

CHARLESTON

REVISITED

A SCREENPLAY

By
ANTHONY ERNEST GALLO

Anthony E. Gallo
Box 15414
Washington, DC 20003

202 544 6973

Agallo2368@verizo.net

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1 EXT ALONG THE CHARLES RIVER 1933 DAY 1

CHARLOTTE BUTLER, 16, AND JAMES HAYWOOD, 18, walk along the banks of the river. They hold hands and are clearly in love.

2 EXT. A PICNIC CHARLES RIVER BANKS DAY 2

The couple hold hands.

JIM

Charlotte, you're the most beautiful girl in Charleston.

CHARLOTTE

You say the same thing to all the girls

JIM

No, Charlotte. You're different.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, Come on.

JIM

I love you Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

I love you, Jim

They begin making love compassionately.

3 EXT. HISTORIC CHARLESTON DAY 3

We see a view of Historic Charleston, the Bay, the shopping area in, the Battery.

1933 charlotte and Jim kissing in the park at night run through the streets go on a boat etc

4 EXT. CHARLES RIVER DAY 4

Rowers go up the river

5 EXT. HISTORIC CHARLESTON DAY 5

We hear two birds off screen. JAY, a blue jay,
and MADAME FINCh, a finch are perched on a fence.

MADAME FINCH

This is their world, but ours too.

JAY

And every other plant, bird, and
animal on the plant.

MADAME FINCH

Especially we birds

6 EXT. FLOWERS DAY 6

We see a vast array of flowers blossoming

7 EXT. SKY DAY 7

We see an aerial view of Historic Charleston. We
hear but do not see two birds.

JAY (O.S.)

My name is Jay. I am a bird in
case you don't know it. I know
Charleston and Charlotte Butler
very well. Don't ever
underestimate how much we birds
know about what is going on in what
is supposedly your world.

MADAME FINCH (O.S.)

You're such a braggart, Jay.

JAY

Not only are you another species of
bird. You're also something worse.
Madame Finch.

MADAME FINCH

What's that?

JAY

A female.

MADAME FINCH

And Charlotte Butler?

JAY

That's none of your business.
She's a good woman. Besides she's
human.

MADAME FINCH

Jay, Go placidly amid the noise and
the haste, and remember what peace
there may be in silence.

JAY

Oh that tripe! You're a
philosophic pest as well.

MADAME FINCH

Oh, hush!

JAY

(Mockingly)

Remember what this very
extraordinary human once said:
Look at the birds in the sky; they
do not sow or reap, they gather
nothing into barns, yet your
heavenly Father feeds them. Are not
you more important than they?

MADAME FINCH

Why shouldn't we be as important as
they are?

JAY

Who cares. Now let's listen in.
And I don't want to hear that dumb
poem ever again.

MADAME FINCH

I've heard you say that before.

8 EXT HISTORIC CHARLESTON DAY 8

CHARLOTTE BUTLER, appearing to be in her 70's, pushes a cart of groceries and sees MARK SMYTHE, s appearing to be in his fifties. She glances at him briefly and their eye's meet and they each keep walking in the opposite direction at a slow pace.

9 EXT FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STALL DAY 9

We see merchants selling fruits and vegetables. Charlotte butler goes into A LIQUOR STORE

10 INT LIQUOR STORE 10

AFRICAN AMERICAN CLERK sees Charlotte examining HALF GALLON JACK DANIELS BOURBON

CLERK

Nice price this week.

CHARLOTTE

You bet. I'll take three bottles.

CLERK

Yes, Ma'am.

CHARLOTTE

No make that four.

CLERK

Yes, ma'am. We can deliver.

CHARLOTTE

No thank you.

CLERK

Free of charge.

CHARLOTTE

No, thank you.

11 EXT STREET DAY

11

The Street sign says LOGAN STREET. Charlotte pushes her grocery car. GIN MIDDLETON, 50'S shouts out from her window.

GIN

Charlotte!

CHARLOTTE

Hello. Aren't you up kina' early.

GIN

Can I help you with your groceries?

CHARLOTTE

Do I ever help you with your groceries?

GIN

No, but...

CHARLOTTE

(interrupting)

You might want to spend the extra time cleaning your kitchen.

GIN

Oh, hush! (Sticks her tongue out at her.)

12 INT. CHARLOTTE'S KITCHEN DAY

12

Charlotte unloads liquor and groceries. She looks out her window and sees two blue jays.

CHARLOTTE

Good morning.

They peek at her. Telephone rings. She picks it up and glances at collar ID.

CHARLOTTE

Weird. No caller ID. Hello.
Hello. Hello.

She hangs up phone. Puts liquor into cabinets and pours herself a drink. of Jack Daniels.

KITCHEN WINDOW

Madame Finch and Mr. Blue Jay gawk into Charlotte's Kitchen window, and she sees them

CHARLOTTE
I'll see you shortly.

13

MOMENT'S LATER CHARLOTTE'S GARDEN

13

Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake plays in the background. We see an elaborate garden, consisting of seven rose bushes, petunias, inpatients, pansies, hibiscus, portulaca, azaleas, cosmos, geraniums, zinnias, and marigolds. Trees include a magnolia, fig, redbud, paper pear, and apple. Birds drink from three spouting fountains.

Charlotte walks into the garden carrying JACOB, A PARROT in his cage.

CHARLOTTE
My dear family of flowers and birds. Good Morning. I hope you all slept well last night. Mother thought about you last night. I hope you are enjoying the music from Swan Lake. We are having a wonderful season. You have even all survived last week's torrential rains. Are you all pleased with our music selections this year. You all look so happy and healthy.

JACOB
I wish these useless birds would all go away.

CHARLOTTE
Hush, Jacob! You are also a bird. Why, Good Morning, Mr. Jay.

This marks your thirtieth visit
this week. Not counting your
visits when I'm not here. You too
must like Swan Lake.

14 EXT. FENCE SHOT SAY

14

Gin, can not be seen but can be heard shouting
over the fence.

GIN
Can you turn that music down.

JAY
What a pest this Gin woman is!

MADAME FINCH (O.S.)
Hush. As far as possible, without
surrender, be on good terms with
all persons. Speak your truth
quietly and clearly; and listen to
others,

JAY
Again.

CHARLOTTE
What's your problem, dear
neighbor!

GIN
I don't like classical music.

CHARLOTTE
Because thou art a dope!

MADAME FINCH
She's really not a dope.

JAY
Shut up!

GIN
Why do you keep playing this
music/.

CHARLOTTE
The flowers love it.

JAY
So do the good birds.

GIN
Why not try some rap music.

MADAME FINCH
Oh, God.

CHARLOTTE
Rap would kill the birds, the
flowers, and maybe even the bricks.

GIN
Neighbor dear!

CHARLOTTE
Do I smell a cake!

GIN
I did. For you.

She stands on a bench and can now be seen. She
has a cake.

GIN (CONT'D)
Charleston Chocolate Marble. To
perfection.

CHARLOTTE
Perhaps the flowers will forgive
you for your bad taste in music.

JAY
Not the birds.

GIN
Feed them the cake.

CHARLOTTE

I don't love them that much.

GIN

I have a favor to ask.

CHARLOTTE

I can only grant favors on a full stomach.

GIN

I have a fork and plate.

CHARLOTTE

Fork it over, baby doll. Or climb over the fence!

GIN

Your flowers might wilt if they hear gossip.

CHARLOTTE

My flowers love gossip as much as they love good music.

Gin opens the gate.

GIN

Not as agile as I was twenty years ago.

CHARLOTTE

Not bad for a seventy year old woman.

GIN

What! I haven't reached fifty yet!

CHARLOTTE

Ha! Now the gossip you promised?

GIN

Not so fast?

CHARLOTTE

Perk up or shut up.

GIN

How about the birds? They might
hear. Madame dear!

15

EXT. FENCE POST DAY

15

Suddenly all the birds appear on the fence post.

CHARLOTTE

You don't think they like gossip?

GIN

But they're birds!

JAY

What a fool!

MADAME FINCH

You're right this time

CHARLOTTE

These are my birds and my birds
like gossip.

GIN

Your birds? You're so silly.

Suddenly Jacob, Charlotte's parrot shouts out

JACOB

That's what you think, Turkey Lady.

CHARLOTTE

You hear the guy.

JACOB

Can't you get that dumb parrot to
shut up

CHARLOTTE

Hush, Jacob.

JAY (O.S.)

That is the most detestable parrot
in the world.

I wish that neighborhood eagle
would do something about him.

MADAME FINCH (O.S.)

Oh, hush.

JACOB

The gossip? (To Gin) Turkey!

GIN

Hush!

JACOB

I can make life miserable for you.

CHARLOTTE

Be kind to our guests, Jacob.

JACOB

She's your guest. Not mine.

CHARLOTTE

She's our guest. Now be quiet or
you go into the house.

JACOB

Bitch!

CHARLOTTE

Into the house you go.

JACOB

No justice around here.

Charlotte picks up the cage walks toward it in
the house as Gin sticks her tongue out at Jacob.

JAY

This guy has got to go. He's a
discredit to all birds.

MADAME FINCH (O.S.)

Hush!

GIN

Who's the turkey now!

JACOB

Revenge is on its way, Signora Turkey. And Charlotte, could someone please kill off that useless blue jay!

GIN

Take that loudmouthed crow into the house!

JACOB

A crow! I've heard YOU called worse!

JAY

Perhaps, Gin is a good woman, after all.

Gin examines the flowers while Charlotte brings Jacob into the house.

CHARLOTTE

Who's the news about.

MADAME FINCH (O.S.)

Uh-oh!! The fireworks now begin.

GIN

Us. You, me, and the The new man in my life.

CHARLOTTE

Another one?

GIN

This one is unique.

CHARLOTTE

Another one.

GIN

You've seen him before.

CHARLOTTE

Who is it?

GIN
Archdale Street.

CHARLOTTE
There are no eligible single men on
Archdale Street. Some very
ineligible.

GIN
This one's eligible.

CHARLOTTE
There are no eligible unmarried men
on Archdale Street!

