THE GOOD GIRL

Written by
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JUSTINE
(v.o.) As a girl, you see the world like a giant candy store, filled with sweet candy and such. But one day you look around and see a prison and you're on death row. You wanna run, or scream or cry. But something's locking you up. Are the other folks cows, chewing cud till the hour come and their heads roll? Or are they just keeping quiet, like you... Planning their escape?

(Camera zooms on Holden/Tom)

GWEN
On your left, honey.

JUSTINE
What's that cashier's name?

GWEN
Can't say.

JUSTINE
When did he start working here?

GWEN
Don't know. Yesterday?

JUSTINE
Who is he?

GWEN
Don't know. Can't say.
JUSTINE
What are you doing?

GWEN
It's called work, princess. Kind of fun. You might want to give it a go someday.

CHERYL
Attention, shoppers. There's a Retail Rodeo special on aisle three. Liquid drain cleaner. Two 12-ounce cans for $5. Liquid drain cleaner has churning power and will churn right through your pipes. Ladies, shove something clean and new up your filthy pipes. Liquid drain cleaner on aisle three. Have a good day and thank you for shopping at Retail Rodeo.

Corny
Hey, Justine. Can I talk to you for a second?

JUSTINE
Yeah.

Corny
I was just curious. Have you ever been to a Bible study?

JUSTINE
Yeah.

Corny
We got a good one going on every Wednesday at the First Church of Nazarine. Rodney
comes, Benita comes. You got any interest in reading the Bible?

JUSTINE
I have my own, you know, beliefs.

CORNY
We don't preach fire and brimstone. Just the Ten Commandments. We’re not interested in scaring people. We’re about loving Jesus.

JUSTINE
I kinda like my nights to myself.

CORNY
Well, maybe you’ll have nights of eternal hellfire to yourself. Just kidding you. Drive safe.

JUSTINE
Bye-bye.

BUBBA
Hey, Justine.

PHIL
Hey, Teeny. How was your day?

JUSTINE
The same. How was yours?

BUBBA
The wind was flipping paint in our eyes.
PHIL
Paint stings. Feel like I've been attacked by hornets in my eyeballs.

JUSTINE
Bubba, stand up.

BUBBA
Why?

JUSTINE
For Christ's sakes. Look at that couch, Phil. Y'all got paint all over it. This ain't gonna come off. Damn it, Phil.

TV REPORTER
...including this gorgeous eggplant...

PHIL
I think we got most of it out.

JUSTINE
You two were stoned. You, keep frying your brain like that, you'll slip off a ladder and crack open your head bone. You do really stupid things when you're high, Phil.

PHIL
Like what?

JUSTINE
Like sitting on my couch with your big blue ass. Everything just turns to shit. You finally get nice things, then everything just gets messed up. Why is this TV
buzzing?

**PHIL**
It's the wind doing that. They the wind's coming in different lately.

**JUSTINE**
Different from what?

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**JUSTINE**
What you reading?

**HOLDEN**
Catcher in the Rye’ I'm named after it.

**JUSTINE**
What's your name? Catcher?

**HOLDEN**
Holden. After Holden Caulfield. He's the main character.

**JUSTINE**
What's he do?

**HOLDEN**
He's put upon by society. Hypocrisy of the world.

**JUSTINE**
I notice that you're, uh, not very social.

**HOLDEN**
I'm a writer.
JUSTINE
What do you write?

HOLDEN
Novels, plays, screenplays, stories, poetry.

GWEN
(to costumer) That's good. Justine will be right with you. Where is she?

JUSTINE
I better go. What happens at the end of your book?

HOLDEN
Oh, he has a nervous breakdown. Goes to a mental hospital.

GWEN
You don't get paid to pick your crack. You get paid to work.

JUSTINE
I'm not sure I can do makeovers.

GWEN
Oh, come on! A little pancake, eyeliner, mascara, rouge on the cheeks and powder it up. Then you take a moist tissue, roll it in a ball and toss it in their face! Jeez, Louise... I'm talking to a tree stump! Girl, where are you?!

JUSTINE
Sorry, I’m just a little tired.

**GWEN**
It's the food you eat, Justine. Look at me. I am 10 years older than you and have 10 times your energy. Cause I don't eat meat and I don't eat dairy. It's probably why you can't get pregnant, honey. And why you have that hung-jaw look on your face. It's the cheese in your pizza and the chicken in your salad.

**JUSTINE**
I went to the doctor. He says I'm fertile. He says I could repopulate the entire planet.

**GWEN**
Then what's the deal here? Did he say you get enough vitamins?

**JUSTINE**
He didn't say.

**PHIL**
You could make paint where, at different angles, the house is different colours. You stand at the front door and the house is red. You stand at the street and the house is green. Or you could make, like, an invisible paint. Make the whole house disappear.

**BUBBA**
What would be really neat is a paint that could change the molecular structure of a house, like a chemical acid deal.
PHIL
What do you think, Teeny?

JUSTINE
I think you two are a pair of potheads.

CHERYL
You getting a whole one of these or a half?

CUSTOMER
That oneright there.

CHERYL
You didn't bring this into the store?

CUSTOMER
No.

CHERYL
Well then, I'll charge you for it. This is a hand lotion. So don't put it anywhere else, even if you need lubrication. We try to keep frivolous lawsuits to a minimum, unless, ofcourse, the customer is at fault. Here's your change and Fuck you very much.

CUSTOMER
Excuse me?

CHERYL
Thank you very much.
GWEN
Good as new, I'll tell ya, good as new.

JUSTINE
Now, you might be interested in purchasing some of the products I used today...

CUSTOMER
Oh, I'm not buying anything today.

