

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Widow's Peak

by

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Characters:

Maddie Madigan: Cafe owner

Will Carter: Captain of a whale watching vessel

Frank Morelli: Drug store owner

Abby Holloway: Motel owner, town gossip

Hank Russell: Town sheriff

Jim Bell: Deputy

Tom Blake: Television producer

Jill Powell: Television producer

Setting:

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

ACT 1

SCENE 1

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

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

ABBY

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

MADDIE

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

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

ABBY

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

MADDIE

Next you'll be taking away the toilet paper.

Abby seems to be considering this.

MADDIE (cont'd)

I was joking!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABBY

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

MADDIE

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

ABBY

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

Phone rings. Maddie answers.

MADDIE

(Answering phone)

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

ABBY

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

MADDIE

(Maddie rolls her eyes)

Shhhh... No, not you, Charlie. Look, I'd love to help. Maybe next time.

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

Hank sits at the counter.

HANK
Was that, Charlie?

MADDIE
Ayuh.

HANK
I heard he got a big bluefin.

MADDIE
Ayuh.

HANK
A big 400 pounder.

MADDIE
Ayuh.

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

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

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

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

MADDIE
Welll.....

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANK
(to Maddie)
You were a...

MADDIE
Shut up.

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

MADDIE
Now you know that's not true.

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

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

HANK
Sorry.....

MADDIE
In the meantime....

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

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

ABBY
Sorry....

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

HANK
(to Maddie)
So, go on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

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

Abby spins around.

ABBY

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

HANK

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

Abby spins around again in a huff.

MADDIE

(Flirtatious)

So, tell me more about those perps.

HANK

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

MADDIE

Kind of young to be retired aren't you?

HANK

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

ABBY

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

MA.J DDIE

Then why do you keep a gun behind the counter over at the motel?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABBY

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

HANK

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

ABBY

But we don't have any parking meters.

HANK

Not yet....

ABBY

Not yet?

Abby pulls out a little notebook and makes a note.

ABBY (cont'd)

Got to go. Phone calls to make!

Abby exits.

MADDIE

(laughing)

You know, she's gonna spread that all over town now.

(hand quotes)

"Sheriff to install parking meters". Probably be on the front page of the paper.

HANK

(laughing)

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

MADDIE

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

HANK

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

Because the state screwed this town over.

HANK

What do you mean?

MADDIE

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

HANK

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

MADDIE

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

HANK

Sounds like heaven to me.

MADDIE

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

HANK

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

MADDIE

So.... divorced, huh?

HANK

Ayah.

They both laugh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

I didn't mean to pry.

HANK

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

MADDIE

Yeah, me, too. All alone.

HANK

(a bit flirtatious)

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

MADDIE

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

Frank Morelli, local drug store owner, enters.

FRANK

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

HANK

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

FRANK

Oh. Good.

HANK

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

MADDIE

(laughing)

That didn't take long to get around.

FRANK

So, it's true?

HANK

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

FRANK

Yeah, good times.

MADDIE

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

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

FRANK

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

HANK

Maybe she got better?

MADDIE

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

HANK

You two friends?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

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

Frank glances at Maddie.

FRANK (cont'd)

Sorry, Maddie. I shouldn't have brought it up.

MADDIE

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

HANK

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

MADDIE

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

HANK

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

MADDIE

Yup.

HANK

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

MADDIE

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

FRANK

Lots of partying.....

MADDIE

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

FRANK

And lots of beer in the cooler.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

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

HANK

Kids and alcohol never mix well together.

MADDIE

So we found out, the hard way.

FRANK

Cindy Matthews sure found out.

MADDIE

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

HANK

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

MADDIE

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

FRANK

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

HANK

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

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

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

MADDIE

And jumped to her death to join him.

FRANK

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

HANK

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

Frank and Maddie exchange a look of hesitation.

MADDIE

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

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

HANK

How do you know she didn't jump?

FRANK

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

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

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

FRANK

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

HANK

And how does Will fit into the picture?

