# Widow's Peak

by

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# Characters:

Maddie Madigan: Cafe owner Will Carter: Captain of a whale watching vessel Frank Morelli: Drug store owner Abby Holloway: Motel owner, town gossip Hank Russell: Town sheriff Jim Bell: Deputy Tom Blake: Television producer Jill Powell: Television producer

# Setting:

The entire play takes place in Madigan's Cafe, located in Rocky Point, Maine. The time of year is August, tourist season and the middle of whale watching season.

# ACT 1

# SCENE 1

The set design is that of a New England seaside café, counter, stools, one or two tables to the side. Nautical decor, as well as cups plates utensils, that sort of thing. Maybe a cash register. Maybe a menu on the wall, too. The front door is stage right. One window, stage right. Upstage center doorway leads to kitchen. Counter and stools, stage left, with open window behind counter as if to pass food from kitchen.

Lights up on Maddie and Abby, engaged in conversation. Maddie is behind the counter, dishrag in hand. Abby is sitting on a stool.

> ABBY So I says to her, this ain't the Hilton. If you want a hairdryer, walk across the street to Frank's Drugstore and buy one.

> > MADDIE

Well, Abby, you know, most motels today do have hairdryers. You might want to consider putting them in your rooms.

> (leaning in to Maddie as if to tell her a secret)

#### ABBY

Frank and I got an arrangement. For every hairdryer sale I send his way, I get a dollar commission. I'm thinking of doing away with the little soaps, too. Everybody needs soap! I can make a killing on commission!

MADDIE Next you'll be taking away the toilet paper.

Abby seems to be considering this.

MADDIE (cont'd) I was joking!

# ABBY

Oh, right, of course you were.....

#### MADDIE

Lookit, Abby, you know, it's none of my business, but you might wanna maybe be a little nicer to your customers. I mean, it's not like we get a lot of tourists in this town. We're not Bar Harbor. (pronounced Bah Hahbuh)

#### ABBY

You're probably right. I should make more of an effort. Not that it would make much difference. We're just a sleepy little coastal town where nothing ever happens.

Phone rings. Maddie answers.

# MADDIE

(Answering phone) Hello, Madigan's Cafe. Oh, hi, Charlie. What's up?... A bluefin? Good for you! How big? A little over 400 lbs? What do you do with a 400 pound fish? ..... Oh, that's what you wanted to talk to me about... Naw, you can't put it in my walk-in freezer. It's broken. It needs a compressor and I haven't got the money to fix it yet. .... Naw, I'm operating out of all the little fridges here right now. .... Naw, I'm sorry. Why dontcha talk to Bill over at the Acme?

#### ABBY

You can forget that. Bill don't help no one without a commission.

# MADDIE

(Maddie rolls her eyes) Shhhh... No, not you, Charlie. Look, I'd love to help. Maybe next time.

The Sheriff, Hank Russell comes in through the front door.

Look, Charlie, I got customers. Good luck with your fish. uh huh.... Bye bye.

Hank sits at the counter.

HANK Was that, Charlie?

MADDIE

Ayuh.

HANK I heard he got a big bluefin.

MADDIE

Ayuh.

HANK A big 400 pounder.

MADDIE

Ayuh.

HANK What's with all the ayuhs? You trying to fit in again?

MADDIE

Ayuh. (Starts laughing) You ought to try it yourself sometime.

ABBY Try all you want. It won't work. You got to be born here, like Maddie and me, to be a real Mainah.

HANK You were born here? I thought you were from California.

MADDIE

Welll....

ABBY

Maddie and I went to high school together. We were cheerleaders!

CONTINUED:

HANK

(to Maddie) You were a...

MADDIE

Shut up.

ABBY

But then she ran off to college over on the West coast with the movie stars. Became too good for the rest of us.

MADDIE Now you know that's not true.

ABBY

But sooner or later, they all come home to roost.

MADDIE

(To Hank) And now, I'll tell you the truth. I did go off to college. And I met someone. I got married, and had a great life there, until... he got sick. And.... well... he never got better.

HANK

Sorry....

MADDIE In the meantime....

ABBY This restaurant was boarded up for four or five years.

MADDIE Abby, I'll finish my own story, if you don't mind.

ABBY

Sorry....

Abby turns her back to them and is looking out the window or door through her binoculars.

HANK (to Maddie) So, go on.

#### MADDIE

Well, this was my folks' place. And my grandparents before them. It was left to me. But I had no interest until my husband died. After that, I figured it was time for a change. and this place was as good as any. So here I am, cafe owner, back in Rocky Point. So, that's my story. What's yours?

Abby spins around.

ABBY

Well, he was with the NYPD, locking up perps in the Big Apple!

HANK If you don't mind, I'll tell my own story.

Abby spins around again in a huff.

MADDIE

(Flirtatious) So, tell me more about those perps.

#### HANK

It's not much of a story really. It's not as exciting as it sounds. I was a New York city detective. Homicide. 27 years. And those kinds of cases can get to you after a while. I had enough and took early retirement.

MADDIE

Kind of young to be retired aren't you?

HANK

Yeah, I know. I found that out. I got bored. A friend of mine told me about this job opening up, and I thought I'd give it a shot.

ABBY

A shot? You don't even need a gun here. Nothing ever happens here in Rocky Point.

MA.J DDIE Then why do you keep a gun behind the counter over at the motel?

CONTINUED:

# ABBY

Well, nothing ever happens around here, but maybe some day, something could. You never know.... can't be too careful.

# HANK

Well, lets hope that day never comes. I'm looking forward to leaving big city crime behind me and handing out parking tickets.

ABBY

But we don't have any parking meters.

HANK

Not yet....

# ABBY

Not yet?

Abby pulls out a little notebook and makes a note.

ABBY (cont'd) Got to go. Phone calls to make!

Abby exits.

# MADDIE

(laughing)
You know, she's gonna spread that all
over town now.
 (hand quotes)
"Sheriff to install parking meters".
Probably be on the front page of the
paper.

# HANK

(laughing) They don't call her Gabby Abby for nothing. So, how's business?

# MADDIE

Do you really need to ask? Look around. They're not exactly lining up outside the door.

#### HANK

Why don't we get tourists around here like everyone else does?

#### MADDIE

Because the state screwed this town over.

HANK

What do you mean?

### MADDIE

Well, when they put the interstate in, Oh, must be at least 20 years now, they never gave this town the exit they promised. So, people just drive on by. No one even knows we're here.

#### HANK

Why don't you sell and get out of Dodge? Your waterfront property must be worth something.

# MADDIE

You'd think, right? But it's too small to do anything with. Businesses up the coast banded together and sold their properties to developers who put up seaside condos. My property is too small, and people here? The ones that are left? Too stubborn and suspicious of outsiders. And so, for now, I'm stuck here, waiting for customers, sipping Coke and watching the tide come in and go out....

HANK

Sounds like heaven to me.

#### MADDIE

Yeah, well, I don't have a big pension like you do.

#### HANK

Oh yeah, a pension just big enough to cover the monthly alimony payments and the college tuition for two kids.

MADDIE

So.... divorced, huh?

# HANK

Ayah.

They both laugh.

CONTINUED:

#### MADDIE

I didn't mean to pry.

HANK

It's okay. So, right now, it's just me, all alone.

MADDIE Yeah, me, too. All alone.

HANK

(a bit flirtatious)
Well, you know, two people, all
alone, might want to get together
some evening for a beer, or a cup of
coffee,.... maybe?

MADDIE Why sheriff, you wouldn't be asking me for a date now would you?

Frank Morelli, local drug store owner, enters.

FRANK

Sheriff, what's this I hear about you installing parking meters in front of my drug store!

#### HANK

I'm not putting them in front of your store.

FRANK

Oh. Good.

HANK I'm putting them up and down the entire street!

MADDIE (laughing) That didn't take long to get around

That didn't take long to get around.

# FRANK

So, it's true?

HANK

No, I was just foolin' with Abby and she took it serious.

# FRANK

Oh, good. Business is slow enough. We don't need no parking meters keeping people away. Hardly any tourists, and even the locals don't come around like they used to.

# MADDIE

Yeah, remember when we were kids? When your father owned the place?

FRANK

Yeah, good times.

#### MADDIE

Us kids used to hang out there. Drinking Cokes, and sometimes ordering an ice cream soda if we had an extra quarter. Remember?

# FRANK

How could I forget? While you guys
were having fun, my old man made me
work behind the counter,
 (gesturing as if a
 soda jerk)
....remember?

#### MADDIE

Oh stop, you had fun, too. Me, you, Will, Cathy...

#### FRANK

Speaking of Cathy, I haven't seen her lately. Have you? She was coming in for cold medicine and cough drops every day a few weeks ago. Then she stopped. Haven't seen her since.

#### HANK

Maybe she got better?

