

Miriam hesitates.

Joe picks up some papers lying on the counter.

Miriam bites into her donut. Bliss spreads over her face.

She takes another bite.

Joe drops a paper on the table in front of her.

Miriam glances at it.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
KROK?

JOE
They want my money.

Miriam looks at a card.

MIRIAM
They have baseball now?

She frowns; worry creases her brow.

JOE
And a brand new advertising package
to go with it. Their brand new,
hometown-hero, come-back-home
hotshot account executive will stop
by next week to give me the
details.

Miriam stares at the card.

JOE (CONT'D)
I ain't buying.

Relieved, she bites into the donut and smiles.

JOE (CONT'D)
From you either.

Miriam sets her donut down.

JOE (CONT'D)
My rent's going up, and I'm getting
out.

Not thinking, Miriam takes another bite of her donut.

JOE (CONT'D)
I can't pay 25% more.

Miriam takes the last bite.

JOE (CONT'D)
30 years gone.

He chuckles sadly.

JOE (CONT'D)
Just like that donut.

Joe picks up her plate and starts for the counter.

He pauses at the double aluminum doors leading to the
kitchen.

JOE (CONT'D)
Odell's open on Sunday too. She'll
buy from you if you lie and tell
her I doubled my advertising
package.

INT. ODETTA'S OASIS AND CUPCAKE HOUSE - DAY

Miriam steps through the door and the tinkling bell gets the
attention of the shop owner ODETTA LYNSY.

Odetta is about 60-65, tall, immaculately dressed.

Odetta places a cupcake in a display case close to the
counte, looks up, pulls a cloth out of her apron pocket, and
wipes her hands.

MIRIAM
Good afternoon, Mrs. Lyndsy.

ODETTA
Mrs. Lyndsy, not valued merchant?

Miriam is puzzled.

ODETTA (CONT'D)
I don't do business that way.

MIRIAM

I'm sorry. Did I offend you
somehow?

Odetta slams the display case door. She straightens and
marches around the counter.

ODETTA

I don't do something just because
Joe does it.

Odetta stops right in front of Miriam, who feeling a little
bit intimidated, steps back against the door.

ODETTA (CONT'D)

And I don't give a rip about
Cardinals baseball.

Miriam's confusion and alarm deepens. She reaches backward
and prepares to push the door open quickly so she can escape.

MIRIAM

I don't know what you're talking
about.

It dawns on Miriam.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

But, Mrs. Lyndsy, I don't work at
KROK.

Miriam release the door handle.

ODETTA

I'm not your teacher. Call me
Odetta.

MIRIAM

I work for KOLR; Color your life
with country.

ODETTA

I don't like country music. Sit
down, Miriam.

MIRIAM

I can make it another time.

ODETTA

Don't you want to talk about
advertising?

Miriam nods, almost too afraid to speak.

Odetta walks toward the back again.

Miriam shuffles to the nearest table, sits, and tries to make herself small.

ODETTA (CONT'D)
Our special today is Caramel
Truffle. Would you like a dark
roast or a light roast with that?

MIRIAM
I don't really need anything.

Odetta pours one cup of coffee and looks up at Miriam sitting in the back.

ODETTA
How do you ever expect to do
genuine advertising if you've never
tried the product? And I don't do
business without having my
coffee.

Odetta pours another cup of coffee and sets both on small plates.

ODETTA (CONT'D)
Sit up here by the counter. I don't
want to walk clean across the room.

She sets two creamer cups, a packet of sugar or sweetener, and a spoon on the plate.

She goes back to the case and selects two of the most scrumptious looking cupcakes imaginable.

She sets a coffee cup in front of Miriam who looks at it but does not pick it up.

ODETTA (CONT'D)
My coffee is better than Joe's. And
before we move on, don't try to
manipulate me by telling me how
much advertising Joe bought.

She smiles at Miriam.

MIRIAM
Joe's going out of business.

Odetta's eyes widen and her smile fades.

She drops into her chair

INT. SLOANE HOUSE - DAY

Lilly walks into her house.

Todd tags along behind her

Boxes cover the floor.

Two bean-bag chairs sit in front of a huge television.

Haden enters from another room.

HADEN

Another one?

Lilly and Todd look at each other and shrug.

LILLY

This is Todd. His mom dumped you
right before prom.

HADEN

You're Becca's son?

TODD

Miriam.

Haden searches his memory.

TODD (CONT'D)

Langley is her name now. You knew
my dad.

HADEN

Oh, that Miriam.

He shakes Todd's hand.

HADEN (CONT'D)

Your dad should have made it to the
majors.

TODD

That's what Grandma says.

Haden turns on his television to a baseball game. The
Cardinals.

HADEN

Awesome.

Then he turns it off and looks back at Todd and

HADEN (CONT'D)
So who's the other kid you're
stringing along.

He laughs.

LILLY
What kid?

He digs into a box and pulls out some pictures. One of him
and his wife.

He sighs and turns his attention back to the kids.

HADEN
Dark hair. A little pudgy.

Lilly looks at Todd and shrugs.

HADEN (CONT'D)
He had a catcher's mitt.

Then, her eyes widen and she covers her mouth in surprise.

LILLY
How does he know where I live?

TODD
That's creepy.

HADEN
Maybe he likes you.

Lilly smiles.

Todd isn't quite sure how to take this.

Lilly blinks, comes back to the present, and nudges Todd with
her elbow.

Todd stares at her.

She winks at Todd.

Haden rips open a box and pulls out a long slender box used
to store baseball cards.

TODD
Since you guys are old friends, we
thought you'd like to catch up.

HADEN
It would be nice to talk to your
dad.

Todd turns away from them. An awkward second of silence.

LILLY
(whispers)
His dad is dead.

HADEN
I'm sorry, Todd. I haven't ...
hadn't ... seen Grant ... your dad
since I did play by play for the
team.

TODD
You broadcast his games?

Haden goes to another box and pulls out a picture of him and Todd's dad in a Cub's uniform.

In the picture, Haden holds a microphone up to Grant's mouth.

He hands it to Todd who gingerly holds it.

HADEN
He was one of the best pitchers I
ever saw. Even better than me.

LILLY
And he got the girl too. Geez, Dad,
you're a loser.

Todd doesn't hear.

Haden smiles.

HADEN
I'd love to see Miriam.

Lilly picks up the box and opens it. Baseball cards stuff it.

LILLY
I'll show you my cards later.

HADEN
I have the greatest collection of
stuff my dad left ...

In an attempt to lighten the mood.

HADEN (CONT'D)
Your mom wouldn't happen to have a
cold beer.

LILLY

And maybe some double, chocolate-chunk cookies.

TODD

Gross.

Haden laughs.

HADEN

Anything goes with beer.

INT. LANGLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Miriam sits on her sofa; spread out before her are several papers: bills.

She picks them up, looks them over, and then hears someone turn the door knob.

She snatches them all up at once and stuffs them haphazardly into a folder.

Todd opens the door and enters with Haden and Lilly.

Miriam recoils at the site of Haden.

TODD

Look who I found.

LILLY

I'm Lilly and this is my dad.

TODD

The guy you were supposed to go to the prom with.

Haden smiles.

HADEN

Your son tells me you might have a cold beer or two.

MIRIAM

What brings you here?

HADEN

Our children.

He winks at her.

HADEN (CONT'D)
I think they have some things in
common.

Lilly and Todd say the next line simultaneously.

LILLY
The Cubs.

TODD
The Cardinals.

Aghast, they take a step away from each other.

LILLY AND TODD (TOGETHER)
What?

BOTH AGAIN
You didn't tell me --

HADEN
Take it outside, kids.

When they're gone.

HADEN (CONT'D)
I think the kids are hatching some
scheme to get us together.

Miriam doesn't know what to say. She absentmindedly opens
the folder, frowns, remembers where she is and looks up.

HADEN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about your husband.

MIRIAM
I guess you and Rachel divorced.

HADEN
She was killed by a drunk driver.

Miriam looks away.

MIRIAM
I didn't mean to --

HADEN
Understandable.

MIRIAM
I guess we really are alone.

HADEN
We have the kids.

Miriam smiles.

Haden laughs.

HADEN (CONT'D)

I think your mother-in-law told the kids you dumped me before the prom.

MIRIAM

That old hag!

He laughs again.

HADEN

Still some tension there, huh?
Please, don't tell Lilly any different. I've convinced her that I'm a nice guy.

Miriam laughs and stands.

MIRIAM

I'll get us that beer.

Haden glances at the folder. One of the papers peaks from the folder.

