

WINNERS

WRITTEN BY SANDRA MAYER

EXT. QUIET STREET - MORNING

A luxury limousine followed closely by a large removal truck drives slowly along a tree-lined street.

INT. LIMOUSINE - MORNING

MIRANDA (70's) is a haughty elderly lady who has had a lot of plastic surgery. Her face is obviously smoothed out from repeated procedures. Her hair is expensively coiffed and her clothes are high end. She is sitting upright in the back seat beside her nephew, MATTHEW (40's), staring out of the car window.

MATTHEW

I'm sure you will love it there.  
The Village comes highly  
recommended.

Miranda skeptically looks over at him.

MIRANDA

I'm sure. And just *who* is it that  
recommends this out-of-the way  
place so highly?

MATTHEW

Everyone.

Miranda goes back to staring out of the window.

MIRANDA

You mean everyone who cannot afford  
somewhere else.

EXT. RETIREMENT VILLAGE - MORNING

The buildings of Amber Views Retirement Village are old, need a new coat of paint and some refurbishment. The gardens are well tended but signs of decay are apparent in the cracked concrete paths and panels missing out of the fence.

## INT. RECEPTION - MORNING

Inside The Village's reception area, ISABELLA (20's), is sitting at the front counter talking to a MALE RESIDENT. NURSE CAROL (30's) is pushing a FEMALE RESIDENT in a wheelchair through the reception area while JEROME (19), the Bell Hop, pushes a heavily laden trolley. Dr. Reginald's office is in the corner of the reception area. Positioned outside his office are a few chairs filled with waiting PATIENTS.

## INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - MORNING

RODNEY (late 30's), the Village Resident Manager, is passionately kissing STACEY (late 20's), the Head Receptionist. They pull apart abruptly when there is a knock on the door.

RODNEY

Yes?

Stacey gently rubs her lipstick from the side of his mouth.

## EXT. RECEPTION - MORNING

DR. REGINALD (50's) opens up his office door, leans out and calls in his next patient.

DR. REGINALD

Mrs. Smith.

MRS. SMITH, a very old woman, struggles to get up out of her chair. She is helped by NURSE DOROTHY (age 60's).

## EXT. RETIREMENT VILLAGE - MORNING

Two groundskeepers, MILTON (50's) and DUANE (30's), tend the lawn and plants in the garden. Off to one side is a park bench. This bench is in full view of the driveway that curves past the reception.

## INT. LIMOUSINE - MORNING

MATTHEW

You know, you agreed to go there.

Miranda turns away from the window to face Matthew.

MIRANDA

It's not that I had much of a choice and it certainly doesn't mean I have to like it.

EXT. ROAD OUTSIDE RETIREMENT VILLAGE - MORNING

The limousine and truck pass the faded Amber Views Retirement Village sign then turn into the drive. They make their way past a tennis court, plunge pool and open ground until they reach the reception's covered portico.

EXT. RECEPTION - MORNING

The vehicles pull up outside the reception. Matthew gets out of the car and goes to the back of the truck. After the TRUCK DRIVER lowers the ramp Matthew goes inside and backs out a motorized scooter. He then drives it around to the passenger side door of the limousine. He gets off and then opens up the car door to help Miranda out.

INT. LIMOUSINE - MORNING

Matthew leans into the car, offers his hand to assist Miranda out of the vehicle but she ignores his gesture. She swivels around to carefully get out of the car.

EXT. BENCH SEAT - MORNING

MAGGIE and JEAN (70's) are sitting on the bench watching Miranda and Matthew. Maggie is holding opera glasses up to her eyes and Jean, who is a bit hard of hearing, cups her hand around her ear to hear better.

JEAN

So, what does she look like?

EXT. RECEPTION - MORNING

Miranda exits the vehicle and swats Matthew's hand away when he tries to assist her onto the motorized scooter. Without assistance, Miranda settles herself onto the machine. She holds her head high and affects that she is better than all of the other residents. She believes that, for her, living at the village is slumming.

