

# 3 CARD STUD

by  
Ronnie Larsen

A new play about three Queens in search of an Ace.

(Female Version)

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(FEMALE VERSION)

A new play about three Queens in search of an Ace.

#### Character Breakdown

Shelly - A widow, 60's - 70's

Ginger - A bisexual woman, Dominatrix 60's - 70's

Billie - A older woman 70's - 80's

Michelle - A woman, Shelly's daughter, mid-30's

Richard - A young man in great physical shape, 20's

The play is set in South Florida - Present day.

The set should be extremely simple and abstract.

All the furniture and areas are shared for all locations as needed. The less realistic the better.

#### SCENE 1: CARDS

Music Cue - Blue Skies by Della Reese

As the song begins the house lights fade to black and the stage lights fade to black.

Lights up on Shelly, a woman in her 70's, scurrying around the house getting ready for her soon-arriving guests. Opens a bottle of wine.

Gets glasses. Sets the round table. One by one her two female friends enter, get comfortable, drink wine, sit down and begin to play cards. The three older women sit at a round table playing cards.

Song ends.

There is a lull in the action and they each study their cards. After a long silence.

BILLIE

I got nothing

GINGER

I got nothing

Suddenly a naked young stud enters from a bedroom door. He doesn't see them. He goes to the fridge, removes a gallon of milk.

The three women playing cards don't move except to slowly and in unison shift their focus from their cards to this gift from God.

The stud drinks from the jug, as he does, milk dribbles down his stomach and down to his dick. The three women are dumb-struck...and in love.

SHELLY

Royal Flush

BILLIE

God, I wish I weren't lactose intolerant.

GINGER

I wish I were a milk man right now.

SHELLY

This reminds me of when I was a little girl and every morning we had to milk the cows. But our cows weren't as cute as that.

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Well some were, I mean when you're really horny, you know... once I caught my brother with...but that's another story.

BILLIE

If cows looked like that I'd buy a farm and be a full-time milk maid.

Richard sees them. He's speechless and quickly covers himself with the jug.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Hey, Milkman, you wanna play cards?

RICHARD

What are you playing?

SHELLY

Old Maid.

GINGER

Go Fish.

SHELLY

Strip Poker and you lost.

RICHARD

So who's winning?

BILLIE

All of us?

RICHARD

I'll let you ladies go. I'm really sorry. I didn't see you here.

GINGER

From what I see you have nothing to apologize for.

BILLIE  
You really don't.

SHELLY  
You really don't.

GINGER  
From what I see your parents  
did a very good job.

BILLIE  
From what I see I'm guessing  
your Dad was a longshoreman.

GINGER  
Or a sausage maker.

SHELLY  
Or an African-American.

GINGER  
That's racist. Some black guys  
have small dicks.

SHELLY  
Oh please, honey, a small black  
dick is a big white one.

RICHARD  
I'm really sorry for drinking  
outta the jug. I didn't know  
he had roommates.

BILLIE  
Honey, you can drink out of my  
jugs anytime.

GINGER  
He wants fresh milk not sour  
cream.

SHELLY  
So what's your name?

RICHARD  
Richard.

BILLIE

Richard?

RICHARD

Richard, but my friends call me...

GINGER

Dick. Hi, Dick.

BILLIE

Nice to meet you, Dick.

RICHARD

Rich, actually. My friends call me Rich.

SHELLY

So Dick, I'm assuming you met my daughter.

Richard takes out his phone...reads...

RICHARD

Is your daughter a "kinky submissive female, looking for fun times, no strings attached, with a tight body and a taste for leather"

SHELLY

That's my girl!

RICHARD

She's a little boring in bed.

SHELLY

She got that from her Father's side of the family.

RICHARD

But she gives great head.

SHELLY

She got that from my side. We come from a long line of fellatio experts. In fact our family crest has a picture of a car bumper missing all it's chrome. My grandfather's name was Jedidah Noteeth. He was the county dentist.

RICHARD

Well, your daughter seems like a nice gal.

SHELLY

Cause you don't know her.

RICHARD

Well, she seems nice.

GINGER

Don't judge a book by its cover.

RICHARD

I better get going.

GINGER

No, no, no...the games just beginning.

BILLIE

Come have a seat.

GINGER

Come on. We don't bite.

BILLIE

Well I would if I had teeth.

GINGER

I prefer to nibble...but never on the first date...so you're safe...for now.

RICHARD  
Maybe I should put some clothes  
on.

SHELLY  
Boring.

GINGER  
Wrong answer.

BILLIE  
Survey says, BUZZKILL!

SHELLY  
Lets just pretend it's your  
birthday and you're dressed  
appropriately.

RICHARD  
This is like an x-rated version  
of The Golden Girls.

BILLIE  
Exactly! That's exactly what  
it is.

GINGER  
We're very open, right ladies.

BILLIE  
No prudes in this house.

SHELLY  
Come on, play a round with us.

RICHARD  
And what are we playing?

SHELLY  
3 Card Stud, stud.

BILLIE  
You're studdering.

SHELLY  
F-F-F-Fuck you.

RICHARD  
I never played 3 Card Stud.

BILLIE  
It's very simple. We play  
cards and you just sit there  
naked. Whoever gets your phone  
number first, wins.

SHELLY  
Deal me in.

GINGER  
So, do you like older women,  
(glancing at his dick)  
Dick?

BILLIE  
Yeah, does it?  
(looking at his dick)  
Hello? Wake up. We're talking  
to you.

RICHARD  
It's sleeping.

GINGER  
Nice sleeping bag.

SHELLY  
Stop!

BILLIE  
"It's fallen and it cant get  
up."

GINGER  
So, seriously, do you like  
older women?

RICHARD  
I've never been with one.

SHELLY  
A woman or an older?

RICHARD

Older. I usually date people  
my own age.

GINGER

Dating? Who said anything  
about dating? I can take  
myself to dinner and a movie, I  
don't need you for that.

BILLIE

So what does that mean, "I  
usually date people my own  
age."

RICHARD

It means I usually date people  
my own age but...

SHELLY

When you say "people" do you  
mean "people" or do you mean,  
"female people".

RICHARD

I'm open to anyone. Gay,  
straight, bi, male, female,  
younger...

(looks at Shelly)

older...

(looking at Ginger,  
grinning)

...old...

(looking at Billy)

...really old.

BILLIE

Oh my God, my Life Alert just  
went off.

SHELLY

(hyperventilating)

Pass the metamucil.

GINGER

Fuck me, honey, I just had both hips replaced so I am good to go...smells like a new car down there.

SHELLY

With leather interior.

GINGER

Hateful.

SHELLY

So what's the oldest woman you've ever been with?

RICHARD

I don't know.

GINGER

40?

RICHARD

Yeah, 40.

BILLIE

40, wow do I hear? 60?

RICHARD

60?

GINGER

60!

BILLIE

60! Do I hear 70?

RICHARD

70???

BILLIE

Do I hear 80?

GINGER

80!

RICHARD  
Sure, why not?

BILLIE  
Sold to the oldest bidder. Ok,  
what's your number? I wanna  
text you...

Billie takes out his phone and begins typing.

BILLIE (CONT'D)  
...eggplant, eggplant,  
eggplant...

Showing him his phone.

BILLIE (CONT'D)  
...and here's a picture of my  
hip before they put it in. And  
here I am without my teeth.

RICHARD  
954-522-

ALL  
Wait!

They all take out their phones.

ALL (CONT'D)  
Okay go...954

RICHARD  
954...

SHELLY  
No, stop, this isn't right...we  
can't hook up with my  
daughter's date.

GINGER  
Why not?

SHELLY  
I don't know...okay...start  
over...954...

RICHARD  
954-522...

Shelly's son, Michelle, suddenly enters.

MICHELLE  
Richard, what are you doing out here?

RICHARD  
I was thirsty.

GINGER  
And so are we so go back to bed and you can have him when we're done.

MICHELLE  
Richard, can you come in here, please?

RICHARD  
Ladies, it's been fun, but I better let you go.

BILLIE  
Wait, I didn't get the last 4 digits.

SHELLY  
I'm sure he has a profile on Adult Friend Finder.

The women whip out their phones again.

BILLIE  
"HungStud"

GINGER  
Got him.

BILLIE  
Bingo.

SHELLY  
Jackpot. This is you?

RICHARD  
Winner Winner, Chicken Dinner!

BILLIE  
God, I love chicken.

SHELLY  
I thought you were vegetarian.

BILLIE  
I'll make an exception for  
Richard.

GINGER  
It says HungStud is 3  
centimeters away.

Richard smiles. Ginger leans in closer.

GINGER (CONT'D)  
It says HungStud is 2  
centimeters away.

Ginger inches in closer again.

GINGER (CONT'D)  
1 centimeter.

Ginger inches closer again.

GINGER (CONT'D)  
That's weird, now it says  
HungStud is 8 inches away.

