

GAG RULE

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FADE IN

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

A jury foreman holds a piece of paper aloft so he can see in better light for a dramatic reading of the verdict.

He adjusts his bifocals then CLEARS his throat loudly.

JURY FOREMAN
Lawrence Miller is found guilty
of sexual misconduct.

DOLORES MILLER (28), who is thin and timid, looks stunned.

Her handsome husband, LAWRENCE MILLER (28), almost faints while shaking his head 'no' in disbelief.

He stands silently, tears streaming down his cheeks.

She grabs his arm in sympathy.

SPECTATORS CHEER as though at a sporting event.

Teenage GIRLS twitter as they tweet the news to friends.

Dolores SOBS as her attorney comforts her.

A REPORTER has a newspaper in hand.

We SEE the headlines superimposed on the screen.

TEACHER WHO TELLS SEXUAL DREAM TO
STUDENT CONVICTED AS A SEX
OFFENDER.

Lawrence stares at his wife solemnly.

LAWRENCE
My license to teach has been
revoked. I have to register as a
sex offender wherever we live or
I can be sentenced to as much as
a year in prison.

Dolores hugs him for a moment.

DOLORES
The last two years have been a
nightmare-and now this.

BAILIFF opens the door.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Lawrence and Dolores exit the courthouse.

LAWRENCE

My face has been plastered all
over TV and in the newspapers.

A TV ANNOUNCER blocks their path.

TV ANNOUNCER

Are we seeing the rise and fall
of the town's music man? A High
School celebrity, teacher and
band conductor was just found
guilty of being a sex offender.

A REPORTER butts in.

REPORTER

How much do we know about his
shadow side? What will happen to
Dolores Miller and their two
preschool children? Convicted on
multiple counts of sexual
misconduct with his female
students he could be sent to
prison.

ON SCREEN VIDEO: Live TV feed, news clips showing Lawrence's
achievements continuously run in the background.

REPORTERS close in on them and their attorney.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

Don't you feel a bit guilty that
there are so many minors
involved?

Dolores shoves the reporter aside.

ATTORNEY

The judge put a gag rule in place
preventing us from talking about
the case with the press. That
means journalists and other news
sources.

Reporter shoves a microphone in Lawrence's face.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

Lawrence Miller stood trial on 14 felony counts based on accusations brought against him by a music student. She's only 15 years old. Did he force her to participate in sexual acts over a 3 month period?

Three TEENAGE GIRLS give each other conspiratorial nods, grin smugly. Lawrence is ushered into a police car that drives away.

The CROWD CHEERS and nudge each other in celebration.

CUT TO:

SUPER IMPOSED CAPTION: 'TWO YEARS EARLIER'.

INT. MUSIC THEATRE - NIGHT

A small theatre filled with GUESTS in seats.

Several ADULT ACTORS mill around waiting to do their bit.

CHOIR members dressed in assorted funny costumes primp and help each other straighten their garments.

WIND instruments tune up.

A BASS drum booms a few times.

Lawrence, dressed in a pristine suit and tie, steps onto the stage in front of a red curtain.

CITIZENS smile at him.

We see how respected he is.

Everyone waves or grins at him.

Lawrence glances around the audience.

He makes eye contact with some of the attendees.

Guests glance at each other, waiting for what comes next.

He nods his head a bit, closes his eyes for a second then re-opens them as the curtain re-opens.

With a somewhat arrogant though charming posture, Lawrence turns to face adults who are seated on-stage, dressed in white, holding various instruments.

He quickly turns to the audience, gives them a look that says not to applaud until the performance is finished.

Lawrence turns back to the musicians and uses a baton to conduct the musical performance.

He moves powerfully along to the music.

Lawrence closes his eyes throughout the performance.

MUSIC ENDS.

Audience applauds.

Lawrence stands at the center of the stage.

He bows his head while the performers remain seated.

Lawrence remains on stage in front a bit longer.

Guests get out of their seats.

They enjoy wine and snacks displayed on two long tables on one side of the room.

Soft MUSIC plays overhead.

Lawrence's current employer, RICHARD ANDERSON (60s), bald, with a well-kept beard, and out-going personality approaches.

He stands next to Lawrence near a small group of PEOPLE.

Richard pats Lawrence on the back.

RICHARD

You've really outdone yourself
tonight. The show was fabulous.

Dolores who is obviously pregnant brings two glasses of wine.

She hands one to her husband and keeps the other for herself.

Lawrence takes the wine from her gently and wags his finger.

LAWRENCE

You're not getting our baby
drunk.

She smiles and nods 'okay.'

He sips from one glass, then the other.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Dolores, I was just complimenting your husband for going above and beyond with tonight's performance.

DOLORES

It was beautiful.

RICHARD

Lawrence, it's a shame we are going to lose you next month.

RICHARD (CONT 'D) (CONT'D)

Are you sure there's nothing we can do to change your mind about the move? Lawrence puts his arm around his wife.

Delores smiles happily.

LAWRENCE

I'm afraid it's not in the cards.

RICHARD

We hate to see the best music teacher in town, heck on this planet, leave! What if we put a plaque on the wall with your name on it? We can't offer you a raise because of funding.

Lawrence shakes his head 'no'.

He places his hand on her expanded belly.

LAWRENCE

With a baby on the way, health benefits are a must.

RICHARD

High school band students will be quite different than teaching music to a room full of adults. Know what you're in for?

He CHUCKLES.

Lawrence frowns slightly.

LAWRENCE

I'm always up for a challenge. You never know- it could be fun.

(MORE)

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I promised Delores that once she got close to having the baby we'd make the move.

Richard raises his glass as a toast.

Lawrence raises his too.

They CLINK their glasses together and then take a drink.

FADE TO:

EXT. HOUSE - SMALL TOWN - MORNING

A U-haulvan pulls up to a modest yellow and white home. Lawrence and Dolores exit the U-haul.

They take a few steps back to look at their new abode.

LAWRENCE

What do you think? It's freshly painted. Newly re-modeled inside.

DOLORES.

You did great, honey.

Lawrence looks at the dying grass in the front yard.

LAWRENCE

Lawn could use some work. You can plant Marigolds in front, I'll put in a few privacy hedges. It'll be good as new.

Dolores smiles, rubs her expanded belly.

DOLORES

Sounds like a plan.

He puts his arm around his wife and holds her close.

LAWRENCE

Can you imagine living here the next twenty, thirty years? A couple a' kids running around in the backyard. Barbecues with the neighbors! No city noise to keep us up at night.

He kisses Dolores on the cheek with childlike enthusiasm.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
 It'll be the perfect small town
 life we've always dreamed of!

Dolores smiles to herself.

DOLORES
 I like how that sounds.

Lawrence stands at back doors to the U-Haul.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - TEACHER'S LOUNGE - MORNING

The High School Principal, MRS. ERICKSON (40s), stands at the front of the room, speaking to a dozen or so teachers about the school year.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON
 I am confident this school year
 will be a big success for both
 staff and students.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON (CONT'D)
 My door is always open to address
 any questions or concerns.

Lawrence walks in and goes over to a coffee pot that sits on a table and pours himself a cup of coffee then has a seat.

LINDA REYNOLDS (30s), English Teacher, sits next to Spanish Teacher, TERI LANE, and leans in close to her.

LINDA REYNOLDS
 Who's the hottie at three
 o'clock?

Both women glance over at Lawrence and giggle like schoolgirls.

TERI LANE
 Must be our new music teacher.

LINDA REYNOLDS
 Heck, I'd like to have him teach
 me a few things...and I'm not
 talking music.

TERI LANE
 Easy tiger, he's married.

LINDA REYNOLDS
 Aren't they all.

Linda glances over at another male teacher; MR.

ANDERSON, an overweight man in his forties with bad skin and the start of a uni-brow, dressed in a suit that looks like it belongs to his dead uncle.

LINDA REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

Look on the bright side. We've still got one single teacher here. Maybe if he joined weight watchers and plucked that uni-brow he wouldn't be half bad.

Mr. Anderson catches their stares and smiles. He has a piece of food in his teeth. Both women cringe.

LINDA & TERI

(in unison)

...Never mind.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON

Some of our goals from last year that I'm happy to report were accomplished through extra funding and hard work over the summer are as follows; The track has been re-surfaced and is much smoother than most of you remember.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON (CONT'D)

We no longer have to worry about students tripping and falling on it while running due to the many small holes in it. The tennis courts were totally re-built. The football field has been re-sodded, and new bleachers have been installed.

Mr. Anderson throws a fist in the air.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON (CONT'D)

(motioning toward him)

A big thank you to Mr. Anderson here, who fought passionately to get the new bleachers installed after the bottom row collapsed when he was sitting on it last winter. Thank Goodness his injuries were only superficial.

Mr. Anderson waves off the attention.

MR. ANDERSON

I'm okay. I'm okay. It was just a twisted ankle.

A bell rings. A few teachers get up.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON

Oh, and one last thing before you all leave. As you know we lost our beloved music teacher, MR. EMMERSON, last year when he lost his battle with cancer. He taught here for over 30 years and was a fixture on campus..I'd like to welcome his replacement, Lawrence Miller, to our school.

Lawrence stands up and waves a short hello to everyone.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON (CONT'D)

Lawrence comes highly recommended, and already has a long list of accomplishments at such a young age. I hope he fits into our school and stays as long as our last music teacher.

A few teachers nod or say hello to Lawrence.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - MUSIC ROOM - DAY

Lawrence is setting up his classroom. A few boxes are scattered about and he is unpacking another.

Rows of beautifully polished instruments are set up next to student chairs and music stands.

Linda Reynolds enters the music room.

LINDA REYNOLDS

Knock knock.

Lawrence turns around. Linda approaches.

LINDA REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

I'm Linda Reynolds. I teach English, over in that building across the way.

LAWRENCE

Lawrence Miller. Nice to meet you, Linda.

They shake hands.

LINDA REYNOLDS

You almost all set up for your first day?

LAWRENCE

Getting there. I have a few more things to unload.

Linda notices the instruments and goes over to them.

LINDA REYNOLDS

I don't think I've ever seen these dusty old instruments so polished before.

LAWRENCE

I like to keep my instruments in top notch condition.

LINDA REYNOLDS

Oh- Um. Me and some of the other teachers were just about to go to lunch and we were wondering if you'd like to join us?

Teri and another female teacher are standing outside looking in at them.

LAWRENCE

I appreciate the invite, but I have a lunch date with my wife in an hour.

LINDA REYNOLDS

Maybe some other time. Well, if you need any help getting settled in or have any questions, you know where to find me.

She points in the direction of her building.

LAWRENCE

In the building across the way.

Linda nods. Waves goodbye and leaves.

Lawrence turns around and smirks to himself and continues unpacking.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - NURSERY - NIGHT

Dolores is hanging up a carousel with small puppies on it over a new white crib. The walls are painted blue and several stuffed animals are laid out in the crib.

Dolores turns a lever on the carousel and MUSIC PLAYS.

Lawrence enters and walks up behind Dolores and wraps his arms around her stomach. The music stops.

DOLORES

How was your first official day
as a staff member?

LAWRENCE

Good. Met some of the other
teachers, got everything set up.
Made sure all of the instruments
were in pristine condition.

DOLORES

Do you like the carousel? I
thought puppies would be cute.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

And it plays music.

LAWRENCE

I heard it when I came in.

Dolores looks around the room and smiles.

DOLORES

I can't believe I'm about to be a
mommy. I've been dreaming of this
day since I was a little girl. I
think I'm gonna cry when I hold
my newborn baby in my arms.

Lawrence is looking up something on his cell phone.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Did you hear me?

LAWRENCE

Uh huh.

DOLORES

Don't you feel the same way?

LAWRENCE

Yes, I like the carousel too.

Dolores turns and sees his phone then turns back around with a
somewhat uneasy expression on her face.

EXT. MILLER HOUSE - MORNING

Lawrence is mowing the lawn. He turns off the lawn mower.

A car pulls into the driveway of the house next door.

A couple in their early thirties exits. The man, DAVID GONZALEZ, is Hispanic and athletic looking.

They walk over to Lawrence.

DAVID GONZALEZ
You must be our new neighbor? I'm
David and this is my wife Joni.

JONI, a petite blonde, smiles and nods hello.

Dolores exits the house with some flowers in small crates.
Lawrence waves her over.

LAWRENCE
Honey, meet our new neighbors.
David and Joni.

DOLORES
Hi.

Joni shakes Dolores' hand and Dolores shows her the dirt on her hands.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
Sorry about the dirt. I was just
transplanting some flowers I
picked up at the store.

JONI
The place will look great with
some fresh flowers. So where are
you two from?

LAWRENCE
We're from about six hours north
of here.

JONI
Oh, I like it up there, it's near
the coast. What brought you here?

DOLORES
(putting her arm around
Lawrence)
Lawrence was offered a teaching
position at the local high
school. He's the new music
teacher.

DAVID GONZALEZ
You must be quite the teacher if
you're taking old Mister
Emmerson's place. He was amazing.

LAWRENCE

That's what everyone keeps telling me.

DOLORES

Lawrence is a pretty amazing teacher himself. He was at the top of his class all through college.

LAWRENCE

Don't forget voted most likely to succeed in high school.

DOLORES

You should have seen what he did at his last job. He transformed the town's adult music program.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

The program director nick named him The Magic Man cause he swore magic came from his fingertips.

LAWRENCE

They even offered to name the building after me in order to get me to keep teaching there, can you believe that?

Dolores kind of gives her husband a look, noticing he is exaggerating.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

But music is not just about the monetary rewards that come with it. You have to have passion in order to do some of the things I do.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I had three different high schools courting me to fill their music positions at the same time and your little town won me over.

DAVID GONZALEZ

...Is that so?

LAWRENCE

I figured this town looked as good as any of the others.

DAVID GONZALEZ

(joking)

Enough about you, Einstein. Tell us about you, Dolores.

Lawrence looks a little annoyed and upset by the remark.

DOLORES

Oh, I'm a teacher as well. I teach the sixth grade. And, I'm...we're expecting our first child in the next few months.

Joni looks at Dolores' belly.

JONI

Oh, how exciting. Do you know what you're having yet?

DOLORES

We wanted it to be a surprise.

A station wagon pulls into Joni's driveway. An older woman and two small children are in it.

DAVID GONZALEZ

It was nice meeting you both. We'd better go rescue my mother-in-law from our kids. She's had them all weekend.

David and Joni DONwalk away.

JONI

(as they walk)

What do you think of them?

DAVID GONZALEZ

The wife seems sweet. He seems a bit arrogant. I didn't think he was gonna stop talking about himself and all his grand achievements.

JONI

Be nice. We do have to live next to him, you know.

DAVID GONZALEZ

He doesn't seem like a bad guy. Just slightly conceited. But I guess nothing's wrong with that.

Joni and David unload their children from the station wagon.

INT. DOLORES' CLASSROOM - FIRST DAY - MORNING

The bell rings.

STUDENTS throw things at each other, ignoring Dolores who smiles shyly and stands at the front of the room.

She waits until the noise dies down a little.

TAYLOR BISHOP, a boy student, uses a cell phone behind a raised notebook to cover what he's doing.

Dolores waddles over, with a hand on her pregnant belly, and eases the notebook back slowly.

Taylor looks embarrassed, ends the conversation, hands the phone over to her.

She turns the phone off, hands it back to him.

DOLORES

Conversations in this class will be between you and I or you and me. I am not trying to be technical. The idea of communication is opening yourselves up to possibilities.

The boy reaches into his shirt pocket, fondles the phone then lets go of it.

Dolores gazes at him for a second.

TAYLOR

Making sure you turned it off. My batteries die fast in this thing.

Dolores ignores him and walks down the aisle between desks.

DOLORES

Having a sense of direction?
Anyone know what that means?
Raise your hands.

No one answers.

ANOTHER MALE STUDENT

Are you pregnant?

DOLORES

Yes, I am.

ANOTHER MALE STUDENT

Then why are you teaching?

DOLORES

Because I have to work like everyone else. Now back to my question. Who knows what having a sense of direction means?

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Shout it out if you know what I mean or believe you have one.

No one raises a hand.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

I want everyone to consider what sense of direction might be. North, South, East or West? No. Life is not a compass.