MADDIE

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

FRANK

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

MADDIE

I thought they were....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

HANK

About what?

MADDIE

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

FRANK

No one invited me.

MADDIE

(ignoring Frank)

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

HANK

What were they fighting about?

MADDIE

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

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

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

WILL
Someone die?

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

MADDIE
Hungry, Will?

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

WILL
Just coffee.

MADDIE
Cream and sugar?

WILL
I ever have cream or sugar before?

MADDIE
Well, no, but...

WILL
Then why you asking now? Just black.

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

HANK
How's it going, Will?

WILL
I done something wrong?

HANK
No.

WILL
Then what do you want?

HANK
Just making conversation, that's all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL
Yeah, well, I ain't much of a talker.

HANK
How's business?

This sets Will off. He's been trying to keep to himself but if they want to ask questions, he's got answers.

WILL
Business? Around here? There ain't none. Not around here. When I had my old boat and doing fishin' and lobsterin', things were fine. Not great. But fine.

HANK
But I saw your new boat. It's beautiful. Looks like it has all you could want in a boat.

WILL
Has something else my old boat didn't, too.

HANK
What's that?

WILL
A monthly payment.

HANK
So, things a bit slow for you now?

WILL
Of course they are. You see any tourists around here? When I was fishin' and lobsterin' I could take my catch to the market and make a decent living.

HANK
Then why did you give that up?

MADDIE
(with a warning look
to Hank not to get
into that
conversation with
Will)
More coffee, Hank?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

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

He stand up and takes stage.

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

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

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

MADDIE
Will, she only wanted to...

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANK

But I see you leaving the dock from time to time.

WILL

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

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

(finding a dollar,
slams on the table)

I don't need no charity.

He heads for the door.

MADDIE

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

WILL

Sorry, we're busy.

MADDIE

Tell Cathy I'll call her tomorrow.

WILL

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

Will storms out. Maddie looks stunned.

MADDIE

(heading for the door)

But, Will....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

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

MADDIE

I hope so.

HANK

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

FRANK

Yeah, and I have to get back to the drugstore.

(pointing at Hank)

And remember, no parking meters!

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

Lights out.

ACT 1

SCENE 2

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

Frank walks in and startles Maddie.

FRANK

Picking up Gabby Abby's bad habits?

MADDIE

(startled)

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

Who's sneaking? It's a cafe! People walk through the door!

MADDIE

Not that many. You're the first customer today.

FRANK

(peaking out the window)

So, what's so interesting out there?

MADDIE

(casually)

Out where?

FRANK

Come on, Maddie. I saw where you were looking. So what's going on over at Will's place, anything?

MADDIE

Not a thing. But that's what worries me. Will comes and goes, but I haven't seen Cathy in two weeks. Have you?

FRANK

Actually, no. And it's weird. Well, none of our business, I guess.

(looks right at her)

Not mine, anyway....

Frank sits at counter.

MADDIE

You want coffee?

FRANK

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

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

MADDIE

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

FRANK

No, no, no time for cake.

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

FRANK (cont'd)

(digs right in and
tastes)

Mmmmmmm.... good cake.

MADDIE

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

FRANK

They say they're from California.

MADDIE

(with a worried look)

California? Really?

FRANK

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

MADDIE

What they want Will for?

FRANK

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

MADDIE

What else?

(looks away from Frank,
looks concerned)

Right. What else could they want?
Prob'ly the boat....

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

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

MADDIE

Great.

FRANK

Will there be a commission?

MADDIE

(laughing)

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

FRANK

(laughing)

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

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

JIM

(very official-like,
to Maddie)

You the owner?

MADDIE

(comes out from behind counter.
Extends hand to shake)

Hi, Maddie Madigan.

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

MADDIE (cont'd)

You must be the new deputy Hank told us about.

JIM

That's right. Deputy James Bell.

MADDIE

Do people call you, Jim?

JIM

No, people call me Deputy Bell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

Okaaaaay.....
(glances at Frank. Frank
raises eyebrows, shrugs)
.....Deputy Bell.

