

"GRANDMA WAS A GANGSTER"

by

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FADE IN:

INT. A DARK CLUTTERED OFFICE - NIGHT

A file cabinet opens carefully. A flashlight shines on several files. FIRST GLOVED HAND quickly moves through folders, pulling one that says "Special Accounts."

A camera flashes several times as pages from the file are photographed. SECOND GLOVED HAND is trying to crack the safe. CLICK! The safe door opens revealing stacks of bundled cash and other documents.

THIRD GLOVED HAND removes stacks of money and a folder then closes the safe.

FIRST GLOVED HAND raises office window. Two figures climb out the window in the dark, their legs clumsily trailing behind them.

The bags are fastened and FIRST GLOVED HAND drops bags out window and gives a thumbs up sign before closing and locking window.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING FRONT LOBBY AREA - NIGHT

Bored SECURITY GUARD gets up from desk and starts making his rounds. A CAR ALARM sounds from the parking lot. SECURITY GUARD opens front door to see what's happening.

INT. DARK HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Still seen from the rear, FIGURE gingerly walks hunched over with cane toward back door. The CAR ALARM has stopped and FIGURE almost reaches door when CELL PHONE begins to play a loud song which is quickly silenced.

The NIGHT GUARD appears at the opposite end of hallway.

SECURITY GUARD

(nervously)

Hey! Put your hands up and don't
move!

FIGURE slowly raises hands and cane in the air. We see the FIGURE from the floor up to FIGURE's face which is hidden in the shadows.

NIGHT GUARD moves toward FIGURE quickly with billy club in hand. He is nervous and unnecessarily loud.

SECURITY GUARD

OK, turn around slowly and keep
your hands up!

FIGURE's face is revealed when turning to face GUARD. He's
standing before a feeble, OLD WOMAN with a cane.

OLD WOMAN

(slowly)

I need to put my cane down before
I fall over. Ohhhhh, you sure
favor my grandson.

SECURITY GUARD

This is a restricted area, ma'am.
How'd you get back here?

OLD WOMAN

I was looking to visit my friend,
saw a door, and came on in. I
didn't mean to upset you, baby.

Two POLICE OFFICERS burst through back door with guns drawn.

COP 1

You got a 10-70? Where's the
perp?

COP 2

(nodding to OLD
WOMAN)

She a witness?

SECURITY GUARD

She's the perp!

OLD WOMAN smiles a sweet, missing-toothed grin.

INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

It's late at night in the Judge's conference room. A
bailiff, public defender, court reporter and Mr. Clooney,
owner of Sunset Villages are seated. CAT, Stella's
granddaughter is pacing the room.

CAT

How can you just sit there and do
nothing? My aunt was just in the
wrong place at the wrong time and
they locked her up like a common
criminal? She was in a cell with
two hookers for God's sake! I know
people...who know media people. I
(MORE)

CAT (cont'd)
will get on Twitter and Instagram
and tell the world about this
travesty of justice. I'm not going
to take this sitting down!

JUDGE RAMONA BENSON enters room, tired and irritated.

JUDGE
You're going to sit down young
lady, if you plan to stay. Now,
somebody tell me who's so
important that I was dragged out
at this hour and back into this
judge's robe instead of my
bathrobe.

CAT
Your honor, if I may approach the
bench?

JUDGE
(irritated)
I have no bench and who are you?
The night court public defender?

CAT
Uh, no, your honor. Actually, I'm
the niece of the woman who was...

JUDGE
Then sit down, young woman! Any
more from you, and I'll have you
tossed out of here.

CAT
Your honor, I must protest!

JUDGE shoots CAT a warning glare. CAT sits down. Sheriff
brings in ROSE, the burglar, wearing handcuffs. CAT is
shocked.

JUDGE
I don't think those cuffs are
necessary. Are you OK, ma'am?

ROSE
(as if she can't
hear)
Eh? What's that?

Sheriff removes handcuffs and escorts Rose to the chair next to the disheveled PUBLIC DEFENDER. ROSE just smiles. CAT rushes over to her.

CAT

Auntie Rose! Did they hurt you?
Are you ok? I can't believe this!
I need to take her home, right
now! This isn't justice! This is
ridiculous.

JUDGE slams gavel.

JUDGE

I warned you, young lady. Don't
try my patience or the two of you
will end up as cellmates. Now sit
down!

A defeated CAT returns to her seat, waking the Public Defender with a nudge as she passes.

JUDGE

(to ROSE)

Ma'am, can you tell me what
happened at Sunset Village or
would you rather your attorney
speak on your behalf?

Just as ROSE stands to speak, STELLA and NETTIE burst into the room speaking loudly over each other.

STELLA

You don't have to say nothing,
Rose until you have your lawyer!

NETTIE

They can't make you talk without
your lawyer present. You have
rights. She has rights up in here!

JUDGE

(exasperated)

Oh, this just keeps getting
better. Ladies, you are
interrupting these proceedings.
Now either sit down quietly or
leave! But I won't have these
disruptions. I'm tired and it's
late! Now can we get on with it?

NETTIE and STELLA continue their protest. Bailiff steps toward them menacingly. ROSE shoots them a pleading look.

Nettie drops an envelope in Mr. Clooney's lap as they pass him to get a seat. The lawyer stands to speak, but Rose quiets him.

ROSE

Your honor, I'd like to explain what happened. You see ...

There's a loud disturbance from outside the door. A man is demanding entrance. The doors burst open and in walks FRED, ROSE's fiancé.

FRED

(angrily)

Judge? I demand you release ROSE this instant! This is all a big misunderstanding and my attorney can get this all straightened out.

STELLA and NETTIE join in the confusion while the JUDGE's gavel demands order.

JUDGE

(loudly)

Order! Order! Everybody sit down and shut up! Sir, what is your interest in this case?

FRED

(scanning the room)

Rose is my fiancée. Where is she?

JUDGE

Excuse me, your what?

FRED

Fiancee. I know there's a little age difference, but that's our business. Is she still locked in some filthy little cell?

JUDGE

So let me make sure I understand this. You are engaged to the defendant?

FRED

Yes ma'am.

JUDGE
 (to Stella and
 Nettie)
 And who are they? The flower
 girls?

NETTIE
 We're her best friends.

STELLA
 (pointing to Cat)
 And that's my granddaughter.
 Rose's niece.

FRED
 (pointing to Rose)
 Then who is she?

JUDGE
 If I've got this right, your
 fiancée, sir.

Everyone stares at ROSE and they all start talking over each other again while the JUDGE bangs the gavel.

CAT (V.O.)
 Let me try to explain what
 happened.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HENDRIX HOME - AFTERNOON

In a quiet neighborhood of Victorian homes, children are playing and many people in their Sunday best are coming and going.

CAT (V.O.)
 It all started the afternoon of
 Grandpa's funeral.

INT. HENDRIX HOME/LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Photographs of the HENDRIX family frame the walls. People are sitting on an old, worn sofa looking through photo albums reminiscing about neighbors that have passed away. Two children are hiding under the dining room table being chastised by a large, elderly woman.

CAT (V.O.)

It looked like the whole neighborhood was all crammed in our little house that day.

Doorbell RINGS. NETTIE, 65, statuesquely striking, a little overweight and one of Stella's most extraverted best friends for 30+ years, weaves through the crowd.

NETTIE

I got it!

ROSCOE, 70ish, dressed like an old pimp, hugs her too long and too close.

ROSCOE

(in her ear)

Hey there, Nettie! Girl, you still got it!

NETTIE

(in his ear)

And I'm keeping it.

NETTIE escapes Roscoe's clutches.

NETTIE

Rhonda Mae Jenkins! Is that you?

Roscoe spots a group of men talking and heads toward them.

ROSCOE

Hey, fellas! Y'all look like potential millionaires. Let me talk to you for a minute...

INT. HENDRIX HOME/KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

ROSE is 63, sophisticated and looks 40-ish. She is stylish, elegant and another long time friend of Stella. She's helping to serve and arrange the massive array of food in the kitchen.

STELLA

I just keep thinking I could have done more.

ROSE

Like what? Victor needed round the clock medical care. And he got that at Sunset Village. You saw to that.

STELLA
 (distractedly
 slicing turkey)
 But it cost me. Damned vultures
 down at Sunset nickeled and dimed
 me for every little thing!

Her slicing becomes borderline violent as she imitates the administrator from Sunset's office with the Bronx accent.

STELLA (CONT'D.)
 "I'm sorry but that's not
 covered.... and that's not
 included.... and that's extra..."

Stella suddenly stabs the knife into the turkey.

STELLA (CONT'D.)
 If I EVER see that wig wearing
 'vacasita' from their billing
 department. . .

Rose sneaks behind Stella, pulls the knife from the turkey and tosses it in the sink.

ROSE
 Tell you what. I'll hold her down
 and you spank her.

STELLA
 (spanking turkey)
 Spank her like her Mama should've!

Stella spanks the turkey to the rhythm of the MUSIC playing in the background. Rose joins in. NETTIE bursts into kitchen.

NETTIE
 What the hell?

Rose and Stella freeze, look at Nettie and burst into laughter.

ROSE
 We were just talking about what
 we're going to do to that woman...

STELLA
 (wickedly)
 No, no, no. Vacasita!

ROSE

Ok...vacasita at Sunset Village...
and what exactly IS a vacasita?

STELLA

In English, basically, a small
cow.

NETTIE

In that case, I'll help!

NETTIE joins in the turkey spanking. DESIREE, Stella's
39-year old niece bursts into the kitchen in a hurry.

DESIREE

Reverend Dooley's ready to...

She stops and looks at them puzzled.

ROSE

Oh, uhh, we were just...

NETTIE

Uh, getting the turkey ready to
uh...

DESIREE

I don't even want to know, but
Reverend Dooley's ready to bless
the food, so if you're . . .
finished in here, we need you all
in the dining room.

Desiree leaves kitchen, shaking her head.

ROSE

Lord only knows what she thinks we
were doing!

Flustered, Rose exits the kitchen in a hurry.

NETTIE

What? Old ladies can't spank a
turkey?

Giggling, Nettie exits the kitchen right behind Rose
followed by Stella.

STELLA

I was just spanking that...

INT. HENDRIX HOME/DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - AFTERNOON

C.U. of REV. DOOLEY, zealous, southern Baptist preacher

REV. DOOLEY

As we gather today, brothers and sisters, we think back on the life of Brother Victor.

GUESTS are nodding, saying 'amen' and commenting throughout the prayer like it's a Sunday sermon.

CAT (V.O.)

And of course, Rev. Dooley tried to turn a blessing of the food into a Sunday sermon.

REV. DOOLEY

(loudly)

So Father, we ask on this day that you help us to remember Brother Victor, and all the good he did on this earth.

A GUEST begins humming a hymn. Several say "Amen" and begin reaching for plates.

REV. DOOLEY (CONT'D.)

(even louder)

I'm reminded of a story...

GUESTS stop grabbing and bow heads again.

REV. DOOLEY (CONT'D.)

...in the book of Matthew where the disciples wanted one thing...

Nettie loudly clears her throat, looks sharply at Rev. Dooley and gives him the 'go faster' signal.

REV. DOOLEY (CONT'D.)

(hurrying)

Uh...they wanted Jesus to bless the food and feed the multitude.

GUESTS offers another round of "amens," "preach preacher," "well."

REV. DOOLEY (CONT'D.)

So now we ask, Father God, that you reach down from your mighty throne and TOUCH!!!

EVERYONE jumps each time he shrieks "touch" while praying.

