

FADE IN:

INT. FAMILY DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

DOCTOR MALLARD, fair and balding, looks over Kendra's skin as she sits on the examining table dangling her feet.

DOCTOR MALLARD

Let's check your back. Are you doing better now?

Kendra looks worried. Her legs are a mass of RED BLOTCHES.

KENDRA

Except for this rash on my legs. It's not going away.

DOCTOR MALLARD

I see that. I'll give you an injection of cortisone. If it doesn't clear up, you should see a dermatologist. Anything else?

KENDRA

Yes, I'm still having a problem with pain in my feet. I think it's those worms, and I can't seem to kill them out. I've soaked them in a pesticide, but that doesn't seem to help.

Dr. Mallard pauses and gives thought to this problem.

DOCTOR MALLARD

Have you tried bleach?

Kendra winces at the thought as she looks at Doctor Mallard.

KENDRA

No. . . I've tried rubbing alcohol.

DOCTOR MALLARD

Try soaking them in bleach. That should take care of it for you. You also need to have your heat ducts cleaned. That's where these things come from.

Kendra looks shocked.

KENDRA

They do?

DOCTOR MALLARD

Yes. Have them cleaned.

EXT. KENDRA'S BACKYARD - DAY

KENDRA, forties, trim and attractive, sits comfortably on a lounge chair in the backyard with a newspaper on her lap.

She talks with British friend, DAN, also forties, refined and good looking, who relaxes on another lounge chair.

They drink cocktails and look out at the lake as boats speed by and make quite a wake. An umbrella shades them. Water washes over the deck. Dan speaks with a BRITISH ACCENT.

DAN

Wow! I thought they weren't suppose to speed by so close!

KENDRA

They're not. But boaters seem to love the exhilaration of speed. They're thrill seekers, you know, and quite adventuresome.

DAN

That must be why you're living on the water. You seem to like adventure too.

KENDRA

I guess I do. Maybe that's why I create adventures for the characters in my writing.

Kendra's CAT, SHEBA, jumps up on her chair, disrupting the newspaper on her lap. Kendra quickly snatches the paper out of the way and pets the cat.

DAN

Oh, good save! What were you reading before I came over?

KENDRA

An article about a disturbing disease with no apparent cause or explanation.

DAN

Really? What's it called?

KENDRA

It doesn't seem to have a name. They just say it's a mysterious disease. Apparently it has been reported in many countries, and they don't know what it is.

DAN

That's odd. And in many countries?

KENDRA

Yes. Doesn't that make it a world-wide threat? It makes people break out in a rash and itch.

DAN

It's mysterious? I don't know what's so different about a rash and itching. That's a strange one.

Kendra looks down at her newspaper and continues to read, then comments.

KENDRA

Well, it seems to be made up of fibers. And yes, the fear is that it might become a significant threat to the world if they don't figure it out. It makes me itch just reading about it.

Dan just shrugs his shoulders. He's nonplussed. Kendra puts the newspaper aside.

DAN

Well, it looks like all this sunshine has made you recover from being sick.

KENDRA

So it has. It was just a virus. I just got back from a week in TEXAS visiting my AUNT. The sun and hot weather there helped me too. It feels good out here today, doesn't it?

DAN

Sure does.

Dan kicks back and sips his drink.

DAN (CONT'D)

What kind of adventure are you writing about now?

Kendra's face becomes expressive.

KENDRA

Another mystery. I have to give my characters sustenance. You know, put them on some audacious journey for readers to enjoy.

Dan smiles.

DAN

Interesting. Where do you get your ideas?

KENDRA

I guess they just come to me. I might have an idea, but I never know what's going to happen until I sit down to write. Then the words just flow.

Kendra LAUGHS.

DAN

So you really don't know what will happen 'til you get there?

KENDRA

No, not usually. The characters kind of define themselves. They direct what they do and the ending. Some of them get into trouble along the way and have to find their own solutions. Just like in real life, I suppose.

DAN

Hmm. Speaking of adventure, would you like to take a trip to ENGLAND with me? I'll make all the arrangements.

Kendra sits forward and exclaims questioningly.

KENDRA

England? Dan, I've never traveled with you. Are you serious?

DAN

Yeah. You know, you could develop a story about some of the places we visit.

Kendra sits back in her chair and is dubious.

KENDRA

Isn't there a Mad Cow disease going on there right now?

DAN

I wouldn't worry about that. You'd have to be walking in a farmer's field to be in danger.

There's a canal boat trip I've always wanted to take, but I've never had anyone with me who could drive a boat. But you're a boater, so that would be perfect. What do you say?

Kendra scrunches up her face.

KENDRA

What kind of boat?

DAN

They're long and narrow. In fact, they're called NARROW BOATS. They're about 50 feet long.

KENDRA

Fifty feet! How many people would be on the boat?

DAN

You and me.

Kendra's EYES BULGE wide open.

KENDRA

Just you and me?

Dan pulls out some pamphlets from a folder he brought with him.

DAN

Yes, just you and me. We would rent the boat.

Here are some pictures of narrow boats.  
We would be going through some locks,  
too.

NARROW BOATS

DAN (CONT'D)

We would be operating the locks  
ourselves. They aren't automated like we  
have here. One of us would have to stay  
on the boat while the other one gets out  
and opens the gates for the locks.

Kendra pulls her chin inward in question. She is doubtful.

KENDRA

I'm not sure, Dan. I don't think I can  
do that!

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Kendra and long-time friend, JOYCE, forties, intelligent,  
extra pounds, talk gleefully across the table over lunch. It  
is a family restaurant, and PATRONS sit at other tables  
busily eating and enjoying conversation.

JOYCE

You must be feeling better. Seems like  
you're always coming down with some kind  
of flu or virus.

KENDRA

Yes, I am. You'd think with all the  
vitamins I take that I'd never get sick,  
wouldn't you?

Joyce smiles.

JOYCE

Your immune system must not be that good.  
I never even catch a cold.

Kendra slightly lifts up her arms in expression.

KENDRA

I know. I don't think it ever was that  
good. I catch things quite easily. My  
mother was always running me to the  
doctor. I had so much penicillin I  
developed an allergy to it!

JOYCE

You've always been so interested in medicine. I'm surprised you never went into the field.

KENDRA

Me too. I thought about it. I even bought a copy of Taber's Medical Dictionary when I was in my early twenties.

I used it to look up stuff about my kids when they got sick. It would have been such an all-encompassing career, though.

Kendra smirks.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I guess that's what I have now, anyway!

Joyce smiles and chides her teasingly.

JOYCE

And then you dated a pharmaceutical rep, and he brought you drugs.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CANAL BOAT, LONDON, ENGLAND - DAY

Kendra and Dan are at the stern of a colorful narrow boat, slowly motoring their way down a canal in ENGLAND. The sun is shining brightly, and it's a warm day. Dan is at the tiller and Kendra is cuddled up next to him.

KENDRA

Oh, Dan, isn't this wonderful?

DAN

Uh huh.

Kendra looks pleased.

KENDRA

I never thought traveling on a canal would be so beautiful. The homes and gardens are so quaint and lovely.

Dan is pleasantly smug and hugs Kendra.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

And look at the water right up to the buildings. I thought that only happened in Venice! What beauty!

DAN

And you had doubts about coming.

KENDRA

I know. That Mad Cow disease here wasn't exactly inviting.

Dan flicks his hand in dismissal.

DAN

Oh, that's nothing.

KENDRA

Nothing? Well, I guess we're not walking through fields or cow pastures. And it certainly is beautiful here.

DAN

Well, you're going to get four days and four nights of this. Then we're off to London!

INT. HOTEL ROOM LONDON, ENGLAND - NIGHT

Kendra is in a nightgown and walks around a simply appointed English-style room with a canopy bed, and holds her hand on her throat. Dan sits in a nearby chair watching her.

KENDRA

My throat is getting really sore. I hope I'm not coming down with something.

DAN

A good night's rest in a real bed should help. Ready?

Dan motions to Kendra, and they climb into bed. They show slight affection, with Kendra deliberately not inviting much. She turns her back to him. They soon go to sleep.

CLOCK ON BEDSIDE TABLE READS 11:00 P.M.

Kendra awakens during the night with severe SHIVERS. She looks pale and tosses and turns enough that she wakes Dan. She gets out of bed.



CLOCK ON BEDSIDE TABLE READS 2:30 A.M.

KENDRA

I'm freezing. And I can't stop shaking.

Dan reaches his arm out to pull her back into bed.

DAN

Kendra, get back under the covers with me. I'll warm you up. You'll be fine.

She succumbs and Dan holds her tightly and comforts her. They sleep.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Kendra awakens first, holds her throat, and walks around the room. She picks up the telephone from the desk and calls ROOM SERVICE. Her voice is SCRATCHY.

KENDRA

Two coffees and orange juice for 201 please.

Dan awakens and furls his eyebrows.

DAN

How are you?

KENDRA

Terrible. I think I'm going to need a doctor. My glands are swollen and I can hardly swallow.

Dan, annoyed, speaks sternly.

DAN

Well you can just hang up the rest of the trip if you do, Kendra. All we'll be doing is sitting in a hospital all day. Doctors don't have offices here.

KENDRA

You don't have to get so upset with me!

DAN

I don't mean to. It's just the way it is here.

Kendra looks at him questioningly. Her voice is still scratchy.

KENDRA

Well, I ordered juice and coffee for us.  
Maybe that will make me feel better.

(beat)

I brought a few antibiotics with me.  
I'll cut them in half and see how I do.

EXT. STREETS OF LONDON, ENGLAND - DAY

Dan and Kendra joyfully walk through the streets of London. Dan takes pictures by the TOWER BRIDGE with it's huge bascules being raised to let water traffic go through. A few PEOPLE pass by. Others watch the bridge open.

DAN

Kendra, look this way. I want to take your picture.

KENDRA

Do I have to smile?

DAN

Just look natural.

Dan snaps her picture and then motions to Kendra.

DAN (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's go get the car. It's time we head to WALES to our room at RUTHIN CASTLE.

KENDRA

Oh, a castle. How charming.

DAN

You'll see.

EXT. RUTHIN CASTLE, WALES - AFTERNOON

Dan and Kendra approach the castle grounds by car, driving through a winding road with high walls and gardens on either side.

KENDRA

Dan, look at those beautiful daffodils.

Dan pulls the car over to the side of the road and gets out.

DAN

I have to get a picture of these. Yellow comes out really good against a green background.

KENDRA

You know a lot more about photography than I do. I take terrible pictures.

DAN

A couple of classes didn't hurt.

KENDRA

I guess not. Your pictures always come out great.

INT. RUTHIN CASTLE, WALES - DAY

It is time for afternoon tea at the castle, and Dan and Kendra enter a cozy, welcoming room, with a teapot and cups set up on a table near the door.

DAN

We're just in time for afternoon tea. Aren't you glad?

They each pick up a cup of freshly brewed tea from a small table and find a place to sit down next to each other.

Dan puts his arm across her lap, hand on her leg above her knee, showing ownership. An ENGLISH LADY approaches Kendra with pastries.

ENGLISH LADY

Here you go, Love. They're really good with a spot of tea.

Kendra looks up and addresses the English lady.

KENDRA

Oh, thank you. How wonderful!

KENDRA (CONT'D)

(speaking to Dan)

Yes, this is nice. And pastries, too. A stupendous experience!

DAN

We'll be eating here this evening. We're seeing a show and having an authentic medieval dinner.

KENDRA

That will be fun! Didn't they use to eat right off of a knife?

DAN

Yes, they did.

KENDRA

Hope I don't cut my tongue!

They both LAUGH.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Our next few days are really going to be busy here, aren't they?

DAN

Yes. Then we're off again, back to London.

KENDRA

That's right. We're seeing a play in Stratford, too, right?

DAN

Stratford Upon Avon, yes. You seem to be feeling all right. Are you?

KENDRA

Yes. I am. I seem to be doing okay.

EXT. STRATFORD UPON AVON - EVENING

The car is parked, and the couple scurries across the street among some traffic, and approaches the Stratford Upon Avon theatre. Dan takes Kendra's hand and guides her across the street.

DAN

Come on. Let's go to the ticket office. They're holding two tickets for us.

KENDRA

What are we going to see?

DAN

It's a surprise. You like witches, don't you?

KENDRA

Witches?

DAN

Yeah, witches. The Witches of Eastwick!

KENDRA

Oh! A show about witchcraft. That should be fun.

Dan picks up the tickets and they enter the theatre.

DAN

It's so nice to have your company to do all these things.

Kendra smiles, but says nothing.

EXT. TRAVEL BY CAR - DAY

Dan is driving, and he and Kendra take in the sights along the road when Dan spots a steam train running on the outskirts of the city.

Dan points at the oncoming train.

DAN

Look over there! Here comes a steam train! I haven't seen one of these since I was a kid.

He pulls the car over, grabs his camera, and runs toward the track, trekking through dirt and tall weeds. The train chugs along. Kendra gets out of the car more slowly, and stands by the car. Dan positions himself and snaps a picture.

He hollers out as he hurries back.

DAN (CONT'D)

I missed it. Come on! Hurry, get back in the car. I'll try to catch it.

Kendra holds the tail of her jacket as she quickly gets back in the car. Dan seats himself and is ready to go.

KENDRA

Was it muddy out there?

DAN

A little. Mostly just prickly.

KENDRA

I don't know if I've ever seen a steam train before. That would certainly fit in to my 19th century story. You're sure giving me things to write about.

Dan speeds ahead of the train and quickly pulls over again. He gets out of the car just as the train approaches and takes another picture. He then works his way back to the car.

DAN

Got it. That should be a great shot.

(beat)

Tomorrow will be a day of London attractions.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - DAY

The couple walk in front of the palace where foot guards stand sternly in red tunic uniforms with bearskin hats. Dan carries his camera.