GWEN
Well, that'd be a mistake. These are bargain prices.

CUSTOMER
I didn't bring my purse.

JUSTINE
I hate my job.

HOLDEN
That makes two of us.

JUSTINE
I hate everyone here. I hate Gwen. I don't know what the hell she's so happy about. I'm sorry I don't understand why maniacs get shotguns and shoot everybody to pieces.
HOLDEN
Maybe you're a maniac.

JUSTINE
Maybe so. You know you're lips are real pouty, like a woman. And how your eyes droop off to the side. How old are you?

HOLDEN
Twenty two.

JUSTINE
I'm an old lady next to you.

HOLDEN
How old are you?

JUSTINE
How old do you think?

HOLDEN
I don't know.

JUSTINE
I am thirty years old.

HOLDEN
How long you been workin' here for?

JUSTINE
Forever and a day!

JUSTINE
You don't have a car?
HOLDEN
Oh, I live right down the street.

JUSTINE
Well, you can ride in here, there's room.

HOLDEN
You wanna come in?

JUSTINE
I don't know. I'm in a funk.

HOLDEN
Well, I'm not gonna beg ya.

HOLDEN
I'll be in my room.

MOTHER
Okay, Tom.

JUSTINE
They call you Tom?

HOLDEN
It's my slave name. Holden's what I call myself. This is my room.

JUSTINE
Not aolt to look at. What are your folks like?

HOLDEN
They're okay. They don't get me. I mean, they're alright.

JUSTINE
My husband doesn't get me.

HOLDEN
Since when do you have a husband?

JUSTINE
Since seven years. He's a painter.

HOLDEN
What's he paint?

JUSTINE
Houses. He's a pig. He talks but he doesn't think. You go to college?

HOLDEN
Um, I had to drop out. I had a problem with drinkin' and stuff. I'll go back. I just gotta prove to my parents that I can fly staright. You go to college?

JUSTINE
No, I was afraid I'd lose Phil if I went. Now that'd be reason enough to go. I saw you in the store and I liked how you kept to yourself. I can see in your eyes that you hate the world. I hate it too. You know what I'm talkin'
JUSTINE
After livin' in the dark for so long
a glimspe of the light can make you
giddy. Strange thought come into your
head and you'd better think 'em. Has
a special fate been callin' you and
you not listenin'? Is there a secret
message right in front you, and you're
not reading it? Is this your last, best
chance? Are you gonna take it? Or are
you goin' to the grave with unlived
lives in your vains?

(TV conversation)

PHIL
Teeny, you're pretty. Bubba, isn't Teeny
pretty?

BUBBA
I've seen better, I've seen worse. Nah.
That's why I ain't never married. You
got yourself the best fish in the sea.

PHIL
I wonder what it'd be like to be a woman.
All that smooth skin and long hair.

BUBBA
If I was a woman, I'd be a slut. A lesbian
slut.

JUSTINE
Gwen says smokin' marijuana lowers your
sperm.
PHIL
Lowers it to where?

JUSTINE
Maybe you're the infertile one 'round here. Maybe every time you smoke a little dooby, you're killin' our unborn children.

GWEN
Alright, close.

JUSTINE
Why you limping.

HOLDEN
I twisted up my ankle on the stairs. I was wonderin', maybe you could give me a ride home?

JUSTINE
Yeah, sure okay.

HOLDEN
Alright I'll talk to you about it later.

GWEN
All I know is, everyone should have one beau, before anyone has two beaus.

JUSTINE
He's not my beau, he's my friend.
CHERYL
Happy Halloween Retail Rodeo shoppers! There's a Retail Rodeo special on all bulk candy on aisle four. Ghouls and goblins, witches and warlocks, wandering these aisles, day after day. I'll put a Halloween curse on you.

GWEN
Night Corny. Happy Halloween.

CORNY
Well I'm not a page but thanks all the same.

GWEN
Which ankle did you twist, Holden?

HOLDEN
My, uh, left.

GWEN
Maybe you should put some cold water on it so it doesn't swell up and inflame.

HOLDEN
Okay.

JUSTINE
You're a writer so you have yourself a goal. I used to lie in bed and imagine other cities, other jobs I could have.
Other husbands. Now I don't even know what to imagine anymore. Holden, I have a husband.

**HOLDEN**
You said he was a pig.

**JUSTINE**
Well, Holden. I don't want to hurt anybody.

(TV sounds)

**PHIL**
I was thinking about what you were sayin' about my sperm bein' low. I mean, I know I got good sperm. It's baby-makin' sperm. I suppose it couldn't hurt to have it confirmed by an expert.

**JUSTINE**
Oh who gives a shit, who needs a F&$%' baby around here anyways? If you wanna make yourself useful, why don't you get that goddamn TV fixed?!

**PHIL**
What the hell?

**JUSTINE**
It sounds like a helicopter is landin' in here.
GWEN
You want a blackberry, honey? A man was sellin' 'em on the road.

JUSTINE
No thank you.

Corny
This is for you Justine. It's from Holden.

JUSTINE
Well where is he?

Corny
He's got the day off. He came by this morning with it.

JUSTINE
Thanks.

Corny
Don't mention it. Hey, Gwen.

GWEN
Hey sugar.

HOLDEN
Dear Justine. Because of you I'll be quitting the Retail Rodeo. The last two days have been the most god-awful days of my life. I've not been able to get rid of you in my head. I never wanted anything so bad, and I have wanted many things. I'd given up long ago on being gotten by someone else, and then you came along. The idea of being gotten, because of circumstance, will never get got is the worst feeling I've ever felt, and I have felt many bad feelings. I'm sorry I can never see you again, Justine, forgive me for being so weak, but that is who I am. Goodbye, Holden Wurther. If for some reason, you could
change your mind and want to be with me, body and soul, meet me after work. I will be waiting for you at five PM outside Chuck E.Cheese. If you are not there at five, you will never see me in your lifetime.