REV. DOOLEY (CONT'D.)
 (faster and faster)
 Every hand that prepared the food
 today... and Lord, God TOUCH
 Sister Stella and her family in
 their time of loss, and TOUCH all
 those who are praying for this
 family today, Lord God, and
 TOUCH...

Nettie applauds to interrupt what's become a sermon.

NETTIE
 (loudly)
 AMEN! Help yourselves everybody!

CAT (V.O.)
 Aunt Nettie looked at Rev. Dooley,
 daring him to say another word. He
 looked like he was about to try
 her and decided against it.
 Food was moving faster than I
 could see and the party had
 officially begun. Grandma was
 being gracious, accepting cards
 and condolences while Aunt Nettie
 and Aunt Rose kept everything in
 order and the food coming.

Two snickering, small children walk into the living room
 side by side, pretending to be blind, each with their head
 snugly fit in a cup of Stella's bra.

INT. HENDRIX HOME/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - AFTERNOON

CAT (V.O.)
 Grandma signed for a letter at the
 door. And things started to go
 downhill from there.

NETTIE
 She's got to be exhausted, with
 all these people coming and going.
 It's been more than 3 hours!

Stella enters the kitchen, unopened envelope in hand.

ROSE
 Please say that wasn't more food
 arriving!

STELLA

No. Certified letter from the insurance company.

NETTIE

Open it! Maybe it's the, you know, thing you've been waiting for.

Stella opens envelope reading silently, until she gets to the part she reads aloud that says:

STELLA

We regret to inform you that this policy was cashed out 4 years ago!

INT. HENDRIX HOME/FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS - AFTERNOON

CAT (V.O.)

Then Desiree answered the door and it was EVELYN ARCHER, the neighborhood tramp, looking hoochie as ever and smelling like funky no-name perfume. She couldn't have worse timing.

DESIREE

(choking)

Oh, Hi Mrs. Archer.

EVELYN

Just call me Evelyn, Hun. What's with the outfit?

DESIREE

It's an authentic Native American tribal robe worn for celebrating life or death. These markings represent...

EVELYN

Uh, yeah, that's nice, Hun. That pie looks so good over there, but I gotta watch my figure.

(winks at Desiree)

I just wanted to drop this card off for Stella. She available?

DESIREE

(fanning hands)

I'll get her for you.

INT. HENDRIX HOME/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - AFTERNOON

NETTIE

Oh my God!

ROSE

Four years ago? Wasn't that when Victor...

STELLA

It sure was. That damned Evelyn just wouldn't leave him alone.

Desiree sticks her head into the kitchen.

DESIREE

Excuse me, Aunt Stella? Ms. Evelyn's here to see you.

STELLA

(turning quickly)

Evelyn? Pardon me, ladies. Evelyn is here.

Breathing faster, Stella heads for the kitchen door. Rose and Nettie jump up and block her way.

NETTIE

Oh, no you won't! Not today!

STELLA

(forced smiling)

Vamanos, Nettie!

ROSE

You don't really want to see her today, do you?

STELLA

Oh, but I do. Now, get out of my way. I wouldn't wanna be rude.

Nettie and Rose surrender, allowing Stella to exit the kitchen.

INT. HENDRIX HOME/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - AFTERNOON

CAT (V.O.)

Grandma was practically breathing fire when she burst into the living room. Everyone who knew better got out of way. It was like the Red Sea parting as she made

(MORE)

CAT (cont'd)
her way through the room, right
behind Ms. Evelyn.

EVELYN
(turning quickly)
Stella! I'm so sorry about Victor.
He was such a good man.

STELLA
You would know.

EVELYN
(uncomfortably)
Well, I just wanted to drop this
card off from me and Jack.

STELLA
How sweet. Did you put Victor's
money in it?

EVELYN
Money? I don't know what you're
talking about. Why would I...

STELLA
I know he gave you PLENTY of
money, so don't bother lying. Not
now.

EVELYN
It wasn't like that. Those were
loans. I had a medical emergency
and...

STELLA
Since when is a boob job a medical
emergency?

NETTIE
(whispering to
Rose)
I knew those weren't real.

ROSE
(whispering)
But they're nice fakes.

EVELYN
I think there's been some kind of
misunderstanding.

Stella picks up a fluffy custard pie.

STELLA

No. I completely understand. Have some pie?

ROSE

I'll get some plastic wrap.

EVELYN

Oh no, I couldn't eat...

CAT (V.O.)

Then Grandma did the unthinkable.

Stella smashes the custard pie into Evelyn's face.

STELLA

I insist. Take some home for Jack.

CAT (V.O.)

Ms. Evelyn ran out of there screaming with pie dripping off her face. Everybody tried not to laugh but it was too funny. Grandma pulled herself together and invited everybody to have some dessert and coffee and headed calmly into the kitchen. Things got worse from there.

The phone rings twice and stops. Moments later... GLASS is heard BREAKING in the distance from the kitchen. Nettie turns the music up trying to drown it out. She grabs Rose's arm as she walks by.

CAT (V.O.)

Everybody could hear Grandma in there breaking stuff, fussing and cursing in English and Spanish. Some people started leaving while others hung around not sure what to do.

The phone rings again. Stella answers from within the kitchen.

STELLA (O.C.)

(hysterically)

I just buried my husband! I don't have it, ok? Not today, not tomorrow. So stop calling! Just leave me alone!

Another loud CRASH.

ROSE

We need to get these people out of here. You tell 'em.

NETTIE

Excuse me? Everybody? Stella really appreciates your coming today, but she's not feeling well, so let's give her some quiet time to grieve in peace. So again, thanks for coming.

Another loud CRASH from the kitchen.

Nettie and Rose begin herding people toward the front door but they're moving slowly.

ROSE

(to guests)

She just needs to get her strength back...

From the kitchen, it sounds like something large and heavy is being pushed across the floor and turned over. A chair is suddenly catapulted from the kitchen into the living room. People scream, running out the front door practically trampling Nettie. Rose notices a man sleeping comfortably in a reclining chair. She vigorously shakes him.

ROSE

Sir? Wake up!

SLEEPY MAN

(stretching)

Coffee ready yet?

ROSE

Do I know you?

SLEEPY MAN

(stands yawning)

No, but that's a temporary problem. We can fix that right now.

NETTIE

Are you a relative or friend of the family?

SLEEPY MAN

I'm a friend of Roscoe. Where's he? Party over?

NETTIE

He's gone and the repast is over
so get out, you funeral crasher!

ROSE

Just shameful! No respect for the
dead.

SLEEPY MAN

So, I guess coffee is out?

Exasperated, Nettie pushes him out the front door and slams
it shut. All the guests are finally gone. The doorbell
rings. Nettie opens door abruptly.

NETTIE

What now, Roscoe? Your
freeloading friend already left.

ROSCOE

I forgot something.

Roscoe calmly picks up a foil covered plate. Stella is still
at war in the kitchen.

ROSCOE

You ladies have a nice day.
(winks and whispers to Nettie)
Call me, sweet thing.

Nettie pushes him out the door and slams it.

NETTIE

God! That man drives me to drink!

ROSE

Let's go calm her down and see if
there's anything unbroken in there
to drink.

Another loud CRASH! Rose runs behind Nettie.

ROSE

But age before beauty.

NETTIE

Right. Cover me...I'm going in.

INT. HENDRIX HOME/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - AFTERNOON

The kitchen looks like a war zone. Stella, winded and sweating, is standing in the middle of it all. Nettie and Rose walk inside slowly.

ROSE

Honey, calm down. Everyone's gone.
Where's the kitchen table?

STELLA

Over there...over there...And I
think over there.

Nettie, stepping through the mess, pulls a bottle of wine and three glasses from a cabinet.

NETTIE

At least she didn't break these.

As they sip their wine, the phone rings. Stella's nerves are shot. She gulps her wine and abruptly answers the phone.

STELLA

Hello?...I told you I'll send it
by the end of the month... No,
next month... Fine. You do that!

She slams the phone down, comes back to the counter where they were standing, and holds her empty glass out to Nettie.

STELLA (CONT'D.)

Hit me.

ROSE

Sweetie, what's going on?

STELLA

Yo no se. I got bill collectors
hounding and threatening me night
and day. How could Victor have
done this?

She slaps the insurance letter off the counter letting it fall to the floor.

NETTIE

Hey, I've got a little money saved
up. It's yours if you need it.

STELLA

Thanks, but I couldn't. I'm so
behind with the bills and the
property taxes, it wouldn't even

(MORE)

STELLA (cont'd)
 make a dent. I was gonna use the insurance money to catch the bills up and maybe get ahead for once. And now this. Ay de mi!

ROSE
 How much were you paying Sunset Village... if that's not too personal?

STELLA
 \$1100 a month. And they were always saying that if I didn't pay, they'd toss Victor out. And I believed them. I owe them money too.

NETTIE
 We'll figure something out. Don't worry.

Nettie refills their glasses.

ROSE
 I can't believe they made you pay that much! That's just taking advantage of decent people. It ain't right.

NETTIE
 Did you say "ain't?"

ROSE
 Of course not! How much wine have you (hiccup) had?

NETTIE
 That's a lotta money to pay every month. Victor's health insurance didn't cover it?

STELLA
 I don't know what it covered. Victor was so sick, and I was scared and confused. Sunset Village had me sign papers to send his insurance reimbursements and retirement checks directly to them. They told me I still had to pay \$1100 on top of all that. When I got behind, they let me use the house for collateral and now

(MORE)

STELLA (cont'd)
they're gonna take it.

ROSE
Your house? Is that even legal? I bet they were billing you, the insurance, Medicare, me and her for the same stuff. That's what they do down there.

NETTIE
Billing me and you too? You never could hold your wine. And how do you know about their billing?

ROSE
I'm a lood gistener. When I teach yoga there, I hear them talking about how they bill for things that people ain't really getting, like medicines they don't take and what kind of wine is this? I like it.

NETTIE
Ok, you're definitely toasted!

STELLA
Rose, if you can get proof of that crazy billing, I might be able to save my house. Si?

ROSE
I'd need access to their records to prove (hiccup) anything. They won't just give me that.

NETTIE
True. So much for that idea.

ROSE
Wait a minute. There's a weekly bingo game on Fridays. We could go over there, tip-toe in, go where they keep the money, take yours back and call it fair and square.

Nettie refills Rose's glass. Stella sticks her empty glass out. The phone rings again. Rose stops Stella from answering.

ROSE (CONT'D.)

Please. Let me. Ahem. Hello?
Hendrix residence... She is not
available. She buried her husband
today. So unless you were raised
by wild animals in the woods, show
some respect for the departed and
do stop calling. Oh, and the check
is in the mail.

As she hangs the phone, they burst into laughter.

NETTIE

So, how do we get the money? Just
waltz in there using our good
looks and take it?

STELLA

No wait... I think Rose is onto
something.

ROSE

(slurred)

I was just kidding! You know I
could never do anything like that.

STELLA

But we could. Desperate times
call for desperate measures.

Nettie and Stella turn and watch Rose diligently trying to
pour more wine from an empty bottle.

ROSE

What?

INT. HENDRIX HOME/DEN - DAY

Stella is sipping coffee, working on her computer, crossing
items from a list. Cat sits on the sofa studying an
engineering book. The phone rings, startling Stella.

CAT

I'll get it.

STELLA

No, no. Let it go to the machine.

BEEP!

CLOONEY

(filtered)

Mrs. Hendrix, Mr. Clooney with Sunset Village again. I need to speak with you about your bill. I don't want to foreclose on your house but if you don't pay your bill, you'll leave me no choice. Let's resolve this. Good day.

BEEP!

CAT

Grandma, what's going on? Why is he talking about you losing your house?