On the top. Overdue Notice.

Miriam comes back into the living room.

Haden looks away from the paper.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Bea made these.

She sets cookies on the table beside his chair and sets a bottle of beer down.

HADEN

Have you tried them?

MIRIAM

They're heavenly.

HADEN

Not poison?

Miriam laughs, hands him a beer, and some cookies.

MIRIAM

She made them for Todd, or I'd be worried.

She walks toward the couch.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

I don't bake. Another reason why I wasn't good enough for her son.

She falls strangely silent, sees the folder, picks it up, and slides it into a drawer in the lamp table.

HADEN

Are you still crazy about the Cardinals or have you finally faced reality?

They take a bite of cookie at the same time, set them down and in synch take a drink of beer.

MIRIAM

Once A Cardinal always a Cardinal. You should see the collection of memorabilia my husband passed down to Todd.

HADEN

All Cardinal bobbleheads no doubt.

MIRIAM

No bobbleheads. I think some of it might be valuable.

HADEN

Have you ever had it assessed?

MIRIAM

I took pictures of it, and I was going to, but why? I'd never get rid of it as long as Todd is alive.

She rifles through the drawer and finds an envelop full of pictures.

She takes them to Haden and he looks them over.

HADEN

If you still have all of these, you're sitting on a small fortune.

He continues looking them over.

HADEN (CONT'D)

I hope you have them in a safe place.

MIRIAM
In Todd's room.

He shuffles through the pictures.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Todd's all-time favorite is the
special edition piece printed for
the 1998 home run race.

She laughs.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
He likes it even though it has a
Sammy Sosa on it.

Haden stops and stares at a picture. He sets all the photos
except for one on the table.

His eyes widen, and his mouth forms a small O of surprise and
joy.

HADEN
An autographed Ron Santo card.

MIRIAM
Grant admired him.

HADEN
He was my hero.

He looks up at Miriam.

HADEN (CONT'D)
Could I please go see it?

MIRIAM
I will ... If you apologize for
dumping me before the prom.

Haden laughs.

Miriam does not, and Haden notices.

HADEN
That was a long time ago, Miriam.
I've changed.

MIRIAM
I hope so.

EXT. YARD - DAY

Bea sits on the porch in her chair and watches Todd and Lilly walk across the yard. Then turns her attention to the road.

Lilly waves at her.

LILLY
Hello, Miss Bea.

Bea doesn't really answer, just kind of stares off in space.

TODD
Really? The Cubs?

Almost to the porch, Todd addresses Bea.

TODD (CONT'D)
Tell her how much better the
Cardinals--

BEA
Just leave me alone.

Todd and Lilly look at each other.

SETH (O.S.)
Hi, Lilly.

Lilly looks up to see Seth coming into the yard.

As an afterthought

SETH (CONT'D)
Todd.

Lilly frowns, glances back at Todd.

LILLY
Why'd you come to my house?

SETH
I thought maybe --

TODD
It's creepy.

LILLY
No, it's not.

Todd glances at her in confusion.

TODD
You said ...

He turns to Seth, hesitates for a beat, then

TODD (CONT'D)
I thought --

LILLY
You should avoid thinking; you
might hurt your brain. What do you
think of the Cubs, Seth?

Seth freezes, glances at Lilly, and then Todd.

TODD
He hates the Cubs.

Lilly's eyes narrow; she glares at Seth.

SETH
I've never said I hate them.

LILLY
Walk me home, Seth.

She walks past him a few feet and then turns back to him.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Come along.

Seth looks at Todd smiles, shrugs, and catches up with her.

BEA
I think she's stupid for choosing
him over you.

TODD
Just like you think my dad was
stupid for choosing my mom.

Bea doesn't know how to respond.

TODD (CONT'D)
If you really care for someone, you
want them to be happy.

He walks away from Bea toward home.

Bea winces, watches him go.

INT. LANGLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Haden looks through the glass case at the memorabilia.

Miriam opens it and pulls out a card.

Haden stares.

MIRIAM

You also got Harry Carey for a while. My grandpa never forgave the Cardinals for firing him.

She laughs.

HADEN

I preferred this guy. Ron Santo inspired me to go into broadcasting. He was a great player too.

A silence falls over them.

They look at each other, smile briefly, then Miriam frowns.

MIRIAM

Ironic. You couldn't wait to get out of here because it was a backward hick town that had nothing to do.

HADEN

It didn't.

MIRIAM

Yet, you're back. With your daughter no less.

HADEN

I didn't want Lilly to grow up in the city.

MIRIAM

But why here?

She turns and walks out of the bedroom, back into the living room.

Haden doesn't notice she's left.

HADEN

This collection is worth thousands of ...

He turns around and doesn't see her.

He takes his phone out and takes a few pictures, then follows after her.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Miriam takes a drink of beer and sets it on the table, picks up a cookie and bites into it.

MIRIAM
What do you think?

HADEN
Impressive and worth a lot of
money.

Miriam glances at the folder with all her bills.

MIRIAM
It's always about money.

Haden sits down and picks up his beer.

HADEN
I could transfer here, so I did. I
won't make as much money at the
start, but we do have the
Cardinals.

MIRIAM
Cardinals?

He smiles and drinks his beer.

He picks up the cookie. It breaks in half and part of it falls on the floor.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
What do you mean you have the
Cardinals?

HADEN
The station.

MIRIAM
(Pronouncing it crock)
You work for KROK?

HADEN
K. R. O. K. Rock of your life.

MIRIAM
I work for K.O. L. R.

HADEN
Collar?

He smiles.

MIRIAM
Color your country.

He sips his beer, looks warily at her, then picks up the cookie. He has chocolate on his fingers. Licks it off, sees her penetrating glare, stops.

HADEN
D.J.

MIRIAM
No.

HADEN
Receptionist?

MIRIAM
Because that's a woman's job?

She takes a vicious bite from her cookie.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Are you a sleaze ball account executive? Isn't that a man's job?

He laughs and temporarily relieves some of the tension.

HADEN
Minus the sleazeball.

MIRIAM
So you're the hotshot local boy coming back to work for the merchants of the town?

HADEN
I'm here to serve.

MIRIAM
By offering them exorbitantly priced advertising packages for baseball games played by a team that might not even be worth a crap. Oh, but that won't matter because you can always lock them into long-term contracts.

Haden sits silent, beer in one hand, half eaten cookie in the other.

He sets them both down, surreptitiously wipes his fingers on the side of the chair.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
I'll be sure to warn my own
clients.

Haden grabs his beer again.

HADEN
We service two different markets.
This town's probably big enough for
the both of us.

MIRIAM
Probably.

HADEN
I just hope you don't work straight
commission. I don't want to take
money out of your budget.

He laughs. Miriam doesn't.

She stands.

MIRIAM
I'm tired.

Haden sets his bottle down and gets up.

INT. BEA'S HOUSE - DAY

The small cottage has three main rooms.

A small bedroom. A bathroom. The kitchen and living room are
essentially one room.

Bea walks toward the kitchen.

BEA
They're all foolish. Every single
one of them.

She reaches for the counter to grab one of the cookies there.

Instead, she GASPS, and puts her hand over her chest.

BEA (CONT'D)
No. Not ...

She puts her hand over her chest.

She MOANS in pain and looks around. On a small table next to
her chair is her phone.

She staggers toward the living room, collapses on the couch but manages to grab her phone.

BEA (CONT'D)

Dead.

She tries to stand, but falls on the floor.

She MOANS again and then falls silent.

EXT. BEA'S PORCH - DAY

Todd stands on the porch, sighs, and reluctantly knocks.

TODD

Can I talk to you?

He knocks again when no one answers.

Silence.

TODD (CONT'D)

I want to apologize.

He knocks again. Still no answer. He tries the door.

TODD (CONT'D)

Grandma?

It opens, and he sees Bea on the floor.

EXT. YARD - DAY

Haden walks out the door of the Langley home.

He glances back.

TODD (O.S.)

Help!

Todd runs into the scene.

Haden catches him.

TODD (CONT'D)

She's dead!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Todd looks at Bea lying in bed, two IV drips in her arms. Machines monitor her vitals.

Miriam sleeps lightly in a chair.

Haden enters the room and looks at Todd.

HADEN
Are you going to be all right?

Todd doesn't react, stares at the floor.

HADEN (CONT'D)
The doctors said she'll probably be
okay.

He walks toward Todd, reaches out to touch him.

Todd looks up.

Haden pulls his hand back, looks at Miriam, back at Todd.

TODD
I was awful to her.