JUSTINE
Gwen? What's wrong?

Gwen I'm okay. I feel a little sick.

JUSTINE
Gwen? Gwen you sick?

JACK
Justine? Justine what's goin' on in here? Gwen, you sick? We gotta get her to a hospital. Justine you drive her.

JUSTINE
Well what time is it?

JACK
It's a quarter to five. Why, you gotta be somewhere?

JUSTINE
Gwen?

GWEN
Oh, I had a dream. I had dream that
I sprouted a beard made of bean sprouts.

**JUSTINE**
I'm gonna let you off here, okay?

**GWEN**
Okay, you'll meet me inside?

**JUSTINE**
Yeah, you know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna park the car, then I'm gonna meet you inside.

**GWEN**
Okay. Your a doll.

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**HOLDEN**
Hey. Oh god, I'm really glad you came.

**JUSTINE**
I just ditched Gwen at the hospital.

**HOLDEN**
Oh god, thank god.

**JUSTINE**
Where are we goin'?

**HOLDEN**
Let's go to my house.

**JUSTINE**
No, with your folks there?
HOLDEN
Let's just park somewhere.

JUSTINE
This isn't well planned.

HOLDEN
Look. I don't know. I don't care I just wanna hold you.

HOTEL GUY
That's fourty five dollars even. And I need you to fill this out for me.

(Justine and Holden are in the hotel room and make love.)

(after the made love)

JUSTINE
I can't do it.

HOLDEN
We'll be back here before you know it.
JUSTINE
I don't wanna... I don't wanna go.

HOLDEN
Justine. I'm yours. I'm all yours.

(they kiss)

PHIL
Hey.

JUSTINE
Hey.

PHIL
Were you been?

JUSTINE
Gwen got real sick today. She was throwin' up all over the store. I had to take her to the hospital, and sat with her.

PHIL
Did she sick up on you?

JUSTINE
No.

PHIL
Did she sick up on anybody? (chuckles)
JUSTINE
It's not funny, Phil, this is serious.
I'm gonna go up there tomorrow too.
And the next day.

JACK
Justine? What happened to you?

JUSTINE
What?

JACK
I went down to St. Catherine's to check
up on Gwen. I looked all over for you,
she was askin' for you.

JUSTINE
Well, how is she?

JACK
She was heavin' up until there was nothin'
left to heave. Doctor said she must've
eaten somethin' with some kind of parasite
in it or somethin'.

JUSTINE
I bet it was those blackberries.

JACK
They're gonna keep her in there until
she gets better so you're gonna have
to supervise cosmetics.
(there they go again)

JUSTINE
Stop it, somebody's gonna see!

HOLDEN
Who cares, I don't care. I crave you. I wanna know everything about you. Who are you?

JUSTINE
I'm just this woman. I moved to Texas when I was eleven. My daddy was in the Air Force.

HOLDEN
I wanna knock open your head and see what's inside. I've had so much pain in my life. I know you have too, I can see it.

(at the hotel, in bed, probably after they made love)

JUSTINE
Holden gave me two of his stories to read. It's like what a story would be. I was about a boy who was put upon, his mother was cold and selfish, and his father wanted him to play football. Other people didn't get him, especially girls. Then the boy comes to believe no one can ever really know him. So he starts actin' out, drinkin', and doin' all kinds of drugs. At the end the boy kills himself but jumpin' over abridge. The second story was pretty much the same as the first. Except at the end, the boy kills himself by drinkin' a bottle of bug poison.

JUSTINE
Your stories are intense.

**HOLDEN**
I just wanna leave some kind of legacy. Somethin' great. After that I don't care what happens to me.

**JUSTINE**
Don't say that. I wish there was a story about me. I don't know who would read it though.

**HOLDEN**
I would.

**JUSTINE**
I like this. I like havin' a secret. You gave me a secret Holden.

**HOLDEN**
See, now that you met me you're mysterious. And dark and twisted.

**JUSTINE**
I'm going to hell, aren't I?

**HOLDEN**
Yes, you are.

(she rolls on top of him and they kiss)

(they exit the hotel and Justine sees a car)

**JUSTINE**
That's Bubba's truck. Get in the car. Phil takes that truck to work everyday.
Bubba picks him up, and drops him off. Why, why would that truck be parked there?

**HOLDEN**
I don't know.

**JUSTINE**
If he finds out about us....

**HOLDEN**
I won't let him hurt you.

**JUSTINE**
He's big, Holden. He'll kill you. He'll beat me, but he'll kill you.

**HOLDEN**
You can't worry about somethin' that hasn't even happened yet.

**JUSTINE**
I gotta go to the hospital.

**HOLDEN**
Okay. (leans in to kiss her; she pulls away)

**JUSTINE**
Don't! I mean he could be followin' us.

**CORNY**
Justine! Poor lady. She just passed.
JUSTINE
Who?

Corny
Gwen! She just passed away.

JUSTINE
What do you mean? I thought she had a stomach ache?

Corny
It got worse. She was on life support all day.

JUSTINE
I don't understand.

Corny
It's God's will, Justine. No one can understand it. It was just Gwen's time to fly away home.

(Justine looks guilty and shocked)

JUSTINE
Gwen died today.

Phil
What? Are you kiddin? What for?

JUSTINE
Parasite. Somethin' she ate.

Phil
You okay?
JUSTINE
Where were you this afternoon?

PHIL
Paintin' on Bovery. Why?

JUSTINE
What time did Bubba bring you home?