STELLA

Now, now. It's just a big misunderstanding. Everything will be fine.

CAT

Not according to him. Is this about Grandpa's bill? I can quit school and get a job to help pay it.

STELLA

No, I want you to graduate on time. So tell me what you're studying.

CAT

Well, I'm reviewing the 5 characteristics of hybridization. There's idle-off capability, regenerative braking capacity...

EDDIE, Cat's well-built track star boyfriend, comes in shirtless from cutting the grass.

EDDIE

Excuse me, Ms. Hendrix. Is it ok to get something cold to drink?

STELLA

You can help yourself to some nice cold sweet tea in the fridge.

EDDIE

Actually, studies have been done on the affects of caffeine on people your age, and it can cause
(MORE)

EDDIE (cont'd)
ulcers and aggravate heartburn.

STELLA
Aggravation, you say?

EDDIE
Yes, ma'am. And there's more.

CAT
No, there isn't. Let's go get you
some fruit infused water.

STELLA
Good idea. Fruit confused water.
Sounds aggravating to me.

Stella returns to her computer, shaking her head.

STELLA
Other than a cute body, good looks
and a nice smile, I don't know
what she sees in him.

INT. CLOONEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Behind a cluttered, disorganized desk sits GEORGE CLOONEY, middle aged, balding and short. His white board has a list of names including Stella Hendrix. Some are crossed off. He crosses off Stella's name, pleased with himself.

CLOONEY
(yelling)
Marie! Where's my circus folder?

A frazzled assistant, MARIE, brings him a red folder marked "Circus," looks at Clooney with disgust and leaves.

CLOONEY (CONT'D.)
(singing)
Time to have some fun! Time to
have some fun!

Clooney dials a number from the folder.

CLOONEY (CONT'D.)
Hello, Mr. Yakovitz? It's Mr.
Clooney from Sunset Village
calling about your account... Just
a minute sir... Don't take it
personal... I'm just doing my
job... You want me to what?...
Look, we don't want to foreclose
(MORE)

CLOONEY (cont'd)
on you, but if you leave us no
choice, we will... I will do no
such thing to myself! Hello? Mr.
Yakovitz?

He hangs up and crosses Yakovitz from the white board,
laughing. He makes another call.

CLOONEY
Hey, Clooney here. Look, I told
you guys to stop shipping brand
name medicines. Just send the
generic in the brand name bottles
like I pay you to do. Or do I need
to take my business elsewhere?
Just get it right! And send me
another case of those placebos...
It's not your concern how I
dispense them. Just ship 'em.

He searches through the scattered folders on the desk. Marie
returns with a cane.

MARIE
(cautiously)
Sir? The canes arrived but I think
they're faulty.

CLOONEY
They look fine to me. Put them in
the pharmacy and make sure the
prices are tagged.

MARIE
But when you put pressure on them,
the handles are wobbly. Someone
might fall and get hurt.

CLOONEY
Then they shouldn't lean on them
too hard, should they? Now get
going. Hey! Tie a pretty ribbon on
them. They'll like that. And bring
me the eviction folder when you
get back.

He whistles and does a happy dance.

INT. FRED'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Well decorated, modern kitchen. Rose and Fred, 56, handsome retired linebacker, are sitting at the kitchen table having coffee.

ROSE

I'm worried about Stella.

FRED

She just needs time to mourn.

ROSE

That's the thing. She seems to be over it already, which is scary.

FRED

That was quick!

ROSE

I don't know if she's just suppressing how she feels or if she really is at peace with Victor's death.

FRED

I know someone who could speak with her, if you'd like. He's a sports psychiatrist but he owes me a favor. Want me to call him?

ROSE

No. You know her Cuban temper. I don't want to give her a reason to act a fool.

EXT. HENDRIX FRONT YARD - AFTERNOON

Stacks of trash bags line the curb from yesterday's repast. The trash men finally arrive late and Stella sees them spilling trash and comes outside.

STELLA

Hey! Who you think's gonna pick that up? Not me. I know that much!

TRASHMAN 1

Hey lady! Settle down. You got two weeks' worth of trash out here. So don't give me grief if some spills.

Stella yells in Spanish at Trashman One. Trashman Two laughs. Cat comes out to see what the yelling is about.

CAT
Grandma, calm down. Please!

TRASHMAN 1
(to Trashman 2)
What'd she say? I don't like her tone!

STELLA
(yelling at the sky)
See what you left me to deal with, Victor? It's all your fault! All your fault!

CAT
Grandma! People are staring. What's the problem?

Stella cries uncontrollably falling to her knees on lawn. Cat tries to console her.

TRASHMAN 1
(to Trashman 2)
Damn! She's losing it over trash? Just get all this crap up and let's keep it moving.

CAT
I'm sorry, sir. Would you just please get all the trash? Please?

TRASHMAN 1
Ok, ok, lady. Don't cry. We'll get it all up? OK? Just calm down.

Cat helps Stella up and they head for the house. A few neighbors are curiously watching. She shakes her fist at the neighbor across the street.

STELLA
(yelling)
Consigue una vida! Get a life!

CAT
Really Grandma?

STELLA
They should mind their own business.

INT. HENDRIX LIVING ROOM - DAY

They enter house to the BEEP of Mr. Clooney leaving a message on the answering machine.

CLOONEY

(angrily)

Mrs. Hendrix? Mr. Clooney, Sunset Village again. You haven't returned any of my calls. My attorney is drawing up the papers to foreclose on your house by the 30th. I'm tired of playing this game with you. And I still have three bad checks you wrote. I tried being nice about this but you didn't appreciate it. So you might want to get some boxes and hire a mover. Good day.

CAT

So are you going to tell me about this before or after you get thrown out of your house?

The phone rings again. Stella snatches it off the hook.

STELLA

(angrily)

Look, I told you I was trying to get the money but I need more time. I don't need you threatening and...

INT. FRED'S HOME/KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

ROSE

Hey! Hey! Slow down, it's me.

INTERCUT STELLA/ROSE

STELLA

Sorry. I thought you were Clooney or one of the others.

ROSE

Did somebody threaten you?

STELLA

They're foreclosing on the house at the end of the month and I just had a fight with the stupid trash men, but I won.

ROSE

Ok. Look. Nettie and I are coming by in about an hour and we'll talk.

STELLA

Ok. I'll be here.

She hangs up and turns to face Cat.

CAT

I'm all ears. Now, start at the beginning.

INT. FRED'S HOME/KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Rose hangs up the phone. Fred hugs her from behind.

FRED

Is she ok?

ROSE

I don't know. This is exactly what worries me. She's drowning in debt and fighting with the trash man?

FRED

I told you, I can call my friend if you want me to. Just say the word.

ROSE

When I get there, I'll see for myself if she needs some professional help.

FRED

OK. So are we on for dinner later? I know a perfect place I wanna take you and show you off. But you're not going to wear all this are you?

Fred pulls her sleeve from her shoulder. Laughing, Rose runs to escape his embrace. Grinning, Fred chases her.

INT. HENDRIX HOME/BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

Stella is laying in a large, old-fashioned bathtub soaking in bubbles up to her neck. Half a glass of red wine sits on a small table beside the tub. "Let's Stay Together" plays on a small radio. She closes her eyes.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. VFW DINING HALL - NIGHT

Stella and Victor are dressed in formal clothing. They are sitting at a banquet table. A banner hangs on the wall behind them that says "Happy 38th Anniversary - Stella and Victor, 2006." Nettie and James are sitting on their right and Rose and Fred and seated on their left. A band is playing a jazz version of "Let's Stay Together." Victor takes Stella's hand and they head to the dance floor. Everyone stands and applauds in slo-mo as Victor dips her.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. HENDRIX HOME/BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

A loud commercial interrupts the song on the radio. Tears are streaming down Stella's face. She finally gives into her contained emotions and cries to exhaustion.

INT. HENDRIX HOME/STELLA'S DEN - AFTERNOON

Stella lays on the sofa holding a cold cloth on her forehead while Nettie and Rose are reviewing papers at the table.

NETTIE

Where's Cat?

STELLA

She went to look for a job. She's decided to put school on hold for awhile to help me with the bills.

ROSE

Oh no! What made her decide to do that?

STELLA

She cornered me so I told her the truth. She has a right to know how bad the situation is.

NETTIE
It's not that bad.

STELLA
Bad enough.

ROSE
It's doable.

Stella moans.

NETTIE
23 thousand isn't that bad.

ROSE
But too risky to get all at once.

STELLA
Wait. How do we know for sure
where he keeps the money?

NETTIE
Good question. I've gotta run an
errand. Let's meet back here in
about two hours. Keep an eye on
her, ok?

ROSE
Ok. I'll fix us something to eat.

INT. CLOAK AND DAGGER SPY STORE - AFTERNOON

All the latest items for undercover and surveillance work
line the walls of this dimly lit store.

RUBIN
Can I help you find something?

He acts like he's being followed. Nettie starts looking left
and right.

NETTIE
I'll let you know in a minute.

RUBIN
Copy that. Just ask for Rubin.

He looks around again and disappears down an aisle. Nettie
browses the store for a moment.

NETTIE
 (whispering)
 Hey, Rubin?

Rubin, wearing a fastened up trench coat instantly reappears from around a corner, startling Nettie.

RUBIN
 You called?

CAT (V.O.)
 Rubin showed Aunt Nettie all kinds of fascinating gadgets and electronics. She was amazed at the stuff they had in there. Eventually, Rubin rang her up and she left out of there with an unmarked bag and a smile on her face.

INT. HENDRIX DEN - EVENING

ROSE
 I think it's terribly unlady-like for Cat to be crawling under cars and such.

STELLA
 That's what she studies in school. She wants to design cars. Go figure. So, how do we find out where the money is?

NETTIE
 Don't you teach a yoga class at Sunset West tomorrow?

ROSE
 Yes. Why?

EXT. HENDRIX HOME/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Cat is working underneath her black Ford Flex on a rolling creeper. Tools are everywhere. Eddie sneaks up, kneeling, yanks her out by her legs and kisses her.

CAT
 (angry)
 Really?

He kisses her again. She giggles and kisses him back.

EDDIE
(admiringly)
How ya doing?

CAT
(excited)
Great! I'm working on the pistons. See, when a piston moves down, it creates a vacuum, allowing atmospheric pressure to be drawn into the combustion chamber. Combined with fuel, it forms a unit of energy, which is turned into horsepower via combustion...

EDDIE
I'm good, thanks for asking.

CAT
Right. Help me up. I've been working on this all morning and I'm closing in on a solution.

Cat rolls creeper to the other side of the car and slides back under.

EDDIE
So, you fixed it?

CAT
(excitedly)
It's not broken. I'm making it faster which requires more efficient combustion. More fuel alone going into the engine wouldn't work, because of the delicate relationship between the oxygen in the air and the fuel required for the combustion.

EDDIE
(knowingly)
Obviously!

CAT
(unfazed)
Obviously! So instead, modifying the car's engine to accept more air and fuel will make it faster and more efficient.

EDDIE
Do your thing, baby. I'm just
enjoying the view.

CAT
Then make yourself useful and hand
me that adjustable wrench.

EDDIE
(playful)
What's it worth to you?

He tickles her leg. Cat giggles as Rose arrives, looks in
their direction and shakes her head in judgement.

ROSE
Morning, Cat... young man.

CAT
Hey, Aunt Rose. Aunt Nettie's in
the house with Grandma.

EDDIE
Good morning, ma'am.

INT. INTERIOR HENDRIX HOME/DEN - DAY

Nettie is working on her laptop.

ROSE
What is so important? Did
something happen and where's the
coffee?

