

COUNTER CULTURE

Pilot

by  
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September 28, 2011

COLD OPEN

SCENE 1

INT. WAGON WHEEL DINER - MORNING (DAY 1)

A WELL-WORN, FAMILY-OWNED DINER THAT HAS BEEN SERVING THE CITIZENS OF WIMBERLY, TEXAS SINCE 1952. **JOYCE COX** (60'S, BOSSY ELDEST SISTER, A ROCK) AND **NONIE HAYNES** (55-60, THE PUT-UPON MIDDLE SISTER, A DREAMER) STAND NEXT TO AN OLD, PULL-KNOB, CIGARETTE MACHINE.

JOYCE

Breaks my heart to see it go. Nothing says welcome like the glow of a cigarette machine. Remember when cancer only cost a buck twenty five?

ANGLE ON **AUNT LEE**, 88, A METICULOUSLY COIFFED BELLE WITH A DOOMSDAY ATTITUDE, SITTING AT HER POST BEHIND THE REGISTER.

AUNT LEE

Ah, the good old days. (COUGHS)

SHE HOLDS AN UNLIT CIGARETTE. A 'NO-SMOKING' SIGN BEHIND HER.

NONIE

It's tragic, how it sits there waiting for someone to pull its knobs, like an aging party girl who doesn't realize her best days are behind her.

ENTER THE BABY, **BILLIE HAYNES** (50) AN AGING PARTY GIRL...

BILLIE

Sorry I'm late. My AA meeting went long. Someone brought donuts. (HANDS NONIE KEYS) Thank you. It needs gas.

NONIE

Billie, why didn't you fill it up?

BILLIE

I spent all my money on donuts.

JOYCE

Well, lick the sticky off your fingers. Something chewed through Old Smokey's cord and now he's a fire hazard. He's going to the alley.

BILLIE

Don't worry, Smokes. I've had some good times in that alley. (THEN) Joyce, do we really have to get rid of him?

JOYCE

Yep. It's not like the old days when Daddy was running the joint. Back then, seat belts were for sissies, cholesterol was a food group and second-hand-smoke was a laundry detergent scent. It actually *meant* something to be a cancer survivor. (ANNOYED) Now it's become so trendy.

NONIE

Well, I'm glad to see it go. According to *US WEEKLY*, a death machine at the front door is bad Feng Shui.

AUNT LEE

Must be a bitter pill for you, Nonie.  
You always talked about flying the  
coup and now the cigarette machine is  
living your dream.

NONIE

To clarify, my dream is to get out of  
Wimberly, Texas and see the world...  
not be tossed in a dumpster.

BILLIE

My dream is to find a waterproof  
mascara that holds up at a waterpark.

THE COOK, **ALONZO GONZALES**, 50+, A HARD WORKING ILLEGAL  
IMMIGRANT, JOINS THEM AND SIZES UP THE MACHINE.

ALONZO

If you're just going to throw it out,  
I'll take it. My son can turn anything  
into a car.

AUNT LEE

Then why don't you have a car?

JOYCE

I know Mexicans are the forefathers of  
recycling, Alonzo, but Old Smokey  
deserves a proper American burial. In  
a landfill.

JOYCE'S HUSBAND AND SON, **KEN** (65) AND **TATE** (35), BURLY  
DOPPELGANGERS, ENTER.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

Perfect timing. Ken, Tate, come move this thing with us. And by with us I mean for us. (OFF THEIR LOOKS) And by for us I mean I love you.

KEN

It's never a "free" breakfast.

TATE

Stand back, let the men do it.

BILLIE

I don't want y'all popping an eyeball

KEN, TATE AND ALONZO SADDLE UP TO THE CIGARETTE MACHINE.

JOYCE

Everyone say goodbye to Old Smokey!

THE SISTERS & **PATRONS** SHOUT "GOODBYE, GOOD RIDDANCE."

KEN

On one, two, three...

THE MEN LIFT WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT. IT DOESN'T BUDGE.

KEN (CONT'D)

Nope. This thing's not going anywhere.

JOYCE

(BEAT) Oh, well.

EVERYONE DISBANDS, LEAVING NONIE ALONE WITH OLD SMOKEY.

NONIE

Not so easy to escape, is it?

SHE PLUGS THE MACHINE BACK IN. IT SPARKS AND FLICKERS.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONESCENE 2INT. DINER - MORNING (DAY 1)

THE SISTERS SCRUB MENUS. SQUABBLING AS SISTERS DO. COUNTER REGULARS, **ED**, CONSTANTLY TERRIFIED, AND **HANK**, A CONSPIRACY THEORY ENTHUSIAST, ARE AT THE COUNTER.

NONIE

You *always* shoot down my ideas, Joyce.

JOYCE

Because they're dumb! You wanted to put terrorist food on the menu!

NONIE

Hummus is not terrorist food. Gwyneth Paltrow calls it the ranch dressing of the Mediterranean--

JOYCE

Fine, but *this* time I am not "shooting down" your idea, Nonie. It's just...

AUNT LEE MIMES COCKING A GUN.

AUNT LEE

Bang!

JOYCE

Aunt Lee! (THEN) I'm the one who's about to become a grandmother for the first time, I'm the one throwing the shower, and I don't know what an 'international' theme is.

AUNT LEE

Sounds like a lot of brown.

NONIE

It's a colorful blend of customs from around the world. Kelly Ripa had one.