BILLIE  
9 inches.

RICHARD  
9 and half actually.

GINGER  
And submissivewhore is 3 feet  
away.

They all look at Shelly.

SHELLY

Don't look at me.

They all look at Michelle.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Oh Michelle, how could you?  
Everyone called you whore in  
high school but I didn't think  
you liked it!

MICHELLE

Okay, enough...come on Richard,  
let's go back to bed.

BILLIE

Remember, Richard, only one  
woman in this house has  
dentures and it's not Michelle.

Richard and Michelle leave. The older women are  
stunned.

GINGER

Shelly, I need to tell you  
something. I think your  
daughter might be sort of...  
loose.

SHELLY

Thank you, Nancy Drew. What  
was your first clue?

GINGER

Just a hunch. I have a nose  
for these sorts of things. You  
know when I was a stripper back  
in Vegas in the 60's I hooked  
up with everyone...lots of  
celebrities, too. Dean Martin,  
Sammy Davis Jr., Dinah Shore.

BILLIE

You had sex with Dinah Shore???

GINGER

Just once.

BILLIE

How was it?

GINGER

Not good. She took me to her golf tournament and I spent the whole week trying to lick a hole in one...I was wild in my youth. I was bi for a while. I fucked anyone and everyone but Dinah Shore made me bi.

SHELLY

So who was a better lover, Martha Washington or Neanderthal?

BILLIE

Come on, let's play. Shuffle the cards, I'm feeling lucky.

GINGER

Hold on. I'm updating my profile. "Older woman seeks milk-drinking younger stud named Dick. I may be old but I'm very hip. Two in fact. Brand new. Eggplant, Eggplant Eggplant."

## SCENE 2: MICHELLE AND RICHARD

MICHELLE

I'd like to see you again.

RICHARD

I'm sorry. I'm more of a one night stand ind of guy. Sorry. But it was fun. Thanks. See ya around.

MICHELLE

Cunt.

Richard goes in to the living room.

SHELLY

You taking off.

RICHARD

Yep. Thanks for the milk.

SHELLY

Mi casa su casa.

RICHARD

Really?

SHELLY

Sure.

RICHARD

No. Really?

SHELLY

Really what?

RICHARD

Your casa mi casa?

SHELLY

Sure, why not?

RICHARD

So I can come back?

SHELLY

Sure?

RICHARD

As your guest?

SHELLY

Sure?

RICHARD

Your daughter won't be jealous?

SHELLY

Jealous? What you talkin'  
about Willis?

RICHARD

Your hot? You're funny. You  
know, I never thought about  
being with an older woman  
before but you got me thinking.  
Thinking hard. Real hard. I  
bet you're experienced? I bet  
you know what you're doing. I  
bet you know things that  
younger girls don't. I'm  
intrigued.

SHELLY

Ummmmm...okaaaay...

RICHARD

So, call me. You have my  
number.

SHELLY

I have your number.

RICHARD

Can I ask you a personal  
question,

SHELLY

Sure.

RICHARD

Do your teeth come out.

SHELLY

Um...no...sadly...no...I'm  
sorry.

RICHARD

That's okay. I'm still  
interested.

SHELLY

Well that's good cause I've never been rejected before for having teeth.

RICHARD

So call me.

SHELLY

Okay.

Richard walks over and gives her a kiss. Michelle enters while they are kissing. Michelle freezes, repulsed. She steps back in to the room peaking her head around the door. They don't see him.

RICHARD

Wow. Don't tell her I said this but you are a much much better kisser than your daughter.

SHELLY

Really?

RICHARD

Absolutely. It's like she's never kissed before. She tightens her lips up like a chicken. You should give her some lessons.

SHELLY

I'll get right on that.

MICHELLE

(mouthing, no sound)  
Oh, you fucking cunt!

RICHARD

Can I have another one?

SHELLY

Sure, why not. But this is the last one.

(playfully)

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
I don't want you to think I'm  
easy.

They suddenly kiss passionately.

MICHELLE  
What the fuck?!?!

Black-Out (only for 3 seconds)

Music Cue: Make Someone Happy by Jimmy Durante

SCENE 7: RICHARD AND BILLIE

Spotlight on Billie.

Billie enters wearing a bathrobe. He takes it off to reveal he is wearing a white tank top, long black socks and a pair of Depends. He sits, gets comfortable. Takes out his phone. Begins to dial.

Richard appears in a spotlight on the opposite side of the stage - two spotlights.

RICHARD  
Hey... "Granny"... you there?

BILLIE  
I'm here... "sonny".

RICHARD  
Mmmmm, what are you wearing?

BILLIE  
Depends.

RICHARD  
Depends on what?

BILLIE  
Just depends.

RICHARD  
On what? Depends on what?

BILLIE  
Depends on...bare skin.

RICHARD  
What are you doing right now?

BILLIE  
I'm getting ready for bed.  
Hold on.

She takes her teeth out and puts them in a glass of water on the table.

BILLIE (CONT'D)  
(beat)  
I just took my teeth out.

RICHARD  
Mmmmmm. That's hot. Tell me  
what you want to do to me.

She says all this with no teeth (lips over teeth).

BILLIE  
Well first I want get on my  
knees and rub my face all over  
your crotch then I'd slowly  
unzip your pants then I'd pull  
your big cock out and stare at  
it. Then I'd take my teeth out  
and put them on the night stand  
and I'd take your big cock in  
my mouth and lick it all around  
with my tongue then I'd jam it  
all the way down my throat.

RICHARD  
Oh fuck, that's so hot!

BILLIE  
Yeah, you like that?

RICHARD  
Oh yeah.

BILLIE  
You like Granny's hot mouth?

RICHARD  
Don't you mean, "Grand  
Grandma"?

BILLIE  
Yeah, you like Great Grandma's  
hot mouth?

RICHARD  
Oh yes. So hot. Oh fuck

BILLIE  
Come on. Cum on Grandma's  
tita.

RICHARD  
Oh, yes.

BILLIE  
Louder

RICHARD  
Oh yes.

BILLIE  
Louder

Sound Cue: Beeeeeeeeeeeeeep

RICHARD  
What is that? Fuck?

BILLIE  
Sorry, that's my hearing aid?

RICHARD  
Fuck, lady, that's a buzzkill.  
Turn it down.

BILLIE  
What?

RICHARD  
Turn it down.

BILLIE  
What?

RICHARD  
Turn it down!!!

Beeeeeeeeep.

BILLIE  
You can't yell.

RICHARD  
Turn it down.

BILLIE  
What?

RICHARD  
Turn down your hearing aid.

Se does and the beeping ends.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
That's better. Ok. So where  
were we, Grandma?

BILLIE  
What?

RICHARD  
(louder)  
You were sucking my dick.

BILLIE  
What?

RICHARD  
(louder)  
You were sucking my dick.

BILLIE  
What???

RICHARD

Turn up your hearing aid.

He does and we hear a very loud, "screeeech".

Sound Cue: Beeeeeeeeeeep.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ, I'll call you  
tomorrow!

Richard hangs up. His spotlight goes out.

BILLIE

What???

(beat)

What??????

(beat)

Richard are you there???

His spotlight goes out.

#### SCENE 8: MICHELLE AND SHELLY

Lights up on Michelle and Shelly sitting at the round table center stage.

MICHELLE

Well, that's a first. I never  
thought I'd hear the words,  
"You're a much better kisser  
than your daughter."

SHELLY

Don't be jealous. It's not  
attractive.

MICHELLE

I'm not jealous. I'm creeped  
out.

SHELLY

Why? Because an attractive guy  
finds me attractive? You  
should be happy for me?

MICHELLE

You want my leftovers? My sloppy seconds? That's disgusting.

SHELLY

You met him on Tinder. He's everybody's leftovers. Don't get all uppity.

MICHELLE

You cant fuck the same guys I fuck. That's like having a threesome with your Mom. That's so gross.

SHELLY

When did you become such a prude?

MICHELLE

When did you become such a slut?

SHELLY

I'm 72, Michelle. Time is not on my side. You can have any guy you want. You don't need him. I'm tired of being alone. I want to be desired, too. I want to be wanted. Just like you. What's wrong with that?

MICHELLE

It just feels wrong.

SHELLY

Why?

MICHELLE

It just does.

SHELLY

Get over yourself, Michelle. It's 2018. We're two grown women living in Miami.

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

We both have Tinder accounts and we're both on Adult Friend Finder. We walk around naked, we both watch porn, I let you bring guys home. We couldn't be more liberal right now unless we were having a threesome with Bernie Sanders. Relax. Let's just have fun. Jealousy is so boring. Be happy for me. Be happy for your hot Momma. She's still got it.

MICHELLE

Can you just not have him over here when I'm home. I really liked him but he's not interested. He said I was just a one night stand.

SHELLY

Well at least he's honest. That's a good thing.

MICHELLE

Just please don't bring him over here when I'm here.