GIN
The Senator lives there.

CHARLOTTE
We have former senators by the bus
loads in Charleston

GIN
This one's from New Hampshire.

CHARLOTTE
You mean...?

GIN
I think you have a crush on him.

CHARLOTTE
How did YOU meet him?

GIN
He's been asking questions about
you.

CHARLOTTE
Me?.

GIN
He's young enough to be your son.

CHARLOTTE
He's nearly eighty!

GIN
About right he's 79.

CHARLOTTE
When is his birthday?

GIN
Why do you want to know.

CHARLOTTE
What day?

GIN
Middle of October.

CHARLOTTE
What specific day?

GIN
A bit nosy. October 17.

CHARLOTTE
You're sure?

GIN
Are you up to this astrological
nonsense.

CHARLOTTE
I did yours this morning. And you
are up for some surprises today.

GIN
You'll be pleased to know that he
wants to meet you. How about
tonight?

CHARLOTTE
I have no interest.

GIN
Come now, Lady Logan.

CHARLOTTE
Stop that nonsense. Neither one of
us is a lady.

GIN

Why can't you come?

CHARLOTTE

I'm playing bridge tonight.
Another time. Maybe.

GIN

The whole world is dying to meet
this man. Remember when he was
named the best looking member of
Congress.

Gin's cell phone rings.

GIN

Just a sec. (Delighted) Oh,
yes.... Yes, it's true. Will you
be able to come to
dinner?...Wonderful. Yes. I'm
sure I can coax her into coming.
Fine. Hold on.

CHARLOTTE

You really want me to come?

GIN

(Half hearted) Of course.

CHARLOTTE

I'll take a rain check.

GIN

(Picks up phone) She can't come.
I'm so saddened by it ...I will ask
her again...(turns to Charlotte)
Can you come.

CHARLOTTE

No.

GIN

She can't come. "What time? See
you. (To Charlotte) So sorry you
can't come.

I'd love to know why he has so much interest in you. M-M-M.

CHARLOTTE

I have no idea.

Phone rings.

GIN

Oh, no. Yes, I'll be there at once. ...Who's with her. Tom! Oh, no! I will be there as soon as possible.

CHARLOTTE

What is it?

GIN

Aunt Flora's maid. My dear Aunt Flora fell! And that no good cousin Tom is with her. I must leave at once for Savannah.

CHARLOTTE

And the Senator?

GIN

I'm calling him now.

The phone rings.

GIN (CONT'D)

Hello... I was just getting ready to call you...We will have to cancel?... I understand...My Dear Aunt just had a serious accident... Right , next week..I'm sure you'll be fine. Goodbye, Sweetheart.

CHARLOTTE

What's wrong with sweetheart.

GIN

He also forgot that he has to get a minor procedure this afternoon and might be spending overnight at the hospital. We can reschedule. Gotta go. It's already nine o'clock.

16 EXT SKY DAY 16

Suddenly thunder and lightening emanate from the sky.

17 EXT. GARDEN DAY 17

CHARLOTTE

Good God!

GIN

Where is that thunder from.

CHARLOTTE

God only knows.

MADAME FINCH

(Giggling) We know why.

18 EXT SKY DAY 18

Suddenly the sun shines and darkness and thunder disappear.

19 EXT. FENCE DAY 19

Birds appear

CHARLOTTE

(To the birds) Hello!

GIN

Why have these birds assembled
here.

CHARLOTTE

God only knows.

JAY

That's right. Miss Butler hit the
nail on the head

Ottorino Respighi's The Birds comes on in the
background

20 EXT. CHARLESTON HOSPITAL DAY 20

An ambulance rushes a patient to the hospital.

21 EXT. ST. PHILIP'S CEMETERY DAY 21

Mystery man seen from the distance playing cards.

22 EXT. CHARLESTON HOSPITAL DAY 22

Mark Smythe, his figure blurred, exits the
hospital hurriedly.

23 EXT. CITY U. S. POSTAL SERVICE DAY 23

Flag flies at half mast.

24 EXT. ARCHDALE STREET DAY 24

SIGN reads ARCHDALE STREET.

25 EXT. 78 ARCHDALE ST DAY 25

TWO MIDDLE AGED WOMEN walk out of historic
Charleston home, both crying

26

INT CHARLOTTE'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT

26

Dvorak's Slavonic Dances plays in the background. Charlotte is asleep on a chair. She hears the doorbell ring and awakens

CHARLOTTE

Coming.

She opens the door.

Mark Smythe, carries a bouquet of flowers.

MARK

Mrs. Butler , excuse me for this intrusion, I'm...

CHARLOTTE

Mark Smythe!

MARK

I had been hoping you would be home.

CHARLOTTE

I thought you were in the hospital.

MARK

Oh, just an in and out thing. We found out quickly enough what the problem was. I'm fine. Gin had to cancel our get together. These flowers are for you.

CHARLOTTE

I thought I new every flower on the planet. I have never seen ones like these before. Where did you get them and what are they called.

MARK

May I come in?

CHARLOTTE

I'm playing bridge tonight. But do come in.

MARK

I only can see you tonight..

CHARLOTTE

Unless there's a cancellation

The phone rings.

27

INT. LIVING ROOM NIGHT

27

Charlotte walks towrd phone.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Excuse me.(Picks up phone) A
cancellation?I was looking
forward to playing. ...Have you
and I played together before...
How peculiar. The game is suddenly
canceled! Well, come in. To what do
I owe this delightful visit?

MARK

Oh, just social visit.

CHARLOTTE

Why, of course!

MARK

I have wanted to meet the Grand
Lady of Logan Street for some time

CHARLOTTE

I'm neither a lady nor grand.
You've had a home here for ten
years as I recall.

MARK

Quite a memory!

CHARLOTTE

Not bad for a 95 year old woman.

MARK

Ninety-five!

CHARLOTTE

Not a day younger.

MARK

I wouldn't admit to it.

CHARLOTTE

I usually don't.

MARK

Why with me?

CHARLOTTE

You're special.

MARK

I gather you know how old I am.

CHARLOTTE

I never look at public records.

MARK

Seventy- nine.

CHARLOTTE

I'm old enough to be your mother.
Almost.

MARK

A mighty young mother.

CHARLOTTE

Will you have some coffee?

MARK

No, Thank you.

CHARLOTTE

Tea or wine or something stiffer?
Jack Daniels?

MARK

You're acting like a Charleston
mother.

CHARLOTTE

I'm sure your own mother is the same way.

MARK

She just died at 106.

CHARLOTTE

M-m-m. My mother also died at 106. May I ask you a deeply personal questions?

MARK

Go ahead.

CHARLOTTE

Do you play bridge?

MARK

Weak twos.

CHARLOTTE

Blackwood, Gerber?

MARK

Blackwood, Jacoby, transfer?

CHARLOTTE

How often do you play?

MARK

Often.

CHARLOTTE

Do you dance?

MARK

My first wife and I danced three days a week for fifty years.

CHARLOTTE

And do yo like oysters?

MARK

Eat them three times a week. Even sleep better when I eat them.

Great question. Do you like flowers? You really do ask deeply personal questions. What are your non deeply personal questions like?

CHARLOTTE

Shall we go to the Garden? Follow me.

MARK

May I use your phone while you go into the garden?

CHARLOTTE

By all means.

28 EXT. GARDEN NIGHT

28

Jay and Madame Finch peep

JAY

He-he-he. We know what he's up to.

MADAME FINCH

You're terrible, Jay!!

29 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

29

Mark immediately disconnects the television, radio and telephone. Suddenly, thunder and lightening are heard. Charlotte rushes back in. Mark is looking at the photographs on the mantel.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

We'll have to wait till the rain is over.

MARK

Fine. I love to look at old photographs.

CHARLOTTE

Why?

MARK

They tell the story of a family. Is that your father?

Charlotte re-enters

CHARLOTTE

Yes!

MARK

Handsome chap.

CHARLOTTE

The grandson of a Civil War General. You know you bear a resemblance to him.

MARK

Somewhat.

CHARLOTTE

He died of a heart attack when I was a child. My mother ended out being a widow for eighty years.

MARK

And these must be your children?

CHARLOTTE

All four of them. Two step and two biological. I treated them all alike.

MARK

This must be your husband.

CHARLOTTE

Andrew. My Love. He died ten years ago, and I think of him everyday. Seventy years of marriage. And I still remember the day we married.

30 FLASHBACK INT CHURCH DAY 30

Charlotte and Andrew walk down the aisle at St. Philip's Church. LARGE WEDDING PARTY.

31 INY CHARLOTTE'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT 31

MARK

And these must be your grandchildren.

CHARLOTTE

Nine, and two great.

MARK

You must be a doting grandmother.

CHARLOTTE

I am not.

MARK

You don't gloat?

CHARLOTTE

Do I look like an idiot.

MARK

Aren't you proud of them.

CHARLOTTE

A grandmother has to be. Do you have grandchildren?

MARK

Eight and one on the way. Would you like to see their pictures.

CHARLOTTE

Not particularly. And how many children?

MARK

Four. Most people can't stop talking about their grandchildren.

CHARLOTTE

That's because they have nothing better to do.

MARK

Don't your grandchildren love you?

CHARLOTTE

Too much. Now let's get to a serious matter. (Beat) Astrology.

MARK

My first wife read hers every day in the newspaper.

CHARLOTTE

And your second wife?

MARK

Shall we change the subject?

CHARLOTTE

What is your birthday.

MARK

October 17.

CHARLOTTE

As I thought?

MARK

How do you know?

CHARLOTTE

Gut feeling.

MARK

And yours?

CHARLOTTE

My what?

MARK

Birthday?

CHARLOTTE
January 17?

MARK
As I thought.

CHARLOTTE
How do you know?

MARK
Gut feeling.

CHARLOTTE
Here we meet for the first time and
have gut feelings about one
another.

MARK
We're "gutsy" people. (Winking)
Remarkable.

CHARLOTTE
(Winking) Remarkable. I'd like to
do your horoscope?