JOYCE

If Kelly Ripa jumped off a bridge would you do that too?

NONIE

I would! And the headline would read "Kelly Ripa and Other Jump Off Bridge" And you know why Kelly Ripa'd be Kelly Ripa, and I'd just be "Other"? Because you never let me have my moment!

NONIE AND JOYCE LOCK EYES. FINALLY, NONIE PLOPS DOWN HER MENUS. ONCE AGAIN, JOYCE GETS HER WAY.

NONIE (CONT'D)

Fine. These are clean. What's next on the list?

JOYCE

(READING) "Scrub graffiti off bathroom stall." (THEN) Billie's doing that since she wrote most of it.

ED

What's going on around here with the cigarette machine, cleaning the menus, changing the batteries in the clock?

(PANICKY) Was there a murder?

(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

Do I know too much? Am I next?

My prints are everywhere!

HANK BEGINS WIPING DOWN THE COUNTER WITH HIS SLEEVE.

HANK

Wake up, Ed! Joyce is letting Nonie turn the Wagon Wheel into one of those liberal coffee houses. They'll tax our free refills and give it to welfare queens.

THE OTHER PATRONS PERK UP - "WHAT?" NONIE ROLLS HER EYES.

HANK (CONT'D)

It's a conspiracy. Like those flu shots that make you gay.

ED

(SCARED) They do?

JOYCE

Hank, don't get Ed all riled up.

(THEN) It's for the baby shower.

BLUE-HAIR #1

How did you ever wrestle the shower away from Jill's mother?

NONIE

Oh, Joyce knows how to get her way. She lured Jill's mom into the back booth and plied her with waffles.



JOYCE

People will agree to anything when they are hopped up on carbohydrates and maple flavored product.

ALONZO ENTERS WITH A BIG BOX FROM "PARTY PLUS."

JOYCE (CONT'D)

And I've picked the perfect baby shower theme! Right here, Alonzo.

ALONZO SETS DOWN THE BOX, JOYCE HUGS HIM AND TEARS INTO IT.

ALONZO

It was a madhouse. But I got you your Disney Babies!

JOYCE HOLDS UP A BABY MICKEY & MINNIE WITH RATTLES.

BLUE-HAIR #1

(GASP) Wow!

NONIE

Overdone, but I see where you're going.

BILLIE RETURNS.

BILLIE

Know what I just realized when I was in the bathroom looking in the mirror?

NONIE

You still owe me money for those Invisaline braces?

BILLIE

When the baby arrives, I will be exactly one year sober!

THE DINER CHEERS! BILLIE MILKS THE ATTENTION. JOYCE, NONIE AND AUNT LEE ROLL THEIR EYES.

AUNT LEE

Seems like just yesterday she was  
running herself over with her own car.

HANK AND ED WHOO! AS BILLIE DOES A SHIMMY.

JOYCE

And... the "new, sober Billie" just  
lost a rhinestone off her bra.

BLUE-HAIR #1

Have Jill and Tate picked a name for  
the baby, yet?

JOYCE

Ken's talking to Tate and Jill about  
it today. I'm pushing for 'Joe,'  
after Daddy.

NONIE

I wouldn't be so *bombastical*, Joyce.  
*This* decision isn't yours to make.

JOYCE FLASHES HER PINK-RIBBON LAPEL PIN.

JOYCE

What, are they going to deny the  
breast cancer survivor? (CONFIDENT)  
It's Joe.

CUT TO:

SCENE 3

INT. DINER, KITCHEN - LATER (DAY 1)  
(NONIE, ALONZO, BILLIE)

NONIE STACKS FOOD ON A TRAY. ALONZO WORKS THE GRILL.

NONIE

That Joyce is being "so Joyce" right now! She won't let me say word one on my own nephew's shower!

ALONZO

Did you see that squirrel on the news last night? The one that waterskis? How do you think he went from eating nuts in a tree to sitting on a boat wearing a little life jacket?

NONIE

I never got to go to college, Alonzo. Hypnosis?

ALONZO

He had to bide his time, waiting for the perfect opportunity to jump on a teeny, tiny pair of skis and show everyone what he was capable of.

NONIE

Like Kelly Ripa. Everyone thought she was just a brilliant soap opera actress. But she seized an opportunity and now, she's a multi-threat. (THEN) Alonzo, I can always count on you for advice.

BILLIE ENTERS, TALKING ON A CELL-PHONE.

BILLIE

Hello? Vega are you there? (SHAKING  
THE PHONE) Darn. (THEN, TO NONIE) Your  
phone's out of juice.

NONIE SCOWLS, TAKES THE PHONE AND EXITS. BILLIE WAITS TILL  
SHE'S GONE, THEN URGENTLY TURNS TO ALONZO.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Alonzo! My AA group lost it's space  
at the church.

ALONZO

The one Joyce found for you?

BILLIE

Yes. Someone was using the baptismal  
pool to freshen up. (OFF ALONZO)  
Alright, it was me! (THEN) "Old, drunk  
Billie" moves feel worse now that I'm  
sober and can remember them.

ALONZO

So, why don't you find another place?

BILLIE

Me? I don't know. AA's shown me that  
my follow through hasn't been great  
the last forty years. Marriages,  
diets. The aquariums. Origami.  
Auctioneers school. Mormonism. That  
band I started, "Whine Country."