STELLA
I'll get you a cup and I don't
know what's so urgent. She'll let
us know when she's ready.

ROSE
(reaching for cup)
Your answering machine is blinking
non-stop.

STELLA
(laughing)
I know. I'm conducting an
experiment to see if it will blow
itself up when it gets full.

NETTIE

Ok, come over here and take a look at this.

Looking at Nettie's laptop screen, we see a slightly grainy b/w video of Mr. Clooney's office. Nettie fast-forwards to Clooney coming and going from his office while explaining:

NETTIE (V.O.)

I gave Rose a plant to deliver to Clooney's office yesterday. That plant is actually a tiny videocam. So now we can watch him right here and he'll never even know.

Video shows Clooney locking himself in office and placing a bag on his desk. He opens the safe, opens the bag and removes several stacks of money which he puts into the safe. He closes safe and leaves the office.

STELLA

Wait! Go back, go back!

Nettie rewinds video. She replays it from Clooney putting money in the safe that already has money in it.

ROSE

Right there. I saw it too.

NETTIE

Looks like there's more than important papers in that safe.

STELLA

And let me show you what I found. Statements and printouts of several of their accounts.

NETTIE

Wait a minute. How'd you get this stuff?

ROSE

She cracked their computers?

STELLA

Hacked. I used one of Nettie's gizmos. I also tracked down all the holding companies that own Sunset Villages and guess who they all belong to? Clooney! Now, this is a bill they sent me for Victor's physical therapy and here's one sent to the insurance

(MORE)

STELLA (cont'd)

company. Same amounts, same dates, same therapy. Double billing. And there's plenty more where that came from.

ROSE

My head is spinning. Clooney owns all their facilities? I thought he was just an employee. Riding around in that old, worn out car like he's broke. He's sitting on a mint!

STELLA

And look at this account. Lots of cash goes in every week, and it looks like they route it to their other locations bit by bit, 'til there's no trace of it.

NETTIE

This is crazy! Do you think they're doing something illegal like selling drugs?

STELLA

Bingo!

ROSE

They're really selling drugs?

STELLA

No, Bingo! I think they're stacking the cash from their weekly bingo games. All three locations play every Friday night and I hear it's really big with huge cash jackpots.

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE EAST/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Buses are parked side by side in front of the building with a sign that say 'BINGO TONIGHT.' Crowds of elderly people are going in, laughing and talking.

STELLA (V.O.)

Bus loads of people come every week from all over the place. They even bus them in from other senior homes around the city. I've seen their ads in the paper. I'm

(MORE)

STELLA (cont'd)
telling you, this is big business.

INT. HENDRIX HOME/STELLA'S DEN (CONTINUOUS) - MORNING

STELLA (CONT'D.)
And they gotta keep all that money
right there. 'Cause if they
deposit it, there'd be a paper
trail.

NETTIE
We just need to get it out of that
safe.

ROSE
And how do we do that? It's got a
combination lock.

NETTIE
I have something in this
bag...somewhere... that will help
us with that.

STELLA
(laughing)
Get a load of Inspector Gadget.

Nettie pulls out a small round object.

NETTIE
This is a magnetic sound booster.

ROSE
And does it tell you safe
combinations too?

NETTIE
No, but it lets you hear the
combination really loud so you can
tell when you hit the right
number.

STELLA
OK, so how do we get in there to
listen to the safe?

NETTIE
I've got a plan...

INT. NETTIE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

The next morning, Nettie is putting the finishing touches on her make-up and costume. She appears a lot older. Stella is in the mirror adjusting her costume. She's itching all over. Rose arrives to pick them up.

ROSE

Wow, look at you! I hardly
recognized... Oh, I'm sorry, I
didn't realize you had company.
Good morning, ma'am.

Stella turns facing Rose. She cups her hand to her ear, leaning forward.

ROSE

(louder)
I said good morning!

STELLA

No need to shout.

ROSE

Stella? That can't be you! Oh my
God!

NETTIE

And you laughed at my gadget bag.
Good disguise, huh?

ROSE

Good? I didn't even recognize her.
Wow! You look real...real.

Rose reaches to touch Stella's face. Stella backs away.

STELLA

No touching! I don't know what
Nettie put on my face, but I don't
want it falling off.

ROSE

Touchy old lady! Is that a real
hearing aid?

NETTIE

It's a voice recorder with an
amplifier. It's got quite a range
too. Picks up distant
conversations real well.

STELLA

Let's get outta here. I'm
scratching already in this fat
suit.

ROSE

I better drive my car too so we're
not seen arriving together, in
case anyone's watching.

STELLA

(laughing)

Nobody would be eyeballing old
bats like us!

ROSE

I meant me.

NETTIE

Well, la-de-da! Stella can ride
with me. I'm parked on the side
street.

STELLA

Good. Cat's working on her car out
front. We'll slip out the side
door.

INT. SUNSET VILLAGE WEST/GYM - MORNING

Rose is stretching to some new-age meditation music on a
boom box.

MR. CLOONEY is peeping, he thinks undetected, from the
doorway.

ROSE

(back turned)

Finally joining our class, Mr.
Clooney?

CLOONEY

(flustered)

Oh, no, no. Dear me, no. I was
just passing by and heard the
music.

Rose bends over touching her toes.

CLOONEY (CONT'D.)

(dreamy)

It really puts you in a state of
mind, doesn't it?

ROSE

(seductively)

Yes. You should try it sometime.

CLOONEY

(nervously)

I should. Ahem! Perhaps some other
time... when I don't have to go
and handle, you know, all this
other business.

ROSE

I'll save a spot for you front and
center, whenever you're ready.

Mr. Clooney pulls out a handkerchief and dabs his brow.

CLOONEY

Uh... well, have a great ass...
uh, class. Class.

Embarrassed, he hurries down the hall before Rose can
respond. She giggles and continues stretching.

RECEPTION AREA:

It's very neat and clean. Receptionist sits at desk wearing
a phone headset. Stella and Nettie enter the lobby. They
slowly approach the receptionist.

NETTIE

Er, uh, excuse me baby, where do
we go for the tour?

RECEPTIONIST

(snitty)

Our tours are by appointment only.
Do you have an appointment?

NETTIE

Honey, at our age we don't do
appointments 'cause we don't know
if we're gonna make them or not.
We just show up. So we showed up
for the tour.

Stella hears several distant conversations from down the hall. She focuses on one about a bingo game, reaches into her pocket and hits the record button.

RECEPTIONIST

I'll have to call the Director.
Would you please have a seat?

Stella sees a surveillance camera behind the receptionist. She touches the arm of her glasses. A B/W PHOTOGRAPH is taken. SFX: camera shutter

NETTIE

That's a good idea, baby. We're gonna sit right over yonder while you call your Daddy.

Nettie guides Stella over to the chairs. They wait and observe. Stella sees a security desk at the opposite end of the hallway. A B/W PHOTOGRAPH is taken. Receptionist dials the Director.

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Clooney? There are two ladies here for a tour... Yes sir... I did, but they insist... Right away, sir.

She hangs up, clears her throat and stands with a fake smile.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D.)

Ladies, if you will follow me,
I'll give you a tour of our lovely facility.

Stella is scratching under her breasts and Nettie is napping.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D.)

(louder)
Ladies! This way!

NETTIE

(startled)
Oh, Lord! Who are you hollering at?

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry, ma'am. You appeared to be sleep.

Stella grabs a brochure fanning herself quickly. Nettie helps her up and slowly they follow Receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST

This is our arts and crafts room.
We have all kinds of wonderful
activities for our residents.

Stella takes B/W photograph of room and hallway. Without a word, she sits in a chair in the hallway, smiling at the Receptionist.

NETTIE

That means it's time for a break.
So where's your Daddy? Are we
gonna meet him?

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Clooney is not my Father. He's
the Director of this facility.

NETTIE

That's so sweet. It must be nice
to work with your Daddy like that.
(to Stella) Isn't that nice?

Stella smiles, nods and takes a B/W PHOTOGRAPH of the front door and receptionist desk. Receptionist impatiently checks her watch.

RECEPTIONIST

Shall we continue?

Nettie helps Stella up and slowly they continue tour.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D.)

Would you prefer a wheelchair for
her? We could move a little faster
that way.

NETTIE

(laughing)
She don't use wheelchairs. She
thinks they're for old folks.
Ain't that funny?

RECEPTIONIST

(deadpan)
Hysterical.

NETTIE

Ohhh, child! Where's the toilet?

RECEPTIONIST

There's a ladies room right around
the corner.

They walk around the corner. Stella takes a B/W photograph.
They enter the ladies room while the Receptionist waits in
the hallway.

LADIES ROOM

STELLA

(scratching)

I can't take it much longer! I
feel like I want to take a
hairbrush and just go for it!

NETTIE

We just need to get the layout of
this place, then we can go. 'Cause
I can't take much more of that
li'l girl's attitude.

STELLA

I think we can take her.

Nettie laughs and flushes the toilet.

NETTIE

Wash your hands.

STELLA

For what? You flushed the toilet.
I was just scratching.

NETTIE

You're a nasty old lady.

Stella mumbling, washes and dries her hands.

STELLA

Satisfied?

NETTIE

Yeah. Now get a shot of that
window.

Stella takes a B/W photograph of window. She looks out of
the window and a B/W photograph is taken of the view to the
ground and to the parking lot.

RECEPTIONIST (O.C.)

Is everything alright in there?

NETTIE

(loudly)

We're fine! (whispering) Ok, let's speed it up so we can get out of here. And fix your boobs.

Stella adjusts her fake boobs in mirror and removes a wedgie as they exit the bathroom.

HALLWAY

Several diners eye them suspiciously.

Receptionist chatters on about Sunset Village's amenities while Nettie and Stella focus on the exits and surveillance cameras as they walk.

They reach the director's office. Nettie stops and walks in followed by Stella. It takes a few seconds for the Receptionist to realize they are no longer behind her. She quickly doubles back to the director's office.

RECEPTIONIST

Sir! I'm so sorry. I thought they were still behind me on the tour!

NETTIE

It's okay, baby. Your Daddy don't mind us stopping by for a visit.

Stella sits next to the Director's desk. She takes a B/W photograph of the partially open safe. She looks at the window which leads to the side parking lot and takes another photo.

CLOONEY

Ladies, please continue your tour elsewhere. I'm in the middle of something important.

NETTIE

Don't mind us. We just wanted to see who runs this place. I need to know if I can trust you or not.

CLOONEY

Trust me? I run a tight ship around here. And I'm the captain, I'll have you know.

NETTIE

I didn't mean no insult. Just speaking my mind, that's all.

RECEPTIONIST

Ladies, please! Let's continue the tour. I'll show you the bingo hall.

Stella nods and Nettie helps her up. Stella looks at the papers on Mr. Clooney's desk and takes a photo.

NETTIE

Bingo? Now ya talking! You go on and captain your ship. We'll be seeing you. Bye-bye for now.

Stella takes a photo of the lock on the door knob before they exit.

BINGO HALL

Receptionist is flustered and talking fast. They stop just inside the bingo hall entrance and Stella looks at each door and takes B/W photographs.

NETTIE

This is real nice.

RECEPTIONIST

Wonderful! Would you like an application? For the both of you?

Nettie looks at Stella who shakes her head no.

NETTIE

She ain't convinced, baby. What else ya got?

Receptionist keeps looking back at her nonstop ringing phones.

RECEPTIONIST

Why don't I take you to the gym? There's a wonderful yoga class in session. Follow me, please.

NETTIE

We'll just stop by the toilet, then we can go see Yogi.