TAYLOR

I had a compass but couldn't figure out how to plug it in.

Dolores frowns.

DOLORES

In this case we are discussing a life plan. Where are you going? Who are you? Will anyone see a mark you make in the future?

Taylor holds up his hand.

TAYLOR

Like this scar I got playing basketball?

He grins broadly.

DOLORES

I don't think 'scar' is the right word; It implies damage. Leaving a 'mark' can be positive. Making a difference is what you are after.

The class MUMBLES.

TAYLOR

I forgave my brother. He knocked out my front tooth.

He pulls out a partial plate to show his missing tooth gap.

DOLORES

Yes, well if you can just put
your tooth back in Mr--

She looks at the class roster for his seat number.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Bishop, Taylor Bishop - seat 7
row C.

TAYLOR

Just call me Taylor.

Dolores looks uneasy for a second and turns on one heel to
return to the front of the room.

She waddles up the aisle to her desk and sits down.

INT. MUSIC CLASS - MORNING

Lawrence is dressed in a black suit that almost resembles a
tuxedo and is more appropriate for a wedding or the symphony.

Students meander in and sit down in chairs.

Lawrence straightens his tie and then grabs a piece of chalk
and walks over to a small chalkboard and writes: LAWRENCE
MILLER on it. Then he writes LAWRENCE below that.

LAWRENCE

Welcome to your first day of
music class, everyone. My name is
Lawrence Miller and I'm your new
teacher.

A male student, JOSH BROWN, raises his hand.

JOSH BROWN

What would you like us to call
you?

LAWRENCE

You can call me Lawrence Miller,
Mr. Miller, or Lawrence if you
prefer. Whatever you're
comfortable with.

JOSH BROWN

Cool.

LAWRENCE

What's your name, man?

JOSH BROWN
(surprised)
Josh!

LAWRENCE
Nice to meet you, Josh.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
This is my first time teaching
music students of your age and
I'm really looking forward to
getting to know each and every
one of you and becoming good
friends.

Some OOHS and AAHS are heard around the room and the students
appear more relaxed and comfortable.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Just because this is school
doesn't mean there's any reason
it can't be fun, right?

Random students are heard agreeing with Lawrence.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
That's what music's all about!
Having fun. Being hip. Being
cool. Listening to a tune on the
car radio on a boring rainy day
with your foot on the gas as you
burn rubber and see how fast you
can go...that can just pick you
up and change your mood. You know
what I'm talking about?

Some of the students nod.

SAMANTHA, a petite brainy-looking girl with glasses raises her
hand. Lawrence nods toward her.

SAMANTHA
He's chewing gum!

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Mr. Emmerson never let us chew
gum in here.

Samantha points at a red-haired boy with a baseball cap. He is
about to remove the gum when Lawrence interrupts.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Well, he's dead and I'm your teacher now and I say you can chew gum in here just as long as you throw it away before you touch the instruments.

The class gets instantly quiet. Samantha's eyes widen.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

And you have to share with the teacher.

Lawrence walks over to the red-haired boy and opens his palm. The boy immediately takes out a piece of gum and gives it to Lawrence.

Lawrence walks over to the rows of instruments.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

No, these aren't new instruments if that's what you're wondering.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I spent the last few days polishing and repairing all of the old instruments.

FEMALE STUDENT

Wow. Those look brand new.

Lawrence smiles, quite proud of himself. He pops the piece of gum into his mouth.

FADE TO: DON

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DEN - CHRISTMAS DAY

Dolores, now thin, sits on the couch wrapping some last minute gifts. Her three month old infant daughter is asleep in a bassinet next to her. Soft Christmas music PLAYS overhead.

Lawrence puts a log in the fireplace in the background.

Dolores' father, DON PARKER (50s), athletic build, stands next to Lawrence, TALKING with him.

Dolores' mother, BETTY PARKER (50s), an older version of Dolores with the same quiet demeanor, walks over to her with two cups of tea.

BETTY

I brought you some tea.

DOLORES

Thanks, mom. Just set it down
somewhere.

DOLORES (CONT 'D)

I wanted to wrap this gift for
Lawrence's parents before they
get here. Do you think they'll
like it?

Dolores is holding a cappuccino machine.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

I thought about returning it for
something else just last night..

BETTY

I'm sure they'll appreciate
whatever you give them, honey.

Betty takes a peek at the sleeping baby.

BETTY (CONT'D)

She looks exactly like you when
you were that age. Like a
sleeping angel.

KNOCK on door.

Dolores grins as she quickly finishes wrapping the gift.

Lawrence immediately walks over, scoops up the sleeping baby,
who starts CRYING, then goes and opens the door.

Lawrence's parents, ANNE and DOMINIC, both in their mid-
fifties, enter joyfully LAUGHING.

ANNE

Oh! The baby looks just like
Lawrence. Except she has a full
head of hair. Oh such heartburn
for the mama when the baby has a
lot of hair. Poor Larry had a
bald little head.

She tries to rustle Lawrence's hair but he dodges her motherly
hand.

Anne walks over and hugs Dolores.

ANNE (CONT'D)

You did good, honey. The baby is
adorable. Merry Christmas, dear.

DOLORES
Merry Christmas.

Anne hugs Betty next.

ANNE
So nice to see you again, Betty.

Dolores motions toward the gift on the couch.

DOLORES
I got you a little gift.

ANNE
Oh, honey, you didn't have to.
You're always so sweet.

LAWRENCE
Would anyone like anything to
drink?

DOMINIC
Anne says I have to drive her to
buy shoes later. No drinking yet.
Ha, ha. He picks up a music book
from the side table.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
How's your job at the High School
going, son? You've been there,
what, about five months now?

Lawrence nods and hands the baby off to his mother to hold.

LAWRENCE
Not what I expected but I'm
adjusting. Small towns hold very
little danger or excitement. But
the pay was feasible, plus I can
get a good bonus each year if I
get the music department in top
shape, and the marching band wins
at Nationals..I've got my work
cut out for me. But I'm always up
for a challenge.

DON
It's a good thing Dolores has
you. She could be making triple
the pay if she continued her
education and followed her
original goal and became a school
Administrator.

(MORE)

DON (CONT'D)

Heck, those Principals, even Vice Principals, make a couple hundred thousand a year. She just has to toughen up! And quit being so mousy.

Dolores looks embarrassed.

BETTY

Easy honey.. Some people just aren't made to be in charge.

DON

I suppose so.. Lord knows she has the brains for it!

Dolores goes to a Christmas tree, hangs an ornament on it.

Anne removes the trinket and hangs it higher up.

ANNE

Here honey, I think it looks better up here.

Dolores looks a little offended but then gives a fake smile.

DOLORES

(taking baby)

I can take her. Looks like she's finally falling back to sleep. She woke up five times last night.

Dolores walks over to the bassinet and lies the baby in it.

Lawrence walks to Dolores and places a hand on her stomach.

LAWRENCE

Since you're all here, we might as well let you in on the news.

Anne's eyes light up.

ANNE

No! Don't tell me-

LAWRENCE

We're expecting! Dolores is four weeks pregnant.

Anne yells out in exhilaration.

DOLORES
(whispers to Lawrence)
I thought we agreed to wait to
tell everyone.

Dolores looks a little embarrassed.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
...I wasn't planning on getting
pregnant again so quickly.
Especially two months after
giving birth. It just kind of
happened.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
And of course the doctor
recommended to wait a year.

DON
(to Dolores')
The female body is like a rubber-
band. You'll snap back.

Don smacks Lawrence on the back.

DON (CONT'D)
Knock me a boy this time, right
outta the park.

LAWRENCE
That's what we're hoping for. You
know how impatient I am. I gotta
have my boy!

DON
Good work Lawrence. Hey, where's
that delicious dip your mother
always brings?

LAWRENCE
Follow me. It's in the kitchen.

The baby wakes up again and starts crying.

DOLORES
Oh, I'd better get her.

Betty gives her daughter a sympathetic look then glances down
at her own wedding ring on her finger.

INT. MUSIC CLASS - DAY

Students are seated in chairs playing instruments and looking at their music books displayed on small music stands before them. Music fills the air; with some students being off-key here and there.

Lawrence stands at the front of the room with a pointer, looking very professional.

He then starts to move around the room, quickly helping each student who is off-key. Lawrence is swift and uses his pointer or a quick whisper in the ear to guide the students.

Principal Erickson and the school SUPERINTENDENT, a balding man in his sixties in a nice suit and tie, pop their heads into the classroom to survey how the class and teacher are doing.

A smile of delight fills Mrs. Erickson's face. She whispers something to the man next to her, who also looks impressed, and jots down some notes on her clipboard then closes the door.

The music ends.

LAWRENCE

Good work, guys. You've come a long way since the beginning of school.

The red-haired boy grins.

RED HAired BOY

I never thought playing an instrument could be fun.

LAWRENCE

You were ready to give up after the first week, remember. But you stuck it out and got better. That's called dedication!

The red-haired boy nods.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

And the chicks dig it! Right ladies? There's nothing hotter than a guy in a band!

Some of the girls laugh.

ANGIE BELL (15), a slightly overweight girl with long light brown hair, freckles, and green eyes throws up her hand.

ANGIE BELL
Yes...Angie?

ANGIE BELL (CONT'D)
Can I do my solo, Mr. Miller.

LAWRENCE
Be my guest.

Angie picks up her instrument, a horn, and carries it to the middle of the room. Her eyes light up when she puts her mouth on it and stares directly at Lawrence, who gives her a somewhat sexy smile.

Angie performs a short solo with the horn.

ANGIE BELL
How did I do?

LAWRENCE
That was much better than last time.

Lawrence walks over to Angie and places his hand on the back of her neck and gives it a little friendly squeeze.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
If you can stop by after school today, I can give you a few pointers to perfect it.

ANGIE BELL
I'd love to.

The bell rings.

INT. SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Students sit at long tables that fill the cafeteria and eat lunch.

Mr. Miller sits at the end of a table in the corner of the room, filled with male and female students, and eats lunch with them.

Linda Reynolds, Teri Lane and an older female teacher stand in the lunch line. Linda and Teri look over at Lawrence.

LINDA REYNOLDS
Don't you think it's kinda odd that Lawrence has eaten lunch with the kids every single day since school started?

TERI LANE

Oh, you're just mad cause he
still hasn't taken up your offer
to join you for lunch.

LINDA REYNOLDS

'Us' for lunch.

OLDER FEMALE TEACHER

How many times did you invite him
before you gave up?

LINDA REYNOLDS

(frowns)

Six...And who says I gave up?

TERI LANE

Maybe you should bribe him with
something to get him to join us
adults in the teachers' lounge
for lunch.

LINDA REYNOLDS

A good looking man like that who
seems to have everything he
possibly needs..what could I
possibly bribe him with?

Teri glances down at Linda's chest and clears her throat.
Linda gives Teri a friendly slap and they laugh.

LINDA REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

Oh, stop that!

OLDER FEMALE TEACHER

Or maybe if you were a high-
school girl he'd pay more
attention to you.

LINDA REYNOLDS

What's that supposed to mean?

OLDER FEMALE TEACHER

Oh, nothing...I just see things
is all.

TERI LANE

Like what?

OLDER FEMALE TEACHER

Like a lot of his female students
hanging out in his classroom
after hours...But I'm just an old
woman, what do I know?

LINDA REYNOLDS

Well, I know he's very dedicated to his craft. And he's completely transformed the school band in a matter of months. He's even gotten several of the kids who were on their way to dropping out or being kicked out of school to have perfect attendance.

Lawrence is laughing with some of the kids at the lunch table in the corner. He high-fives one student and then grabs his hat and puts it on his head backwards, goofing off.

OLDER FEMALE TEACHER

I know. I know. I've heard all this before...But I still find it a bit unsettling that a teacher is that friendly with his students.

EXT. MILLER HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - EVENING

A brand new red convertible pulls into the driveway. The driver's side door opens and Lawrence hops out, looking like an excited teenager. He hurries into the house.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Dolores steps into the living room and sees Lawrence.

DOLORES

Oh, good, you're here. Dinner's ready.

Lawrence is practically trembling with excitement. He waves at Dolores to follow him outside.

LAWRENCE

Follow me my lady! I've got something to show you.

DOLORES

What's going on? What are you so chipper about?

The front door swings open and Lawrence goes outside.

EXT. MILLER HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - EVENING

Lawrence holds out his arms in a pose; as if to display the car.

LAWRENCE

Tada!

DOLORES

What do you mean, tada?

LAWRENCE

It's a convertible. Do you like it?

DOLORES

Whose car is that?

LAWRENCE

It's mine! I mean 'ours.' I just got back from the dealership!

DOLORES

You bought a car? Are you joking?

Lawrence's smile drops.

LAWRENCE

No, I'm not joking.

DOLORES

But- But why would you think it's OK to buy a brand new car?

LAWRENCE

I thought I deserved a new car.

DOLORES

But the mortgage on the house won't be paid off for at least 15 years.

(puts hand on stomach)

And I'm pregnant with our second child.

LAWRENCE

You don't sound happy. Do you not like the car? Don't you think it's pretty?

DOLORES (CONT'D)
Of course it's pretty, but I
think it's irresponsible to buy a
new car right now.

Lawrence huffs and turns and walks into the house, upset.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

The baby, who is seated in a high-chair, is crying. Dolores picks her up and tries to soothe her.

A pot roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad and green beans are displayed on the kitchen table.

Lawrence walks over to the cupboard and grabs a box of cereal and starts pouring it into a bowl.

DOLORES
What are you doing?

Lawrence walks to the refrigerator, gets a carton of milk and goes back to the counter and pours some into the bowl.

LAWRENCE
I'm eating cereal for dinner.

DOLORES
But I made pot roast.

LAWRENCE
No, no. I don't deserve pot
roast.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Since I'm so irresponsible, I can
eat cereal for the next six
months.

DOLORES
Lawrence, you're being
ridiculous.

Lawrence's eyebrows perk up.

LAWRENCE
First I'm irresponsible and now
I'm ridiculous! Think how much
money we will save on the grocery
bill.

The baby starts to cry louder.

DOLORES

You're scaring the baby, honey.

Lawrence walks over to a drawer and gets a spoon.

LAWRENCE

The school thinks I'm a success.
The students think I'm a success.
The principal thinks I'm a
success. You should see the three
evaluations she's given me on my
performance this year. But my own
wife thinks I'm a failure.

DOLORES

I didn't say that Lawrence. You
know I don't think that.

LAWRENCE

You know, when I bought that car
I wasn't just thinking of myself.
I was thinking of you and how
much fun you would have driving
it.

Lawrence walks over to the table and sits down and dips his
spoon into the cereal and unhappily eats a spoonful.

Dolores's eyes widen and she walks over to him and places a
hand on his shoulder.

DOLORES

I'm sorry I got angry,
sweetheart. You're a success and
if the car makes you happy I want
you to keep it.

LAWRENCE

You're not just saying that?

DOLORES

No, I really mean it. I'll go
over our budget tonight and
figure out a way to fit in the
payments.

Lawrence's expression immediately changes. He looks up at
Dolores, and he almost transforms into a different person.

LAWRENCE

The pot roast looks tasty!

INT. MUSIC CLASS - DAY

The students chatter amongst each other and practice their various instruments in their seats.

Lawrence sits in a chair next to three other chairs that form a small circle next to Angie and two other female students.

LAWRENCE

OK, now all three of you do it at once.

Angie PLAYS her horn and the two other girls play their flutes. All three of the students look at Lawrence dreamy-eyed, instead of their music sheets, as he pays them special attention while they practice their instruments.

Mrs. Erickson peeks her head into the classroom and Lawrence stands.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Keep at it girls. Remember we strive for perfection here!

Lawrence walks over to greet Mrs. Erickson.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Hello, Principal Erickson. It's so nice of you to stop by.

MRS. ERICKSON

It's always great to hear your students perform, Lawrence. But that's not the only reason I stopped by. I received this notice today.

Mrs. Erickson hands him a white envelope.

MRS. ERICKSON (CONT'D)

We've been invited to perform at State Finals this year!

He pulls a letter out from inside and glances at it with a big grin on his face.

MRS. ERICKSON (CONT'D)

This is just fabulous. Your first year teaching here and already State Finals. Do you think these kids are ready for this?