JIM

Found these two wandering outside.
They're looking for something to eat.

TOM

(extending hand to
Maddie)
Hi, Tom Blake. And this is Jill
Powell. We're TV producers. Just got
in from California.

JILL

(extends hand and
shakes with Maddie)
Pleased to meet you.

TOM

(enthusiastic)
I just love this town! And this
place. It's a slice of Americana.
It's like being in a Norman Rockwell
painting! Don't you agree, Jill?

JILL

(Obviously not as
charmed by the place)
Oh yeah.... very....rustic.

MADDIE

(smiling at Jill)
Thanks,.... I think. Well, have a
seat.

Maddie steers them over to table and seats them.

MADDIE (cont'd)

I'll get you a couple of menus.

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

MADDIE (cont'd)

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIM
Don't like doughnuts.

MADDIE
Alright, just coffee then.

JIM
I really should be going.

MADDIE
Come on, you have time for one cup of coffee. Grab a seat. I'm sure Hank won't mind.

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

MADDIE
Of course you are.

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

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

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

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

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

JIM
Three weeks.

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Frank laughs. Jim stares again.

FRANK (cont'd)
Okay.....

Maddie glances at Frank on way to kitchen. She exits.

JIM
Been doing patrol car stuff mostly.
Cruising the town. Crime watch
business.

FRANK
Not much crime to watch around here.

JIM
Oh, you never know what you might see
some day. If you look hard enough.

FRANK
(raises an eyebrow)
Where'd you move here from?

JIM
Boston.

FRANK
Boston. You were on the force there?

JIM
Yeah.

FRANK
Well, it's a little late, but welcome
to Rocky Point. There's not much in
the way of nightlife around here. Not
like Boston, but if you're ever
interested....

JIM
No time for socializing.

FRANK
Right.

Maddie brings out to sodas for TV people. On her way to the
table says to Frank and Jim.

MADDIE
Oh... are you two getting acquainted?

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

Sheriff comes in.

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

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

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

In barges Abby.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABBY

What are you laughing at? Ohhhhh....
you're not putting in any parking
meters! Very funny!

HANK

(puts his arm around
Abby)

Next time, make sure you get your
facts straight.

Abby shrugs off his arm. Puts her nose up in the air and
goes over to the TV people.

ABBY

I hope your room is satisfactory?

TOM

Yes, very nice.

ABBY

Be sure to let me know if you need
anything.

JILL

Well, we did expect a hairdryer in
the room.

ABBY

Not a problem. If you need one,
(looks right at Frank)
There's a K-mart 12 miles north of
here.

Hank looks at Frank, confused.

FRANK

(to Hank)

Don't ask.....

Maddie comes in with the burgers. Sets them on TV people's
table.

MADDIE

Here ya go! Need anything else?

They shake their heads no.

MADDIE (cont'd)

Okay. Ketchup is right there in front
of you. Need anything else, just
holler.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She goes back behind the counter.

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

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

His phone rings.

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

JIM
He's got to answer it.

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

Hank hangs up.

MADDIE
Let me guess, no lunch, right?

HANK
Afraid not.

JIM
What's up?

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

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

Jim starts out the door.

HANK
Jim?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIM
Yes, sir?

HANK
Wait for me?

JIM
Roger.

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

FRANK
Deputy Bell seems to be all business.

MADDIE
Oh... he'll come around.

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

MADDIE
What do you mean?

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

FRANK
I have no doubt.... Okay, so if you're such a super sleuth, answer me this, where's Cathy been?

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

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

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

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE (cont'd)

I look across the way once in a while to see if I can catch a glimpse of her, but no luck.

ABBY

(getting up, goes to window with here binoculars)

I've been watching from the motel. No sign of her.

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

WILL

Anything interesting over there?

ABBY

Not a damn thhhhhh.....

(She turns and sees Will, a bit nervous she clears her throat)

Ah..... Hi, Will. Wh..wh..when did you get here?