RECEPTIONIST

It's yoga... yes ma'am... Yogi. I'll run and check on my phones and be back in a few.

The receptionist sprints back to her desk. All her lines are ringing. Stella and Nettie head toward the ladies room. Nettie stops near Clooney's office pretending to adjust her knee high stockings.

NETTIE

(whispering)

Wait a minute. He's on the phone I think. Something about too much cash to hold here.

STELLA

(whispering)

You recording it?

NETTIE

(reaching in pocket)

I am now. You better go on to the ladies room. I'll meet you there.

Stella nods and goes into bathroom. Nettie pretends to adjust her other stocking.

CLOONEY (O.C.)

(filtered)

...yeah but I don't want to keep that much around here.... 40 gees? That's risky past the weekend... uh huh. Tell him to come late Saturday night so I can add the bingo money with it... (laughing) ...you know old people and bingo... works for me....yeah... always a pleasure.

Clooney comes out suddenly, sees Stella's stocking adjusting, makes a face and quickly retreats to his office.

LADIES ROOM

Nettie enters the bathroom excited. She finds Stella scratching her breasts again.

STELLA

I can't take it no more! This fat suit is making me loco!

Nettie shushes Stella, making sure all stalls are empty.

NETTIE

You can never be too sure. Check
the door.

Stella peeps out the bathroom door as an old lady is
approaching.

STELLA

(to lady in
hallway)

My sister messed it all up. I told
her not to eat that chili.
Peee-you! Try the one up the hall.

She shuts and locks the door. Nettie shakes her head. Stella
shrugs.

NETTIE

Ok. Clooney said somebody is
coming late Saturday night to pick
up a lot of cash.

STELLA

How much is a lot?

NETTIE

At least 40,000. He said after the
bingo game on Friday, more would
be added.

STELLA

Ay mi! They must make a lot of
money in Bingo.

NETTIE

I think he's moving cash around to
keep it outta the books just like
you said.

Stella begins scratching vigorously. She takes off her wig
and scratches her head with both hands.

NETTIE (CONT'D.)

Girl, if you ain't a sight! C'mon.
Let's go by the gym, then we can
get outta here.

STELLA

Good. Else I'm gonna need a flea
collar or something!

Stella puts her wig back on, straightens her costume and
heads for the door. Nettie quickly reaches up and

straightens Stella's sideways wig.

GYMNASIUM

Rose is instructing the class in a Mountain yoga pose. She discretely nods as Stella and Nettie walk past the open doorway of the gym. The receptionist comes running down the hallway toward them.

RECEPTIONIST

(winded)

Well! Did you like our gym?

NETTIE

Didn't meet Jim. I'm sure he's a real nice man, but we're awfully tired now and ready to go home.

RECEPTIONIST

(pointing to
Stella)

Does she talk at all?

NETTIE

Only when she needs to cuss somebody out.

RECEPTIONIST

(shuddering)

Well, I brought applications if you'd like to come and join us here at Sunset Village West.

They wave goodbye and head for the rear exit. Stella is making a low moaning sound.

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE/PARKING LOT - MORNING

Stella gets louder as they get closer to the car.

NETTIE

What are you doing now?

STELLA

(scratching)

Trying not to explode 'til I can get outta this stuff!

NETTIE

Just hang on. We're almost there.

Nettie unlocks the car. Stella dives into the back seat. She's squirming to get out of the dress and fat suit, mumbling in Spanish. Nettie gets in and starts the car.

NETTIE (CONT'D.)

(laughing)

I sure hope nobody was looking.

STELLA

If they keep looking, they're gonna get a real eyeful!

Nettie pulls off quickly, watching Stella thru the rear view mirror stripping and scratching furiously.

NETTIE

Damn! I can't take you anywhere!

INT. NETTIE'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Empty Chinese food cartons are scattered on the table. A half empty bottle of red wine is in the middle of the mess. Stella has red splotches on her arms and neck.

NETTIE

It's only fair.

STELLA

And it's mine.

ROSE

But it's still not right.

STELLA

And what they're doing to me is right?

ROSE

(hushed)

Where's James?

NETTIE

Gone fishing. And this is about justice. Sometimes things just won't be right unless you make 'em right.

ROSE

I know that's right! I just don't know about this.

STELLA

What can go wrong? We know what they're doing.

NETTIE

And now we know where it is.

STELLA

And if we don't do it, they keep getting away with it and I lose everything.

Nettie refills Rose's wine glass and pushes it toward her.

ROSE

It's not that I don't care. You know I do. But what if something goes wrong? What if I end up spending my golden years wearing hideous state issued, ill-fitting orange uniforms? The horror!

Nettie imitates a crying baby behind Rose's back she talks. Rose sips her wine and opens a fortune cookie.

NETTIE

Think of it more like Robinhood. Remember how he took from the rich and gave to the poor?

Rose is fanning herself. Her fortune cookie says 'take a chance on a friend.'

ROSE

I remember Robinhood. Noble cause. Horrible wardrobe.

They laugh. Nettie tops off Rose's glass.

NETTIE

So, what are we talking?

STELLA

23 thousand. At least.

Rose chokes on her wine. Nettie pats her back.

NETTIE

No wonder you've been dodging phone calls and your nerves are all bad, on top of everything else.

STELLA

Those bill collectors are circling
like vultures and they call day
and night.

ROSE

I had no idea Sunset Village was
hustling people out of their homes
too. They're dead wrong for that.

STELLA

Clooney says if I don't pay up by
the end of the month, he's gonna
foreclose on me. I already lost my
Victor. I can't lose our home too.
Not like this.

NETTIE

You shouldn't have to lose your
home over some bull!

ROSE

And this is some bull!

STELLA

So, what are we saying?

NETTIE

They took it from you.

ROSE

Then let's go take it back!

STELLA

You mean it?

ROSE

I'm in!

NETTIE

Then raise your glasses ladies...
to...the Grandma Gang!

INT. ROSE'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Rose and Fred are relaxing on a love seat after a late
lunch. Soft music plays. Rose, gathering the dishes, notices
Fred smiling.

ROSE

What are you grinning about?

FRED

Sometimes I just think about you,
or look at you, and before I know
it, I'm smiling... for no reason.

ROSE

You're trying to make me blush.

FRED

It seems to be working.

Fred takes her hand and kisses it.

FRED (CONT'D.)

When are you gonna make me an
honest man?

Rose becomes very serious, pulling her hand away.

ROSE

We've been through this before.

Rose abruptly takes the tray of dirty dishes into the
kitchen, slamming the tray on the counter.

FRED

I don't think Pluck would want you
to be a widow forever. It's been
almost 15 years, baby.

ROSE

(angrily)

Don't you dare presume to tell me
what Pluck would want.

FRED

I wasn't trying to. I know he
loved you, and based on that, I
think he'd want you to live life
and be happy. That's all I'm
saying. Can we just talk about
this?

Fred stands and opens his arms. Rose returns to the living
room and sits next to him. She begins to cry. They talk.
Sometimes she gets angry, then Fred. They pace, exchange
places and get emotional. Back on the sofa, Rose is in
Fred's arms. He wipes the tears from her face.

FRED

If you really don't want to get
married, we don't have to. No
pressure. I love you, Rosy.

ROSE

You mean it?

FRED

Always. I got you baby.

FRONT DOOR

Fred kisses Rose and leaves. She locks the door and waves from the window.

She pulls a box from the closet and places it on the sofa. Opening the box, she removes black stretchy biker pants, a black jacket, black tank top and black spiked heel shoes.

BEEP. A text message from Nettie says: "Be there in about 30 minutes." She texts back "OK" and looks over her outfit. Smiling, she shapes her hands like paws and purrs like a cat.

INT. ROSE'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Rose has put on her black outfit beneath a robe. Lou Rawls, "You'll Never Find" keeps playing from somewhere in the room.

ROSE

There it goes again!

Rose runs to the stereo, turns it on and back off. She looks under a chair, behind a curtain, then the song stops. Doorbell rings.

NETTIE

Took you long enough! Move! Gotta go, gotta go!

Nettie makes a mad dash for the bathroom. Stella comes in a moment later wearing dark glasses and a trench coat.

ROSE

Sunglasses at night? What's that about?

STELLA

If I tell you, I have to kill you.

ROSE

Riiiiiiiiight.

STELLA

What's up with the robe? You're not dressed yet?

Lou Rawls plays again.

ROSE

Quick, help me find Lou Rawls!

Stella and Rose search the couch cushions, under furniture and around the room; the music stops.

Nettie returns from the bathroom.

NETTIE

Whew! Almost didn't make it. Whatcha looking for?

STELLA

Lou Rawls. You need to see a doctor or something.

ROSE

Are you sick? Is it contagious?

Rose opens a cabinet, grabs Lysol and sprays the room.

NETTIE

It's nothing contagious! Enough with the Lysol!

STELLA

She just can't stop peeing.

ROSE

Don't be so crass. Is that true?

NETTIE

I don't know what's going on, but it seems like every 20 minutes or so, I gotta go!

STELLA

Sounds like that prostate thing to me.

Rose and Nettie stare unbelievably at Stella.

STELLA (CONT'D.)

No, I heard a man on a doctor show talking about that same problem and they said it was his prostate.

Nettie shakes her head looking at Rose.

NETTIE
You tell her.

ROSE
Honey, we don't have a prostate.

Nettie begins unpacking a bag on the dining room table.

STELLA
I know! But she does and it's acting up.

ROSE
No, I mean women don't have a prostate. Only men do.

STELLA
(whispering)
Ohhhh. Do you think she's got something we don't?

NETTIE
I'm gonna make an appointment next week, 'cause this is irritating!

Lou Rawls starts singing again.

ROSE
Quick, everybody spread out and find Lou.

They search around the room but the music stops too fast.

NETTIE
Ok, somebody tell me why we're looking for Lou Rawls.

The house phone rings. Stella grabs it.

STELLA
Hello?

FRED
(filtered)
Rosie, why didn't you answer your phone? I was about to drive over there to check on you.

STELLA
(flirting)
Hey, Papi...

Rose snatches the phone from Stella.

ROSE
Hello?

FRED
Rosie? Was that Stella?

ROSE
(fanning hand)
Yes, that was crazy Stella.

Stella joins Nettie in the dining room.

FRED
You had me worried sick about you
when you didn't answer the phone.

ROSE
What? This is the first time it
rang.

FRED
No, your cell phone.

Rose scans the room for her cell phone.

ROSE
I don't even see it. And I
definitely didn't hear it ringing.

Lou Rawls starts singing again.

FRED
You hear it now? That's me
calling.

ROSE
All I hear is Lou Rawls somewhere,
but I can't tell where he is.

FRED
(laughing)
That's your cell phone ringing! I
changed the ringtone to Lou Rawls
so you'd know it was me when you
heard my favorite song.

Rose walks near the closet and stops when she hears Lou. She opens the closet and finds her cell phone in her jacket. She holds the phone up to Nettie and Stella who laugh.

ROSE
I'm glad you told me. I thought I
was going insane!

FRED
Okay. We on for a late dinner?

ROSE
I'll have to call you later on
that. We're taking Stella out
tonight... Hello?

FRED
(disappointed)
Yeah. Ok. Be safe. Later.

Fred hangs up before Rose can say goodbye. She joins Nettie
and Stella in dining room.

DINING ROOM

NETTIE
It's about time. Let's go over
this one more time before we go.

Doorbell rings. Nettie and Rose tense up.

STELLA
Relax. It's Cat. Did I mention
she's going with us?