EXT. BENCH SEAT - MORNING

Maggie peers through her glasses at Miranda.

MAGGIE

Like Miss High and Mighty, The  
Queen of Sheba.

(Laughs)

Look! She just clobbered him.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN  
What'd she do?

Maggie speaks loudly into Jean's ear.

MAGGIE  
She just smacked him over the head.

JEAN  
Why?

MAGGIE  
Don't know, but oh my goodness,  
doesn't she think a lot of herself,  
Miss High and Mighty. Maybe a bit  
too high for the likes of us. Going  
to be fun bringing her down a peg  
or two.

EXT. RECEPTION - MORNING

Miranda drives into the reception area while Matthew grabs a luggage trolley and starts unloading numerous cases of old fashioned luxury luggage from the boot of the car.

EXT. BENCH SEAT - MORNING

MAGGIE  
Well, would you look at that?

JEAN  
What?

MAGGIE  
Looks like The Queen brought Park  
Avenue with her.

Jean grabs the opera glasses away from Maggie and uses them to scan around, looking everywhere except at the portico.

JEAN  
Where?

Maggie grabs Jean's head and guides it in the correct direction.

JEAN  
You've got to be kidding. Is that  
all hers? Gees!

EXT. RECEPTION - MORNING

Matthew finishes unloading the luggage and struggles to wheel it into the reception area. One piece of luggage falls off the trolley directly in line with the sliding doors. The doors close up on the bag, banging it again and again.

Miranda comes back out and berates Matthew for dropping her luggage. A small commuter bus with "Amber Views Retirement Village" painted on the side pulls up under the portico.

EXT. BENCH SEAT - MORNING

BOB (late 60's), CHARLIE (70's) and TED (80's) wander up behind Jean and Maggie. They are dressed for golf and each has a set of golf clubs slung over their shoulders. Maggie grudgingly acknowledges the men while Jean smiles happily at them.

MAGGIE

Bob. Charlie. Ted.

JEAN

Hi Charlie. Hi boys.

CHARLIE

(Smiles and winks)

Hi Jean.

Maggie looks the men up and down.

MAGGIE

(Sarcastically)

Going for another round of golf I see.

Jean sniggers.

BOB

So, what's going on?

Maggie tips her head at Miranda and Matthew.

MIRANDA

The new one's arrived. A real Miss High and Mighty. I reckon I'll give her two months, maybe less. How about you Jean?

Jean turns back from staring at Charlie.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN

I don't know. She looks pretty tough...maybe six?

EXT. RECEPTION - MORNING

Miranda whacks Matthew again with her handbag. She then follows him into reception.

EXT. BENCH SEAT - MORNING

The men laugh at Miranda's antics. Charlie winks again at Jean.

CHARLIE

Now, don't get catty, ladies.

Charlie makes claws out of his hands and hisses. All three men laugh.

EXT. RECEPTION - MORNING

BERNIE (50's), the Bus Driver, yells from the open bus window.

BERNIE

You guys ready to go?

EXT. BENCH SEAT - MORNING

BOB

Yes Bernie. So long ladies. Don't let your claws get in the way of your spying.

The men laugh as they walk away.

MAGGIE

Golf my ass.

JEAN

Yeah.

INT. BUS - MORNING

Bernie meets the men at the door of the bus. He helps them in and stores their golf bags on the floor at the rear of the vehicle. It takes two turns for the engine to catch, then finally it belches a cloud of smoke and takes off in a fit of stops and starts.

(CONTINUED)

As the bus pulls around the drive the men make claws out of their hands and hiss at the women as the bus passes them. Maggie sticks out her tongue. The men fall into their seats laughing at the looks on the ladies' faces.

BERNIE

So, fellows. Where are we going today?

CHARLIE

To the club of course.

Bernie pretends not to understand.

BERNIE

The Golf Club?

All four men laugh.

BOB

No, the Country Club.