Haden turns his attention back to Todd, slowly reaches out
and squeezes his shoulder.

HADEN
Your grandma is, well, kind of a
witch.

TODD
I know, but I don't want her to
die.

From her bed...

BEA
I ain't dead yet.

Todd jumps up.

Haden shuffles toward the door.

BEA (CONT'D)
But you will be, Haden.

Todd's mom wakes.

Haden ducks out the door.

INT. ODETTA'S OASIS AND CUPCAKE HOUSE - DAY

Miriam enters and sees Haden sitting at a table eating a cupcake and drinking coffee.

He sees her and waves. He takes the last bite of cupcake and walks toward her.

HADEN

The cupcakes are heavenly.

Odetta looks up from behind the counter and smiles.

Haden exits.

Miriam walks toward Odetta who smiles brightly.

ODETTA

How about a cupcake? Chocolate
Cream caramel.

MIRIAM

My stomach is a little unsettled.

ODETTA

How's your mother-in-law?

MIRIAM

Okay. She's too quiet. Like she's
up to something. Just like someone
else I know.

When Miriam looks toward the door and frowns, Odetta laughs.

ODETTA

He's too scared to ask me to
advertise.

Miriam laughs and sits.

Odetta brings out two cups of coffee and then goes back to the display cabinet.

MIRIAM

It's about time to renew your
advertising package.

ODETTA

I don't know, Miriam, business has
been slow for me too.

MIRIAM

I can offer you 15 spots for 12
dollars a piece.

ODETTA
That's lower than I usually pay.

MIRIAM
Times are tough for all of us.

INT. WORK ROOM OF RADIO - DAY

Miriam sits at her computer checking a few things.

Valerie comes into the workroom.

VALERIE
Miriam. I've looked over your sales
report.

Miriam smiles and rolls her desk a few inches closer.

MIRIAM
Odetta renewed.

She waits in anticipation.

VALERIE
Your sales are way down this past
month.

Miriam's smile vanishes and she rolls her chair back away
from Valerie.

MIRIAM
My mother-in-law had a heart
attack.

She turns back to her work.

VALERIE
Why did you give Odetta a lower
rate?

Slowly, she turns her chair back around.

Valerie glares at her.

MIRIAM
Her business is a little slow.

VALERIE
You had no authorization.

MIRIAM
She's a new customer. I don't want
the radio station --

VALERIE

You're not the sales manager.

Miriam falls silent.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

Your sales are down 25%. You lost one customer. The one new customer you got is paying less than what is profitable.

MIRIAM

I'm sorry.

VALERIE

You are no longer an asset to the station. I wish you luck.

She turns on her heels.

Miriam watches her leave, slowly turns back to her computer.

She shuts it down, picks up her purse, stands, but then sinks back into her chair.

She wipes her eyes.

EXT. YARD - CONTINUOUS

Todd sits on the porch.

Lilly pitches the ball and it cracks into Seth's catching mitt.

He winces.

SETH

Outside.

TODD

It was a strike, just like the last 25 pitches.

Lilly chuckles.

Seth stands and casually tosses his catcher's mitt toward Todd.

Todd looks toward the road and sees his mom drive by and pull into the driveway.

BEA
From working on Sundays to coming
home before noon.

TODD
She never does that.

Todd turns and sees Seth throws a hard grounder toward Lilly.

Lilly snags it and turns, throwing it as hard as she can. The ball smacks into Seth's glove and then falls out of it.

Seth picks it up and does it again.

Lilly has no problems catching it also.

LILLY
You can't get anything past
Zamboni.

She holds the glove up and shakes it.

SETH
It's falling apart.

LILLY
It's been on my hand for three town
league championships.

SETH
Not much competition?

Seth quickly tosses the ball to Lilly, hoping to catch her off guard, but she snags it.

Lilly tosses the ball back to Seth.

Seth and Lilly throw a few more times.

Todd throws his hands up and drops his glove.

TODD
I'll be right here eating cookiess.

He sits by Bea who chuckles.

BEA
You got to admit. She's a cute one.

TODD
I ain't got to admit nothing.

BEA
Your grammar sucks.

TODD
My grammar --

BEA
Don't dare start with the my
grammar is so old jokes. They're
not funny.

Todd laughs at her.

BEA (CONT'D)
How in the name of unholy Hades do
you ever expect to win that girl if
you can't even tell her how you
feel?

TODD
I don't.

Sean finally notices that Todd isn't playing catch with them
and stops.

Lilly notices too, and embarrassed, she pulls her glove off.

LILLY
I need to go.

SETH
It's been fun.

Todd looks at Bea who puts her finger in her mouth and makes
a gagging noise.

Lilly starts to leave but stops.

LILLY
Baseball tryouts are next week.

Seth suddenly throws the ball at Lilly who catches it with
ease.

LILLY (CONT'D)
My dad's a coach and he wants you
two losers to try out for his team.

Lilly throws the ball back at Seth, and he drops it. She
notices that Todd bites into a cookie.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Dad got some gift certificates from
Joe's donuts.

SETH
I love donuts.

LILLY
Let me know when you two want to
go.

Seth frowns.

SETH
Do we have to take Todd?

He laughs, but Lilly looks at him like he's stupid.

When she walks away, Seth sits by Todd.

TODD
I love donuts?

SETH
Joe's donuts. I didn't think he
ever gave anything away.

TODD
He's thanking his customers.

BEA
Who's Joe?

TODD
Only the best baker in the whole
town.

SETH
For donuts. Odetta has the best
cupcakes.

TODD
Tied for best then.

BEA
Second best. I'm first.

Todd looks at Bea and laughs.

BEA (CONT'D)
What's your favorite pie?

TODD
Lemon meringue.

BEA
I'll bake one this weekend.

Todd glances at Seth.

BEA (CONT'D)
It won't be as sweet as that little
girl though.

TODD
Yuck.

SETH
You don't like her?

BEA
No, he doesn't.

Todd smolders and stares at Bea.

SETH
I kind of like her.

Todd laughs.

TODD
You'll never work up the courage to
tell her.

Seth looks down.

BEA
Don't be a butthead.

SETH
He's right, Miss Bea.

TODD
If you can't talk to her, text her.
That way you don't have to watch
her laugh in your face.

He punches Seth in the arm.

BEA
You don't text a girl to tell her
you like her.

SETH
I'm doomed.

Seth stares at the ground, his shoulders slumped.

BEA
A sweet letter would work.

TODD
You can't be serious.

BEA
We can help you write one.

She thinks for a beat.

BEA (CONT'D)
Sweets for the sweet.

Seth looks at Todd who just shrugs his shoulders and rolls his eyes.

BEA (CONT'D)
My sweet pastry. You are the sprinkles on my donut.

SETH
She can't be serious. Todd?

TODD
Be quiet.

Todd thinks for a second and smiles.

TODD (CONT'D)
My eyes glaze over when I see you!

BEA
Brilliant.

TODD
I was kidding.

She starts to get up, but struggles.

Todd helps her.

Bea smiles at him.

BEA
I'll get some paper.

EXT. OUTSIDE LILLY'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

Seth and Todd stand on the porch.

Seth fidgets.

SETH
I'm going to blow chunks.

Seth reaches for the door but then pulls his hand back.

TODD
Do you for sure like her?

Seth reaches for the door, but stops.

Todd pushes the doorbell.

SETH
I'm going to pee myself.

He shoves the paper into Todd's hands and runs.

Lilly opens the door and glares at Todd.

He holds the paper out.

TODD
From Seth.

LILLY
He's a coward.

She ignores the paper.

LILLY (CONT'D)
You read it.

TODD
It ain't mine.

LILLY
Isn't. Good bye.

She starts to close the door.

TODD
Okay.

He clears his throat.

TODD (CONT'D)
My pastry. You are the sprinkles on
my donut.

LILLY
Sweet.

She laughs.

TODD
My eyes glaze over when I see you.

Lilly stares.

Todd, uncomfortable, clears his throat again.

TODD (CONT'D)
You are my cupcake.

Lilly snorts.

LILLY
I knew he was weird.

TODD
You are sweet ... icing.

She stares.

TODD (CONT'D)
I sing. You know, "Take me out to
the ball game."

She still stares.

TODD (CONT'D)
Icing, like vanilla. You make me
sing, like music.

She snorts again.

TODD (CONT'D)
I want your sugar to drop over me
like sprinkles.

Lilly howls.

Todd can barely talk. Through laughter ...

TODD (CONT'D)
Back to Sprinkles. It comes back
around.

LILLY
Around ... like a donut.

Both burst out laughing.