PHIL
We knocked off early 'bout four. Bubba had a date with a stewardess, why?

JUSTINE
Oh. I can't believe she's dead. I wasn't a very good friend to her.

PHIL
Don't say that, Teeny. 'Course you were. 'Course you were.

JACK
Retail Rodeo employees this is Jack Fields, your store manager. Before we open today, I just want to share some terrible and shocking news. One of our best employees, Gwen Jackson, died yesterday. Gwen was a real class act. She had a good attitude, she had ideas. We're all gonna miss her. Now, if any of y'all need to collect you thoughts and remember Gwen. GWEN, then today's the day. You'll be excused from work and we'll just have to do without you. Gwen, this one's for you.
JUSTINE
Holden had the notion to go to Gabler's Creek, skinny dippin' and makin' love. He said we'd be like Adam and Eve, rollin' around around in the sticks and the dirt and bein' one with nature. He was so fixed on the idea that even when the clouds started rollin' in, and the sky was gettin' dark, he kept on swimmin'. All my thoughts turned to death. I thought of Gwen's body, rottin' away. I thought of how nice a person she was, so full of life and good will. If there was a heaven, Gwen would be there. Givin' makeovers and offerin' up helpful advice. I thought if I died today, what would happen to me? A hateful girl. A selfish girl. An adultress. A liar.

(Justine and Holden are running towards the car and get in)

(Next scene they're in the car; back seats, kissing)

JUSTINE
What are we doin'?

HOLDEN
Makin' one out of two.

JUSTINE
(sighs) I haven't thought this through.

HOLDEN
Justine, will you leave him?

JUSTINE
And go where?

HOLDEN
Away. With you on my arm, my folks'll think I've changed. They'll stop thinkin' I'm suck a loner, I got a girlfriend, a pretty one, who knows me and likes me. And they'll be so happy, they'll give me money to write my novel.

JUSTINE
But where will we GO?

HOLDEN
We'll be like... Catcher in the Rye. Only by me. I'll be immortal and then like JD Salinger I'll just vanish.

PHIL
Hey, Teeny. We've been up to no good. We got the day off on account of the rain.

JUSTINE
I thought you might.
(TV sounds)

BUBBA
So I heard about your friend bein' dead, and all. I'm sorry.

JUSTINE
Yeah. She was real healthy too.

BUBBA
Well, at least you were with her when she went. (intense voice and look) Ain't that right? You were... with her, when she went?

JUSTINE
Yeah.

PHIL
Oh, I wish it would rain every day from here on out. Never have to paint again.

JACK
Hey Justine. How you holding up?

JUSTINE
Fine.

JACK
Real shocker. I decided to move Cheryl over to cosmetics. She got a little too creative on the P.A. Maybe she'll watch her P's and Q's over here. If not she's out on her but. Now you listen to Justine, sister.
HOLDEN
You want me to help you get stuff out of storage?

JUSTINE
Not right now, maybe later.

HOLDEN
Well, are you gonna give me a ride home? My ankle's actin' up.

JUSTINE
I gotta get home. Maybe Cheryl can.

CHERYL
What, you need a ride?

HOLDEN
Forget it.

JUSTINE
I think we gotta take a breather. I'm nervous.

HOLDEN
Well, can't we go to the motel?

JUSTINE
Not today.

HOLDEN
Well, let's go in the store room.

JUSTINE
Just be patient, Holden!

(Holden looks freaky; sort of like he's losing his mind not being able to be close to her)

JUSTINE
I was wonderin', when was that, uh, bible study?

Corny
Tomorrow night at eight. We'd love to have ya.

JUSTINE
Can I bring my husband?

Corny
'Course! A couple that prays together stays together.

PHIL
What's this?

JUSTINE
The Holy Bible. There's one for you, and one for me.
Not very light is it?

JUSTINE
We're goin' to Bible study. A couple that prays together, stays together.

PHIL
I heard it was the couple that lays together stays together.

JUSTINE
Well you heard wrong.

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JUSTINE
Cheryl? You think you can take this one?

CHERYL
Sure... Sit right down here ma'am, we're gonna make you pretty. Now how do you like your hair?

CUSTOMER
Wait, you gonna do my hair?

CHERYL
No, I just need to know if that's your usual way of wearing it all big and high. If it is then I'll just put more makeup on your chin to off-set. Now, you're gonna want to take a whole bottle of this home with you. It's got quite alot of ingredients in it so you're getting a good deal. It's got Ginco extract in it, do you know what that is?
CUSTOMER
No.

CHERYL
It's extract of the Ginco and it makes your skin real slick so that any liquid will roll right off, be it water or lemon juice or urine. I'll put that in a bag for you.

JUSTINE
Phil, what the hell are you doin'? We're gonna be late for Bible study. You're stoned, you got paint in your hair, would you just get in the shower?

PHIL
I completely didn't remember...

JUSTINE
Get in the shower.

BUBBA
Workin' on your spiritual life?

JUSTINE
Yeah, I guess.

BUBBA
Ain't that a hoot and a holler.

JUSTINE
What do you mean?

BUBBA
I saw you, Justine.
JUSTINE
Saw me what?

BUBBA
I saw you. We got some things to talk about, you and me. You come by my place after work. If you knwo what's good for ya.

PHIL
Hey. Where's Bubba?

JUSTINE
He left.

PHIL
Well, I'm ready. Let's go.

PHIL
I don't know what to say about Jesus. I'm stoned.

JUSTINE
Just let the other people do the talking.

PHIL
Jeez. We forgot the Bibles, Justine.

JUSTINE
Well, that's alright, they'll forgive us.