MADDIE

(trying to defuse the situation)

Will! Have a seat. Got some good specials today. What'll ya have?

WILL

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

He throws a business card on the counter.

MADDIE

(reading the card)

Oceanside Realty? Peter Bradley? Who is he?

FRANK

A real estate agent.

ABBY

How do you know that?

FRANK

It says so on that card.

MADDIE

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL

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

MADDIE

So....

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

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

TOM

(seeing an opportunity to maybe defuse the situation get into conversation with Will)

Business! Great Segue. That's TV talk.

(extends hand)

Hi. I'm Tom Blake, and this is my partner, Jill Powell.

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

TOM (cont'd)

(raising his hand as if to fix his hair)

Jill and I are TV producers for the Adventure Channel.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL

Well, good for you.

JILL

Well, actually, we're doing a TV documentary on Whale Watching. We're here doing research and to shoot some footage of whales.

WILL

Really? Well here's a tip for you. There ain't any in here.

(looking around the room)

Maddie, you serve any whales today.

FRANK

Will....

WILL

Look you two, if you want to see whales,

(he leans in to them, points towards the sea)

You got to go out there.....

Tom and Jill laugh uncomfortably

JILL

Right, which brings us to our point. We heard you had the only whale watching boat around. We'd like to hire you.

WILL

There's plenty of whale watching boats down in Bar Harbor. (pronounced Bah Hahbah.)

JILL

Yes, but they're all booked already.

WILL

So I was your last choice.

TOM

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL

Well, is that so.

TOM

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

MADDIE

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

ABBY

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

FRANK

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

WILL

The boat ain't for hire.

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

MADDIE

But, Will... the money.

WILL

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

He heads for the door. Maddie stops him.

MADDIE

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

WILL

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

Will, you have to understand, we're just concerned, like any good neighbor would be. Last we saw Cathy, she had a cold. Is it worse?

WILL

Ayah, right. Worse.

MADDIE

Oh, no. You got to be careful with these summer colds. They can turn into pneumonia.

FRANK

She doesn't have pneumonia now, does she?

WILL

Right. She's got it now.

MADDIE

Oh no! Pneumonia is serious. Come on, Will, what can we do to help?

WILL

You want to help?
(takes stage, looking
at all of them)
You all want to help?
Then mind your own damn business!

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

Lights Out.

SCENE 3

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

MADDIE

(on the phone)

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

She goes over to Tom and Jill.

MADDIE (cont'd)

You two sure you don't want anything to eat?

TOM

No, I'm fine.

JILL

Me, too.

MADDIE

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

JILL

(to Tom)

Want to share a piece?

TOM

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

MADDIE

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JILL

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

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

MADDIE

(answers phone)

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

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

MADDIE (cont'd)

Bon appetit!

Tom and Jill majestically dig in.

MADDIE (cont'd)

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

Maddie exits to kitchen.

TOM

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

JILL

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

TOM

Yeah, I could get used to this...

JILL

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOM

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

JILL

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

In comes Will.

TOM

Perfect timing.....

WILL

Where's Maddie?

JILL

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

TOM

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

WILL

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

JILL

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

Maddie comes in.

MADDIE

Hi, Will. You hungry?

WILL

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

MADDIE

So what's the problem?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL

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

MADDIE

(getting angry
herself)

Ohhhhh.... so! Don't you have anything better to do than to spy on me while I'm spyyy..... Never mind!

WILL

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

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

WILL (cont'd)

You did, didn't you?
(he pulls a knife from his
belt and uses it to gesture)
You meddling bitch!
(leaning over the
counter)

Like I don't have enough problems. Now you're going to get the Sheriff and that half-ass deputy poking their nose in my business!

TOM

(stands up)

Now just a minute!

Jill yanks him back down.

JILL

Mind your own business.

WILL

(to Tom)

Good idea.....

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIM
(sees knife, hand on
gun)
Everything alright here Ms. Madigan?

MADDIE
Ahhhh... Yup. Just fine. I was just
about to ask Will how Cathy was? You
would like to know how Cathy is,
wouldn't you..... Hank?