DISSOLVE TO:

CAT
So after Grandma told me what was
going on, I couldn't let you do
this on your own. I'll drive and
be the lookout on the outside.
I'll make sure we don't get
caught. You NEED me. And I already
know the plan.

STELLA
I tried to talk her out of it but
she's more stubborn than me.

CAT
I've added some upgrades to my
car. It's faster than a squad car
and it's got a few other tricks I
installed.

STELLA

Ok? Let's do this!

ROSE

Ok. Let's go before my good sense returns. Nettie?

NETTIE

Uh... okay, I just gotta tinkle one last time.

Nettie runs for the bathroom.

STELLA

I still say it's her prostate.

CAT

Her what?

STELLA

(whispering)

Tell you later.

Rose rolls her eyes and removes her robe. She's wearing a black outfit that accentuates all her curves.

STELLA (CONT'D.)

Damn! You're working that outfit!

CAT

(dancing)

Go Auntie! Go Auntie!

ROSE

It's just the effect that black has. It's a slimming color.

STELLA

Then I must be wearing off black, 'cause it's not working like that for me.

Nettie returns, winded.

NETTIE

Whew! How come my outfit doesn't look like that?

ROSE

I've tried for years to get you two into exercising and yoga but you never have time. So don't hate.

STELLA

(laughing)

Starting next week, I got time! I could use some repackaging.

NETTIE

I'm in too. Next week, we work on getting a killer body, but right now we need to look at this plan.

They look over a map of the building with photos and markings. They discuss the plan, fold up the map and Nettie puts a black bag on the table.

STELLA

It can't be that simple. We're gonna get caught.

CAT

No, we won't.

ROSE

I know that building like the back of my hand. Security is minimal.

NETTIE

We know where the cameras are and that rent-a-cop is a joke.

STELLA

Let's pack up. The clock is ticking and Rose needs to get some shoes she can run in.

They all look down at Rose's black stilletoes.

ROSE

But these are so cute!

Cat packs all the supplies in the bag. They put on their sunglasses and head out the door.

STELLA

I think we should stop at the store for some Depends.

NETTIE

Don't start with me. I'll be fine. Hopefully.

Nettie looks back at Rose's shoes. She's wearing black flats now. Rose turns off the lights and shuts the door.

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

It's Bingo night. The parking lot is full of cars and buses. Cat lets the ladies out and parks the car where she can see the guard. Looking right and left, Stella, Nettie and Rose approach the side entrance near the loading dock. Rose tries different keys.

INT. SUNSET VILLAGE/HALLWAY SIDE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

CLICK! Rose opens the door slowly. She peers down the hallway lit only by the exit signs. She motions with her head for Nettie and Stella to follow. Slowly, they creep to the end of the hallway.

They press themselves firmly against the wall, side by side and check their watches.

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Cat checks her watch. Almost time. A few more ticks and right on time, she hits a button causing the car windows to appear totally black on the outside. She sounds the continuous horn and watches the guard wake up, grab his flashlight step outside to look.

Meanwhile,

INT. SUNSET VILLAGE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

They listen for the guard to go outside. Quickly, they move down the hall, bypassing surveillance camera #1 and reach Clooney's office door.

ROSE

It's either this one...

Hands trembling, she tries two keys that don't work.

ROSE (CONT'D.)

...or this one...

CLICK! The door opens.

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Cat checks her watch and terminates the horn. The guard keeps looking out in the parking lot for a few moments, shrugs then goes back to his desk.

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE/CLOONEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

It's very dark and creepy. They're bumping into things and each other. Stella reaches for the light switch.

NETTIE

NO! No lights. We'll be seen!

STELLA

So, how we gonna see what we're doing?

NETTIE

Put on your sunglasses and turn them on. Right side.

ROSE

Turn them on? What are you talking about?

NETTIE

They have something in them that lets you see in the dark. Intra, infra something. Trust me, it works.

They put on the sunglasses and activate the infrared switch. Suddenly, everything in the office is visible.

STELLA

Loco!

They locate the safe and Rose puts the magnet on it. Nettie hands her the hearing aid which she puts in her ear.

STELLA (CONT'D.)

I'll keep watch on the hallway.

She takes up position at the office door which is ajar.

ROSE

Wow! I can hear everything with this. The guard sounds like he's eating something loud and crunchy.

STELLA

Wish I had something loud and crunchy. I'm hungry!

Rose slowly turns the safe combination listening carefully.

ROSE

All I hear is clicks. They all sound the same!

NETTIE

When you hear a loud click, that's the right number. The other numbers will have softer clicks. That's what the instructions said.

ROSE

You try. I still can't tell the difference between these clicks.

Rose hands the hearing aid to Nettie and they switch places.

NETTIE

The man at the store said it wasn't hard to hear the difference.

STELLA

Maybe he lied to get you to buy this crap. Shhhh... The guard is walking... oh no! He's heading this way. Everybody hide!

ROSE

Signal Cat. Quick!

Nettie goes to the office window and blinks her flashlight twice. Again. The guard is almost to Clooney's office. Suddenly a car horn sounds from the parking lot. The guard turns back and goes outside.

Rose pulls out the instructions to read.

STELLA

Let's hurry up and get outta here!

ROSE

Maybe I started in the wrong direction. Try turning it to the right first.

Nettie puts the combination back at zero, cracks her knuckles and starts turning it to the right.

Click, click, click, click, CLICK!

NETTIE

I heard a loud click! That's the first number.

Rose writes it down. Another loud CLICK! They continue until they have one number to go. The car horn stops.

STELLA

The guard will be back in a minute. I've got eyes on his desk.

NETTIE

That's it... last number. Oh my God, I'm so nervous.

ROSE

You're sure no alarm's will go off when you open it?

NETTIE

Not according to the guy at the store.

She enters the combination and slowly pushes the handle down opening the safe. No alarm sounds. They look inside.

ROSE

Whew! I've never seen so much money in one place.

STELLA

Don't just stare! Grab it and let's get outta here.

Nettie tries to conceal her squirming. She's muttering under her breath.

ROSE

Are you OK?

STELLA

(silently mouthing)
I gotta pee!

Rose quickly stuffs the money in the bag.

STELLA (CONT'D.)

Don't take it all; leave a little so maybe he won't notice right away.

Rose puts some of the money back in the safe. Nettie starts to pace.

NETTIE

Hurry, Rose! I have got to go!

STELLA

(mumbling)

I knew we should have gotten her
some Depends.

Rose gathers up their papers and gadgets and puts them back in the bag. Suddenly, Lou Rawls starts singing loudly from Rose's cell phone.

NETTIE

Shut that thing off!

Rose fumbles with phone but can't figure out how to mute it, so she answers it.

ROSE

(whispering)

Fred? I can't talk now. Call you
shortly, ok?

She hangs up.

NETTIE

Oh my God! I almost lost it right
here on the floor!

STELLA

We're safe. The guard didn't hear
it. He's listening to something
with headphones on. Pack it up.

They pack the bags, deactivate their sunglasses, drop them in their pockets and put everything in the office back like it was. Rose sees a snow globe on the desk. She snatches it and puts it in her pocket. They check their watches. It's time in 4, 3, 2, 1...

A different sounding car horn goes off. Stella peeks out the door and sees the guard going outside. She gives the signal and they all exit Clooney's office, locking the door behind them.

They run down the hall to the side door and wait for the horn to stop. When it does, they make a break for the door.

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

They get outside and hide behind a dumpster waiting for Cat to swing around and pick them up. Nettie takes off running toward some parked cars. Cat pulls up and Rose and Stella get in.

CAT

Where's Aunt Nettie? What happened?

ROSE

Nothing. She's probably looking for somewhere to do something very unlady-like.

STELLA

(laughing)

She's pissing in the bushes, isn't she?

ROSE

Ladies don't piss. They tinkle.

STELLA

Not in my family!

Nettie runs over and jumps in, out of breath.

NETTIE

Oh.... my.... God! I almost didn't... make it!

They ride in silence watching the mirrors and looking back.

STELLA

It's official. We did it!

They high five each other, laughing as Cat hits the turbo button and they take off like a rocket.

INT. INT. HENDRIX HOME/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Everyone is back in their regular clothes, sitting around the table staring at the stacks of money in the center. Cat is texting on her phone.

ROSE

Somebody should count it.

NETTIE

Yeah, make sure we got enough to cover everything on the list.

CAT

(excited)

I'll do it! I'll do it! I gotta come down off those 3 energy drinks I had.

She counts the stacks and puts them in neat piles.

CAT
(rapping)
I count 11,000! Big money! Big
money! What! What! Big money!

Stella crosses her chest. Rose shakes her head in disbelief and Nettie looks concerned. Cat continues rapping and dancing out of the room.

ROSE
That's about a half.

NETTIE
It's not enough.

STELLA
It's a good start.

ROSE
We should have taken all of it.

NETTIE
That would have been too obvious.

ROSE
You need to put this money
somewhere safe 'til you're ready
to pay everything off.

Doorbell RINGS. They panic and cover the money with a tablecloth. Cat runs through the kitchen.

CAT
It's probably Eddie. He was
texting me.

STELLA
What if it's the po-po? What if
they followed us?

ROSE
(dramatically)
Ohhhh Lord! I don't want to go to
jail!

LIVING ROOM

Cat gets the door and let's Eddie in.

CAT
 (yelling)
 It's just Eddie everybody.

Eddie stares at her. He looks like something's on his mind.

EDDIE
 So what happened to you tonight?
 Thought we were gonna catch a
 movie?

CAT
 Aw, my bad. It slipped my mind.
 Grandma wasn't feeling well so I
 was taking care of her. Sorry
 'bout that.

Stella walks in living room looking completely healthy.

STELLA
 Hello, Eddie. Little late for a
 visit, isn't it?

EDDIE
 Hey Ms. Hendrix. Sorry about that.
 I was just passing by. Looks like
 you're feeling better.

STELLA
 I do?

Cat makes a face at Stella.

STELLA (CONT'D.)
 Oh yes. I do! Thank you. It comes
 and goes.

Nettie and Rose are standing in the kitchen doorway being
 nosey. A stack of money falls from inside Nettie's dress.

ROSE
 You dropped your bingo money.
 Better put that in the bank
 tomorrow.

Nettie picks up the money. She and Rose disappear into the
 kitchen arguing in whispered tones.

STELLA
 I'm going to get some hot tea
 before I have another spell. Uh,
 goodnite, Eddie.

Stella retreats to the kitchen and joins the whisper argument.

EDDIE

Seems you've got a lot going on, you know, with your Grandma and all. And I'm preparing for Olympic try-outs, so I think maybe we should take a break, you know?

CAT

Yeah, I know. I think you're right. We can still be friends.

EDDIE

(disappointed)

Oh, yeah. Friends. Cool. Well, I'll catch you later. Friend.

Cat reaches to hug him. He turns away, opens the door and leaves. She returns to the kitchen.

NETTIE

I can open a Cayman Island account under a different name.

ROSE

Let me guess. The man at the store told you that too?

NETTIE

No. I looked it up on the Internet. I'll put it under G-Unit Holdings.

STELLA

Who the heck is G-Unit?

CAT

50 Cent. A rapper.

NETTIE

No. We're G-Unit...the Grandma Gang! Get it?

STELLA

Now, that calls for a toast!

Stella gets a bottle of wine, four glasses and pours. They all raise their glasses in a toast over the money.

INT. SUNSET VILLAGE WEST/CLOONEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Clooney is nervous and perspiring. He looks around the office but doesn't find anything disturbed. He picks up the phone and dials.

SECURITY GUARD
(filtered)
Sunset Security, Officer Burke.

CLOONEY
Burke, were you on duty last night?