#### MADDIE

Still, has anyone seen her? I haven't seen her either. She hasn't been in for coffee, and when I call over there, no one answers.

# HANK

You two friends?

CONTINUED:

FRANK Those two? Like two peas in a pod in high school. Well, until....

Frank glances at Maddie.

FRANK (cont'd) Sorry, Maddie. I shouldn't have brought it up.

MADDIE

It's okay, Frank. Hank would have heard the story sooner or later.

HANK Look, if you don't want to....

#### MADDIE

It's okay. It was a long time ago. Cathy and I were best friends in school. And believe it or not, her husband, Will, was my boyfriend.

HANK Get out.... really? Grumpy, old Will?

MADDIE

Yup.

HANK Did he at least shave and comb his hair back then?

#### MADDIE

He was a different person back then. We all were. We were just kids. The summer after graduation was the time of our lives. We did everything together. Swimming, hiking, and of course, lots of partying.

FRANK

Lots of partying....

MADDIE

It was near the end of summer and we had a bonfire going on the beach.

FRANK And lots of beer in the cooler.

### MADDIE

We were all pretty drunk. If our parents ever found out half the stuff we did, we'd still be grounded today.

HANK Kids and alcohol never mix well together.

MADDIE So we found out, the hard way.

FRANK Cindy Matthews sure found out.

# MADDIE

You know, Frank, maybe you were right. Maybe we shouldn't open up old wounds.

HANK

Now wait a minute. You can't leave me hanging.

#### MADDIE

Well, okay. Like I said, we were all pretty drunk and didn't even realize Cindy was missing.

#### FRANK

We were telling ghost stories around the fire. The Legend of Widow's Peak.

HANK

I've heard of Widow's Peak. Haven't been out there yet.

#### FRANK

The view is great in the daytime. But it's a whole different place at night.

# MADDIE

You see, legend has it that a sea captain's wife went out to the cliff every day watching the horizon for a sign of her husband's ship. He was captain of whaling vessel.

### FRANK

One day, she got a letter informing her the vessel sank and all hands were lost. And so, she went out to the cliff one last time.

MADDIE And jumped to her death to join him.

# FRANK

And they say when the moon is full, you can hear her crying over the roar of the surf.

HANK

That's quite a story, but what does this have to do with Cindy?

Frank and Maddie exchange a look of hesitation.

# MADDIE

As we said, Cindy went missing. We all assumed she went home.

# FRANK

It wasn't until the next day that we found out Cindy never made it home.

#### MADDIE

A search was conducted and a few days later, her body was found on the jagged rocks below, at the bottom of Widow's Peak.

#### FRANK

All that night, drinking on the beach, she kept telling us that Widow's Peak ghost story was bullshit. We think she went up there alone to listen and prove she was right.

# MADDIE

Only being as drunk as she was, she must have lost her footing.... and fell over.

HANK How do you know she didn't jump?

FRANK Or was lured by the widow's ghost to leap....

# MADDIE

Oh, Frank, you and your ghost stories. That's nonsense and you know it. And she didn't jump either. She was the most popular girl in school. She had her whole life ahead of her. It was just a tragic accident, that's all. A tragic accident.

FRANK

What a terrible way to end the best summer of our lives.

#### MADDIE

Especially for Cindy. And after that, it was just one tragedy after another for her family.

#### FRANK

Yeah, a few years later, her parents died in a fire, and her little brother got put in foster care.

# MADDIE

Yeah, geez, terrible. By that time, I was in college on the west coast and I had no desire to return to Rocky Point. Too many bad memories. And while all the other college kids were partying, I was drinking Coke. I haven't had a drop to drink since that night on the beach.

#### FRANK

Tell you the truth, I'm not much of a drinker myself.

#### HANK

And how does Will fit into the picture?

# MADDIE

Oh, Will and I were just a high school romance. I left and we lost touch.

### FRANK

Yeah, and once she was gone, Will and Cathy got together. Happily married all these years now.

MADDIE I thought they were....

CONTINUED:

# FRANK

Maddie, now's not the time....

MADDIE

Well, why not? I'm kind of worried.

# HANK

About what?

# MADDIE

Well, when I came back home, I was so glad to pick up my friendship with Cathy, right where we left off. Will, too. They were always coming in for coffee, and sometimes Abby would join us and fill us in on the latest gossip.

#### FRANK

No one invited me.

# MADDIE

(ignoring Frank) But then things changed. They'd come in, and there would be lots of bickering and arguments. I could also hear lots of arguing coming from their place. Lots of fighting going on over there. It's just across the parking lot. Not like I was spying or anything. You couldn't help but hear.

#### HANK

What were they fighting about?

#### MADDIE

Everything. The boat. The house. Bills. In a nutshell, they were always fighting about money.

#### FRANK

I walked in here a few times and found them arguing. It's kind of embarrassing getting caught in the middle.

#### MADDIE

Tell me about it. You try to stay out of their business, but she's also my best friend. And I kind of understand where she's coming from. Will's not the easiest man to live with.

FRANK (glancing through window) Speak of the devil. Here he comes now.

Captain Will Carter enters. He looks around at each person in the room. They all have a guilty look about them and no one speaks.

# WILL

Someone die?

Will sits at a table. Maddie comes over with a menu.

# MADDIE

Hungry, Will?

She places the menu on the table in front of him. He picks it up and hands it back to her.

# WILL

Just coffee.

MADDIE Cream and sugar?

WILL I ever have cream or sugar before?

MADDIE

Well, no, but...

WILL

Then why you asking now? Just black.

Maddie goes to get his coffee. Hank comes over and sits with Will. Will gives him a look as if to say who invited you?

HANK How's it going, Will?

WILL I done something wrong?

HANK

No.

WILL Then what do you want?

HANK Just making conversation, that's all.

CONTINUED:

WILL Yeah, well, I ain't much of a talker. HANK How's business? This sets Will off. He's been trying to keep to himself but if they want to ask questions, he's got answers. WILL Business? Around here? There ain't none. Not around here. When I had my old boat and doing fishin' and lobsterin', things were fine. Not great. But fine. HANK But I saw your new boat. It's beautiful. Looks like it has all you could want in a boat. WILL Has something else my old boat didn't, too. HANK What's that? WILL A monthly payment. HANK So, things a bit slow for you now? WILL Of course they are. You see any tourists around here? When I was fishin' and lobsterin' I could take my catch to the market and make a decent living. HANK Then why did you give that up? MADDIE (with a warning look to Hank not to get into that conversation with Will) More coffee, Hank?

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Shaking her head at Hank no. Warning him to change the subject. Will sees her and this just sets him off all the more.

WILL Why did I give it up? Because she (using a head motion towards his property) didn't like it no more, that's why.

He stand up and takes stage.

WILL (cont'd) She didn't like the hours. She didn't like the smell of my clothes. I guess what it boils down to, she didn't like being married to no fisherman.

FRANK

Now, Will, what's done is done. No need to get yourself all worked up over it, again.

WILL

So she convinces me to get out of the fishin' business, and into the whale watchin' business. It's the latest, she says. The world is full of animal huggers, even if the animal's got flippers instead of feet.

MADDIE

Will, she only wanted to...

# WILL

So she convinces me to sell the old boat, the one with no payments, and buy that new tub out there. Oh, its beautiful. She's 80 feet of floating comfort. A true tour boat. So, we bought her, in 2007. And business was good for about a year. Then the economy tanked. Suddenly no one had money for luxuries like whale watching. Why spend money to go out on a boat to see whales, when you can see all the whales you want right there on the National Geographic channel for the price of a cable bill.

CONTINUED:

 $$\ensuremath{\mathsf{HANK}}$$  But I see you leaving the dock from time to time.

WILL

Oh I get the occasional school trip. Or a private gig. But it's just not enough. I'm always one payment behind. And sooner or later the bank is going to have itself a beautiful tour boat. All because she didn't like the smell of fish.

Will is fishing around in his pockets looking for a dollar to pay for his coffee. Maddie comes over to him.

MADDIE It's alright, Will. It's on the house.

WILL (finding a dollar, slams on the table) I don't need no charity.

He heads for the door.

MADDIE

Say, Will, why don't you and Cathy stop over for coffee and cake tonight? We could all use a few laughs.

WILL Sorry, we're busy.

MADDIE Tell Cathy I'll call her tomorrow.

WILL No more calls. No more nothing. You just leave us alone.

Will storms out. Maddie looks stunned.

MADDIE (heading for the door) But, Will....

CONTINUED:

FRANK Let him go, Maddie. He's just blowing off some steam. It'll be okay. You'll see.

# MADDIE

I hope so.

HANK Well, I have to go patrol.... something. I have to look like I'm doing the job.

FRANK Yeah, and I have to get back to the drugstore. (pointing at Hank) And remember, no parking meters!