MARK
You can't do it.

CHARLOTTE
Why?

MARK
I know the day and year I was born
but not the time.

CHARLOTTE
Your parents didn't tell you?

MARK
That was a complicated thing.

CHARLOTTE
I'll just guess a time.

MARK
You can't do that.

CHARLOTTE

Remember, this is Charleston. We can do whatever we want.

MARK

When?

CHARLOTTE

10:33 PM. Now let me proceed.

MARK

Shall we continue playing this game.

CHARLOTTE

What are you talking about?

MARK

Oh disregard what I said.

CHARLOTTE

Very well. October 17. (She pulls out astrological chart. Now let's see. A Libra. Your personal ruling planets are....

"Venus and Saturn. Restraint, self doubt and sometimes cynicism can mar an otherwise great future for you. Your lucky colors are deep blue and black. Your lucky gems are blue sapphire, lapis lazuli and amethyst. Your lucky days of the week are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Your lucky numbers and years of important change are 8, 17, 26, 35, 44, 53, 62, 71. Famous people born on your birthday include Arthur Miller, Rita Hayworth, Montgomery Clift, and Nathaniel West."

MARK

I don't need to know my future. My future is now.

CHARLOTTE

We all need a future. We're never too old. You need to express any unresolved issues of love and closeness that stem from parental involvement as this may resurface during your later relationships and social obligations. It is important for you to air out any grievances or grudges.

MARK

Where I am now, I have no grudges. Now let's stop.

32 EXT. SKY NIGHT 32

Thunder and lightening.

33 INT BACK NIGHT 33

MARK

Does your astrology explain the thunder and lightening?

CHARLOTTE

No. You're a sassy young man.

MARK

You're a sassy woman.

CHARLOTTE

We have so many similar traits.

MARK

10:33 PM. A guess?

CHARLOTTE

A guess. Yes.

MARK

Telling the truth?

CHARLOTTE
You think I would lie?

MARK
Hope not. Because I WAS born at
10:33 PM

A knock is heard at the door.

34 INT. FRONT DOOR NIGHT 34

Charlotte answers. Mark leaves the room.

CHARLOTTE
Hello, Miriam. Let me check.

She picks up telephone and notices that it does not work. Goes back to door.

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)
It's out of order. Probably storm damage. Thank you. Will see you at bridge tomorrow. If the synagogue still has electricity. The telephone is not working. Must be the weather.

35 EXT. SKY NIGHT 35

Thunder and lightning

36 INT. CHARLOTTE'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT 36

MARK
I'm surprised you don't have a dog.

CHARLOTTE
Had them for years. I love all animals. I had 16 dogs. See their pictures on the wall.

37 FLASHBACK EXT. HISTORIC CHARLESTON NIGHT 37

Charlotte and Andrew walk dogs in Historic
Charleston

38 INT. CHARLOTTE'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT 38

MARK

We always had dogs.

CHARLOTTE

I now travel too much. But I
have thousands of pets.

MARK

Oh?

CHARLOTTE

Birds, squirrels, and one raccoon.
Also, thousands of flowers. It's
stopped raining. Shall we visit
them.

MARK

Lead me, Madame

CHARLOTTE

Parlez vous Francais?

MARK

Pas Bien.

CHARLOTTE

Shall we step into the garden?

39 EXT. CHARLOTTE'S GARDEN NIGHT 39

They walk into the garden. The birds are all
perched on the fence.

MADAME FINCH (O.S.)

This story gets more interesting by
the minute.

JAY (O.S.)

Be quiet.

MARK

Lovely garden. And are those
birds really yours?

CHARLOTTE

Of course.

JAY

Let's get out!

40 EXT FENCE NIGHT 40

Birds flee from the fence.

41 EXT. GARDEN NIGHT 41

CHARLOTTE

They've never done that before.

MARK

Did I scare them away?

CHARLOTTE

No. It's the classical music.

MARK

I don't hear any.

CHARLOTTE

That's why they ran off.

MARK

Miss Butler. You're charming! Do
you really believe that?

CHARLOTTE

You bet. Shall we go inside.

42

INT. CHARLOTTE'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT

42

MARK

The pictures. May I see some more.
Your mother seems like an
interesting woman

CHARLOTTE

We buried her ten years ago. Now
tell me about your kids and grand
kids.

MARK

I thought you weren't..

CHARLOTTE

Hearing about them once is OK.
Twice is stale.

MARK

Well there's Mary, she's about to
become Massachusetts lieutenant
governor. She has four kids.
Married three times. And Harry is
a top Wall Street lawyer. Poor guy.
Married twice, four kids. Now
sleeping with a bimbo. Jean is a
Florida housewife. And then the
youngest. Bob.

CHARLOTTE

What about him?

MARK

A decade ago he came home with a
spouse.

CHARLOTTE

How nice.

MARK

The spouse was a he.

CHARLOTTE

Well?

MARK

My first reaction was to strangle them. And then I slept on it, and decided that I would either love 'em or strangle em. And I love 'em both to is day.

CHARLOTTE

Good for you! I'm ready for my daily drink. Please join me. What will have you to drink?

MARK

Nothing.

CHARLOTTE

Not even water?

MARK

Nope.

CHARLOTTE

I will have my regular Jack Daniels.

MARK

With some water I hope.

CHARLOTTE

Nope. Pure. Over ice.

MARK

At 95.

CHARLOTTE

My doctor tells me that I will die if I continue to drink my daily JD.

MARK

And?

CHARLOTTE

He' been telling me this for over forty years. .

She pours herself a drink.

MARK

You're a remarkable woman.

CHARLOTTE

You're a remarkable man. (She looks out the window.) Why are all the flags being flown at half mast.

MARK

General Buttner died.

CHARLOTTE

I never heard of him.

MARK

A great general. (He picks up picture from mantel)

CHARLOTTE

You sure like these pictures.

MARK

Why do you think so?

CHARLOTTE

I know.

MARK

Oh?

CHARLOTTE

You know too.

MARK

I do?

CHARLOTTE

Still being coy, Senator Smythe?

MARK

Why, Mrs. Butler . Coy?

43 EXT MRS. ANNISTAN'S HOUSE 43

Smoke comes out of the house. A fire-truck siren roars.

44 INT. CHARLOTTE'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT 44

CHARLOTTE

There must be a fire in the neighborhood.

MARK

Do you like toy fire trucks?

CHARLOTTE

What a silly question to ask.

MARK

Well do you?

CHARLOTTE

Do you want to see my train set upstairs?

MARK

Not now.

CHARLOTTE

Are you coming again?

MARK

I like fire trucks too. I remember one I received when I was four.

CHARLOTTE

Do you still have it?

MARK

It's at my home in Massachusetts. It's my favorite toy.

CHARLOTTE

Even now?

MARK

Even now?

CHARLOTTE

Would you care to dance with me.

MARK

To music?

CHARLOTTE

It's the best way to dance.

MARK

The outlets aren't working.

She turns on the CD player and it works.

CHARLOTTE

It works. Isn't that weird. Let's dance.

45

EXT WINDOW DAY

45

MADAME FINCH

This is getting cozy.

JAY

But he's such a damned liar.

Mark and Charlotte dance to the Tennessee Waltz.

MARK

You're quite a dancer.

CHARLOTTE

You too.

MARK

We have much in common.

CHARLOTTE

I dare not say it.

MARK

Say what?

The fire truck siren blares loudly again.

CHARLOTTE

Mrs. Anderson must have left her
gas burners on again. She's
getting up there in years. Now 89.

46

EXT LOGAN STREET DAY

46

Fire trucks appear. Neighbors run of their
houses. Mrs. Annistan's appears crying.

FIREMAN

There there. You left your burners
on again.

MRS. ANDERSON

I thought the house would burn

MARK

But you're 95.

CHARLOTTE

She's her type of 89, I'm my type
of 95.

MARK

So you're fascinated by fire
trucks?

They stop dancing.

CHARLOTTE

Yes. Off course. And you too. You
still have that fire truck since
you were four.

MARK

Yes. It puzzles me to this day.

CHARLOTTE

Oh?

MARK

Yes.

CHARLOTTE

At 80?

MARK

Yes. I received it as a gift when I was four. I recall the night I was given that gift. A mysterious woman gave me that gift.

47 FLASHBACK INT BOSTON HOME OF THE SMYTHE FAMILY 47
EARLY 1930'S NIGHT

REGINA SMYTHE, 30' and a young Charlotte Butler, also twenties hover around A SMALL BOY lying on a bed holding his. Regina is weeping. Charlotte holds the boys hand. After a short while, he looks up. The women jump in joy . Charlotte hands him a RED Fire truck.

48 FLASHBACK INT SMYTHE KITCHEN SHORTLY LATER 48
NIGHT

Charlotte exchanges some papers with Regina.

49 FLASHBACK INT STAIRS NIGHT 49

The small boy walks downs the stairs with his red fire truck

50 SMYTHE DINING ROOM 50

An elegant dining finds

51 FLASHBACK LATER PEEP WHOLE 51

The small boy listens to the two women speaking. Suddenly they realize he is in well and jump for joy. He shows them his new fire truck.

CHARLOTTE

Mysterious?

Mark's mind wanders off. Silence for awhile.
Charlotte eyes remain upon him.

MARK

I was very sick. (His mind wanders off)
My mother and father were very concerned. I fell into a deep sleep, and then I awoke hours afterwards. Outside, I heard my mother speaking to a woman whose voice I had never heard before. I heard her mention Charleston, and that she had to get back to her husband.

CHARLOTTE

How interesting! From Charleston?

MARK

Perhaps you know her..

CHARLOTTE

I might. Sure you won't have some Scotch.

MARK

Nope.

CHARLOTTE

You always had a good liquor cabinet in your Capitol Hill home in Washington.

MARK

How do you know that!

CHARLOTTE

(Smiling)It's none of your business.

MARK

I have one question to ask you.

CHARLOTTE

Yes?

MARK
Are you my mother?

CHARLOTTE
I have a more complex question for
you.

MARK
Yes?

CHARLOTTE
Are you my son?