Lawrence nods.

LAWRENCE

I'll make sure each and every one
of them is in tip-top shape.

Mrs. Erickson leans in close to him.

MRS. ERICKSON

...I have to tell you Lawrence,
not even old Mr. Emmerson was
able to get the students to state
finals his first year on the job.
In fact, it took him five years.

Lawrence, still beaming, looks down at the letter again.

MRS. ERICKSON (CONT'D)

(as she walks away)

I expect to hear great things
when it comes time for finals.

Mrs. Erickson leaves the room. The students continue to
PRACTICE.

Lawrence dramatically walks over to a drum set, picks up two
drumsticks, and has a seat. Instantly, he pounds on the drums
with the drumsticks, bowing his head and performing what
sounds like a rock-n-roll solo.

The students look on with excitement, wondering what's going
on. A few whistle and hoot and holler.

Lawrence finishes and then raises his arms to the sky, still
holding the drumsticks.

Lawrence stands up and walks to the middle of the room.

LAWRENCE

We're on our way, class! We've
been invited to perform at State
Finals this year!

The students erupt in cheer.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

So that means we have about three
months to sharpen our skills,
kids.

The class quiets down. Lawrence turns and walks toward his
desk.

When Lawrence turns back around, he is taken aback. A
stunningly beautiful girl with long black hair, green eyes,
beautifully pale skin, and a body to kill for walks through
the door. This is sixteen-year-old NATALIE DANIELS.

Natalie looks around the classroom.

Lawrence's eyes are still locked on her. She spots him and then walks over to him and hands him a slip of paper.

NATALIE

Hi. I'm Natalie Daniels and I just transferred into this class.

Lawrence takes the slip of paper from her hand and looks at it then back at her.

LAWRENCE

..And what made you want to transfer in over halfway into the school year?

NATALIE

Well, I heard it was fun.

Natalie glances over at Angie who is still sitting near the other two girls who hold flutes.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

I'm also a vocalist. I won first place in the local Rising Star singing competition three years in a row.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Angie here won second place those same three years.

Natalie has a seat in the empty chair next to Angie.

LAWRENCE

Prepare yourself, my dear. You have a lot of catching up to do.

NATALIE

(flirtatiously)

I plan on it. I'm always up for a challenge, Mr. Miller.

LAWRENCE

Lawrence. Call me Lawrence.

NATALIE

Lawrence.

Angie glares at Natalie in annoyance then looks away. Natalie is giving Lawrence a sexy smile. Lawrence's ego has an instant uptick, which is shown all over his face.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Lawrence enters the house, excited.

Dolores, dressed in a floral dress, is bent over, dusting the television stand with a green dust wand.

Dolores pops up and notices her husband.

DOLORES

Hey, I didn't hear you come in.

With a determined look in his eye, Lawrence walks directly over to his wife, scoops her into his arms and presses her against the wall and kisses her.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Wow, what got you all excited?

They are directly across from the large picture window.

LAWRENCE

I was just thinking about you...that's all.

DOLORES

Oh really?

Lawrence fingers, then slowly unbuttons the front of her dress.

LAWRENCE

Remember when we first met in college? I saw you across the room wearing that little white virginal dress and you got me so excited.

Dolores giggles.

DOLORES

How can I forget.

He hungrily kisses her down the neck then on her bosom as he undoes her bra.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Lawrence? What are you doing?

Lawrence slides a hand up her dress and pulls down her panties.

LAWRENCE
(kissing on her neck)
What does it look like I'm
doing...

DOLORES
Right here?

He helps her lift one leg at a time and removes her panties.
They drop to the floor.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
We can't do that here. Let's go
into the bedroom.

Lawrence puts a finger to her lips.

LAWRENCE
Shhh.

He presses against her.

DOLORES
What if one of the neighbors sees
us?

LAWRENCE
They can watch.

Lawrence reaches down and lifts up one of Dolores legs and
wraps it around his waist.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Tell me how much you want me.

DOLORES
I want you..So much.

Lawrence continues.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
You're the most brilliant,
amazing and successful man I
know.

Lawrence's face fills with pleasure at her comments.

CAMERA FADES OUT
AS DOLORES MOANS IN PLEASURE

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Dolores is sitting alone in the waiting room. She looks at her watch.

Dolores notices a happy looking couple sitting a few chairs over from her. The woman is about six months pregnant, and her husband sits there holding her on the hand.

The door to the building opens and Dolores anxiously looks up, hoping it's Lawrence, only to see a handsome man in his forties enter.

A woman in her twenties exits from the Doctor's office, carrying an x-ray, and the man rushes over to her and the two excitedly look at the picture of their baby. He caresses her lovingly and gives her a kiss.

Dolores glances downward, sadly.

INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Lawrence is walking through the quiet hallway carrying some papers.

He walks by the boy's bathroom, which has the door propped open. A coughing noise is heard inside.

Lawrence pauses and hears another strange NOISE, then, looking curious, goes into the bathroom.

INT. SCHOOL - BOY'S BATHROOM - DAY

A teenage boy is lying on the floor next to a sink. Lawrence immediately rushes over to his side and lifts up the boy's head as foam comes out of the boy's mouth.

Lawrence pulls his cell phone from his pocket and dials 911 as he continues to talk to the boy.

LAWRENCE

Mariano, what did you take?

The boy's eyes are barely open and he is close to passing out.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

(into cell phone)

Yes, I'm gonna need an ambulance
at the high school ASAP!

(MORE)

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

We have a student here in the boy's bathroom that just collapsed and is foaming at the mouth.

INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Mariano, with an oxygen mask over his mouth, is being rolled out from the boy's bathroom on a stretcher by two EMTs. Lawrence is right by his side.

LAWRENCE

You're gonna be alright, Mariano. These guys are gonna get you to the hospital and fix you up! Hang in there, kid.

Mariano is wheeled out of the building as a dozen teachers and several students who are staying after school look on.

A short Hispanic teacher, MRS. VASQUEZ, approaches Lawrence.

MRS. VASQUEZ

What happened?

LAWRENCE

I found him lying on the bathroom floor and I was able to keep him just conscious enough for him to finally tell me what he took. He said he thought it was Ecstasy.

MRS. VASQUEZ

These kids and their drugs.. They'll put anything into their bodies without having a clue what it is. When will they learn.

Teri Lane, who is standing next to Mrs. Vasquez, chimes in.

TERI LANE

I don't know what would have happened to him if you didn't find him in there. You saved that boy's life. You're a real hero.

LAWRENCE

Nonsense, I just happened to be walking by at the right time and heard him.

Everyone around hears this and goes instantly quiet.

Moments later, three loud claps are heard. It is Mr. Anderson. The others join in and applaud Lawrence. Lawrence tries to act humble and brush it off.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - EVENING

Lawrence enters the house and sets his stuff down on a table then goes into the kitchen.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

Dolores is putting saran wrap over a meatloaf and then walks toward the refrigerator, ignoring Lawrence.

LAWRENCE

What's all this? Don't I get dinner?

Dolores turns and goes back to the refrigerator and retrieves the meatloaf and cuts a piece and sticks it on a plate and puts it in the microwave.

Lawrence gets a beer from the fridge and cracks it open. He stares at Dolores, who stands near the microwave.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Why are you so quiet?

DOLORES

Why didn't you show up for my Doctor's appointment today?

The microwave beeps and Dolores turns to it and pulls out the plate with her bare hand. She flinches because the plate is hot. She turns around and bumps into Lawrence who is now standing directly in front of her.

LAWRENCE

I told you I'd try to go and I did.

Lawrence stays standing right in front of her. Dolores puts her head down.

DOLORES

Lawrence, the plate is burning me.

Lawrence takes the plate from her.

LAWRENCE

It's not even that hot.

DOLORES

Oh.

LAWRENCE

Don't you ever speak to me in such an accusatory voice again, do you hear me?

DOLORES

Sorry Lawrence, I didn't mean to sound so-

Lawrence just turns and starts to walk away, cutting her off.

LAWRENCE

Yeah, right.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I'll eat my dinner in the living room.

Lawrence walks toward the other room. He turns back.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

And for your information, I saved a student's life today. That's why I missed the God Damn appointment.

Lawrence leaves the room. Dolores starts to sniffle and cry in silence.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - MORNING

Dolores glances down at a newspaper that is sitting on the kitchen counter, as if waiting for her to find it.

INSERT NEWSPAPER: "HERO TEACHER SAVES STUDENT'S LIFE." A PHOTO OF LAWRENCE GIVING A HUMBLE WAVE IS UNDER THE TITLE.

EXT. MILLER HOUSE - MORNING

Lawrence exits the house with his briefcase.

David is standing outside his house, holding a folded up newspaper. He waves the newspaper at Lawrence.

DAVID

Heya' Lawrence. Good work!

Joni, who is watering some of her flowers, smiles an admirable hello in Lawrence's direction.

Lawrence waves then gets into his car and pulls out of the driveway.

INT. MUSIC CLASS - DAY

SINGING is heard off screen.

We see Lawrence pointing at a music scale on a chalkboard.

Students talking in background.

Lawrence points at the class to be quiet and then back at the chalk board.

Natalie starts singing the notes again.

Angie starts laughing.

Lawrence motions for Angieto sing.

Angie starts singing the notes.

The class LAUGHS.

Lawrence goes to a keyboard and plays the notes.

He messes up.

Everyone laughs with him.

LAWRENCE

Not exactly.

Natalie and Angie sing the notes but together.

ANGIE

I think I've got it.

NATALIE

Something like that.

Lawrence plays the notes correctly on the keyboard.

He shows the class those notes on the chalk board.

LAWRENCE

It's a simple formula but saves
you a lot of time learning the
sharps and flats.

Natalie starts to sing the few notes correctly.

Angie sings them right after Natalie stops singing.

Lawrence nods his head 'yes'.

The others students boo them.

Angie and Natalie glare at them in mock anger.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I believe we've found a new pop
star, maybe two.

Natalie smiles, nods her head yes.

She points a thumb at herself.

Angie stares at Natalie and shakes her head no.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

All right. That was very
interesting and has me somewhat
flushed from the intensity.

He pulls out his shirt collar.

Lawrence fans his hands in front of his face.

Students laugh uneasily.

Natalie and Angie sit down in their seats.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Back to what I was saying, there
are harmonic frequencies in
everything. The earth is in
harmony. Have you ever heard of a
vacuum cleaner?

Students boo.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Next time you turn it on against
your will or otherwise, listen to
the blend of sounds it makes.

He strolls back and forth in front of the class smiling, moves
sinuously like a snake charmer in the circus.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

The motor hums with a deep tone.
Its belt may make a whining
sound. And the sucking sound of
dirty air coming into a large
bag.

Students LAUGH.

Lawrence looks curious, realizes what he said and blushes.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Excuse me ladies and gentleman,
back to matters at hand.

Students laugh again.

Natalie taps Angie on the shoulder and shows her a close-up photo she just snapped of the front of Lawrence's pants. Angie gives her a shocked look then laughs.

Lawrence exits the classroom then comes right back in.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Now for something completely
different.

He picks up a textbook opening it to a chapter.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
The notes Natalie and Angie sang
were the ones I found on a vacuum
while cleaning my stairs. I heard
harmony, left it on and went to a
piano. Those notes were in
harmony.

He looks proud of that announcement.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
In this case they were in C
major, the most common key for
beginning guitarist and piano
players. Please explore alternate
key tuning and avoid C major.
It's boring.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Oh, the sign up sheet for the
High School Talent show will be
on my desk tomorrow. Don't forget
to sign up as a talent or crew
member. We can use all the help
we can get!

He looks at his cell phone.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Everyone go home or wherever you
people go. I have a wife and her
class is letting out too.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Off with you now. Study for the
exam. Cheat with each other if it
helps.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Remember, it's not cheating if
you learn something from it!

The students stand and collect their belongings.

NATALIE
(to Angie)
He has a wife?

ANGIE
Yeah, she's a teacher, too.

NATALIE
Oh. For some reason I pictured
him as being a single bachelor
type.

Angie starts to leave. NATALIE stares at Lawrence across the room. Their eyes meet for a second, then Lawrence looks away.

INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Lawrence posts a babysitter ad on the bulletin board.

Natalie stops to read it, then tears off a piece of his ad with the phone number on it.

NATALIE
I'll take it!

Lawrence turns to see Natalie.

LAWRENCE
Do you have any baby-sitting
experience, dear?

NATALIE
I used to watch my cousins when
they were babies.

LAWRENCE
Well, I'll have to run it by the
boss-the wife, and with any luck,
you can start next week.

EXT. LAWRENCE'S BACKYARD BBQ- DAY

Dolores is combing her daughter's hair. She tries to smooth out a sprig of hair that won't lie down.

Lawrence is barbecuing hamburgers and hotdogs at the grill.

David stands next to him drinking a beer. Dolores and Joni are sitting at a table over to the side with their children.

Lawrence is in the middle of a story he's telling.

LAWRENCE

So, I told him, 'Hey, if you're not gonna eat that maybe you should return it. The poor guy's been slaving in the kitchen all day.' He felt bad, left the cook a twenty dollar tip and was on his way. Little did he know, there was no cook - someone had bought the food at Costco and cooked it up. So, I took the tip, donated it to a youth program and was on my way!

David smacks Lawrence on the shoulder and laughs.

DAVID

Lawrence, you always tell the best stories!

Lawrence grabs some paper plates.

LAWRENCE

Looks like the grub's ready.

Lawrence and David serve the food and sit down at the table to eat. Lawrence gets some cold beers from the ice-chest and hands them out and cracks one open for himself.

Natalie comes into the backyard as they're drinking. She waves at Lawrence. Lawrence gulps down the rest of his hotdog then waves Natalie over.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Everyone, this is Natalie. She's one of my music students. Actually, she's here to see you, Dolores.

NATALIE

Lawrence told me to stop by about the baby-sitting job. I hope I'm not interrupting.

LAWRENCE

No, sit down, have something to eat. Do you like wieners?

Joni, who is already tipsy releases a laugh through her nose that sounds like a cross between a laugh and a snort.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Grab yourself a hotdog from the grill.

Natalie walks over to the grill. Lawrence gives Joni a look.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Joni...that wasn't how it's sounded.

Joni is trying not to laugh. Dolores picks up her daughter and puts her on her lap.

Natalie walks over with a plate and has a seat. She immediately looks at baby CAROLYN and the baby smiles at her.

NATALIE

Oh, she's so cute. What is her name?

DOLORES

This is Carolyn.

NATALIE

Hi, Carolyn. I'm Natalie.

LAWRENCE

What do you say, honey. Is she hired?

DOLORES

I just had a few questions.

Natalie nods.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Do you have any experience with children?

NATALIE

Yes, I baby-sat my nieces and nephews when they were this age.

DOLORES

And do you know what to do in case of an emergency?

NATALIE

Oh yes, I'm CPR certified and I also got my first aid card as well.

Joni, who is taking another drink of her beer, chimes in.

JONI

Impressive.

DOLORES

And are your parents OK with you baby-sitting? It will just be part-time, mostly so I can get a little break and if me and Lawrence have special events we need to go to.

NATALIE

Do I have the gig?

DOLORES

You can start Saturday at 9 a.m. We have to go shopping and I have papers to grade stacked to the ceiling.

NATALIE

Oh, thank you, Mrs. Miller. Me and Carolyn are gonna have so much fun.

Carolyn releases a little squeal. Natalie quickly eats her hotdog, stands up, deposits her plate to the nearby trash bag, and starts to leave.

DAVID

Leaving so soon?

NATALIE

My dad wanted me to get home before 6 P. M.

Natalie waves and heads back home.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Natalie is sitting on the living room floor with Carolyn. Some of her toys and baby games are spread out on the ground.

Dolores stands holding her purse next to Lawrence.

DOLORES

All the emergency contact numbers are on the fridge..Is there anything I'm forgetting?

LAWRENCE

Honey, she'll be fine.

(MORE)

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Natalie has things under control here, and we'll only be gone a few hours.

Natalie presses a button on one of Carolyn's baby books and it makes a NOISE. Carolyn copies her and presses it too.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Natalie, feel free to help yourself to anything in the fridge.