BILLIE GESTURES TO HER "WHINE COUNTRY" TEE SHIRT.

ALONZO

You guys were good but you can't have  
four lead singers, someone has to play  
an instrument.

BILLIE

We know that *now*. (THEN) I need to do  
something or Joyce and Nonie will  
never believe I've changed.

ALONZO

Did... *you* see the squirrel on the  
news?

CUT TO:

SCENE 4

INT. DINER - LATER (DAY 1)

JOYCE, NONIE AND BILLIE POUR OVER THE DECORATIONS.

NONIE

(OFF BABY DONALD) Are they the offspring  
of the original characters...?

BILLIE

Or younger versions of themselves?

JOYCE

I always thought they were midgets.

KEN ENTERS. JOYCE, BILLIE AND NONIE SWARM HIM.

NONIE

Ken! What did you find out?

KEN

They're naming the baby Corduroy.

A HUSH FALLS OVER THE DINER. JOYCE SWALLOWS HARD.

JOYCE

(STRUGGLING TO SPEAK) Like the fabric?

AUNT LEE

Like that old pimp who worked the  
South side of town back in my day.

Boy, he had a giant (ALL BRACE  
THEMSELVES FOR WHAT FOLLOWS) hat.

THE ROOM MURMURS WITH DISAPPROVAL. JOYCE TRIES TO MAINTAIN.

KEN

Joyce, I suggest you start making  
"Corduroy" work in your mouth, unless  
you want a repeat of Thanksgiving  
2010.

TO JOYCE'S HORROR, THE WHOLE DINER PRACTICES "CORDUROY."

NONIE

(DAWNS ON HER) You can't have your  
way, and there's nothing you can do  
about it. (THEN) Now you know how it  
feels.

BILLIE

Corduroy. Hey, Corduroy. I'm gonna  
kick your ass Corduroy.

IT SLOWLY GROWS INTO A SOFT CHANT "CORDUROY, CORDUROY..."

JOYCE

Stop it! This may be my only shot at  
being a grandmother and I won't sit by  
and let him be named after the pants  
that make noise when you walk and make  
everyone look fat! (CALLING) Alonzo!  
Clear the back booth and fire up the  
waffle iron!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWOSCENE 5INT. DINER - LATER (DAY 1)

JOYCE ARMS HERSELF WITH 'PINK RIBBON' BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR REGALIA. EARRINGS, BRACELET, NECKLACE...

JOYCE

My son would never agree to that name.  
Jill comes off sweet but that girl's  
got a manipulative underbelly. Help me  
with my breast cancer bracelet...

BILLIE

It's an awful name, not even a good  
fabric like denim, but, maybe you  
should talk to Jill *after* the shower.  
She's so sensitive. In AA, we call  
those kind of people 'car alarms'  
because everything sets them off.

NONIE'S EARS PRICK UP. SHE SENSES AN OPPORTUNITY. NONIE  
LOOKS TO ALONZO, QUESTIONING. HE SHRUGS. NONIE DECIDES TO GO  
FOR IT.

NONIE

But after the shower could be too  
late. We should seize this perfect  
opportunity and address this now.

JOYCE

Yes, I think we should! Anyway, I'm  
just gonna stuff her with waffles and  
maybe drop the word "chemo" in there.  
It's not like I'm water-boarding her.



**JILL** (30'S) ENTERS. SHE'S CUTE, SWEET AS PIE, LOVES CRAFTS AND SEWING. LIKE TATE, SHE IS SIMPLE, BUT IN NO WAY DUMB.

JILL

Hey, y'all!

NONIE/BILLIE

Jill! Sweetheart! / Hey, Doll!

BIG HUGS & FAWNING OVER EACH OTHER THE WAY SOUTHERN WOMEN DO.

JOYCE

Honey, thank you for coming.

JILL

I've been meaning to stop in, anyway,  
and return your tin from Thanksgiving.

JILL PULLS A CAKE TIN FROM HER HUGE PATCHWORK BAG.

NONIE

Actually, that's my tin.

JOYCE AND NONIE LOCKS EYES. THERE'S A STORY THERE.

BILLIE

I don't guess you found my jello mold?

JILL

(POINTEDLY TO BILLIE) I think it was  
lost in the fire.

JOYCE

(RE: JILL'S BAG) Wow! Someone's been  
busy.

JILL

You know me I love patchwork, love to  
quilt, love fabric.

THE SISTERS SHOOT GLANCES, HENCE 'CORDUROY.'

JOYCE

Let's talk, darlin'. Come, sit.

JOYCE HERDS JILL TOWARDS 'THE BOOTH.'

JILL

(WARY) Sure. Guess I have a minute.

**ALONZO**, THE COOK, APPEARS WITH A WAFFLE AND A MILK SHAKE.

ALONZO

I brought a milk shake for good  
measure.

JOYCE

(WINK) Thank you, Alonzo. (THEN) Yum.  
Waffles. Dig in.

JOYCE STARTS EATING. JILL IS TEMPTED, BUT:

JILL

I'm watching the baby weight.  
(POINTED) But, my mother tells me  
they're delicious.

JOYCE

Listen, I know you aren't happy about  
having your shower in a waffle house.  
But... Disney Babies!

JILL

(WARMING) I love Disney Babies. They  
make the world a better place.

JOYCE PUSHES THE PLATE OF WAFFLES TOWARDS JILL.