MARK
What?

CHARLOTTE
You would know better than I.

MARK
Why?

CHARLOTTE
You've been searching for years.

MARK
But..

CHARLOTTE
So have I.

MARK
Then...

CHARLOTTE
Yes.

MARK
How do you know?

CHARLOTTE
I gave you a test.

MARK
Oh?

CHARLOTTE
Puzzled?

MARK
Yes.

CHARLOTTE
No, you're not!

MARK
All right. All right!

CHARLOTTE
Stop the nonsense.

MARK
Let's get to the point. ARE YOU MY
MOTHER?

CHARLOTTE
IT'S TOO LATE AT NIGHT TO GET A
BLOOD TEST! And what difference
would it make?

52 EXT. SKY NIGHT 52

Lightening and thunder bolt from the sky.

53 EXT CHARLOTTE'S SIDE GARDEN NIGHT 53

Mystery man appears and flees

54 INT CHARLOTTE'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT 54

MARK
Well, for one, it would solve a
mystery for me.

CHARLOTTE
Did you look at records?

MARK
Records? There were none. But I
know.

CHARLOTTE
Know what.

MARK
That you are my mother.

CHARLOTTE
Can you prove it?

MARK
We've been playing.

CHARLOTTE
I feel it.

MARK
So do I.

CHARLOTTE
Then I pronounce us Mother and Son.

MARK
You love to play games.

CHARLOTTE
Are you my mother!

MARK
Are you mine!

CHARLOTTE
Yes.

55

EXT MRS. ANNISTANS' HOUSE NIGHT

55

The fire siren ring truck comes by. Mrs.
Annistan's house.

MARK

There's a fire!

CHARLOTTE

Can this be coincidence!

MARK

There are no coincidences.

CHARLOTTE

Let me look out the window to see what's happening...it's Mrs. Annistan's house. ...She's left the burners on again...No problem.

MARK

Let's hope that's all it is

CHARLOTTE

I'm rushing over.

MARK

Shall I come with you?

CHARLOTTE

I shall be right back.

She picks up Gin's cake.

MARK

Why are you bringing a cake to a fire.

CHARLOTTE

Because she'll feel better.

MARK

And if it's a real fire.

CHARLOTTE

It isn't.

She rushes out and Mark begins examining the pictures closely.

We hear the fire sirens again, indicator an end to the fire. He takes each photo and examines it closely. She returns.

57 OUTSIDE MRS. ANNISTAN'S HOUSE DAY 57
 Fireman stand. Neighbors come out

58 INT. CHARLOTTE'S HOUSE NIGHT 58

 MARK
 Back early.

 CHARLOTTE
 Too much activity. I'll drop by tomorrow.

 MARK
 I'll have that drink.

 CHARLOTTE
 What will it be?

 MARK
 Jack Daniels on the rocks.

 CHARLOTTE
 You're drinking preferences are in your blood.

 MARK
 Another coincidence

She pours him a drink.

 CHARLOTTE
 On the rocks? Then my journey has not been in vain.

 MARK
 Yes.

CHARLOTTE
I don't think we'll need a
maternity test.

MARK
You're my mother.

CHARLOTTE
I am not.

MARK
Why! You didn't want me?

CHARLOTTE
I only brought you into the world.

MARK
Do you have any motherly feeling?

CHARLOTTE
Want the truth?

MARK
Yes

CHARLOTTE
No.

MARK
Is there ice water going through
your veins?

CHARLOTTE
Nope. Had there been, you would
not have been born.

MARK
It's hard to believe that your my
biological parent.

She lights a cigarette.

CHARLOTTE
You know I clean my own house every
day.

Five bedrooms I clean them myself. Therapeutic.

MARK

What does this have to do with this revelation.

CHARLOTTE

I Have to visit my broker in the morning.

MARK

There's no sequence to what you are saying.

CHARLOTTE

You find out a minute ago that I might be your mother and you're already arguing with me.

MARK

Madam, perhaps I should leave.

CHARLOTTE

Stop "Madaming" me. I am not a madam.

MARK

You are a difficult mother.

CHARLOTTE

I am not your mother!!

MARK

Then what are you?

CHARLOTTE

The woman who bore you.

MARK

Shall I leave?

CHARLOTTE

Why?

MARK

I spend a lifetime searching for
you...

CHARLOTTE

And now you found me.

MARK

And you won't even call me your
son.

CHARLOTTE

You already have a mother. Why did
you come?

MARK

To search my roots.

CHARLOTTE

Now you found them. What else do
you..

MARK

You seem almost sanguine.

CHARLOTTE

What the hell does that mean?

MARK

Bloody.

CHARLOTTE

First icy and then sanguine. Give
me a break!

MARK

Give you a break?

CHARLOTTE

You Senators are always arrogant.

MARK

How do you know?

CHARLOTTE

I know them. Piles of 'em in my family.

MARK

Then they are mine too then.

CHARLOTTE

That's stretching it. But I suppose so.

MARK

I think I'll leave.

CHARLOTTE

But I know you especially.

MARK

Me especially. You should...

CHARLOTTE

No not for that reason...

MARK

What then?

CHARLOTTE

I've been in your home, and know your animals.

MARK

What!

CHARLOTTE

I was there six times.

MARK

You were not.

CHARLOTTE

Does 115 strike a bell?

MARK

Not really?

CHARLOTTE

Did you ever have an address with
115 in it.

59

FLASHBACK EXT CAPITOL HILL WASHINGTON DC DAY

59

Sign says Third Street. Charlotte Butler knocks
on door of home. MARY, twenties comes out and
they embrace..

MARY

Mother

CHARLOTTE

Don't you ever write.

MARY

Well I'm here now.

CHARLOTTE

Do you like living in basement.

MARY

Love it.

CHARLOTTE

Each to her own taste

Mary's dog Yorkie jumps on Charlotte. She pets
him.

MARY

Waits till you see the Senator's
animals

CHARLOTTE

The Senator?

MARY

Yes, he lives upstairs. It's time
to walk his dogs and feed his cats.

CHARLOTTE

How nice of you

MARY

He's the world's greatest landlord.
Knocks a hundred dollars fro my
rent each year.

CHARLOTTE

Which Senator is her?

MARY

Senator Smythe from Massachusetts.

Charlotte flinches

CHARLOTTE

I'll wait for you here

MARY

She No come in with me. I told him
I would show you his house. Besides
you'll love his dogs.

CHARLOTTE

But...

MARY

Come mother.

CHARLOTTE

If you,..

MARY

They are so nice. I just get such
a good feeling when I am with him.

CHARLOTTE

Where's my Jack Daniels.

MARY

Ready for you. I know my mother.
No water.

CHARLOTTE

Good.

She takes a good hearty drink.

MARY

You know the Senator drinks the same thing the same way.

CHARLOTTE

Not a surprise.

MARY

Let's go upstairs.

CHARLOTTE

If you insist

60 EXT. FRONT OF THE HOUSE DAY 60

They walk out the stairs and Into the upper house.

61 INT. INSIDE THE HOUSE DAY 61

Three dogs and two cats come to greet them. The dogs jump to Bonnie and she welcomes them while Mary pets the cats.

CHARLOTTE

You big burly dogs you.

MARY

Are you ready for your walk.

Senator Smythe walks in.

MARK

Hello, Mary.

MARY

What are you doing home today?

MARK

I left some papers at home for the intelligence Committee

MARY

We were about to walk the dogs. Senator Smythe, here is my mother

MARK

Welcome, Mrs. Butler

CHARLOTTE

Pleased forgive the intrusion.

MARK

No, I have been dying to meet you.
You know my wife and I own a home
in Charleston.

CHARLOTTE

How delightful. Where

MARK

In historic Charleston

CHARLOTTE

What street

MARK

Archdale

CHARLOTTE

I know it well. My great Aunt once
lived there. So many years ago.

MARK

I must rush off now. Will look you
up if We actually ever move to
Charleston. Ben rented for yeas.

62

INT. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE DAY

62

TWENTY MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE are seated
around a mahogany table.

JIM

Again, I must respectfully disagree
with the distinguished gentleman
from Massachusetts

MARK

Sir, you are an obstructionist

JIM
I beg your pardon

MARK
Very proposal that has come forth
with this committee. You have
rejected

JIM
(Grinning)
Give me a brake you damn Yankee
you.

They stare at one other another awkwardly.

63 OUTSIDE THE U.S. CAPITOL MOMEMNTS LATER

63

Jim and JOHN WILLS, ANOTHER CONGRESSMAN.

JIM
That Smythe guy is an SOB

WILLS
Typical Yankee Elitist.

JIM
Born with a silver spoon in his
mouth

WILLS
You know I think he's kind of
funny.

Jim glares at him. They both break out in heavy
laughter

64 INT CHARLOTTE'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT

64

Continued

MARK
Yes.

CHARLOTTE
There's your answer.

MARK
What! I 'm confused.

CHARLOTTE
And I loved your two dogs and
cat.

MARK
MADAME!

CHARLOTTE
Do not call me a MADAME. I ain't
one.

MARK
Lady Logan

CHARLOTTE
I do not like that one either. I
ain't a Brit. Hundreds of my
ancestors fought against them in
the Revolutionary War. .

MARK
How do you know about my two cats
and four dogs?

CHARLOTTE
I only knew four of them. Essex,
Cody, Yorkie, and Panda. Cute
animals.

MARK
How do you know them!

CHARLOTTE
I walked both dogs. And played
with Panda.

MARK
Panda!

CHARLOTTE

I loved that cat.

MARK

Please explain!

CHARLOTTE

You sound so senatorial. Think of
115.

MARK

(Coming to a realization) Like
115 Third Street.

CHARLOTTE

North East.

MARK

Our Capitol Hill home in
Washington. You were there?

CHARLOTTE

Six times.

MARK

What!

CHARLOTTE

And you remember Winks?

MARK

Had a tenant in my basement
apartment with a cat by that name?

CHARLOTTE

A tenant?

MARK

Mary.

CHARLOTTE

Take a look at the gallery you like
so much.