DAN

Kendra, go stand next to the guard. I want to take a picture of you with him.

KENDRA

Right next to him?

DAN

Yes, right next to him. Go on up there.

Kendra approaches a guard and smiles, but he is disciplined, looks straight ahead, and does not smile back.

DAN (CONT'D)

That's good. Okay, come on. Next stop, Parliament. I want to show you the Big Ben clock and the Millennium Wheel, too.

KENDRA

What a day. I'm getting a whole semester of history in just a couple of days here!

(beat)

That guard wouldn't even crack a smile.

He acted like I had some kind of plague  
and made me really uncomfortable!

DAN

They're trained to be that way.

EXT. LONDON - SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

Kendra and Dan leisurely walk through the crowds. ANIMATED CONVERSATION takes place between them, with Dan POINTING at each attraction. He takes pictures at each stop.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- Parliament
- Big Ben
- Millennium Wheel Over the River Thames

END OF SHOTS

Dan and Kendra walk back toward their car.

KENDRA

So this is your city! London. No wonder  
you're so proud. This has been quite  
educational. I'm glad I came.

DAN

Me too. I knew you'd like it.

EXT. HILLSIDE RESTAURANT LONDON - EVENING

Dan and Kendra approach a beautiful green, hillside  
restaurant.

They find a short line of anxious PATRONS in front of a  
BRITISH POLICEMAN who directs them to step inside the pan of  
a disinfectant solution to cleanse their shoes. Kendra  
questions Dan as to what is going on.

KENDRA

What's that all about?

DAN

We have to clean our shoes before  
entering the restaurant because of the  
Mad Cow disease.

KENDRA

Oh. So it's not taken quite so lightly here!

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLSIDE RESTAURANT LONDON - EVENING

Dan and Kendra have finished dinner at this open-air restaurant.

The dishes are being cleared from the table.

KENDRA

I hope we don't get sick from eating beef liver.

DAN

They wouldn't serve it if it was a problem.

The air is cool as they sit near an outdoor gas heater, and Dan and Kendra enjoy an after dinner coffee and tea.

KENDRA

Dan, how come you're having coffee?

DAN

I don't know. I just felt like it.

KENDRA

Well I'm the coffee drinker, and you always have tea. Now I'm having tea! We've switched!

DAN

That's funny, but you're right.

(beat)

I'm glad you're feeling better.

KENDRA

So am I. I never thought those few antibiotics I had with me would get me through, but it looks like I'm going to make it.

DAN

We go home tomorrow, you know.



KENDRA

Yes, I know. It will be sad to leave here.

DAN

Hasn't it been great?

KENDRA

It sure has. It'll soon be "back to the ol' grind."

DAN

Yes, and you'll probably be so busy with your other friends and writing that I'll hardly get to see you.

FLASH FORWARD

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Kendra is back in the UNITED STATES. She sits on her comfortable couch in the living room petting her cat, Sheba, and her back begins to itch.

She scratches her back and feels that a BUG has bitten her. She jumps up and examines her couch.

KENDRA

Oh, what's going on here? Something bit me.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - EVENING

She scratches her back again on the way to the kitchen and gets some bug spray from a cabinet.

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

She sprays the living room furniture, then checks the cat's fur.

KENDRA

Looks like I'd better check you out for fleas, Sheba. You look okay, but maybe I should shampoo you tomorrow.

INT. KENDRA'S DRESSING ROOM - EVENING

Kendra undresses, scratches her back, and checks it out by looking in the mirror, then shrugs.

KENDRA

Well, I sure can't see anything.

She grabs a nightgown from a hook on the door, puts in on, and heads for the bedroom. She pulls the covers back and gets into bed.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Joyce visits with Kendra in her kitchen and sits at the table. It is FALL. They drink a beverage.

JOYCE

So you went to the doctor, didn't you?

KENDRA

Yes. He's treating me for some kind of worm or parasite. Sounds gruesome, doesn't it?

Joyce looks concerned.

JOYCE

Yes, it does. But if that's the problem, then it needs to be treated.

INT. HALL PARTY - EVENING

Kendra is at a hall gathering with many singles. There are several tables that surround a large dance area. Her close friend, STEPHANIE, blonde, medium build and cynical, is with her.

Kendra tries to attract the attention of a good looking male with eye contact, but he doesn't have an interest in her.

GOOD LOOKING MALE

Are you looking at me?

KENDRA

Oh, yes, I didn't mean to stare. You remind me of someone.

Good looking male turns away, and Kendra is approached by DAVE, a DENTIST, forties, plain looking, tall and thin.

DAVE

Would you care to dance?

Kendra looks up and forces a smile.

KENDRA

Sure.

Dave takes her hand and leads her to the dance floor.

DAVE

My name's Dave. What's yours?

KENDRA

Oh, I'm Kendra. Nice to meet you.

DAVE

So what does a pretty lady like you do for a living?

KENDRA

Oh, I dabble in writing. How about you?

DAVE

Writing! Well that's a lot more interesting than what I do. I'm a dentist.

KENDRA

That's a nice profession, isn't it?

DAVE

Oh, I meet a lot of nervous people.

Kendra LAUGHS.

KENDRA

I'll bet you do. Lots of people dread going to the dentist.

DAVE

I do try to be gentle, though.

The music stops, and Dave returns Kendra back to her place near Stephanie and walks away. She nods toward her man of interest.

KENDRA

Hey, Stephanie, what do you think about that guy in the dark sport coat over there?

Attractive male stands and looks out at the dance floor.

STEPANIE

Cute, all right. You like him?

KENDRA

I don't know, but I think I'd like to meet him. He's not interested, though.

Stephanie shrugs her shoulders, ignoring Kendra's dilemma, and turns away.

Kendra hardly has time to make herself known to the attractive man when Dave interrupts and asks her to dance again.

Kendra looks up and smiles, more appreciatively.

DAVE

How about another dance?

KENDRA

Sure.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Kendra and Dave are in a moderately priced restaurant enjoying dinner. A waitress holds a tray above her and delivers dinners to a table nearby.

KENDRA

So how's your HIPPIE friend JOE doing?

DAVE

He's good. We have absolutely nothing in common, but I had trouble with my car this week, and he came over and fixed it.

KENDRA

That's great.

DAVE

I know. He doesn't charge me, either.

KENDRA

What a nice friend!

Dave looks sheepish.

DAVE

I just wish he didn't ask me for pain pills. I know he's just using them.

MEDICINE. He always asks for his  
medicine.

Kendra looks surprised, furls her brow and questions him.

KENDRA  
And you just give them to him?

DAVE  
Well, I have to write a scrip. And then  
after I do, I feel terrible. I wish he  
wouldn't ask. I could lose my license.

KENDRA  
Don't know how to say 'No,' huh?

INT. KENDRA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Kendra sits at a femininely appointed dressing table and  
brushes her hair. She has RED BLOTCHES all over her body.

She shakes her head and looks at her skin for a clear spot  
and sprays perfume on the underside of her arms. It stings.  
She winces.

KENDRA  
Ouch! Oh, what a mess I am.

She dresses in high neck, long-sleeved clothing and walks  
down the hallway to the living room.

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

She looks out her front window and sees that a HEAT DUCT  
CLEANING TRUCK is in her driveway.

TALBOT'S HEAT DUCT CLEANING

CUT TO:

INT - KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

HEAT DUCT MAN, soft spoken, and Kendra stand in her kitchen.  
Kendra RAISES HER VOICE and questions him.

KENDRA  
Why can't you do it?

## HEAT DUCT MAN

Some houses I can do, and some houses I can't do. My system won't do your house; and besides, part of it is on a slab. If there was even a small crack in that slab, it would suck all of the sand out from under it and then you'd really have a mess.

Kendra looks alarmed and points to the DEBRIS on her counter top and SHOUTS.

## KENDRA

Look! Now what am I suppose to do? Look at this stuff. I'm finding it all over the house. It's on my counter top every day. I clean it up, and within minutes it's back.

Heat Duct Man is extremely patient. He speaks slowly and enunciates the words DIRT PARTICLES.

## HEAT DUCT MAN

I understand how concerned you are. My wife is absolutely paranoid about dirt particles in the house. You just can't eliminate all of the dirt particles from a home.

## KENDRA

(sighing heavily)

## HEAT DUCT MAN

I'll tell you what you can do. Buy some BUG-AWAY and spray it in your heat ducts. It won't hurt a thing and should take care of your problem. You can spray it in the crawl space, too. Make sure you buy that brand, though. It should work for you.

## INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Kendra sits comfortably on her couch and watches television. She feels something on her leg and looks down. A WHITE WORM is on the outside of her leg just below her knee.

She frantically brushes it off, SHRIEKS, PANTS, gets up, and finds the Bug-Away. Hopping around, she heavily sprays herself, the furniture, and carpeting.

KENDRA

My God that was a worm! A CORN WORM?  
What ever did I do to deserve this?

INT. KENDRA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Kendra dresses for bed. She holds the bottle of Bug-Away and sprays her bedding. She puts the spray bottle on the floor by her bedside.

She SIGHS with exhaustion and gets into bed.

KENDRA  
(sighing)

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT

Dave and Kendra walk from the parking lot, past the flowered landscaped sides of the walkway, and into the hotel. Other cars pull into the lot and park.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

They enter through the hotel lobby, and read the sign that directs them to the right hallway.

DENTAL CONFERENCE SIGN, WITH A DIRECTIONAL ARROW

They stand in a line and wait for name tags.

DAVE

Thanks for coming to this CONFERENCE with me. They should have a BADGE for you as my HYGIENIST.

Kendra gives Dave a weird look.

KENDRA  
Hygienist?

Dave smiles. Kendra shrugs. They move up in line and are soon checked in and given name tags.

INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Kendra finishes putting her name tag on, and Dave still has his in hand. They walk just inside the conference room and Dave peels the sticky back from his name tag.

He bends his knees, raises his arms, and shoots the discard into the waste basket at the back of the room.

DAVE

Good shot!

Kendra smiles as she shakes her head.

They walk past several rows and find seats for the lecture. Kendra skews her eyes as she looks at the large screen.

FORENSIC MEDICINE, BUGS, AND HEPATITIS C IN DENTISTRY

CAMERA FOCUSES ON THE WORD BUGS.

Kendra's eyes show her startled attention to the subject BUGS.

Dave motions to Kendra as he moves to a nearby section. Kendra follows. They seat themselves.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's sit over here. Can you see okay?

KENDRA

Sure. I see fine.

INT. DERMATOLOGIST OFFICE - DAY

Kendra has a heavy RED RASH on her legs and slight blemishes on her face. Dermatologist, DR. SUSAN NASH, cool temperament, fast talker, plain and insecure, does not look Kendra in the eye as she speaks.

DR. SUSAN NASH

Hi, I'm Dr. Susan Nash. What brings you here today?

KENDRA

This rash. Am I the worst case you ever saw?

Dr. Susan Nash looks at the rash on Kendra's legs.



DR. SUSAN NASH

I've seen worse. When I'm done here,  
let's do a quick history on you, and then  
I'll prescribe something to help you.

Dr. Susan Nash examines Kendra, lifting arms, then legs, one at a time. She gives sound direction SHARPLY about the COMPOUND MEDICATION.

DR. SUSAN NASH (CONT'D)

I'm going to give you a compound for your  
body, an ointment for your scalp, and a  
cortisone cream for your face. DON'T USE  
THAT COMPOUND ON YOUR FACE. It's too  
harsh.

KENDRA

Okay. How long does it take to get rid  
of this?

Dr. Susan Nash heads for the door, and turns to answer  
Kendra.

DR. SUSAN NASH

Months.

Kendra is undoubtedly shocked and questions her.

KENDRA

Months?

Kendra squirms in her place on the examining table.

DR. SUSAN NASH

Yes. Months.

INT. KENDRA'S DRESSING ROOM - EVENING

Kendra sits at her makeup counter and scratches her itchy  
face. She applies MEDICATION to her arms and legs. She then  
applies MAKE-UP to her face that barely covers the blemishes.  
There is a dark shadow along her entire jawline.

Kendra begins to tear up. She RAISES HER VOICE in horror.

KENDRA

Just look at me! What an awful sight.

Kendra picks up her hairbrush and starts to do her hair. She  
sees a rash on her underarm and down her side.

She MOANS, her face becomes reddened, and she is filled with angered emotion. She stands and HURLS the hairbrush at the mirror. It SHATTERS.

Sitting back down, Kendra covers her eyes and puts her head down on the dressing table. She whimpers and cries.

INT. COCKTAIL LOUNGE - EVENING

Kendra meets with friends JENNIFER, bubbly, and Stephanie, negative, both forties and well dressed. Music plays. VINCE, nice looking, short and stocky, walks over from the bar.

VINCE

So what brings you girls out tonight?

JENNIFER

We're just out to have a good time.

Stephanie furls her eyebrows and has a disgusted look on her face. Vince places one of his business cards on the girls' table.

VINCE

Hi, I'm Vince. Here's my card. I do exterminating. Everybody calls me THE BUG MAN.

The girls giggle. Kendra picks up his card and examines it, then puts it down.

STEPHANIE

(speaking dryly)

So how's business?

VINCE

Good as ever. Such nice looking girls. I think I should ask one of you to dance.

Vince looks over the girls, extends his hand and gestures to Kendra to go out on the dance floor.

VINCE (CONT'D)

How about it?

Kendra mildly shrugs and is pleased that someone should admire her.

KENDRA

Sure. I'd love to.

Music plays, and Vince and Kendra dance.

VINCE

I usually don't stay here this late, but I met a friend here tonight. I'm glad I stayed.

KENDRA

Me too. It's nice to meet you.

VINCE

How about if I call you and we go to lunch sometime?

Kendra smiles.

KENDRA

Sure. You can call me.