The men keep laughing as the bus leaves the Retirement Village grounds.

INT. RECEPTION - MORNING

Stacey is behind the reception desk helping another RESIDENT. Miranda looks around for someone to help her but only sees Jerome. Ignoring him, she makes her way to the desk and rudely pushes her way forward almost bumping the other resident out of the way. The resident grabs the document from Stacey then turns to leave.

MIRANDA

I want to see the Manager.

RESIDENT

How rude.

Matthew approaches the reception desk with the overflowing trolley. One by one, three bags topple off the pile. Jerome runs forward and helps Matthew stack the bags back onto the trolley. Miranda looks at Matthew with disdain.

MIRANDA

Matthew, really.

MATTHEW

Sorry Miranda.

Stacey looks embarrassed for Matthew. Miranda turns back to Stacey.

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA

Didn't you hear me young lady, or  
are you just stupid? I want to see  
the Manager!

The people in the reception area all stop to listen. Stacey flushes with embarrassment at Miranda's rudeness. She picks up the phone and rings through to the Manager's office.

STACEY

There is a ...sorry, what is your  
name?

MIRANDA

Miranda Chapman.

STACEY

A Miranda Chapman here to see you.  
(beat)  
Okay.

Stacey hangs up the phone.

STACEY

He'll be right out.

Miranda starts to drive away from the desk.

STACEY

(Under her breath)  
You old bat.

MIRANDA

Heard that, you rude cow. Matthew,  
Matthew come here!

Matthew shrugs at Jerome and goes to his aunt.

MIRANDA

If everyone is as rude as that one  
I won't be staying here.

MATTHEW

Now Miranda, I'm sure it will be  
fine.

Rodney comes out of his office. Matthew silently mouths "sorry" to Stacey. Stacey smiles at him, forgiving him for Miranda's rudeness.

RODNEY

Ah, Miss Chapman, welcome welcome.  
We are glad you decided to join us  
here at Amber Views.

(CONTINUED)

Rodney leans down to kiss the back of Miranda's hand.

RODNEY  
Come this way and I'll get you  
settled.

Miranda rolls so quickly past him towards the door that  
Rodney almost has to run to catch up.

RODNEY  
Did you see the tennis court as you  
came in? A favorite of our guests.

MIRANDA  
I don't play...a silly sport.

EXT. BENCH SEAT - DAY

Maggie looks at her watch.

MAGGIE  
It's 12 o'clock.

JEAN  
What?

Maggie points to her watch.

MAGGIE  
It's 12. We need to go.

JEAN  
Oh, yeah, right. Let's hurry.

The two ladies walk as quickly as they can between the  
villas until they sneak around the last corner. Jean trips  
over a broken piece of concrete.

JEAN  
Shit!

MAGGIE  
Shut up or they'll hear us.

They pause underneath a high window and hear JUDITH and  
HENRY from inside the villa.

JUDITH (OS)  
Come on big boy or I'll miss my  
soaps.

(CONTINUED)

HENRY (OS)  
Watch out Jane, here comes Tarzan.  
(Gives a jungle yell)

Judith squeals.

MAGGIE  
(Quietly)  
Hurry up and drag that chair over  
here.

JEAN  
What?

MAGGIE  
The chair! The chair!

Jean grabs a very fragile looking plastic chair and puts it under the window. She climbs onto it and looks into the window. Her eyes widen and she clamps her hand over her mouth to muffle her laughter. She almost falls off the chair trying to get down.

MAGGIE  
(Whispers)  
What did you see?

Jean is doubled over trying not to laugh. Maggie unsteadily climbs up. Peering through the window she sees an elderly naked man launching himself from a chest at the end of the bed onto a squealing woman who is unsuccessfully trying to hide under the covers.

Maggie can't help herself and laughs out loud. She wobbles, the chair tips over and she falls on top of Jean. Laughing they get up holding their sides. As the two ladies run away, the villa door slams open and Henry, still naked, comes outside yelling.