SHELLY

No problem. You got it. Fine. It's a deal.

SCENE 9: BILLIE AND RICHARD

Music Cue - Elegant Doorbell

Billie answers the door.

BILLIE

Come on in.

RICHARD

Hey.

BILLIE  
Hey. Wassup, homie?

RICHARD  
How are you sexy?

BILLIE  
I'm good.

RICHARD  
Nice apartment.

BILLIE  
Thank you. Have a seat. I'll  
be right back.

Billy exits to the kitchen. Richard studies the plastic covered furniture. Finally he sits on it, awkwardly. Billie returns with hors d'oeuvres.

BILLIE (CONT'D)  
I made some "whores  
doors"...get it..."whores  
doors"

RICHARD  
Uh, no, actually...

BILLIE  
Forget it.

Richard sits on a chair covered in plastic.

RICHARD  
Why do you have plastic on your  
furniture?

BILLIE  
It protects them

RICHARD  
From what?

BILLIE  
Fluids.

RICHARD

(confused)

What?

(beat)

Ohhhhhh...got it...that's  
hot....smart...I should get  
these for my house...

BILLIE

Here, try this....it's high in  
fiber...

RICHARD

Needs salt.

BILLIE

No. No sodium. Very healthy.

RICHARD

What are these?

BILLIE

Prunes. They're delicious.  
And they keep me regular.

RICHARD

Hmmmmmm. I never had these  
before.

BILLIE

Try this...it's so good.

RICHARD

What is it?

BILLIE

Ensure. It's delicious. And  
really good for you. It's sort  
of like a milkshake with no  
sugar, no milk and no ice  
cream. Try it.

RICHARD

What's this pill for?

BILLIE

That's for me. It's for  
my...ugh...blood pressure...my  
vagina blood pressure....ha  
ha...its called ViaFem. Female  
viagra.

RICHARD

Female viagra. Seriously, does  
it work?

BILLIE

Every time!

RICHARD

Take it.

BILLIE

You sure?

RICHARD

Sure.

BILLIE

I get so horny.

RICHARD

Take it!

BILLIE

Four 5 hours.

RICHARD

Take half.

BILLIE

Okay, here we go. I warned  
you.

She takes it. Goes to the kitchen and gets the egg  
timer. Sets it for 20 minutes

They sit for a long time.

RICHARD

Anything yet?

BILLIE

Not yet.

They sit.

RICHARD

How bout now?

BILLIE

Nada. Be patient.

(beat)

Have some melba toast?

They wait some more.

RICHARD

How bout now?

BILLIE

Not yet. Wait. Yes. Take off  
your shirt.

He does.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Mmmmm. The lips are starting  
to whisper. Take off your  
pants.

He does.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Mmmmmmm. I'm starting to  
quiver. Take off your  
underwear.

He does.

Billie starts vibrating.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Mmmmmmm. Jackpot! Get your  
hose out, cause Momma's on  
fire!!!

Music Cue: Love to Love You Baby

Richard flashes a wicked smile for the first 5 seconds of the song.

Lights fade to black as Shelly enters in a ridiculously "hip" outfit and a plate of candles that she begins placing around the stage.

Michelle enters and music fades out.

SCENE 10: FIRST DATE

MICHELLE

Mom, what is going on in here.  
Are you having a seance  
tonight?

SHELLY

You gotta go. He just sent me  
a text. He's 10 minutes away.

MICHELLE

This is insane.

Michelle turns on the lights.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Mom, what are you wearing?

SHELLY

I want to look hip.

MICHELLE

You look like Hllary Clinton at  
a rave.

SHELLY

I want to look young. Doesn't  
everyone?

MICHELLE

No, I just want to look like  
me.

SHELLY

Yeah, cause you're young.

MICHELLE

I'm 35, That's like 70 in dating years.

SHELLY

And I'm 72, in dating years that's dead.

MICHELLE

You lived a long life. It's not a bad thing.

SHELLY

But I'm tired of being invisible. I go have a drink and I sit in the bar and I'm invisible. You don't know what that's like. But you will. Just wait. I hold the door open for these young guys and they don't even look at me. They just stroll on by staring at their phones. I want people to look at me again.

MICHELLE

In that outfit that wont be a problem.

SHELLY

You gotta go. He's 5 minutes away.

MICHELLE

Let me grab my jacket.

Michelle exits.

Shelly exits.

Kock-knock-knock.

They both re-enter fast. Nervous.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Will this is awkward.

SHELLY

Can you go out the window,  
please.

MICHELLE

We live on the third floor.

SHELLY

So, you're tough. You have  
Obamacare.

MICHELLE

Jumping out the window to avoid  
seeing a guy I slept with who  
is now sleeping with my Mother  
is NOT a pre-existing  
condition.

SHELLY

Well, it should be.

(beat)

Michelle, please. I really  
don't want him to see you.

MICHELLE

He's already seen me.

SHELLY

Please, Michelle.

MICHELLE

He knows I live here.

SHELLY

You promised me!

MICHELLE

We had sex in THAT room!

SHELLY

You make everything so  
difficult.

Knock-knock-knock.

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
GO! You're a buzzkill, baby.  
I'm sorry, please go.

Shelly lowers the lights.

MICHELLE  
I'll go in the bedroom and lock  
the door.

SHELLY  
I don't want you listening to  
us.

MICHELLE  
I'll wear headphones.

Knock-knock-knock.

SHELLY  
I'm gonna kill you.

MICHELLE  
He's waiting.

SHELLY  
Go. And shut your door.

Knock-knock-knock.

Michelle exits.

Shelly answers the door. Richard is standing there  
with a bouquet of flowers and a wine bag.

RICHARD  
Well, hello.

SHELLY  
Well, hello.

RICHARD  
Can I come in.

SHELLY  
Yes, you may.

RICHARD  
Ummmm. Candles. Romantic.  
And these are for you.

He gives him the bouquet.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
And I brought drinks.

He takes a bottle of ensure out of the wine bag.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
Ensure. My friend turned me on  
to these. They're really good.

SHELLY  
I prefer wine but...it's the  
thought that counts.

They kiss.

RICHARD  
Hmmmmmm. I've been thinking  
about you a lot.

SHELLY  
Me too.

RICHARD  
Where's Michelle?

SHELLY  
Oh, I don't know, she's out for  
the night.

RICHARD  
She doesn't mind.

SHELLY  
No, no, not at all. She's  
happy for us.

RICHARD  
What's with this outfit?

SHELLY  
You don't like it?

RICHARD  
It's cute, I guess...but...

SHELLY  
What?

RICHARD  
Its like you're trying to look  
young.

SHELLY  
Yeah...

RICHARD  
You're not young.

SHELLY  
I'm not.

RICHARD  
Be your age. Embrace it.  
That's what makes you sexy.  
That's what turns me on.  
You've lived. You've aged.  
Like a fine wine. I want you  
to do something for me. Will  
you do something for me? I  
want you to go in your bedroom  
and find the oldest clothes you  
have and put them on and then  
come out and show me. Can you  
do that for me. What's the  
oldest outfit you have in your  
closet?

SHELLY  
I was a pilgrim last Halloween.

RICHARD  
Oh fuck yes. That's so fucking  
hot. Will you wear that for  
me? Will you be my pilgrim  
Momma.

SHELLY  
Are you serious?

RICHARD  
Totally.

SHELLY  
One second.

He leaves.

Richard's phone rings. Michelle's door slowly opens and she spies on Richard.

RICHARD  
(whispering)  
Hello?

BILLIE  
What are you doing?

RICHARD  
(still whispering)  
I'm in bed. I don't feel well.

BILLIE  
Oh no. Do you want me to bring you some chicken soup, kiddo.

RICHARD  
No, I'm okay, but thanks...Grandma.

BILLIE  
Your Grandma just made a new batch of chicken soup and it's delicious. I could be over in 15 minutes.

RICHARD  
Oh, thanks, but I'm not up for it tonight. I'm gonna go back to sleep.

SHELLY

Are we still on for tomorrow  
night?

RICHARD

Absolutely. 100%.

BILLIE

I still have a half a pill  
left.

RICHARD

Oh, wow!

BILLIE

Ok kiddo, try and get some  
sleep. Your Grandma loves you.

RICHARD

Good night...Grandma. I love  
you, too.

He hangs up.

SHELLY

(offstage)

You ready?

RICHARD

I'm ready.

Shelly comes out dressed as a Pilgrim Quaker.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Fuck. Fuck yes. Damn. Yes.  
That is so hot.

Michelle is watching. She begins to gag.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, get over here. Damn,  
you're hot. That's really  
turning me on. Are you my  
pilgrim whore? Yeah, come on.  
Give me a lap dance. Come on  
shake that pilgrim booty.

SHELLY

I don't think pilgrims went to  
strip clubs.

RICHARD

Come on. Move your ass,  
Pilgrim.