LILLY (CONT'D)
I can't breathe.

TODD
Think of something else.

LILLY
Like pie.

She still laughs.

Todd ponders.

TODD
I'm feeling ... your love filling
my plate.

LILLY
It's peachy.

Todd stares.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Like pie feeling!

Lilly bursts once again into laughter, finally calms.

TODD
No matter how you slice it.

She loses control again.

TODD (CONT'D)
My sweet tooth you alleviate.

LILLY
Please stop. Don't make me
regurgitate.

They both howl now.

When they calm, Lilly yanks the paper from Todd.

TODD
What should I tell Seth?

LILLY
It was funny.

She pauses.

LILLY (CONT'D)
But I'm cutting down on sweets.

She starts to close the door but stops.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Oh, I almost forgot. Dad says he
can get us some tickets to watch
the Cardinals.

TODD
Awesome.

LILLY

I told him I don't watch losers.

She slams the door shut.

INT. LANGLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Miriam sits on the couch. Tears wet her eyes.

A box of personal belongings sits next to her chair.

A KNOCK on the door.

She doesn't move.

The doorknob twists, and Bea walks in.

Miriam wipes her eyes again.

MIRIAM

Where's Todd?

BEA

He went to that girl's house.

Bea stares at Miriam who looks away and tries to hide her face.

BEA (CONT'D)

I know this is probably none of my business, but what's wrong?

MIRIAM

Nothing's wrong.

Bea sees the box of Miriam's personal effects.

BEA

You lost your job.

MIRIAM

You're right; it's none of your business.

Bea stares at the folder of unpaid bills.

Miriam wipes her eyes.

BEA

I can help.

MIRIAM

No, you can't.

BEA
I can pay rent.

MIRIAM
No. I owe it to Grant to see you're
taken care of.

BEA
I could give you some money.

Miriam's head jerks up.

MIRIAM
I don't want to owe you anything!

Miriam freezes. She rests her head in her hands.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
I didn't mean that.

Miriam straightens up.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Bea, I'm angry, and I'm upset.

BEA
And you were telling the truth.

Miriam sags against the couch and looks down.

BEA (CONT'D)
I understand why you feel that way
about me.

Surprised, Miriam looks up.

BEA (CONT'D)
Does Todd know?

MIRIAM
I don't want him to. He has enough
to worry about.

BEA
Okay. I'll go now, so you can be
alone.

She heads for the door but pauses.

BEA (CONT'D)
If you want me to.

MIRIAM
Please.

BEA

All right. I promised Todd a pie.

Bea takes one last look at Miriam and leaves.

EXT. BEA'S PORCH - DAY

Todd, Seth, and Lilly sit on the porch. Each of them munches on a piece of lemon meringue pie.

BEA

This was your dad's favorite.

LILLY

You could sell this in a bakery.

Bea watches as each one takes a bite of their pie.

BEA

I never thought about that.

They eat silently for a beat.

Seth looks up at Lilly.

Bea watches him carefully.

TODD

The school dance is coming up.

SETH

Who cares?

LILLY

It might be fun, but I'm not going by myself.

Seth smiles and watches Lilly eat.

Bea watches Seth.

They return to their pie.

LILLY (CONT'D)

My dad's going to coach a little league team. He wants me to be one of the pitchers.

SETH

You?

LILLY
I was the top pitcher on my team
last year.

She hesitates, looks sad.

SETH
Must have been a pretty weak team.

LILLY
I told Dad you were a good player.

SETH
Thanks.

LILLY
Not you. Todd.

SETH
I don't want to be on a team that
lets girls pitch anyway. That's
just stupid.

Lilly stands up, anger flaring in her face.

LILLY
Do you want to know what's really
stupid ... Mr. Donut hole?

Bea sits straight up, smiles.

Todd glances at her and sees her expression.

Seth stands up.

SETH
What's stupid ... Miss ...

He can't think of anything to call her.

LILLY
A letter about donuts and cupcakes.

Her words deflate him.

He looks from Todd to Bea.

Todd jumps up and steps between the two of them.

TODD
Go ahead and ask her.

LILLY
Ask me what?

Todd glances at Seth and then back to Lilly.

TODD
You don't have to go to the dance
alone.

Lilly smiles.

TODD (CONT'D)
Seth would love to --

SETH
If you think I'm going with Seth,
you're just as stupid as he is.

Seth stands, obviously hurt, turns, and walks away.

Todd runs to him and grabs his arm, but Seth knocks it away
and keeps walking.

Todd and Lilly watch him go.

LILLY
I've don't know where he got the
idea I liked him. He's so weird.

Bea stands up and stretches.

BEA
"My pastry. You are the sprinkles on
my donut." How did he ever expect
to win you over with something so
stupid?

Bea goes into the cottage.

LILLY
Will you walk me home?

TODD
Sure.

They walk away, but suddenly, Lilly stops.

LILLY
How does she know what was in the
letter?

Todd stops, and a frown crosses his face.

TODD
She helped write it.

Lilly glances at the cabin.

LILLY
She's not very nice.

Todd glances at the cottage door and shakes his head in disgust.

INT. LANGLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Miriam looks at the pictures of the baseball collection.
She sets them down and sighs.

HADEN (V.O.)
If you still have all of these,
you're sitting on a small fortune.

MIRIAM
Ready to sell your soul, Miriam?

There's knock on the door.

Miriam sits still as if she wishes whoever it is would go away.

There's another gentle knock, and then the door slips open.

Bea, piece of pie in hand, pauses at the threshold.

BEA
I brought you a piece of pie.

Miriam glances at it.

MIRIAM
Lemon meringue.

BEA
Grant's favorite. I remember though
you like it as much as he does ...
did.

MIRIAM
I really don't need anything else
to make me fat. I've had about a
dozen cupcakes and donuts lately.

Bea's shoulder's slump

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Which didn't taste nearly as good
as your pie.

Bea smiles, and as she's walking toward the couch with energized steps ...

BEA

You're just saying that to appease
an old bat.

Miriam moves over on the couch. Bea hesitates but sits next to her and hands her a piece of pie.

She takes a bit of the pie.

MIRIAM

Your pies belong in a bakery.
Odetta and Joe would double their
business.

Miriam turns back to her pie.

She and Bea take a bite at the same time.

Bea smiles.

BEA

It ain't bad.

She takes another bite.

BEA (CONT'D)

Are you sure there isn't anything I
can do to help you?

Bea notices the pictures of the collection.

BEA AND JOE

You can't sell it.

MIRIAM

I don't want to.

BEA

One thing I know about you, Miriam,
is that you're a hard worker.

MIRIAM

I appreciate that.

They eat silently for a few bites.

BEA

I want to apologize for what I done
to you over the years. You didn't
deserve it.

Miriam doesn't quite know what to say, so instead she bites into her pie.

BEA (CONT'D)

I want it to be different for us.

Miriam sets her plate down. She smiles briefly.

BEA (CONT'D)

That heart attack made me realize what's important, and Todd said something ...

MIRIAM

Todd?

BEA

When you care for someone, you want them to be happy. When you started seeing my son, I wanted me to be happy, not him.

Miriam smiles and then sees the pictures. Her smile vanishes.

Bea notices this.

MIRIAM

I've been so wrapped up in myself that I don't even know what's going on with Todd.

Bea suddenly sits up.

BEA

Has he told you about his school dance?

MIRIAM

Dance?

BEA

He and Haden's girl, Lilly, would like to go together.

MIRIAM

I'd love to see that.

BEA

Why don't you chaperone?

Miriam looks away.

MIRIAM

I'm not a fan of school dances.

Bea stands.

BEA
I know Haden hurt you, and some
hurts don't go away very easy.

She smiles.

BEA (CONT'D)
Of course, if he hadn't dumped you,
you never would have gotten
together with my boy.

She walks toward the door.

MIRIAM
The pie was delicious.

Bea smiles.

BEA
I know.

INT. LANGLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Miriam sleeps lightly on the couch.

Todd opens the door and startles his mom awake.

She smiles when she sees Todd.

MIRIAM
When were you going to tell me
about this dance?

TODD
Grandma told you.

MIRIAM
I'm going to chaperone.

TODD
That'll be cool.

Todd goes into his room.

Miriam hears a honk.

She looks outside and sees a taxi pull away from Bea's house.

INT. JOE'S DONUT SHOP - DAY

Bea comes through the door with a box.

When the bell tinkles, Joe looks up.

Bea, as she's walking to the counter,

BEA
I brought you a piece of pie.

JOE
Do I know you, lady?