INT. KENDRA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kendra awakens stretching and yawning. She wipes her eyes, and finds something moving in her eyelashes.

She squints her eyes and then reopens them. She jumps out of bed and runs to the bathroom to look in the mirror.

INT. KENDRA'S BATHROOM - MORNING

KENDRA

Oh! How horrible! What's that jumping in my eyes?

She is horrified, and hops around the room in a circle.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I don't believe this!

She looks in the bathroom mirror again.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - MORNING

She runs to the kitchen to get the Bug-Away and returns to the bathroom.

INT. KENDRA'S BATHROOM - MORNING

She sprays it in her hands and applies it to her eyelashes and scalp. She sighs and moans heavily.

She leans over the bathroom counter to look in the mirror again. The jumping in her eyelashes has subsided. She stops squinting.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Oh God! Help me, please.

EXT. KENDRA'S BACKYARD - DAY

Kendra and Dan sit close together around an umbrellaed patio table as they look over pictures from their trip. Dan is warmly affectionate. Kendra gently brushes Dan's hand off her shoulder.

KENDRA

Oh, and look at this one. Don't we look dapper?

DAN

Oh, yes. That was the morning after we met that nice ol' IRISHMAN in BATH. Remember him?

KENDRA

Yes, I do. He sure did want to show us around the town, didn't he?

Kendra flips through a stack of photographs.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Oh, here he is.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE IRISHMAN IN THE ENGLISH PUB.

DAN

Yes, he did. And there we are sanitizing our shoes because of the MAD COW disease.

KENDRA

Oh, yes, . . . bad time to be traveling in England. And look at this one.

DAN

How many layers of clothing did you have on?

Kendra giggles.

KENDRA

Four, I think. I was freezing. It was cold for that time of year, wasn't it?

DAN

It can get pretty cool right off the sea.

FLASH FORWARD

INT. KENDRA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kendra awakens and gets out of bed. She sees FEATHERS on the floor all around her bed and is horrified. She picks up her pillow and examines it, sees nothing, and puts it down. She picks up the feathers from the floor and stares at them.

KENDRA

What the hell is going on? Where are these feathers coming from?

She then picks up her pillow again, removes the pillow case, and tears the rest of her bedding from the bed. She carries it to her laundry room.

INT. KENDRA'S LAUNDRY ROOM - MORNING

Kendra puts the pillow and bedding into the washing machine, turns it on, adds soap and bleach, and sets the temperature dial to HOT.

KENDRA

Bleach and hot water. That should work. Hopefully.

INT. DERMATOLOGIST OFFICE - DAY

Kendra is sitting in the examining room. The door opens, and Dr. Susan Nash enters with a chart in hand talking loud and fast.

DR. SUSAN NASH

Let's see, you're still using the compound for your body, the ointment for your scalp, and the cortisone cream for your face.

Kendra is frazzled and looks at Dr. Susan Nash scornfully.

KENDRA

Yes, but why didn't you tell me that I needed to wash all my bedding constantly?

Dr. Susan Nash looks up sharply.

DR. SUSAN NASH

You shouldn't have to.

KENDRA

Then where are all the feathers coming from? They're on my floor all around my bed when I wake up.

DR. SUSAN NASH

I don't know. Maybe you need to take something to help you feel that you don't have bugs.

I can't prescribe it for you because I don't have the equipment to monitor you, but there is a drug you can take to settle you out.

I'll write it down for you, and you can check with your family physician.

Dr. Susan Nash walks toward the door as Kendra speaks meekly.

KENDRA

I don't know . . . I don't think that's the problem. Just what is it that you think I have, anyway?

Dr. Susan Nash turns and answers.

DR. SUSAN NASH

Eczema.

Kendra squints her eyes and responds rhetorically.

KENDRA

Eczema?

Dr. Susan Nash speaks authoritatively.

DR. SUSAN NASH

Yes. Eczema.

FLASH FORWARD WINTER

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Kendra stands and watches the snow fall outside her living room window. She is in her nightgown and moves to turn off the lights on her way to the bedroom. She sees BUGS ILLUMINATED in the air like FAIRY DUST.

INT. KENDRA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

She scurries to her bedroom and gets the Bug-Away, then returns to the living room.

INT. - KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

She sprays into the air, all around the room, and herself. She is frantic.

KENDRA

I can't believe this! It's like living through a horror movie.

INT. KENDRA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Kendra enters her bedroom and sprays her bedding with Bug-Away. She leaves the spray bottle on the floor next to the bed and flops into bed. She sighs exhaustively.

KENDRA

(sighing)

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kendra sits at the kitchen table talking with Joyce who sits across from her. They each have a cup of coffee in front of them.

KENDRA

Yes. I made an appointment with an exterminator the next day.

JOYCE

What did they say the problem was, anyway?

KENDRA

MITES. I don't know what that white worm thing was a while back. They couldn't find anything, Joyce. The guy inspected the house thoroughly . . .

and the garage, the cat food, candy in boxes, my refrigerator, and everywhere, but they didn't find a thing.

Joyce looks at Kendra disparagingly.

JOYCE

Well, I guess that's all you can do.

Joyce rises from the kitchen chair.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

Well, I'd better be going.

KENDRA

Oh, okay. Thanks for stopping by.

Kendra follows Joyce to the door to see her out.

JOYCE

Bye now.

Kendra returns to the table and sits down in her chair. She sips her coffee, and a WORM falls from her mouth into her cup.

KENDRA

My God! That came from me?

INT. VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Kendra takes her cat, Sheba, to DR. DAY, VETERINARIAN, dressed in a lab coat. He is kind and gentle natured. There are a few other OWNERS with their pets in the waiting room. She is called in to see Dr. Day.

OFFICE ATTENDANT

Kendra Jansen?

Kendra stands, and follows the attendant. She places Sheba on the examining table as the doctor enters. Dr. Day thoughtfully checks the cat over and then applies medication to the back of her neck.

DR. DAY

I can't see anything on her, but you should use this medication on her monthly as a precaution.



Just put it on the back of her neck. It protects pets against all fleas, ticks and parasites.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kendra is going through her mail on the kitchen counter when the DOORBELL RINGS. Joyce is at the side door off of the kitchen. Kendra opens the MEDICAL STATEMENT from her insurance company. She walks toward the door to let Joyce in. Her eyes follow her finger down the page as she counts.

KENDRA

Hi, Joyce. Come on in. Just opening my mail here. Can you believe that I've had TWENTY-SEVEN PRESCRIPTIONS filled in the last quarter?

JOYCE

Twenty-seven? That's incredible. And you still see bugs or whatever in your house, right? Maybe you should just sell this place and move.

Kendra looks at Joyce strangely.

KENDRA

What? And get sued from the buyer for nondisclosure? I don't think so.

JOYCE

Does anybody else know about the bug problem you've had here?

KENDRA

No! I wouldn't dare tell anyone. No one would come over. How am I ever to be rid of them? They're still in my skin, even if doctors don't believe me. They all just tell me I need a psychiatrist. So what am I to do?

JOYCE

Just keep doing what you're doing. Eventually they should leave. The thing with PARASITES is that you just can't kill them. They can withstand any amount of heat or cold. They just don't die.

Kendra looks up at joyce thoughtfully.

KENDRA

So you really think they're parasites?

JOYCE

Yes. I do.

Kendra shakes her head and is woeful. She is in despair.

KENDRA

I've tried everything. I spray my heat ducts, I pour bleach through the vents outside that go under my house. I wash my bedding in bleach. I've exterminated the house three times.

JOYCE

Like I said, you can't kill parasites. You just have to make them so uncomfortable that they leave.

Joyce pauses and speaks softly.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

Maybe you'll even DIE with them!

Kendra looks alarmed. She drops her head in dismay.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

I know it's exasperating. You've gotta keep trying to rid yourself of them.

KENDRA

I know. I don't know how much longer I can go on.

JOYCE

Try spraying bleach on your furnace filter. You could also put bleach in your humidifier just to make sure there's nothing lurking in stagnant water.

KENDRA

Okay.

Kendra hangs her head. She is mournful.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Any other ideas?

JOYCE

Sure. You could try eating really spicy food, like chips and hot salsa. Remember how you use to eat that stuff 'til the tears ran down your face?

Kendra tries to break a smile and chuckles.

KENDRA

Yes, I do. I don't like it quite that hot any more.

JOYCE

Well try it. And have a couple of really spicy Bloody Marys, too.

Kendra smiles.

INT. COCKTAIL LOUNGE - EVENING

Kendra meets with Jennifer and Stephanie for cocktails. The girls' eyes glance at Kendra's face and note her poor complexion and dark shadow along her jawline, but say nothing.

JENNIFER

Say, Kendra, did that Bug Man guy ever call you?

Kendra smirks.

KENDRA

No. Figures. Actually, he did call once, had to break for another call, but never called back.

Stephanie is sarcastic, then looks around at the crowd.

STEPANIE

Hmph. Men. What would you expect? Guess I haven't been here in a while. Has this crowd changed?

JENNIFER

I think so. I hardly recognize anyone in here.

Kendra looks around.

KENDRA

Oh. There's someone I know. He's Dave's friend.

Kendra calls out to JOE, early thirties, long hair, hippie, who saunters over to the girls' table.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Hey, Joe. I'd like you to meet my friends Stephanie and Jennifer.

JOE

Hi ladies. How's it goin' tonight?

STEPANIE

Good.

Jennifer just smiles.

KENDRA

Great! Say, have you seen Dave lately?

JOE

Yeah. A few weeks ago.

KENDRA

Me too.

JOE

He actually forgot to pick me up one day. I don't know what's going on with him.

KENDRA

Maybe he's getting caught up playing Black Jack at the casinos. You know how he loves that.

JOE

Yeah he does.

Kendra is paranoid and brushes white suspecting SPECS from her clothing. She excuses herself to go to the restroom.

KENDRA

(voice trailing off)  
Excuse me. I'll be right back.

JOE

(walking away)  
Nice to meet ya. See ya later.

STEPANIE

I don't know about her, Jen. She keeps talking about going to doctors, but I don't see any improvement. Even with me being a medical assistant, I don't know what to tell her.

JENNIFER

I know. I don't either. If she ever finds some answers, maybe it would help you to learn too.

STEPANIE

I don't know how she keeps smiling with her skin and complexion so messed up. I hope it's nothing we could catch from her.

JENNIFER

I never thought of that, but I surely hope not. I'm kind of worried about her actually. It's been months.

STEPANIE

I don't know what kind of doctors she's seeing that can't help her.

JENNIFER

It must be something complicated. Might be a good topic for your thesis, you know?

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Joyce and Kendra meet for coffee at a local diner. They sit in a booth. No one is near them.

JOYCE

Kendra, I was watching a talk show on television this morning, and they interviewed a lady who had a rare skin disease. It sounded just like what you've been complaining about.

KENDRA

Really?

JOYCE

Yes. I think you should call the station and ORDER THE TRANSCRIPT.

The disease has a name, but they can't figure out what it is, nor do they have a cure yet. But at least it is being recognized as a problem.

They describe it as a FIBER disease, just as you do. Even the FBI has been brought in to determine what kind of fibers they are, but they can't identify them.

KENDRA

Joyce, are you serious?

JOYCE

Yes, I am. You should order the transcript.

KENDRA

I will.

FLASH FORWARD

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kendra sits on her couch, papers in hand. She earnestly reads the transcript that she ordered, flipping the pages as she reads.

She then moves to her desk and sits down at her computer to look up information.

MORGELLONS RESEARCH FOUNDATION is shown on the computer screen with some GRAPHICS of RASHES.

KENDRA

So it has a name, MORGELLONS. And even a foundation working on it!

She continues to search the Internet, and after reading a few minutes, shakes her head and reads aloud.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

So many people are infected, but the doctors say it's all in their heads. They think their patients have a mental illness.

FLASH FORWARD SUMMER

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Kendra and Stephanie have lunch at a restaurant with an outdoor patio on the water and look at the lake. Kendra tries to hide her skin problem with makeup, but scratches her itchy face. Stephanie questions her directly.

STEPANIE

So how's that skin problem of yours?

Kendra looks disparaged.

KENDRA

It's still bothering me. A lot.

STEPANIE

What does the doctor say? What do they say you have, anyway?

Kendra looks down, embarrassed, then shows an unconvincing expression.

KENDRA

Eczema. That's what I was told.

STEPANIE

Do you think maybe you caught something on your trip to England?

KENDRA

I've been told no.

STEPANIE

I can't believe your doctor can't help you! This has gone on so long. Have you seen any other doctor?

KENDRA

Yes. Several.

STEPANIE

And no solution?

Stephanie looks doubtful and disgusted.

KENDRA

Nope.

EXT. COLLEGE STADIUM - DAY

Dave and Kendra walk among the crowd of people into the college stadium, and to the bleachers. They sit a few rows up.

ESTABLISHING SHOT

INT. COLLEGE STADIUM - DAY

They take seats, and Dave puts his arm lightly around Kendra.

DAVE

Well, you've seen high school teams play and now another college team. What do you think? Do you like one more than the other?

Kendra turns to face Dave.

KENDRA

Actually, I like both. It's interesting to see the difference in the level of play. College basketball is more professional, but with the high school kids you can quickly see who has the better team.

DAVE

I'm glad you enjoy them. You know what a sports nut I am.

Kendra rolls her eyes.

KENDRA

Really! You live and breathe sports.

DAVE

By the way, I have another dental conference coming up. Will you go with me?

KENDRA

Sure. Just let me know when.

FLASH FORWARD



INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Dave and Kendra sit in the hotel meeting room as others still file in and get settled. A large BLANK SCREEN is in front of them.

KENDRA

What's the topic today? I forgot to ask you.

DAVE

You'll see in a minute.

More people come in and get seated. The topic slide appears on the screen as people continue to assemble. Kendra is again wide-eyed and mesmerized at the word BUGS on the screen.