JOYCE

Presidents have eaten our waffles...

JILL SMILES, BUT DOESN'T BUDGE. JOYCE SOLDIERS ON.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

We should be closer, you and I. For  
the baby's sake.

JILL

I'm not becoming a Baptist.

JOYCE

No, no, that's between you and God.  
The point is, if there is one thing I  
learned from surviving breast cancer,  
it's that honesty is the best policy.  
And that Suzanne Somers is not a real  
doctor.

JILL

I love honesty. If the baby was a girl  
I was going to name her Honesty.

JILL RELAXES, TAKES A BITE AND ANOTHER... JOYCE SMILES.

JOYCE

Great, because there's something I'd  
like to discuss...

ANGLE ON WORKSTATION.

BILLIE & NONIE ARE IMPRESSED AT HOW WELL IT'S GOING.

BILLIE

Remember when Joyce talked that crow  
down from a tree and it let her put  
baby clothes on it and push it around  
in a stroller?

NONIE

Until it bit her and gave her rabies.

ANGLE ON BOOTH.

JOYCE

...(GENUINE) Understand, I'm not  
'shooting down' the name, I'm just  
saying it's stupid. Stay away from  
textiles. Walter, Kevin, Joe...any of  
those are good. (THEN) Whew. That  
wasn't hard as I thought it would be.

JOYCE MISTAKES JILL'S SILENCE FOR A CARBOHYDRATE HIGH.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

Those are the waffles. Don't fight it.  
Enjoy the ride. So glad we did this.

JILL

(BIG SMILE) Pleasure as always.

CUT TO:

SCENE 6INT. DINER - MORNING (DAY 2)

JOYCE AND NONIE ARE GETTING READY FOR THEIR DAY. ED LIFTS THE COVER OFF WHAT LOOKS LIKE A PLATE OF DONUTS.

ED

(SUSPICIOUS) These donuts are broken.

NONIE

No, they're not. They're *Jewish* donuts.

JOYCE

You mean... bagels?

NONIE

(SHEEPISH) Yes.

HANK

You want to turn this whole country into Manhattan. If it was up to you, our national anthem's would be the theme to "Seinfeld."

NONIE

We should be so lucky! I've been to NYC city. In '89 to see *CATS*. It was an incredible trip. Changed my life.

ED

Why didn't you just move there?

NONIE

(RE: JOYCE) I was never able to get away for one reason or another.

BILLIE ENTERS, PULLS NONIE'S KEYS OUT OF HER BRA.

BILLIE

Flat tire, rear passenger side.

NONIE

Hello, another.

BILLIE

I've found a meeting place!

JOYCE

Robert at the library said yes?

BILLIE

I don't know, we never got past the  
issue of my outstanding fines. (THEN)  
But, it occurred to me. Why don't I  
have the meetings here? At the diner?

NONIE

What? No! Joyce, tell her no!

JOYCE

(STALLING) This diner?

BILLIE

It would be after the diner's closed.  
You'd never know we were here.

NONIE

Yes, let's fill the place with crazy  
urine smelling drifters! That will get  
us on "Good Morning, Wimberly!"

BILLIE

But this is a perfect opportunity for  
me to prove I've really changed!

BILLIE LOOKS AT ALONZO. HE SHRUGS.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Anyway... you aren't the boss of me,  
Nonie. I'm an equal owner in the  
diner. Aren't I, Joyce?

JOYCE

Come here, you two. Sit. (THEY PILE  
INTO THE BOOTH) We have to make a pact  
now, before little Joe or Michael or  
anything but Corduroy arrives, that we  
will stop this endless bickering and  
start working as a team.

NONIE

(GASP) The cancer is back!

JOYCE

No, it's not. I just feel good now  
that I've settled things with Jill.

BILLIE

That's not an answer to *my* question...

NONIE

She's stalling before she says no!

DOOR BELLS JINGLE. IT'S **TATE!** JOYCE RUNS TO HIM.

SISTERS

Tate!/Sugar!/Sweetheart!/Hey!

TATE

(ANGRY) Congratulations, Mom! My wife is sitting in my office right now, rabid as a bag of cats. Do you know how hard it is to sell cars with a pregnant woman pacing the halls chewing apart her purse?

JOYCE

She's just coming down from the waffles...

TATE

I don't know what you said to Jill, but she has informed me that she wants no part of this baby shower.

BILLIE GASPS! NONIE GASPS AND SMILES A TEENY BIT.

JOYCE

What? I...I...

TATE

I don't want to hear it. You've made your bed. And you have no one to blame but yourself.

TATE EXITS. NONIE GLEEFULLY POLISHES MENUS.

JOYCE

Wait...I...CANCER.

CUT TO:



SCENE 7

INT. CAR LOT, TATE'S OFFICE - MORNING (DAY 3)

NONIE AND BILLIE SIT IN TATE'S OFFICE. IT'S WALL-TO-WALL WINDOWS. WE CAN SEE THE **SALESMEN** IN A ROOM TO THE RIGHT, THE **RECEPTIONIST** IN THE ENTRY-WAY ON THE LEFT.

TATE

Mom sent you.

NONIE

BILLIE

She did not.

Yes.

NONIE SHOOTS BILLIE A "GET ON THE SAME PAGE" LOOK.

NONIE

You have no idea how heartbroken we all are, Tate. This shower was supposed to celebrate Corduroy.