65

INT DINING ROOM NIGHT

65

Mark peruses the gallery, and picks up one picture. He looks at it briefly.

MARK

Is that Mary!

CHARLOTTE

I thought you Senators were smart.

MARK

Is that Mary!

CHARLOTTE

Yes.

MARK

My sister!

CHARLOTTE

She lived under your roof for six years.

MARK

And how often were you there?

CHARLOTTE

Five times...And we met once.

MARK

And you knew..

CHARLOTTE

I did not. I had a hunch.

MARK

And you said nothing! I still don't know why you...

CHARLOTTE

What did you expect me to do? Jump into your dining room and announce to you and your wife of the time and say : "look, I'm your mummy.

MARK

No, but..

CHARLOTTE

And you saw me.

MARK

I did not

CHARLOTTE

Back thirty years ago!

MARK

I was oblivious

CHARLOTTE

Are you glad you found the woman
who bore you?

MARK

Frankly, I think she's a bitch.

CHARLOTTE

All right, Junior. You're here
because I said yes.

MARK

Eighty years ago. Well why not say
yes now.

CHARLOTTE

I've said yes. But now there is
another turn.

MARK

Yes?

CHARLOTTE

There is no doubt that I am your
biological parent.

MARK

What proof do we have?

CHARLOTTE

Why would I lie?

MARK

Perhaps faulty memory.

CHARLOTTE

Because of my age? You've got to be kidding.

MARK

I am not. No blood test.

CHARLOTTE

You said you liked bridge, you danced. All those traits...

MARK

Hardly scientific proof.

CHARLOTTE

Like any Senator. Highly legalistic. And the fire truck?

MARK

Coincidental

CHARLOTTE

Look, we need not play games. I look into your eyes and I know who you are. Now are you satisfied.

MARK

With that, I think I will go.

CHARLOTTE

I want you to accompany me somewhere

MARK

I don't feel obliged, Lady Logan.

CHARLOTTE

Senator, please.

MARK

What do you want?

CHARLOTTE
Can you accompany me somewhere.

MARK
Where?

CHARLOTTE
St. Phillips Cemetery.

MARK
What!

CHARLOTTE
St. Phillips Cemetery.

MARK
What for?

CHARLOTTE
I want to present you to the only
man I love.

MARK
What?

CHARLOTTE
To the only man I have ever loved

MARK
Who is that?

CHARLOTTE
Andrew, my husband.

MARK
You did not love my father?

CHARLOTTE
I most certainly did not love the
man who seduced me at 16.

MARK
Tell me about him first.

CHARLOTTE
A scoundrel of the first order.

MARK

Have you maintained contact?

CHARLOTTE

No.

MARK

I want to know more.

CHARLOTTE

I will tell you later. But first will you accompany me. It's just a short walk.

MARK

I would rather not.

CHARLOTTE

Please. Do you want to find the rest out?

MARK

Why do you want me with you?

CHARLOTTE

Because I must apologize to the only man I ever loved.

MARK

About what?

CHARLOTTE

You?

MARK

Me?

CHARLOTTE

You see, I never did tell him about you. And I want to go there and have you with me.

MARK

You want me to go to him to apologize about me?

CHARLOTTE

Please come. Help me to make it right by him. You see I never told him about you.

MARK

Why not?

CHARLOTTE

Because he would never have understood. I want to explain why to him.

MARK

And what role do I serve?

CHARLOTTE

It's the way it's gotta be. Will you please come

MARK

On one condition. That we avoid contact with any other people on the way.

CHARLOTTE

Why?

MARK

It's how I want it. And if you want me to come...

CHARLOTTE

At this time that should be no problem. Shall we go? Let me pick some flowers first.

MARK

As you wish. Madame Lady Logan.

JAY

Aren't these humans strange! (O.S.)

MADAME FINCH

Hush! This is such a dramatic moment. (O.S)

66 EXT THE STAIRS OUTSIDE CHARLOTTE'S HOME NIGHT 66

The Mysterious Man walks away from Charlotte's front garden.

67 EXT CHARLOTTE'S HOME EXT 67

Mark and charlotte exit. We see blinds being pulled up from several houses.

68 EXT THE FRONT FENCE NIGHT 68

Jay and madame finch perch on the fence

JAY (O.S.)

I'd like to follow them but it's past our bedtime.

MADAME FINCH

I shall go alone.

JAY

Suit yourself, Madame Nibbynose.

69 EXT THE STREETS OF OLD CHARLESTON NIGHT 69

Charlotte and Mark walk through the streets of Charleston

MARK

This walk feels ghoulish.

CHARLOTTE

Why?

MARK

Like something out of a 1940's movie.

70 EXT BROADWAY STREETS NIGHT 70

We see blinds going up. SEVERAL PEOPLE pass by
and stare at Charlotte. .

71 EXT ANOTHER STREET NIGHT 71

Mark and Charlotte keep walking. Three men and
two women pass by, acknowledging Charlotte.

MRS. BRISK
Hello Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE
HELLO.

MRS. BRISK
Going for a walk at this late hour.

CHARLOTTE
Well I always feel comfortable in
my town.

MRS. BRISK
Walking alone?

CHARLOTTE
I'm not alone.

MRS. BRISK
You have no one with you.

CHARLOTTE
Good night!

72 EXT ANOTHER STREET 72

They turn the bend.

MARK
Shall we hurry?

CHARLOTTE

I can't walk any faster. And this is a solemn ceremony for me

MARK

Ceremony.

CHARLOTTE

Yes. I have waited a lifetime to explain to my Andrew about this tragedy.

MARK

What Tragedy.

CHARLOTTE

You

MARK

Let's get this over with

CHARLOTTE

I feel fine. The brisk air makes me feel so much better.

MARK

Do we have to go through this exercise at night?

CHARLOTTE

I may never see you again.

MARK

I live down the street from you?

CHARLOTTE

You're rarely in town.

MARK

Did I see Miss Pinckney peek through the window.

CHARLOTTE

Peeking through windows is her occupation.

MARK
Doesn't bring in much money.

CHARLOTTE
Trust funds do.

MARK
I saw another blind pulled up.

CHARLOTTE
Don't you see the favor we're doing
them.

MARK
What favor?

CHARLOTTE
We give them something to do.

73 EXT. AROUND THE CORNER NIGHT 73
TWO YOUTHS, one black and one white, wait. They
intend to rob.

74 EXT. STREET NIGHT 74
Charlotte and Mark continue walking.

CHARLOTTE
Well just a bit more and we get there.
The two youths attempt to take Charlotte's purse.
Mark does nothing. Charlotte struggles with them
retrieves her purse and begins swinging it and
hitting them on the head. They run off. Charlotte
still holds her bag.

CHARLOTTE
Help! Help! Help!

MARK
Be quiet.

CHARLOTTE

Be quiet!!! They attacked me and
you did nothing

MARK

I am leaving.

CHARLOTTE

I am calling the police!

MARK

Goodbye, I am leaving

CHARLOTTE

Stay.

MARK

I can not

CHARLOTTE

What is the problem!

MARK

You!

He begins to walk away.

CHARLOTTE

Come back.

MARK

Only if you live by our agreement.

CHARLOTTE

Let's go.

75 EXT ENTRANCE TO CEMETERY NIGHT 75

We see SEVERAL ODD- LOOKING PEOPLE enter TH
cemetery.

76 EXT BACK TO STREET NIGHT 76

Charlotte stops and straightens her shoe

CHARLOTTE

These shoes are not for walking.

MARK

Shall I go back.

CHARLOTTE

I'll survive.

MARK

Now about my father?

CHARLOTTE

I don't know anything about your father.

MARK

No, the biological

CHARLOTTE

THAT skunk!

MARK

Is he from Charleston?

CHARLOTTE

Once.

MARK

Is he dead?

CHARLOTTE

Hopefully so.

MARK

There's someone coming.

CHARLOTTE

So what?

MARK

I said I want avoid people.

CHARLOTTE

I can't control who's walking down the street.

77 EXT SKY NIGHT 77

Thousands of stars begin blinking.

78 EXT BACK NIGHT 78

They continue walking.

CHARLOTTE

How could you want to avoid people
if you...(She nods to a woman)
Hello Alice. (To Mark) You see
that Church we are passing?

MARK

St. Michaels Catholic?

CHARLOTTE

It means so much to me. That was
Andrew's church.

MARK

Then why is he buried in an
Episcopal cemetery?

CHARLOTTE

He was raised an Episcopalian, but
converted to Catholicism. But he
wanted to be buried with his
ancestors.

79 FLASHBACK INT ST. MICHAELS CHURCH DAY 79

Two children get their first communion while
Charlotte and Andrew look proudly on.

80 EXT STREET NIGHT 80

MARK

How does a Catholic manage to get
buried in an Episcopal cemetery?

CHARLOTTE
He left each church a million
dollars. They all shut up.

MARK
Why?

CHARLOTTE
Money talks.

81 EXT CORNER BEND NIGHT 81

Two youths, one Black and one White, hide and
ready for attack.

82 EXT. STREET NIGHT 82

The youths try to mug Charlotte. She hits them
with her handbag and they escape.

CHARLOTTE
You did nothing.

MARK
I couldn't

CHARLOTTE
Why!

MARK
I'll tell you tomorrow.

CHARLOTTE
Tomorrow! What is this! Perhaps
you are not my son! What a coward!

MARK
I'm leaving.

CHARLOTTE
Stop being so childish.

He begins walking away.

MARK
I've had enough.

CHARLOTTE
Don't leave.

MARK
I said I did not want to see
anyone.

CHARLOTTE
I didn't invite these thugs to meet
us.

MARK
Do you believe in religion?

CHARLOTTE
I've lived with it all my life.

MARK
Catholic too?

CHARLOTTE
Maybe. I raised the kids Catholic
to keep Andrew happy. I did so much
work that the Pastor decided to
nominate me as South Carolina's
Catholic Mother of the Year. Well
to make a long story short, I
campaigned against myself, and a
few of the mothers wanted to even
canonized me for being so selfless.