They all laugh. The men exit. Maddie watches them through the window. Then she goes behind the counter, pulls out a bottle of whiskey and pours it in her Coke glass and takes a big swallow.

Lights out.

# ACT 1

# SCENE 2

One week later. Maddie is working behind the counter. She gets a suspicious look about her. She puts down whatever she's doing and peers through window at Will's place. She tries to make sure Will can't see she's spying.

Frank walks in and startles Maddie.

FRANK Picking up Gabby Abby's bad habits?

# MADDIE

(startled) My God, Frank! You scared the hell out of me! You shouldn't sneak up on a person like that!

CONTINUED:

FRANK Who's sneaking? It's a cafe! People walk through the door! MADDIE Not that many. You're the first customer today. FRANK (peaking out the window) So, what's so interesting out there? MADDIE (casually) Out where? FRANK Come on, Maddie. I saw where you were looking. So what's going on over at Will's place, anything? MADDIE Not a thing. But that's what worries me. Will comes and goes, but I haven't seen Cathy in two weeks. Have you? FRANK Actually, no. And it's weird. Well, none of our business, I guess. (looks right at her) Not mine, anyway.... Frank sits at counter. MADDIE You want coffee?

> FRANK No, no, I don't have time. Just came over to tell you the bus from Bangor just pulled in.

She hands him coffee. She pushes the cream and sugar over to him and he starts fixing his coffee like he intended to all along.

> MADDIE Anybody on it? Or is the driver just using your bathroom?

CONTINUED:

FRANK No, actually two flatlanders got off. Headed over to Abby's motel.

MADDIE Really.... you want coffee cake? Just made it.

FRANK No, no, no time for cake.

She cuts him a piece of cake, puts it in front of him. He digs right in. She smiles and shakes her head.

FRANK (cont'd) (digs right in and tastes) Mmmmmmm.... good cake.

MADDIE Thanks. So, tell me more about these flatlanders. Where they from?

FRANK They say they're from California.

MADDIE (with a worried look) California? Really?

FRANK

Ayah, and they were asking about Will. They wanted to know where they could find him.

MADDIE What they want Will for?

FRANK Didn't say. Probably want to rent the boat, I guess. What else?

MADDIE

What else?
 (looks away from Frank,
 looks concerned)
Right. What else could they want?
Prob'ly the boat....

Maddie gets real busy with business, not making eye contact with Frank.

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# FRANK

I'm sure we'll find out soon enough. They came in the store, bought some toiletries and asked where they could eat after they checked in over at Abby's place. I told them to come over here.

# MADDIE

Great.

FRANK Will there be a commission?

# MADDIE

(laughing) Now you sound like Abby! How about if the coffee and cake is on the house?

FRANK

(laughing) Fair enough. But you'll never make any money this way.

Door opens. In comes Deputy Bell. Tom and Jill are with him.

JIM (very official-like, to Maddie) You the owner?

MADDIE (comes out from behind counter. Extends hand to shake) Hi, Maddie Madigan.

He ignores her hand. She pulls it back looking uncomfortable.

MADDIE (cont'd) You must be the new deputy Hank told us about.

JIM That's right. Deputy James Bell.

MADDIE Do people call you, Jim?

JIM No, people call me Deputy Bell.

CONTINUED:

MADDIE Okaaaaay.... (glances at Frank. Frank raises eyebrows, shrugs) .....Deputy Bell. JIM Found these two wandering outside. They're looking for something to eat. том (extending hand to Maddie) Hi, Tom Blake. And this is Jill Powell. We're TV producers. Just got in from California. JILL (extends hand and shakes with Maddie) Pleased to meet you. TOM (enthusiastic) I just love this town! And this place. It's a slice of Americana. It's like being in a Norman Rockwell painting! Don't you agree, Jill? JILL (Obviously not as charmed by the place) Oh yeah.... very....rustic. MADDIE (smiling at Jill) Thanks,.... I think. Well, have a seat. Maddie steers them over to table and seats them.

> MADDIE (cont'd) I'll get you a couple of menus.

Maddie goes back to counter. Grabs to menus and brings them over to Tom and Jill. She then turns to Jim.

MADDIE (cont'd) So, Ji....Deputy Bell, why don't you grab a stool and I'll get you some coffee and a doughnut.

CONTINUED:

JIM Don't like doughnuts. MADDIE Alright, just coffee then. JIM I really should be going. MADDIE Come on, you have time for one cup of coffee. Grab a seat. I'm sure Hank won't mind. JIM (a bit reluctantly

(a bit reluctantly sits) Okay, but I'm paying.

MADDIE Of course you are.

FRANK (leans in to Jim) Don't ruin it for the rest of us.

Jim has no sense of humor. Just stares at Frank. Frank and Maddie exchange a look and shrug. Maddie fills two glasses with water and takes them over to Tom and Jill.

> MADDIE Some water for you folks. (sets the glasses down. takes out a pad and pencil) So, what will you two be having?

Tom and Jill begin to point at things on the menu with Maddie nodding and writing. It looks like they're talking but silently while Frank engages Jim in conversation.

> FRANK So, Deputy, how long you been on the job now?

> > JIM

Three weeks.

FRANK Really? How come I haven't seen you around? (tongue in cheek) Are you undercover?

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In) 26. CONTINUED: Frank laughs. Jim stares again. FRANK (cont'd) Okay..... Maddie glances at Frank on way to kitchen. She exits. JIM Been doing patrol car stuff mostly. Cruising the town. Crime watch business. FRANK Not much crime to watch around here. JIM Oh, you never know what you might see some day. If you look hard enough. FRANK (raises an eyebrow) Where'd you move here from? JIM Boston. FRANK Boston. You were on the force there? JIM Yeah. FRANK Well, it's a little late, but welcome to Rocky Point. There's not much in the way of nightlife around here. Not like Boston, but if you're ever interested.... JTM No time for socializing. FRANK Right. Maddie brings out to sodas for TV people. On her way to the table says to Frank and Jim. MADDIE Oh... are you two getting acquainted?

Frank rolls his eyes. Maddie goes over to TV people.

CONTINUED:

MADDIE (cont'd) Burgers are on the grill. Won't take but a few minutes.

Sheriff comes in.

HANK (looking around) Wow! A full house. The whole town is here.

They all chuckle, except for Jim, who stares at them all

HANK (cont'd) Well, just about the whole town. The only one missing is...

In barges Abby.

MADDIE (Heading back to kitchen) Speak of the Devil....

ABBY You all call a town meeting and not invite me?

HANK Yup. We're voting on the parking meters.

ABBY (pointing right at Frank) See, I told you!

Frank and Hank start laughing. Jim stares at them again.

TOM (gets up. Searching his pocket for change) Jill, give me a quarter for the meter.

JILL Meter? What meter? I didn't see any meters.

Frank and Hank laugh harder. Jim seems more annoyed. The TV people look confused.

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ABBY What are you laughing at? Ohhhhh.... you're not putting in any parking meters! Very funny! HANK (puts his arm around Abby) Next time, make sure you get your facts straight. Abby shrugs off his arm. Puts her nose up in the air and goes over to the TV people. ABBY I hope your room is satisfactory? TOM Yes, very nice. ABBY Be sure to let me know if you need anything. JILL Well, we did expect a hairdryer in the room. ABBY Not a problem. If you need one, (looks right at Frank) There's a K-mart 12 miles north of here. Hank looks at Frank, confused. FRANK (to Hank) Don't ask.... Maddie comes in with the burgers. Sets them on TV people's table. MADDIE Here ya go! Need anything else? They shake their heads no. MADDIE (cont'd) Okay. Ketchup is right there in front of you. Need anything else, just holler.

CONTINUED:

She goes back behind the counter.

MADDIE (cont'd) Sorry, Hank. What can I get you?

HANK I'm starving! You know what I've been thinking about having all morning? I'm going to have....

His phone rings.

MADDIE Don't answer it. You won't get lunch.

JIM He's got to answer it.

HANK (looking at Maddie, then Jim, answers phone.) Sheriff Russell speaking. .... ah huh.... ah huh.... right. Be there as soon as possible.

Hank hangs up.

MADDIE Let me guess, no lunch, right?

HANK

Afraid not.

JIM

What's up?

HANK

That was the Staties. They got an overturned tractor trailer on the interstate. No injuries or fatalities, but they need help with traffic control. We got to go.

JIM (all business-like, struts to the door.) 10-4. I'm on it.

Jim starts out the door.

HANK

CONTINUED:

Yes,	sir?	JIM
Wait	for me	HANK ∋?
Rogei	r.	JIM

Jim exits. Hank looks around at others. Smiles shaking his head, and exits.

FRANK Deputy Bell seems to be all business.

MADDIE Oh... he'll come around.

