

SCENE 1

AT RISE: *(A viewing at a funeral home. Jane is at a closed casket. Two rows of 3 chairs are behind her. Organ music is playing softly.)*

JANE: Oh Bill. I can't believe you're gone. You always were an inconsiderate bastard but now, just when I thought we were finally working things out, you go and get yourself killed!

ANNIE: *(VO)* Bill, Bill, Bill, you always did like to live on the edge. All those years of thinking you were invincible. Now look where you are! Kevin still can't understand why you divorced me, married my sister and his aunt became his step mother and his mother became his aunt... It's all been so confusing for him. I sure hope you're in a better place, but I doubt it.

ANNIE: *(Annie leers at Jane)* I hope you're happy now.

JANE: Still jealous... after 5 years. That's pretty pathetic.

ANNIE: What do you expect? Catching my own sister in bed with my husband.

JANE: If you had been taking care of him that wouldn't have happened. You need to forget it. Especially now that he's I can't believe you!

ANNIE: It really hurt Jane. And then you had the gall to get Mom on your side. Of course, she always liked you better anyway!

JANE: She saw that we were a better fit, that's all. Bedside's, you weren't exactly an innocent in all this.

ANNIE: To be honest, I'm glad you took him away from me—he was too much trouble.

JANE: Too much trouble? He was always good to me. Unlike you, I had a good marriage... until recently. He seemed to have a lot on his mind.

ANNIE: Really! Seemed to me that his hand was actually glued to your ass.

JANE: C'mon, Annie, have some respect.

ANNIE: You're right. Besides, my life is pretty good now. *(Changing subject)* Now, Jane, I want details. Bill worked in a dangerous job at the Treasury Department so I thought something might have happened related to his work, but in your phone message you said that he died in a skydiving accident.

JANE: It was some type of skydiving exhibition at a football game or something. He was sucked out of the plane and fell into a lake.

ANNIE: But he was such an experienced skydiver. He was an expert parachute packer; they always have two parachutes. What happened?

JANE: You know the door is always open in a skydiving plane. He was trying out some new emergency chute that would open automatically at 800 feet.

ANNIE: And?

JANE: And apparently, when the airplane rose to 800 feet, the chute opened and pulled him out of the plane.

ANNIE: Oh, that's terrible!

JANE: He was so mangled that we would have to have a closed casket. (*Sobs.*)

ANNIE: I'm so sorry Jane.

(They hug as Candy enters the room and goes to the casket. She is dressed in a very tightfitting red dress and wearing stiletto heels.)

CANDY: (*VO*) Bill. I couldn't believe it when I heard the news. I don't know what happened. Something about an airplane? I thought you were on a business trip to Kansas. It's been two weeks since you left and I was looking forward to you coming back next week. For that romantic dinner in the mountains.

JANE: Who are you?

CANDY: Hello. I'm Candy. And you are?

JANE: I am Bill's wife, Jane Smith.

CANDY: (*Pauses*) Wife?

JANE: Yes!

CANDY: He told me he was divorced.

ANNIE: He was divorced--from me. Now she is his wife.

JANE: (*Pointing to Annie*) She was his wife. Now I'm his wife...was his wife.

CANDY: That son-of-a-bitch.

JANE AND ANNIE (*UNISON*): That son-of-a-bitch!

JANE: How long were you seeing him?

CANDY: (*Head high*) Six months. He came into the restaurant where I'm a waitress and he seemed so nice, but so lonely.

ANNIE: (*Giggles*) Six months. That's how long he cheated on me.

CANDY: With who?

ANNIE: (*She points to Jane*) With my sister... her. (*Looking at Candy*) At least you fit the profile!

CANDY: What do you mean?

ANNIE: You have what Bill liked. (*She cups her breasts with her hands.*)

CANDY: I can't believe this. (*Pauses*). So he wasn't in Kansas.

JANE: No. He was at home with me.

CANDY: What was his job?

JANE: He was a Treasury Agent.

CANDY: What? He told me he was a traveling salesman.

(Annie giggles.)

JANE: Oh, he was a traveler all right. He was a Treasury agent for 17 years. Bill worked undercover going after the Mafia.

ANNIE: And I'm his son's mother.

CANDY: Son?

JANE: Yes.

CANDY: He never mentioned any children! (*Candy goes to the casket and pounds on the top with frustration.*) ... My family always has open caskets.

JANE: They didn't ask me how I wanted it. Maybe his head got chopped off.

(Candy starts to wail. The other two comfort her. Maria walks in and goes to the casket.)

MARIA: (*VO*) Bill, I can't believe you're really gone. We had such plans for each other. I was going to leave Alfredo next month. I know you didn't believe me, but I was! And you said you and Jane were through. Now I have to stay with Tom! (*Sobs*)

JANE: Maria?! (*They hug*) Is Alfredo with you?

MARIA: Uh, no. He's watching football today.

JANE: Football?

MARIA: Actually, I don't think he heard about Bill (*looks sheepish*).

ANNIE: Hello, Maria. I haven't seen you since high school.

MARIA: Hello, Annie. This is a terrible shock. I'm so sorry for your loss.

ANNIE: It's not my loss. We were divorced over 5 years ago.

JANE: But I thank you. This has been shock for all of us.

CANDY: I'm shocked, too. I'm Candy, his girlfriend, or so I thought.

MARIA: Why the closed casket?

JANE: His boss made the arrangements. The funeral home just said the Treasury Department was taking care of everything. They even brought me a check this morning for his life insurance. It's only been three days.

ANNIE: Really. The U.S. Government gave you his insurance check in three days! I would have thought a year would be more like it. You are talking about our Government, right?

(Jane nods)

MARIA: What happened? There wasn't much in the paper.

JANE: It was a parachute accident.

CANDY: Parachute?

JANE: He had a parachute accident and fell out of the plane early. They said his head must have hit the tail and killed him instantly.

CANDY: I can't believe this. We'd been planning on moving away.

JANE: Moving? Moving where?

CANDY: He said he was trying to get a new job overseas somewhere. Maybe London. I even applied for a passport. But before that, we were going on a romantic getaway in the mountains! *(Annie smirks.)*

MARIA: The mountains! He was taking me to Los Vegas...After my husband left town of course.

(Annie smirks again.)

JANE: What are you saying? Bill was also seeing you on the side? That son-of-a-bitch!

ANNIE, MARIA, JANE (Unison) That son-of-a-bitch.

ANNIE: Well, you certainly don't fit the profile

MARIA: Well, I just loved going out with him. He was such a wonderful dancer.

JANE: Dancer?