TATE

It's not your fault. You've always been like a second mother to me, Aunt Nonie. And, Aunt Bee-Bee, you were like a step-mom who bought me beer.

BILLIE

Fun times, kiddo.

TATE

But, I can't pull Mom's foot out of her mouth this time. Jill will not go to any shower Mom hosts.

BILLIE

Okay. Here's a thought. Could the baby come without Jill?

NONIE

Would you wait outside, please?

BILLIE

(TO TATE) I want to talk to you about  
a car before I leave.

BILLIE EXITS. WE SEE HER JOIN THE SALESMEN'S ROOM, WHERE SHE  
SPENDS THE REST OF THE SCENE FLIRTING AND HORSING AROUND.

NONIE

Your Mom and I have had our issues.

TATE

Thanksgiving?

NONIE

I was supposed to make stuffing!

(THEN) But, say what you will, she is  
the glue of the family. There's got to  
be a way to fix this. She'll do  
anything to get Jill to this baby  
shower.

TATE

I can only think of one way.

THE RECEPTIONIST CALLS OVER THE LOUD SPEAKER.

RECEPTIONIST (P.A)

Tate, your Mommy is here.

REVEAL JOYCE IN THE RECEPTION AREA, WEEPY, CLUTCHING TISSUE.  
TATE RUBS HIS TEMPLES. NONIE WAVES HER AWAY.

NONIE

Go! Go! (SHOUTING THROUGH GLASS)

Joyce, you're going to blow this!

JOYCE SCURRIES AWAY.

NONIE (CONT'D)

You were saying?

TATE

You could host the shower, Aunt Nonie.

NONIE

(STARTLED) Me?

TATE

As long as Mom doesn't attend, Jill might go for that. Between you and me, you're her favorite.

NONIE

I... wow... opportunity. Favorite.

Please tell Jill the feeling is...

But, I couldn't, Tate. Could I? Fun!

So many ideas. My ideas for once! No.

I can't. It would crush your Mom...

No.

TATE

It's all I got. Take it or leave it.

BILLIE FALLS AGAINST THE WINDOW TRYING TO DO A HANDSTAND.  
NONIE IS OVERCOME WITH CONFLICTING EMOTIONS AS WE...

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREESCENE 8INT. DINER - LATER (DAY 3)

JOYCE POURS COFFEE FOR ED AND HANK. HER EYES GLUED ON THE DOOR, STILL CLUTCHING HER TISSUE.

ED

Did you notice that President Obama looks darker than when he was elected?

HANK

Him being half-white is the biggest liberal scam since Kennedy faked his own death.

ED

Boy, he went to a lot of trouble.

HANK

Yeah, he wanted to be with Marilyn. Now they live on a boat in Miami. I guess you can't stop love.

NONIE AND BILLIE ENTER. JOYCE RUSHES TO THEM.

JOYCE

How did it go?

NONIE AND BILLIE GUIDE JOYCE INTO "THE BOOTH."

BILLIE

Come. Sit.

JOYCE

What's going on?

NONIE

(TO BILLIE) Let me do the talking.

THEY SIT. ALONZO APPEARS WITH WAFFLES AND MILK SHAKES.

BILLIE

(RE; ALONZO) We called ahead.

NONIE

I have something to tell you. I trust  
you will respond with diplomacy and  
maturity because my motives are... pure.

SHE AND ALONZO SHARE A LOOK. JOYCE PICKS UP A MILK-SHAKE,  
SIPS SLOWLY.

NONIE (CONT'D)

The shower is back on. But...

BILLIE

Nonie is hosting and you can't come.

JOYCE TOSSES THE MILK-SHAKE IN NONIE'S FACE.

JOYCE

Traitor!

NONIE TOSSES ONE IN BILLIE'S FACE.

NONIE

Loud mouth!

BILLIE TOSSES ONE IN JOYCE'S FACE.

BILLIE

Bossy!

AUNT LEE

Is it Thanksgiving already?

JOYCE IS ROCKED BY THE BETRAYAL... SHE NEVER SAW THAT COMING.

CUT TO:

SCENE 9INT. LADIES ROOM - LATER (DAY 3)

THE SISTERS ARE COVERED IN MILK-SHAKE, SYRUP AND WAFFLE. THE FIGHT HAS RUN A FAMILIAR COURSE THAT ALWAYS LEADS TO...

NONIE

I was supposed to make the stuffing!  
You walked in and upstaged me like you  
have done my whole life!

JOYCE

No one wanted your Kelly Ripa apple  
stuffing! I brought cornbread stuffing  
so we'd have something to eat!

BILLIE

I wanted to do the stuffing, but no!  
The alcoholic can't be trusted to do  
anything!

NONIE

You BAKED your jello! That's what  
started the fire.

JOYCE

This isn't about stuffing. It's about my own  
sisters stabbing me in the back and stealing  
my baby shower.

BILLIE

Me? I wasn't even in there. I was in  
Guy's office doing a headstand. You  
can ask anyone. My boob even popped  
out.

JOYCE

Then there should be no shower. We're sisters. All for one and one for all.

That's how it's always been.

NONIE HAS HAD ENOUGH, FOR ONCE SHE TAKES A STAND.

NONIE

No! It's been all for Joyce and all for Billie, you with your cancer and Billie with her alcoholism. Where's my disease!? When is it my opportunity to shine? (THEN) It is now and I'm taking it! I'm HOSTING this shower!