83 FLASHBACK CATHOLIC HALL

83

A number of WOMEN face Charlotte

WOMEN
Charlotte!! Charlotte!

MRS. O'MALLEY
Charlotte Butler, you must allow
your self to made Catholic mother
of the year

CHARLOTE

No way

FIRST WOMAN

You are always doing for others
never yourself

CHARLOTE

No! No! No!

84 BACK

84

They continue walking

MARK

Why did you campaign against
yourself?

CHARLOTTE

Because I wasn't Catholic. I just
pretended to be one. And very
active too. Charities, PTA, Soup
Kitchens, sick and so on.

MARK

And I suppose you're against
abortion too?

85 EXT SKY NIGHT

85

We see thousands of stars in the sky.

CHARLOTTE

I believe in the right to choose.
A woman's right

MARK

Well how about the fetus of 80
years ago?

CHARLOTTE
I so not believe in MY right to
choose.

MARK
And how did you manage this baby
delivery?

CHARLOTTE
Not easy.

86 EXT SKY NIGHT

86

Thousands of stars begin blinking.
They continue walking.

MARK
Did you mother know about it?

CHARLOTTE
Are you kidding?

MARK
By my calculation, you were 16.

CHARLOTTE
About.

MARK
And so how did you proceed? And
unnoticed?

CHARLOTTE
Ask no questions? Just be
grateful!

MARK
For what?

CHARLOTTE
You're being here.

MARK

How did you do it?

CHARLOTTE

I got a summer job working in Boston. And I was able to carry myself so that I didn't appear pregnant. And then there were the nuns

87 FLASHBACK INT DEPARTMENT STOR BOSTON 1932 DAY 87

Charlotte works in department store helping several women select clothing

88 FLASHBACK EXT FRONT DOOR 1932 DAY 88

Charlotte walks into CONVENT and is greeted by NUNS.

89 FLASHBACK INT HOSPITAL IN BOSTN DAY 89

Charlotte gives birth. BABY cries.

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)

They were Godsenders. But in those days I wanted you raised an Episcopalian. And you know, they respected my wishes. You were given to some God-fearing Episcopalians.

MARK

Why did you go through all this grief.

CHARLOTTE

I had to.

MARK

Because abortions weren't easy?

CHARLOTTE

They weren't but... I knew people who could help me if I wanted one.

MARK

Would you do the same today?

CHARLOTTE

Moot question. I can't have any more babies.

MARK

You're so remarkable. Are you sure you can't.

CHARLOTTE

Miracles do happen.

MARK

My dear Lady Logan!

CHARLOTTE

Again?

MARK

Is it true that there are ghosts in these houses

CHARLOTTE

Every street in Charleston has ghosts.

MARK

Do you believe in them

CHARLOTTE

Every street in Charleston has ghosts according to two types of people.

MARK

Who are they?

CHARLOTTE

Real estate agents and travel agents.

Ghosts have sold millions of dollars of real estate and drawn tourists to otherwise boring places. Do you believe in them.

MARK

Yes. Our Capitol Hill house had them. Never told anyone, because.

CHARLOTTE

Are you that naive?

MARK

Saw one once. More importantly, it's why I'm here.

CHARLOTTE

You're a ghost?

MARK

Of course not.

CHARLOTTE

Then why?

MARK

Because I'm here.

CHARLOTTE

Meaning?

MARK

Ever hear of Henrik Ibsen.

CHARLOTTE

I starred in Hedda Gabler the year you were born.

MARK

Ever read Ghosts?

CHARLOTTE

By Ibsen?

MARK

Yes.

CHARLOTTE

I did that one too.

MARK

There's your answer. The ghosts of our ancestors are always with us.

CHARLOTTE

Or in our heads.

MADAME FINCH

I thought you had left, Jay.

JAY

It's been interesting.

MADAME FINCH

Mr. Nibby Nose! Go back to your nest.

JAY

These humans, and sometimes even Miss Charlotte, are crazy.

MADAME FINCH

You don't understand human emotions. Wait till she finds out.

JAY

She'll be shocked. Good night. I'll be back in a while.

90

EXT THE CHARLESTON CEMETERY MINUTES LATER NIGHT

90

Mark and Charlotte stand before graves.

CHARLOTTE

I have never seen so many stars shine over Charleston.

MARK

It's a clear night.

CHARLOTTE

I have live here 95 years and never
seen so many stars over Charleston.

MARK

I have a hunch.

CHARLOTTE

Tell me.

MARK

You'll know tomorrow. Each star is
looking over you.

CHARLOTTE

M-m-m

MARK

How many ancestors buried here?

CHARLOTTE

Hundreds. Butlers, Ravenels,
Pickneys, Sasses, Hegers,
Draytons, Middletons and Haywoods

MARK

Is that your mother's grave with
the impressive stone?

91 FLASHBACK. COLLAGE CHARLOTTE WITH MOTHER 91

We see Charlotte and Mother in a collage

92 EXT CEMETERY NIGHT 92

CHARLOTTE

Don't remind me. I put up with her
for 85 years.

MARK

And your husband?

CHARLOTTE

Eighty four years of marriage was not enough. And by your visit, you've made it possible to reconcile with him. I will love you forever.

MARK

I don't follow your logic. There's his grave.

93 EXT SKY NIGHT

93

Thousands of stars begin blinking.

94 EXT CEMETERY NIGHT

94

She puts flowers on his grave.

CHARLOTTE

My beloved Andrew . All these years I have wanted to tell you something, and never quite was able to do so. I could never lie to you . But there are sins of omission and sins of commission, as you like to tell me. And I committed no sin of commission, but did not dare tell you about this other person. The grief was with me and hurtful. Please forgive me

MARK

Being hard on yourself.

CHARLOTTE

Would you have wanted your wife to keep this secret from you?

MARK

No, but...

CHARLOTTE

There's your answer.

HShe kneels at the grave. The birds appear.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I cut our flowers for you. You're the only one I would get our flowers for. I think I can almost hear your heart beat. I no longer go to church, but every day I pray for you. Now please forgive me for my omission. And who knows better than you what a good mother I was. Our four children tuned out fine. I think I hear you so all is fine. Someday we'll be back together again.

95 FLASHBACK EXT PARK DAY 95

The Butler Family enjoys a picnic.

96 EXT CEMETERY NIGHT 96

MARK

Do you feel better?

CHARLOTTE

I think I've made my amends.
What's that shadow I see.

A noise is heard in the background.

MARK

I didn't hear anything.

CHARLOTTE

Listen.

MARK

I hear nothing.

CHARLOTTE

Listen.

97

EXT BACK OF CEMETERY SHOT NIGHT

97

The shadow of a man appears in the background.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Let's go.

MARK

I'm ready.

Suddenly a dapper and elegantly dressed man, Jim Haywood appears.

CHARLOTTE

Who is it?

MARK

He resembles someone I know.

CHARLOTTE

Someone I know too.

JIM

Why Hello. Lovely night.
Charlotte and Mark.

CHARLOTTE

You look like James Haywood!

JIM

I am James Haywood.

CHARLOTTE

James Haywood, the devil himself!

JIM

No, Sweetie, it is I.

CHARLOTTE

Don't you Sweetie me. What in the
hell are you doing here!

JIM

This is a free country.

CHARLOTTE

No thanks to you.

JIM

I was the Speaker of the General Assembly for 14 years and a member of Congress for eight.

CHARLOTTE

That proves one thing. This country was created by geniuses so that it could be governed by idiots.

JIM

Charlotte Butler! You never change!

CHARLOTTE

Don't intend to either.

JIM

Charley! Will you ever mellow?

CHARLOTTE

Don't ever call me that name. Only Andrew called me Charley.

JIM

I did too. Once upon a time.

CHARLOTTE

Once upon a time.

JIM

I see you have yourself a man.

CHARLOTTE

Why are you walking these grounds!

JIM

I belong to the church.

CHARLOTTE

The last time you saw the inside of
a church was on your baptismal day!
Avoid this man, Mark.

MARK

I know him.

CHARLOTTE

How?

JIM

You ask why! You don't read
newspapers, woman, or you haven't
for half a century!

CHARLOTTE

James Haywood. I thought you were
dead!

JIM

I'm alive, obviously.

CHARLOTTE

No, no! You died a long time ago.

JIM

You're having old age delusions

CHARLOTTE

Age! You're two years older than I
am!

JIM

Can't you be civil for once.

CHARLOTTE

What the hell are you doing here!

JIM

Ask that distinguished gentleman
beside you.

CHARLOTTE

You know this devil!

MARK

Yes. And you know why he's here.

CHARLOTTE

What!

MARK

I invited him. We met recently.

CHARLOTTE

What for!

MARK

I learned something.

CHARLOTTE

Learned what? What did he tell you?

JIM

You know.

CHARLOTTE

How do you know this man?

JIM

We were in congress together

CHARLOTTE

So what?

MARK

Surely you knew?

CHARLOTTE

I never gave it a second thought.
I can not love you, you're re his
son.

MARK

How's that possible?

CHARLOTTE

I never thought of this scoundrel.

JIM

What is all this anger about? I
love you once. And you me.

CHARLOTTE

You're half right.

JIM

For someone who claims to be
descended from all of Charleston,
you sound like a drunken truck
driver.

MARK

Jim, please stop.

JIM

You ask me to stop!

MARK

Charlotte. Treat him like a human.

CHARLOTTE

Why?

98 EXT MOON NIGHT

98

We see a bright moon.

99 EXT. CEMETERY NIGHT

99

MARK

Because he's my father.

CHARLOTTE

And you knew!

MARK

For years.

CHARLOTTE

And said nothing.

MARK

No.

JIM

Nor did you. And he's my son

CHARLOTTE

You had nothing to do with it. (To Mark) I can not love you because you re his son!

MARK

Thanks!

JIM

I obviously had something to do with it.

CHARLOTTE

Unknowingly!

JIM

Exactly! Because you never once mentioned it to me.

CHARLOTTE

Why should I?

JIM

Because he's mine!