SHELLY

You sound like John Wayne.

RICHARD

Who's that?

SHELLY

He's dead.

RICHARD

That's hot. Come on baby, show  
me what you got. Go.

Awkwardly, Shelly starts to strip but without music  
so he improvises.

SHELLY

(singing)

"I'm your pilgrim dancer. A  
pilgrim for money. Do what you  
want me to do. Just your  
pilgrim dancer...a pilgrim for  
money and any old farthing will  
do....

RICHARD

No, no, no wait. Here. Let me  
put on some old music. Ok,  
here we go. Take it off baby.

Music Cue: Stars and Stripes Forever

She dances.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Oh my god. I'm rock hard.

SHELLY

Seriously.

RICHARD

That was so hot.

SHELLY

Are you joking?

RICHARD

No. Why do you think I'm joking.

SHELLY

I just never met anyone with a pilgrim fetish.

RICHARD

It's not a pilgrim fetish. I like older things. When I was 14. This is gonna sound weird but when I was 14 I had a paper route and I delivered papers to this old run down trailer park and once a month I had to go collect the money. And all these senior citizen ladies would invite me in and ask me questions and show me pictures of them when they were younger...a lot of them were beautiful...and one lady showed me a picture of her from some beauty pageant in the 50's and she was so stunning and I started to get turned on...none of these women ever hit on me...or flirted...or talked about sex...they were just lonely and wanted to talk...most of the were widows and lived alone...and it was erotic...being alone with them.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

And I became friends with some of these ladies and I'd mow their lawns and help them around the house...and they were interesting...more interesting than girls my own age...but then I grew up...and we moved away...and I lost touch with them...and I guess I sort of repressed those feelings or forgot about 'em but the other morning when I saw you all playing cards...it triggered something in me...something I'd forgotten...don't take this wrong but making love to an older woman is like making love to a time machine....it's a connection with the past...I'm a kid again and I'm delivering papers...and figuring out who I am...it's exciting...and maybe because they showed me pictures of them when they were younger I started seeing them as young women who had lived...does that make sense....when I looked at them I started to see them as the girl in the picture...do you have a picture of you...when you were younger? Can I see? Can I see you when you were younger?

SHELLY

I was a good looking gal. Even better looking than my daughter.

Michelle, who has been spying the whole time, reacts negatively, mouthing silently "Fuck you".

Shelly exits.

Richard's iPhone rings again.

Richard answers it.

RICHARD  
Hey, wassup, I was about to  
doze off.

BILLIE  
I forgot to tell you something.

RICHARD  
Wassup, baby?

BILLIE  
(mumbling)  
I just took my teeth out.

RICHARD  
Mmmmmmm. So hot. Hey,  
Grandpa, can I call you back?  
I'm getting another call.

BILLIE  
Call me back, sonny.

He hangs up.

Shelly brings out a scrapbook, sits.

SHELLY  
Ok, here we go, memory lane. I  
always took a lot of photos.

RICHARD  
Is that your husband?

SHELLY  
Yep.

RICHARD  
Wow, he's handsome.

SHELLY  
He sure was. I miss him every  
day.

RICHARD  
How did he die?

SHELLY  
I poisoned him. No. I'm kidding. Cancer. It was horrible. We were crazy in love. Right up til the moment he died.

RICHARD  
Did you guys have a great sex life?

SHELLY  
I'm not telling you that.

RICHARD  
Why not?

SHELLY  
Thst's personal.

RICHARD  
I won't tell anyone.

SHELLY  
The best. He was hung like a horse. We got pretty wild. We both were always very sexual. I can't believe I'm telling you this but during the 70's things got pretty crazy. He worked in a shoe factory with a lot of black guys, African-Americans. And one time when Michelle was away at Summer Camp he brought over a few co-workers and we had quite the party. It was about 40 inches of penis. Those were crazy times. Please don't tell Michelle. The girls know, we share everything, no secrets. I know how many vibrators that each of them own.

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Ginger's a part-time dominatrix...and bisexual. We have no secrets. But Michelle doesn't need to know everything.

RICHARD

You and your friends talk about everything?

SHELLY

Everything, no secrets. If you tell me not tell them something and I agree the next time I see 'em it all just comes pouring out.

RICHARD

Will you tell 'em about us.

SHELLY

Tell them what?

RICHARD

Us. You and me.

SHELLY

You mean that I dressed up like a pilgrim and gave you a lapdance? Well probably not. Nobody needs to know that.

Knock-knock-knock.

RICHARD

Are you expecting someone?

Knock-knock-knock.

SHELLY

No....but why don't you wait in the bedroom....could look a little weird if it's one of my neighbors.

Richard goes in the bedroom.

Shelly answers the door.

Michelle enters limping.

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
What the hell happened to you.

MICHELLE  
I forgot my keys.

SHELLY  
Are you okay?

MICHELLE  
And my phone?

SHELLY  
What happened?

MICHELLE  
I jumped out the window.

SHELLY  
When?

MICHELLE  
10 seconds after you started  
talking about you and Dad  
having sex with the Harlem  
Globe Trotters. Seriously?!?!  
What the fuck? I didn't need  
to know that. I can't believe  
you even you stayed with Dad  
because once you go black you  
NEVER go back.

SHELLY  
Were you spying on us?

MICHELLE  
No.

SHELLY  
Were you?

MICHELLE

Yes. If Plymouth Rock had a strip club you would have made a fortune.

SHELLY

Oh my God.

MICHELLE

This whole thing is so wrong.

SHELLY

Why is it wrong?

MICHELLE

You have to ask.

SHELLY

Why is it wrong? Tell me. It's wrong because somebody for the first time in 10 years actually finds your Mother attractive. Does that kill you? Do I not fit into your stereotype of an old widow living in Boca Raton. Would you prefer I sit around and crochet all day? Finally, somebody hot...and young...genuinely likes me, or chooses me over you...you can't take it...you're jealous...it's so obvious...

MICHELLE

I'm gonna grab my phone and let you get on with Thanksgiving.

SHELLY

Fuck you, Michelle. Fuck you and your condescension. I was you once. I was young, Michelle. I was hot. I was wanted. We all get old. You'd be lucky to grow old. I wanted to watch your Father grow old.

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Aging is beautiful. When he looks at me he doesn't see an old woman, he sees a a young woman who has lived a nice long life.

MICHELLE

I know. I heard. I'm happy for you, Mom. I am.

SHELLY

No, you're not.

MICHELLE

I can be happy for you and jealous at the same time.

SHELLY

So you admit you're jealous.

MICHELLE

Of course I'm jealous. I want someone to talk to me the way he talks to you.

SHELLY

"Move that pilgrim booty".

MICHELLE

Well not that part but...you know what I mean.

SHELLY

Just let me have fun. Please. Let me feel young again. Let me feel beautiful. Let me feel wanted.

MICHELLE

You're beautiful, Mom. You're wanted.

They hug. It's sweet and tender.

SHELLY

I'm gonna leave you alone for  
the night. I'll crash at  
Ginger's place. Have fun.

Michelle leaves.

Shelly stands alone and thinks. Exits in to the  
bedroom. We hear a knock at the door.

We are now in Guy's house. Late at night.

SCENE 11: GINGER'S HOUSE

Ginger enters in a robe. Answers the door.

GINGER

Hey Michelle, what are you  
doing?

MICHELLE

Can I crash here tonight?

GINGER

Sure. Are you okay?

MICHELLE

Am I interrupting you?

GINGER

No. No. Not at all. I was  
just watching a movie in the  
bedroom. Sit down, sit down.  
Why are you limping?

MICHELLE

I jumped out my window.

GINGER

Why???

MICHELLE

Mom was dressed up as a Pilgrim and giving a guy a lapdance in our living room. I couldn't take it.

GINGER

So you tried to kill yourself?

MICHELLE

No, no, no. It's only the third floor. I just had to get out of the house.

GINGER

I didn't know there was such a thing as a Pilgrim fetish.

MICHELLE

Apparently.

GINGER

Weird. Well everybody has their kink I guess.

Slowly the door behind Ginger opens and a stranger in full leather and hood peaks out and observes. We have no idea who it is.

They continue to talk with their back to the door as the stranger watches.

MICHELLE

Ginger, you're bisexual, right?

GINGER

Yes.

MICHELLE

Do you find me attractive.

GINGER

What?

MICHELLE

Do you find me attractive?

GINGER

Of course.

MICHELLE

No, I mean like do I turn you on? If we hooked up would you want to see me again?

GINGER

Michelle.

MICHELLE

Every time I meet a guy on Tinder it's always a one time thing. I never get repeats. I never get a second date.

GINGER

Well, Michelle, Tinder isn't for dating it's for hooking up.

MICHELLE

But they don't even want to hook up with me a second time. I want someone to want me for more than one night.

GINGER

Oh, Michelle. I don't know what to tell you.

MICHELLE

Tell me I'm hot.