JOYCE IS TAKEN ABACK. TAKES A NEW TACTIC - RATIONAL, CALM.

JOYCE

Fine. Host the shower. But, Billie and I won't be part of this madness.

NONIE

Don't speak for Billie. She's still invited. You're the one banned. Let her decide for herself.

JOYCE

Okay. Who's it going to be, Billie? Crazy eyes or me.

NONIE

I'll let you help. Yes. You never even got asked to do the stuffing but you can be in charge of the cake.

(MORE)

NONIE (CONT'D)

(BILLIE'S NOT SO SURE) And you can  
have your AA meetings here.

BILLIE

(TURNS ON JOYCE) Hear that, bossy!  
We're running the show now!

NONIE SMILES SMUGLY.

JOYCE

I've spent my whole life protecting  
you two from your own dumb ideas!  
Well, not anymore! Have your Kelly  
Ripa 'International' shower! Let the  
fifty year old who rides a bike  
everywhere be in charge of the cake!  
But, don't come running to me when it  
blows up in your face, I'm DONE!

JOYCE EXITS.

BILLIE

Nonie, I just want you to know... the  
jello didn't start the fire, the vodka  
in the jello did.

A BLUE-HAIR PEEKS OUT OF THE STALL AND QUICKLY SHUFFLES OUT.

CUT TO:



SCENE 10

EXT. BEHIND THE BOWLING ALLEY - EVENING (DAY 3)

BILLIE AND HER AA SPONSOR, **VEGA**, A BAD-ASS, FORMER HELL'S ANGEL, STAND BEFORE HER AA GROUP. A ROUGH BUNCH OF **MISFITS**.

VEGA

Quiet. Hey! Quiet, everyone. Billie has an announcement to make.

BILLIE

First off, I found us a space. We can gather at the Wagon Wheel after hours tomorrow at eleven. (OFF CHEERS!) But, everyone, seriously, best behavior. There are indoor toilets. Use them. No smoking. Don't. And those of us on bikes, don't lock them up to the dumpster. Eleven o'clock. (THEN)  
Secondly, is Sherry here?

**SHERRY**, A FORMER STRIPPER, STEPS FORWARD, ALL BOOBS.

SHERRY

I'm here.

BILLIE

Are you still making cakes?

SHERRY

Yeah, converted my meth lab.

BILLIE

Perfect!

CUT TO:

SCENE 11INT. DINER - MORNING RUSH (DAY 4)

NONIE SORTS THROUGH A BOX OF 'INTERNATIONAL' DECORATIONS.  
BILLIE HANGS A GARLAND OF INTERNATIONAL FLAGS.

NONIE

(CONCERNED) I'm wondering if we got  
the right box. The babies are dressed  
in different cultural attire--

HOLDS UP A CUT-OUT OF A BLACK BABY IN AFRICAN ATTIRE.

NONIE (CONT'D)

--but they all seem to be... how do I  
say this? From the Dark continent.

HOLDS UP BLACK BABIES DRESSED IN A KIMONO, LEDERHOSEN, KILT.

ANGLE ON JOYCE TAKING DOWN HER BABY DISNEY DECORATIONS.

AUNT LEE

Told ya it sounded like lot of brown.

NONIE

Oh, well. Who cares what race the  
babies are?

JOYCE

The daddy, usually.

NONIE

(STAYING POSITIVE) Everything else is  
coming together just like I planned.

THE GARLAND BURSTS INTO FLAMES AND BURNS LIKE A LONG WICK.

BILLIE

(HOLDING A LIGHTER) I was trying to  
fuse the ends together.

NONIE

(CONTAINING FRUSTRATION) That's okay, Billie. I'll do the decorations. Why don't you go pick up the cake?

BILLIE

Pick up the cake?

JOYCE

Oh, surprise. The girl who voted for a blue M&M in the last presidential election screwed up the cake.

BILLIE

Uh, excuse me... I got a cake. It's just being delivered is all.

NONIE

(TO BILLIE, CALM PANIC) If you forgot, tell me. I won't stab you if you tell me now.

BILLIE

Relax. My friend Sherry is making the cake. She was a stripper, but than she found God and started cooking meth to save up for Seminary school, but when she blew-up her house she switched to cakes. They're AMAZING.

JOYCE

(SMUG) My bad. You got it covered.

CUT TO:

SCENE 12INT. DINER, KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 4)JOYCE ENTERS AND SWEEPS ALL THE METAL BOWLS OFF THE COUNTER.

JOYCE

This is killing me! Not only am I  
banned from my Cordoroy Joe's shower,  
it's going to be a monstrosity that  
will go down in the record books.

ALONZO PRESENTS A BEAUTIFUL DISNEY BABY CAKE.

ALONZO

What should I do with this?

JOYCE

(SIGH) Put it in the freezer. We'll  
offer it as a dessert special.

ALONZO

Isn't it weird that Pluto and Goofy  
are both dogs, but one wears clothes  
and the other doesn't?

JOYCE

I never thought about it.

ALONZO

You see, Goofy is a leader, Pluto's a  
follower. But, Goofy is wise. He  
knows that to keep the peace, he must  
be the bigger person. Or dog.

OFF JOYCE'S PENSIVE EXPRESSION.

CUT TO:

SCENE 13INT. DINER - NIGHT (DAY 4)JOYCE SITS IN HER BOOTH, WAITING. NONIE ENTERS FROM KITCHEN.