NATALIE

Sure thing.

DOLORES

OK, we'll see you soon.

Dolores and Lawrence leave. NATALIE again pushes a button on Carolyn's book and it makes a noise. Carolyn GIGGLES.

INT. MALL - NEWBORN SECTION - MORNING

Dolores and Lawrence are looking at baby clothes. Dolores is looking at some white and cream colored one sizes.

Lawrence is checking out some outfits for baby boys. He grabs a tiny suit and a pair of race-car theme pajamas off a rack. Then sees some boys shoes and grabs those too.

LAWRENCE

Can't forget the shoes.

Dolores notices him.

DOLORES

You gonna get all those?

LAWRENCE

Yep.

DOLORES

Maybe we should stick to neutral colors until we find out what we're having?

LAWRENCE

Oh, no. We're having a boy!

Dolores smiles at how excited Lawrence is.

DOLORES

Oh, really. Is that what we're having?

Lawrence puts his arms around his wife.

LAWRENCE

Don't you know I have magic powers?

Dolores giggles.

DOLORES

Tell me about these powers, Mr. Miller.

LAWRENCE

I can look right into the future and see a brand new baby boy.

They walk over toward the register and set down their items. A gray haired woman behind the counter rings them up. A woman and her daughter, LORI, a petite girl with glasses, whisper to each other then approach.

WOMAN

Mr. Miller. I'm Lori's mother. I just wanted to meet you. You've really helped my Lori blossom in music.

LAWRENCE

Lori's a pleasure to have in class.

WOMAN

Well, it was so nice to finally meet the great Mr. Miller this whole town's been talking about.

LAWRENCE

Thank you.

The woman and her daughter leave. Dolores pays for her items.

WOMAN BEHIND CASH REGISTER

Is this your first baby?

LAWRENCE

We also have a little girl.

Across the mall, Lawrence notices Angie and another girl looking at bras. Angie holds one up and looks at it.

WOMAN BEHIND CASH REGISTER

So one of each. That's wonderful.
I can just tell how in love you
two are. And you really do look
like the perfect family.

Lawrence kisses his wife on the cheek.

LAWRENCE

That's what we strive for.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

No less than perfection, as my
mother always says.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - NURSERY - DAY

NATALIE places a sleeping Carolyn in her crib.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - LAWRENCE/DOLORES BEDROOM - DAY

NATALIE flips the light on. She steps into Lawrence and Dolores' bedroom and looks around. Her eyes land on the queen size bed with a white down comforter.

NATALIE walks over and has a seat on the bed and bounces up and down a few times then gets back up.

She walks to the open closet. Lawrence's suits and shirts are lined up on hangers. NATALIE runs a hand across his shirts.

She pulls one of his suits out and buries her nose in it and smells it.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

Lawrence and a group of a dozen students are preparing for the Talent Show.

Angie and some other girls are on stage practicing a song together in the background.

Lawrence walks over to some kids who are painting large cardboard cutouts of green bushes.

LAWRENCE

(to a student)

A little more green on this one
and it will be perfect.

Natalie enters the gym and Lawrence looks at his watch. She approaches him with watery eyes.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Are you okay, Natalie?

NATALIE

It's my parents. They are prohibiting me from any after school activities...including the talent show..unless my grades improve.

Natalie starts to tear up some more.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

I don't know what I'm gonna do.

Lawrence takes his handkerchief and wipes Natalie's eyes.

LAWRENCE

There. There. Don't worry, sweetie. We'll think of something.

Lawrence pulls Natalie close to him and gives her a hug. Angie, who is still on-stage across the room, stops singing and looks directly at them.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dolores is setting the table. She and Lawrence are in the midst of a conversation.

DOLORES

I don't know if I'm the right person to tutor her?

LAWRENCE

You're the perfect person! Honey, I really don't want her to lose her part in the talent show. She's part of the closing act...

DOLORES

Well, I suppose I can tutor her in trade for some of the baby-sitting she's been doing. And, she can help with some chores around the house. But I want to OK it with her parents first. I don't want them thinking we're taking advantage of her.

Carolyn, who sits in her high-chair, starts to cry. Lawrence picks her up and talks baby-talk to her.

LAWRENCE

(to Carolyn)

Whose the bugga-boo baby monster?

Whose the little bugga-boo!

Carolyn giggles and touches Lawrence on the cheek. Lawrence walks into the living room. Dolores watches them and gives a soft smile, loving when this side of Lawrence comes out.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The gym is packed with around 200 people who are here for the High School Talent Show. Dolores sits in the crowd with Carolyn on her lap.

A skinny kid is on stage doing a juggling act. He finishes, takes a bow, and everyone, including Dolores, applauds.

The curtain closes and the lights dim. Some Disney-like music plays and the curtains open. The stage has quickly been decorated with glittery flashing fireflies and green cardboard cutout hills.

Natalie walks onto the stage dressed in a white silky pantsuit. She walks over to a microphone and sings a beautiful rendition of a Disney-esque Song. Her voice is beautiful and breathtaking.

Half-way through the song, Natalie suddenly stops singing and bows her head. Then Angie, and seven other students, walk onto stage, some coming out from behind the cardboard bushes, and line-up.

Natalie snaps her fingers and some hip-hopish music instantly comes on and with Natalie in front, the students all do a hip-hop dance to the music, for about two minutes.

The music suddenly stops again, the dancers freeze, and Natalie walks over to the microphone again and the Disney-esque music comes back on and Natalie sings one last final verse ending the song, then does a little bow.

The crowd goes crazy and applauds loudly. Whistles are heard throughout the place. A bunch of people in the audience start shouting Lawrence's name.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS

MI-STER MILLER! MI-STER MILLER!

MI- STER MILLER! MI-STER MILLER!

The sound of audience members rumbling their feet is heard as Lawrence appears on stage. He takes hold of Natalie's hand and a male student's hand, and together they bow on stage.

The audience members give a standing ovation.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - LAWRENCE/DOLORES BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores sits on a stool brushing her hair as she looks at herself in the vanity. She is wearing a short silk blue robe that ties at the waist around her well-defined stomach.

Lawrence slowly creeps into the room. He is holding a small camera and looking at Dolores through it.

LAWRENCE

Hello there, Mrs. Miller.

Dolores makes a face.

DOLORES

Are you recording me? I look horrible.

LAWRENCE

I happen to think you look very sexy.

Lawrence walks close to her and pushes her hair to one side with his hand. He bends down and kisses her on the neck.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Come here...

Lawrence takes her by the hand. He guides her over to the bed. Still looking at her through the camera. They both lie on the bed, with their heads resting against the headboard.

DOLORES

You better turn that thing off.

LAWRENCE

Remember when we made that tape in college?

(leans in/whisper)

The little sex tape?

DOLORES

It was hardly a sex tape.

LAWRENCE

I seem to recall someone's exposed breasts and buttocks...anda few other naughty bits.

Lawrence motions to the camera with his eyes.

DOLORES

Well, that was a long time ago.
We're not in college anymore. And
in case you forgot, I'm on my way
to becoming a blimp.

Lawrence gives her the camera and stands up.

LAWRENCE

Take some of me then.

Lawrence slowly unbuttons his white shirt. He flexes. Dolores can't help but laugh as she snaps a picture. Lawrence starts to unbutton his pants and does a little striptease.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Did I ever tell you that I once
considered being a male stripper?

DOLORES

No, you didn't..and I don't think
that's true, Lawrence.

LAWRENCE

I'm serious. It was before I met
you. A guy I knew did it and made
great money.

Lawrence removes his pants and swings them around over his head. A red-faced Dolores snaps another photo.

Lawrence, who is still wearing his white shirt, which is long enough to cover his buttocks, then faces Dolores and peels off his boxers and tosses them to the side.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

What are you waiting for baby?
Take another photo. Just look how
excited you're getting me.

Lawrence's head tilts down. Dolores takes a few more photos.

Lawrence climbs into bed and over his wife.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Let me see those.

DOLORES

You better delete those later. I
wouldn't want those getting into
the wrong hands.

LAWRENCE

I will... I will...

He takes the camera from his wife and appears to look at photos of himself as he starts to make love to her. He sets the camera on the night stand as it displays one of his nude photos in the distance, glancing at it for inspiration.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - NIGHT

Dolores, Lawrence, and Natalie sit around the table and eat dinner. Dolores' stomach is now much bigger and she is about 7 1/2 months pregnant.

DOLORES

I can't believe Carolyn is still sleeping.

NATALIE

I sang her a lullaby when I put her down. She seemed to like it.

DOLORES

You do have a beautiful voice. I'm sure that helped ease her to sleep.

NATALIE

Oh, did you tell Lawrence I Aced my calculus test?

Natalie digs a sheet of paper out of her purse and holds it out. It has an 'A' on the front of it.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Check it out! I'm framing this one. I can't wait to show my parents.

DOLORES

I'm sure they'll be more than proud.

NATALIE

I couldn't have done it without all your help. Ever since you started tutoring me three months ago, my grades have skyrocketed!

DOLORES

A little hard work goes a long way.

Natalie nods then turns to Lawrence.

NATALIE

Oh did you hear, Angie got her cherry popped last week?

LAWRENCE

Oh, really. By who?

NATALIE

Some college jerk she was only dating for a week. He won't return her phone calls. She's obviously not a very good lay!

DOLORES

Natalie, that is totally inappropriate.

LAWRENCE

Don't worry honey, all the kids talk like that.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Adolescents are pretty graphic in their conversations these days. I blame the Internet.

Lawrence goes to get dessert from fridge.

NATALIE

What's for dessert?

Lawrence removes a pie from the fridge. He makes a face.

LAWRENCE

Ah. Cherry pie. Random coincidence.

Lawrence and Natalie BURST into LAUGHTER.

Dolores stands and tries to ignore their behavior.

NATALIE

I'll get the dishes.

DOLORES

Thank you. I'm gonna check on Carolyn.

Dolores steps away. Lawrence stands at the counter in the background, getting some pie. Natalie takes the dish sprayer and sprays Lawrence's shirt with water then roars with laughter.

LAWRENCE

Hey, give me that.

Lawrence grabs the sprayer and takes it away from Natalie.

Dolores turns and looks at them. They seem a little too close to each other and are acting like children. She has a concerned yet annoyed look on her face as she walks away.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

SUPER IMPOSED CAPTION: "STATE BAND FESTIVAL"

Lawrence and Natalie carry suitcases into the hotel room.

Lawrence walks over to Natalie, gently places his hand on her neck and gives a friendly little squeeze.

LAWRENCE

What do you think?

Natalie looks around with excitement in her eyes.

NATALIE

It's perfect.

Their eyes meet. Natalie blushes a little.

A door is heard swinging open and Dolores enters with Carolyn, her diaper-bag and two plastic bags.

Dolores sets her items down. The air is tense, as if she is interrupting something.

Dolores walks over to a nearby connecting door and opens it.

DOLORES

Oh, Natalie honey. Your room is over here.

Natalie walks over to her and peeks inside.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Why don't you get settled. And Lawrence, you better head out and make sure all of your students got checked in OK.

Dolores glances over at Natalie who is now in her room.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

(louder voice)

Natalie and I will get everything unpacked in here.

LAWRENCE

(looking at watch)

Sounds good. I'm gonna grab some coffee in the front office. Do you want any?

DOLORES

No, thanks.

Dolores purposely grabs onto her husband, in full view of Natalie's open doorway, and gives him a big kiss.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

I love you.

LAWRENCE

I love you, too.

Natalie is watching them in the background. Lawrence turns to go, and Dolores peeks in her direction to see if she's watching. Natalie quickly turns toward her suitcase.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The street is filled with spectators of all ages, an overwhelming majority are students.

One of the high school bands comes marching down the street, playing musical instruments and wearing red matching suits. One of the girl's almost drops her instrument but quickly catches it, missing a note, then keeps playing.

Another group of students, all dressed in white and gold uniforms march right behind them.

These are Lawrence's Marching Band Students. They march in excellent form and their instruments are right on cue.

Lawrence is walking next to them, close to the side-walk, somewhat directing and cheering them on as they march.

The crowds' applause gets louder, as they are immediately amazed by the perfection of Lawrence's Marching Band.

Natalie sits on the curb with Carolyn on her lap. Carolyn and Natalie are both holding toy flags. Natalie shows Carolyn how to wave her flag in the air.

Natalie points out Lawrence to Carolyn.

NATALIE

Look! That's your daddy.

Carolyn looks around and then smiles when she spots Lawrence.

Natalie snaps some photos of the band on her cell phone.

INT. COLLEGE UNIVERSITY BUILDING - DAY

The building is filled with people. The bleachers are full, the chairs in the building are full, and many people stand.

A man in a suit walks up onto a make-shift stage in the middle of the room.

DIRECTOR

Boy, this year we had some amazing marching band performances. I don't think we could have asked for better weather either!

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Well, time to get down to business. The top three marching bands who will challenge each other for the first place title tomorrow evening are as follows: Piner High, Josh Bennett's students. Monte Lucido, Mark Vargas students. And, Middleview Point, Lawrence Miller's Students!

The audience applauds. Lawrence and the two other teachers, stand next to stage with the other teachers. Several teachers are shaking Lawrence and the two other teachers hands.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Lawrence and Natalie sit in a booth. Natalie is wearing a tight white dress. Carolyn sits next to her in a booster seat.

LAWRENCE

You look nice.

NATALIE

Thank you.

They are looking at their menus.

LAWRENCE

Order whatever you like.

NATALIE

Are you sure?

LAWRENCE

I'm buying myself the biggest
steak this place has.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I deserve it.

Natalie looks away from her menu and at Lawrence.

Natalie's eyes light up.

NATALIE

Why? What happened?

LAWRENCE

Top three, baby-doll. That's
right. Our band got picked out of
40 others to go head to head with
the two other top-runners
tomorrow.

NATALIE

Oh my God! Congratulations.
That's awesome!

LAWRENCE

Now, let's just see if they can
bring home the gold tomorrow!

Another waitress approaches and sets down their drinks.

WAITRESS

Your martini, sir. And an iced-
tea for the lady.

The waitress leaves. Lawrence takes two straws and puts them
into his drink.

LAWRENCE

You can share my drink with me.

Lawrence looks at Natalie and puts his finger to his lips.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I won't tell if you won't tell.

Natalie smiles, giddy.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Lawrence lies on the bed watching TV. Carolyn lies next to him and Natalie is lying on her stomach in her pajamas in a bed next to Lawrence's.

They are watching a funny Cartoon. They both laugh.

Natalie grins then grabs her cellphone and starts to text.

NATALIE

Hey Lawrence, check out this picture I took today.

Lawrence's phone buzzes and he grabs it to check the Picture Message Natalie just sent him. It is a photo of Lori, only her musical instrument has been removed and in its place is a giant penis Natalie has photoshopped in.

LAWRENCE

(smirks)
Very funny.

NATALIE

It's half the size of her. Haha.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

A million bucks says she's never even seen a real one before.

Lawrence shakes his head, turns off his phone and puts his eyes back on the television.

The hotel door opens and in walks Dolores, looking tired.

LAWRENCE

Hi honey. How was the craft fair?

DOLORES

It was nice. Tiring but nice.

Dolores eyes Natalie.

LAWRENCE

Why don't you sleep in tomorrow before you head back over.

DOLORES

Maybe. What are you two up to?

NATALIE

We were just watching TV before we hit the sack.

Natalie stands up.

DOLORES
Did Carolyn do OK?

NATALIE
Yes, she was wonderful as always.
She seemed to like watching the
bands. She didn't cry at all.

DOLORES
I really appreciate you coming
along to baby-sit Carolyn so I
could go to the craft fair.

NATALIE
It's my pleasure. It's good to
get out of the house and do
things like that. Just because
you're a mom doesn't mean you
have to be confined to your house
all day, right.

DOLORES
Well, normally I'd be teaching
but since I'm due any day now, I
have maternity leave.

Natalie is walking toward her room, looking at her phone, not really listening to Dolores.

NATALIE
Good night.

Natalie goes into her room and closes the door.

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

Students and their teachers all mingle and get to know each other at a Mixer.

Lawrence enjoys walking around with Natalie, who pushes Carolyn in a stroller and plays the role of the surrogate wife.