ABBY (sits at counter next to Frank) You know.... there's something about him.

MADDIE What do you mean?

ABBY I don't know. I can't put my finger on it. There's just something about him. But it will come to me. I'll

figure it out. FRANK I have no doubt.... Okay, so if

you're such a super sleuth, answer me this, where's Cathy been?

ABBY

(a bit off guard)
I .... ah.. haven't figured that one
out yet. Have either of you seen or
heard anything?

FRANK She hasn't been in the store for two weeks.

MADDIE She hasn't been in here for two weeks either.

(MORE)

30.

CONTINUED:

MADDIE (cont'd) I look across the way once in a while to see if I can catch a glimpse of her, but no luck.

ABBY (getting up, goes to window with here binoculars) I've been watching from the motel. No sign of her.

Abby continues to look out window with binoculars when Will comes in. He looks around and spots her looking towards his place with the binoculars. He sneaks up behind her.

WILL Anything interesting over there?

ABBY Not a damn thhhhhhh..... (She turns and sees Will, a bit nervous she clears her throat) Ah.... Hi, Will. Wh..wh..when did you get here?

MADDIE (trying to defuse the situation) Will! Have a seat. Got some good specials today. What'll ya have?

WILL I ain't here for no food. What's this?

He throws a business card on the counter.

MADDIE (reading the card) Oceanside Realty? Peter Bradley? Who is he?

FRANK A real estate agent.

ABBY How do you know that?

FRANK It says so on that card.

MADDIE So, what's this card have to do with me?

CONTINUED:

WILL

He came around my place wanting to talk about selling my property.

MADDIE

So....

WILL

He said he already talked to you. Thought we'd be interested in selling both properties together.

MADDIE

Look, Will, have a cup a coffee and let's talk about this.

WILL

Nothing to talk about. I'm done talking. You got a lot of nerve sending that land shark over to my place. It ain't for sale!

MADDIE

Now Will, be reasonable. You need money. I could use some, too. It can't hurt to talk to him and find out what our properties are worth.

WILL

Been here all my life. Going to die here, too. It ain't for sale. I'm telling for the last time, mind your own business!

TOM

(seeing an opportunity to maybe defuse the situation get into conversation with Will) Business! Great Segue. That's TV talk. (extends hand) Hi. I'm Tom Blake, and this is my

partner, Jill Powell.

Jill gets up and extends her hand as well. He ignores both.

TOM (cont'd) (raising his hand as if to fix his hair) Jill and I are TV producers for the Adventure Channel.

CONTINUED:

WILL Well, good for you. JILL Well, actually, we're doing a TV documentary on Whale Watching. We're here doing research and to shoot some footage of whales. WILL Really? Well here's a tip for you. There ain't any in here. (looking around the room) Maddie, you serve any whales today. FRANK Will.... WILL Look you two, if you want to see whales, (he leans in to them, points towards the sea) You got to go out there.... Tom and Jill laugh uncomfortably JILL Right, which brings us to our point. We heard you had the only whale watching boat around. We'd like to hire you. WILL There's plenty of whale watching boats down in Bar Harbor. (pronounced Bah Hahbah.) JILL Yes, but they're all booked already. WILL So I was your last choice. TOM No, yes, no, I mean, we didn't even

No, yes, no, 1 mean, we didn't even know about you. You didn't come up on Google. But down in Bar Harbor, some of the boat captains referred us to you.

CONTINUED:

WILL Well, is that so.

TOM

So, we'd be interested in hiring you and your boat to take us out to shoot some footage and do some research.

MADDIE

Wow! Will, this is a great opportunity. You're going to be on TV.

ABBY

We're going to get TV exposure. This will bring more people in to town. The motel will be full. Frank, stock up on hairdryers!

FRANK

I'm way ahead of you, Abbie. Will, this looks like your lucky day.

WILL

The boat ain't for hire.

All gasp, and are in shock. All exclaim "what's" and "why not's"

MADDIE But, Will... the money.

WILL

No but's. Forget the money. The boat ain't for hire. Case closed.

He heads for the door. Maddie stops him.

MADDIE

Will, don't you think you should reconsider? Maybe discuss it with Cathy?

WILL

There's nothing to discuss. And while we're on the subject of Cathy, mind your business. Stop peering at us through your damn windows. Goes for all of you.

CONTINUED:

FRANK Will, you have to understand, we're just concerned, like any good neighbor would be. Last we saw Cathy, she had a cold. Is it worse? WILL Ayah, right. Worse. MADDIE Oh, no. You got to be careful with these summer colds. They can turn into pneumonia. FRANK She doesn't have pneumonia now, does she? WILL Right. She's got it now. MADDIE Oh no! Pneumonia is serious. Come on, Will, what can we do to help? WILL You want to help? (takes stage, looking at all of them) You all want to help?

Then mind your own damn business!

He walks out, slams door. They all look at each other stunned.

Lights Out.

SCENE 3

A few days later, Tom and Jill are sitting at a table sipping coffee. Maddie is on the phone with Hank.

## MADDIE

(on the phone) Now look, Hank, you know, and I know, it's been over two weeks since anyone has seen Cathy. I'm telling you something is wrong. ..... I know you need probable cause to go over there. I'm not asking you to get a search warrant. But you are the Sheriff. You got a right, no, it's your job, to be concerned.... You will? Thank you. Keep me posted. I'll buy you lunch while you fill me in. Bye.

She goes over to Tom and Jill.

MADDIE (cont'd) You two sure you don't want anything to eat?

TOM No, I'm fine.

JILL

Me, too.

MADDIE

How about some coffee cake? Better grab some before Frank comes in and eats it all.

## JILL

(to Tom) Want to share a piece?

TOM

Sure. We'll take one piece and two forks.

### MADDIE

You kids, always watching your weight. Can't make any money off you two. I should charge you by the fork. And you, honey, you sure don't look like you need to watch your weight.

CONTINUED:

JILL And I plan to keep it that way. One slice, please.

Maddie goes to get the cake. The phone rings. It's Charlie again.

MADDIE

(answers phone) Good morning, Maddigan's Cafe.... Oh, hi Charlie. How's the fishin'? .... Oh, another big one? The first one wasn't enough? .... No, the walk-in is still not fixed. You're going to have to go over to the ACME again... Well, I'm sorry if he's charging you. You know I'd help if I could. You might want to give up fishin' for a while. Yup. Okay. Bye, Charlie.

She gets a piece of coffee cake, cuts it in half and brings it over on a plate with two forks. She places the dish with a flourish in the center of the table. She makes a grand gesture handing each a fork then points to the cake.

MADDIE (cont'd)

Bon appetit!

Tom and Jill majestically dig in.

MADDIE (cont'd) Well, if you two don't need anything else, I got a meatloaf in the oven to check.

Maddie exits to kitchen.

TOM We hardly know her, but I kind of like her.

JILL

Yeah, people are pretty friendly here. Nothing like L.A.

TOM Yeah, I could get used to this...

JILL Yeah, for two weeks. And then you'd be bored out of your mind. There's nothing to do here. 37.

CONTINUED:

TOM They're not kidding when they say nothing ever happens in Rocky Point.

JILL Well, it better start happening soon. We need a boat, remember?

In comes Will.

TOM Perfect timing....

WILL Where's Maddie?

JILL

She's in the kitchen checking the meatloaf. I'm glad you dropped by. We'd really like to talk to you again about your boat.

TOM

Look, time is running out. There's no other boats available. We're here. You're here, with a boat. It's a winwin situation. What's the problem?

WILL

I told you once, I'm telling again, for the last time, I have no interest in being on television or dealing with pushy Hollywood types, like yourselves.

JILL Now just a minute. Saying no is one thing. But insults....

Maddie comes in.

MADDIE

Hi, Will. You hungry?

WILL

Nope. I told you to stop spying out your window, and you did. Haven't caught you lately.

MADDIE So what's the problem?

CONTINUED:

WILL The problem? Now, when you take out the trash, you cross all the way over to the fence and try to see in our house. Now look, I've had it!

MADDIE

(getting angry herself) Ohhhh... so! Don't you have anything better to do than to spy on me while I'm spyyy.... Never mind!

WILL

Ahhh ha! What's next? You going to accuse me of domestic violence or something? Huh? What's next? You going to send the Sheriff over next to snoop around? Huh?

Maddie looks guilty. Jill and Tom silently react to all this.

WILL (cont'd) You did, didn't you? (he pulls a knife from his belt and uses it to gesture) You meddling bitch! (leaning over the counter) Like I don't have enough problems. Now you're going to get the Sheriff and that half-ass deputy poking their nose in my business!

TOM (stands up) Now just a minute!

Jill yanks him back down.

JILL Mind your own business.

WILL (to Tom) Good idea.....