NEW BUGS AND DRUGS: EMERGING THERAPIES AND IMMUNIZING STAFF

KENDRA

Well, that's a full platter, isn't it?

DAVE

Yes. Should be interesting.

Kendra is tapped on the shoulder, and she turns around and sees her DENTIST, DR. WALTERS, big lady, friendly.

KENDRA

Oh, hi!

DR. WALTERS

I thought that was you in here.

KENDRA

Oh, Dr. Walters. This is my friend, Dr. Bowman. Dave, this is my dentist, Dr. Walters.

Dave smiles and Dr. Walters greets him with a handshake.

DR. WALTERS

(looking at Dave)

Nice to meet you.

DR. WALTERS (CONT'D)

(speaking to Kendra)

It's nice that he brings you in here.

KENDRA

I think so too. He knows that I love all this medical stuff. Always did.

DR. WALTERS

I could tell by all the dental questions you ask me. Well, I'd better get seated. Nice to see you, and nice to meet you, Dr. Bowman.

FLASH FORWARD WINTER

INT. KENDRA'S LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

It is winter, and snow covers the ground. Kendra prepares to go outside to shovel snow, and puts on her jacket over her blouse and cardigan sweater, a hat, gloves and boots. She speaks to her cat, Sheba.

KENDRA

Am I bundled up enough or what! This should keep me warm out there.

The cat looks at Kendra, then leaves the room.

INT. KENDRA'S GARAGE - DAY

Kendra opens the garage door and gets a shovel to clean off the snow from the driveway.

EXT. KENDRA'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

There's a blanket of snow on the ground. SCRAPING is heard as she shovels. Other neighbors are shoveling their driveways also.

NEIGHBOR

Good to see you, Kendra. Keep up the good work!

KENDRA

You too! Glad I don't have a big driveway!

Kendra finishes and goes back inside, shaking the snow from her boots.

INT. KENDRA'S LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

She takes off her gloves, hat, and scarf, then her jacket, and hangs it on a hook. Next she removes her cardigan sweater.

KENDRA

Whew. I'm hot now.

Kendra sees WHITE WORMS on the inside of her sweater and GASPS. She speaks to herself in an almost whisper.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Oh no! Am I paranoid, or is this real?

She delicately handles the sweater by the top of the neck between her thumb and index finger, and quickly puts the sweater in a garbage bag and ties it securely.

INT. KENDRA'S GARAGE - DAY

She carries it out to a waste can in the garage.

INT. KENDRA'S LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

She returns to the laundry room and inspects the inside of her jacket. Her eyes are FLASHING.

She sees WHITE THREADS OR WORMS on the inside of the dark jacket.

She is frantic, looks at the inside of her jacket twice more, is still unsure, and quickly drops the jacket into the washing machine.

She turns the water temperature to HOT and adds SOAP and BLEACH, and SLAMS the lid closed.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

What a nightmare! I wish I were dreaming!

INT. KENDRA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Kendra checks her back and the rest of her body in the full-length mirror in her dressing room, but sees nothing on her.

She dresses.

INT. KENDRA'S LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Kendra returns to the laundry room and gets another coat from the closet. She puts the coat on.

She breathes heavily.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kendra goes into the kitchen and picks up her handbag, keys, and an ADDRESSED BOX to be mailed.

THE ADDRESS READS: STATE OFFICES, DEPARTMENT OF . . .  
(remaining address is illegible)

EXT. POST OFFICE - DAY

Kendra drives to the POST OFFICE and parks her car.

ESTABLISHING SHOT

INT. KENDRA'S CAR - DAY

Her face itches and she scratches it. She looks in her visor mirror and sees a BROWN SPLOTCH on her cheek. She quickly wipes it off with a tissue from her handbag.

She picks up a small bottle of bug spray that she carries in her car and sprays some on her hand to use on her face.

KENDRA

Oh God, what's this now?

INT. POST OFFICE - DAY

Kendra enters the post office and, finding no line of people, walks up front and hands the CLERK a small package.

KENDRA

I'd like to mail this package, please.

CLERK

Sure. Would you like insurance on it?

KENDRA

Oh, no. No thanks.

CLERK

That'll be seven dollars and 60 cents.

Kendra fiddles in her handbag to find money and hands the clerk the exact amount.

KENDRA

Sure. Here you are.

Kendra leaves the post office. She gets into her car and drives away.

FLASH FORWARD

INT. KENDRA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Kendra adjusts the water in the shower. She undresses, checks the water temperature, and steps in.

She enjoys the hot spray of water running over her back when a large BLACK FURRY SPIDER falls at her feet and SQUIRMS in the running water.

Kendra SHRIEKS, leaps out of the shower, and grabs her towel. She HYPERVENTILATES and tries to catch her breath.

She gets her bottle of Bug-Away from the bedroom, and sprays the spider. She washes him down the drain, still panting, then turns off the water.

INT. KENDRA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kendra throws herself across her bed, still in her towel. She puts her arm over her forehead and breaths heavily.

The TELEPHONE RINGS. She sits up and reaches across her bed to answer. She is weary.

KENDRA

Hello?

JOYCE (V.O.)

Hi, its me. Catch you at a good time?

Kendra sounds drained of energy.

KENDRA

Oh, Hi Joyce. Sort of. I just got out of the shower. Give me a second to put a robe on.

JOYCE (V.O.)

Sure.

Kendra puts the telephone down and walks to the closet.

She grabs a robe and puts it on, dropping her towel to the floor.

She picks the telephone back up and speaks dryly.

INTERCUT - Kendra's Bedroom, Joyce's Home

KENDRA

Okay. That's better. What's up?

JOYCE

I just wanted to know how you were doing. Did you get any results from the samples you sent to the STATE?

KENDRA

Yeah. It just said SKIN PARTICLES and UNIDENTIFIED FRAGMENTS.

JOYCE

No help, huh?

KENDRA

Nope. This is so frustrating.

JOYCE

Tried those Bloody Marys yet?

Kendra smiles.

KENDRA

No, I haven't.

INT. RESTAURANT BAR - EVENING

Kendra and Jennifer meet for a SINGLES happy hour followed by dinner. They sit at a high table in the bar area, which is full of other singles. The coordinator, TIM, mid-fifties, nice looking, arranges a table for four for Kendra, Jennifer and two gentlemen.

JENNIFER

This SINGLES CLUB seems to be very active. There's a pretty good crowd here, don't you think?

KENDRA

Yes, I'd say so. I don't know anyone here, do you?

JENNIFER  
Can't say that I do.

KENDRA  
Are you still planning on staying for  
dinner?

JENNIFER  
Sure, why not. I'll let Tim, the  
coordinator, know that we're staying.

Jennifer motions to Tim and he comes over to their bar table.

TIM  
Have you girls decided to stay for  
dinner?

JENNIFER  
Yes, we're staying.

TIM  
Good. I'll let you know when I have a  
table ready for you. I'll match you up  
with a couple of fellows here.

JENNIFER  
Great.

Tim walks away.

KENDRA  
That should be interesting. So, what  
else has been going on with you?

JENNIFER  
Well, you know I've been taking care of a  
neighbor in the evening since she got  
sick.

KENDRA  
Yeah? How's it going?

JENNIFER  
Pretty good. I make sure that she has  
her meds and bring her groceries when she  
needs them. Stuff like that.

KENDRA

Oh. That's really good of you. After you work all day with autistic children, you take care of a neighbor at night.

Tim motions for Kendra and Jennifer to sit at a BOOTH. The two gentlemen, BILL, forties, scrawny, and RICHARD, forties, medium build, are already seated. The girls walk over and join them in the booth.

JENNIFER

Hi, I'm Jennifer, and this is my friend, Kendra.

RICHARD

Nice to meet you. I'm Richard.

BILL

And I'm Bill. Nice to meet everyone this evening.

KENDRA

Well, this is quite different. Have you fellows done this before?

BILL

Not actually, but I think it's a great idea.

JENNIFER

I think so too. It's a nice way to get introduced to new friends.

RICHARD

So, Jennifer, Kendra, what is it that you girls do? Do you work?

JENNIFER

Yes, we work. Kendra is a writer, and I work at a school for children with disabilities.

RICHARD

Oh, a caregiver, huh?

JENNIFER

Sort of. But the kids are real interesting. I enjoy them.



BILL

And you write, Kendra? What is it that you write about?

Kendra rolls her eyes as she speaks. She enunciates the word INTRIGUE.

KENDRA

Usually mystery. I find a lot of intrigue in mystery.

The WAITRESS, twenties, cute, comes by their table.

WAITRESS

Are you ready to order?

BILL

No, could you give us a few minutes, please?

WAITRESS

Sure. I'll be back.

The young waitress skips off.

All four pick up the MENUS and begin to peruse the pages.

BILL

I'm a steak man. I like a really good cut of beef.

KENDRA

I like beef myself.

JENNIFER

I think I'll have a white fish tonight. Oh, and by the way, their fish chowder is quite excellent here.

KENDRA

Thanks. I'll consider it.

The menus are put down and conversation resumes.

JENNIFER

So what do you do, Richard?

RICHARD

I work for the phone company. I'm a dispatcher for trouble calls.

KENDRA

Oh. My cousin was a line man for a while. He really liked working for them.

RICHARD

It's a good job.

KENDRA

And Bill, I don't think anyone asked what you do.

BILL

I'm a PODIATRIST.

The group falls silent. No one speaks. They look at each other and SMIRK. Then finally, there is LAUGHTER.

KENDRA, JENNIFER, RICHARD  
(silence, then laughing)

RICHARD

What do you say to that? Seen any toe tags lately?

KENDRA, JENNIFER, RICHARD  
(laughing)

BILL

Really, it's a good profession. I'm in private practice. I do house calls. I have many patients that I treat.

JENNIFER

I guess if they have bad feet, you have to go to them.

BILL

It works that way.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jennifer visits with Kendra in her tidy kitchen, and they sit at the table. A pan simmers on the stove.

KENDRA

Want a cup of coffee, or a pop or something?

JENNIFER

Just a water. Thanks.

KENDRA

Sounds good to me too.

Kendra gets up and opens the refrigerator. She grabs two bottles of water and returns to sit across from Jennifer at the table.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

So what did you think about last evening?

JENNIFER

I thought it was pretty good. How about you?

KENDRA

Yeah, I thought so too. And that Bill guy has both of our numbers.

JENNIFER

I'm really not interested in him, so if he calls you and you want to go out, go ahead.

KENDRA

You didn't like him?

JENNIFER

I just didn't like the looks of him. He just didn't appeal to me; did he to you?

KENDRA

I didn't think he was bad. A little on the thin side, maybe, but I thought he was sort of interesting, actually.

JENNIFER

Well, we'll see if he calls either of us.

EXT. SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE - DAY

Kendra pulls into the parking lot of the SECRETARY OF STATE office. Snow is on the ground.

ESTABLISHING SHOT

She gets out of her car and trudges through the snow and enters the building. She stomps the snow off of her boots at the entrance.

INT. SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE - DAY

She spots the sign for driver license renewals.

DRIVER LICENSE RENEWAL LINE

She takes a number and waits in a chair to be called by a WORKER. She removes her coat.

A SWARM OF MITES leaves her coat, circles around, drops to the floor, and swirls up to the seat of one of the open chairs.

Kendra IS WIDE-EYED and can hardly believe what she sees. She is horrified. No one is around her. She is called.

WORKER

Next?

Kendra looks around and walks up to the counter to be taken care of, relieved that the mites don't follow her.

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Kendra is alone and intoxicated. She is eating chips and salsa and has three Bloody Marys lined up on her table, two empty. She calls her friend, Joyce, on the telephone and staggers around as she talks THICK TONGUED, slightly slurring her words.

KENDRA

Hi, Joysh? (Joyce)

INTERCUT - Kendra's Living Room, Joyce's Home

JOYCE

Yes? Kendra, is that you?

KENDRA

Yep. Barely here though. I'm tryin' out your home remedy.

JOYCE

What's that? The Bloody Mary's?

KENDRA

Yep. Can ya tell?

JOYCE

You're not planning on driving tonight, are you?

KENDRA

Nope. Stayin' right here. Couldn't make it out to the car, I don't think.

JOYCE

I don't think so either. Is anyone with you?

KENDRA

Nope. Just havin' a good ol' time by myself here. Mighty fine time.

FLASH FORWARD SUMMER

EXT. OUTDOOR BAR - DAY

Kendra meets with friends Stephanie, Joyce and Jennifer at an outdoor Tiki bar. They sit at a high table. Kendra receives attention from The Bug Man, Vince, but he doesn't recognize her. He addresses the girls when passing by.

VINCE

Well, good evening ladies. Who's this sweet thing sittin' here with you? Damn she's good lookin', ain't she? Well, you all look good, really!

Stephanie looks up, smirks, then changes her expression and smiles. She speaks surprisingly upbeat.

STEPHANIE

Thanks. It's always nice to get a compliment.

VINCE

I'll be back. I've gotta meet with a friend here, but I'll be back.

Vince walks over and kisses Kendra on the cheek and leaves.

KENDRA

He doesn't remember me, but I know him.

JENNIFER

You do?

KENDRA

Yes, we met him here once before. Don't you remember? He's The Bug Man. He obviously doesn't remember me.

JOYCE

The Bug Man?

KENDRA

Yeah, an exterminator. Maybe you weren't with us last time.

JENNIFER

Well, he sure seems to like you.

KENDRA

He liked me last time, too, but we never got together.

STEPANIE

That's men for ya.

Vince walks back past the girls' table and kisses Kendra on the cheek again.

VINCE

Can't help but kiss those sweet cheeks.

KENDRA

You don't remember me, do you!

VINCE

Remember you?

KENDRA

Yeah. We met before. You're The Bug Man.

VINCE

Yeah. How did you know that?