JOYCE

Can we sit and talk for a minute?

NONIE

(EYEBALLING THE BOOTH) I'd rather stand, if you please.

JOYCE

I know I said I was done saving your from your bad ideas, but I've decided to be the bigger person here.

NONIE

Do you mean fatter?

JOYCE

There's no need to be ugly. I'm trying to help you. (THEN) Jill is going to hate this "WHITE GUILT" baby shower you are throwing her.

NONIE

Your scare tactics won't work.

JOYCE

Just like she hated your apple sausage stuffing. I know it's hard to hear. I was asked to bring cornbread stuffing.

NONIE

You lie.

JOYCE

I want to offer you my decorations.  
All for one, one for all. Jill will  
love it. You'll be a huge hit. There's  
even a cake, cause we both know  
Billie's cake isn't coming. "Sherry"  
is in jail or at the bottom of a lake  
right now.

NONIE

We've got a cake. And you and your  
decorations can go to hello operator.

NONIE MAKES A GRAND EXIT. THE DOOR IS LOCKED. SHE GETS OUT  
HER KEYS, OPENS IT AND LEAVES.

JOYCE

Isn't there anything you can do, Aunt  
Lee? Maybe she would listen to you.

AUNT LEE

He who steps in it, has to clean his  
own shoes.

JOYCE

What if his arms are paralyzed?

AUNT LEE

Then it just takes longer. Crippled  
people do a lot of things these days.  
Look at that girl who was married to  
Paul McCartney. She was on *Dancing  
With The Stars*.

CUT TO:

SCENE 14INT. DINER - BABY SHOWER DAY (DAY 5)

IT'S A CONTINENTAL GRAB-BAG: THE BLACK BABIES, NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC, CHINESE LANTERNS. NONIE IS DRESSED IN AN INDIAN SARI. BILLIE, AUNT LEE, **GUESTS** AND JILL'S MOM, **SUE**, SIT IN A CIRCLE AROUND JILL. JILL EYES THE DECORATIONS, HOLDING BACK TEARS.

NONIE

(HOLDING AN ORANGE) In India it is customary for guests to give blessings and lie fruit in the mother's lap. I'll go first. Jill, my wish is that Cord will never be weighted down by family obligations that keep him from pursuing his dreams.

NONIE PUTS HER FRUIT IN JILL'S LAP. JILL DOESN'T TAKE IT AND IT ROLLS OFF.

BILLIE

I'll go. (THEN) My wish is one day there'll be a waterproof mascara that'll stay on in a car wash.

BILLIE PUTS AN APPLE DIRECTLY IN JILL'S HAND.

CUT TO:

SCENE 15INT. DINER, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

JOYCE PEERS THROUGH THE DOOR, ALONZO STANDS BEHIND HER.

JOYCE

(SMIRKING) If I weren't such a big person, I'd gloat. (THEN) And I know some people like that music, but I say, if you're conquered, your music has to go.

ALONZO

You should be careful. You are not supposed to be here.

JOYCE

Banned or not, there's no way I'd miss Corduroy's shower. I'm his grandma, he's stuck with me. (RE; NAME) That name is kinda cute. It grows on you. (THEN) Almost wish I hadn't said anything.

CUT TO:



SCENE 16INT. DINER - CONTINUOUS (DAY 5)

JILL EATS BILLIE'S APPLE..

NONIE

Aunt Lee. You want to go next?

AUNT LEE TOSSES A BANANA AT JILL.

AUNT LEE

Good luck.

JILL

I'm confused. Where are the Disney  
Characters?

NONIE

You're a crafty person. I thought  
you'd appreciate something more...  
*avant gratin.*

JILL

You know the baby is white, right?  
And in America it's customary to eat  
cake and open gifts. Could we do that?

NONIE

Of course. Billie. Let's get the cake.

RESET TO:INT. DINER, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS (DAY 5)NONIE AND BILLIE BURST INTO THE KITCHEN. ALONZO IS MIXING  
PUNCH. JOYCE IS NOT IN SIGHT.

NONIE

She hates it. Where's the cake?

BILLIE

It's coming. I texted Sherry. Then I remembered she doesn't have a phone.

NONIE

Do you remember I said I'd stab you?

BILLIE

Don't freak out! She's coming!

BEHIND HER BACK, BILLIE CROSSES HER FINGERS. **VEGA** ENTERS THE KITCHEN - HE'S QUITE FRIGHTENING LOOKING.

NONIE

Perfect. Now we're being robbed.

BILLIE

No, this is my sponsor, Vega. Please tell me you're here to deliver a cake.

VEGA

No. We're here for the meeting. It's eleven. Where should we gather?

BILLIE

No! Eleven p.m., I said p.m.!

BILLIE RUNS OUT. VEGA FOLLOWS.

NONIE

Oh my God. It's all falling apart.  
What would Kelly Ripa do? (IDEA) The Disney cake! All is not lost.  
Alonzo, where's Joyce's cake?

ALONZO

(STAMMERING) In the... walk-in.

BEFORE HE CAN FINISH NONIE RACES TO THE WALK-IN REFRIGERATOR.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER, WALK-IN FREEZER - CONTINUOUS

NONIE ENTERS TO FIND JOYCE EATING A PIECE OF COLD CAKE.