In walk Hank and Jim. Will sees them and quickly sits on a stool and begins cleaning his fingernails with the knife.

JIM (sees knife, hand on gun) Everything alright here Ms. Madigan? MADDIE Ahhhh... Yup. Just fine. I was just about to ask Will how Cathy was? You would like to know how Cathy is, wouldn't you..... Hank? HANK Ahhhhh.... yeah, sure. How is Cathy, Will? She feeling better? WILL A bit. HANK Great. Maybe I'll go over and say hello. WILL No! You can't do that! MADDIE Why not? WILL Cause, she's nappin'. Can't be disturbed. She needs her rest. HANK Well, maybe she's up now. Can't hurt to check. MADDIE Yeah, I have some chicken soup in the fridge. Hank can bring it over to her. WILL I said, no! JIM And why not? (getting very official, gets right into Will's face) Sounds to me like you're trying to hide something here, Mister.

CONTINUED:

WILL Hank, you mind calling off Barney Fyfe here? HANK (trying to hide a smirk) You might want to back off a little, Jim. MADDIE No! He's right! (Maddie goes over, pushes Jim out of the way and gets in Will's face herself) Enough's enough! We want answers and we want them now! Where is Cathy! WILL Alright! Alright, you asked for it. Here's the truth. But you're not going to like it! MADDIE We'll be the judge of that. Where is she? WILL Gone. HANK Gone where? What do you mean, gone? WILL Gone. She left. MADDIE What? Why? WILL Ain't no secret around here. Not with all the spying this town does... (they all look at the floor) We've been fighting. A lot. Sometimes right in this very room. You've seen it. You've all seen it. And it's always over the same thing. JILL (raising her hand) Money?

CONTINUED:

Tom pulls hand down.

TOM Mind your own business.

WILL

You're right, little lady. Money. You two lovebirds may not be fighting over it now, but the day will come.

TOM Oh, we're not married.

WILL Then best to keep it that way!

MADDIE But gone? Gone where?

WILL

She went to stay with her cousin, Gail over in Bangor.

MADDIE Her cousin, Gail? Are you sure? For how long?

WILL

As long as it takes. Are you satisfied now. And now I'm telling you all, for the last time, leave me alone. Nothing but a bunch of nosy, snooping busy bodies. It's time for you all to just leave me the hell alone!

Will exits.

JILL

Come on, Tom.

TOM Where we going?

JILL (throwing money on the table) We need to catch up with him.

TOM Why? In the mood he's in?

JILL This may be the perfect opportunity! He's broke, lonely, angry, maybe depressed. Sounds like a perfect time to convince him to rent the boat, make some money, pay his bills and get his wife back! TOM You may be on to something there. Starting for the door. Hank stops them. HANK You two sure you want to go over there right now? JIM He left pretty angry. JILL Not as angry as our boss is going to be if we get back to L.A. with no story. HANK Still, now may not be the time. JILL We can handle him. TOM We can? JILL Oh... come on. Jill grabs Tom by the arm and they exit. HANK Jim, you better follow them. Make sure they don't get into any trouble. JIM 10/4. Jim exits. HANK Satisfied now?

MADDIE

No!

CONTINUED:

HANK Are you kidding me? Why not?

MADDIE Because he's full of shit!

HANK

How so?

## MADDIE

There is no cousin, Gail. There was, but Cathy told me a few months ago in conversation that her cousin, Gail, over in Bangor, died last year of cancer. There is no cousin, Gail.

HANK

Well, why didn't you nail him on that right then and there?

MADDIE

Because I wanted to see how far he was going to go with it. Before I could say anything, he was out the door.

#### HANK

Well, you're right to be suspicious. But we can't go jumping the gun here. There could be a second cousin, Gail, you know. We need to be sure.

MADDIE

Oh right, or a third cousin, once removed?

HANK

(a blank look) What? Oh, no. I mean another cousin, Gail.

MADDIE Oh please.... two of them?

HANK

Anything is possible. I'll check into it. And I think it's about time I start keeping a better eye on Will.

Hank's cell phone rings. It's dispatch calling.

CONTINUED:

HANK (cont'd) Sheriff speaking. Are you kidding? Mrs. Webster? Again? What is it this time?.... Right. I'm on my way.

MADDIE What's wrong with Mrs. Webster?

HANK She has a bat flying around her bedroom.

MADDIE And that's your job?

HANK Who else is she going to call? Got to go.

Hank starts for the door. Maddie grabs him, arm in arm.

MADDIE

Hank, I want to thank you for taking me seriously, and looking into this Cathy thing. I do appreciate it.

HANK Well, you could show your

appreciation by maybe a movie and beer some night?

MADDIE I'd like that. Just the movie though. I don't drink, remember?

HANK Right. Just a movie. Okay, gotta run.

A quick smile at each other, and he exits. She goes behind the counter, fills her Coke glass almost to the top. She then pulls out a bottle of whiskey from under the counter and tops the glass off. Takes a good sip.

In comes Frank. Orders a cup of coffee and reads the paper.

FRANK (sitting at counter) Just some coffee today, Maddie. Nothing else.

MADDIE Sure you don't want any cake?

CONTINUED:

FRANK No, no, no cake.

MADDIE (smiles, gets him cake) Here you go. Whipped cream?

FRANK No, no, not today.

Maddie gets out the whipped cream and squirts it on his cake. Frank takes a bite.

FRANK (cont'd) Good cake. So, any news on Cathy?

#### MADDIE

Boy, is there! Will was in here rantin' and ravin' and finally admitted in front of me, Hank, and Deputy Bell that Cathy left him to go live with her cousin, Gail.

FRANK Well, there you go. Case closed.

MADDIE Only there is no cousin, Gail.

FRANK

What?

## MADDIE

Long story, but her cousin died last year. Will is lying! And Hank is finally starting to believe me. He's looking into it.

FRANK Well, it's about time.

## MADDIE

Now, Frank. Take it easy. He needed a reason to go looking into it. Now he has it. He's a good guy.

FRANK A good guy, huh? Maybe a little more?

MADDIE

What?

CONTINUED:

FRANK Come on.... I see the way he looks at you sometimes.

MADDIE (a bit embarrassed, and flattered) Oh, Frank.... stop it.

In comes Abby.

ABBY

Hey you two, just stopped in to say I'm heading over to Bangor to do some shopping. You need anything, Maddie?

MADDIE

Nope, I'm good.

ABBY

Frank?

FRANK

Nope, I'm good.

ABBY

Just ran into Deputy Bell out there. He's a strange bird.

FRANK

I tried to strike up a conversation with him the other day and didn't get very far. Not much of talker.

MADDIE

Oh, he'll come around. You'll see.

## ABBY

Well, I was talking to old Ned Turner the other day and he swears he's seen that guy somewhere before. Of course old Ned is 90 years old and who knows what he actually remembers any more. Still....I thought the same thing. He looks familiar...

MADDIE

Well, I've never seen him before.

FRANK

Me neither.

CONTINUED:

ABBY Trust me on this, It'll come to me. You'll see.... Well, got to go.

FRANK

Me, too.

ABBY Say, any news on Cathy?

FRANK Boy is there. I'll fill you in on the way to your car.

MADDIE

See ya, you two.

Frank and Abby exit.

Abby watches them leave. She goes stage right, looking out a window. Her back is two the kitchen door. Dramatic music plays while kitchen door opens. In comes Will. He sees she's all alone. He sees the harpoon leaning against the wall and picks it up. Walking with it, he slowly approaches Abby as she sips her drink. Will accidentally bumps into a chair and makes some noise which causes Maddie to whirl around. She looks terrified.

MADDIE (cont'd) Will! How did you get in here?

WILL You should lock your kitchen door.

MADDIE Why didn't you come through the front door like everyone else?

WILL

No one saw me come in through the back door. No one knows I'm here, but you. So, we're all alone. Just the two of us.

MADDIE Now Will, stay back. Someone can walk in here any second.

WILL Who? I just saw the sheriff and deputy drive off somewhere in a hurry.

CONTINUED:

### MADDIE

Will....

WILL

Abby just got in her car and told me she's off to Bangor. Frank went into his drug store.

MADDIE

Will, please..

WILL (looks out the window) Street's deserted. No one around but you and me.

MADDIE (he has her backed against a wall) How can you be so sure?

WILL Oh.... I'm sure.

A brief stare down, then he puts aside the harpoon, and they embrace, go to kiss.

Lights Out!

## ACT 2

# SCENE 1

No time has passed. Lights up, they are still kissing. MADDIE (pushing Will away) Stop! Someone will see us! WILL (advancing again) I told you, there's no one around. He goes to embrace her again. She pushes him away again. MADDIE (shoving him back) Stop! You want to blow everything? WILL (backing off a bit) Relax, no need to shove. MADDIE Sorry. But we can't be too careful. WILL You always were a pushy broad. MADDIE Pushy? I just know what I want, and I qo after it. WILL I'm flattered. MADDIE Don't be. I wasn't talking about you. WILL Sure you were. You were always after me. Since we were kids. You finally got me. MADDIE I would have had you since high

school if you hadn't gone flirting with Cindy that night on the beach.