**Corny**
Hi. Welcome. Hey there people! Glad you could make it!

**Justine**
Hi Corny. This is my husband, Phil.

**Corny**
Y'all are in for a treat. We got a good discussion going tonight. If man is made in God's image, what does that say about God?

**Phil**
Yeah, that sounds like a good one.

(Justine recognizes one of the people. It's the guy who works at the motel where she and Holden have been going to.)

**Justine**
Phil, come with me to the car.

**Phil**
What?

**Justine**
Come with me to the car, I gotta get somethin'.

**Phil**
What's goin' on?

**Justine**
Just get in the car. Get in the car, Phil.
PHIL
What the hell?

JUSTINE
I don't want to go to Bible study.

PHIL
Why not?

JUSTINE
Because I don't want to. Now, can we please just get out of here?

PHIL
Justine, this is embarassing. We're runnin' away from Bible study like a couple of Devil worshippers.

JUSTINE
I don't care. I'm not in the mood.

PHIL
You are freakin' me out, man. Why?

JUSTINE
Why? Beacause we forgot our Bibles is why.

PHIL
You just said a few minutes ago they'll forgive us.

JUSTINE
Yeah, well, they may not, alright. So can we please just get the shit outta here?

PHIL
I'm never goin' back to Bible study again.

JUSTINE
I don't care, fine by me.

CUSTOMER
I think I look too white, don't you think?

CHERYL
I'm just tryin' to match your face with your hair, I was thinkin' you're not white enough.

CUSTOMER
I think I look kinda weird.

CHERYL
Well, the first rule of fashion is that you have to look weird. What I'm doing here has come straight from France.

CUSTOMER
Oh.

CHERYL
It's called circ du face, meaning circus of the face and it's all the rage with the Frenchies.

CUSTOMER
Well, you're the professoinal.

CHERYL
That's right.
Corny
Justine, what happened to you? I looked up and I saw you two drivin' off like vampires in the night.

Justine
Oh geez, we forgot our Bibles.

Corny
You coulda looked off your neighbor. It's a church, you know. You can't make water without bumpin' your nut on a bible.

Justine
Oh. Well, we felt bad.

Corny
(looks at the customer) What in blazes?!

Customer
Do you like it?

Justine
I can't go.

Holden
What?

Justine
I can't go today. There's something important I need to tend to.

Holden
I thought you said we'd go today.

JUSTINE
Well, something came up.

HOLDEN
What came up?

JUSTINE
Um, okay. I think, maybe, somebody's found out about us.

HOLDEN
I'm starting to wonder if you even want to go. I'm startin' to think you don't get me.

JUSTINE
Well, maybe I don't get you.

HOLDEN
You do, you do get me you just don't want to me 'cause I'm too intensified for you! Justine, who cares, who cares if someone finds out. We don't have to live like this, Justine. I know what it's like to go home every night and feel like you're hidin' out. We can leave all this behind...

JUSTINE
That's easy for you to say, Holden, you are not married.

HOLDEN
You just, you just gonna give up?! You gonna go crawlin' back?!

JUSTINE
Holden, you are gonna get us caught!
HOLDEN
You're so fucking afraid it makes me sick. Don't give up on us.

JUSTINE
I won't.

(Justine goes out of the backdoor of Retail Rodeo, takes a few deep breaths, trying not to freak out)

JUSTINE
I'll see you tomorrow, okay? Okay?

HOLDEN
Okay. Good luck on your important thing.

JUSTINE
Thanks.

(Justine arrives at Bubba's. He opens the door and his dog, Bitz, is barking.)

BUBBA
Easy Bitz, easy Bitz. Back in your corner! Back in your corner!
Bitz! Come on in. I wanna show you somethin'. Sit. (Yells at dog again) I'm in shock.

JUSTINE

Why?

BUBBA

You know why.

JUSTINE

Bubba sat like that for what seemed like ten years before he began to speak. Finally, when he opened his mouth, he talked a blue streak about the ruin that was his life. He talked about how he loved Phil, and how he loved me. And how he always wanted a girlfriend just like me, and to be a guy like Phil, to this imaginary girl like me, that he never found. Then he wen on about givin' up your dreams and how it's all a part of gettin' older. Bubba had given up on his dream to be like Phil, and accepted his fate as Bubba, always and forever. Then, last week, a door that remained shut swung wide open. Bubba thought this no chance coincidence, a cosmic force was at work. The sounds of me makin' love to a man that wasn't Phil was like a shout in Bubba's ear from the creator himself. What it meant, or what to do, or why Bubba didn't know. All he knew was that he hated me for poisoning the well of idealism that he had drunk from for so long. I was no longer Bubba's image of perfection. To him I was just a liar, and a whore, and that sickened him. But on the other hand he loved me for opening his eyes and releasing him from the bitter chains of evny that bound him to Phil. Phil was no superman, just a cuckold, and a fool, and that was beautiful. Bubba felt that there was just one thing left for us to do. Something that would solve both our problems and end this whole tragic cycle.
JUSTINE
Bubba, I am not gonna sleep with you.

BUBBA
But don't you see? This is my chance, for liberation.

JUSTINE
But, one person's liberation is another person's, well, badness. There's just no way.

BUBBA
I'm gonna have to tell Phil then.

JUSTINE
Why?

BUBBA
He's my best friend. I can't keep him in the dark about somethin' this big. He's a cuckold.

JUSTINE
You wanna cuckold him yourself!

BUBBA
Well that's different. That isn't about him. That's about my salvation. Look, you've got your choice to make. Either destroy your marriage, and break your husband's heart. Or have sex with me right now.

(Bubba is yelling at the dog again, and saying Justine's name)
JUSTINE
Oh god! There was someone in the window! Did you not see?

BUBBA
You're paranoid.

JUSTINE
I gotta go.