HENRY  
Who's that? Who's out there? You  
peeping Toms, I'll get you. I'll  
get you!

Henry chases them around the side of the villa. He receives catcalls and whistles when he stops in front of a group of residents.

Maggie and Jean keep on running. Eventually they stop and lean against a wall, laughing and puffing from exertion.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN

Did you see that? Who would have thought he had it in him?

MAGGIE

God, the way he was swinging it around he could have put her eye out.

JEAN

Hope she has insurance for that.

Still breathing heavily they round the corner to where the removal truck is parked outside Miranda's villa. Miranda, Rodney, Matthew and Jerome are there waiting. Maggie pulls Jean back.

MAGGIE

Hey, wait. Look.

The ladies watch as pieces of large antique furniture are transported by hand from the truck and taken inside. Miranda is trying to direct the men to where she wants the furniture. There are so many pieces that some won't fit and have to go into the carport.

EXT. HAPPY HARRIET'S STRIP CLUB - DAY

The Amber Views bus is parked outside.

INT. BUS - DAY

The bus is empty except for three golf bags that lay forgotten on the floor.

INT. HAPPY HARRIET'S STRIP CLUB - DAY

Bob, Charlie, Ted and Bernie are sitting in front of the stage drinking beer. Bob and Charlie are raucously cheering the strippers and asking them to come closer so that they can push dollar bills into their g-strings. Ted and Bernie sit back just drinking their beers and enjoying the view.

CHARLIE

Come on sweetheart, come over here.

Charlie waves a couple of bills at the GIRL.

BOB

Come and get it honey. That's it, just a bit closer, a bit closer. Woo hoo!

Bernie says to Ted.

(CONTINUED)

BERNIE

Better than golf any day, hey?

Ted nods.

FADE OUT

Noises of plates clanking as dinner is being prepared in the kitchen. Indistinct voices of the chefs and waitstaff.

FADE IN

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The waiter, TERRY, picks up two plates from the servery and walks through the flap doors into the dining room.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Bob, Maggie, Ted, Charlie and the other residents are all sitting at small tables set for one or two people. They are each sitting at their own table. Bob and Maggie are served their very unappetizing meals of boiled cabbage, mashed carrots and stewed beef.

They look at their plates in disgust and use their spoons to either stir the slop or pick some of it up and let it fall off the spoon back onto the plate.

INT. JEAN'S VILLA - NIGHT

Jean is sitting at her kitchen table with a bowl of clear soup beside her elbow. She is cutting coupons from the paper.

EXT. MIRANDA'S VILLA - NIGHT

A black limousine pulls up and Matthew, dressed in a dinner jacket and tie, gets out of the backseat and goes to the door of the villa. Miranda opens the door and steps out. She holds his arm as he helps her to the waiting car.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Ted and Charlie are happy to be served their unappetizing meals and tuck into them wholeheartedly. They thank the waiter profusely.

TERRY

Here you go Charlie.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Thanks Terry. This looks great.  
Please thank Evelyn for me.

Terry can't believe that Charlie is thanking him for the disgusting meal.

TERRY

Sure.

Terry then serves Ted.

TED

Thanks Terry.

Ted closes his eyes and says a small prayer of thanks.

TED

(Quietly)

Thank you Lord for providing us  
with this lovely meal. Amen.

CHARLIE

Amen.

At the end of the meal Charlie and Ted get up from their tables at the same time.

CHARLIE

Thanks Terry. Lovely meal. No  
dessert for me...too full.

He rubs his stomach.

TED

Yeah, none for me either Terry.  
Thanks.

They leave the dining room together but separate at the door and go in opposite directions.

TED

Good night Charlie.

CHARLIE

Night Ted.

INT. TED'S VILLA - NIGHT

The lock clicks and we watch as Ted enters his quiet unit. He goes into the small kitchen and turns on a dim light. He opens up a nearly bare cupboard and moves around a couple of tins of food.