BEA
You know Miriam and Todd.

He thinks for a second.

BEA (CONT'D)
I'm Bea, the mother-in-law.

She sets the box down.

BEA (CONT'D)
I want you to sell my pie here.

He leans over the counter and breathes in the aroma.

JOE
I don't think --

BEA
Take a bite.

He hesitates.

JOE
I'm sure it's delicious, but I
can't help you. I'm going out of
business.

Deflated, Bea starts to walk way, but then she stops and a look of determination crosses her face.

BEA
Then, you need a piece of pie. I'll
trade you for a donut.

Joe laughs.

BEA (CONT'D)
With sprinkles.

JOE
I'll get coffee.

Bea sits at a nearby table.

She pulls a plate and a server from the box and cuts him a piece.

He sets a cup of coffee and a donut on the table.

As he gets a bite of pie, Bea takes a drink of his coffee and grimaces.

JOE (CONT'D)
This is heaven.

She sets her coffee cup on the table.

BEA
This is hell.

Joe laughs.

JOE
Try the donut.

She bites into it and smiles.

BEA
I can't believe this town is going to lose this.

JOE
Maybe it's time I quit.

BEA
At least you're not having to go through getting fired like Miriam.

JOE
KOLR fired Miriam?

BEA
I'm trying to help out.

JOE
It's a good thing I'm going out of business or I'd be canceling my ads.

BEA
She's a hard worker.

JOE

You bet, and everyone in this town
except that radio station knows it.

Bea contemplates his words, then abruptly stands.

BEA

I have some other stops to make.

BEA AND JOE

Thanks for the ...

They both laugh.

BEA AND JOE (CONT'D)

It was ...

They laugh again.

BEA

Delicious.

She turns around.

JOE

Normally, I wouldn't say this, but
you ought to take your pie to
Odetta's.

ODETTA

Doesn't she have a cupcake shop?

JOE

I wouldn't tell her this, but she
makes the best cupcakes in the
state. She'd probably love to sell
your pies.

INT. ODETTA'S OASIS AND CUPCAKE HOUSE - DAY

As Bea walks through the door, the tinkling bell catches
Odetta's attention.

ODETTA

Can I help you?

BEA

I brought you a piece of pie.

ODETTA

Pardon.

BEA

I'll get straight to the point. My daughter-in-law Miriam Langley got fired from her job, and I'm helping out with bills.

ODETTA

Miriam got fired?

BEA

Yes. Do you want to try my pie?

Odetta laughs.

ODETTA

I appreciate it, but --

BEA

Joe the donut guy loved it. He said you make the best cupcakes in the state. With the best cupcakes, donuts, and pie in your shop --

ODETTA

I don't do donuts. Wait. Joe said that about my cupcakes?

BEA

You too must be close.

ODETTA

Not hardly.

BEA

He seems nice.

ODETTA

When we were in school, he dumped me for one of the rich girls. His mom didn't approve of me.

BEA

You were just kids.

ODETTA

Kids have feelings that are as strong as adults.

Bea sits slowly in a chair. Her eyes get far away for a second.

BEA

Maybe his mom just wanted what was best for her child.

ODETTA

A parent who would do that to a child isn't much of a parent if you ask me.

Bea looks down at her pie.

ODETTA (CONT'D)

I'll take some of your pie only if you take one of my cupcakes.

BEA

You got anything with caramel?

ODETTA

Caramel crush. Brand new flavor. I'll get us some coffee.

BEA

Is it better than Joe's?

ODETTA

Stump water is better than Joe's.

Bea slices a piece of pie and lifts it onto another plate.

Odetta returns with a cupcake.

They look at each other.

Odetta takes a bit of pie.

Bea takes a drink of coffee and looks in surprise at the cup.

As Bea lifts up the cupcake to her mouth, Odetta watches her and at the same time lifts another bite of pie to her mouth.

BEA AND ODETTA

Scrumptious!

They laugh.

They both take another bite of their respective desserts and smile at each other.

ODETTA

I'll buy your pies, Miss Bea, with the money I'm going to save by cutting my advertising.

Odetta shakes Bea's hand.

BEA
I'll bring my first batch in on
Monday.

ODETTA
Do you do cheesecake too?

BEA
I can bake anything.

The bell tinkles as she leaves.

EXT. SLOANE HOUSE - DAY

Bea knocks on the door.

Haden answers it.

HADEN
Bea?

BEA
I always thought your wife would be
a better match for my son, but oh,
well, maybe I can set things right
before I die.

Haden frowns.

HADEN
What is it that you want?

BEA
A couple favors.

She pulls the door open and walks past him.

INT. KROK SALES OFFICE - DAY

Haden switches on the computer and pulls up a line graph.

HADEN
25% in one week.

The phone rings and Haden picks it.

HADEN (CONT'D)
Miss Odetta, how are you?

He looks at a folder.

HADEN (CONT'D)
May I ask why?

He listens for a minute.

His eyes narrow.

HADEN (CONT'D)
They don't like me?

He shifts in his seat and listens.

HADEN (CONT'D)
Thank you, Odetta. That explains a
lot.

He hangs up.

HADEN (CONT'D)
26.

INT. LANGLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Miriam sits at the coffee table, several pieces of paper
lying on it, her checkbook on top.

Her cell phone is turned to the calculator app.

She picks up a letter.

MIRIAM
Maybe I can get an extension.

She puts the paper down.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
What am I good at?

Her face brightens and she picks up her cell phone.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Is Haden there?

She listens for a second.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Thank you, Lilly.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
I don't need him.

She makes another call.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Hello, I'm Miriam Langley. I am
looking for a sales position.

She listens.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
KOLR until recently.

She listens.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Yes, Odetta is ... was one of my
clients.

She frowns at first, but then her expression morphs into
anger.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Thank you, but I don't work that
way.

She hangs up the phone.

INT. KROK SALES OFFICE - DAY

Haden sits at his desk, his computer open to a calculator
app.

His phone lights up and he picks up.

HADEN
Yes, I know her.

He listens.

HADEN (CONT'D)
She asked about a job here?

He holds the phone away from his ear.

HADEN (CONT'D)
You can count on me.

He hangs up the office phone and makes a call on his cell.

HADEN (CONT'D)
She called here about a job.

He listens for a beat.

HADEN (CONT'D)

I'd say she's pretty desperate if she wants to work here.

He listens.

HADEN (CONT'D)

My boss says she wouldn't lie about KOLR and get her clients to move here.

He listens again.

HADEN (CONT'D)

She could have done it too.

He listens.

HADEN (CONT'D)

Do you want me to go ahead? ...
Okay, I'll wait for your call.

He sticks his phone in his jacket pocket.

INT. LANGLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Another knock on the door.

MIRIAM

Come in!

Another knock.

Miriam sighs and stands.

She opens the door.

Bea comes through the door again.

This time she has two pieces of cheese cake, one in each hand.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

You're going to make me fat.

BEA

You need to put on a few pounds.

Miriam puts all of her papers away into a folder. The pictures of the memorabilia items sit on the table.

MIRIAM

Did I see you leave in a taxi?

BEA

Probably. I told, uh, Todd, I could make cheesecake.

She puts two plates on a folder.

BEA (CONT'D)

I lied.

She sees the pictures.

BEA (CONT'D)

Any luck on the job search?

Miriam pauses with a bite of cheesecake halfway to her mouth.

She sets it back down.

BEA (CONT'D)

What will you do?

Miriam takes a deep breath.

MIRIAM

I only have one thing of any value.

Bea stands up.

BEA

You have to do what you have to do.

MIRIAM

I worry about Todd though.

BEA

Todd is old enough to understand that you don't get everything you want. He should be grateful for what he has.

Bea looks at the cards.

BEA (CONT'D)

I've forgotten about some of these.

She turns her attention back to Miriam.

BEA (CONT'D)

I'll give Haden these picture. He knows baseball and can get you a fair price.

INT. BEA'S HOUSE - DAY

Bea has her cell phone to her ear and listens.

BEA

Now. Before she does something
done.

EXT. LANGLEY YARD - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: ONE WEEK LATER

Lilly and Todd sit in the grass, their ball gloves at their side.

Bea sits on the porch as usual. She looks over at them and then looks away.

Lilly looks over at her, and Bea waves.

Todd frowns: his face clouds over.

LILLY

She's rude, but I don't think she's
mean.

TODD

That letter though.

LILLY

You said she helped write the
letter. The person she helped was
you.

Todd falls silent, his face downcast, but then he looks up again.

TODD

I did it so that you'd like Seth.
Grandma didn't. I feel sorry for
Todd.