BUBBA
Phil is never gonna find out about any of this. Don't fret. (the dog is still barking)

JUSTINE
Get this damn dog away from me!

BUBBA
You're lookin' at a free man, Justine. A free man.

JUSTINE
Great. Good for you.

BUBBA
Thank you. (Yelling at dog again.)
(TV sounds as Phil comes out of the bathroom, still brushing his teeth)

PHIL
I'm nervous.

JUSTINE
You're nervous? Why?

PHIL
'Cause I gotta go to that doctor tomorrow and jism into a cup, that's why. What if I can't do it?

JUSTINE
You can do it.

PHIL
You know, If you said you'd help me I'd feel alot less nervous. It's gonna be on your lunch hour anyway.

JUSTINE
Okay.

PHIL
You didn't even say nothing about the TV bein' fixed.

JUSTINE
Oh. Is it? Thanks.

PHIL
You're welcome.
JACK
Well aren't you a fright? Justine, you talked to Holden lately? He didn't show up for work today, I wanna know what gives. I know you two are friends.

JUSTINE
We're not friends.

JACK
You eat lunch together every day.

JUSTINE
No, we don't.

JACK
Well, if you see him, tell him Jack Fields is lookin' for him.

(Justine gets in the car and is shocked when she sees Holden in the car, more depressed than ever.)

JUSTINE
Oh my god. What are you doin'?

HOLDEN
You're a hooker, you hooker.

JUSTINE
I saw you. You followed me.

HOLDEN
So, how many guys you gettin' with? You gettin' with every guy in the state?
JUSTINE
No, Holden, this is all because of you. He had me over a barrel. If I didn't sleep with him he was gonna tell Phil about us!

HOLDEN
I'm so alone!

JUSTINE
You've gotta get a hold of yourself! Are you drunk?

HOLDEN
Yes, I'm drunk! And I'll be drunk every day until the day I die! What do you care?! You jump on any pecker that's put in front of you!

JUSTINE
It's not what you think.

HOLDEN
I saw everything. Oh god. Oh god.

JUSTINE
Look, go home. Sober up. And meet me after work.

HOLDEN
Where you goin'?

JUSTINE
I gotta help Phil with his sperm.

HOLDEN
What?

JUSTINE
Just go. Go!
HOLDEN
I can't share you, Justine! Maybe with one man but not with a whole bunch of 'em!

JUSTINE
Great.

NURSE
Mr. Last? Would you come with me?

PHIL
Wish me luck.

JUSTINE
Good luck, honey.

BUBBA
Knock 'em dead, partner. (Justine and Bubba watch Phil walk into one of the rooms) You look nice.

JUSTINE
No, I don't.

BUBBA
I know you're angry and I can figure why. But, from where I stand, what happened yesterday was a wonderful thing.

JUSTINE
Nothin' happened yesterday, so drop it.

**BUBBA**
Well, I'm awful grateful to ya, Justine.

**JUSTINE**
Bubba, I mean it.

**BUBBA**
Let me just ask you one thing. How do I stack up against Phil? You know, how do I stack up where it counts?

**NURSE**
Ma'am? Your husband asked me to request for your presence.

(Justine knocks on the door.)

**PHIL**
Who's there?

**JUSTINE**
It's Justine. (gets into the room)

**PHIL**
C'mon. I can't do this on my own. I need help.

**JUSTINE**
You've never done it on your own?

**PHIL**
Not in a place like this! Not where I have to hand over the results! Just, let me hold your boob.

(holds her boob; Justine's face is full of pain)

JUSTINE
Ah, they're sore. (Justine looks fed up with everything)

CHERYL
What's wrong with you? You look like death.

JUSTINE
My stomach's crampin'. I feel sore.

CHERYL
Is it your period?

JUSTINE
Nah, it's stress.

CHERYL
This job is stressful. I'm breaking out.

JUSTINE
You're breakin' out 'cause you put so much makeup on your face.

CHERYL
Maybe you're pregnant.

JUSTINE
What?... No... (thinks about it)

HOLDEN
You know, sometimes, I think to myself, at least it can't get any worse. But it can. I can worse. As long as you can say you've hit rock bottom you can.

JUSTINE
Oh my god, Blackberries.

HOLDEN
A blind man can go deaf. A widow can lose her children. Babies starve and they never get food. They never get any food. They just come into the world and they die.

JUSTINE
Calm down, Holden!

HOLDEN
I can't calm down! I'd be easy if I was a hooker like you. I could calm down all over town.

JUSTINE
Hey, hey! I am not a hooker.

HOLDEN
I know you're not. I'm in agony.

JUSTINE
Why?

HOLDEN
What do you mean 'why'? I thought you hated your life.

JUSTINE
I do. I mean I'm depressed but... You are really depressed.

HOLDEN
I'll kill him. I'll murder him in his sleep. I'll kill my parents, I'll steal the money whatever it takes. You just, just whatever you want as long as it's you and me. Please don't forsake me Justine.

JUSTINE
Oh... I, I promise. (car is parked somewhere; Justine and Holden are sitting on the car, Holden's smoking)

JUSTINE
I realized then that Holden was at best a child, and at worst a demon. If I was ever gonna go straight I'd have to ditch him. Sometimes, to get back on the road to redemption, you have to make a few pit stops.

(Justine goes up to the "Blackberry Man")

JUSTINE
How much are the blackberries?

BLACKBERRY MAN
A tin for two dollars, miss. (gives her the blackberries) There you go.
JUSTINE

Thank you.

(Holden and Justine are in the car again, Justine's driving)

JUSTINE

Have a blackberry.

HOLDEN

We need a plan. We can't keep livin' day to day. We gotta chart a course and we just gotaa stick....