INT. CHARLIE'S VILLA - NIGHT

The lock clicks and we watch Charlie enter his unit. He goes to the small kitchen and turns on a glaring, stark bright light.

Opening up the fridge he removes a beer. After snapping off the top he then opens up the freezer and takes out a frozen T.V. dinner.

Tearing open the box he grabs a fork from the sink and stabs the plastic lid a few times. He tosses the frozen meal into a microwave and has to slam the door a couple of times before it closes. He turns it on.

INT. JEAN'S VILLA - NIGHT

Jean gets up from the table, rinses her empty bowl and places it upside down on the draining rack.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Terry removes Maggie's and Bob's half empty plates then comes back with small bowls half filled with stewed pears. They grimace.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Miranda and Matthew are enjoying a very expensive meal with a glass of wine.

INT. TED'S VILLA - NIGHT

Ted goes to his lounge room and puts a record on the record player. When a soft melody starts playing he picks up a faded picture of his dead wife. While holding the picture close, he slowly waltzes.

TED

Oh love. I miss you and your  
wonderful cooking.

INT. CHARLIE'S VILLA - NIGHT

The microwave beeps and Charlie removes the dinner with a faded tea towel. He carries it into the lounge and balances it while he sits down in an old armchair.

Reaching for the remote, he turns the T.V. on to a sitcom. He tears the plastic off his meal and starts eating it without taking his eyes off the screen.

EXT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Bob and Maggie leave the dining room.

BOB

Nice meal.

MAGGIE

Lovely.

BOB

Well, goodnight.

MAGGIE

Night.

INT. JEAN'S VILLA - NIGHT

Jean picks up her purse then throws her shawl over her shoulders. From her sideboard she picks up a jar that rattles with coins and tucks it into her handbag. She switches off the light and leaves her unit.

EXT. RECEPTION - NIGHT

At the portico, a bus with *Lucky Slots* written down the side is waiting. Jean gets into the bus and it pulls away.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Matthew pays the bill then he and Miranda get back into the limousine and it drives off.

EXT. MIRANDA'S VILLA - NIGHT

The limousine pulls up outside Miranda's villa. Matthew gets out and helps Miranda out. He walks her to the door then kisses her cheek.

She waves as he drives away. Miranda has a bit of trouble unlocking the door but eventually opens it.

INT. MIRANDA'S VILLA - NIGHT

Miranda switches on the light and we see that the room is overcrowded with furniture and luggage. She can barely walk through the room. With tears in her eyes she shuts the door behind her and just stands there overwhelmed.

INT. RETIREMENT VILLAGE BUS - MORNING

Maggie, Jean, Ted, Charlie and Bob sit with some other residents on the bus waiting impatiently for Bernie. Bob looks at his watch.

BOB

Where is he?

MAGGIE

If we don't get there early enough all the cheap stuff's gone.

Residents are nodding behind her.

BOB

If I don't get to the drug store before Henry and get my meds, I'll have to wait all day for his to be filled.

Jean to Charlie.

JEAN

Did you see the new one's furniture? Looks like it came from a palace.

Bernie hops onto the bus to jeers from the residents.

BERNIE

Sorry folks, had to get Ethel's scripts.

Bernie waves a handful of scripts.

RESIDENTS

Groan.

EXT. STRIP SHOPS MAIN STREET - MORNING

The bus pulls up and the residents jostle each other to be first off the bus. There is a rush, led by Bob, towards the drug store.

(CONTINUED)

Ted gets off last and we follow him to the post office where he goes to a private mailbox. He digs out his keys from his pocket and goes through each one until the last one opens up the box. Inside is a letter. Ted wasn't expecting anything. When he takes it out he looks at it like there's a mistake, but the envelope is addressed to him.

He turns it over but doesn't recognize the return name or address. He carefully opens up the envelope and unfolds the letter. He reads the first few lines.

LETTER

Hello Theodore,

You don't know me but I have been  
looking for you for a while. My  
name is Elijah and I am your son...