LILLY

You didn't feel sorry for him when
you read it to me.

Realization comes over him.

LILLY (CONT'D)

I think you knew how I would react
to that letter.

He looks away, guilty as charged.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Your grandma knows who interests me
more.

TODD
Who ...

His voice trails off.

LILLY
I'll be happy to go to the dance
with you.

Lilly stands.

LILLY (CONT'D)
I'm going to get a cookie.

She walks to the porch.

Todd sits for a second. He sees a car pull into his driveway.

Haden steps out of the car and waves.

Todd waves back, smiles, and then follows Lilly.

EXT. BEA'S PORCH - DAY

Lilly walks up to Bea.

Todd meekly follows.

BEA
So, am I out of the doghouse?

TODD
I don't like what you did to Seth.

BEA
I could have handled it better, but
I had my only grandson's best
interests at heart.

Todd and Lilly look at each other.

BEA (CONT'D)
I suppose you two will be at the
dance.

Todd smiles. Lilly nods.

LILLY
I'm here for cookies.

BEA
I have some cheesecake left over.

She picks up an already sliced piece from the table.

TODD
I'm not a big cheesecake fan.

LILLY
I love it.

She reaches for it.

BEA
Do you suppose a group of hungry
preteens eat a lot at dances?

TODD
You wouldn't believe it.

Lilly bites into the cheesecake.

BEA
I think I can make sure there are
the world's best cupcakes and
donuts there.

LILLY
And the best cheesecake.

INT. LANGLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Miriam lets Haden, who carries a small briefcase, into the house.

HADEN
I think our kids have gotten
attached to each other.

MIRIAM
I think so too.

Silence for a beat.

HADEN
I found a buyer for your
collection.

He retrieves an 11 X 13 padded envelope and hands it to Miriam.

MIRIAM

There's a lot of money in here.

Miriam looks into the envelop again.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Why do I feel like I'm doing something shady?

She puts the envelope on a table. A couple of bills peek out of the top.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Why would a buyer hand me an envelope stuffed with money for merchandise he hasn't even seen In person yet?

HADEN

This person and I trust each other.

Miriam sits on the couch.

MIRIAM

Now, I just have to tell Todd.

HADEN

It's going to work out.

MIRIAM

I'll box it up.

HADEN

How about if I pick it up this Thursday?

Todd and Lilly enter through the door.

Todd sees the envelope on the table. Miriam quickly picks it up and folds the top down.

Todd says nothing.

HADEN (CONT'D)

What's Miss Bea stuffing you with now?

LILLY

Cheesecake!

MIRIAM

She made it especially for you, Todd.

TODD
I don't know why. I don't like
cheesecake.

Lilly takes her dad's arm.

LILLY
How would you like to do me a big
favor, Dad?

HADEN
Name it, Sweetheart.

LILLY
Be a chaperone at the dance.

TODD
Mom's doing it.

Haden and Miriam glance furtively at each other.

Miriam stands.

MIRIAM
You do owe me a dance.

Haden and Lilly leave.

Miriam reaches slowly for the envelope and sighs.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
I have something to tell you.

INT. LANGLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Todd sits on the floor.

He's looking at a baseball card.

Miriam sits beside him.

MIRIAM
You can start a new collection.
For your son.

TODD
Girls like baseball too.

MIRIAM
Or daughter.

She looks at the card he's holding.

Todd shows it to her. It's an autographed Yadier Molina.

TODD

This is the first card Dad ever gave to me.

MIRIAM

We don't have to give that one up.

TODD

It isn't worth much. And I've already kept out a couple of things.

He hands his mother the autographed Ron Santo card.

TODD (CONT'D)

For Haden. Lilly said it was his hero. This guy who bought the set is probably just interested in the Cardinals.

He shows her a Danberry Mint Sosa and McGwire home run collectible.

TODD (CONT'D)

I'm giving Lilly this. It's not valuable. It just kind of reminds me of us. You know.

He slumps his head a little bit.

His mom puts her hand on his shoulder.

TODD (CONT'D)

I'm not going to cry.

Miriam wipes her own eyes.

MIRIAM

It's not always going to be this way.

Todd puts the Molina card in a plastic sleeve and puts it in a box.

He takes some packing tape and tapes it up.

TODD

She's going to die soon.

EXT. YARD - DAY

Late afternoon.

Todd and Miriam step out of their house and head for the car.

BEA (O.S.)
Wait up!

They look up and see Bea, who's dressed nicely, stop and take her heels off.

Todd whirls to his mom.

MIRIAM
Why in the world would you want to wrangle with a group of tween animals?

BEA
It ain't the kids I'm worried about.

TODD
Mom.

Miriam shrugs.

TODD (CONT'D)
(desperate)
The school doesn't let just anyone come to the dances.

BEA
I've already talked to the school.

She opens the front passenger door and slides in.

Miriam smiles half assed.

MIRIAM
We'll have fun.

INT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM/TABLE NIGHT

Bea sits behind a long table near the gymnasium door.

Lilly puts her purse behind the table next to the wall.

She offers her hand to Todd who takes it reluctantly.

TODD
Let's go sit at the table.

LILLY
It's a dance!

TODD
I want to wait for the right song.

They walk toward the tables set up in the cafeteria.

Haden and Miriam stand by the door to the gymnasium and glare at the kids as they enter.

Odetta comes through the front door. She's carrying a multi-level glass container full of cupcakes and sets it near the table.

On top of the glass container are two boxes. Odetta can barely see over the top of them.

Miriam walks from the gym door, grateful to place some distance between her and the the beat of the music.

ODETTA
I don't need this much room.

Miriam reaches the table.

MIRIAM
Odetta?

BEA
She's providing snacks.

MIRIAM
How did you manage that?

BEA
Principal went to school with my son.

ODETTA
It's a lot of work, but the pay is worth it.

She lifts the top off the cupcake case and opens the boxes -- cheesecakes.

Miriam glances at Bea.

Kids coming from the gym see the food and start for the table.

BEA
Miriam and I will take care of these kids. Haden!

He looks in her direction.

BEA (CONT'D)
Help Odetta get the rest of her
cupcakes.

Haden follows Odetta out the door.

Miriam starts to say something to Bea, but a couple hungry
kids reach the table.

INT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM/TABLE NIGHT

Todd and Lilly sit on one of six long tables set up for the
kids.

He looks up and sees Seth and another boy, Curt, about 12,
wearing a Cardinals jersey, walking in their direction.

TODD
Hi, Seth.

Seth ignores him.

LILLY
What's up?

Seth glares at her.

SETH
How's your dad's team coming?

He looks at Curt and chuckles.

SETH (CONT'D)
He's going to use girls.

Lilly visibly tenses up.

CURT
Must not be much of a team.

SETH
He wants her to pitch.

Seth smirks and shakes his head.

CURT
Too bad for your team.

TODD
I bet she could strike you out.

Curt laughs, but it isn't too confident.

TODD (CONT'D)
I could strike you out.

Lilly laughs this time.

LILLY
(to Seth)
I don't understand why, but he
wants you on the team too.

Curt snorts.

CURT
He must be desperate.

Seth punches him in the shoulder.

CURT (CONT'D)
Since when do you play with girls?

TODD
Since they're better than us.

Todd takes a bite of his cupcake.

Curt frowns a little.

CURT
Does your dad need a catcher?

Seth punches Curt again.

SETH
Good one, Curt.

LILLY
We don't really need any more
players.

Curt starts to say something, but Seth cuts him off.

SETH
I guess we'll see you on the field
then.

TODD
Do you want to sit with us?

SETH
Me and Curt got better things to
do.

He walks toward the cupcake table, but Curt lingers.

 SETH (CONT'D)
 You coming?

Curt reluctantly follows.

 LILLY
 He's such a jerk.

 TODD
 Can you blame him?

Music filters from the gym, and the few kids lingering around the tables shove cupcakes in their mouths and go toward the gym.

 LILLY
 Let's dance.

 TODD
 I don't dance.

 LILLY
 It's time you started.

She grabs his arm.

Todd puts up very little fight before he allows himself to be led from the table.

INT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM/TABLE - NIGHT

The cupcake table.

Odetta sets four more cupcake trays down on the table.

 HADEN
 I better check on the kids.

He walks toward the gym door.

 JOE (O.S.)
 Odetta?

Miriam and Odetta look up to see Joe standing there with four boxes.

 MIRIAM
 Joe?

She comes around the table and hurries toward him.

JOE
What's she doing here?

ODETTA
What's he doing here?