JUSTINE

Have a blackberry, Holden!

HOLDEN

But, they're dirty. (hesitating, he eats a blackberry and then smiles) They're sweet. If I could only get my hands on some money, someone could just tell me the answer. I gotta do. But If I ever do, I end up thinking about it instead. I gotta do. But do what? (Justine pushes the blackberry he's about to eat away from his mouth) What...? What was that for?

JUSTINE

They looked dirty. I, I think I saw a bug in them or something.
(Jack talking to Holden about something)

(Justine's talking to Holden's parents.)

**JUSTINE**
I'm worried about Holden. Tom. I'm worried about Tom. I just befriended Tom, recently, and now, well, I think he's mentally ill. He has this idea in his head that we've had some sort of affair. Which is crazy because I'm, I'm married. He's been sayin' all sorts of strange things, and makin' threats. And drinkin'. And, and I just think he would be better off in a place where people, professionals, could take care of him. Otherwise, he's just gonna get himself in trouble.

**PHIL**
What are you doin' in here? What's that?

**JUSTINE**
It's a home pregnancy test.

**PHIL**
Why you takin' it?

**JUSTINE**
'Cause I still haven't gotten my period.
What's it say?

JUSTINE
Well, I haven't taken it yet. Could you give me a minute please?

PHIL
I wanna be here when you find out.

JUSTINE
Okay.

PHIL
The little plastic doohickey's turnin' blue. What's that mean?

JUSTINE
Blue?

PHIL
Bright blue.

JUSTINE
It means I'm pregnant.

PHIL
ALRIGHT!

PHIL
I knew it. Waste of time going to that sperm doctor. We did it. We're gonna
have ourselves a baby.

JUSTINE
Maybe.

PHIL
And tomorrow, we're gonna celebrate at Senor Tuna. Yes we are. I'm gonna bring Bubba. You can bring some of your friends from work. Or Bible study guy. Whoever. Too bad Gwen's dead.

JUSTINE
The test could be wrong, Phil. It's a little early to be havin' a party.

PHIL
Let's do it mellow then. You sure don't seem too excited.

JUSTINE
No, I'm excited. It's just, a lot of worries come with havin' a baby...

PHIL
Don't think negative. Think positive. We could have ourselves a tiny Phil. Or a tiny Teeny. Teeny's gonna have a tiny weeny Teeny.

JUSTINE
Do you think anything's gonna change havin' a baby?

PHIL
What do you mean? Everything's gonna change.

JUSTINE
Yeah, but I mean, do you think anything's really gonna change?
PHIL
What do ya mean?

(Holden and his parents sit on the couch and watch TV when the phone rings. Holden gets it.)

HOLDEN
(picks up the phone) Hello?

WOMAN
Hi, this is Dr. Williams returning the call of Jean Worther. I'm calling from the Holland County psychiatric hospital. (Holden hangs up)

MOTHER
Who was it, Tom?

HOLDEN
It was a wrong number.

(Holden goes into his room with a crazy smile on his face. He stops smiling and starts to look like he's thinking of something.)
JACK
Either of you seen Holden? Boy is out on his ass!

CHERYL
Justine, somethin's goin' on. Something is definitely happening.

JUSTINE
Go find out.

CHERYL
It's big. It's very big.

JUSTINE
C'mon Cheryl, I'm gonna kill you.

CHERYL
Someone stole fifteen thousand dollars from the safe. They blew the thing open with a gun.

JUSTINE
Oh my god.

CHERYL
Not only that but the cops know who did it.

JUSTINE
Who?

CHERYL
Somebody who works here.

JUSTINE
Cheryl!
CHERYL
Holden, Holden did it. Fool left his cashier key in the door.

JUSTINE
Oh my god.

CHERYL
They can't find him though. They say he robbed his folks too. You in on it?

JUSTINE
What?! No!

CHERYL
I know you two played hookie in the store room. I never rat on ya, I've done some things myself. But, still. You in on it?

JUSTINE
I don't know what you're talkin' about.

CHERYL
Suit yourself.

Corny
Justine. Can we talk to you for a second?

JACK
Hi, Justine. Go ahead and have a seat.

CORNY
Justine, you like workin' at the Retail Rodeo don't you? Like the company, like the people? You wouldn't want to jeopardize that by makin' some silly error in judgement would ya?

**JACK**
Holden stole fifteen thousand dollars from the safe last night. Did you have anything to do with it?

**JUSTINE**
No. I don't know anything.

**CORNY**
'Cause we know you're pretty tight with Holden.

**JUSTINE**
I hardly know him.

**CORNY**
I've seen you in the store room with him Justine. On many the occasion. I think you know him pretty well.

**JUSTINE**
I don't know anything.

---

**HOLDEN**
Justine! Justine!
I did it! I finally did somethin'!

JUSTINE
Holden, the police are lookin' for you!

HOLDEN
Oh, who cares? I'm proud of myself. Fuck them, Fuck all of them!

JUSTINE
Hey! They think that I'm in on it, too! Corny's got a camera in that storage room. That Bible thumpin' pervert's been watchin' us the whole time.

HOLDEN
Well, we're outta here! Justine, I got over twenty thousand dollars! I got a gun, what else?!

JUSTINE
I'm gettin' all goosey. I think I'm gonna crash. (takes a right turn and stops the car) I'm pregnant, Holden.

HOLDEN
It's my baby.

JUSTINE
Not necessarily.

HOLDEN
Yes, it is. You know it is.

JUSTINE
Even if it is, you cannot raise a baby on the run.

HOLDEN
Yes, you can. I mean, you can't raise a baby here. You know that. Justine. You hate your husband. You hate your job. You love me, so let's go.