Bob walks into the room behind Ted and opens up his mail box. Ted quickly shoves the letter into his pocket.

BOB

Anything interesting today, Ted?

TED

No, just the usual junk.

BOB

Yeah, get that all the time. Well  
hello there...

Bob pulls out a thick letter.

BOB

A letter from my son, Warren.

Bob opens up the envelope and pulls out a thick wad of photos and a short note.

BOB

And photos too.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Jean and Maggie are in line to buy their small amounts of groceries. Jean has a stack of grocery coupons in her hand.

Maggie is eyeing off some Sara Lee cakes stacked beside the register. She really wants a packet but cannot afford them. Jean sees her looking at them.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN

I'll buy them for you. My treat.

Maggie looks at her suspiciously.

JEAN

Won at the slots last night. 50 big ones, so...

Jean picks up a packet and puts it into her basket.

JEAN

My treat.

MAGGIE

Humph.

Maggie sees the wad of coupons in Jean's hand.

MAGGIE

You're still using coupons?

JEAN

Yeah, so?

The line moves forward and Charlie joins the queue. He puts his T.V. dinners up on the belt then furtively looks around to check that no one is watching. No one notices when he selects a chocolate bar and slips it into his pocket.

EXT. HOTEL - LUNCHTIME

The sign out the front says "Pensioner Discount - Counter Meals \$6".

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - LUNCHTIME

The restaurant is cheap looking with faded decorations and tables covered with sticky, cigarette burnt vinyl tablecloths. There is a special board behind the register that promotes a "Counter Meal and a Beer for \$7.50". The residents are all lined up at the servery. They are each holding a large cheap plastic tray. When they are next to be served they rattle off what they want and the SERVER slops it onto a plate.

TED

Roast Pork, gravy, crackling, peas and pumpkin.

JEAN

Chicken, mash, beans and corn.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

(To Jean)

Doesn't corn give you the runs?

JEAN

Oh shut up, Charlie.

CHARLIE

I was just saying.

(To the Server)

Beef, gravy, mash, pumpkin and  
peas.

(beat)

Come on love, don't be stingy with  
the peas.

The server puts another half spoon of peas on his plate.

CHARLIE

That's it love. Thanks.

After getting their meals they move to a large table. A waiter brings beers for the men and shandies for the ladies.

At the end of the meal Bob pulls out the photos. They are travel pictures that show his son Warren, with his friend Philip.

They are posed in front of popular tourist attractions usually with their arms slung over each other's shoulders but in the last photo they are kissing.

Bob proudly reads out the caption on the back of the photos then passes them along to the residents to see.

BOB

May 24 - Phil and I outside the  
Colosseum.

May 26 - Phil and I at the  
Pantheon.

Maggie stares closely at the photos.

MAGGIE

Are you sure they're just friends?

BOB

Yeah. They're mates from way back.  
Why?

May 27 - Phil and I boarding the  
train to Venice.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN

They look very, very...close.

BOB

(Getting angry)

They're friends. Like I said.

Ted looks at a photo. It seems as if Warren has his hand on Phillips ass.

TED

Humph.

Bob blanches as he reaches the last photo. It is the one of the two men kissing on a gondola in Venice. He tries to hide the picture but Maggie grabs it out of his hand.

MAGGIE

(Sniggers)

Looks like they're really good friends to me.

Bob tries to take it back but she quickly passes it to Ted who passes it on to Jean and so forth with Bob trying to retrieve it all the time. The residents all laugh.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jean and Maggie are sitting together having a drink. Rodney and Stacey are sitting at a corner table. They are holding hands and sharing a bottle of wine.

Miranda arrives on her scooter but when she tries to drive it into the room she is thwarted by Terry. Jean and Maggie look on with interest.

TERRY

Sorry Madam. Motorized vehicles are not permitted in the restaurant.

MIRANDA

Why ever not?

TERRY

Not enough room, Madam. Could you leave it outside please.