Miriam looks back.

MIRIAM
I'm not sure. Bea?

BEA
Providing snacks.

ODETTA
If I had known that he --

BEA
The man's going out of business.
Surely, you're not going to deny
him the chance to make some money.

Odetta falls silent.

BEA (CONT'D)
It must be horrible having to give
up the only thing you've known for
your whole life because of some
greedy --

JOE
I don't think this is a good idea.

BEA
Surely, you two can work together
for a few hours. Think of the kids.

Joe glares at Odetta once again. He sets his donut boxes as far away from Odetta as possible without them falling on the floor.

HADEN (O.S.)
They just announced the food was
here.

INT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM/TABLE - NIGHT

Odetta and Joe sit down and take a breather.

Odetta looks at the table.

Very few cupcakes and donuts remain.

Odetta reaches out and grabs a donut.

ODETTA
The school wants me for all their
dances.

She bites into it.

Joe reaches out and grabs a cupcake.

JOE
It's not a one-person job.

BEA
It's a shame you don't have help.

Odetta sits up straight.

ODETTA
How would you like to earn more
money, Bea?

Miriam frowns, looks at the cheesecake -- most of which is gone.

BEA
I'm getting too old ...

She suddenly stops talking.

Odetta takes another bite of donut.

She stops, realizes what she's doing and drops it into a plate.

ODETTA
I ate a donut.

Joe looks at his cupcake and drops it like it's hot.

Odetta and Joe look at each other, and suddenly, Joe's face lights up in a bright smile.

JOE
I think I'm going to finish my
cupcake.

ODETTA
Good donut.

Both pick up their desserts and bite into them.

Bea's face lights up with a smile.

BEA

It sure would be nice to have a
bakery with donuts and cupcakes.

Odetta and Joe bite into their dessert.

BEA (CONT'D)

And good coffee.

Joe laughs.

Odetta finishes her donut, looks at the cheesecakes like she
wants to start on one of them next.

Then she remembers.

ODETTA

I need to pay you for your
cheesecakes.

BEA

(quickly)

We'll talk about it later.

MIRIAM

She baked these for you?

BEA

I wanted to help out for the dance.

ODETTA

You'll have the second batch, next
week, right?

MIRIAM

So she's baking these cheesecakes
for you ... for money?

ODETTA

Good money ... for both of us.

MIRIAM

It's a good thing Todd doesn't like
cheescake.

She walks to the other end of the table and sits by Joe.

Haden stands behind Bea and glances anxiously at the gym
door.

Seth and Curt walk through the door.

Bea sits up straight.

INT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM/TABLE - NIGHT

Seth walks up to the dessert table. Curt follows him like a puppy.

Seth looks at the donuts.

HADEN

Tryouts for my team are soon. I'm thinking you'd make a good first baseman.

SETH

I'm a pitcher.

HADEN

Every team can use a good relief pitching.

SETH

If I'm not starting, then I'm not playing.

Haden chuckles.

HADEN

I'm sure Lilly will be disappointed.

SETH

Lilly thinks I'm weird.

HADEN

Why would she think that.

Seth looks at the donuts and then at Bea.

SETH

Because she wrote a stupid letter and made Lilly think I did it.

BEA

I was just trying to help.

SETH

I don't need your help.

Bea stands.

BEA

Maybe no one needs your help either.

She walks around the table and pokes him in the chest.

BEA (CONT'D)

If you can't take a little joke,
then go take your glove and play
catch with yourself. See how that
works out.

Seth reaches for a donut.

BEA (CONT'D)

You don't deserve a donut.

He pulls his hand back.

BEA (CONT'D)

You and your buddy need to go sit
by yourselves on the bleachers and
cry in the dark where no one will
see you.

Curt grabs a donut too.

SETH

You're a witch.

He hurries away and leaves Bea standing there gaping.

She glances at Bea.

BEA

Did you hear the way he talked to
me?

HADEN

You were a little rough on him.

BEA

I've never seen such disrespect.

MIRIAM

Mean letter?

BEA

It was funny.

MIRIAM

I didn't hear Seth laughing.

BEA

I was trying to get a nice girl for
my grandson.

MIRIAM

Just like you did for your son.

BEA
I thought I was doing the right
thing.

MIRIAM
I think the right think is staying
out of our business.

TODD (O.S.)
What surprise?

Miriam sees Lilly and Todd walking toward them.

Lilly holds Todd's hand.

LILLY
You'll love it.

She laughs.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Besides, I have no use for it.

They arrive at the table.

A stony silence greets them.

Joe takes Odetta's hand.

ODETTA
Cute couple.

LILLY AND TDDD
Dad, hand me my purse.

Haden gets her purse.

Bea and Miriam glare at each other and sit down.

Lilly pulls a small plastic card case from her purse.

LILLY
Dad found this huge collection of
great stuff. You gave us two cool
things, and I want to give you
something.

Todd smiles and looks at it.

His smile melts.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Don't you like it?

Miriam knows something is wrong.

Haden and Bea look at each other.

TODD
This was mine.

He shows his mom the autographed Molina card.

Miriam jumps to her feet.

MIRIAM
(To Haden)
How could you do this to me?

BEA
I asked him to.

Miriam whirls toward her.

MIRIAM
You used him to see if I would sell
your son's precious collection.

HADEN
No, that's not --

MIRIAM
And you let her.

Todd looks at Lilly.

Miriam jerks the card case out of his hand and tosses it on
the table.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Keep it.

LILLY
Mrs. Langley, I didn't know--

MIRIAM
We're going home!

Miriam grabs Todd's hand and jerks him away.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
I'm sure *Haden* can give you a lift
home, Bea.

Todd can't help leaving with his mom.

Odetta looks at Joe and he looks back at her.

JOE

Do you think they got any Beatles
in there?

ODETTA

Why don't we check?

INT. JOE'S DONUT SHOP - DAY

Todd and Miriam sit at a table. Miriam nibbles on her donut.

Joe walks over to the table.

JOE

You want some coffee?

Miriam grimaces.

MIRIAM

Thanks, Joe --

JOE

I'm going out of business. The
least you can do is accept my offer
of a free cup of coffee.

Miriam glances at Todd who just shrugs his shoulders.

MIRIAM

Sure, I'd love some.

Joe walks away.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

His coffee is horrible.

Joe walks toward them with a mug of coffee.

JOE

I'm old, Miriam. Not deaf.

Joe sits down with them and puts the coffee cup in front of
her.

She looks at it but can't quite work up the courage to taste
it.

JOE (CONT'D)

You should be really proud of your
mom, Todd. She's the best salesma
... salesperson I've ever worked
with.

Joe looks at her and then down at her coffee cup.

Miriam finally picks up the cup and takes a sip. Her eyes widen. She takes another drink.

JOE (CONT'D)

She doesn't just sell stuff; she sells stuff that people need.

Miriam takes another drink of coffee.

She bites her donut and takes another drink. Amazement fills her face and then she smiles.

HADEN

It isn't an easy job.

She sips her coffee.

MIRIAM

What have you done with this coffee?

JOE

I was one of the first people she called on.

Miriam laughs.

MIRIAM

He had a sign taped to his counter that said, "I shoot every third salesman. The second one just left."

Joe snorts with laughter.

TODD

What did you do, Mom?

JOE

She ate a donut.

MIRIAM

Eventually, I won him over.

JOE

And I started getting more business than I had ever had before.

MIRIAM

This town's going to miss your donuts.

TODD

I hope you enjoy your retirement,
Mr. Geddy.

Odetta walks through the swinging double doors.

JOE

I don't think I'm going to be
retiring soon.

Odetta walks to their table.

Both Todd and Miriam stare at them.

JOE (CONT'D)

Odetta made the coffee.

Miriam doesn't know what to say.

TODD

I thought you too hated each other.

JOE

Todd, when you carry a grudge
against another person, it's not
the other person that gets tired.

Odetta sits down and smiles.

ODETTA

We're opening a bakery that's going
to feature cupcakes --

JOE

And donuts.

MIRIAM

That's wonderfu.

ODETTA

And Bea's pies and cheesecake.

Miriam looks away.

MIRIAM

Oh. I'm sure they'll bring in extra
money.

ODETTA

Do you have any idea why she needs
that money?

Todd bites into his donut. He's engrossed in the
conversations, his mind whirring.

JOE

She was trying to help you.

Miriam's mouth drops open.

MIRIAM

I doubt it.

ODETTA

You're doubting because you don't want to believe it.

JOE

She told both of us that she was raising money to help out with bills.

Miriam stares into her coffee cup.