JUSTINE
I can't go tonight. I gotta pack my things and I'd have to get more money.

HOLDEN
Well, then tomorrow. I'll go to the motel and wait for you. Just be there by noon.

JUSTINE
This is all going too fast.

HOLDEN
Justine, what have you got to lose?

JUSTINE
Nothin'.

HOLDEN
So be there by noon.

JUSTINE
Okay.

HOLDEN
I love you, Justine. This is all gonna work out. I know it. I almost forgot. This is a story of your life. You inspired me. (they kiss and Holden gets out of the car)
PHIL
Hey Teeny!

JUSTINE
Hey.

PHIL
We were gettin' worried about ya!

JUSTINE
Sorry.

BUBBA
Justine, this is Liberta. Liberta, this is Justine.

JUSTINE
Hi.

LIBERTA
Hi.

BUBBA
Congratulations, on your expectation.

JUSTINE
Thanks.

LIBERTA
Do you think it's a girl or a boy?

PHIL
Doesn't matter. As long as it plays quarterback for the Cowboys.

BUBBA
Well, I hear Senor Tuna callin'. (phone rings)
PHIL
(picks up the phone) Hello. Yeah. Well, that's not right. What's that supposed to mean? Hey look. No. You don't know shit okay. Justine's pregnant. You got that? Well, look you better check your records again, pal, then call me! (hangs up) Some doctor says my sperm's no good. Does that mean Justine's not pregnant?

BUBBA
No. That just means they got it wrong, is all. They don't know everything.

JUSTINE
They just got it wrong, so...

(Justine and Phil are in bed together.)

PHIL
Looks like that wind's pickin' up again.

(Justine is packing her things, she seems to be in a hurry. She drives down the street with her car and stops because of the red lights.)

JUSTINE
How it all came down to this, only the
devil knows. Retail Rodeo was at the corner on my left, the motel was down the road to my right. I closed my eyes and tried to peer into the future. On my left I saw days upon days of lipstick and ticking clocks. Dirty looks and quiet whisperings. and burning secrets that won't ever die away. And on my right, what could I picture? The blue sky, the desert earth streching out into the eerie infinity. A beautiful, never ending nothing.

CHERYL
Hey Justine.

JUSTINE
I know where you can find him.

JACK
Holden?

JUSTINE
He's at the Hotel Glen Capri, and he'll be there till noon.

JACK
You done good. You're a good girl.

PHIL
Hey.

JUSTINE
Hey.

PHIL
What's going on in the bedroom? Looks
like a twister hit it.

JUSTINE
Oh yeah. I was doin' laundry.

PHIL
I thought we were robbed. Why aren't you at work?

JUSTINE
They gave me the day off.

(TV reporter talking about Holden killing himself at the hotel)

PHIL
Retail Rodeo? You know that guy?

JUSTINE
No.

JACK
Attention Retail Rodeo employees this is Jack Fields, your store manager. As most of you all know by now, we lost another employee yesterday. Holden was a thief and a disturbed young man, and what happened was a sad thing. Perhaps we can learn a lesson from this tragedy, like don't steal and don't be disturbed. The important is to move on. Like dozens of those who quit. This one's for you Holden.

CHERYL
I thought we were gonna get a day off and go to the movies....
JUSTINE
What?

BUBBA
I was just at your house and the mail came. Phil was opening letters, and he opened this bill from the credit card company. And F&$%. Please don't tell him about us, Justine. Please. Please. I love Phil. I love him more than myself. Please have mercy on me.

JUSTINE
Hey Phil.

PHIL
Have you been sleepin' around behind my back?

JUSTINE
What?

PHIL
I said, have you been sleepin' around behind my back?

JUSTINE
Yes. (he slaps her)

PHIL
Why? Why?
JUSTINE
I don't know why.

PHIL
Don't you love me? Don't you love me at all?

JUSTINE
You're the only man alive that I love.

PHIL
Oh god. Please don't tell me it's not my baby.

JUSTINE
It's your baby.

PHIL
Are you sure?

JUSTINE
It is. I swear. I swear to God.

PHIL
Who is he?

JUSTINE
It doesn't matter.

PHIL
Yes, it does. Was it some guy from work?

JUSTINE
Yes.

PHIL
Yeah, I know who it was. It was that
Bible guy, wasn't it? The Nazarite. That's why you were actin' so spooked.

JUSTINE
Yeah, yeah.

PHIL
I'm gonna beat his ass.

JUSTINE
Don't.

PHIL
You're gettin' all swollen. I'm sorry I hit you, baby.

JUSTINE
I'm sorry, Phil.

PHIL
I need to get stoned.

JUSTINE
Okay. Get stoned.

PHIL
I just gotta escape, you know. You ever feel like that? Like you gotta escape?

JUSTINE
What are those?

CHERYL
Fake eyelashes. Extra long.
JUSTINE
Just do it normal for once?

CHERYL
You want me to make the other cheek purple to even it out?

JUSTINE
No.

CHERYL
D'you hear about Corny? He was goin' home after Bible study last night and two beefy guys with painted faces pulled up in a truck and jumped him.

JUSTINE
That's terrible.

(shot of Justine in the bathroom of Retail Rodeo. She's sitting on one of the toilets, she's wearing fake eyelashes and looks trashy.)

JUSTINE
That day I read the story Holden wrote for me. It was kinda different from the other one, but kinda the same. It was about a woman who was put upon. Whose job was a prison, and whose life had lost all meaning. Other people don't get her, especially her husband. One day she meets a boy who is also put upon, and they fall in love. After spending their whole lives not getting got, with one look they get each other completely. In the end, the boy and the girl run away together in the wilderness, never to be heard from again.