CHARLOTTE

He is not There was no intention!

JIM

All these years

CHARLOTTE

Nearly eighty.

JIM

You disappeared.

CHARLOTTE

Disappeared?

JIM

I came to see you one night and you said it was over.

CHARLOTTE

Good memory.

JIM

Why.

CHARLOTTE

Because you were sleeping with every other women in town!

JIM

I was not.

CHARLOTTE

The proof was in the pudding.

JIM

What!

CHARLOTTE

You impregnated that poor Parker girl.

JIM

She was not one of us.

CHARLOTTE

I did not love you then and do not now. End of discussion

JIM

You did at one time.

CHARLOTTE

And then you...

JIM

It was consensual

CHARLOTTE

You tempted me

JIM

It takes two to tango. And why did you not tell me?

CHARLOTTE

I did not know

JIM

I would have married you.

CHARLOTTE

That's what I was worried about.

JIM

Selfish!

CHARLOTTE

Selfish. I did bring him into the world.

JIM

He was mine. And you withheld the information.

CHARLOTTE

Now you know.

JIM

You do realize that all those years I knew this man as a colleague there was no idea that he...

CHARLOTTE

A shame. Mark how did you find out?

JIM

Some papers. Some prying.

CHARLOTTE

What?

MARK

You gave my mother the information

CHARLOTTE
I did not. '

MARK
When I was sick.

CHARLOTTE
I don't recall.

MARK
The questions about genital
defects.

CHARLOTTE
Well now you know.

JIM
You know for years we face one
another on joint committees. He the
liberal Yankee, and me the
conservative Southerner always at
loggerheads.

MARK
Could never even stand to look at
you.

JIM
And then after a while he began
looking at me funny.

CHARLOTTE
Looking at you funny?

JIM
In a different way. And I began
having some doubts. I thought he
might be one of them. You know we
have a lot of those fellas up in
Washington.

CHARLOTTE
How long have you known, Mark.

JIM
At least a decade..

CHARLOTTE

Well now you both know. Can I ask what was the purpose of this whole exercise?

JIM

To do it right!

MARK

Lady Logan, a growing boy suffers from having quarreling parents.

CHARLOTTE

Haywood, how did you know to get here?

JIM

I saw you walking up the street together and followed you.

CHARLOTTE

You don't even live here anymore.

JIM

My cousin Mary does.

CHARLOTTE

Shall we go, Mark?

MARK

I'm ready. Can you forgive?

CHARLOTTE

Nope

MARK

After eighty years. You were both young.

JIM

I feel a sense of betrayal.

CHARLOTTE

Life is tough.

JIM
All those years.

CHARLOTTE
All those years.

JIM
Heard that confession to your
husband.

CHARLOTTE
Hush, about that. He's sacred.

JIM
I hope never to see you again.

CHARLOTTE
Wishful thinking.

JIM
Good night!

CHARLOTTE
And I could swear you were dead.

JIM
Age has caught up to you.

CHARLOTTE
Drop dead!

JIM
Miserable woman.

CHARLOTTE
GO-TO-HELL

Jim disappears. Suddenly we hear Scottish music
in the background

MARK
Shall we go, now.

CHARLOTTE
Don't you hear that music in the
background/

MARK

No

CHARLOTTE

That's Andrew sending me that music
from Heaven

MARK

Oh

CHARLOTTE

List to it. Do you hear it?

MARK

OK, OK, if you insist

CHARLOTTE

I shall begin dancing with him.

MARK

But he's not here.

CHARLOTTE

Jim was part Scottish by hi Mothers
side and was very proud of his
Scottish heritage.

The music get's louder.

MARK

Let us go.

CHARLOTTE

No I must dance with him.

She begins dancing to Scottish Dance music for
about two minutes.

100

EXT THE CHURCH FENCE NIGHT

100

FIVE PEOPLE peek through the Church gate, and
shaking their heads as they watch Charlotte
dancing

101 EXT BACK TO CEMETERY NIGHT 101

Charlotte winds down her dance.

MARK

Let us go!!!

CHARLOTTE

I loved dancing with you Andrew.

MARK

Let's go.

CHARLOTTE

I am so happy.

102 EXT THE FRONT OF CHARLOTTE'S S HOME NIGHT 102

MARK

Mission accomplished?

CHARLOTTE

To say the least.

MARK

More or less.

CHARLOTTE

Stop in for a drink?

MARK

No, thanks.

CHARLOTTE

This visit has changed my life.

MARK

How?

CHARLOTTE

I accomplished my final goal.

MARK

You made it up to Andrew.

CHARLOTTE

Will you give me a good bye kiss.

MARK

Yes, Lady Logan. Let me kiss you on the cheek.

CHARLOTTE

And have a good life.

MARK

I will.

CHARLOTTE

Good night.

MARK

Good night.

CHARLOTTE

But again, are you sure you won't come back.

MARK

It's hard for me to get away.

CHARLOTTE

From what?

MARK

My schedule, or whatever.

CHARLOTTE

You just live nearby.

MARK

The house is going up for sale.

CHARLOTTE

Why?

MARK

I don't need it anymore.

CHARLOTTE

Why not?

MARK

Long story.

CHARLOTTE

I have a right to know!

MARK

Some other time.

CHARLOTTE

Is that all the gratitude I get?

MARK

For what?

CHARLOTTE

For what he asks!

MARK

Let's not end our last meeting with an argument.

CHARLOTTE

One question, Son. Do you believe in coincidence?

MARK

Somewhat.

CHARLOTTE

So much has happened tonight.

MARK

That's right.

CHARLOTTE

Jim showed up, you came, the fire truck drove by, Gin's aunt.

MARK

And so on and so on. Trust me.

CHARLOTTE

Trust you about what?

MARK
Coincidence. It wasn't.

CHARLOTTE
If you say so.

MARK
It wasn't coincidence. I'm in a position to know.

CHARLOTTE
You're so cute. Goodbye, Son

MARK
Remember what Albert Einstein once said.

CHARLOTTE
What was that?

MARK
There are two ways to live life. The first is as if nothing is a miracle. The second is as if everything is a miracle. Arriverdici.

105 EXT AIR NIGHT

105

JAY (O.S.)
Hello, Miss Robin and Madame Finch. You are two of the finest birds on the planet.

MADAME FINCH O.S.)
You too, Jay. And Madame Consider the infinite complexities

JAY
Isn't this a beautiful story.

MADAME FINCH
They all meet again. I could cry.

JAY

Wait till she finds out.

MADAME FINCH

These humans think we're stupid.

JAY

Not Miss Charlotte! How dare you say that!

MADAME FINCH

Well...

JAY

Let us not argue. We all love Charlotte Butler.

MADAME FINCH

One of the nicest humans on the planet.

JAY

As humans go.

MADAME FINCH

None of that condescending bird talk.

JAY

If she would just get rid of that parrot.

MADAME FINCH

Jacob is an overly bright but misunderstood bird.

JAY

Nasty as all hell.

MADAME FINCH(O.S.)

Let's not gossip. Let us ponder the universe. Count the stars, weigh the winds, and study the drops of dew that glisten in early morning.

JAY

Reflect upon the fires that heat
the earth's core; examine the ice
crystals that fall from the
heavens, for no two are identical.

MADAME FINCH

Contemplate the beauty of night and
of daytime, the glorious colors of
moonlight and sunrise. And study
the drops of dew that glisten in
early morning.

JAY

Reflect upon the fires that heat
the earth's core; examine the ice
crystals that fall from the
heavens, for no two are identical.
Contemplate the beauty of night and
of daytime, the glorious colors of
moonlight and sunrise.

Thunder and lightening are heard.

MADAME FINCH

Watch the clouds as they form in
strange patterns and wonder at the
power of lightning. Measure the
great heights, and hold the ocean
in your hands.

JAY

Ponder the things that grow, each
in its season. Study the great
whales at play and listen to their
mournful song.

MADAME FINCH

Watch the birds spread their wings
and fly; survey the gentle cattle
in the fields. And observe
humankind in all its diversity.

JAY

Consider well, and you will not even have begun to contemplate the glory of God, who created all these things. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me.

MADAME FINCH

It is so high that I cannot attain to it.

JAY

Enough terrestrial talk. Will Mark Smythe return?

MADAME FINCH

He might.

JAY

I don't think so.

MADAME FINCH

And she?

JAY

The universe has its hands full.

MADAME FINCH

But she's more precious than the precious.

JAY

Most of the time.

MADAME FINCH

And the scoundrel?

JAY

Judge ye not.

MADAME FINCH

Not a scoundrel. Perhaps a rascal.

JAY

Now let us go to Charlotte's garden.

MADAME FINCH

You know about all the bizarre things that happened a short while ago.

JAY

She'll find out in the morning. And we'll be there to give her our support in our own way.

MADAME FINCH

You really are a good bird, Jay.

JAY

Sometimes.

106 INT DINING ROOM THE NEXT MORNING

106

Charlotte looks at a photograph of the Senator as she sips her coffee. She hears loud knocking at the door.

CHARLOTTE

Hold your horses!

She opens door and Gin rushes in

GIN

Charlotte! You're alive!

CHARLOTTE

Yep! Why shouldn't I be.

GIN

I have been worried all morning. I just got in two hours ago and the whole world's gone crazy!

CHARLOTTE

What are you talking about!

GIN

You don't know what's been happening! Why is your telephone not working?

CHARLOTTE

An electrical problem. The thunder and lightning destroyed the phone and electrical service.

GIN

What thunder and lightning.

CHARLOTTE

We had thunder and lightning here yesterday after you left/

GIN

We did not.

CHARLOTTE

Look! We had thunder and lightning

GIN

There was no thunder and lightning.

CHARLOTTE

You were in Savannah.

GIN

Five people told me there was no thunder and lightning yesterday.

CHARLOTTE

I am not losing my mind.

Gin examines the phone and radio, and sees they are not attached.

GIN

Look, the phone and electrical outlet aren't working because they've been disconnected.

CHARLOTTE

I wonder how that happened.

GIN
You are of course aware that he
died.