SECURITY GUARD
No, sir. That was Jefferson. Is there a problem sir?

CLOONEY
No, no problem. Just... checking.

Clooney checks the contents of the safe again, looks in top desk drawer and realizes his spare set of office keys are missing. He slams the safe door shut and makes another phone call.

CLOONEY (CONT'D.)
Hello? I need a locksmith right away. Can you send somebody? Good. It's Clooney at Sunset West. Thanks

He hangs up and takes out a thick file labeled 'foreclosures.' There appears to be at least 30 or more folders there. Opening a folder, he looks at the first document, runs his finger down the page and dials a number.

CLOONEY (CONT'D.)
This outta cheer me right up...
Hello? Mr. Lebowitz? It's Mr. Clooney at Sunset Village...
I said, Mr. Clooney at Sunset Village. Your bill is way over due and you leave us no choice but to foreclose on your house... your house, yes...yes sir...I'm a what? Excuse me?... Hello?

He starts whistling, hangs up the phone, placing a note in the file. He appears to enjoy this. He pulls another folder.

CLOONEY (CONT'D.)
 Let's see... who's next to feel
 the love? Ha, ha, ha! I crack me
 up!

INT. HIGHRISE OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY/DOWNTOWN - DAY

Nettie and Rose rush into the lobby.

NETTIE
 (nervously)
 What's so important you couldn't
 tell us on the phone?

ROSE
 Oh no! We've been made! They
 figured out who did it! I don't
 wanna go to jail!

STELLA
 Cállate! There's something we need
 to take care of.

They step into an elevator. Doors close. Doors open and they're standing in front of a beautiful day spa with 3 handsome masseuses welcoming them inside. They walk inside.

STELLA (CONT'D.)
 This will help us all calm the
 hell down. And relax - it's on me!

The elevator doors open again, and the ladies have received a total makeover and they look like models. Laughing, they exit elevator walking toward door. CUT TO:

A series of photos shows them trying on a variety of outfits in a boutique. They are having the time of their lives. CUT TO:

The ladies are leaving the boutique in new outfits, laughing and complimenting each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FRED'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Door bell RINGS. Fred answers it with a book in hand.

FRED
 What a pleasant...

He is speechless seeing Rose all glammed up and drops book.

ROSE
Mind if I come in?

Rose walks past Fred. His mouth is hanging open.

ROSE (CONT'D.)
Better close your mouth before a
fly gets in there.

Fred closes door, still gawking.

FRED
Rosy, you look... you look... I
mean not that you don't always...
but I mean....

ROSE
You dropped your book.

FRED
(grinning)
What book?

He pulls her toward him grinning.

INT. GROCERY STORE/FREEZER SECTION - AFTERNOON

Stella is shopping. STORE MANAGER walks across the end of the aisle, sees Stella and does a double-take. He straightens his tie, checks his breath and walks toward her.

STORE MANAGER
Are you finding everything you
need today?

STELLA
I am, gracias.

STORE MANAGER
I'm afraid I need to ask you to
please leave this section, ma'am.

STELLA
Oh? Is there a problem?

STORE MANAGER
It seems you're causing the
temperature to increase over here.
And I can't let everything thaw
out and spoil.

STELLA
 (blushing and
 laughing)
 Oh, Ok, I'll just make it quick.

STORE MANAGER
 (extending his
 hand)
 Thank you for being so
 cooperative... Mrs...?

STELLA
 (shaking hands)
 Actually, it's Ms.... Hendrix.

STORE MANAGER
 If there's anything you need or
 want, Ms. Hendrix, please let me
 know.

He gives her his card, bows slightly and walks away. Stella licks one finger, touches her hip making a sizzling noise and salsa dances down the aisle.

INT. NETTIE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Nettie, Stella and Rose are drinking coffee at the table. Brochures and articles are piled in the center.

STELLA
 So, you're saying it's not just
 Sunset West where Victor was?

NETTIE
 Nope. They're double and triple
 billing at their other locations
 too. And you should see the
 foreclosure lists. Ridiculous!

ROSE
 Maybe we should just report them
 to the police. Let them handle it.

NETTIE
 Right, and when they ask what
 proof we have?

STELLA
 Good point. So, it's up to us to
 bring them down.

ROSE

Bring them down? What are we, the mafia or something?

NETTIE

Better. We're the Grandma Gang! Look at this...

Nettie shows them a multipaged print out.

ROSE

Just shameless. And look at these brochures. No sense of style either.

NETTIE

So what do you wanna do? Other than cite them for ugly outfits? She's still about 12 thousand short, give or take.

ROSE

There's the weekly Bingo game Friday.

STELLA

I say we take 'em down!

They all look at a brochure that says "Sunset Village East" showing a beautiful garden and fountain on the front.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE EAST/GARDEN - MORNING

The fountain is bubbling with sparkling, blue water. The grounds are manicured like an English estate.

PARKING LOT/CAT'S CAR

Stella is fidgeting and scratching in the fat suit costume. Rose is wearing a sexy nurse uniform with high heels. Cat's in t-shirt and jeans.

STELLA

Why do I have to be the fat old lady again?

CAT

It's just for a little while, Grandma.

STELLA

The only private nurses I've seen that look like you are in those sex movies. So I've heard.

ROSE

Well, I can't help genetics!

STELLA

I can! Put on this sweater and shoes.

Rose grudgingly puts on the shoes and sweater which is deliberately too big and closes a few buttons. Cat tries not to laugh.

ROSE

These shoes are hideous!

STELLA

If I gotta wear this get up, you gotta wear the ugly shoes.

Cat grabs the wheelchair from the trunk for Stella who sits down. They head for the entrance.

INT. HENDRIX LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Cat, Stella, Rose and Nettie are sitting at the kitchen table. Nettie unrolls a large drawing.

NETTIE

Alright, ladies. Here's the plan. This Friday night...

INT. SUNSET VILLAGE EAST/BINGO HALL - FRIDAY - NIGHT

A large, crowded, noisy bingo hall. The crowd and announcer can be heard outside.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Alrighty, folks. Tonight's top jackpot is \$5,000.

People cheer wildly like they already won.

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE EAST/DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Nettie pops the lock on the window. It's old and easy to pick. Cat gives them all a boost up. The ladies climb

inside. Nettie crouches down beside the safe putting on the enhanced hearing aid. Rose watches the hallway from the door and Stella lays out the tools. The safe opens with the last click and Stella puts the money in the bag.

Nettie gathers the bags, drops them out the window to Cat. Cat helps them climb out. They grab the bags and casually walk to the car. Nettie locks the window while someone shouts "BINGO" in the distance and people applaud.

INT. CAT'S CAR - NIGHT

Rose's phone plays Lou Rawls. Stella and Nettie sing along with Lou while Rose shushes them.

NETTIE
(laughing)
She's got his nose wide open!

ROSE
Hi, Fred.

INT. FRED'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fred is relaxing on the sofa drinking a beer, watching TV.

FRED
Rose, what's going on and I want a straight answer this time.

INTERCUT ROSE/FRED

ROSE
I told you nothing's going on.
We're just leaving the bingo game
and I'll be home soon.

FRED
Why do I feel like you're hiding
something from me?

ROSE
I don't know dear... why do you
feel like that?

FRED
It's just that I love you and I
worry about you.

ROSE

I love you too. Don't worry, I'm fine. Really.

Stella and Nettie stare at each other totally love-stricken.

ROSE (CONT'D.)

I gotta go. Ding and Bat are staring me down. Call you later.

END INTERCUT

Rose hangs up. Cat, Stella and Nettie laugh.

ROSE

Honestly! You two have absolutely no couth at all!

Cat hits the turbo button and they're off!

INT. HENDRIX HOME/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone has changed clothes. The money bag is in the center of table.

STELLA

Do it, Cat.

Cat counts another \$12,000. They all laugh and celebrate with a champagne toast. Cat "makes it rain" while the ladies dance.

INT. HENDRIX HOME/LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Stella is curled up on sofa reacting to Spanish soap opera when phone rings. She turns the volume down.

STELLA

Hello?

STORE MANAGER

May I speak with Ms. Hendrix, please?

STELLA

Speaking. Who is this, please?

STORE MANAGER

Stanley. Turner. The manager at the grocery store from the other day.

STELLA

How did you get my number?

STORE MANAGER

Please forgive me, but I looked you up in our customer files. I know it's inappropriate but I had to call you. I hope you're not angry.

STELLA

(blushing)

Oh, Mr. Turner! This is quite a surprise and no, I'm not angry. What can I do for you?

STORE MANAGER

You can accept my dinner invitation for tomorrow night. May I pick you up at 7:30?

STELLA

I don't know what to say.

STORE MANAGER

Then just say yes. Do you like Japanese food?

STELLA

Well yes, but I can't have dinner tomorrow.

STORE MANAGER

Perhaps the next time I call, you will say yes?

STELLA

Perhaps. But thank you for asking. You are very kind. Adios.

INT. ROSE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Rose is wearing two-piece, men's styled silk pajamas and fluffy slippers, she looks sexy without trying. Her black and silver hair loose around her shoulders. Fred arrives wearing a suit, champagne in hand.

He walks up behind her and lightly kisses her cheek. She turns to greet him.

ROSE

Wow, look at you! Cleaner than the board of health.

FRED

I'm always this clean.

ROSE

Not this early in the day. I feel so underdressed. And champagne too?

FRED

You look beautiful as ever to me. Stop with the muffins for a minute.

Rose wipes her hands on a towel and walks over to Fred. His expression becomes very serious. He takes her by the hands and looks into her eyes.

FRED (CONT'D.)

(seriously)

I fell in love with you the moment I saw you. And I know you're not ready to walk down the aisle with me, so I'm asking you today...
(dropping to one knee)
...to accept this ring and be my fiancée.

Fred places a beautiful, two carat, marquise cut diamond ring on Rose's finger.

ROSE

(gasping)

Oh Fred! It's beautiful... and I... YES!

FRED

(kissing her neck)

Now, we celebrate!

ROSE

I'll get the glasses!

INT. NETTIE'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Nettie and Stella are having coffee at the table planning the next heist. Rose burst through the door grinning. She walks past the back room and leans partially in.

ROSE

Good morning, James!
 (louder)
 Good MORNING, James!

JAMES (O.C.)

Morning, Rose!

Nettie motions for Rose to close James' door. After Rose shuts the door, she saunters over and pours a cup of coffee.

STELLA

Look at her, grinning like the chesty cat.

NETTIE

You mean Cheshire cat.

STELLA

That's what I said. What are you so happy about?

Rose wiggles her fingers.

STELLA

Ay de mi!

NETTIE

Oh no you didn't! When's the big day?

ROSE

I don't know. But isn't it gorgeous? Fred has such good taste.

NETTIE

You're avoiding. What's the hold up?

ROSE

I know, I know, but I just don't want to rush into anything. I like my life just like it is.

NETTIE

Uh huh, especially at night time.

They all laugh until Nettie suddenly jumps up and runs to bathroom.

NETTIE (O.S.)
(yelling)
Why'd y'all make me laugh?

STELLA
Her prostate's acting up again.

ROSE
Don't start that up. Is this the
plan for the last location?

STELLA
Si. That's Sunset Village South.
Nettie cased it yesterday and got
pictures and stuff. And she
cracked into their network and
surprise! They're billing dirty.
The good news is that this
location looks easier than the
first two.

ROSE
Great. Meeting at your house at
8:00 Friday for the last go-round?

NETTIE
Yep. It's all set. Why are you
looking worried? This will be a
piece of cake.

ROSE
It's not that. Every since I
accepted that ring from Fred, I've
been dreaming about Pluck again.
But not like when he first passed
12 years ago. This is different.