Cathy.

CONTINUED:

WILL That was all your imagination. MADDIE Was not. When I confronted her about it, she laughed in my face. WILL So you followed her up to Widow's Peak. MADDIE I wasn't done talking. Apparently she was. We got into an argument. WILL Argument? It was a cat fight! MADDIE And the next thing I knew, she slipped. WILL Slipped my ass. You pushed her. MADDIE She slipped. It could have just as easily been me. WILL But it wasn't. I saw..... MADDIE Do you really think I'd push someone off a cliff over you? (she laughs) Believe what you want. WILL All I know is, you took off for California after that. Next time I saw you, at your mother's funeral, you were married to some guy in a suit. A doctor. MADDIE Philip....Yes, I was married to Philip, and you were married to

51.

## WILL

Yeah, good ole Phil.... Dr. Philip Westlake, who didn't turn out to be the Prince Charming you thought he was.

MADDIE

He had other good qualities, like his wallet.

## WILL

Some bad ones, too, like an addiction to painkillers.

## MADDIE

Eventually, the good doctor turned into Mr. Hyde. He became a different person. He couldn't stay focused, his practice suffered, his patients left him, and the bills piled up.

## WILL

And then a phone call. A voice from the past.

#### MADDIE

I wasn't sure how you'd react hearing from me after all those years. After I just up and left you.

### WILL

Shocked at first, then angry. But when I heard your voice, it was like we'd never been apart.

He moves toward her. She moves away.

## MADDIE

I was desperate. I called looking for comfort. Instead you came to my rescue.

### WILL

And I never regretted it for a minute.

#### MADDIE

Once we were together again, the rest was easy.

CONTINUED:

WILL I'd never been out of Maine until I flew out to the west coast to meet up with you.

# MADDIE

You stole that car....

WILL

You went to that restaurant with Philip.

MADDIE

He was already high on Oxy, so I just slipped him a bit more in his drink.

WILL And then, when you both were on the curb, and you saw me driving up....

MADDIE

Another push.....

WILL

A hit and run. Poor bastard never knew what hit him.

### MADDIE

And I collected the life insurance money, and I decided to move back home and reopen the cafe. And you and I picked up where we left off.

WILL Except for one little problem.

MADDIE

Cathy.

WILL And now that little problem, is in your walk-in freezer!

They move in close as if ready to embrace again. The doors open, in comes Frank.

MADDIE (noticing Frank, starts to struggle and push Will away.) I told you, stay away from me!

CONTINUED:

WILL (playing along) I warned you....

Will moves in on her. Frank steps between them

FRANK Will! Have you gone crazy?

MADDIE Yes! He's crazy! You saw. He attacked me!

WILL I didn't do no such thing.

FRANK It's not what it looked like to me! You've gone too far this time, Will. I wouldn't blame Maddie if she pressed charges.

WILL She wouldn't dare....

MADDIE

Oh yeah, try me. Leave me alone, or the next time I'll call the sheriff.

WILL

Go ahead. Call him. You'll just throw more fuel on the fire. How about you stay out of my business, or else.

He moves in again towards her. Frank steps between them again.

FRANK How about you leave right now, or else.

Will backs away. Frank escorts will to the door, then sits at the counter.

MADDIE (pouring Frank a cup of coffee) Boy, am I glad to see you.

FRANK Well, it's just luck. I couldn't find my store keys. Searched my pockets, my car.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In) CONTINUED: FRANK (cont'd) Then I realized I left them on your counter. Got to say, first time I'm glad I lost my keys! MADDIE Me, too. Thanks, Frank. Tom and Jill enter. JILL What's with Will? We just passed him outside and he looks madder than usual. TOM I didn't think that was possible. JILL What's his problem now? MADDIE It's not worth getting into. Let's just say I'm glad to see Frank right now and leave it at that. FRANK So, any luck finding a boat? TOM Afraid not. FRANK And no luck talking to Will, I assume? JILL No, he's adamant about not being on TV. He still won't let us charter his boat. MADDIE So, it looks like there goes your story. JILL Maybe not. MADDIE You can't film whales without a boat. TOM Maybe we're after bigger fish this time.

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CONTINUED:

FRANK What do you mean? JILL (looking around as if to see who's listening) We're starting to think Maddie is right.

MADDIE

About what?

JILL About Will being up to something.

MADDIE (cautiously) What have you found out? (fishing) ....Is it about Cathy?

TOM

We haven't found out anything specific, but we are convinced he's up to something. And hiding something.

FRANK How can you be sure?

TOM

We've been reporters long enough to smell a good story. Maybe it's time to stop watching whales, and start watching the whale watcher.

JILL

Captain Will Carter. This could be our big break.

FRANK

Whoa.... Don't get in over your heads. Some things are best left up to the sheriff.

MADDIE

Frank is right. We like to take care of our own business here. Let the sheriff handle it.

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CONTINUED:

JILL And then let the sheriff give the story to CNN?

TOM Jill.... I don't think that's what they meant.

MADDIE I just meant.... to be careful. You don't want to mess with Will.

JILL Yeah, well, thanks, but we can take care of ourselves. Besides, you've been spying on him, too.

MADDIE Yeah, but like I said, we take care of our own business around here.

As she's saying the previous lines, Maddie moves around to front of counter and stands next to Frank who also stands up. They fold their arms and stare down Tom and Jill. Tom gets unnerved.

TOM

Jill, I think it's time we leave.

Tom and Jill begin to leave, with a nervous look.

FRANK (grabs his keys) I'll walk you out.

Maddie and Frank look at each other. The three exit. Maddie looks towards back room and the freezer. She pulls out her bottle of whiskey and takes a swig.

Lights out.

SCENE 2

The next day. Frank, Abby and Maddie are in conversation about the storm coming.

ABBY (looking outside with her binoculars) Look at that sky. The storm isn't supposed to hit until tomorrow, but that sky says otherwise.

FRANK It's going to be wicked bad. High seas, high winds.

MADDIE .... high tides, too. There's going to be flooding.

ABBY

Ayah....

They all nod in agreement. In come Tom and Jill.

JILL

(a bit apprehensive) Is it safe to come in? Are welcome?

MADDIE Sure you're welcome.

TOM Well, about yesterday...

JILL hope we didn't cross some

We hope we didn't cross some line and offend anyone.

FRANK

Forget it. We're all a little on edge around here. With Cathy missing, and how this storm coming...

JILL Wow! Yeah, did you see that sky out there?

TOM What's that old sailor's saying? Red sky at night, sailor's delight. (MORE)

CONTINUED:

TOM (cont'd) Red sky in morn, sailors be warned. What does that mean exactly? ABBY It's going to rain. MADDIE Oh, Abby.... it's going to do more than rain. There's a big storm coming up the coast. Haven't you two heard? JILL No, we've been busy working on our story. MADDIE (cautiously) .....which story? JILL Both, actually. Get this. We were in Will's house! FRANK Does Will know? ТОМ Of course Will knows. He let us in. MADDIE (trying not to look shocked) What? TOM He let us in. JILL We went over one more time to ask about the boat, and this time, he actually invited us in. FRANK Let me guess, still no luck with the boat? JILL No! Actually, he's going to charter us the boat!

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TOM

We had to agree to crew for him to keep the cost down, but he's taking us out.

#### MADDIE

When?

TOM

Tomorrow.

FRANK

In this storm?

MOT

Maybe he doesn't know about the storm. Anyway, we've got more news. While we were there, we did a little investigating of our own.

JILL

We saw a bunch of cold medicines on the kitchen table.

FRANK

So what, Cathy had a cold, remember?

#### JILL

Yeah, but if she was so sick wouldn't she have taken her medicines with her? And wait until you hear this! There were two suitcases in the living room.

FRANK Maybe they were Will's.

MOT

Pink ones, with the initials CC on them? Cathy Carter?

## JILL

If Cathy went away to visit her cousin, she would have packed those meds in those suitcases! And the suitcases would be gone!

ABBY

(to Jill, sarcastically)
No shit, Sherlock.
 (to all the others)
Will's been lying!

#### MADDIE

Hold on, Abby. We're all worried
about Cathy. But all this is
circumstantial.
 (she turns her back to them with
 a look of confusion and concern)
There could be logical explanations
for all of this.

FRANK

Still, it is strange. Can't be any harm in telling the sheriff what these two have seen.

MADDIE

The sheriff is out of town on a training exercise. He won't be back till tomorrow. Do you really want to tell Deputy Bell?