HANK
Ahhhhh.... yeah, sure. How is Cathy,
Will? She feeling better?

WILL
A bit.

HANK
Great. Maybe I'll go over and say
hello.

WILL
No! You can't do that!

MADDIE
Why not?

WILL
Cause, she's nappin'. Can't be
disturbed. She needs her rest.

HANK
Well, maybe she's up now. Can't hurt
to check.

MADDIE
Yeah, I have some chicken soup in the
fridge. Hank can bring it over to
her.

WILL
I said, no!

JIM
And why not?
(getting very official, gets
right into Will's face)
Sounds to me like you're trying to
hide something here, Mister.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL
Hank, you mind calling off Barney
Fyfe here?

HANK
(trying to hide a
smirk)
You might want to back off a little,
Jim.

MADDIE
No! He's right!
(Maddie goes over, pushes Jim
out of the way and gets in
Will's face herself)
Enough's enough! We want answers and
we want them now! Where is Cathy!

WILL
Alright! Alright, you asked for it.
Here's the truth. But you're not
going to like it!

MADDIE
We'll be the judge of that. Where is
she?

WILL
Gone.

HANK
Gone where? What do you mean, gone?

WILL
Gone. She left.

MADDIE
What? Why?

WILL
Ain't no secret around here. Not with
all the spying this town does...
(they all look at the
floor)
We've been fighting. A lot.
Sometimes right in this very room.
You've seen it. You've all seen it.
And it's always over the same thing.

JILL
(raising her hand)
Money?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tom pulls hand down.

TOM
Mind your own business.

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

TOM
Oh, we're not married.

WILL
Then best to keep it that way!

MADDIE
But gone? Gone where?

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

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

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

Will exits.

JILL
Come on, Tom.

TOM
Where we going?

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

TOM
Why? In the mood he's in?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JILL

This may be the perfect opportunity!
He's broke, lonely, angry, maybe
depressed. Sounds like a perfect time
to convince him to rent the boat,
make some money, pay his bills and
get his wife back!

TOM

You may be on to something there.

Starting for the door. Hank stops them.

HANK

You two sure you want to go over
there right now?

JIM

He left pretty angry.

JILL

Not as angry as our boss is going to
be if we get back to L.A. with no
story.

HANK

Still, now may not be the time.

JILL

We can handle him.

TOM

We can?

JILL

Oh... come on.

Jill grabs Tom by the arm and they exit.

HANK

Jim, you better follow them. Make
sure they don't get into any trouble.

JIM

10/4.

Jim exits.

HANK

Satisfied now?

MADDIE

No!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANK

Are you kidding me? Why not?

MADDIE

Because he's full of shit!

HANK

How so?

MADDIE

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

HANK

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

MADDIE

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

HANK

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

MADDIE

Oh right, or a third cousin, once removed?

HANK

(a blank look)

What? Oh, no. I mean another cousin, Gail.

MADDIE

Oh please.... two of them?

HANK

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

MADDIE
What's wrong with Mrs. Webster?

HANK
She has a bat flying around her
bedroom.

MADDIE
And that's your job?

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

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

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

HANK
Well, you could show your
appreciation by maybe a movie and
beer some night?

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

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

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

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

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

MADDIE
Sure you don't want any cake?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK
No, no, no cake.

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

FRANK
No, no, not today.

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

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

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

FRANK
Well, there you go. Case closed.

MADDIE
Only there is no cousin, Gail.

FRANK
What?

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

FRANK
Well, it's about time.

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

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

MADDIE
What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

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

MADDIE

(a bit embarrassed,
and flattered)

Oh, Frank.... stop it.

In comes Abby.

ABBY

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

MADDIE

Nope, I'm good.

ABBY

Frank?

FRANK

Nope, I'm good.

ABBY

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

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

ABBY

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

MADDIE

Well, I've never seen him before.

FRANK

Me neither.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABBY

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

FRANK

Me, too.

ABBY

Say, any news on Cathy?