KENDRA

Because we met before.

VINCE

How did I let that one get by me?

EXT. KENDRA'S BACKYARD - DAY

Kendra is wearing a bathing suit and is sitting in her EMPTY HOT TUB washing it out.

She watches something off white and roly poly crawl out of her skin and back in. Her eyes on fixed on the spot.

The sun is blazing hot. Her friend Joyce, dressed in shorts and a short-sleeved top, shows up. She stands and watches.

JOYCE

Well hi there. How're you doing?

Kendra's skin rash is light, but evident on her face, arms and legs.

KENDRA

I'm fine, thanks.

JOYCE

Well, for being fine, you don't look fine.

KENDRA

I know. The sun helps, but I'm still a mess. I usually try to hide it, but I'm getting pretty tired of wearing long sleeves and panty hose with shorts to cover up these spots.

JOYCE

I wish they were gone for you.

KENDRA

Me too. I've used every natural remedy offered by others on the Internet, and they help, but not enough. Some of them are pretty dangerous, too, but this disease makes us all desperate.

(beat)

I even tried another dermatologist for a second opinion.

JOYCE

And?

KENDRA

Nothing. She did a punch biopsy, which I was grateful for. The report came back completely negative. No parasites, no fungus, no virus, no infection.

JOYCE

So you still don't have any proof that there's a parasite!

KENDRA

I know. Every doctor I see thinks I just need a psychiatrist, just like all the other victims I read about on line. I feel like somebody is hiding something. It's hard to believe that we can't get help. We're all so flummoxed about this.

Kendra shows a serious expression on her face and shakes her head.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Let's go in and get something cool to drink, okay?

JOYCE

Sounds good. It's hot out here.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kendra escorts Joyce into the house and into the kitchen. The TELEPHONE RINGS. She reaches for the wall phone and answers it.

KENDRA

Hello?

JENNIFER (V.O.)

Oh hi. You're there.

KENDRA

Yeah, how are you?

Kendra covers the mouthpiece.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

(talking to Joyce)  
It's Jennifer.

Joyce nods.

INTERCUT - Kendra's Kitchen, Jennifer's Home

JENNIFER

Fine. Hey, has that Bill guy called you? The Podiatrist, you know.



KENDRA

As a matter of fact he has. He's left three messages, but I haven't been home. Why? Has he called you?

JENNIFER

Yes. He's called consistently every night, but I haven't been home either. I'm taking care of my neighbor, you know.

KENDRA

Oh, that's right.

JENNIFER

Well, I just wanted to know if you talked to him yet.

KENDRA

No, not yet. He sure is persistent though, isn't he? And to call both of us!

INT. PEST CONTROL STORE - DAY

Kendra takes a jar of what she thinks are bug samples from her skin to an exterminator. Pictures of bugs line the walls. The EXTERMINATOR, sixties, crass, stands behind the counter, and an ASSISTANT, fifties and pleasant, sits at a desk to the right.

A FEMALE CUSTOMER, plain, walks in and stands behind Kendra.

There is a stand-up WOODEN PLAQUE on the counter.

LET US IDENTIFY YOUR BUGS

EXTERMINATOR

Well hello again, young lady. What can I do for you today?

Kendra puts the jar on the counter.

KENDRA

Well, I brought in a jar of samples to see if you can help me identify what's in my house.

The exterminator looks at the jar, becomes enraged, throws his arms up, and SHOUTS at her.

EXTERMINATOR

Don't bring that crap in here to me. I deal with insects, not that stuff. That's a medical problem!

KENDRA

Well, you treat parasites in the house, don't you?

Exterminator still has his voice raised.

EXTERMINATOR

Some insects are parasites; some are not. See your dermatologist, not me!

Kendra looks hopeless and replies meekly.

KENDRA

I am.

She becomes horribly embarrassed as she catches the glance of the next customer in line behind her. The assistant is still seated at a desk and speaks to Kendra.

ASSISTANT

I wouldn't exterminate any more if I were you.

KENDRA

You wouldn't?

ASSISTANT

No. What you've done should be enough.

Exterminator is still upset, paces around the small office, and throws his hands up in the air again and YELLS.

EXTERMINATOR

Why do people think I can help with that? That's not my problem. Go see your doctor!

KENDRA

Well, thanks for your help--and your rudeness!

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Kendra is in the kitchen wiping off the counter and the TELEPHONE RINGS. She answers it.

KENDRA

Hello?

BILL (V.O.)

Hi. This is William Wyler, the  
Podiatrist.

INTERCUT - Kendra's Kitchen, Bill's Home

KENDRA

Well, hello William. Can I call you  
Bill?

BILL

Sure. Bill's okay. Say, I was wondering  
if we could go to dinner, maybe this  
Sunday? I have a patient in your area  
that day, so that would work well for me.

KENDRA

Sure. What time do you have in mind?

BILL

Well, my appointment is at 3:00 p.m. So,  
I should arrive at your place about 4:00.  
Is that okay?

KENDRA

That would be fine.

BILL

You said you had some good restaurants by  
you, so we'll pick one when I get there.  
I'm pretty particular about my steaks.

KENDRA

Oh, I remember. Well, that's fine. I'll  
see you Sunday then.

INT. KENDRA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Kendra sits at her dressing table and applies makeup heavily  
to her face to cover blemishes when the DOORBELL RINGS. She  
quickly finishes and hurries to the door.

INT. KENDRA'S FOYER - DAY

Kendra opens the door and greets Bill, the Podiatrist.

KENDRA  
Hi, come on in.

BILL  
Nice to see you.

KENDRA  
You too. Follow me.

Kendra closes the door and Bill follows her into the living room.

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kendra motions to Bill to sit down.

KENDRA  
Have a seat. Can I offer you a glass of wine or something?

BILL  
Wine would be nice. Thank you.

Kendra goes to the small furniture bar and pours two glasses of wine and hands one to Bill.

KENDRA  
How was your appointment today?

BILL  
Fine. He's quite close to here actually. It only took me a few minutes to get to your place from there.

KENDRA  
I'm surprised that doctors still make house calls today.

BILL  
I find it's better in my field. I had a practice with office hours, but a couple of years ago another doctor acquaintance and I started doing in-home care.

KENDRA  
That must give you more freedom.

BILL

It does. . . It actually works out quite well. It cuts down on a lot of operating costs and puts more in our pockets.

KENDRA

That's nice.

Bill notices a skin problem on Kendra's face.

BILL

It's nice that the sun is out today.

KENDRA

It sure is.

BILL

You know that the sun is the best thing for psoriasis?

KENDRA

No, I didn't.

BILL

Well it is. Skin problems clear up nicely with the help of the sun.

Bill looks at Kendra and smiles.

BILL (CONT'D)

Oh, you mentioned there are a few restaurants that are good around here.

KENDRA

Yes, there are a few exceptionally good ones. I can tell you are a man of discriminating taste?

BILL

Yes, if you would just get me the telephone numbers, I'd like to call them to make sure that they have what I like.

KENDRA

Well, let me get the TELEPHONE BOOK, and we'll look them up.

Kendra gets the telephone book from the cabinet.

BILL

I like a certain cut of filet, you know.  
I know just what part of the tip I want.

Kendra flips through the telephone book finding restaurants.

KENDRA

Very well. Okay, here's the first one.  
I'll write it down for you and then look  
up the other two.

Bill stands up to look for the telephone.

BILL

May I use your telephone?

KENDRA

Oh, sure.

Kendra gets up, reaches for the phone and hands it to Bill.  
He sits back down and dials the first number.

BILL

Hello. This is Dr. William Wyler. I'd  
like to ask you about your menu. Yes.  
Do you serve filet? And what size filet  
is that? And do you serve a baked  
potato? Is it a fairly good sized  
potato? I see. Okay then, how late are  
you serving this evening? Thank you,  
I'll call you back.

Kendra finishes writing the other two numbers down and hands  
them to Bill.

KENDRA

Here you go.

BILL

Thank you.

Bill dials the second number. Kendra is slightly perturbed  
and raises her eyebrows.

BILL (CONT'D)

Hello. This is Dr. William Wyler. I'd  
like to ask you about your menu. Yes.  
Do you serve filet? And what size filet  
is that? . . .

Kendra taps her fingers impatiently.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

William Wyler, pompous, and Kendra enter the restaurant and approach the HOSTESS to be seated.

BILL

Hello. I'm Dr. William Wyler. I called you on the telephone?

HOSTESS

Yes, of course. Follow me to be seated.

Bill and Kendra follow and are seated. The WAITRESS, forties, experienced, comes immediately and places menus on the table.

WAITRESS

Good evening. I'll be your server tonight.

BILL

Thank you. Give us a few minutes to look over the menu.

WAITRESS

Certainly.

The waitress walks away and Kendra looks over the menu and decides what to order. The waitress returns shortly.

BILL

Know what you'd like to order?

KENDRA

Yes, I'm ready.

Bill motions to the waitress that they're ready, and she returns.

CUT TO:

Bill speaks.

He uses his two index fingers pointed inward to describe the cut of filet that he wants.

BILL

I'd like a large cut filet, the part where the little points come up. I'm a doctor, so I know what I want.

WAITRESS

Yes, I understand. I know exactly what cut you want, Sir. I'll get it for you.

BILL

And a very large baked potato.

WAITRESS

And can I start you out with a salad, Sir?

BILL

What kind of salad do you have?

WAITRESS

A nice mix of greens.

BILL

Oh, no. No. Do you have iceberg lettuce?

WAITRESS

Yes, there's a little bit of iceberg mixed in.

BILL

No. Just a wedge of iceberg lettuce.

WAITRESS

We don't serve just iceberg.

(beat)

But . . . but I'll see what I can do for you.

Kendra excuses herself to go to the ladies room.

KENDRA

I'll be right back, Bill.

INT. RESTAURANT BATHROOM - DAY

Kendra is in the bathroom looking in the mirror. She scratches her face brutally, and puts the yellow medication on her jawline to stop the itching.



She hears Dr. Susan Nash's firm VOICE IN HER HEAD: *Don't use that compound on your face!*

KENDRA (CONT'D)  
Oh! I wish this would stop.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

The waitress brings the check. Bill gets out a pen and writes on the back of the check to figure the tip. He leaves the exact amount in cash, counting pennies.

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Bill, playful and affectionate, stands and kisses Kendra on the cheek and hugs her before leaving.

BILL  
Well, it's been a great evening. I think we should do this again and try another restaurant. In fact, we'll try all of them at one time or another.

KENDRA  
I'm glad you liked your dinner.

BILL  
Yes, I did. Good night now.

INT. KENDRA'S FOYER - EVENING

Kendra walks Bill to the door.

KENDRA  
Good night.

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Kendra returns to the living room and plunks herself down heavily on the couch, throwing her feet up into the air.

KENDRA  
Whew! What a night!

FLASH FORWARD ONE WEEK

INT. KENDRA'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Kendra is in her dressing room applying medication as Joyce stands by waiting. Daylight shines through from the bedroom window.

JOYCE

Didn't you say you weren't supposed to use that yellow medicine on your face?

Kendra hears Dr. Susan Nash's firm VOICE IN HER HEAD: *Don't use that compound on your face!*

KENDRA

Yes. But nothing else stops the itching.

JOYCE

How many doctors have you seen for this?

KENDRA

Quite a few. Eight or nine maybe. They can't find anything wrong and all tell me I need a psychiatrist. It's so disheartening. And maddening.

JOYCE

I'm sure.

KENDRA

Surely you would think somebody should know something about this disease by now! It's everywhere. From what I've read, it's international, and none of us are getting help.

JOYCE

You know, maybe you should try another route. Maybe you should try holistic medicine, or see a nutritionist. Maybe someone would know what kind of foods would ward off parasites.

KENDRA

I guess I could try.

JOYCE

You might have even contracted something weird while you were in England, you know. Maybe that's why the medicines here won't work.

Kendra furrows her brow.

KENDRA

Really?

JOYCE

I don't know, but it's a thought. You were on that boat for four nights. Boats can be damp and attract bugs. And you mixed with a lot of different people while you were there. Maybe you should try an infectious disease doctor.

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Kendra sits on her couch watching television when the TELEPHONE RINGS. She gets up and answers.

KENDRA

Hello?

BILL (V.O.)

This is William Wyler, the Podiatrist.

KENDRA

Yes, of course.

INTERCUT - Kendra's Living Room - Bill's Home

BILL

Say, I had a really good time the other evening, and I was wondering if you'd mind answering a few questions.

KENDRA

No, I don't think so.

BILL

Well good. I think it's a good idea to get these things out in the open and find out what each other's likes and dislikes are right up front. That way we haven't invested much time unnecessarily.

KENDRA

Well that's pretty pragmatic of you.

BILL

These are personal, but I think you'll understand. Do you have multiple orgasms?

Kendra looks incredulous.

KENDRA

Do I what?

BILL

I'm just trying to learn about your sexual habits and what you like. Do you like anal sex?

KENDRA

I hardly think this is a necessary conversation, Bill.

BILL

I understand. But it would make things so much easier if we understood each other's likes and dislikes.

KENDRA

I really have to go, Bill. I don't care to finish this conversation.

Kendra SLAMS down the phone. She paces around in her living room shaking her head.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kendra sits at her kitchen table and flips through pages of the telephone book. She finds a BOX AD, and copies the information down.

KENDRA

Let's see. Here's one that sounds good.

SPECIALIZING IN TREATMENT OF INFECTIONS, INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, HEALTH AND IMMUNE DEFICIENCY

INT. INFECTIOUS DISEASE OFFICE - DAY

Kendra, looking nervous, approaches the RECEPTIONIST, twenties, plain looking.

KENDRA

I'm here for an appointment with DR. SILVERMAN at two o'clock.

RECEPTIONIST

Yes, Kendra Jansen?