ABBY I vote we wait till Hank gets back.

FRANK

I second that.

MADDIE All in favor, say ayah....

They all say, "ayah".

JILL (to Tom) They really do take care of their own around here.

TOM

Ayah....

Jill rolls her eyes.

FRANK

Well, I got to get over to the drugstore. I have to get up those storm shutters before the winds come.

ABBY

Yeah, I'm right behind you. I need to check that sump pump. Don't need no flooded basement.... again.

Frank and Abby leave.

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

What about you two?

TOM

We have nothing to batten down.

JILL

(staring at him)
We're supposed to be picking up
supplies for the boat trip, remember?
 (to Maddie)
Will gave us a list.

MADDIE Well, you better get going before it gets nasty out there. Although I doubt you'll be taking any boat trips tomorrow.

JILL Still, we better get this stuff. We don't want Will changing his mind. Come on, Tom.

Tom and Jill exit. Maddie is wiping down the counter, shaking her head. Will peaks in through the kitchen.

WILL Psssst.... Coast clear?

MADDIE Get in here! What the hell is going on? You let those kids in your house?

WILL (chuckling) Ayah... Left some evidence around, too. Pretty clever, huh?

MADDIE Clever? A blind person would have seen it. How obvious can you get?

WILL

Yeah, that's the point. Those two "investigative reporters" want a story so bad, so... I gave them one.

MADDIE

But why? I called and told you they planned to snoop around. I told you they think you're up to something. And what do you do? (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE (cont'd) You Bonehead, you let them in? And plant phony evidence? I don't get it!

WILL

Calm down, this will give them something to chew on while we get on with our plans.

MADDIE Yeah, but what if they figure the whole thing out?

WILL They're not going to get a chance.

MADDIE

What do you mean?

WILL

Look, we don't need no Hollywood types poking around before or after we get rid of Cathy's body. So, we get rid of those two.... with Cathy's body!

MADDIE

You mean....?

WILL

Still plenty of room in the freezer.

They both get wide-eyed as if suddenly both on the same page.

WILL (cont'd) All you got to do is mix up some more of your "special" coffee. The kind you gave Cathy.

MADDIE

And then what?

### WILL

Well, make sure you make it stronger this time. With Cathy, didn't quite knock her out and I had to finish her off. With these two, they'll just freeze to death in the freezer before they wake up. More humane that way....

## MADDIE

(sarcastically) Great. We had one body to get rid of. Now we're going to have three? We had a plan. Now what?

#### WILL

It's the same plan. We just sink the boat with three bodies instead of one.

### MADDIE

When? It better be soon. They're already wondering about Cathy and sooner or later someone is going to be looking for those kids.

WILL Relax. Tomorrow is the day.

MADDIE

But the storm....

WILL

Exactly. Perfect weather for a boat to sink. We couldn't have planned better ourselves.

MADDIE

But when do we move the bodies?

WILL

After midnight. The storm will have started. No one is going to be out and about at that time in that weather. That's when we move them over to the boat.

#### MADDIE

And you're really going to take the boat out in this storm?

WILL

The boat can handle it.

### MADDIE

So explain again, how is this all going to work?

WILL I take the boat just past the shelf, about 12 miles out. (MORE)

CONTINUED:

WILL (cont'd) The drop off there is deep. I open the sea cocks and I get in the skiff.

MADDIE

And you just happen to be towing the skiff?

WILL

I'll say they wanted to be able to film shots of my boat from a distance. You need another boat to do that. So, we towed the skiff.

MADDIE

Brilliant! And the boat sank.... because?

WILL

Rogue wave! Laid her over on her side. I was on the bridge. Tom and Jill were on deck. They were tossed into the sea. I made it to the skiff. The other two didn't.

MADDIE

And you searched and searched...

WILL

And I couldn't find them.

### MADDIE

And as long as you say you saw them go into the water, no one will want to dive down to the boat and look for bodies!

# WILL

Exactly!

MADDIE And what if something happens to you?

WILL

Afraid you won't get the insurance money for the boat?

MADDIE No! I'm worried about you.

WILL Just before I get off the boat, I'll send out a mayday. I'll radio my position to the Coast Guard. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL (cont'd) I'll tell them we were hit with a rogue wave and the other two were swept over the side. I'll say I'm taking on water fast. Abandoning ship. Then I'll get in the skiff..... and wait.

Tom and Jill walk in.

WILL (cont'd) Ahhhh... there you two are. Been looking for you. Did you get everything I told you to get?

JILL Most of it. There's a few things we

Maddie is preparing two cups of coffee.

didn't get yet.

TOM The wind is already picking up. The storm must be getting close.

JILL Are you sure it's going to be safe to go out tomorrow?

WILL You questioning me? Want to call the whole thing off?

JILL

No, but...

WILL I've been sailing longer than you two

have been alive. Besides, some white water will make for some dramatic shots.

TOM He's right. We bought every last pack of Dramamine Frank had. We'll be fine.

JILL If you say so. We didn't even leave the dock yet and I'm already chilled to the bone.

Jill shivers.

CONTINUED:

MADDIE (hands them their coffees) You better drink this. It's going to get a lot colder....

Maddie and Will smile as Tom and Jill sip their coffees.

Will goes over and locks the front door.

Lights out.

## SCENE 3

Lights up on Maddie looking out the window. Will comes in from the freezer.

MADDIE Did you take care of them?

WILL

For now. They're in the freezer. Hands, feet and mouths all duct taped up. They're not going anywhere. Are you sure you gave them a double dose? We don't want them waking up like Cathy did.

# MADDIE

Don't worry. They're out for the count. They'll freeze to death before they ever wake up.

WILL You better be right. So, now what?

#### MADDIE

First, you better unlock the door. It's not quite closing time yet. We don't want people coming over here and wondering why I'm closed.

WILL

(unlocking the door.) Good thinking. And I better make myself scarce until after dark.

## MADDIE

Good idea. What time will you be back?

### WILL

Well, you close at nine. And it's dark by then. When you turn out the lights and put out the closed sign, I'll come around back to the kitchen door.

### MADDIE

How are we going to get them over to your place and on the boat? It won't be easy.

### WILL

I know. I'm thinking we can wrap them up in some blankets and drag them. By the time we have them wrapped up and ready to go the storm will be raging outside. No one is going to be out and about at midnight in that kind of weather.

## MADDIE

So we get them out of the freezer and over to your place. It's still not going to be easy to get them down to the end of the dock and onto the boat.

#### WILL

Well what do you want me to do, call UPS and have them delivered to the boat? Look we get them over to my place. I have some wooden crates over there. We put them in the crates and use the hand truck to get them down the dock and onto the boat. Once they're on the boat and we throw them down in the hold, the rest is easy.

#### MADDIE

If you say so.

WILL What, don't you trust me?

MADDIE Do I have any choice?

CONTINUED:

WILL Not anymore. We're in this together, Baby. There's no turning back now.

MADDIE

And in a few months we'll have the insurance money from the boat, the two properties sold, and we'll be living on a beach somewhere.

WILL

Well, let's not put the cart before the horse. We have a lot to do tonight.

MADDIE And you better get out of here.

Will goes to embrace and kiss her, but she turns away.

MADDIE (cont'd) Plenty of time for that later. You better go.

Will turns to head for the kitchen. The front door opens and in comes the Sheriff.

HANK Going somewhere, Will?

MADDIE There's no trouble, Hank.

WILL Yeah, I was just leaving.

As Will heads for the kitchen, Deputy Moran comes from the kitchen and stops Will.

JIM You're not going anywhere just yet.

WILL

And why not?

HANK Because we'd like you to come down to the station and answer a few questions about Cathy's whereabouts.

WILL Oh for crying out loud, not this again.... 69.

MADDIE Actually, Hank, Will was just explaining to me what's really up with Cathy. HANK Well, I think it's about time I hear, too, don't you? WILL Well, ahhhhh.... The truth is,.... the truth is.... MADDIE The truth is, she left him for someone else. WILL Ahhhh, right. I didn't want to say anything. It's embarrassing. MADDIE Remember that guy, Steve Woodward, the one who was staying at Abby's motel for a couple of months? HANK Yeah, the guy who was here writing a book? MADDIE That's the guy. Well, his name wasn't Steve Woodward. He made it all up. Cathy met him online. They had an affair going on right under our noses over there at Abby's motel. HANK Even Abby didn't know? That's hard to believe. MADDIE I know, but I guess they were real careful. Anyway, the short of it is, she ran off with him. WILL (going along with Maddie's story)

Maddle's story) Ayah... that's the truth, sheriff. She up and left me for someone that didn't smell like fish. (MORE)

WILL (cont'd) She grabbed some things, got in his car and they drove off. That's the last I seen or heard from her.

MADDIE And that's what Will is doing over here now. He decided to finally tell me the truth.