ODETTA

I had a crush on Joe when we were in school.

JOE

I liked her too.

ODETTA

But he dumped me.

JOE

My mom didn't think she was good enough for me.

ODETTA

He married one of the rich girls.

JOE

And she divorced me. Not much interested in being a baker's wife.

ODETTA

Joe's mom thought she was doing the best thing for her child.

JOE

And I was stupid enough to let her.

ODETTA

You got the man you wanted despite your mother-in-law.

Miriam sits silently and ponders her coffee.

TODD

Maybe you shouldn't be carrying a grudge for something that didn't happen.

Miriam's phone rings.

She gets it out of her purse and answers it.

MIRIAM

What do you want?

She listens.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

I'll be right there.

Miriam jumps up.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Bea's had another heart attack.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

Todd sits in a waiting room and bites into one of those mini-donuts you get in rolls of six from a vending machine. He frowns.

He looks up and sees Haden and Lilly.

TODD

What are you doing here?

HADEN

I'm going to let Lilly explain.

He walks past them into the nursing station.

Lilly opens her purse and hands him the Molina signed card.

TODD

I don't want it.

LILLY

Yes, you do.

TODD

It's not mine anymore.

LILLY

That's what I need to explain.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Haden slips through the door of the room.

Miriam sits in a low-back chair with her head leaning against the wall. She snoozes.

Haden looks at Bea who rests comfortably, looks at Miriam.

He starts to leave and even reaches the door, but stops, takes a deep breath and walks to Miriam's chair.

He watches her sleep for a beat or two and then he takes another deep breath and nudges her.

Miriam starts awake.

She's confused at first, looks past Haden, to see Bea. She wipes her eyes, and then it registers that Haden is in the room. She stands.

MIRIAM

How did you get in here?

HADEN

I told them I was your boyfriend.

Miriam straightens up and throws her shoulders back. Anger clouds her face.

HADEN (CONT'D)

I didn't think you'd mind.

She slaps him.

Haden recoils.

HADEN (CONT'D)

We're even now.

MIRIAM

How could you even show your face here?

HADEN

I didn't really buy your collection.

MIRIAM

Just leave.

HADEN

I told you I had a buyer. Bea bought it.

This takes the anger out of her, and Miriam sits back down.

MIRIAM
Why would she do that to me?

HADEN
She did it for you. That and the
pies.

Haden pulls up a chair.

HADEN (CONT'D)
She'll give it all back to Todd.

Haden starts to reach for her but pulls his hand back.

HADEN (CONT'D)
She has congestive heart failure.

Miriam lowers her head and cries.

Haden looks at her and tries to decide what to do.

Finally, he stands beside her and hugs her.

He walks away but stops when he gets to the door.

HADEN (CONT'D)
Bea said you should never have to
work for anyone but yourself.

She looks at him and back at Bea.

Haden leaves.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Todd and Miriam sit next to Bea.

MIRIAM
Do you want me to take you home?

TODD
No.

He stares.

MIRIAM
She's going to be out for a long
time.

TODD
I'll wait.

Miriam puts her hand on his leg.

MIRIAM

Todd, she might not ever wake up.

Miriam stands.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

I have to get some coffee. Can I get you something?

He turns to look at her.

Bea's eyelids flutter. She opens them.

TODD

Can you get me some lemon meringue pie?

Bea smiles a little.

Todd looks at the floor.

Miriam takes one last look at him and leaves.

Todd makes sure she's gone; then, he stands and walks toward the bed.

He sniffles a little and wipes his eyes.

TODD (CONT'D)

I wished you were dead, Grandma.
I'll never forgive myself.

Her eyes pop open.

Through the beeps of machinery and the swish of blood pressure machines, Todd barely hears her.

BEA

I ain't dead yet.

A brief smile slips into her expression, and then she closes her eyes.

INT. HOME SWEETS HOME BAKERY/TWO TABLES - DAY

MIRIAM'S TABLE

Miriam sips a cup of coffee.

A half-eaten cupcake sits on the table in front of her.

A bell tinkles and Todd and Lilly walk in.

TODD
We got the display set up again.

LILLY
It looks great.

MIRIAM
Is your dad coming?

LILLY
He should be --

The bell tinkles.

Seth and Curt enter. They stop inside the door.

Miriam nods to Todd

Todd takes a deep breath and walks toward them. Lilly follows close behind.

The bell tinkles again, and Haden comes in.

He stares at his daughter, his eyes narrow.

LILLY (CONT'D)
We're going to.

Haden nods at them as he walks past them to Miriam's table.

Todd and Lilly stop in front of the two boys.

TODD
I'm sorry.

LILLY
Me too.

Seth glares at them.

SETH
For what? Striking me out three times.

Curt snickers, but quickly silences when Seth glares at him.

TODD
You know what.

SETH
Oh, the stupid letter that made me look like a fool.

Todd and Lilly look down.

TODD
How can I make it up to you?

SETH
You start with buying us the most
expensive, most delicious cupcake in
the shop.

Todd smiles.

LILLY
That would be the caramel fudge,
vanilla cookie crumb surprise.

SETH
And then you can buy us a dozen
donuts for later.

TODD
Don't push it, Seth.

Curt laughs.

CURT
Let us play on your team next year.

The four of them laugh as they go to another table.

MIRIAM'S TABLE

Haden sits at the table and quickly tears off a piece of
Miriam's cupcake.

She slaps his hand.

HADEN
What is it you want to talk about?

MIRIAM
I'm waiting for someone.

The bell tinkles again and in walks Valerie.

Haden shudders.

HADEN
Not her.

Valerie looks around.

VALERIE
Where's Odetta?

MIRIAM
She's busy, Valerie.

VALERIE
What are you doing here?

MIRIAM
You came to sell advertising right?

VALERIE
So?

MIRIAM
I understand all of my former
clients canceled their contract.

Valerie says nothing but fidgets uncomfortably.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
You need to come here.

Reluctantly, she does.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Have a seat.

Reluctantly, she does.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Here's my card.

Valerie looks it over.

VALERIE
What is this?

MIRIAM
Home Sweets Home Advertising
Agency.

Next, Miriam hands her a slip of paper.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
This is the advertising the shop
wants.

Valerie smiles.

Miriam hands her another sheet.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Here are the prices the shop will
pay for those ads.

Valerie frowns.

VALERIE

This isn't what they used to pay.

Miriam takes the two sheets away.

MIRIAM

I guess my clients -- all of my clients, the ones who used to advertise on KOLR -- will go with KROK then.

Haden laughs.

VALERIE

I'll have to talk to the manager.

She stands.

MIRIAM

We'll wait ... for a little while.

Valerie hurries away.

HADEN

KROK would love their advertising business.

Miriam hands him the same sheet.

MIRIAM

These are what we'll pay.

She hands him another sheet.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

These are what we want.

Haden loses his smile.

HADEN

I can't speak for my boss.

MIRIAM

It's a shame you work for someone other than yourself.

HADEN

You don't need a partner, do you?

MIRIAM

I'll have to think about it.

The swinging doors to the kitchen open.

Odetta and Joe traipse in.

KIDS TABLE

TODD

Do you think those two ...

Todd pauses, smiles.

LILLY

Stranger things have happened.

She giggles.

JOE

You're gonna have to show me how to
make that coffee.

ODETTA

Family secret and you ain't family.

Seth leans toward Todd.

SETH

Maybe not yet.

All but Curt laugh. He smiles, not really sure of what's
going on.

LILLY

They'd be perfect for each other.

Lilly pauses and leans toward Seth.

LILLY (CONT'D)

I really am sorry about the letter.

SETH

Don't worry. Curt has a really cute
cousin.

Lilly leans back, almost hurt.

JOE

There are more cupcakes on display
than donuts. If I'm going to pay
half the rent.

TODD

(whispers)
Maybe never.

ODETTA
Cupcakes bring in more money.

JOE
We sell twice as many donuts.

The doors swing open, and Bea walks in, pie boxes in each hand.

BEA
Would you two old farts stop your bickering? Cheesecake's done.

She opens the boxes and takes a cheesecake from each one and sets it in a display case.

She looks at the kids.

BEA (CONT'D)
Haden's going to get tickets to the game for next Sunday. Cards and Cubs.

MIRIAM
I want to go.

BEA
No reason we all can't.

Bea does a quick count.

BEA (CONT'D)
Eight tickets and one for yourself, Haden. It's going to be so much fun.

TODD
Hey, grandma. Who's going to the world series? Cardinals or Cubs.

She smiles.

BEA
Dodgers all the way.