GINGER

What?

MICHELLE

Tell me I'm hot.

GINGER

Michelle!

MICHELLE

Tell me.

GINGER

Michelle, you're my Godchild.

MICHELLE

What does that mean. It  
doesn't mean anything.

GINGER

You're like my daughter, you're  
family.

Michelle rips her shirt off to a sports bra.

MICHELLE

Look at that! You're bi. Come  
on. Tell me you don't want  
that.

GINGER

Michelle, I don't want that I'm  
sorry.

MICHELLE

Put on some music.

GINGER

Michelle.

MICHELLE

Put on some music. Anything.  
Just put on the last thing you  
listened to. I can dance to  
anything.

Ginger picks up her phone and presses a button.

Music Cue: Feelings by Johnny Matthis

MUSIC

Feelings  
Nothing more than  
Feelings

MICHELLE

Not that.

Ginger pushes the button again.

We hear the Doris Day:

Music Cue: How Much is That Doggie in the Window

MUSIC  
How much is that doggy  
In the window  
The one with

MICHELLE  
NO! Come on.

Ginger pushes the button, again, we hear the hear:

Music Cue: Mary Poppins

MUSIC  
Supercalifragilisticexpialidoci  
ous!

MICHELLE  
Don't you have anything from  
this century?

GINGER  
Um, no actually, I'm sorry.

MICHELLE  
What? Gimme that.

Michelle grabs Guys phone and scrolls thru...Michelle is shocked. We hear:

Music Cue: The Sound of Music

MUSIC  
The hills are  
alive With the sound of music

MICHELLE  
Noooooooooooo.

She tries to turn it off but she can't and the song seems to go on forever....

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
I can't turn it off.

She keeps trying and the music continues.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
Make it stop.

Ginger grabs the iPhone. Turns off the music.

GINGER  
Michelle, get a hold of  
yourself. Michelle. Breathe.  
Relax. I love you, Michelle,  
but I'm too old for sex. I  
like to joke around but sex is  
so much work. It's exhausting.  
And I'm a submissive. Do you  
know how hard it is to find a  
dominant guy in Boca Raton? I  
have to import them from  
Pompano Beach. I've given up  
on sex. Michelle take the  
couch. Enjoy yourself. I'm  
going back to bed. I'll see  
you in the morning. Gimme a  
hug.

They hug for a while. It is touching.

Ginger goes back to the bedroom.

Michelle lays down on the couch. Grabs a throw rug.  
Gets comfortable. She starts to doze off as we hear  
the sound of loud porno coming from the bedroom.  
Michelle sits up. More porn sounds. She lies down  
and covers her ears with a pillow. Louder porn and  
the sound of spanking. Michelle sits up. Listens.  
Gets up. Goes to Ginger's bedroom door. Listens.  
She is shocked but curious. She opens the door. She  
is really shocked.

MICHELLE  
What the fuck?!?! Ginger!!!

All off-stage sounds suddenly cease. Dead quiet.

Offstage.

GINGER

I'm so sorry, Michelle, were we  
being too loud? Um, Frank,  
let's, uh, call it a night.

A guy in leather and a hood, who never speaks, starts to leave followed by Ginger holding a paddle and a whip. Ginger is no longer wearing her robe and she is dressed like a dominatrix.

GINGER (CONT'D)

Uh, Frank, you forgot this.

He hands him the paddle. Frank starts to leave.

GINGER (CONT'D)

And this.

She hands him the whip. Frank takes it and heads to the door. Turns back for one final look, awkwardness ensues, Frank exits.

Ginger looks at Michelle. Michelle is stunned.

MICHELLE

Who was that?

GINGER

My accountant?

SCENE 12: SHELLY AND RICHARD - MORNING

The next morning, Shelly enters getting dressed.

RICHARD

Hey, where you going?

SHELLY

I gotta go. Go back to sleep.  
You can stay as long as you  
want but I gotta run.

RICHARD  
Where ya going?

SHELLY  
It's Saturday. It's my day to  
feed the penguins.

RICHARD  
Feed what penguins?

SHELLY  
At Seaquarium in Miami.

RICHARD  
I thought you were retired?

SHELLY  
I am. I do it cause I love it.

RICHARD  
You love feeding penguins?

SHELLY  
It's fabulous.

RICHARD  
Come back to bed...you can feed  
this penguin.

SHELLY  
You're bad...I would love to  
but...

RICHARD  
Come on.

SHELLY  
I can't?

RICHARD  
Why not?

SHELLY  
They need me?

RICHARD

I need you.

SHELLY

You don't need me.

RICHARD

Why do you say that?

SHELLY

I gotta run. I'm gonna be late.

RICHARD

No. Why do you say that? Why do you say I don't need you.

SHELLY

Because you don't, because there are plenty of gals for you in South Florida. Because I'm three times your age because...I have to go...

RICHARD

You don't have to go, you want to go.

SHELLY

You're right, I do want to go. I've been doing this for 3 years. I love my routine. I love my penguins. Being with them is a gift.

RICHARD

And being with me isn't?

SHELLY

What are you talking about?

RICHARD

I feel like I'm competing with a penguin.

SHELLY

There's no competition, but...I just...I have to go...I'm gonna be late...

RICHARD

Call in sick.

SHELLY

Richard...

RICHARD

Call in sick...

SHELLY

I can't...

RICHARD

Of course you can. You think the penguins are gonna starve if you don't show up. Someone else will feed them. They'll be fine. They don't need you, I do. Come on, let's go back to bed.

SHELLY

Richard, darling...I'm sorry...I just, I can't...

RICHARD

Are you not into me? Are you just using me for sex? You don't really feel anything for me, do you? Are you playing me?

SHELLY

Playing you? No. I like you...

RICHARD

But...

SHELLY

I like you...

RICHARD

But....

SHELLY

But what...?

RICHARD

But you don't love me?

SHELLY

Love you??? Richard, I just met you.

RICHARD

So you don't feel it? You don't feel this connection that we have?

SHELLY

Richard...

RICHARD

Shelly...

SHELLY

I'm gonna be so late...

RICHARD

I'm falling in love with you...

SHELLY

What?

RICHARD

I'm falling in love with you.

SHELLY

I don't know what to say.

RICHARD

Say, "you're falling in love with me, too."

SHELLY

Richard, I'm sorry but you are really showing your age right now...and...I have to go.

RICHARD

Enjoy your penguins.

Richard goes back to the bedroom and shuts the door.

Shelly stands there stunned. Shelly exits.

SCENE 13: ZOO

Two adult penguins, played by Billie and Ginger in adult penguin costumes, approach each other from either side of the stage. They perform an odd penguin mating ritual while we listen to a voice over narration from a penguin documentary about penguins and monogamy.

NARRATION

Penguins form monogamous pairs for a breeding season, though the rate the same pair recouples varies drastically. Most penguins lay two eggs in a clutch, although the two largest species, the emperor and the king penguins, lay only one. When emperor penguin mothers lose a chick, they sometimes attempt to "steal" another mother's chick, usually unsuccessfully as other females in the vicinity assist the defending mother in keeping her chick.

Two more penguins enter, played by Michelle and Richard.

The penguins socialize.

Finally, Shelly enters in yellow wading pants or yellow goulashes and a silver bucket filled with fish. The penguins get excited and see him and gather round. He begins to feed them.

SHELLY

Hey guys! I missed you guys.

In between each of his lines the penguins squawk and he reacts as if he understands their language.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

How you all been? Any excitement this week?

(beat, squawk)

Oh, that's good!

(beat, squawk)

Oh, that sounds fun.

(beat, squawk)

Me???

(beat, squawk)

No. Same old, same old.

(beat, squawk)

Well, that's not totally true.

I met this guy on Tinder and, well that's not totally true either, my daughter met him, my daughter met a kid on Tinder and then I sort of stole him and...

(beat, squawk)

No, no, no, oh hell no, not a real kid...he's 20

something...but he's

young....way too young...at

least for me....I like him but

he's just too damn young.

(beat, squawk)

And I am waaaay too old...but

he's cute...but he's also

exhausting...I can't keep up...

(beat, squawk)

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

He's basically turned me into his sex slave...there's no escape...he wants it every day three times a day...I can't do that. And he always wants to be together.

(beat, squawk)

Yes, I know you mate for life...but it's not for me...I actually mated for life once...and he died...so that didn't really work out the way I hoped and I'm not up for that again...that was way too painful.

Suddenly one penguin starts talking like a normal person.

PENGUIN 1 - MICHELLE

So you really miss him?

SHELLY

Yeah, I really, what the....?  
You speak English.

PENGUIN 1 - MICHELLE

Fuck you! Of course, we speak English. What do you think, we're stupid pigeons or parakeets? I'm a mother-fucking' penguin! You think I'm just a some dumb old bird who waddles around all day waiting for some retired lady to throw me a fish? Fuck that. I'm in here for life. I'm probably never going home...I'll die in prison but that don't mean I don't wanna better myself. I already taught myself English and I'm working on my real estate license. Maybe one day I'll be released for good behavior. A bird can dream, right?