KENDRA

Yes. I'm just double checking. You do treat parasitic conditions here, don't you?

RECEPTIONIST

Yes, that's right. Have a seat. Dr. will be right with you.

Kendra sits down and crosses her legs. She checks her watch and waits impatiently, still nervous, and crosses her legs the other way.

INT. DR. SILVERMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

DR. SILVERMAN, female, surly, straggly shoulder-length dirty blonde hair, enters with ASSISTANT, twenties, chubby and nice. Dr. Silverman silently walks around Kendra, scrutinizing her from head to toe. She speaks harshly.

DR. SILVERMAN

I've read the paperwork you filled out. Have you traveled out of the country?

KENDRA

Yes, I have. I took a trip to England.

Dr. Silverman is huffy.

DR. SILVERMAN

Well! You didn't get anything from England. Maybe Africa . . . or Cuba . . . or some other country, but not England.

Dr. Silverman continues to pace around Kendra staring her up and down.

DR. SILVERMAN (CONT'D)

What on God's earth makes you use Bug-Away on your skin? Don't you know that dries your skin out and makes it itch?

Kendra answers meekly.

KENDRA

To the contrary, it's helped me very much.

DR. SILVERMAN

Quit using it. Has anybody actually seen anything on you?

KENDRA

Like what, a parasite?

DR. SILVERMAN

Yes. Does anyone live with you? Or have your children seen anything on you?

KENDRA

No, but this isn't anything that I tell anyone about either.

Dr. Silverman considers her statement and continues to scrutinize Kendra.

DR. SILVERMAN

You don't need an infectious disease doctor; you need a psychiatrist.

Kendra is insulted and starts crying and begging.

KENDRA

I'm here because I need help, and no one will help me. No one believes me that there is something crawling in my skin!

Kendra gets indignant and stands up to leave while still crying.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I obviously can't get help here either. I'll go somewhere else.

DR. SILVERMAN

You can do that if you want. I'll have my assistant look you over, but I don't expect she'll find anything.

Dr. Silverman walks out, and the chubby, friendly ASSISTANT examines Kendra. She puts on rubber gloves before touching her.

ASSISTANT

There. I'm wearing gloves so that I don't get anything you have, and you don't get anything I have. Where are you having the most problem?

KENDRA

On my face. That's what itches all of the time. But the problem began on my back, and I really can't see it that well.

ASSISTANT

Well, we'll take a look.

(beat)

I don't see anything unusual, but it could be that you have a rare problem. You should check with one of the tertiary health centers, like the UNIVERSITY, and make an appointment. Have them check you out. They're better equipped than we are here.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

JOYCE

What did the doctor have to say?

KENDRA

That sniveling bitch refused to treat me. She's another one that wants to pass me off on a psychiatrist.

JOYCE

She didn't want you for a patient. You know, maybe you should try a medicine man. Those old ancient cures are still known and practiced by them.

KENDRA

Some day I'd like to GET EVEN with all of the physicians who think they're so great and so damned smart. They can't even give you the courtesy to understand your problem, much less try to treat it.

JOYCE

A little revenge, huh?

KENDRA  
Something like that.

INT. KENDRA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Kendra is getting her nightgown and slippers out to get ready for bed when the TELEPHONE RINGS. Kendra glances at the telephone on the night stand.

CALLER I.D. says William Wyler.

KENDRA  
Not this time buddy. Go away. I'm just  
not home.

Kendra dresses for bed and climbs in.

Bugs bite her throughout the night. She tosses and turns as she tries to sleep, with her hand finding each place she itches.

CUT TO:

INT. KENDRA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kendra awakens and stretches her arms out wide. An almost invisible film, that feels like a spider web, covers Kendra's face. She uses her hands to peel it off.

Finally awake, she stands and finds the Bug-Away on the floor at her bedside, and sprays herself and her bedding.

Kendra whines in desperation and exhaustion. She sighs.

KENDRA  
Why won't this go away?  
(beat)  
Why can't this be over?  
(beat)  
Where did it come from, anyway? It sure  
can't be normal.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kendra busies herself in the kitchen. There are several ingredients sitting on the countertop to make a pastry. The TELEPHONE RINGS and Kendra answers.

KENDRA  
Hello?



JENNIFER (V.O.)

Oh good, you're there.

INTERCUT - Kendra's Kitchen, Jennifer's Home

KENDRA

Yes, what's up, Jen?

JENNIFER

Well I was wondering, has the good Doctor Wyler been calling you?

KENDRA

God yes; he's driving me crazy. How about you? Is he calling you?

JENNIFER

Yes, he is. He must call me three to four times a week, and sometimes twice in one night.

KENDRA

He sure is persistent, isn't he?

JENNIFER

Most definitely. Did you go out with him?

KENDRA

Yes, and what a mistake that was! Besides, I don't think he's really a doctor. I think he trims toenails! He's probably the most obnoxious man I've ever dated.

JENNIFER

I was afraid of that. He's a man who knows what he wants, though. I remember the steak and the butterflied potato.

KENDRA

Get this. After the date, the next time he called, he actually had a checklist of questions for me.

Kendra opens her eyes wide with an unbelieving, pensive expression on her face.

JENNIFER

What kind of questions?

Kendra looks utterly disgusted.

KENDRA  
Pathetic sexual preference questions.

INT. FAMILY DOCTOR'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Kendra is scratching herself when Dr. Mallard enters the examining room.

DR. MALLARD  
Good afternoon, Kendra. How are you doing?

KENDRA  
Dr. Mallard, I'm itching like crazy again.

DR. MALLARD  
I see that. Let's check you over.

Dr. Mallard uses his stethoscope to check her heart and lungs.

Something tiny, off-white, and roly poly, comes out of Kendra's skin attached to the stethoscope.

He examines it momentarily, looks at Kendra, and lifts his shoulders in question before washing it down the sink.

Kendra nods, and acknowledges this strange phenomena.

KENDRA  
Do you think I could have picked up something strange in England when I was on that boat? Or somewhere else there?

DR. MALLARD  
Strange? It's not likely.

KENDRA  
Then what is this, the seven-year itch?

Dr. Mallard smiles.

DR. MALLARD  
It's looking that way.

DR. MALLARD (CONT'D)

That can refer to a relationship, you know. So, do you have a long-term boyfriend you're getting tired of?

KENDRA

No. Still sluffing through the maze of single men.

(beat)

You know, I'm really disappointed in the medical profession. Angry, in fact. I can't believe that I can't get help! No matter where I've tried, nobody wants to help me.

Dr. Mallard is sympathetic and thoughtful. He doesn't know how to help Kendra.

DR. MALLARD

I don't know WHAT you have. I can't give you any more medication for parasites. It's just too toxic.

KENDRA

But what am I suppose to do? How can I get rid of this?

DR. MALLARD

I don't know. I can give you something to help with the itching.

Dr. Mallard hands her some samples. Kendra looks at the boxes. Her face gets tight and red.

KENDRA

Sinus medication! Kendra becomes irate, stands, and throws up her arms in the air releasing the samples. They bounce off the wall and land on the floor. She RAISES HER VOICE at the doctor.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

That won't work! I've been suffering for three years, and I can't believe I can't get help.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kendra and Joyce sit at the table in the kitchen and talk. The mood is dismal.

KENDRA

I don't know what to do, Joyce. I think that parasite drug would help me, but Doctor Mallard won't give me any more. At least it temporarily helps with the itching. He says it's too toxic.

JOYCE

I don't know how else to help you.

KENDRA

I know. You've already given me lots of ideas. You're working as hard to find a solution to this as I am.

JOYCE

I never help someone that it doesn't somehow help me.

Kendra looks at Joyce appreciatively, then looks down.

KENDRA

That's a nice way to look at it.

JOYCE

It's true, though. I bet your friend Dave would write it for you.

Kendra looks up and smiles.

KENDRA

He's such a softy. He probably would.

JOYCE

Do you think you'll ask him?

INT. GROCERY STORE CHECKOUT - DAY

Kendra is in line at the checkout ready to pay the CASHIER for her groceries. Her cart is only partially filled.

CASHIER

That will be eighty-three dollars and sixty-two cents, please.

Kendra fumbles with her wallet to get out a credit card, and drops one of her business cards on the floor.

KENDRA

Oh, excuse me. Here . . . here's my credit card.

Kendra stoops down to pick up her business card when GREG, a gentleman behind her in line, wearing a business suit, picks it up. He looks at the card, smiles, and looks back at her.

GREG

A writer, are you?

Kendra smiles.

KENDRA

Yes, I am.

GREG

So you write mysteries?

KENDRA

Yes, I do.

GREG

I'd like to read some of your work. May I keep this card?

KENDRA

Oh, sure.

Greg smiles and extends his hand to introduce himself. Kendra reciprocates by holding her hand out.

GREG

My name is Greg. A pleasure to meet you. A real pleasure indeed.

Kendra smiles at Greg and offers a small laugh.

KENDRA

Why thank you. If you don't like my work, don't call me!

GREG

Well, I hope to call you either way. Would that be all right? I'll . . . I'll let you know when I've finished one of your books.

Kendra smiles back coyly, but is pleased with the encounter.

KENDRA

Well, okay. That would be nice.

EXT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT

The grounds of the University Hospital are well kept. A sprinkler system waters the shrubbery and lawns.

INT. DR. RITTER'S OFFICE - DAY

DR. RITTER, gruff, pompous, and condescending, enters with his ASSISTANT, petite gal, thirties, sympathetic.

DR. RITTER

What seems to be the problem? Where is it that you think you have parasites?

Kendra pulls her hair off of her forehead and shows the doctor a patch of bumps and irritated skin.

KENDRA

Right here, on my face mostly.

DR. RITTER

That's nothing. That's not from a parasite. You've just irritated your skin.

Kendra raises her voice in desperation and takes a tube of medicine from her handbag.

KENDRA

Here. I'm prepared to show you the parasites. All I have to do is apply this medication to the outside of my jaw, and within minutes the parasites will be in my mouth. They even get caught in my teeth.

She quickly applies the medication.

Dr. Ritter angrily raises his voice.

DR. RITTER

Do you know how RARE it would be for you to have a parasite?

KENDRA

Yes. I know. No one believes me except my family doctor. I brought you some samples. I don't understand it, though. They were white when I put them in here, and now they're black.

Kendra tries to hand Dr. Ritter the jar of samples. He pushes the jar away.

DR. RITTER

Yes, they change color.

Dr. Ritter again rails at Kendra.

DR. RITTER (CONT'D)

I always listen to my patients, but you don't have anything. You need to talk to someone, like a psychiatrist. I've seen it a hundred times! You women think that every time you have a blemish that it must be a parasite.

Dr. Ritter is still gruff, agitated, and disgusted with Kendra.

DR. RITTER (CONT'D)

Where are those samples?

KENDRA

Here, in this jar.

Dr. Ritter takes the jar and hands it to his assistant.

DR. RITTER

My assistant will be back to talk to you shortly.

The doctor and the assistant leave. Kendra sits quietly on the edge of the examining table, waiting, and hoping, that something is found in the samples.

Her feet dangle, and she nervously swings them. She is desperate. She looks beaten but hopeful.

There is little delay and the assistant returns.

ASSISTANT

There was nothing found in the samples, but you say you find them in your mouth?

KENDRA

Yes, they get caught in my teeth.

Kendra reaches in her mouth and removes a small white fibrous particle from a tooth and shows it to the assistant.

The Assistant opens her eyes wide as she sees it, then talks softly and sympathetically.

ASSISTANT

Well, we recommend that you find a psychiatrist to talk with. It can't hurt, can it?

KENDRA

No, I suppose not.

ASSISTANT

Well, do that, and you say that your family doctor believes you?

KENDRA

Yes, he does.

ASSISTANT

Then see your family doctor again.

Kendra gets extremely riled and RAISES HER VOICE at the Assistant. She FLAILS her arms violently as she walks around the office. She cries and is hysterical. She shouts at her.

KENDRA

But that's not helping my problem. He doesn't know what to do about it. That's why I'm here. Why won't anybody help me? I've got to have help here. I'm desperate. No one will help me. I've been everywhere, and no one will listen to me.

The Assistant becomes afraid.

ASSISTANT

Let me get the doctor.

The assistant leaves and returns with Dr. Ritter, who is seemingly mad. He grabs Kendra by the arm, pulling her within his reach, and ATTEMPTS to inject her with a sedative to quiet her down. She struggles to get away from him.



DR. RITTER

What's this I hear, that no one will help you? I'll get you some help young lady.

KENDRA

No! Get away from me!

Kendra pushes the doctor's arm with the needle away, and the doctor gets scratched. Blood runs down his arm.

DR. RITTER

You little twit! You can just stay here and settle out overnight. When you've calmed down by morning, you can go home.

KENDRA

I don't want to stay!

Dr. RITTER

You're staying.

KENDRA

You can't keep me. Let go of me.

There is a STRUGGLE, and Dr. Ritter recovers his position and jabs the needle into Kendra's arm as he speaks to his Assistant.

He shakes his head.

DR. RITTER

Get Ms. Jansen a gown and show her to a room.

Dr. Ritter mutters as he leaves the room.

DR. RITTER (CONT'D)

Nut case.

INT. FAMILY DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Kendra sits on the examining table and has a conversation with Dr. Mallard. She is drained from her long ordeal and looks weary.

KENDRA

Here, I brought you some samples in a jar.

They're the same ones that I took to the University, but they wouldn't help me either. Would you send them out for analysis? I don't really think they even looked at them. The doctor just thought I was a nut case.

DR. MALLARD

(shaking his head)

Sure. Just give them to my receptionist when you leave. Call next week for the results.

KENDRA

And, I brought you a copy of the biopsy report from a dermatologist that I've seen. Would you tell me what it says other than it's negative?

Dr. Mallard slowly examines the report.