JOYCE

(BUSTED, MOUTHFUL) Let me explain.

NONIE

I don't have time. I need that cake.

JOYCE

(COCKY) Hello, operator. Did I hear correctly? This cake? Sherry didn't show? Odd behavior for a meth-head.

NONIE

You were right, okay? About Billie, about Jill. I blew my big opportunity! I should have listened to you. I'm just a dumb hick loser!

NONIE BURSTS INTO TEARS. JOYCE JUMPS TO HELP HER.

JOYCE

Oh, really? Well, if I hadn't listened to you these last five years, I'd probably be dead.

NONIE

(WOW) You mean that?

JOYCE

"Go to the doctor, Joyce!" "Stay in bed, Joyce!" "Joyce, don't lift that watermelon, your stitches will pop." You saved my life, Nonie. You sure as hell saved Billie's more than once. Everyone knows what you've sacrificed for us. You're not a loser... you're the strong one. Don't you know that?

NONIE

Kinda. (THEN) Of course I did.

JOYCE

Kelly Ripa should take her cues from you.

NONIE

You should write her and tell her that. Maybe I'd get on the show.

JOYCE

I will. (THEN, REALIZING) I only took one bite. Hand me that frosting! We can fix this. All for one...

NONIE

..One for all. (THEN) How are you not freezing in here?

JOYCE

Oh, I never get cold. One of the  
upsides of cancer, I guess. Thank  
you, radiation!

NONIE LAUGHS, AS THEY TRY TO FIX THE CAKE.

CUT TO:

SCENE 17INT. DINER - CONTINUOUS (DAY 5)

THE PLACE IS PACKED WITH SOBER DRUNKS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.  
TWO MEN ENJOY THE FRIED RICE AND EMPANADAS.

SOBER DRUNK #1

This is a chicken empanada and that  
one is pork, I think.

BILLIE

Put those down!

BILLIE TRIES TO HERD THEM OUTSIDE. SEVERAL OF THE AA GROUP  
STARE THROUGH THE WINDOWS AMIDST A CLOUD OF CIGARETTE SMOKE.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Go, go. Come back tonight at eleven!

JILL

It's like attack of the zombies! I  
would expect nothing less from Tater's  
family. You people are impossible!

JOYCE & NONIE BUST THROUGH THE KITCHEN DOOR WITH THE CAKE.

JOYCE

Help has arrived!

NONIE

Say hello to the Disney Babies!

THE ROOM TURNS AND STARES WITH DAZED EXPRESSIONS. WHAT NOW?

JILL

She is not supposed to be here.

NONIE

(SELLING IT) Disney Babies!

JOYCE

Look it even has the baby's name on  
it. Corduroy!

THEY TILT THE CAKE UP. IT SLIDES OFF THE INTO THE FLOOR.

NONIE

Now what?

JOYCE

I don't have a freaking clue.

AUNT LEE

Does anyone smell smoke?

JUST THEN, IN WALKS SHERRY WITH A GORGEOUS CAKE.

SHERRY

Sorry, I'm late. I don't believe in  
time.

THIS CAKE IS A MASTERPIECE; A THREE DIMENSIONAL TEDDY BEAR IN  
AN AIRPLANE PULLING A BANNER THAT SAYS "CORDUROY." ALL THE  
COMMOTION IS PUT ON PAUSE TO PAY HOMAGE TO THIS CAKE.

BILLIE

Ohmygod. Sherry. It's... amazing.

NONIE

(IMPRESSED) Oh. My. God.

JOYCE

It's gorgeous. Billie? You got this?

BILLIE

(DISBELIEF) Yes. I got the cake. (FIST  
PUMPING) I did it, Alonzo! I did it!

ALONZO SHRUGS AT JOYCE.

ALONZO

I was talking about a squirrel.

NONIE

You talked to her about my squirrel?

ALONZO

You all hear what you need to hear.

BILLIE

Who cares?! I win! I win!!!! I--

BILLIE JUMPS UP AND DOWN, ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKING SHERRY'S CAKE OVER. EVERYONE GASPS. NONIE PUTS HER ARM AROUND BILLIE.

NONIE

-- win.

AUNT LEE

Seriously, does anyone else smell  
smoke?

ANGLE ON SOBER DRUNK #1 PULLING THE KNOBS ON THE CIGARETTE MACHINE. SMOKE IS BILLOWING OUT OF THE BACK OF THE MACHINE.

SOBER DRUNK #1

This thing ate my money.

IT BURSTS INTO FLAMES. EVERYONE SCREAMS, RUNS FOR THEIR LIVES...

BLACK OUT.



TAGSCENE 16

THE SISTERS, AUNT LEE AND ALONZO LOOK ON AT THE CHARRED SPOT WHERE THE CIGARETTE MACHINE WAS.

JOYCE

Bottom line, the fire was no one's fault. Just one of those flukes. Thank goodness you two stole the shower. If we hadn't all been here the whole place would have burned down.

BILLIE

And, luckily, you snuck in with Alonzo, who was quick on his feet.

ALONZO

Thank Nonie's hummus. It's a natural fire retardant.

NONIE

I'm just glad Billie's AA group was here. They whisked that machine out of here while it was still hot.

BILLIE

They're out back, bashing it open with sledgehammers to save the cigarettes.

AUNT LEE

(FLICKING HER LIGHTER) Nothing like a fire to bring family together.

THE END