CHARLOTTE
Who?

GIN
Mark Smythe.

CHARLOTTE
He did not. He was here last
night.

GIN
You have gone crazy!

CHARLOTTE
Crazy! I beg your pardon.

GIN
Did you go out last night!

CHARLOTTE
Just shortly

GIN
Where to?

CHARLOTTE
St. Phillip's

GIN
The Church is closed at night.

CHARLOTTE
The Cemetery.

GIN
Then the rumors are right.

CHARLOTTE
What rumors?

GIN

That you were seen walking alone
through the streets of Charleston.

CHARLOTTE

What's wrong with walking!

GIN

And talking to yourself.

CHARLOTTE

I was with someone.

GIN

Everyone said you were alone

CHARLOTTE

I was not.

GIN

Who were you with.

CHARLOTTE

A gentleman.

GIN

Who.

CHARLOTTE

A gentleman.

GIN

Yet everyone said you were alone!

CHARLOTTE

They were wrong.

GIN

Who was he?

CHARLOTTE

I won't tell.

GIN

Oh stop. I lose my husband- to- be
and now I hear this!

CHARLOTTE

I will tell you who the man was.

GIN

Who?

CHARLOTTE

Senator Smythe

GIN

You're either crazy or ..

CHARLOTTE

I was pulling your leg....Now Don't even think of calling my four children.

GIN

Why would I?

CHARLOTTE

Don't even think of it. I am neither crazy nor senile!

GIN

I didn't say you were, but...

CHARLOTTE

I must go off to play bridge this morning.

GIN

Can you spend some time with me. . I've been abandoned by my aunt and renegade cousin, my husband to be dies.

CHARLOTTE

You only dated him a few time, for God's sake. Have my children called you?.

GIN

All four of them.

CHARLOTTE

What did you tell them?

GIN

I told them you were fine.

CHARLOTTE

I'll bet. I've got to go. I mind my own business.

GIN

I hope the other thing I heard was not true.

CHARLOTTE

What was that ?

GIN

That you heard cursing Jim Haywood.

CHARLOTTE

Who's Jim Haywood?

GIN

Come now. The former speaker of the South Carolina Assembly.

CHARLOTTE

Never heard of him.

GIN

Through the years I 'v herd rumors.

CHARLOTTE

Hush. You should get a job in a rumor mill. You'd become a millionaire. Now go.

GIN

Gladly.

Gin exits. The phone rings

CHARLOTTE A

Hello.....I'm Fine.....No, I do not want a

MARY

visit...Your Mother can take care of herself. ...Yes I did visit the cemetery...Why! Because it's our 75th anniversary! That's why!....What Neighbors!....No I was not talking to myself. ...You want to visit?...Why....I'm Fine!No you cannot come for a visit...And bring your shrink husband with you...Are you crazy...Stay away.... I'm going to bridge, then for my weekly workout, and then delivering some meals for Meals on Wheels. Goodbye.

She slams down the phone, which rings again.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Hello...your sister just called.

ELIZABETH

...No! I'm fine....I'm Fine.....I'M FINE!... If I hear any more such nonsense from you.,.....Well, Stop....Yes went to the Cemetery...Goodbye...no, do not visit....

She hangs up. She turns on the radio.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

And Senator Mark Smythe of New Hampshire, who served for 28 years in the United States Senate and 12 years in the House of Representatives, died in Charleston, SC. The son of a prominent Massachusetts family.,,t

She turns off radio and picks up the telephone.

| CHARLOTTE

Susan?...Charlotte, Here....You don't have to pick me up for bridge at the synagog. I would rather drive. I have to pick up a few items at Graces hardware....I know that I've driven the last four times... Never mind...I also want to leave early...Betty is coming to clean the house...See You shortly.

107 EXT GARDEN DAY

107

She goes into the garden bringing her phone with her, and turns on Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. Suddenly. All the birds appear perched on the fence.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Good morning. Welcome, fellas.

They all begin chirping.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

You like Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony?

The birds begin humming.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

(Speaking to the flowers) The flowers I cut have gone on to a new life. They are with Andrew.

Suddenly, a rainbow appears in the sky.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Look at that rainbow.

JAY (O.S.)

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars.

MADAME FINCH (O.S.)

You have a right to be here, And
whether or not it is clear to you

JAY

No doubt the universe is unfolding
as it should. With all its sham,
drudgery, and broken dreams

MADAME FINCH

It is still a beautiful world. Be
cheerful. Strive to be happy

Charlotte picks up the telephone.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Hello, is this Mary's nursery.....

CLERK

Charlotte Butler here...I want to
purchase a persimmons
tree....fine...how long do they
need to bear fruit...ten years? m-m-
m-m-m....I'll take one....I Need
two....why?...to bear fruit.....a
male and a female tree...never
heard of such a thing...i learn
something new everyday...yes.
Deliver two of them. One male and
one female....Please deliver by
Thursday, because Mr. Boyce comes
in that day and he can plant them
for me....Yes, and I intend to eat
of the fruit of the vine...I plan
to be here.

The rainbow becomes even brighter.

CHARLOTTE

Andrew, do I see you in the
rainbow?

The music gets louder, and the rainbow becomes
brighter.

108 EXT. FLOWERS DAY 108

We see thousands of flowers

109 EXT. RAINBOW DAY 109

We see rainbow

110 EXT. MAIN STREET DAY 110

Funeral procession of cars with hearse drives up the street.

111 EXT FRONT OF ST. PHILIPPS CHURCH DAY 111

Pall bearers carry a casket into the Church.

112 INT ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH DAY 112

Huge crowd. Charlotte Butler and Gin

GIN

They should have asked me to sit with the family

CHARLOTTE

Oh hush.

113 INT FRONT VIEW DAY 113

MINISTER 40's goes to front of alter

114 SIDE VIEW 114

Mrs. Brisk, and the other women who saw Charlotte

MRS. BRISK

There's that crazy Charlotte Butler

MRS. O'MALLEY

I hope she's not talking to herself today.

MRS. BRISK

Poor woman needs t be put away.

MRS. O'MALLEY

I said the same thing six years ago.

115 INT PULPIT DAY

115

Minister winds down his eulogy

MINISTER

In conclusion, Senator Smythe had roots in Charleston but essentially mad his home here for ten years. We all came to love this man. And all that he did for the community. Especially his hard work for unwed mothers.

116 INT VIEW OF CHARLOTTE DAY

116

We see tears streaming down her cheeks.

117 INT RETURN TO PULPIT VIEW DAY

117

Minister concluding

MINISTER

Senator Smythe's body will now return to Boston for burial. And now you are all invited downstairs for a reception afterwards following the burial

118 INT FRONT VIEW DAY 118

Gin and Charlotte begin walking out with the rest of the congregation

GIN

Are you coming to the reception

CHARLOTTE

No I think I'll go home.

119 EXT. BROADWAY STREET DAY 119

Charlotte walks up the street. Some tears strain from her cheeks.

VOICE OF MARK

And remember Charlotte. There are no coincidences.

CHARLOTTE

Can I ever get you out of my mind?

VOICE OF ANDREW

I love you Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Andrew. I hear you . And I love you now and forever.

VOICE OF ANDREW

We'll be together again.

CHARLOTTE

Not for now. I have a bridge came to go to. Good bye, my love

VOICE OF ANDREW

I'll be waiting for you Charlotte.

120 EXT RAINBOW DAY 120

Shot of Rainbow

121 EXT FLOWERS DAY 121

The flowers in Charlotte's garden

122 INT CHARLOTTE'S KITCHEN DAY 122

Charlotte picks up the phone and dials.

CHARLOTTE

Is this Pinkney Funeral Home

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)

How are you transporting Senator
Smythe's body to Boston?

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)

By Train? Which train?

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)

Oh very good. So he's being
transported with a passenger train.
What time does it leave?

CHARLOTTE

Thank you.

123 INT PINCKNEY FUNERAL HOME DAY 123

JED, forties, puts down phone.

JED

Hey Charlie. That crazy Charlotte
Butler called.

CHARLIE

God forbid. She's my fifth cousin
once removed.

JED

I would'nt brag about it. Guess
what she wanted to know? (Begins
howling) When was Senator Smythe's
body was being sent to Boston.

CHARLIE

She barely knows the man. She's been kind'a bizarre lately. They're gonna have to put her away.

JED

Good luck on that one!

They both begin howling in laughter.

124

EXT TRAIN STATION

124

Charlotte approaches the ticket counter. The
TICKET SELLER looks

TICKET SELLER

May I help you?

CHARLOTTE

One ticket for Boston at 2 PM

TICKET SELLER

Will that be two.

CHARLOTTE

Just one.

TICKET SELLER

Ou're travelling alone, Mrs. Butler

CHARLOTTE

Would you care to come with me,
Agness

TICKET SELLER

No, but.

CHARLOTTE

Well then sell me the ticket and
shut up.

The ticket seller glances at her awkwardly.

- 125 EXT TRAIN TRAVELLING DAY 125
The train through green mountains.
- 126 EXT. BOSTON SKYLINE DAY 126
We see the Boston Skyline.
- 127 EXT. SENATOR SMYTHE'S BOSTON HOME DAY 127
We see the same home Charlotte visited 75 years ago. Charlotte spends a minute staring at the house. Suddenly a red fire truck breezes by with the siren on.
- 128 EXT. TRINITY CHURCH BOSTON DAY 128
We see pallbearers taking out a casket draped in the American flag. Charlotte can be seen from a distance.
- 129 EXT. DAY CEMETERY 129
FAMILY MEMBERS weep as the casket is lowered in the ground. Charlotte is at a distance observing.
- 130 EXT. TRAIN DAY 130
The train heads back to Charleston.
- 131 EXT CHARLESTON SKYLINE DAY 131
We see the Charleston Skyline.
- 132 EXT. CHARLOTTE'S GARDEN DAY 132
Charlotte appears in the garden.

CHARLOTTE
Good morning, Birds and Flowers.

133 EXT SKY DAY

133

Jay and Madame Finch appear and fly into the
sunset

END