SHELLY

You make it sound like you're  
in prison.

PENGUIN 2 - RICHARD

You think we chose to come  
here? You think we choose to  
stay? You think we chose this  
life?

PENGUIN 3 - BILLIE

Why would anyone choose this?

PENGUIN 1 - MICHELLE

I lived like an Emperor out  
there. I had a million  
friends, I had the whole  
ocean. Why would you think I'd  
want to live like this?  
Trapped. In this cell?

PENGUIN 2 - RICHARD

I had a husband, I'll probably  
never see him again...I think  
about him everyday. Oh, I'm  
sorry, am I depressing  
you...let me cheer you up...

She waddles around making squawking noises.

PENGUIN 2 - RICHARD (CONT'D)

Squawk, squawk, squawk...look  
at me...aren't I adorable...in  
my tuxedo...look at my cute  
arms...fuck you...throw me  
another fish, bitch...

SHELLY

Did you just call me a bitch?

PENGUIN 4 - RICHARD

Hand over the fish, cocktease.

SHELLY

What the hell is wrong with you  
guys???

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

I meet one talking penguin in  
my whole life and he turns out  
to be sexist?

PENGUIN 2 - BILLIE

Make America Great Again!

SHELLY

No more fish for you.

PENGUIN 2 - MICHELLE

Oh come on, Baby Momma, we're  
just joking around.

SHELLY

Nope, sorry...no fish for  
assholes...

ALL PENGUINS

Come on, Granny...don't be  
stingy with the fish...come on,  
come on...squawk, squawk,  
squawk...fish, fish, fish,  
fish...

Music Cue - Harp Music

SHELLY

Nooooooooooooo...no, no,  
no...stop...help...get me outta  
here...anybody...

The lights flicker. Shelly tears off her zoo  
clothes, throws them off stage, she is floating,  
tossing and turning, out of control, as if in a  
tornado...

Creep-dreamy music continues to play.

The squawking of the penguins fades away.

SCENE 14: SHELLY WAKES UP

Shelly is now on the couch at her home, tossing and  
turning...

SHELLY

No...no...no...

Finally she bolts up. She is terrified. Panting and looking around. Thank God, it was a just a dream.

Michelle enters, notices something is wrong.

MICHELLE

Mom?

(beat)

You okay.

SHELLY

No. I'm not. I just had a nightmare I was at the zoo feeding my penguins and they all turned out to be sexist. It was horrifying. And one of them kept talking about feeling trapped as if the zoo were a prison which really shocked me cause the zoo is so nice. It was really upsetting. What do you think it means?

MICHELLE

Mom, don't think. People who don't think are much happier.

Richard enters carrying a bouquet of flowers.

RICHARD

Hey ya'll, anybody home?

MICHELLE

Case in point. Hi Richard, how are you?

RICHARD

I'm great. I'm young and in love. What more could I possibly I need?

Richard hands the flowers to Shelly.

MICHELLE

How bout that thing the wizard  
gave the scarecrow.

RICHARD

Courage?

MICHELLE

Exactly, courage...have fun you  
two.

She heads off singing.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

"If I only had a brain."

Richard sits next to Shelly.

RICHARD

I don't think Michelle likes  
me.

SHELLY

Of course she does. And these  
are beautiful.

RICHARD

Nah, I don't think she does.

SHELLY

She likes you.

Michelle pops out.

MICHELLE

She likes you, she really likes  
you.

RICHARD

Michelle, why don't you like  
me?

MICHELLE

I like you fine.

RICHARD  
I don't think so.

MICHELLE  
Does it matter if I like you.

RICHARD  
It would be nice.

MICHELLE  
But not really important, in  
the long term.

RICHARD  
I disagree. I've had lots of  
friends who hated their  
stepdad...I would hate that to  
happen to us.

MICHELLE  
Did I miss something?

Richard gets down on his knees.

RICHARD  
Shelly, I want you to marry me.  
Every moment I'm with you I'm  
so happy. I never want to be  
away from you. I feel at peace  
when I'm with you. I feel  
safe. Will you marry me?

Shelly is stunned and speechless.

MICHELLE  
Awkward.

SHELLY  
Richard...we...ummmm...we've  
known each other less than a  
month.

RICHARD  
So...

SHELLY

So, it takes a really long time to get to know someone...to really know them...

RICHARD

So.

SHELLY

So?

MICHELLE

So is anyone else creeped out by the fact that I slept with my future stepdad after meeting him on Tinder cause I find that pretty fuckin' disturbing. American Horror Story: Wilton Manors.

SHELLY

I think it's very progressive.

MICHELLE

It's progressive and creepy, like a Jill Stein voter. You don't think this is creepy? "Oh Shelly, your fiance is so charming how did you two meet?" "Well after he fucked my daughter he gave me his number and I called him and we just hit off."

RICHARD

So what do you think?

SHELLY

Richsrdr...no, we are not getting married. I'm sorry. I can't marry you. You're 24. I'm 114.

MICHELLE

That's like an iPhone dating a smoke signal.

SHELLY

Michelle.

MICHELLE

You're Hamilton, she's  
Showboat.

SHELLY

Enough.

MICHELLE

She's Woody Allen, you're Soon  
Yi.

RICHARD

And they've been married 25  
years.

MICHELLE

Okay, that was a bad example.

SHELLY

She's Bea Arthur, you're Doogie  
Howser.

RICHARD

She's hot. I use to jerk off  
to when I was kid.

SHELLY

You jerked off to Bea Arthur?

RICHARD

I prefer Estelle Getty, but Bea  
Arthur was hot, too.

MICHELLE

I guess Betty White was too  
young for you.

RICHARD

A little.

MICHELLE

I am totally speechless.

SHELLY

For once in your life.

MICHELLE

I never thought I'd meet anyone  
why used the Golden Girls for  
porn. What else do you jack  
off, too? Cocoon?

RICHARD

(overlapping)

Once.

MICHELLE

Driving Miss Daisy?

RICHARD

Occasionally.

SHELLY

Murder She Wrote?

RICHARD

Once a week.

MICHELLE

Oh my God, who jacks off to  
Angela Lansbury. You are sick!

RICHARD

And you're an asshole!

MICHELLL

Fuck you!

RICHARD

I did. It wasn't good. Your  
Mom could teach you some  
things.

MICHELLE

I'm sure she could after  
practicing on the Jackson 5.

Shelly slams her hand down on the table.

SHELLY  
Enough! Both of you! Stop.  
Come on, just stop. Please.

RICHARD  
Your daughter really is an  
asshole.

MICHELLE  
That's stepdaughter, to you,  
Mister.

Shelly shoots him a look. All are silent.

SHELLY  
Richard. I like you. I like  
you a lot. I like having fun  
with you...but my marriage days  
are behind me. I'm very  
flattered but...no...I'm really  
sorry...we are not getting  
married...not now...not ever...

MICHELLE  
So what are you saying?

SHELLY  
What am I saying?

RICHARD  
What are you saying?

SHELLY  
I just said it.

RICHARD  
Say it again.

SHELLY  
Did you not hear what I said?

RICHARD  
I think I heard you but I'm a  
little confused.

MICHELLE  
Say it slower, Mom.

SHELLY  
Shut up, Michelle.

MICHELLE  
Maybe say it phonetically.

SHELLY  
Michelle go to your room.

MICHELLE  
I'm 32.

SHELLY  
Please, Michelle.

RICHARD  
No seriously, I'm really  
confused. Are you saying you  
don't feel what I feel.

SHELLY  
Richard, I like you so much.

RICHARD  
But...you don't love me?

SHELLY  
I don't know you.

RICHARD  
Then how do you know you don't  
love me if you don't know me?

MICHELLE  
Wait, what?

SHELLY  
What are you saying?

RICHARD  
What am I saying?

SHELLY

What are you saying?

RICHARD

I just said it.

SHELLY

Say it again.

RICHARD

Did you not hear what I said?

SHELLY

I think I heard you but I'm a little confused.

MICHELLE

What did he say?

RICHARD

I said...

(big beat)

"how do you know you don't love me if you don't know me."

Everyone is stumped.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Oh my God, I think that actually makes sense.

SHELLY

"How do I know I don't love you if I don't know you?" I don't know. No one's ever asked me that before.

RICHARD

Love is faith, Shelly. A leap of faith. You have to listen to your gut. My gut tells me something is happening here. You don't feel that something's happening here? You don't feel it in your gut.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Listen to your gut...don't push  
me away before you know me.  
What do you feel?

Long pause...

SHELLY

I feel...I feel...I feel like  
you're very young.

RICHARD

What do you mean you feel like  
I'm very young. I am very  
young. That's no secret. So  
what? How old were you when  
you met your husband?