DR. MALLARD

Well, it says it's negative, but there's lymphocytic atrophy. The fact that you had a reaction probably means that you do have parasites in your skin. Let's see what the lab report says next week from your samples.

KENDRA

Okay. By the way, the University kept me overnight against my will. I was jabbed with something to put me out. I didn't think they could do that.

DR. MALLARD

They can't, unless they feel you'll hurt yourself.

EXT. KENDRA'S BACKYARD - DAY

Kendra, dressed in a bathing suit, puts her portable phone on the flat corner of the outdoor hot tub and gets in. She submerges herself entirely under water for as long as she can stand it, then comes up for air. The TELEPHONE RINGS. She extends her arm to get the phone and answers it.

KENDRA

Hello?

JOYCE (V.O.)  
Hi. What 'cha up to?

Kendra responds satirically.

INTERCUT - Kendra's Backyard, Joyce's Home

KENDRA  
Practicing holding my head under water,  
why?

JOYCE  
Why are you doing that?

KENDRA  
I'm in the hot tub, and the chemicals  
seem to give me some relief. And I  
thought maybe I could kill some of this  
stuff off in here if I submerged myself  
long enough.

JOYCE  
Probably a good idea.

KENDRA  
Actually, I was thinking of seeing a  
mortician and getting embalmed. That  
would probably work best.

Joyce smiles to herself.

JOYCE  
Are you seeing Dave this weekend?

KENDRA  
Actually, I haven't heard from Dave for  
quite a while. He goes up north a lot in  
the summer, though. The only things he  
really cares about are his cottage, the  
casino, and sports, you know.

INT. DR. MALLARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Mallard is in his office. He calls the University  
Hospital.

DR. MALLARD  
Yes, this is Dr. Mallard. Please connect  
me with the University Dermatology  
Department.

Dr. Mallard waits on the line for someone to answer.

DR. MALLARD (CONT'D)

Do you have a record of keeping a Ms. Kendra Jansen overnight?

(beat)

Are you sure? She tells me that she stayed overnight in the hospital there.

INFORMATION CLERK (V.O.)

There is no record of her staying here, Doctor.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Kendra and Joyce meet at a family restaurant. They eat their lunch, and a short conversation resumes.

JOYCE

Did you ever find a medicine man?

KENDRA

No. I tried through the Internet, but I never got an answer back. Just like trying to locate a nutritionist or holistic doctor. When you explain your problem, they don't want to talk to you.

INT. FAMILY DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Doctor Mallard sits on a stool and hands Kendra a prescription as he thoughtfully talks to her.

DR. MALLARD

The lab report indicated that they found a flea.

Kendra is incredulous.

KENDRA

You know that fleas can't be all that I have, don't you?

DR. MALLARD

Yes, I know. But this medication should kill out any parasite, no matter what it is. It will either work . . . or it won't work. We'll just have to see.

Kendra is solemn.

KENDRA

Okay.

DR. MALLARD

I have your blood work back, too. It all looks pretty good, except for a low white blood cell count.

KENDRA

What does that mean?

DOCTOR MALLARD

It means you either have an infection or a parasite.

ONE YEAR LATER

INT. DR. SAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Kendra visits the office of a NATURAL HEALTH physician, DR. SAWYER, large build, quite elderly and kind. His name and title are on the office door as she enters.

DR. GERALD SAWYER, NATURAL HEALTH

She approaches the receptionist and signs in, then takes a seat in the waiting room. She is called shortly.

CUT TO:

DR. SAWYER

I have your blood test results here, and you're pretty sick. I don't even know how you made it in here.

KENDRA

Really? I am? I feel okay.

DR. SAWYER

Well, you have the lowest T-Score numbers and the worst immune system I've ever seen. Are you sure you feel all right?

KENDRA

Yes.

DR. SAWYER

Something is definitely pulling your immune system down.

You must have too many toxins around or something. We'll have to do some more testing. We can fix this with several weeks of IV's, but I don't know how you're even walking around.

Kendra waits patiently while the doctor continues to look over the report.

DR. SAWYER (CONT'D)

I'd like to get you started right away, today. Is that okay?

KENDRA

Sure. Do you think I have parasites and that they are taking my immune system down?

DR. SAWYER

No! Parasites are a moving thing! You'd feel them moving around.

KENDRA

I do.

Dr. Sawyer does not consider that parasites are Kendra's problem and offensively shrugs off the thought shaking his head. He calls the NURSE to get Kendra set up for an IV.

DR. SAWYER

Nurse, please set Ms. Jansen up for an immune system IV.

NURSE

Sure. Come on with me, Kendra.

INT. DR. SAWYER'S TREATMENT ROOM - DAY

Kendra follows the nurse into a room and seats her in a large, comfortable chair with a side table as an arm rest. She starts the IV.

NURSE

Only the first little pick hurts. This should take about two hours to run through.

Kendra looks up and has a surprised expression on her face.

KENDRA

Two hours?

NURSE

Well, everybody is different, but about two hours. Could be more. Dr. will want to see you when you're done.

INT. DR. SAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Kendra is back in Dr. Sawyer's Office for consultation.

DR. SAWYER

Well, it will take several of these before you actually feel a difference, but it will help you.

KENDRA

Tell me, Doctor. How did an M.D. like you get into practicing natural health?

Dr. Sawyer is silent as he looks through some medical papers on his desk. He looks up, and takes a minute to think before responding.

DR. SAWYER

Oh, they're just BUNK!

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Kendra and Joyce walk side by side through the city park, which is adorned with green trees on either side of the walk path. It's a beautiful sunny day. They walk along and talk. KIDS run and play, and some are on swings and slides.

KENDRA

How'd you get the day off today? You never told me.

JOYCE

I have some vacation days left, so I took one today. I just thought it would be nice to enjoy such a nice, sunny day.

KENDRA

It is. This was a good idea to take a walk through the park. Something different, you know?

Joyce pats both of her hips with her hands.

JOYCE

Yes, and the exercise won't hurt me either.

Kendra smiles.

KENDRA

Exercise won't hurt either of us. It's healthy to stay fit.

As Kendra walks, her RIGHT KNEE COLLAPSES and she catches her fall while stooping to the ground.

JOYCE

What happened? Are you okay?

KENDRA

Yes. I don't know what happened. My knee just collapsed.

Kendra straightens herself and gets back up.

FLASHBACK

Kendra reflects back on Dr. Sawyer telling her how sick she is.

DR. SAWYER: "I don't know how you're even walking around."

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I'm okay. Let's go on.

Joyce takes a good concerned look at Kendra and sees that she is walking again.

JOYCE

So, what's new on the health front? Anything? Learn anything new?

KENDRA

Well, there's a whole lot of speculation going on with this Morgellons thing. They say that it's much more prevalent in WARMER CLIMATES.

JOYCE

Like other bugs, I suppose.

KENDRA

Sure. Some say it's in our food, that it has been genetically modified.



JOYCE

Oh yes, I know about genetically modified foods. So they think that ORGANISMS are in our food supply?

KENDRA

That's what I've read. Oh. And also, chemtrails, a conspiracy theory.

JOYCE

Conspiracy? Like what?

KENDRA

Well, it's thought that our government has chemicals or biological agents sprayed by aircraft for some purpose that is undisclosed to the general public.

Joyce looks at Kendra questioningly.

JOYCE

That's a little far reaching.

KENDRA

I agree. Oh, and chemical crop spraying is another theory.

JOYCE

Yes, I've read about that. I think that's the reason there's such a push for organic foods today.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Kendra puts dishes away in her cupboard when the TELEPHONE RINGS. She answers.

KENDRA

Hello?

INT. GREG'S HOUSE - EVENING

GREG (V.O.)

Is this the lovely Ms. Jansen?

INTERCUT - Kendra's Kitchen, Greg's Home

KENDRA

Why, yes . . .

GREG

This is Greg. I just wanted you to know that I picked up two of your books, and I am totally immersed in the first one. In fact, I'd say that I'll finish it by this weekend. I think we should get together to discuss it, don't you?

Kendra smiles at the encounter.

KENDRA

Well that's a fresh approach. Sure, I think we could do that.

FLASH FORWARD

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Kendra sits joyfully with Greg at a restaurant for dinner that has a romantic setting.

KENDRA

All we've talked about is me and my writing. I know very little about you. I assume you're in business by the way you dress so nicely.

GREG

Yes, I am in business. I'm the DIRECTOR of the COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER.

Kendra exclaims negatively. Her expression drops.

KENDRA

Oh no!

Greg looks slightly alarmed by her reaction.

GREG

Why, what's wrong with that?

KENDRA

Oh, I'm sorry. I don't mean to react that way. It's just that I've done nothing but see medical people in both my personal and social life for the last five years. I don't want to see another medical doctor for a long, long time.

GREG

But I'm not a doctor. I just manage them!

Kendra is more relaxed now.

KENDRA

I'm sure it would be okay either way, but I'm glad you're not a doctor!

GREG

Have you had a health problem?

KENDRA

Well, yes, it's been with my skin.

GREG

I think what you need is a vacation to some tropical land. The sun cures a lot of things.

Kendra rolls her eyes upward.

KENDRA

So I've heard.

INT. KENDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kendra is in her kitchen washing up a few dishes in the sink as she talks to Joyce on the telephone. She holds the telephone between her shoulder and her ear.

INTERCUT - Kendra's Kitchen, Joyce's Home

JOYCE

So, what's your next step?

KENDRA

Well, as you know, all I do is go to doctors and get prescriptions filled. I was just at my GYN'S office and told him that I haven't been in for a couple of years because of this skin problem and the likelihood of parasites.

JOYCE

What did he say?

KENDRA

He recommended that I see the local HOSPITAL DERMATOLOGIST. He gave me a referral and said to make an appointment.

JOYCE

Are you going to?

KENDRA

Probably. I can't afford not to in case he can help me. As irate as I am, I'm still hopeful. I'm kind of hardened to the "You need to see a psychiatrist" by now.

Joyce smirks.

JOYCE

I suppose you're right.

KENDRA

He also was kind enough to look up the parasite medication that I've used and prescribed enough for six months! Can you believe that?

JOYCE

He did! Is it safe?

KENDRA

He looked it up in his medical book while I was sitting there, and said all I have to do is come back for a blood test to see that my liver is okay.

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL DERMATOLOGIST'S EXAMINING ROOM - DAY

DR. NOLE, hospital Dermatologist, late sixties, seasoned, thoughtful and professional, looks up after reading Kendra's pre-screening paperwork.

DR. NOLE

Hi, Miss Jansen? I'm Doctor Nole.

KENDRA

Nice to meet you.

DR. NOLE

I see that you're not taking any medication on a regular basis except for the compound, ointment, and cortisone cream prescribed for this problem.

Dr. Nole looks down at the papers in his hand again, then looks up at Kendra.

And antihistamines for itching. I know that's a lot as it is.

KENDRA

Yes, it certainly is.

DR. NOLE

And you're not taking any vitamins?

KENDRA

No, not right now. I normally do, but with all of this, I just can't take anything else.

DR. NOLE

I see. Well, let's examine you.

Dr. Nole knocks on the office door to signal the NURSE to come in. She enters.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. NOLE'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Nole sits in his office at his desk. Several ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATES are framed on the wall. He talks calmly with Kendra, who sits across from him.

DR. NOLE

Well, I understand the problem that you've been having. But after examining you thoroughly, I cannot see that you have anything live in your skin.

(thoughtful pause)

The skin is a living organ, you know, and it does strange things. It is very unlikely that you would still have a parasite. They aren't that persistent.

KENDRA

But what about the particles that I get in my mouth when I apply medication around my jaw?

DR. NOLE

There are many things about the skin that cannot be explained. After examining you fully, I cannot see that you have any kind of parasite. Whatever you did have is gone. Parasites cannot hang on that long with what you've been using. They just can't.

KENDRA

Then what do you think?

DR. NOLE

Well, my patients get mad at me if I suggest that they see a psychiatrist, so I'm not going to do that. I can see that you're a smart lady, and I think you can reason this out for yourself.

KENDRA

Yes . . .

DR. NOLE

What I would recommend is that you stop using all medications. Use nothing on your skin except a moisturizer. Stay off of everything for at least ten days. I think you'll see a difference. You don't need to come back, but if you have any questions, feel free to call me.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Kendra and Joyce have lunch and catch up on Kendra's condition. Kendra has enlightening information to share.

JOYCE

Well, did stopping the medications help you?

KENDRA

For about two weeks. Then everything started up again.

JOYCE

Still looking for other medical help then, are you?

KENDRA

Yes. Even though I found that Research Foundation on the Internet for this disease, they have a small staff and no one will respond to you. All they did was collect information from me, but that's it.

JOYCE

That's too bad.

KENDRA

When they want information, I hear from them by email. They said that a reporter in Chelsea wants to do an article, and asked if I would interview with him.

JOYCE

What did you tell them?

Kendra shrugs her shoulders and looks at Joyce.

KENDRA

I said to have him call me. We'll see what happens. I did find out something very interesting in an Internet search, though.

JOYCE

Oh, what's that?

KENDRA

Someone who must work in the agricultural field posted quite a lengthy article of information. It seems that several species of agriculturally designed parasites have been put into the fields, particularly COTTON, to control other parasites.

JOYCE

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS? Oh, so that's why you feel like you're pulling cotton from the sores in your arms!

KENDRA

Exactly. And it also said that they were designed to make crops, like CORN and COTTON be more prolific.

JOYCE

I see. And you were in TEXAS where they produce the most cotton.

KENDRA

The worst part is that it says that when the species did not prove to work effectively for their purposes, they were released indiscriminately. There were no controls used.

Joyce just shakes her head.

JOYCE

Amazing. That's our government. They should be watching those companies.

KENDRA

So, much of our corn and cotton is infected. The article warned about Q-tips, cotton swabs, and other cotton products.