MIRANDA

(Gets snippety)

I'm a paying resident. I should be allowed...

Bob walks up.

(CONTINUED)

BOB  
Miss Chapman?

Miranda is unhappy about the interruption but hesitates when she sees how handsome and charming Bob is.

MIRANDA  
Yes?

BOB  
I am Bob Swanson. May I have the privilege of inviting you to be my dinner companion this evening?

Bob holds out his hand to help her from the vehicle.

BOB  
I'm sure Terry won't mind parking your vehicle at the entrance. Would you Terry?

TERRY  
(Smirking)  
No, Madam. It would be my pleasure.

MIRANDA  
Well, if you're sure that he won't scratch it.

BOB  
I'm positive.

Bob winks over Miranda's head to Terry.

MIRANDA  
Well.  
(Sighs dramatically)  
Very well then.

She accepts his arm and they follow Terry into the dining room. Terry shows them to a table.

JEAN  
Oh, look who's with Bob tonight.  
Miss I'm Better Than The Rest Of You.

MAGGIE  
Dressed to the nines, isn't she?  
Uppity cow. Don't know what he sees in her.

(CONTINUED)

BOB

Miss Chapman? Do you enjoy a drop  
of fine wine?

MIRANDA

It's Miranda. And yes, thank you.

BOB

And I'm Bob.

(Winks at Terry)

Terry, a bottle of your finest  
white please.

TERRY

Sure thing, Mr. Swanson.

Terry leaves to retrieve a bottle of wine from a fridge in the kitchen. There are only half a dozen bottles and they are all the same. They are a questionable vintage from a rather poor year.

Jean looks at her watch, gets up and gathers her shawl and handbag.

MAGGIE

(Surprised)

Where are you going?

JEAN

Church. It's bingo night.

Maggie grabs her arm.

MAGGIE

But you can't leave me here by  
myself. Not with The Queen in the  
room. What will she think?

JEAN

Buckle up buttercup. You'll be  
okay. I don't think that she thinks  
about anything or anyone other than  
herself and it's not as if you  
haven't had dinner by yourself  
before.

MAGGIE

(Hisses)

Stay.

Jean pulls her arm away. Goes over to Bob and Miranda's table. She holds out her hand to Miranda.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN

Good evening. I'm Jean. Welcome to  
Amber Views.

Miranda shakes her hand and nods, wanting to impress Bob.  
She adds after a pregnant pause.

MIRANDA

Thank you.  
(beat)  
What a lovely shawl.

Jean lovingly touches the material.

JEAN

Thanks. It's a gift from my  
daughter.

Jean leans over to Bob and loudly whispers.

JEAN

Maggie's too shy, but she wants to  
meet our newest resident as well.

Maggie starts to shake her head at Jean, not wanting to be  
introduced. But when Bob and Miranda look over at her, she  
pastes a false smile on her face while all the while her  
eyes are shooting daggers at Jean.

JEAN

Well, good night all. I must be  
off.

Jean turns and sticks her tongue out at Maggie.

BOB

Do you mind Miranda?

Miranda does mind sharing Bob's company, but acquiesces.

MIRANDA

Of course not.

Bob goes over to Maggie's table and bows graciously to her.

BOB

Please join us Maggie.

MAGGIE

Oh no. I don't want to intrude.

Bob puts his hand on hers and winks.

(CONTINUED)

BOB

I insist.

(Beat)

Terry, another place please. And another glass.

Maggie grudgingly follows Bob to the table where Terry has placed another chair and is setting a third place setting.

Bob holds the chair out for Maggie while she sits down.

BOB

Miranda Chapman. Maggie Fowler.

Terry brings another glass. Bob pours some wine for Maggie then tops up Miranda's glass and his own.

BOB

Now, tell us Miranda. We are dying to hear how you come to join us at Amber Views.

Miranda takes a sip of wine.

MIRANDA

My nephew Matthew recommended it.