FRANK

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

MADDIE

See ya, you two.

Frank and Abby exit.

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

MADDIE (cont'd)

Will! How did you get in here?

WILL

You should lock your kitchen door.

MADDIE

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

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

Will....

WILL

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

MADDIE

Will, please..

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

Oh.... I'm sure.

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

Lights Out!

ACT 2

SCENE 1

No time has passed. Lights up, they are still kissing.

MADDIE
(pushing Will away)
Stop! Someone will see us!

WILL
(advancing again)
I told you, there's no one around.

He goes to embrace her again. She pushes him away again.

MADDIE
(shoving him back)
Stop! You want to blow everything?

WILL
(backing off a bit)
Relax, no need to shove.

MADDIE
Sorry. But we can't be too careful.

WILL
You always were a pushy broad.

MADDIE
Pushy? I just know what I want, and I go after it.

WILL
I'm flattered.

MADDIE
Don't be. I wasn't talking about you.

WILL
Sure you were. You were always after me. Since we were kids. You finally got me.

MADDIE
I would have had you since high school if you hadn't gone flirting with Cindy that night on the beach.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL

That was all your imagination.

MADDIE

Was not. When I confronted her about it, she laughed in my face.

WILL

So you followed her up to Widow's Peak.

MADDIE

I wasn't done talking. Apparently she was. We got into an argument.

WILL

Argument? It was a cat fight!

MADDIE

And the next thing I knew, she slipped.

WILL

Slipped my ass. You pushed her.

MADDIE

She slipped. It could have just as easily been me.

WILL

But it wasn't. I saw.....

MADDIE

Do you really think I'd push someone off a cliff over you?

(she laughs)

Believe what you want.

WILL

All I know is, you took off for California after that. Next time I saw you, at your mother's funeral, you were married to some guy in a suit. A doctor.

MADDIE

Philip....Yes, I was married to Philip, and you were married to Cathy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL

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

MADDIE

He had other good qualities, like his wallet.

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

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

He moves toward her. She moves away.

MADDIE

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

WILL

And I never regretted it for a minute.

MADDIE

Once we were together again, the rest was easy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL

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

MADDIE

You stole that car....

WILL

You went to that restaurant with Philip.

MADDIE

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

WILL

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

MADDIE

Another push.....

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

Except for one little problem.

MADDIE

Cathy.

WILL

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

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

MADDIE

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

Will moves in on her. Frank steps between them

FRANK
Will! Have you gone crazy?

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

WILL
I didn't do no such thing.

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

WILL
She wouldn't dare....

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

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

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

FRANK
How about you leave right now, or
else.

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

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

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

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK (cont'd)

Then I realized I left them on your counter. Got to say, first time I'm glad I lost my keys!

MADDIE

Me, too. Thanks, Frank.

Tom and Jill enter.

JILL

What's with Will? We just passed him outside and he looks madder than usual.

TOM

I didn't think that was possible.

JILL

What's his problem now?

MADDIE

It's not worth getting into. Let's just say I'm glad to see Frank right now and leave it at that.

FRANK

So, any luck finding a boat?

TOM

Afraid not.

FRANK

And no luck talking to Will, I assume?

JILL

No, he's adamant about not being on TV. He still won't let us charter his boat.

MADDIE

So, it looks like there goes your story.

JILL

Maybe not.

MADDIE

You can't film whales without a boat.

TOM

Maybe we're after bigger fish this time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK
What do you mean?

JILL
(looking around as if
to see who's
listening)
We're starting to think Maddie is
right.

MADDIE
About what?

JILL
About Will being up to something.

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

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

FRANK
How can you be sure?

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

JILL
Captain Will Carter. This could be
our big break.

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JILL

And then let the sheriff give the story to CNN?

TOM

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

MADDIE

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

JILL

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

MADDIE

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

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

TOM

Jill, I think it's time we leave.

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

FRANK

(grabs his keys)

I'll walk you out.

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

Lights out.

SCENE 2

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

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

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

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

ABBY
Ayah.....