Lawrence shakes hands with another band teacher, places his hand on Natalie's back and introduces her.

Lawrence and Natalie walk around some more.

LAWRENCE
So how are you enjoying things?

NATALIE

It's a fun experience. I can't believe Dolores wanted to skip out.

LAWRENCE

She'd rather go to the state craft fair than come to her husbands's state finals.

Natalie brushes her hand through Lawrence's hair and messes it up a little.

NATALIE

Oh, you poor thing.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Craft fair though. Just sounds so boring.

LAWRENCE

I'm really glad to have you walking next to me, hun. It feels really nice.

Unsure what to make of his comment, Natalie smiles.

NATALIE

Yeah, I think it feels nice, too.

They walk onward and their hands almost touch, as if they are about to hold hands.

INT. UNIVERSITY - BUILDING - NIGHT

The building is full. Lawrence and the two other band teachers stand next to the make-shift stage. Dolores, Natalie and Carolyn, who is in her stroller, stand close-by.

The director is on-stage.

DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to announce the first place winner of this year's state marching band competition as Middleview Point High School! Band Director, Lawrence Miller please come on up here and accept your award.

Applause fill the room as Lawrence goes up to accept his award. He bends down into the microphone to make a speech.

LAWRENCE

On behalf of my students, who worked countless hours to perfect their skills, I will graciously accept this award! This experience has been mind-blowing and all I can say is we can't wait to get back here next year!

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I would like to thank my lovely wife, Dolores, for all her love and support over this past year, Principal Erickson for her encouragement and of course all the parents of my students who allowed them to be part of this awesome marching band!

More applause. Lawrence hurries down the stage and hurries over toward Dolores and Natalie.

Natalie steps forward toward Lawrence, who is rushing toward them, but instead of her, he grabs Dolores and hugs and kisses her then bends down to Carolyn and kisses her.

Natalie is pushed aside, forced to take a step backwards as other band teachers walk over to shake Lawrence's hand and congratulate him and chat him and Dolores up.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY

Dolores sits on the couch knitting a quilt. The television is on mute. Dolores looks at the clock. It is almost 6:00 P.M. She looks depressed, and clicks off the television.

Her phone rings. She picks it up and puts it to her ear.

DOLORES

Hello? Oh, hi mom.

BETTY (V.O.)

How is everything going, dear?

DOLORES

Fine. It's all fine.

BETTY (V.O.)

Are you sure everything's OK? You sound a little depressed.

DOLORES

Yes, everything is good. Just getting ready to have this baby.

BETTY (V.O.)

Do you have your overnight bag ready for the hospital?

DOLORES

Oh yeah, Lawrence packed that up months ago.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

You know what a stickler he is for things like that.

BETTY (V.O.)

That's good. Don't forget to call us as soon as you go to the hospital.

DOLORES

Mom, are you sure you guys want to drive all the way down here?

BETTY (V.O.)

Of course we do. If we don't make the birth, we'll be there the next day. I wish we weren't out of state when you had Carolyn. I feel so bad about that.

DOLORES

Don't feel bad mom. I know Aunt Connie needed you there those months after she had her surgery. How's she doing?

BETTY

She's doing a lot better..Have you thought about any names yet?

DOLORES

I've thought of a few but of course Lawrence says we're having a boy and insists on naming him Lawrence Junior. Whether I have a boy or girl, I'll be happy as long as the baby is healthy.

BETTY (V.O.)

Did your father ever tell you that he swore you were a boy up until the second you were born.

DOLORES

Many times..

DOLORES' MOTHER (V.O.)
You should have seen the look of
disappointment on his face.

The line goes silent for a moment.

BETTY (V.O.)
Oh sorry, honey. I didn't mean it
that way.

DOLORES
I know you didn't.

Dolores yawns.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
I'd better let you go, mom. I'm
really tired. Thanks for checking
in.

BETTY (V.O.)
OK, honey. You get some sleep.
Love you.

DOLORES
Love you, too.

Dolores gets off the couch and walks into her bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Dolores pulls out an unpacked overnight bag from the closet. She walks over to her dresser and pulls some nightgowns and clothes from it and puts them inside.

EXT. MUSIC CLASS - DAY

Natalie exits Lawrence's classroom. Her hair is slightly messy and she presses it down. A few moments later, Lawrence exits and turns to lock up.

Watching him across the way is the Older Teacher.

Lawrence turns to leave and notices her. He looks a little taken off guard then gives a wave.

She waves back then keeps walking toward the parking lot.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Lawrence walks toward his car, carrying his briefcase.

He unlocks his car, tosses his briefcase onto the passenger seat and climbs inside.

INT. LAWRENCE'S CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Natalie pops up from the backseat.

NATALIE

BOO!

Natalie starts climbing out of the back and into the passenger seat.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Can you give me a ride home?

LAWRENCE

How did you get in here?

Natalie holds up a key.

NATALIE

I swiped your spare from your desk when you weren't looking.

NATALIE (CONT 'D)

You really should be careful where you put things, you know.

Lawrence grabs the key. He pushes a button to put down the car's top. Natalie looks around, giddy with excitement.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

This car is so badass! I would kill for a car like this.

Lawrence takes out the key and holds it up, dangling it.

LAWRENCE

How would you like to drive it?

NATALIE

What? Are you serious?

LAWRENCE

You've got your permit. It's about time you clocked in some more hours. Come on.

(MORE)

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Let's switch seats.

Lawrence opens the door and gets out.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Natalie is at the wheel of the convertible. Lawrence is in the passenger seat. Natalie backs the car out of it's spot.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Dolores, dressed in a soft nightgown, holds a novel and walks toward her bed. She is about to climb into bed when the sound of water is heard.

Dolores looks down to see a small puddle of water on the ground and that her water has broke.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

Natalie is cruising down the freeway. She turns and smiles at Lawrence who is attentive to her.

Lawrence's cellphone buzzes. He pulls it from his pocket and looks at it. It says HOME. Lawrence pushes a button on the phone so that it goes straight to voicemail.

He plops the phone on the dashboard. The phone BUZZES again. It says HOME again. He ignores it.

INT. DOLORES' CAR - EVENING

Dolores is at the wheel of her car. She is wearing her nightgown and a jacket over it. Carolyn is in her car-seat in the back. She peers outside into the night.

CAROLYN
Mama. Where go?

Dolores is calling Lawrence on her phone. It goes straight to voicemail. She huffs then hangs up and puts her seat -belt on then curls forward for a moment and takes a deep breath.

DOLORES
It's alright sweetheart. We're
just gonna take a little drive.

INT. HOSPITAL - DELIVERY ROOM - NIGHT

Dolores is in a bed. A nurse is taking her vitals.

Doctor walks in and goes to the end of her bed and examines her.

DOCTOR

Are you alone? Where's the father?

DOLORES

I can't get a hold of him. But he wanted to be here for the birth.

DOCTOR

Well, we can't wait any longer. This baby's coming now.

Dolores SCREAMS in pain.

INT. HOSPITAL - DELIVERY ROOM - NIGHT

Dolores lies on the bed holding her newborn baby, who is wrapped in a white blanket. Carolyn is asleep on a big puffy chair across the room. Lawrence rushes in.

LAWRENCE

I came as soon as I heard.

Lawrence kisses Dolores on the forehead then gives the baby a kiss on the cheek.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

He's gorgeous.

DOLORES

'She.' It's a girl.

LAWRENCE

Oh. Wow. Another girl... Don't worry, there's always next time.

Dolores looks a bit upset but tries to hide her anger.

DOLORES

I tried calling you.

LAWRENCE

I'm sorry honey, I must have had my phone turned off.

DOLORES

I drove myself to the hospital.

LAWRENCE

Why didn't you ask Joni to bring you?

DOLORES

I didn't want to be a bother. And it didn't look like they were home anyway.

LAWRENCE

Nonsense, you know she would have brought you. -Well, you've always been a trooper. At least you got yourself here in one piece.

Dolores is lost in thought.

Lawrence runs a hand through his hair.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Wow. I can't believe I missed the birth.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - MORNING

Betty sits on the couch holding the baby on her lap, rocking her a bit. Dolores sits in a rocking chair.

DOLORES

Mom, you don't have to stay the whole week. Having you here these past few days has been a blessing.

BETTY

I'm happy to help. Besides, I don't have anything to rush home to.

Lawrence steps into the room, holding his coffee.

LAWRENCE

How's my girl this morning?

BETTY

She was a little fussy earlier but now she's just fine.

LAWRENCE

And how are my other girls?

Lawrence gives a big smile and kisses Dolores on the mouth.

DOLORES

I'm fine. And Carolyn's playing
with her toys in her room.

Betty looks from Lawrence to Dolores.

BETTY

Did you know that nowadays a lot
of couples with young children go
to therapy.

Lawrence looks at Betty.

LAWRENCE

What is that supposed to mean?

BETTY

Nothing. It's just what some
couples are doing these days.
Even if they don't have problems,
just as a support system and for
advice.

LAWRENCE

Betty, I really don't appreciate
your comments and subtle hints,
or your trying to fill my wife's
head with that nonsense.

BETTY

It was just a suggestion, that's
all.

LAWRENCE

(louder)

If anyone around here needs
therapy it would be you and your
husband.

Lawrence glances at his watch.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I've got a class to teach. It's
too early in the morning for this
crap!

Without making eye contact, Lawrence walks directly to the
front door, goes out it, and slams the door shut.

EXT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY

BETTY climbs into the back of a taxi cab as the driver puts her suitcases in the trunk.

Dolores holds her baby and little Carolyn stands at her side.

Dolores, looking saddened, waves as the taxi pulls away.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - LAWRENCE/DOLORES BEDROOM - MORNING

Lawrence wakes suddenly. Turns and looks at his wife, who is reading a book in bed next to him.

DOLORES

What is it?

LAWRENCE

I just had the strangest dream.

DOLORES

Oh yeah..

LAWRENCE

I had a dream that I was having sex with one of my music students.

Dolores' eyebrow rises.

DOLORES

Which one?

LAWRENCE

Angie Bell. It was probably cause Natalie was talking about her losing her virginity, and I don't know...it must have stuck in my brain.

DOLORES

Natalie shouldn't be telling you about stuff like that. I don't think Angie would appreciate it if she knew her business was getting out there like that either.

Lawrence climbs out of bed and is putting on his pants. He waves Dolores off.

LAWRENCE
Are you kidding. Honey, these
kids have twitter, Facebook,
Instagram. Nothing is private
anymore.

Lawrence turns and walks out of the room.

INT. MUSIC CLASS - DAY

Lawrence is helping Angie with a song after school. He sits on
a stool next to her as she stands singing.

ANGIE BELL
(singing)
And whenever you go, I shall
follow.

Angie pauses.

ANGIE BELL (CONT'D)
Whoops.

LAWRENCE
It's wherever you go.

ANGIE BELL
(singing)
And wherever you go, I shall
follow.

LAWRENCE
Perfect.

Angie gives a little bow then gives Lawrence a big hug.

ANGIE BELL
Thanks so much for helping me
with the song!

Lawrence gives a funny grin.

LAWRENCE
You make me feel like a schoolboy
again, Angie. Like we're just two
high school kids hanging out
together working on a song.

Angie's face is filling with joy.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
I actually had a dream about you
this morning...

ANGIE BELL

You did? Tell me what it was about?

LAWRENCE

..OK, but I'm telling you this as your friend, not as your teacher. I sort of dreamed that I was your boyfriend and we made love.

Lawrence waves his hands in the air.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I know, I know. I shouldn't be saying that. But what can I say, I have teenage dreams sometimes. I mean sometimes my brain forgets how old I am.

ANGIE BELL

Uh, huh.

LAWRENCE

Anyway, it was just a silly dream.

Angie giggles.

The door opens and in walks Natalie. She looks at Angie.

NATALIE

What are you doing here?

LAWRENCE

I was helping Angie with a song she's going to perform at the County Fair.

Natalie's eyes widen. She glares at Angie.

NATALIE

What? I thought we both agreed we weren't performing there this year?

Angie grabs her things, walks away confidently.

ANGIE BELL

I changed my mind.

Angie leaves.

NATALIE

What is she so chummy about?

Lawrence shrugs.

Natalie huffs and stomps out of the room, upset.

EXT. STREET - COUNTY FAIR - DAY

People of all ages fill a seating area near a cement stage.

A little girl finishes a song she is singing on-stage.

Dolores, Lawrence, and Natalie, who has Carolyn seated on her lap, sit in the audience. A stroller is next to them.

Angie Bell walks out onto stage and performs the song she practiced with Lawrence.

The audience applauds. Twelve performers line up on-stage.

LAWRENCE

Angie was spectacular. I think she's gonna win first place.

NATALIE

She was okay..

LAWRENCE

She wasn't even going to enter until Dolores suggested it to her.

NATALIE

(to Dolores)

I didn't know you knew Angie.

DOLORES

Yes, I've been tutoring her the last few weeks. I told her it would be a shame not to enter.

NATALIE

Oh.. Lawrence didn't even ask me if I needed help with a song for it.

Dolores looks away, a slightly devious look in her eyes.

Angie is announced as the winner and everyone cheers. Natalie, puts her head down, looking very jealous.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The room is filled with students. A female teacher is writing a math problem on the chalk-board

Angie is whispering something to two other girls, giggling and looking love-struck.

One of the girls mouths the words, "Oh My God!"

Natalie, who is seated across from one of the girls, taps her on the shoulder.

NATALIE

What are you talking about?

GIRL

(to Angie)

Can I tell her?

Angie hesitates then blushes.

ANGIEBELL

Guess what Lawrence told me last week when he was helping me after class?

NATALIE

What?

ANGIEBELL

He told me he had a sexual dream about me.

NATALIE

You're joking, right?

ANGIEBELL

No, I'm not. He said I make him feel young again, something like that.

The two other girls are both bright-eyed.

The teacher turns and looks in their direction.

TEACHER

Girls? Is there something you want to share?

The three girls shake their heads no. Teacher turns around.

NATALIE

..Well, he says stuff like that
to other girls all the time.

ANGIEBELL

Oh, really. Like who?

NATALIE

Me...And a few other girls.

The teacher turns back around and gives Natalie a look.

INT. MUSIC CLASS - DAY

Lawrence is seated in a chair and all of the students desks
are fixed around him in the shape of a circle.

LAWRENCE

Well it was cool teaching class
from the middle of a circle
today. It's always fun to try new
things.

The students all look happy, some nod.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Angie, can you join me in the
circle for a moment.

Angie gets up out of her desk and walks into the circle.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Everyone, give Angie a round of
applause. She's going to be doing
a Solo Performance at this year's
Spring Fling.

Everyone claps. Natalie does a slow fake-clap, pretending to
look bored. A few students whistle.

The bell rings. Students leave. Natalie approaches Lawrence.

NATALIE

Lawrence, do you think you could
set me up with a spot at the
Spring Fling? I've been
practicing this really pretty
song.

LAWRENCE

You have to be a graduating
Senior to sing at the Spring
Fling.

NATALIE

But that's not fair-

LAWRENCE

Life isn't always fair, Natalie.
You'll get your shot when your a
Senior.

Lawrence starts to head out the door. Natalie follows.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Natalie and another girl, AMANDA, a redhead girl, both dressed in black, run toward the auditorium with flashlights.

Natalie holds a flashlight on the door as Amanda pulls a big set of keys from her pocket and tries several different ones.

NATALIE

Hurry, before someone sees us.
Are you sure you have the right
key?

AMANDA

Yes, it's one of these silver
ones.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

My dad never turned these in when
he quit last year and the school
never re-keyed the buildings.

The door clicks open and the girls hurry inside.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

The girls use the flashlights to run across the dark room and up onto the stage. They flip the light on and the stage fills with light. Natalie goes over to several large boxes.

NATALIE

Here they are.

Natalie pulls a stack of programs for the Spring Fling from one of the boxes. Next, she pulls four bottles of whiteout and three whiteout pens from her sweatshirt pocket.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Just make sure you whiteout
Angie's name in every single one.

AMANDA

How many of them are there? This
is gonna take all night.

Natalie walks over to a speaker system and opens up a file cabinet next to it. She pulls out a CD that says ANGIE BELL on the front of it.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Did you find her audition tape?