Joyce looks at Kendra with despair.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

And, the article says that this artificial parasite is made up of a chemical. It is so strong that it can actually swim in gasoline without destroying it! The only thing that seems to affect it is salt.

JOYCE

Oh! So that's why epsom salts in your bath seems to sooth you.

Kendra nods her head yes.

KENDRA

And another thing. One report I read says that once the chemical parasite leaves the body, it evaporates.



JOYCE

How interesting. So some of the species just vanish?

KENDRA

Yes, sometimes I found that to be true, too. They're just a chemical. A chemical, but annoying, crawling under my skin, and making me itch.

(beat)

Other times, there are fibers that are huge! They come right out of my skin. And some are like worms, and I can actually see a head on them. But once they leave me, they just dry up.

INT. MORGELLON'S FOUNDATION - DAY

The foundation is headquartered in a small office space with a conference room and a lab. A FEMALE DOCTOR and TWO MALE DOCTORS are talking amongst themselves.

FEMALE DOCTOR

Are you ready for our big meeting this week?

MALE DOCTOR #1

Which one? The one with the CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL?

FEMALE DOCTOR

That's the one.

MALE DOCTOR #2

I bet they bring in BIG PHARMA, too.

FEMALE DOCTOR

Hmm. I hadn't thought about that. They probably will.

MALE DOCTOR #2

Somebody's got to show they're working for the money they make. They're on each other's Boards, you know.

FEMALE DOCTOR

They're pretty much in bed together anyway.

MALE DOCTOR #1

That's right. The SEED COMPANIES employ our government officials to sit on their Boards, and some of the seed companies are owned by pharmaceutical companies. It's all pretty entangled.

FEMALE DOCTOR

Sounds like quite a conspiracy to me.

INT. KENDRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Greg and Kendra sit side by side on the couch in Kendra's attractively decorated living room.

GREG

You know, since you did that interview with the paper last Fall, I've been asked to have you speak at our next medical conference. It will be held in our main conference room.

KENDRA

Really!

GREG

Yes. Would you?

INT. MORGELLON'S FOUNDATION - DAY

The female and two male doctors are seated around a big CONFERENCE TABLE with representation from the Center for Disease Control and Big Pharma. The suggestion of NEGLIGENCE and MODIFIED ORGANISMS is introduced.

FEMALE DOCTOR

We've got to get to the bottom of this disease, gentlemen. It's gotten way out of hand. There are thousands of cases reported just in the United States, and more are registering every day. It appears to have reached international levels as well.

BIG PHARMA REP

We're here to work with you on this. Are you ready to release your findings so far?

MALE DOCTOR #1

We've established that this disease is man-made. It is not from a natural cause, but is live.

CDC REP

Have your lab people determined what it is, or found any kind of a cure?

FEMALE DOCTOR

No. Not so far. And there are mutations to be concerned with. We can't seem to work fast enough, and we don't have the resources.

CDC REP

We're prepared to assign someone from our organization to work with you full time.

Big Pharma rep points toward his colleague.

BIG PHARMA REP

Here too. My colleague, here, will also be working with you.

MALE DOCTOR #2

Thank you both. That will be very helpful. However, not only do we need this staff very badly, but . . .

He looks toward CDC rep.

CDC REP

But what?

MALE DOCTOR #2

We need funding, and someone to go after the concern that has been NEGLIGENT in creating this disease.

CDC REP

And who do you suppose that might be?

MALE DOCTOR #1

Not to name names, but lets just say maybe it's a major corporation, like a seed company. There's a whole new level of engineering going on out there.

## BIG PHARMA REP

Nobody's big enough to go after them!  
Their lawyers win every case against  
them.

## FEMALE DOCTOR

Or maybe it's some major agricultural  
food processing company that works with  
bio-genetics. Most of our foods are  
genetically modified. They also use  
organisms. We believe that's our problem  
here.

## MALE DOCTOR #1

What's more, I read that six large firms,  
both seed companies and agricultural  
chemical companies have merged. There's  
no telling who is responsible for what  
now.

## INT. KENDRA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kendra and Greg are in bed genuinely enjoying a steamy,  
intimate encounter.

## GREG

You are such a lovely lady. I'm so happy  
to have found you.

## KENDRA

I can't think of anyone more perfect for  
me than you. I'm happy we're together.

## FLASH FORWARD

## INT. MEDICAL CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Those invited to the medical conference have arrived and are  
seated in the conference room.

Kendra stands behind the PODIUM and professionally addresses  
the medical attendees and reporters.

## KENDRA

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,  
members of the medical profession, their  
assistants, and press. I want to thank  
you for allowing me to address this  
important audience.

Kendra quickly glances at her notes on the podium.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

This audience is particularly important because of the growing number of people requiring medical care today, the number of people who have lost their jobs and cannot pay for medical care, or lost their medical insurance coverage. As a society and as professionals, it is our responsibility to see that these people get the care that they need.

The camera pans the audience; the audience is mildly attentive.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

As some of you may know, I was interviewed by a gentleman from the Chelsea Press for a medical condition for which I was unable to get help.

Almost the entire medical profession disregarded my ailment as even existing. Only one doctor in twelve actually agreed that I had a problem, but didn't know how to help me.

He sent me to a University Hospital Dermatologist who also turned me away without treatment.

I am not the only patient with this undiagnosable condition. The disease has been reported not only throughout the United States, but throughout other countries. It has become international.

The camera pans the audience again. This time they are giving special attention due to the nature of the talk.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

There is something that I need to say. Thank you medical professionals for turning your back on those patients that needed help. . . Thank you medical professionals for not listening to the cries for needed assistance. . .

Thank you medical professionals for offering psychotropic drugs to settle us out so that we wouldn't think that we had a medical problem.

The camera pans the audience once again and finds the attendees restless and alarmed. Heads of staff are talking, and trying to figure out how to get Kendra away from the podium without embarrassing Greg.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

And also, thank you University Hospital, and all other doctors, for offering that we needed to see a psychiatrist and that we had created the symptoms in our minds.

(beat)

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I was not alone out there trying to get help. There were thousands of individuals experiencing the same symptoms as myself, and each of us were told that we needed to see a psychiatrist, that our problems were all in our heads.

A famous baseball player contracted this disease, and he couldn't get help. And an actor, and many more influential people, became ill and couldn't get the help they required. We have suffered for years.

The camera pans to Greg.

STAFF MEMBER

You didn't tell me she was going to berate us.

Greg's expression remains confident.

GREG

I didn't know.

STAFF MEMBER

Well, get her off of there. Do something.

GREG

No. Let her go. Let her speak her mind.

KENDRA

Of the so-called medical professionals that our society accepts as M.D.'s or D.O's, specialists called doctors of internal medicine, dermatologists, and infectious disease, I could not get help. I am ashamed.

(beat)

You should be ashamed.

The camera pans again to Greg, talking to a staff member.

GREG

I know her story. Let her tell it.

KENDRA

I am ashamed of what we call medical professionals when twelve doctors--specialists, and a University Hospital doctor, can disregard a patient and write them off because they don't know what is wrong, don't care what is wrong, or won't take the time for a special case.

I admit it is a rare ailment, but nobody would listen or show any interest because there was no protocol. It was easier to push the patient away to find another doctor.

I have called you incompetent, and that is not why you spent so many years in medical school and have devoted so much of your time to your practices.

As it turns out, my condition is still not recognized by the medical profession. It is as unknown as hepatitis was some years back. It has a name, Morgellons Disease, and an understaffed and underfunded group of people at a Research Foundation trying to come up with a cause and a cure. It is a national problem. In fact, it is international, as it is in every country. Yet, it is not recognized!

Who is covering it up? Surely some of you must have read about it somewhere.

Were our government agencies given a free pass, and the incriminating facts covered up when they were found to be negligent?

Think about this. What if I had no insurance to help cover the many inept diagnoses that I received? And what if I had run out of money to seek out the next doctor? And the next, and the next? As it was, after twelve doctors, and a University Hospital, I had to seek out ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE to find help.

After eight years, I found one alternative doctor who not only understood my problem but was willing to try to treat it! Although I was not fully cured by him, I did improve to a sustainable, livable level.

Early on, one woman in the medical field posted her case on the Internet. She said that she had several holistic books in her possession and tried many things. She found that when she tried AYURVEDIC cooking for healing, the ancient healing art of India, that both she and her son healed. Aren't there any Indian doctors out there who have picked up on this?

My plea to you today is to better listen to your patients. Don't waste their time and money, and the time of the next physician. I know that each and every one of you are busy and understaffed, but if you care about people and your medical oath, it is your duty to try to find help for people with rare diseases.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Kendra waves her hand when she sees Joyce come in. Joyce joins her in the booth, removing her jacket.

KENDRA

So how was your day?

Joyce settles herself in her seat, placing her jacket and handbag on the bench beside her.



JOYCE

Busy as usual. Seems like every time they let someone go, I get more work.

KENDRA

I know what you mean. I hear other people complain that they're doing three jobs now. And the pay doesn't get any better for it.

JOYCE

Seems the way things are today.

A waitress makes her way over to their booth.

WAITRESS

Can I get you girls something to drink?

KENDRA

Sure, coffee for me. Cream and sugar.

JOYCE

Same for me.

WAITRESS

Got it. Be right back.

The waitress hurries away.

JOYCE

So how did your talk go?

KENDRA

Well . . . ?

Joyce raises her eyebrows and waits.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Let's say it was interesting.

(beat)

I probably embarrassed Greg, but he let me tell my story. He understood how I felt and what I had to say, so I got my revenge talking to that entire congregation.

Joyce smirks.

JOYCE

Feel better?

Kendra smiles.

KENDRA

Yes, but more about this. I'm glad you could meet me. I have some really interesting information to share.

JOYCE

Go on.

KENDRA

You know, I frequently check the Internet for the latest information on this disease, and I can't believe what I just learned.

JOYCE

Oh?

KENDRA

Well, people on the Internet are all up in arms. They're truly enraged! And rightly so!

It seems that between the manufacturers who use organisms, the pharmaceutical companies, and the Center for Disease Control, they have decided that there is no disease. We're all DELUSIONAL.

JOYCE

Delusional?

KENDRA

Yes. They call it delusional parasitosis.

Kendra digs in her handbag and pulls out a piece of paper and hands it to Joyce.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Here. I printed it out. One of the pharmaceutical companies actually published a paper on it! Now tell me there's not a convoluted mess of corruption going on out there!

Joyce quietly reads it out loud.

JOYCE

People with delusional parasitosis have a false belief that they are infested with insects, worms, mites, lice, fleas, or other organisms. Some complain that parasites have infested their homes.

Joyce stops reading a moment and looks up at Kendra.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

Can you believe this?

KENDRA

I know. What chance do I ever have of getting help?

Joyce continues to read.

JOYCE

Patients have sensations of itching and crawling, and have been known to use various chemicals to rid themselves of them, irritating their skin.

Joyce returns the paper to Kendra.

KENDRA

What do you think of that?

JOYCE

Unbelievable. Maybe if I didn't know you so well I might even consider it true. However, it tells me something else. There's a real conspiracy going on here.

(beat)

You know, the pharmaceutical companies and the government agencies sit on each other's boards and the boards of those large seed companies. I think they're going way out to protect the organizations that finance them.

KENDRA

You always did say "Follow the money."

JOYCE

It's true.

KENDRA

There is a CONSPIRACY between Big Pharma, the seed companies that use organisms, and the Center for Disease Control. Maybe that includes the food distribution companies as they use organisms too. Anyway, they have certainly banded together to protect one another by declaring that the disease is nonexistent. It's all over the Internet, and victims are so angry.

JOYCE

This whole thing is inconceivable. And UNCONSCIONABLE.

KENDRA

I know. What a cover up! And they're overriding that small research foundation's funding to find a cure.

(beat)

I'm just thinking. Maybe it's time to find a whistle blower attorney.

JOYCE

Go on.

KENDRA

I don't know if the GOVERNMENT'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE could be trusted to do something about it, but somebody certainly needs to investigate this.

JOYCE

You're right.

KENDRA

Or would a whistle blower attorney be paid off to be quiet? There's a lot of money out there to do that.

JOYCE

It would be a concern.

KENDRA

But who would be best to properly investigate this? It's such a highly political and protected matter.

Kendra gives Joyce a very serious look.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I just don't know who I could trust.

FLASH FORWARD

EXT. KENDRA'S BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Kendra, Joyce, Stephanie, and Jennifer sit and have cocktails.

JENNIFER

I can't believe he asked you to marry him!

KENDRA

Me either. But we've been dating a few years now. I really feel he's right for me.

STEPHANIE

You've gotta go with what you feel, girl. I guess if I wasn't always so negative, I might meet someone too. I've been trying to change my attitude.

Kendra nods appreciatively, and looks at her and smiles.

KENDRA

(looking at Stephanie)

I've noticed. And I hope that my condition over these last years, and the contacts that I gave you have helped you with your thesis.

STEPHANIE

It has. I'm just sorry you've had to go through such suffering.

Kendra gives a nod of acknowledgement.

JOYCE

We could all learn from your experience. You went through a lot just prior to meeting Greg. I'm glad that it's pretty much under control now.

KENDRA

Me too. But there's something very important that I have to ask all of you.

JENNIFER

What's that?

KENDRA

Will you all stand up in my wedding?  
Greg has the whole wedding party planned  
out.

The girls all show expressions of happiness for Kendra.

JENNIFER

I'm sure we'd all love to.

STEPHANIE

Agreed! I'm really happy for you.

JOYCE

But of course!

FLASH FORWARD NEXT SUMMER

EXT. TROPICAL BEACH - DAY

The sun is shining brightly. The bride and groom appear in formal wear with their entire wedding party. The ladies are each paired with attractive males in lab coats. Music plays, palm trees sway, and all wear leis.

FADE OUT.