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

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

MADDIE
Sure you're welcome.

TOM
Well, about yesterday...

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOM (cont'd)
Red sky in morn, sailors be warned.
What does that mean exactly?

ABBY
It's going to rain.

MADDIE
Oh, Abby.... it's going to do more
than rain. There's a big storm coming
up the coast. Haven't you two heard?

JILL
No, we've been busy working on our
story.

MADDIE
(cautiously)
.....which story?

JILL
Both, actually. Get this. We were in
Will's house!

FRANK
Does Will know?

TOM
Of course Will knows. He let us in.

MADDIE
(trying not to look
shocked)
What?

TOM
He let us in.

JILL
We went over one more time to ask
about the boat, and this time, he
actually invited us in.

FRANK
Let me guess, still no luck with the
boat?

JILL
No! Actually, he's going to charter
us the boat!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOM

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

MADDIE

When?

TOM

Tomorrow.

FRANK

In this storm?

TOM

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

JILL

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

FRANK

So what, Cathy had a cold, remember?

JILL

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

FRANK

Maybe they were Will's.

TOM

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

JILL

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

ABBY

(to Jill, sarcastically)

No shit, Sherlock.

(to all the others)

Will's been lying!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

Hold on, Abby. We're all worried about Cathy. But all this is circumstantial.

(she turns her back to them with a look of confusion and concern)
There could be logical explanations for all of this.

FRANK

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

MADDIE

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

ABBY

I vote we wait till Hank gets back.

FRANK

I second that.

MADDIE

All in favor, say ayah....

They all say, "ayah".

JILL

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

TOM

Ayah....

Jill rolls her eyes.

FRANK

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

ABBY

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

Frank and Abby leave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

What about you two?

TOM

We have nothing to batten down.

JILL

(staring at him)

We're supposed to be picking up supplies for the boat trip, remember?

(to Maddie)

Will gave us a list.

MADDIE

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

JILL

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

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

WILL

Psssst.... Coast clear?

MADDIE

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

WILL

(chuckling)

Ayah... Left some evidence around, too. Pretty clever, huh?

MADDIE

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

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE (cont'd)

You Bonehead, you let them in? And plant phony evidence? I don't get it!

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

They're not going to get a chance.

MADDIE

What do you mean?

WILL

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

MADDIE

You mean.....?

WILL

Still plenty of room in the freezer.

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

WILL (cont'd)

All you got to do is mix up some more of your "special" coffee. The kind you gave Cathy.

MADDIE

And then what?

WILL

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MADDIE

(sarcastically)

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

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

Relax. Tomorrow is the day.

MADDIE

But the storm....

WILL

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

MADDIE

But when do we move the bodies?

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

The boat can handle it.

MADDIE

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

WILL

I take the boat just past the shelf, about 12 miles out.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL (cont'd)

The drop off there is deep. I open the sea cocks and I get in the skiff.

MADDIE

And you just happen to be towing the skiff?

WILL

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

MADDIE

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

WILL

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

MADDIE

And you searched and searched...

WILL

And I couldn't find them.

MADDIE

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

WILL

Exactly!

MADDIE

And what if something happens to you?

WILL

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

MADDIE

No! I'm worried about you.

WILL

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

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL (cont'd)

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

Tom and Jill walk in.

WILL (cont'd)

Ahhhh... there you two are. Been looking for you. Did you get everything I told you to get?

JILL

Most of it. There's a few things we didn't get yet.

Maddie is preparing two cups of coffee.

TOM

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

JILL

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

WILL

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

JILL

No, but...

WILL

I've been sailing longer than you two have been alive. Besides, some white water will make for some dramatic shots.

TOM

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

JILL

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

Jill shivers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

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

Will goes over and locks the front door.

Lights out.

SCENE 3

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

MADDIE
Did you take care of them?

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

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

WILL
You better be right. So, now what?

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

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

There are 13 more
pages to this script.
To read the entire
script, please
purchase a hard
copy.
Thank you for your
interest.
Tony & Marylou

(CONTINUED)