Natalie nods.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Are you gonna steal it?

NATALIE

Nope. I'm just gonna hide it
somewhere.

Natalie looks around then walks over to a ladder and climbs up it and puts the audition tape in a crevice next to one of the ceiling beams.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

(laughs)

She'll never find it there.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

The auditorium is decorated for the Spring Fling. The female students are all dressed up in dresses, and slacks and nice shirts for the boys.

Dolores and Lawrence, who are helping out, stand close to the stage. Principal Erickson goes on stage and to a microphone.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON

I hope everyone is enjoying this year's Spring Fling. Thanks to the money that was raised, we were lucky enough to have a Spring Fling this year. Before we continue with the festivities, we have one more treat for you. One of our graduating Seniors, Angie Bell, will be performing a special song.

The audience applaud. Lawrence and Dolores look toward the stage.

AUDITORIUM - BACK STAGE - SAME

Angie is frantically looking for her music.

STAGE HAND
(near speaker system)
Did you find your CD?

Angie's face is bright red and she is looking everywhere.

ANGIE
No. I can't find it. I don't
understand it. I left it right
here in this drawer.

STAGE HAND
Can you perform it without the
music?

ANGIE
(crying/louder)
No! I need my music. I can't do
it without it.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

The quiet audience stares at the empty stage. Lawrence and Dolores open their program and see Angie's name whited out.

DOLORES
I wonder what's going on? Do you
think she changed her mind?

LAWRENCE
No, that's not like Angie. She's
not a quitter.

DOLORES
But her name's whited out in my
program.

LAWRENCE
Mine, too.

A few other people nearby also notice her name whited out and point at it.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Wait right here honey, I'm gonna
go see what's going on.

Amanda and another one of Natalie's friends scurry onto the stage and over to the podium.

AMANDA

Up next, singing a beautiful a cappella version of Faith Hill's song, "Breathe.

NATALIE'S FRIEND #2

Is Natalie Daniels.

Lawrence stops in his tracks. Natalie steps out onto the stage in a black dress. She performs the song powerfully, staring directly at Lawrence and making hand gestures in his direction, as if proclaiming her love for him.

When Natalie finishes, the audience whistle and go crazy. Lawrence remains in place, blown away, and gives Natalie a heartfelt look. Dolores watches, looking angry in background.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

SUPER IMPOSED CAPTION: "FOURTH OF JULY"

Parade floats slowly drive up the main street of town. People fill the streets.

Children gather close to the curb as people on the various floats throw candy to them.

Natalie walks down the street with Carolyn, holding her hand. A float full of high school football players in uniform is passing by.

NATALIE

Let's go get some candy!

They hurry to the curb. Some of the football players throw candy in their direction. Natalie picks some up off the ground then points at some for Carolyn to pick up.

Carolyn unwraps a tootsie roll and takes a bite. Natalie pops a candy into her mouth, then points at an oncoming float.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Here comes your daddy.

Carolyn tries to look. Natalie lifts her up and holds her so that she can see Lawrence and members of his music class on two floats. Natalie and Carolyn wave in his direction.

The parade finishes and people start to leave. A man in his fifties, bald and fit for his age, stares at Natalie from about ten feet away.

Natalie takes Carolyn's hand and they start to walk away when someone taps her on the shoulder. It is the bald man.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Daddy, what are you doing here?

NATALIE'S FATHER

You need to come home right now.

NATALIE

Why?

NATALIE'S FATHER

You've been spending way too much time with this family and it's about time you spend some with your own.

NATALIE

But I'm baby-sitting, daddy.

NATALIE'S FATHER

I think these people are taking advantage of you.

NATALIE'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Now go return the child to her mother and meet me in the parking lot in ten minutes.

NATALIE

But-

NATALIE'S FATHER

(louder)

In ten minutes.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Dolores is working at a booth selling jewelry and other items. Her infant is snuggled in a sling that she has hanging over her neck and chest securely.

Natalie approaches and walks into the booth with Carolyn. Dolores is busy counting out change to a customer.

NATALIE

My dad says I have to go, now.

DOLORES

But you're supposed to baby-sit for three more hours.

NATALIE

I know. I'm sorry. He just said I have to leave and he didn't tell me why.

DOLORES

Well, OK. Let me pay you for today.

Dolores gets some cash out of a fanny pack she is wearing and hands it to Natalie. Without saying another word, Natalie turns and hurries away. Dolores gives a strange look.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dolores is cooking spaghetti on the stove. Carolyn sits in her high-chair playing with a toy.

Lawrence walks over and puts his hands around Dolores and gives her a kiss on the neck.

LAWRENCE

That smells good.

DOLORES

I just got off the phone with Natalie. I told her we won't need her to baby-sit during the Community Band Concert tomorrow cause dad's gonna do it.

LAWRENCE

I'm glad your dad is going to spend some time with the kids.

DOLORES

Natalie said something strange when we were on the phone.

LAWRENCE

What was that?

DOLORES

She said her parents thought we were taking advantage of her.

LAWRENCE

Hmm.

DOLORES

I tried to do the right thing and talk to her parents before I even started her baby-sitting.

DOLORES (CONT 'D)

Ten hours a week was in exchange for the tutoring but I paid her for the rest, and all the chores she does.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Maybe we should wait a bit before we ask her to help again. Give her some time off.

LAWRENCE

Aha.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY

The doorbell RINGS. Lawrence goes over and answers it. It is Natalie. Dolores steps into the room.

DOLORES

Natalie, what are you doing here? My dad's gonna baby-sit tonight, remember?

LAWRENCE

I asked her to help me set up for the concert.

Dolores just looks at Lawrence shocked and dumbfounded.

DOLORES

Are your parents OK with that?

NATALIE

My dad's picking me up at the school at eight.

They turn and leave. The baby cries from the other room. Dolores just shakes her head and walks toward baby's room.

INT. DOLORES' CAR - NIGHT

Dolores' father is driving. Dolores sits in the passenger seat and Carolyn and the baby are in the back.

DOLORES' FATHER

That was a lovely concert. Really nice. Lawrence is quite the celebrity around here. I can see how respected he is by his peers and the community. He's the type of man I always wanted you to marry.

Dolores does not say anything, just gives a fake smile. Her phone rings.

DOLORES

(into phone)

Hello. Oh, I. I don't know. She said you were picking her up after the concert. I just left.

(pause)

He should be on his way back to the school to unload.

Dolores hangs up. Stares into space.

DOLORES' FATHER

Is everything alright, honey?

Dolores puts on another fake smile.

DOLORES

Oh yes. Everything's fine.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Lawrence is unloading his truck and carrying boxes into the music room. Natalie, stands outside the truck and calls her dad on her cell phone.

NATALIE

Dad- What? I waited there for twenty minutes then asked Mr. Miller to give me a ride home since you were late. We're at the school. He's unloading stuff. OK. OK.

Lawrence overhears the end of the conversation.

LAWRENCE

What did he say?

NATALIE

He's mad. He wants me to get back downtown immediately. He's still there waiting.

LAWRENCE

OK. I'd better take you now. I can unload later.

Lawrence goes over and locks the music room then they get into the truck and leave.

EXT. DOWN TOWN - NIGHT

Lawrence pulls his truck into the parking lot of the building the Community Concert was held in. Natalie's dad is standing next to his car, looking agitated.

Lawrence parks next to him. Lawrence and Natalie exit the truck. Lawrence sticks out his hand to shake Natalie's father's hand, but Natalie's father does not shake it.

NATALIE'S FATHER

What took you so long?

LAWRENCE

Sorry, sir. We had to drive over from the school.

NATALIE'S FATHER

(to Natalie)

What were you doing at the school at eight thirty at night?

NATALIE'S FATHER (CONT'D)

I offered to give her a ride home, but I just had to stop by the school to unload some things.

LAWRENCE

I already talked to my daughter about how I don't appreciate you and your wife taking advantage of her. Natalie said she passed the message on to your wife but maybe she didn't make it clear to you.

Lawrence puts an arm around Natalie's shoulders.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Natalie here's been a big help to me and my family and we really appreciate all she's done for us.

Natalie's father's eyes stare at Lawrence's arm over his daughter's shoulders. He motions with his eyes to his car.

NATALIE'S FATHER

I forbid you from communicating with The Millers until school starts. Now get in the car.

Natalie hurries into her father's car.

LAWRENCE

But if you'd hear me out-

Lawrence tries to keep talking as Natalie's father walks away. Her father just shakes his head and gets in his car. He turns the car on then rolls down the window.

NATALIE'S FATHER

She will see you at the start of the next school year. Good night.

INT. NATALIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Natalie lies on her bed in shorts and a tank top. She pulls a small heart shaped picture frame from under her pillow. It holds a picture of her, Lawrence and Carolyn in it from the night they all went to dinner at the Band Competition.

NATALIE

(teary-eyed)

It's not fair. We were like a little family.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY (SUNDAY)

Dolores is vacuuming the carpet. Dolores sits on the ground nearby playing with some toys. She turns off the vacuum.

DOLORES

Hey, sweetie. I was just tidying up a bit.

(smiling)

This summer's been really great. It's been so nice for me and you to both be off with the kids at the same time. No baby-sitter, no tutoring or homework to correct.

LAWRENCE

No school.

DOLORES

Exactly.

LAWRENCE

Well, that'll all change come tomorrow. Cause it's the first day of school and back to the grind for me.

DOLORES

Why don't we take the kids to the park then go for ice-cream?

Lawrence glances at his watch.

LAWRENCE

Aw, that sounds really nice but
I've got to get down to the
school to sort some music.

Dolores wraps her arms around her husband's neck.

DOLORES

Really? It can't wait until
tomorrow.

LAWRENCE

Unfortunately, it can't.

Lawrence gives her a small kiss then breaks free.

DOLORES

OK, then, Mister Music Man. I
guess I'll see you tonight.

Lawrence waves then leaves.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY

Dolores is organizing some books on a bookshelf. Phone RINGS.
Dolores goes into the kitchen and answers the phone.

DOLORES

Hello?

NATALIE (V.O.)

Is Lawrence there? He asked me to
help him sort some music.

DOLORES

Natalie, remember what your
father said. He warned you to
stay away from Lawrence until
school starts.

NATALIE

Thanks. I've gotta go.

DOLORES

Don't go to the school, Natalie.

Natalie hangs up.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - NURSERY - DAY

Dolores is holding her crying baby and feeding him a bottle and rocks her in a rocking chair. Phone rings. She answers.

DOLORES

Hello. Hold on, the baby's crying.

(pause)

No, I don't need anything from the grocery store. Oh, Natalie called here for you about two hours ago.

She hangs up the phone. Baby is calmer now. It rings again.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Hello?

NATALIE (V.O.)

Dolores, do you know where Lawrence is? I see his car but I can't find him at the school.

DOLORES

(irritated)

No honey, I don't know where he is.

Dolores hangs up. Puts the baby on her shoulder to burp her.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

(shaking head)

Unbelievable..

INT. MILLER HOUSE - LAWRENCE/DOLORES BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores is lying on her bed in a white silk nightie. Lawrence enters. He walks over and kisses her on the forehead then undoes his tie and hangs it up in the closet

LAWRENCE

You're in bed early.

DOLORES

The baby's sleeping, so I thought I'd take advantage of that. Did you get a lot done?

Lawrence walks over and has a seat on the bed.

LAWRENCE

Yes, you know how prepared I
always like to be on the first
day.

DOLORES

Oh, did you connect with Natalie
at the school? She went there
looking for you.

LAWRENCE

No. I didn't even see her.

Dolores puts her hand on Lawrence's, touching his wedding
band, rubbing it playfully with her finger.

DOLORES

Honey, you really have to start
being more of a teacher to your
students than a friend.

Lawrence, annoyed, turns and looks off into the distance.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

I'm not trying to tell you what
to do or criticize.

DOLORES (CONT 'D)

I'm telling you this as a friend.
Will you just think about it?
Please.

Lawrence turns back to her and nods.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY

Doorbell rings. Lawrence answers it. ANNE MILLER (40s),
Lawrence's outspoken sister, stands there with a suitcase.

She enters and screams in joy, as does Lawrence, as they give
each other a big hug, and Lawrence lifts her off the ground
and spins her around. They have a quick kiss on the mouth.

LAWRENCE

Annie, it's so good to see you!

ANNE

You, too, baby brother.

LAWRENCE

Are you ready to be my date to
Back to School Night?

Anne removes her long coat to show off a short red dress.

ANNE

What do you think? Not too sexy
for school, is it? You think I'll
get detention!

They share a laugh.

LAWRENCE

All eyes will be on us with you
as my date!

ANNE

Oh stop!

Anne laughs and then finally notices Dolores who is sitting in
a chair holding the baby.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Dolores, I didn't even see you
there! How are you? How's the
baby?

DOLORES

She has colic, and I'm pretty
exhausted. Thanks for coming to
help me with the kids.

ANNE

No problem, hun. I don't think
I'd ever make a good mommy but
I'm a hell of an Auntie!

LAWRENCE

We'd better get going if you want
to see my choir perform.

Anne nods, slides her arm through Lawrence's and they leave.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Anne and Lawrence exit the Auditorium.

LAWRENCE

So how did you like my choir?

ANNE

They were excellent!

LAWRENCE

Are you up for a High School
football game? Just don't go
flashing anyone like back when we
were in school. Ha!

ANNE

Oh, I slept with my share of
horny young football players in
High School. Heck, I even did the
coach back then.

LAWRENCE

Coach Larnarksi? Are you serious?

ANNE

Yep. He Was hung like a horse.

They laugh, and walk arm and arm toward the football field.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Lawrence and Anne sit in the bleachers. Anne eats popcorn. The
marching band plays. Lawrence points them out to Anne.

The football players rush onto the field. The crowd cheers.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

A football player scores a touch down. Everyone near Lawrence
cheers, including him and Anne. Anne leans in close to him.

ANNE

I got a new set of implants. Feel
them. They're so firm.

Anne takes his hand and presses it against her chest.

ANNE (CONT'D)

It's been three years since I've
been a widow. I thought I could
use a pick me up.

Lawrence puts his arm around her and gives her a little hug.
The game ends. Lawrence's team wins. Crowd cheers.

Lawrence spots two young men arguing at the bottom of the
bleachers. One pushes the other and the other pushes him back.
Then the first kid throws a punch and they fight.

LAWRENCE

I'll be right back, Annie. It's
one of my ex-students fighting.

Lawrence hurries down to the students. One is on the ground
getting punched over and over. Lawrence yanks the bigger kid
off the other kid, JOSH, that's lying on the ground.

A security guard grabs the bigger kid and escorts him away.

Lawrence offers Josh a hand and pulls him up.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Are you OK?

The kids nose is bleeding. He puts a hand to it.

JOSH

I think he broke my nose.

Lawrence presses a handkerchief against Josh's nose.

LAWRENCE

Let's get you cleaned up. Then
I'll drive you home.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Dolores is busily preparing breakfast in the kitchen. Carolyn sits at the table in her booster seat pounding her spoon on the table. And the baby is in her high-chair screaming.

Lawrence enters. He plops a newspaper on the kitchen table.

Dolores puts a plate of bacon and eggs in front of Carolyn. She doesn't make eye contact with the newspaper.

Carolyn shakes her head and continues to pound her spoon.

CAROLYN

I want cereal! I want cereal!

DOLORES

No honey, you need to eat your
eggs.

Lawrence just stands there with a smug look on his face, glancing from Dolores to the newspaper impatiently.

LAWRENCE

Look who made the front page.

DOLORES

(without looking)
Hold on, honey.

The baby is still crying. Carolyn starts to cry, too.

Lawrence holds up the newspaper. His picture is on the front.

LAWRENCE

Town Sings Praises for New Music
Teacher!

Dolores is trying to take the spoon away from Carolyn.

DOLORES
You don't need a spoon.

LAWRENCE
You know, Dolores. You never seem to care about my accomplishments.

DOLORES
What? Honey, I'm trying to settle the kids down right now. Sorry, I'll look later.

LAWRENCE
Whatever.

Lawrence walks away with the paper. Dolores looks upset.

INT. MUSIC CLASS - DAY

ROBIN (16), a music-student friend of Natalie's, is SINGING at the front of the room. Lawrence stands across from her.