NETTIE
What's the dream about?

ROSE
I'm at a party, all dressed up and
looking fabulous. Even in my
dreams, a sister's got it going
on.

STELLA
Does she have a fast forward
button?

ROSE

Ok, ok. So, I'm dancing with Pluck, when Fred walks by like he doesn't even know me...

Rose continues telling them about her dream.

ROSE

...Maybe I should get one of those dream books.

STELLA

Why get a book when you got me? You know I interpret dreams. All the women in my family on my mother's side, except for Aunt Rachel, Aunt Maria... Alvarez, not Aunt Maria Lopez who does have the gift, and my great great abuela Nanny Juarez, and a few of my cousins, except for them, we all got the gift.

NETTIE

You don't say?

Stella continues to interpret Rose's dream.

STELLA

So, it means that Pluck is giving you permission to dance with Fred. Dance equals marry. There you have it!

ROSE

I feel so relieved!

NETTIE

I'm so happy for you! Now, let's go get that money. First things first!

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE SOUTH/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The four of them sit quietly in Cat's parked car.

NETTIE

I'm so excited. My heart is racing!

ROSE

It's been a crazy ride and I kinda hate to see the Grandma Gang retire.

STELLA

It has been wild.

CAT

So, how about one for the road?
Hands in!

They all put a hand in, palm down, one on top of the other.

CAT (V.O.)

And then it was on! Grandma had on the fat suit again. She banged on the door with her walker. Scared the crap outta the guard. He tried to tell her the building was closed but she wasn't taking no for an answer.

INT. SUNSET VILLAGE SOUTH/LOBBY - NIGHT

Stella pushes her way past the Guard and gets inside the building. Guard points and she takes the walker and slowly goes down the hallway. Guard sits back at his desk.

CAT (V.O.)

Grandma made it to the back door. She propped it open with cardboard and ran back to the bathroom right before the Guard got up to check on her.

She turned on the bathroom light. That was the signal. Aunt Rose and Aunt Stella were waiting on the side of the building. They eased the door open and took the cardboard out.

Stella and Rose peep around the corner. Stella is at the water fountain waving for them to move back. Guard comes down to help her. She laughs and talks to the Guard while Rose and Nettie run behind them across the hall to the Director's office door.

CAT (V.O.)

All they had to do now was pick the lock. Aunt Rose had gotten really good with locks.

Rose picks the lock. They enter the Director's office, set their bags down and get to work. Aunt Nettie discovered that the hearing aid gadget wasn't working right. She couldn't hear the safe numbers clicking at all. She called Cat.

INT. NETTIE'S HOUSE/BACK ROOM - NIGHT

James is in his easy chair, TV remote in his hand. He turns on TV and falls over backwards in his chair from the high volume. When he gets up, his glasses are crooked and his eyes are wide with surprise. He grabs the remote and turns the volume down so low, it can barely be heard. James takes his hearing aid from his ear to look it over. He shrugs and puts it back in his ear and starts laughing at the TV program.

Meanwhile...

INT. SUNSET VILLAGE SOUTH/DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Rose pulls out every gadget and device they have from the bag. She finds a stethoscope and hands it to Nettie.

CAT (V.O.)

I did a quick Net search and told her how to use it. She struggled at first, but eventually got the hang of it. Before long...

The safe opens! Rose grabs the money and a few other documents and puts them in the bag. Stella is back at the Guard desk talking. He opens door and lets her out. She walks toward bingo hall until he stops looking then heads to car.

CAT (V.O.)

Grandma made it out and came back to the car. We could hear the bingo game and Grandma decided she just had to play a few games while we waited. The Guard got up and started making his rounds earlier than his usual schedule.

Guard starts walking down the hallway in Rose and Nettie's direction. He checks door locks randomly.

CAT (V.O.)

I had to warn them somehow. I sent Aunt Nettie a text that said "he's coming; lock door now!" I crossed my fingers and held my breath.

Nettie reads the text from Cat and signals for Rose to lock the office door. No sooner than she turns the lock, the Guard tries the door. Satisfied, he continues on. Nettie starts to do the pee-pee wiggle.

CAT (V.O.)

I finally exhale when I see the Guard return to his desk.

Nettie studies the window. It can only be locked from the inside. She drops the bags from the window and climbs out.

CAT (V.O.)

Aunt Nettie discovered that the window could only be locked from the inside. Aunt Rose decided to slip out the door they used to get in and Aunt Nettie climbed out the window.

Nettie picks up the bags and moves through the shadows back to the car. Rose closes and locks the window. She changes into her costume and peeps out the door.

CAT (V.O.)

I tried to cover for Aunt Rose to get her out of the building. It almost worked too. I sounded the car alarm and watched the guard come out. That was her chance to escape, but something went wrong.

HALLWAY

Rose hears the car horn. Moving quickly, she headed to the back door. She realized she forgot to lock the office door and went back. She locked it quickly and started down the dark hallway to the back door. Lou Rawls starts singing. She shuts it off, but too late.

The Guard returns and runs toward the sound.

SECURITY GUARD

(nervously)

Hey! Put your hands up and don't move!

INT. CAT'S CAR - NIGHT

A fire alarm sounds from the bingo hall. People are running and screaming.

CAT (V.O.)

I ran in the bingo hall to find Grandma. Aunt Nettie said she'd stay and watch for Aunt Rose to come out. It was pandemonium! I never saw old folks move so fast.

Bingo players are running, hopping and crutching in every direction. The announcer continues calling numbers like nothing's wrong.

STELLA

(out loud)

Is it the po-po?

Several bingo players hear Stella and respond.

OLD WOMAN

(shouting)

It's the 5 - 0!

OLD MAN

(yelling)

Raid! It's a raid!

Old people are grabbing their liquor flasks, bingo boards and special smokes and rushing the doors. The alarm continues to sound. Cat runs through the crowd, finally locating Stella.

CAT (V.O.)

It was a nut house in there. I found Grandma, and got her out. We ran to the car just in time to see the cops pull up and go in the main building.

A squad car pulls up, lights blaring, and two officers enter the main building.

CAT (V.O.)

Grandma started praying in Spanish, Aunt Nettie was biting her nails and I was about to go in there when...

Two officers escort Rose out the building in handcuffs and into their squad car. They pull off.

INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Everyone is speaking at once. It's total confusion. Judge Benson slams her gavel.

CAT (V.O.)

And that's how we ended up here.

JUDGE

The next person to speak without my permission is going to jail TONIGHT!

The rooms gets quiet.

JUDGE (CONT'D.)

Now, ma'am, would you, and you only, tell me what you were doing at Sunset Village this evening?

Rose stands up.

ROSE

Your honor. I am going to tell you exactly what happened.

Nettie starts to choke. Stella beats her on the back. The Judge gives them the evil eye. The coughing subsides.

ROSE (CONT'D.)

I'm an aspiring author. I was deep undercover doing research for my book. I wanted to interview some couples at Sunset Village after hours. I thought I was in the residential building. Turns out, I misread the map and ended up in the main building instead. That's where the security guard found me when I was trying to go back outside.

Mr. Clooney reads the contents of the envelope from Nettie. He starts to perspire looks uncomfortable.

JUDGE

How did you get into the building?

ROSE

I tried the back door and it was unlocked. So I went in looking for couples to interview. It's really warm in here. Do you mind?

Rose starts unzipping her costume. The judge is hitting her gavel hard enough to break it. Rose steps out of the costume and she's wearing a black jumpsuit. She removes her wig and shakes her hair free.

FRED
(standing)
That's my baby right there!

JUDGE
Sit down sir!

ROSE
I'm so sorry about all this. It's just that I'm passionate about my work and I got carried away. My apologies for taking up your time with this.

JUDGE
Thank you for your explanation. Does anyone else have anything relevant to add?

No one speaks up.

JUDGE
Good. Now we're getting somewhere. Mr. Clooney, do you still wish to press charges?

Mr. Clooney looks down at the envelope then glances at Nettie. She's running her finger across her throat.

CLOONEY
Uh, no your honor. I don't.

JUDGE
Since Mr. Clooney is no longer pressing charges, and it appears that no crime has been committed, you are free to go. Case dismissed!

They all cheer and high-five each other. Clooney quickly leaves. Fred runs over to Rose, grabs her by the waist and spins her around.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE EAST/FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

Reporters and camera crews are swarming the front lawn.

CHYRON - Six months later...

CAT (V.O.)

Clooney got what was coming to him
and not by our hands but by those
he hurt.

Mr. Clooney is brought out by police in handcuffs, trying to hide his face. He's shoved into a squad car while reporters try to get a statement from him.

REPORTER

I'm here at Sunset Village East where the director and owner, Mr. Maurice Clooney has been arrested for money laundering, tampering with prescription medications and several counts of fraud. A class action suit was filed against him last month by the residents of this and the two sister facilities of Sunset Village. We'll be following this story as it breaks.

INT. LAS VEGAS CHAPEL - AFTERNOON

Rose and Fred stand before an Elvis impersonator performing a wedding ceremony.

CHYRON - Several weeks after

CAT (V.O.)

Aunt Rose and Fred finally did it.
Got married, that is.

Fred kisses Rose and they jump on a Harley-style motorcycle with a "just married" sign hanging off the back. Rose tosses her bouquet over her head to a small group of onlookers as they ride off into the sunset.

EXT. SUNSET VILLAGE EAST - DAY

CAT (V.O.)

Grandma paid off her bills and invested the rest of her money in buying Sunset Village. I guess she grew kinda fond of the place.

Stella and Cat are cutting the ribbon across the entrance which has a large sign saying "under new ownership." Another sign says "grand opening." The place is decorated with balloons and jugglers are entertaining guests.

CHYRON - Later that year

STELLA

Thank you all for coming. This is a new day for these facilities. I'm changing the name from Sunset to Sunrise Village to reflect a new way of thinking and a new way of caring! Please, walk through and take a tour. If you have any operational questions, please see Mr. Stanley Turner, my C-O-O. Thank you!

CAT (V.O.)

She grew fond of Mr. Turner too.

Stanley works the crowd shaking hands and patting backs. Cat passes out brochures to guests.

EXT. SMALL STOREFRONT BUSINESS - MORNING

Nettie and James host a ribbon cutting ceremony for Nettie's new franchise of Cloak and Dagger.

CHYRON - 3 months after that!

NETTIE

Come on in everybody. I can't wait to show you all the great stuff I have. Whether you're a licensed private eye, or just a part-time snoop, we've got you covered.

She starts shifting her weight left and right and talking faster.

NETTIE

So come on in and browse. If you need it, and don't see it, we're happy to order it for you. Thanks!

She takes off through the crowd, running to the bathroom in the back of the store.

NETTIE

(mumbling to
herself)

Stella might be right. Maybe my
prostate IS broken.

James snaps his head around in surprise, snatches the hearing aid from his ear, staring at it briefly. He throws it on the ground and stomps it until it's totally busted.

JAMES

I knew I'd eventually hear
something I wasn't supposed to!

INT. CAT'S CAR - DAY

A black GT convertible 5.0L V8 engine Mustang is at the gas pump. Cat's behind the wheel waiting for her windows to be cleaned.

CAT (V.O.)

As for me, I sold my turbo engine
design to Ferrari and got paid! I
had enough to cover college and a
new toy!

A neighbor pulls up to the next pump. It's Roscoe.

ROSCOE

Hey there, young lady! How's your
Grandma?

Cat gets in her car and revs up the engine.

CAT

Grandma is... keeping it gangsta!

She turns up her radio and pulls off.

FADE OUT.