WILL I figured she had a right to know.

HANK (pondering all this that he's just heard) Man, how can someone be so cold....

Will and Maddie exchange a look.

JIM (coming up from behind Hank) Well, sheriff, then there's just one thing left to do.

Jim takes his nightstick and hits Hank over the head with it. Hank goes down.

JIM (cont'd) (drawing his gun and pointing it at Maddie and Will, who are in shock over what just happened.) Well, the plot thickens, doesn't it.

MADDIE What just happened here? Why?

JIM You two don't recognize me, do you?

MADDIE No, should we?

JIM No surprise. It's been a long time.....

WILL What the hell is going on?

He starts to move towards Jim.

CONTINUED:

JIM (pointing gun at Will) Don't do anything stupid. MADDIE Who are you? JIM You don't remember me, but I bet you remember my sister. WILL Who's your sister? JIM Cindy Matthews? Will and Maddie gasp. MADDIE You're Jimmy Matthews? JIM Yup. Little Jimmy, that's me. All grown up now. And I've waited a long time for this. WILL For what? JIM Shut up!! Maddie and Will cower a bit. JIM (cont'd) That's better. Cindy was my older sister. Right up until the day you pushed her off Widow's Peak! WILL That's not true. Where did you get an idea like that? JIM I saw you do it! MADDIE That's not true. There was no one... WILL Shut up!

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#### JIM

But there was.... Mom and Dad didn't know I snuck out of the house. I was spying on your little beach party. I saw my sister get into a fight with Maddie. Then I saw her run up the path to Widow's Peak. I started following her because I worried she'd get hurt. But you two beat me to it. I got up there just in time to see Maddie push Cindy over the edge.

### MADDIE

That's not true. That's what you think you saw. She lost her footing and I tried to save her.

JIM

Bullshit. I know what I saw. (pointing to Will) And you, you just stood by and watched.

WILL

Jimmy, it was too late. There was nothing I could do. (pointing to Maddie)

She did it! She did it all by herself! I had nothing to do with it!

### MADDIE

Shut up, you coward! I'm not taking
the blame for this myself.
 (to Jim)
So if you were there, and saw
everything, why haven't you ever told
anyone?

JIM I was a little kid. I was scared.

## WILL

Of what?

#### JIM

Well, if you threw my sister off a cliff, what would you do to me? I didn't want to be next. Then you moved away, and you went into the Navy, so I stopped worrying.

WILL

But you still didn't tell. Why?

CONTINUED:

JIM Because I knew this day would come. MADDIE So what now? You going to arrest us? JIM Nope. MADDIE Don't you want justice? JIM (Jim is progressively getting crazier) Nope. I want revenge! MADDIE Look, Jimmy, we can talk about this. JIM Nothing to talk about. I've been practicing for this day for a long time. WILL What do you mean? JIM My parents died in our house fire. Who do you think started the fire? MADDIE Oh my God, you? JIM Yup. Yours truly. I didn't set out to kill them. I just wanted to scare them. It got out of hand. But I liked it.... MADDIE Jimmy.... JIM Once I got a taste, it got easier and easier.... WILL

Jimmy....

JIM

There was Old Lady Perkin's cat. Flew right off of Widow's Peak. Learned that day cats can't fly. (he laughs maniacally) Then there was that stray dog... Found out dogs can't fly either. Splat! I thought about seeing if Old Lady Perkins could fly, but they put me in foster care before I got the chance.

WILL

Alright. We get the picture. So what are you going to do with us?

JIM

Simple. You're going to join my sister. And the dog and cat. We're all going to take a little walk out to Widow's Peak. And you two are going to jump.

MADDIE You can't make us jump!

JIM

Then I'll shoot you, and throw you over. Easy Peasy.... Either way, say hello to my sister!

MADDIE Jimmy, you need help.

JIM

No, I got this. Come on, lets go.

## MADDIE

But Jimmy, you're an officer of the law. You need to do your duty. Arrest us!

JIM Do you think I care about that?

WILL You can't reason with him, Maddie. He's crazy!

JIM

(laughing)
I'm crazy? I'm not the one with three
bodies in the freezer!

CONTINUED:

Maddie and Will look at each other, not sure how to address this.

MADDIE (almost afraid to ask) You... know about the bodies?

JIM Of course I know about the bodies. I'm a trained professional. Thank God Hank isn't. I was hoping he wouldn't find out what you two were up to before I got a chance to throw you off the cliff.

Hank begins to come to. He slowly starts to stand up. Jim leans over him.

JIM (cont'd) How was your nap?

Hank reaches for his gun, which isn't there.

JIM (cont'd) Now what did I tell you about not carrying your gun? Didn't I tell you something like this was going to happen some day?

HANK

(groggy) Jim, I heard pretty much everything. Look, this isn't your fault. We can get you some help. Just give me the gun.

JIM Sorry, Hank, right now I seem to be the only one competent enough to carry a firearm. So, are we ready?

HANK

For what?

JIM Well, time to head up the hill!

The door opens and in come Abby and Frank.

ABBY

What a night!

CONTINUED:

FRANK The storm is really beginning to howl out there.

JIM Gee, all of a sudden the whole damn town is here.

Jim points the gun at them.

JIM (cont'd) You two, move over here with the others.

Frank and Abby do as they're told. They look scared.

JIM (cont'd) This is turning out to be some party. Oh well, the more the merrier. It's looking like there's going to be a whole flock of dead ducks flying off of Widow's Peak tonight!

He laughs again. While he's laughing, Abby hands a revolver to the sheriff she's been hiding behind her back.

HANK (pointing the gun at Jim) Alright, Jim. Put the gun down.

Jim sees the gun Hank has and raises his gun, pointing it at Hank. Hank fires first, hitting Jim. Jim goes down. Hank goes over to check for a pulse.

HANK (cont'd) (checking Jim's pulse) He's dead.

The rest look shaken. Abby heads towards Maddie to comfort her.

ABBY Maddie, are you alright?

HANK (grabbing Abby by the arm) Hold it, Abby. Stay away from those two. I'll explain later.

Pounding and cries for help are heard from the freezer.

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HANK (cont'd) Frank, go check the walk-in. I think you'll find two very cold TV producers in there. WILL

(to Maddie) I thought I told you to double the dose!

MADDIE I thought I did!

HANK

What dose?

WILL Nothing. Never mind.

HANK

What do you mean, nothing? There's three dead bodies in your freezer!

WILL My freezer? It's not my freezer! It's her freezer!

MADDIE Whoa, hold on, I'm not taking the rap for this alone. You're in this as deep as I am!

WILL I don't think we should say another word. We want a lawyer.

HANK And you're going to need one.

Frank comes out with the two TV producers wrapped in blankets. Frank is looking a little green around the gills.

FRANK You were right. They were in there. Half froze, but alive. Can't say the same for Cathy. She's in there, too.

HANK

I thought so.

WILL See? So it's not so bad. Just one dead body, not three.

MADDIE

CONTINUED:

They exit.

Shut up, you idiot. HANK (shaking his head) You two were meant for each other.... TOM I'm freezing! JILL Me, too. Can we go? We need a hot shower. HANK Sure. Go over to the motel and warm up. But I'll need a statement from the both of you in the morning. FRANK I'll walk with them. I'll get them some electric blankets from the store. TOM Well, so much for whale watching ... JILL Are you kidding? (slaps him on the back of the head) The big story is right here, and we're part of it! HANK Abby, I got just one question for you. ABBY Now hold on, Sheriff. I got a permit for the gun. HANK No, no, that's not the question. I'm glad you had it. But how did you know we were in trouble over here? ABBY

Well, I was minding my own business, cleaning my binoculars....

They all roll their eyes.

ABBY (cont'd) (clearing her throat) When I saw Will go in through the back door of the kitchen here. Then, a little while later, I saw the sheriff go through the front door, and the deputy go through the back door.

They all lean in to listen....

ABBY (cont'd) Well, when a known troublemaker like Will, and law enforcement like Hank and Jim are in the same place, it is my civic duty to keep a watchful eye on the situation.

They all lean in a little closer...

ABBY (cont'd) When I accidentally looked through the window with my binoculars and saw Deputy Jim waving a gun around, I knew something was wrong and I called Frank. I grabbed my gun and we snuck over and peeked through the window. That's when we saw the sheriff getting up off the floor with no gun. So, we came up with a plan to sneak my gun in and hand it over to Hank.

HANK And you just happened to be cleaning your binoculars, huh?

ABBY Yup. Lucky for you they were dirty.

HANK

We're all just glad they were.

Hank and Abby chuckle.

Will and Maddie look at each other with hatred in their eyes, then they put their heads in their hands in defeat.

CONTINUED:

ABBY And folks say nothing ever happens in Rocky Point!

Lights out.

The End