LAWRENCE
No, you're still off-key.

Robin stops then looks at her music-sheet and starts again.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Still off-key.

Robin takes a deep breath then is about to try again.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Off-key.

ROBIN
What? I didn't even start yet!
And I think I did a good job.

LAWRENCE
Singing is hard work. If it were easy, everyone could do it. You have to keep practicing-

ROBIN
I've been practicing every night.

LAWRENCE
Have a seat, Robin. I'm not gonna argue with you.

Robin huffs and walks to her seat.

ROBIN
(under her breath)
And I know I wasn't off-key...

INT. MUSIC CLASS - DAY

After school, Natalie enters the room while Lawrence is gathering items from this desk.

NATALIE
Guess what! My parents said I can baby-sit for you again.

LAWRENCE
Oh, I'm sorry, Natalie. Dolores already hired someone else.

NATALIE
What? Who?

LAWRENCE
Someone a neighbor recommended.
But we'll keep you in mind if we ever need you again.

Lawrence reaches for his keys on his desk, and Natalie reaches down to touch his hand.

NATALIE
Wait. Do you want to hang out?
There's this new coffee shop that opened just down the street.

NATALIE (CONT 'D)
They have a bunch of those old arcade games that you like.

Lawrence picks up his keys.

LAWRENCE
I'm spending some family time with Dolores and the kids today.

NATALIE
But I miss hanging out.

LAWRENCE
Why don't you hang out with some kids your age. What about Tommy? From class. I think he has a little crush on you.

Lawrence walks away. Natalie looks hurt; her eyes well up and her face reddens with anger.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Lawrence is walking down the hall. Robin and three of her friends stand at their lockers. Robin whispers something to her friends then leaves. The three girls hold up their middle-fingers and flip Lawrence off and then run off.

LAWRENCE

Hey!!

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY

Dolores and Lawrence are putting away groceries.

LAWRENCE

How was your day?

DOLORES

I turned in applications for five teaching jobs today. Three of them told me I should have no problem getting hired and to expect a call within the next month.

LAWRENCE

That sounds promising.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

A funny thing happened to me today at school. Some students flipped me off. Can you believe that?

DOLORES

Hmm. Do you know why?

LAWRENCE

It's a clique of girls one of my students hangs out with. She got mad at me yesterday because I corrected her in front of the class when she was singing.

DOLORES

Did you report them?

LAWRENCE

They ran off before I had a chance..And you know me, I've never really been one to turn kids in.

DOLORES

Remember what we talked about the other day? These kids will walk all over you if you let them.

LAWRENCE

You know what, you're right. I think I'll talk to the principal tomorrow. Thanks for the advice.

He kisses her on the cheek.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Robin sits there holding in her anger. The principal sits behind her desk. Lawrence sits next to Robin.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON

Is it true, Robin? Did you have your friends flip-off Mr. Miller yesterday?

ROBIN

I already told you, I didn't see anything.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON

If you don't tell me the truth, I'm giving you two weeks detention.

Robin rolls her eyes.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON (CONT'D)

Fine, make it three weeks. Every day after school.

Robin is livid. She turns to Lawrence, with a smug expression.

ROBIN

I know something about you that you wouldn't want others to know.

Principal Erickson and Lawrence look at each other, confused.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON

What do you mean by that?

ROBIN

Oh, nothing.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON

Robin, if you have something to say, then say it.

ROBIN

I don't.

PRINCIPAL ERICKSON

I'll see you after school today.

Robin gets up and leaves.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY

A loud knock on the door. Dolores, who is holding the baby, answers the door. Two POLICE DETECTIVES stand there.

DOLORES

Yes.

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE

Hello, Mrs. Miller. Is your husband home?

Lawrence enters and walks over.

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE (CONT'D)

Lawrence Miller, we'd like to ask you a few questions.

DOLORES

What's this all about?

They all sit down on some couches. A detective takes out a notepad and looks at it.

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE

Do you know a girl by the name of Natalie Daniels?

LAWRENCE

Yes, she's my student.

DOLORES

She also baby-sat for us up until recently.

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE

Have you ever had any inappropriate interactions with Natalie?

LAWRENCE

What do you mean?

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE

Have you ever had sexual relations with her, Mr. Miller?

DOLORES

Oh my God!

LAWRENCE

No! Of course not!

Police Detective One removes some photos from a briefcase.

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE

Is this you?

LAWRENCE

(looking)

Yes.

DOLORES

He took those with me, in our bedroom. Where did you get those?

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE

We found these on Natalie's computer. They were e-mailed to her from your e-mail address using your home computer.

LAWRENCE

What?.She Must have found them on my camera in my room and e-mailed them to herself.

DOLORES

I thought you were going to delete those?

LAWRENCE

I was going to, but I forgot.

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE

Can I see your cellphone.

Lawrence gives the detective his phone. He looks through it. He stops. Then holds up the photo Natalie sent Lawrence of Lori with a penis photo-shopped over her tuba.

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE (CONT'D)

Do you always keep pictures like this of your students on your phone?

LAWRENCE

Natalie sent that to me as a joke. I guess I forgot to erase it.

POLICE DETECTIVE TWO
 You're pretty forgetful these
 days, aren't you?

Police Detective One stands, helps Lawrence up and removes
 handcuffs and puts them on Lawrence.

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE
 You have the right to remain
 silent. Anything you say can and
 will be used against you in a
 court of law. You have the right
 to speak to an attorney...

LAWRENCE
 I didn't do anything!

POLICE DETECTIVE ONE
 You can explain that all in your
 statement once you get to the
 station.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - NIGHT

Dolores is on the phone. Her eyes are swollen from crying.

LAWRENCE (V.O.)
 Just get me out of here. This has
 been a huge misunderstanding.

DOLORES
 I'm on the other line with the
 bail bondsman now. I have to
 click over.

DOLORES (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 So I need to bring all cash in
 order to bail him out?

Dolores hangs up. On television, we see a mugshot of Lawrence.
 Dolores turns up the television.

TELEVISION REPORTER
 Local High School Music Teacher,
 Lawrence Miller, was arrested
 today on multiple charges of
 sexual misconduct with underage
 students. There is a continuing
 investigation underway. We will
 keep you posted on this story and
 others.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY

Lawrence sits at the kitchen table with an open phone book.

LAWRENCE

I've never hired a lawyer before.

DOLORES

Try this one. It says he's a criminal lawyer.

LAWRENCE

I don't understand who could have done this to me. Natalie wasn't happy when I told her you'd already hired another baby-sitter. And Robin was pretty ticked when I turned her into the Principal. Maybe I should just call them both and ask them if they did this?

DOLORES

No, that's the last thing you can do right now. Don't give them a reason to add a harassment charge to the list.

Dolores and Lawrence look out the window. Two TV news station vans are parked outside. Several reporters start yelling out questions when they see them. Dolores closes the curtains.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - MORNING

Dolores sits on the sofa holding the phone to her ear.

DOLORES

(into phone)

We haven't been able to leave the house in a week with this media circus. Lawrence was put on paid administrative leave from the school pending ongoing investigation. I know.. I know.. I'll let him know you called, Anne.

Dolores hangs up. A knock on the front door. Dolores looks through the peep hole then opens the door. Lori and her mother stand there.

LORI'S MOTHER

Mrs. Miller. I met you a while back. This is my daughter, Lori. She's a student of your husband's.

DOLORES

Yes, yes. I remember you.

LORI'S MOTHER

Lori has something she'd like to tell you.

Dolores ushers them inside. They have a seat on the couches.

LORI'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Is your husband home?

DOLORES

No, he's meeting with his lawyer.

LORI'S MOTHER

Go ahead, Lori. Tell her.

LORI

Friday, I heard some girls in the high school bathroom talking about how they were going to 'Get Mr. Miller.' One of the girls was Natalie Daniels.

Dolores takes this all in.

LORI'S MOTHER

Mr. Miller is the best teacher I've ever had and I want to testify or do whatever I can do to help him.

DOLORES

I appreciate you coming over. I will let his lawyer know as soon as I talk to him. Thank you.

EXT. MILLER HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Backyard is filled with friends, family and other supporters. Reporters with video cameras are also there. A big banner that says, "WE SUPPORT YOU LAWRENCE" hangs between two trees.

Lawrence waves to Joni and Dave as he walks into the middle of the yard. He pulls out a cordless microphone.

LAWRENCE

The reason I decided to have you all here today is because I've never been one to back down from a fight. I don't want to have to hide while people accuse me of things I didn't do. I'm a very lucky man to have such great friends, family and supporters stand by me. I can't begin to express how much that means to me. The Community Band is here to show their support through their wonderful music. Enjoy!

The Community Band starts to PLAY.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Lawyer, MR. ATTARI (50s), sits behind a desk. Lawrence and Dolores sit in two chairs in front of him.

MR. ATTARI

They are charging you with 26 counts of sexual misconduct. The main accuser is Natalie Daniels, charging that you forced her to give you oral sex at the school the day before school started when you asked her to help you sort music, and once a week thereafter.

DOLORES

Natalie called twice that day looking for my husband, the second time she said she couldn't find him. And Lawrence said he didn't see her and he came home soon after.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

-And. I don't know if this matters, but Lawrence isn't even into oral sex. She's lying.

Lawrence puts his hand on his wife's.

LAWRENCE

It's OK, honey.

MR. ATTARI (CONT'D)

Robin Burke is charging you with one count of oral copulation and telling a dirty joke to class...Then we have Karen Peterson, who you told you hoped Carolyn would grow up to have a well-developed body like hers.

DOLORES

Karen's a new baby-sitter. She's only been in our home once.

MR. ATTARI

Next, we have Angie Bell. Listed because you told her you had a sexual dream about her.

Dolores looks away from Lawrence, flabbergasted.

MR. ATTARI (CONT'D)

Keep in mind that some of these are third-party charges, that means that these victims did not go to the police directly, they told a friend or third-party and that party reported it.

MR. ATTARI (CONT'D)

While some of these charges will get dropped because they are either untrue or the chargers don't want to pursue them, you still have a long road ahead of you. What I am going to do next is I am going to collect every report from the police department and we will begin making notes and pointing out each inconsistency.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Lawrence is sitting at the table with a pile of paperwork. He takes notes on his laptop. Dolores sits across from him on her laptop. She is looking at Natalie's Social Media Account.

DOLORES

Natalie unfriended me on this account, but, just between us, I made up a fake account of a teenage boy and she befriended me.

LAWRENCE

Find anything that can help?

DOLORES

I'm just logging some notes of where she was at during different dates. Maybe it will be of some use to us if she claims to have been with you on any of these dates. Did you know most of these accounts can track your exact location?

Lawrence shakes his head. The phone rings. Dolores answers.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

(handing him phone)

It's your attorney.

LAWRENCE

Hello? Yes. I see.

He hangs up the phone.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

The preliminary hearing has been postponed because Natalie has mono.

DOLORES

Mono. Hmm, do you think she may be re-thinking these charges?

LAWRENCE

He said not to get our hopes up.

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Lawrence and Mr. Attari sit before a male Judge.

JUDGE

Lawrence Miller. Have you gone over the charges with your lawyer and do you understand what you are being charged with?

LAWRENCE

Yes, your Honor.

JUDGE

How do you plead?

LAWRENCE

Not guilty.

INT. COURT HOUSE - ANOTHER DAY

Lawrence and Mr. Attari sit up front. Dolores sits amongst a crowd of people. Angie Bell makes her way over to Dolores.

ANGIE

I don't know why I got a subpoena.

DOLORES

You're listed as a victim for one of the charges.

Angie mouths the word, "What?"

JUDGE

I call Angie Bell to the stand.

Angie has a seat on the stand. PROSECUTOR walks over to her.

PROSECUTOR

Angie, is it true that Mr. Miller once told you that he had a sexual dream about you?

ANGIE

...Do I have to say?

JUDGE

Miss Bell, do you understand that you are under oath?

ANGIE

Yes, he did tell me that, but he didn't mean it in a bad way.

PROSECUTOR

How did he mean it then?

ANGIE

Well, he told me that he had a sexual dream about me and then he said he knew he probably shouldn't be telling me that. He also said that sometimes he forgot how old he was, and felt younger than his age.

PROSECUTOR

Did Mr.

(MORE)

PROSECUTOR (CONT'D)
Miller ever ask you to have any
type of sexual relations with
him?

ANGIE
No. Never.

PROSECUTOR
Did he ever touch you
inappropriately?

ANGIE
No.

JUDGE
Angie, you are excused.

Angie gets down and leaves the court room.

INT. COURT HOUSE - DAY

Natalie is sitting at the stand.

PROSECUTOR
Miss Daniels. How many times did
Mr. Miller force you to have
sexual relations with him?

NATALIE
Dozens of times.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
The first time was the day before
school when he asked me to come
to the school and sort music with
him for the next day.

NATALIE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
After we finished, he took my
hand..

Natalie starts to cry. She gets a tissue and wipes her eyes.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
..And then he put my hand on his
penis and told me he wanted me to
give him oral sex. I tried to
tell him no but he put his hand
on the back of my neck and forced
me to.

PROSECUTOR

When were the other incidents?

NATALIE

Once a week after school started.

PROSECUTOR

I have no further questions your honor.

Dolores glares at Natalie.

Mr. Attari walks over to Natalie.

MR. ATTARI

Miss Daniels. Did you call the Miller house on the day before school started? -The same day you said you went to the school and helped Mr. Miller sort music? And did you talk to Mrs. Miller who told you not to go to the school, and then talk to her a second time when you told her you were at the school but couldn't find Mr. Miller there, only his car?

NATALIE

No. I never called that day at all.

Mr. Attari hands her a phone bill with two phone numbers highlighted.

MR. ATTARI

Is that your phone number?

NATALIE

Yes.

MR. ATTARI

Let me ask you again. Did you call the Miller house on the day before school started?

NATALIE

Oh, that's right. I did call there twice. I forgot.

Dolores smirks and makes direct eye contact with Natalie. Natalie quickly looks away.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Lawrence and Dolores sit in their attorney's office.

MR. ATTARI

Natalie's diary has suddenly popped up. She wrote about a lot of these incidents in it.

DOLORES

Diary? She could have just written it.

MR. ATTARI

I'll be sending over copies of the diary for you to read. Find anything you can to discredit her. This may work to our benefit.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Lawrence and Dolores sit before his lawyer. Lawrence is pretty quiet and Dolores is doing most of the talking.

DOLORES

When are you going to ask her about the harassing phone calls? Let's catch her in another lie, show the jury who she really is - not the sweet innocent girl next door she's pretending to be.

MR. ATTARI

I'll be asking her about those tomorrow.

MR. ATTARI (CONT'D)

Did you find anything else?

DOLORES

I scoured her diary with a fine tooth comb and compared some of the dates to her location on her social media profile, which automatically tracks and reports where she is, and a bunch of those don't add up.

Dolores removes some paperwork from a file.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

I highlighted a bunch of dates in her diary where she says she was with Lawrence, and several where she claimed to be baby-sitting for us. You will see that her location on her social media profile shows her somewhere else.

MR. ATTARI

Good work, Dolores. This will definitely help us out.

INT. COURT HOUSE - DAY

Natalie is on the stand.

MR. ATTARI

Miss Daniels. When did the second incident occur?

NATALIE

It was about a week later, in early September. It happened one night after I was baby-sitting. Lawrence made me give him oral sex again, at his house.

MR. ATTARI

Miss Daniels. When was the last time you called the Miller house?

NATALIE

It's been seven or eight months since I called there.

MR. ATTARI (CONT'D)

You haven't been calling the Miller house the last three months hanging up or leaving harassing messages, disguising your voice?

NATALIE

No. I haven't
(looks at jury)
I swear.

Mr. Attari hands her several phone bills, stapled together.

MR. ATTARI (CONT'D)

This phone bill shows over one hundred phone calls from your cell phone to the Miller house over the past three months. How do you explain that?

NATALIE

OK. I admit it. I lied about this. But not about anything else.

MR. ATTARI

This is the second lie we have caught you in. How do we know you're not lying about everything?

NATALIE

Because I'm not.

MR. ATTARI

I request a fifteen minute break, your Honor.

Judge nods.