SHELLY

I was 23.

RICHARD

And I'm 24.

MICHELLE

Can we not to talk about Dad,  
right now?

RICHARD

I think you're afraid, Shelly.  
I think you're afraid of love.  
Because you're old. Your ego  
is gone. You don't think you  
deserve a hot guy like me.

MICHELLE

Did he really just say that?

RICHARD

You're closed off. You're  
afraid to feel so you put a  
wall around your heart.

MICHELLE

It's called cholesterol.

Shelly shoots her a look.

RICHARD

You think there's a catch here, or I'm gonna leave you, or I'm after your money...or, I don't know...you can't just be loved...for you...that's sad...you'd rather play cards with your friends or feed penguins or read a book than just be loved. You're always going, going, going and I'm right here in front of you...in love with you...and you don't even see it...you won't allow yourself to see it...I hope I never turn into you.

SHELLY

Richard. I am not afraid of love. I love many people...I love my life...I love my friends...I love my penguins...I love my books...I love my daughter...most of the time, I love my daughter...and I love my alone time...and I love the time you and I spend together...but I'm not in love with you...I love what we have but I don't want more...I'm sorry.

RICHARD

So you just want a friend with benefits?

SHELLY

No.

RICHARD

Yeah, you just want a booty call once a week? Is that it? I come over on Mondays, we eat dinner, we fuck and I go home?

SHELLY

No.

MICHELLE

That's what I want. Can I take Tuesdays.

RICHARD

That's cold. It runs in the family. I'm gonna take off.

SHELLY

Richard.

RICHARD

No. I get it. I'm gonna go. I was trying to be sincere here. I was trying to share something with you both. How I feel. But I'm just a joke to you guys. I'm sure you'll have a good laugh after I'm gone. I can hear it now, "something's not right with him. He's cute but he's pathetic." Enjoy making fun of me. Don't call me.

MICHELLE

So does that mean Tuesday's not happening?

RICHARD

Michelle, trust me, you won't disrespect me when I'm your stepdad.

Richard leaves. Shelly and Michelle sit in silence.

SHELLY AND MICHELLE

(to each other)

Something's not right with him.

MICHELLE

He's cute...but...

SHELLY  
Don't say it.

MICHELLE  
(whisper)  
...he's pathetic.

Blackout

Music Cue: Puppy Love by Paul Anka

Lights up

SCENE 15: PUPPY LOVE

Lights up

Ginger enters with a bag of groceries. She puts them away. Takes out a bag of dog food. Opens it. Gets the dog bowl. Pours a bowl of food. Suddenly her "shirtless puppy" appears wearing a puppy play BDSM mask. Google it. The "puppy" is standing on two feet but acting like a dog with his paws up. He nuzzles Ginger. Pretends to eat his food out of the bowl. It should not be overly cartoony, it should be funny but sincere.

Song ends.

There is a knock at the door.

Knock-knock-knock.

The puppy perks up and gets excited.

GINGER  
(to puppy)  
Stay.

The puppy becomes still.

GINGER (CONT'D)  
(to puppy)  
Sit.

The puppy sits. Ginger goes to the door. He opens it slightly.

SHELLY

Hey. Sorry to just drop in but I was coming home from Publix and I saw your car and...can I come in?

GINGER

Uhhhh...is it an emergency?

SHELLY

Well...sort of.

GINGER

Oh...cause I'm sort of in the middle of something...you know what I mean?

SHELLY

Are you having sex?

GINGER

(whispering)

No...but...my puppy's here.

SHELLY

Your puppy? I thought he ran away.

GINGER

I got a new one.

SHELLY

Well, are you and the new puppy fooling around?

GINGER

No. I'm just training him.

SHELLY

So put him in his cage. I really need to talk to you. I'm very upset.

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
I don't care if he listens...he  
doesn't know me...

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
Ummm...ok...one sec.

Ginger comes in.

GINGER  
(to puppy)  
Go to sleep, boy.

The puppy gets in a the doggy nap position and "goes to sleep".

GINGER (CONT'D)  
Good boy. Ok, come in. He's  
sleeping.

Shelly starts to pour wine.

SHELLY  
He's cute. Is he really  
asleep? What's his name?

GINGER  
Fido.  
(beat)  
So, what are you upset about?

SHELLY  
Where did you get him?

GINGER  
PetSmart.

SHELLY  
No seriously.

GINGER  
Craigslist.

SHELLY  
I'm serious where did you get  
him?

GINGER

I actually did get my last puppy off Craigslist before they closed the personals section. Fucking Trump.

SHELLY

So where did you get, "Fido"?

GINGER

I, um...actially...I uhh...I won him in a card game.

SHELLY

Seriously?

GINGER

Sort of.

SHELLY

That's kinda hot actually. Does he bite?

GINGER

Did you come to talk to me or play with the dog?

SHELLY

Hey Fido, you're cute...who's a good doggy?

Shelly reaches out to pet him....

FIDO

Grrrrrrrrr.

Shelly is scared and amused. But she tries again.

FIDO (CONT'D)

(more intense)

Grrrrrrrrr.

GINGER

Wow, he must really hate you I've never seen him act like that. Fido, go back to sleep.

Fido goes back to sleep.

SHELLY

Does he get along with other dogs?

GINGER

Apparently not.

SHELLY

Fuck you.

GINGER

So what's up. Why are you depressed.

SHELLY

I've been depressed for two weeks. I keep waiting for it to lift but...it's just stupid...but...

GINGER

Tell me.

SHELLY

Remember that cute guy, that morning, from the card game, 3 Card Stud, the naked guy, the milk drinker...cute kid but not too bright....

FIDO

Grrrrrrrrrrr.

GINGER

Fido. Down.

SHELLY

So after you all left we started talking and he actually hit on me and, you won't believe this but he actually likes older women. So we kissed a little and then we started seeing each other...

GINGER

What?

SHELLY

I know...it was crazy...I thought it was silly. I was gonna tell you but I didn't want you guys to know about it. I was sort of embarrassed. He's 24 for Goddsake. It happened way too fast. After a week he was practically living at the house.

GINGER

Wow. That is VERY interesting. Isn't that interesting...Fido?

SHELLY

Well it wasn't interestng...really...I mean it was, but...you know, he's just a kid...we ran out of things to talk about...I was getting bored....and he started to get really possessive...like a lttle puppy dog.

FIDO

Grrrrrrrrrrr.

SHELLY

No offense, Fido.

GINGER

Down boy!

SHELLY

It was all too much...and just when I thought it was winding down he asked me to marry him.

GINGER

What????

FIDO  
 (barks)  
 Ruff, ruff.

GINGER  
 Bad dog. Go to your room!  
 Now! Fido, go.

FIDO  
 (whimpers)  
 Mmmmmmm.....mmmmmmmm.....mmmmmmmm

Fido stays and Fido is nervous.

SHELLY  
 Anyway I finally told him it was basically over and he flipped out and told me I'm heartless and I'm in denial and I should be grateful that someone hot wants me. But I realized, I'm too old for all that nonsense. I thought I wanted it but I don't. I'm very content. I have my friends, I have my penguins, I have my books, I like my alone time. I guess I really hurt him but I've only known him a month and he wants to get married, *after a month...* I mean who does that???

GINGER  
 Elizabeth Taylor.

SHELLY  
 Besides her.

GINGER  
 Liza Minnelli.

SHELLY  
 Besides her.

GINGER  
Larry King.

SHELLY  
Besides her.

GINGER  
Lesbians.

SHELLY  
Besides them.

GINGER  
Shelly, it's actually not that weird. Fido and I talked about getting married. But Fido isn't housebroken...he lied to me...he told me he was fixed but now I worry he wants to fuck every old dog in the neighborhood.

SHELLY  
Oh, he still has his balls? You gotta cut those off or they try to fuck everyone and everything.

FIDO  
Yelp.

GINGER  
Fido, do I need to cut your balls off...Fido?

FIDO  
(whimpers)  
Mmmmmmm...mmmmmm...mmmmmm.

He starts to shake like a little scared chihuahua.

SHELLY  
Oh, you're scaring him.

GINGER

Or maybe I should just put a micro chip in him so I know where he is all the time. What do you think about that, Fido?

Fido, tilts his head to the side as if he's confused.

GINGER (CONT'D)

Don't act confused. You heard me.

SHELLY

Oh my God. He's just like Richard.

GINGER

Who?

SHELLY

Richard, the stud, from 3 Card Stud, the milkman...

GINGER

Oh, yes, I forgot his name.

SHELLY

Whenever I'd say something he didn't like he'd act confused. It got really old.

FIDO

Grrrrrrrrrrrr.

GINGER

Wow, he really doesn't like you.

SHELLY

Are you sure he's a male dog cause he's acting like a bitch.

Shelly laughs at her own joke.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Now that's funny.

Knock-knock-knock.