INT. COURT HOUSE - SMALL MEETING ROOM - DAY

Mr. Attari, Lawrence and Dolores are reviewing some paperwork.

DOLORES

This will catch her in a big lie right here.

MR. ATTARI

Thank you, once again, Dolores.

DOLORES

When my husband is found innocent, can we press charges against Natalie for false accusations?

Lawrence and Dolores look at Mr. Attari.

MR. ATTARI

You can certainly consider that. I will go over your options with you once things are settled.

INT. COURT HOUSE - DAY

Natalie is on the stand.

MR. ATTARI

Miss. Daniels, you said the second incident occurred in early September, the first week of school, after you baby-sat for the Millers?

NATALIE

Yes.

MR. ATTARI

Do you keep a diary, Miss Daniels?

NATALIE

Yes. I've kept a diary for years.

Mr. Attari hands Natalie a photocopy of a page.

MR. ATTARI

Does this page of your diary describe the second incident?

Natalie reads over the page.

NATALIE

Yes.

Mr. Attari stands before the judge.

MR. ATTARI

Your Honor, I have sworn statements from Lawrence Miller, Dolores Miller and Lawrence's sister, Anne Miller, stating that during the entire month of September, Natalie never baby-sat or was in their house once. She hadn't been to their home for three months. And Anne Miller had been staying with them the entire month of September to help with the children, so she was a live-in baby-sitter that entire month.

MR. ATTARI (CONT'D)

And on this specific date, Anne Miller was baby-sitting for the Millers while the Millers attended a music function in another town. I also have time-stamped photos from that function as well as a sign-in sheet. So as you can see, there's no way this incident could have occurred on this specific date, because the Millers were out of town and Anne Miller was baby-sitting.

Mr. Attari pretends to step away then turns back around.

MR. ATTARI (CONT'D)

Oh, and one more thing. According to Natalie's social media account, which has an online-tracking device that is connected to her cell phone, she went to the movies with friends that night then to a party at her friend Janelle Fulton's, which lasted til two o'clock in the morning. It's all there on the printout... You'll notice a couple time-stamped photos from the party as well.

The judge takes the statement and reads it. Then looks over the printouts from Natalie's social media account. He looks from them to Natalie. Natalie puts her head down, looking guilty.

Several OOHS and AAHS in the court room. Teenagers in the crowd sit and twitter on their phones.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Lawrence and Dolores are having lunch with their lawyer.

MR. ATTARI

We got her good! The way the judge looked at her before she put her head down. Juries notice these types of things. You can't make this stuff up!

INT. MILLER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lawrence sits and watches a comedy TV show. Carolyn plays with toys next to him. The baby is asleep in her bouncer. He LAUGHS. Dolores enters.

LAWRENCE

Oh hi honey, how are you?

DOLORES

I had a horrible day. I've been turned down for every job I applied for, even the ones that said I was a sure thing when I applied.

LAWRENCE

Don't worry, you'll find something.

Lawrence LAUGHS again. Dolores looks at the TV.

DOLORES

How can you be so relaxed? Do you understand that you are on trial for your life here?

LAWRENCE

What am I supposed to do? Spend my every waking moment reading over those accusations? I already know what they say.

DOLORES

Do you get that it's not just your life that's on the line here? It's also ours?

Dolores goes to her room and closes the door.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lawrence sits in his chair, looking worried. Dolores holds a basket of laundry.

LAWRENCE

I'm worried. It's been almost an entire day and nothing. My lawyer said that most not-guilty verdicts come back right away.

DOLORES

Try not to worry. We've done everything we can, and all we can do now is have faith and wait.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores takes a pair of Lawrence's pants and hangs them up in the closet. She notices something in the pocket of another pair of his slacks. She reaches in and pulls out a condom.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dolores walks over to Lawrence and holds up the condom.

DOLORES

What's this?

LAWRENCE

It's a condom.

DOLORES

Why was it in your pants? The same pair of pants you wore the day you asked Natalie to sort music.

LAWRENCE

I thought we could try using them.

DOLORES

We haven't used condoms in years and you know it.

LAWRENCE

What? Don't get mad at me cause I was trying to try something different. You said it yourself, we can't afford any more children.

DOLORES

I think you're lying to me and you know it.

LAWRENCE

I'm not.. I need you on my side right now. I can't lose you, too.

Dolores softens.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

The faucet is blasting water into the sink to cover up any sounds in the bathroom. Dolores is crying, looking in the mirror.

SUPERIMPOSED CAPTION: 'TWO DAYS LATER'

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

A jury foreman holds a piece of paper and announces verdict.

JURY FOREMAN
Lawrence Miller is found guilty
of sexual misconduct.

Dolores looks timid and stunned.

Lawrence almost faints while shaking his head 'no' in disbelief. He stands silently, tears streaming down his cheeks. Dolores grabs his arm in sympathy.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Lawrence and Dolores exit the courthouse.

A TV ANNOUNCER blocks their path.

TV ANNOUNCER
Are we seeing the rise and fall
of the town's music man? A High
School celebrity, teacher and
band conductor was just found
guilty of being a sex offender.

A REPORTER butts in.

REPORTER
How much do we know about his
shadow side? What will happen to
Dolores Miller and their two
preschool children? Convicted on
multiple counts of sexual
misconduct with his female
students he could be sent to
prison.

REPORTERS close in on them and their attorney.

INT. COURT HOUSE - DAY

Lawrence stands before the judge for sentencing.

JUDGE

Lawrence Miller, I sentence you to 365 days in jail, with 305 days suspended, three years probation, and mandatory registration as a sex offender. Your 60 days in jail will start in one month.

Judge SLAMS his gavel.

INT. SPA - DAY

Dolores, her mom, and Joni are relaxing at a spa, getting their feet manicured.

DOLORES

Thanks again for suggesting this, Joni. It's just what I needed.

JONI

I figured you could use a break from stressing over Lawrence's case. I know it will be hard for you when he goes to jail.

DOLORES

Yes.. I'm worried..but part of me is feeling something I've never felt before. Almost a sense of relief. I don't know.

DOLORES (CONT 'D)

Maybe two months off from all this drama will be good for me.

Joni and Dolores' mother look at each other.

JONI

You know, if you're not happy, you can always take more time apart when he gets out. I know I've never said anything before, but I don't like the way he treats you sometimes.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

I admit he has been pretty horrible to me lately - and, some would say, abusive, mostly verbally, but it was just he was under so much stress because of the trial..And some of it was probably my fault. I wasn't doing enough to help him.

JONI

I know Lawrence has never hit you before, but do you know you sound just like the wife of a wife-beater right now?

Dolores just rests her head back and closes her eyes.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY

Lawrence hurriedly walks through the living room and almost trips on one of Carolyn's toys that she is playing with.

LAWRENCE

Carolyn! Are you trying to kill me with that toy? I almost tripped.

Dolores hurries into the room. Lawrence scoots the toy over toward Carolyn and rubs his foot then leaves the room.

Dolores narrows her eyes at Carolyn.

DOLORES

What did you do to make your daddy yell at you!!

Carolyn starts to cry. Dolores' eyes widen, realizing what she has just done.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

(bends down)

I'm so sorry, Carolyn. It's not your fault. I shouldn't have yelled at you.

EXT. HWY- DAY

Lawrence, dressed in jeans, a T-shirt, and an orange reflector vest provided by the Department of Corrections, clears brush and garbage from the highway as part of his alternative sentence.

INT. PROBATION OFFICE - DAY

PROBATION OFFICER sits at his desk.

PROBATION OFFICER

Lawrence, I can't begin to express how much I think counseling would help you.

DOLORES

I've called several counselors but Lawrence refuses to go.

LAWRENCE

I'm not gonna sit in a room and talk to one of those quacks! They're all frauds. I don't believe in counseling.

DOLORES

Why don't you just try it. One time. Then see what you think?

Lawrence's face turns red and he pounds his fist on the desk.

LAWRENCE

Are we still talking about this? Don't ask me about that one more time.

DOLORES

Stop acting like a child, throwing a tantrum and pounding things when you don't get your way. You're embarrassing yourself and being ridiculous.

LAWRENCE

(turns to Dolores)

Whose side are you on? Mine, or theirs? Cause by the way you're treating me right now, it doesn't feel like you're on my side.

DOLORES

Are you really asking me that?
I've stood by you every second
and fought right alongside you
for your innocence and you have
the nerve to question whether I'm
on your side or not?

PROBATION OFFICER

I have another appointment. I'll
see you again next week,
Lawrence.

Lawrence and Dolores get up and leave. Lawrence tries to hold Dolores' hand but she does not allow him to.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - NIGHT

Dolores sits on the couch in her robe, alone. She looks at the clock on the wall. It is midnight. She un-mutes the TV and watches the end of a TV commercial.

ON-SCREEN WOMAN

I wrote this book after my first
divorce. After years of
counseling, I finally realized
that I was married to a
narcissist who was incapable of
empathy, and mentally and
verbally abused me for years. I'm
offering this book at the
discounted price of \$9.99 because
I want all women to have the
tools that it took me so long to
discover. Learn the traits and
what to watch for. For every book
sold, I will donate \$2.00 to a
battered women's shelter.

Dolores picks up her phone and dials a number.

DOLORES

Yes. I'd like to order your
book...

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lawrence walks into the kitchen and looks into the cupboards, which are filled with cheap can goods.

LAWRENCE

I can't keep eating this crap for
dinner!

DOLORES

It's all we can afford. If I don't get a job soon, I'll have to start going to the food pantry for free food!

LAWRENCE

This is all Natalie's fault! That little bitch!

DOLORES

Please don't yell at me. I'm doing the best I can. I've even filled out applications for teaching jobs in other counties...but no one will hire me.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores is tossing and turning in bed.

EXT. JONI'SHOUSE - MORNING

Dolores and Joni are drinking coffee at a patio table.

DOLORES

I've been having a lot of dreams and flash-backs about the trial. I also remembered something about my own past that I haven't thought of in a long time. -When I was in high school, one of my teacher's kissed me but I covered it up. And then I sort of forgot about it until now..What If Natalie was telling the truth and Lawrence is guilty and not just some innocent victim of Natalie's accusations?

JONI

Do you think there's anything fishy about his story?

DOLORES

I've gone over it in my mind a hundred times. It was all so strange. Natalie calling the house and then going to the school even though I told her not to. And then her calling again saying she couldn't find Lawrence but found his car?

(MORE)

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Why would she call a second time
when she saw his car there?

JONI

I don't know..

DOLORES

Neither do I.

INT. DOLORES' CAR - DAY

Dolores is parked in her car reading the book she ordered from TV. It is titled, "MARRIED TO A NARCISSIST."

EXT. PARK - DAY

Lawrence and Delores are at a family party for Delores' family. Children play in the park. Lawrence is handing out food. He hands Delores a plate of food. Then is about to hand another plate of food to Delores' 82-year-old GRANDMOTHER.

DOLORES' GRANDMOTHER

..Delores can get me a plate. I
don't want anything from you.

LAWRENCE

It's rude not to take something
someone is offering.

DOLORES' GRANDMOTHER

I don't want anything you're
offering. I've heard all about
you on the news.

LAWRENCE

(angry)

None of what you heard about me
is true. I am innocent. Now take
this plate before I shove it down
your throat!

Grandma freezes. Everyone else, including Delores, freezes and looks at Lawrence, with shock. Lawrence throws the plate on the ground and stomps away. Grandma just shakes her head.

EXT. PARK - LATER

Dolores sits with her mother on a park bench alone.

BETTY

You and I are a lot alike you know. I, too, had lived in denial about your father's abuses. And I'm so sorry for not protecting you from them as a child.

DOLORES

Thank you, mom. That means a lot.

BETTY

I'm fixing up the guesthouse behind our house. I want to offer you and the kids to come stay with me if you want.

BETTY (CONT'D)

You can stay as long as you want. Have a fresh start should you decide to leave Lawrence.

DOLORES

I'll think about it, mom.

Dolores' mom touches her daughter's hand.

BETTY

Good.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dolores, Lawrence, and the kids are all in the living room. A breaking-news story appears on TV. The High School is shown in the background. A reporter is on-screen.

REPORTER

Today the body of a dead teenage girl was discovered in the local high school swimming pool. The student has not been identified as of yet.

DOLORES

Oh my God! How sad. I wonder who it could be.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Lawrence and Dolores sit before his attorney, anxiously.

DOLORES

Why did you call us here today?
Is everything OK?

MR. ATTARI

The girl who was found dead in the high school swimming pool was Natalie.

DOLORES

(throws hand over mouth)
Oh my God!

MR. ATTARI

Natalie left a suicide note behind.

DOLORES

Suicide?

MR. ATTARI

More like a love--letter, to Lawrence professing her love for him and expressing her regrets for involving several other girls in a plot to discredit him. In the letter, she stated that all of the girls lied for her as they plotted revenge for his not returning her love. She admits that even her diary was more of a wish for things to happen than actuality. She states that after seeing the damage she and her friends had caused the your family, especially Dolores, she was overwhelmed with guilt.

LAWRENCE

I can't believe it.

MR. ATTARI

I am going to immediately file a motion with the court to have the case against Lawrence overturned, his record expunged, and his teaching credential restored.

Lawrence grabs Dolores' hand and squeezes it.

LAWRENCE

That's wonderful.

INT. COURT HOUSE - DAY

Lawrence stands before the judge, looking hopeful. Dolores sits behind him with Carolyn and Angie Bell.

JUDGE

Lawrence Miller. I am approving the motion to overturn the case against you, expunge your record, and restore your teaching credential. This case has had a very sad unfortunate outcome for many.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

And while I am approving your lawyer's request, I want to make it clear to you that I admonish you for behavior unbecoming of a school teacher and for exercising poor judgement.

Lawrence looks duly apologetic.

EXT. COURT HOUSE - DAY

Lawrence leaves the courthouse sporting a wry and arrogant smile. Reporters shout questions at him and he almost grins like a celebrity as he walks past them.

INT. MILLER HOUSE - DAY

Dolores enters. Lawrence quickly shoves his cell phone in his shirt pocket and stops texting when he sees her. Dolores just stares at him with a sense of disgust.

DOLORES

There's something I've been wanting to say to you for a long time and I've finally found my courage to say it. Even though that Judge found you not-guilty, I know you are not innocent! You are self-centered, narcissistic, and abusive, and I'm divorcing you.

Dolores sets divorce papers down on the couch next to him. Lawrence picks them up and looks at them and sees they are real. Lawrence stands up and immediately goes to her.

LAWRENCE

You can't divorce me. We have a family together. What about our plans to move to San Diego and start a new life?

DOLORES

I'm still going to move to San Diego as planned. But I'll be getting my own place. As long as you continue to be a good father to the kids, I will allow you to see them and be part of their life.

LAWRENCE

But- You need me. You'll never make it out there on your own.

DOLORES

I've already lined up a teaching job and enrolled in college. I'm going back to school to become a school Administrator and achieve the goal I started long ago. I set aside my dreams for years while I watched you accomplish yours. Now it's my turn. I thought it was just others that I let put me down for years, but I realized I was putting myself down all those years, too.

DOLORES (CONT 'D)

And I finally started believing in myself and loving myself the way I deserved to be loved. And, now, I know I can do anything.

Dolores turns and starts to walk away. Lawrence drops to his knees and holds his hands in a begging position.

LAWRENCE

Please don't go. I will seek professional help and do whatever is necessary to make things work between us. I can't go on without you. Please -

He pretends to cry.

DOLORES

Oh, save it for the jury!
(MORE)

DOLORES (CONT'D)
I'm packing up the kids and
leaving tonight and there's
nothing you can do or say to stop
me.

INT. MUSIC CLASS - DAY

Lawrence is teaching his new music class. The bell rings and most of the students leave. A cute little blonde, green-eyed girl is struggling to get the notes right on her flute.

Lawrence looks and sees the other students leaving.

He walks over to the blonde girl and places his arm on her upper back and rubs it a bit.

LAWRENCE
Need some extra help? Why don't
you stay after class.

Lawrence touches a strand of her loose curls with his finger.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Did anyone ever tell you what
pretty hair you have?

The blonde looks up at him adoringly. While everything has changed, nothing has changed.

STUDENT.

THE END