FIDO  
(realistic barking)  
Ruff. Ruff. Ruff.

SHELLY  
You having a party?

FIDO  
(realstic barking)  
Ruff, ruff, ruff.

GINGER  
I'll get it. Can you put him  
on the patio?

Shelly goes and grabs Fido and slides out a screen door from the side. Fido stands behind the glass or screen and watches. Billie enters.

BILLIE  
You guys playing cards behind  
my back. I was coming home  
from Publix and I saw Shelly's  
car outside.

Shelly comes back from the patio.

SHELLY  
Hey, Billie. How you been?

BILLIE  
I'm a mess. I really need to  
talk...I need some wine...I  
need my friends...

GINGER  
What's going on?

BILLIE

Okay, I have a crazy confession...I'm a little embarrassed...but I can't keep secrets from you guys...I started seeing this young guy...

SHELLY

How young?

BILLIE

Very young.

GINGER

Over 18?

BILLIE

Barely.

SHELLY

Thank God.

BILLIE

24.

SHELLY AND GINGER

24?!?!

BILLIE

I know! Waaaaay too young for me. But he's so hot...but he's too much...he's a handful...he's a full-time job...I'm worn out...ever since I met him my blood pressure is way up...I can't keep up with him...I finally tried to end it and when I was about to tell him he asked me to marry him. I've only known this kid a month but it's crazy...I can't keep seeing him...I'm gonna have a heart attack in the middle of sex. It's never enough for him.

(MORE)

BILLIE (CONT'D)

I'm not a sex machine. And he turned me on to anal but you know the older you get your butthole doesn't just snap back after two hours of pounding. I had to start wearing thicker depends. I gotta be careful. He was literally killing me. So I finally ended it. And he was so mad at me. And I'm so stressed. I need a drink.

GINGER

Coming up.

Ginger starts to pour wine.

Suddenly, Fido starts pawing at the glass frantically.

BILLIE

Oh, you got a new dog? Cute. What is he?

GINGER

A mutt. And he's been a bad boy so I put him outside. Just ignore him. He's been a very bad boy.

They turn their back on him.

FIDO

(realistic barking)  
Ruff. Ruff.

GINGER

Come on, let's go in the den. I need to hear more about your 24 year old gentleman caller. What's his name.

BILLIE

Oh, it's not important.

GINGER

Oh, I think his name is very important.

They all go off.

Music Cue: Hound Dog

Fido stares forward thru glass. Stops pawing. Stops acting like a dog. Slides the glass open. Enters sits. Thinks.

Music fades out.

Richard slowly removes the puppy mask. He is sad. Dejected. A little scared. The game is over.

Slowly the women re-enter. They are shocked but also amused. They are too old for drama, but still, it's a weird situation. They all stare at Richard who looks down, embarrassed. He can not face them.

SHELLY

Richard.

Finally, Richard looks up at Shelly.

BILLIE

Dick?

Richard looks at Billie.

GINGER

Fido.

Richard looks at Ginger.

GINGER (CONT'D)

You two-timing dog.

RICHARD

I'm sorry.

BILLIE

You asked me to marry you?

SHELLY

You asked ME to marry you.

GINGER

You peed on my rug. Then you asked me to marry you.

SHELLY

Richard, this is insane. How many elderly women in Boca Raton have you asked to marry you this month?

RICHARD

8. And one in Plantation. So I guess 9.

They look at each other in shock.

SHELLY

9??? Which number was I? No don't tell me.

GINGER

9???

RICHARD

No. I'm sorry. 10. I forgot one lady in Coral Springs. 10. I like round numbers.

BILLIE

10????? Why not get a Bakers Dozen?

GINGER

This is crazy...Richard...what are you like...a Mormon?

Silence. No response. The women look at each other. Richard still doesn't say anything.

SHELLY

Richard? Really? Are you Mormon?

Richard, looks up at them as if he's really been found out now.

BILLIE

Richard? Are you actually a Mormon.

Ginger, Richard and Shelly realize they may be on to something.

GINGER

Oh, God no.

SHELLY

You're scaring us.

BILLIE

He's a Mormon.

GINGER

Richard? Where were you born?

SHELLY

Richard?

GINGER

Fido, where were you born?

RICHARD

(embarrassed)

Utah.

All three women are in shock, they look at each other.

SHELLY

Oh my God, we're Sister Wives.

GINGER

Richard, are you really a Mormon?

RICHARD

I was. I'm not now. But I was. Well not total Mormon.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Only a few Mormons practice polygamy now..it's like an offshoot...but yes, I grew up with 6 Moms. My Dad was so happy. I just wanted what my Dad had.

BILLIE

Oh my God.

SHELLY

I need another drink.

GINGER

I'm in shock.

SHELLY

Were you really gonna try and marry us all???

RICHARD

No. I don't know. Maybe. No. Probably. Yes. Of course not. I just liked the feeling. I like the feeling. It felt like home to me. My Dad got arrested, our family broke up. So I said fuck it. I wanted to get as far away from Utah as humanly possible without leaving the country..

SHELLY

Welcome to Florida.

RICHARD

I drove here with nothing. Just a few hundred bucks.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

I slept in my car for the first few months but I hung out in Miami...I got a job at Golden Corral in Pompano Beach...and I felt like I was home....but I didn't know anyone...I started meeting people on Tinder...fast...I met you all the second month I was here...and when I saw you all playing cards...3 Card Stud...my Grandma use to play 3 Card Stud with my aunts...I just felt a connection...

GINGER

You can take the boy out of Utah but you can't take Utah out of the boy.

RICHARD

I didn't think any of you would actually call...but...it all just happened so fast...I didn't even know what BDSM was til I met Ginger.

SHELLY

Congrats, Ginger, you turned another one to the dark side.

GINGER

Luke, I am your Mother.

RICHARD

I'm sorry. I really am. I'm gonna go. I'm sorry.

SHELLY

Richard, hold on. Sit down. Come here. I understand. I do.

They all sit at the table.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

(gently)

You're a love addict.

(empathetic.)

You're addicted to love.

BILLIE

(sincere)

You're a Robert Palmer song.

GINGER

I went thru a time like that back in Vegas. I was searching. I was desperate for connection. And money. So I started stripping. I was confused. Like you. I was looking for love in all the wrong places.

BILLIE

Like Dinah Shore's vagina?

SHELLY

The point is you don't have to get married to find love. I love these gals as much as I love anyone. Sex comes and goes. Marriage is unpredictable. But these women. This is my family. My friends are my family. You lost your family but you can build another family here in Florida without marrying every widow in Boca Raton.

BILLIE

You don't have to be married to be loved or to have a family.

GINGER

You have a lot of time to find Mrs. Right. There's no rush. First you need friends, Richard.

(MORE)

GINGER (CONT'D)

The average marriage lasts  
about 7 years but friends are  
forever.

BILLIE

And look you found three  
already.

RICHARD

So you all don't hate me?

SHELLY

No.

BILLIE

No.

GINGER

A little. You owe me a rug.

RICHARD

Can we really all be friends?

GINGER, SHELLY AND BILLIE

Yes!!!!!!! Exactly, that's the  
point. That's what we're  
saying. So much easier.

RICHARD

Friends with benefits?

SHELLY

No!

(beat)

Maybe.

BILLIE

I'll take Tuesdays!

SHELLY

I'll take Sundays.

GINGER

Every Monday, you and me at the  
dog park!

GINGER (CONT'D)

No, no, no. No more sex. You don't fuck your friends. You love your friends and you fuck strangers. That's what strangers are for. You don't fuck your friends and you don't fall in love with strangers. But maybe one day you and that stranger won't be strangers anymore and after you get to know each other over a very long time...maybe...MAYBE something'll happen. Maybe. But don't rush into it. Take your time. You're so young. And in the mean time. You've got three new friends.

Michelle bursts in.

MICHELLE

Mom, are you here?

GINGER

Four friends.

SHELLY

3 and half.

MICHELLE

What's going on, I was driving home from Publix and I saw all your cars but...

SHELLY

We're about to play cards. You want to join us. Here, come sit next to your stepdad.

They all sit around the round table center stage.

MICHELLE

Hey, Dad.

RICHARD

Hey, son.

MICHELLE

We're joking, right?

SHELLY

We'll explain later. Ladies,  
the game is 3 Card Stud.

She deals the cards. They all take their cards and look at them for a while. No one says anything. Finally.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

I got nothing.

GINGER

I got nothing.

BILLIE

I got nothing.

They all look at Richard. Richard looks at the three older women who are on his right.

RICHARD

I got three Queens...

Then he looks at Michelle who is the only one on his left.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

And a Joker.

He winks at Michael. Takes one last look around the table.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

I win!

They all laugh.

Music cue: Blue Skies

Fade to black as they continue to play the game.

The stage is black by the 6 second mark...lights up on the first lyric of Blue Skies.

Curtain call.

Music plays as the audience leaves.