(Embarrassed)

It was the best one he could find.

(beat)

Within my means.

MAGGIE

(Rudely)

I thought that with all your money you could have afforded something better?

MIRANDA

(Snappily)

Why do you think that I have money?

MAGGIE

Your clothes, your luggage, your wonderful furniture. Your face...

MIRANDA

Well, I don't.

BOB

Ladies, ladies. Please.

Bob pats the back of Miranda's hand.

(CONTINUED)

BOB

That's okay dear. We are all a bit short here. It comes with the territory. I myself made bad investments in some questionable companies that didn't work out. The rest I locked away in trust funds for my grandchildren.

(Sighs)

If I have any. And Maggie here...

MIRANDA

What's your hard luck story?

MAGGIE

I'm not telling you, you wrinkled old bat.

MIRANDA

I am not wrinkled.

Miranda picks up her spoon to check her reflection.

BOB

Maggie, come on. Play nice.

MAGGIE

I will if she will.

BOB

Miranda?

Bob takes the spoon out of Miranda's hand and places it down on the table.

MIRANDA

Fine.

BOB

Well, Maggie?

MAGGIE

Oh, okay. When Frank died three years ago, he left me with a mountain of debt. Debt that I didn't even know about until the creditors started knocking on my door before his body was cold in the ground. I didn't have a choice. I had to sell everything. So here I am.

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA

So, everyone here has some kind of hard luck story?

BOB

Yes. Just about.

MIRANDA

What about the lady that just left...Jean?

MAGGIE

Jean divorced her cheating military husband 25 years ago. He left her high and dry financially. She was a nurse and it took all of her wages to raise her two children. Blood suckers too they are. Keep hitting her up for cash. Like she has any.

MIRANDA

Where was she off to tonight?

BOB

Bingo. Jean is the gambler of our little group. She plays cards, slots, bingo and the lottery.

MAGGIE

She's pretty tinny too. Won fifty bucks last night on the the slots.

Terry serves dinner.

BOB

Ah. Here is out lovely meal. Terry, thank Evelyn for us if you would please.

INT. TED'S VILLA - NIGHT

Ted is sitting at his kitchen table with a bowl of soup and a cup of coffee. He reaches into his pocket and takes out the letter. After opening it he reaches for his reading glasses and perches them on the end of his nose.

LETTER

Hello Theodore.

You don't know me but I have been looking for you for a while.

ELIJAH narrates the rest of the letter.

(CONTINUED)

## LETTER CONT.

My name is Elijah Smith and I am your son.

My mother was Mary Jane Smith of Brooklyn. You may not remember her but you went out together when you were both sixteen. Before she died she revealed your identity to me after years of me pestering her.

She told me that you two had broken up by the time that she found out that she was pregnant. Her parents, embarrassed by her condition, moved the family away to another state before I was born.

For years she didn't know what became of you until one day she saw your wedding photo in the newspaper. Then it was too late.

Unbeknownst to me, for years she had been following your career in youth counseling and community work. She wanted to know how you turned out. Whether you would have made a good father.

I am also a Youth Counselor. It's funny how our careers turned out to be the same. If you agree I would love us to meet and get to know each other.

Please let me visit, Father. Please contact me on the number below. There's been too much wasted time.

Your Son

Elijah Smith

Ted brushes away the tears from his eyes. He gets up slowly from the chair and picks up the telephone handset and dials.

ELIJAH (OS)

Hello.

TED

(Voice cracking)

Good...evening. Is this Elijah Smith?

(CONTINUED)

ELIJAH (OS)  
Theodore? Dad?

Ted cries into the phone.

INT. BINGO HALL - NIGHT

Jean is playing Bingo and the numbers are falling her way.

CALLER  
Legs 11.

Jean smiles as she marks off her card.

CALLER  
Knock at the door. Number 4.

Jean marks off her card again.

CALLER  
Winnie the Poo. 42.

Jean jumps up out of her chair which falls to the floor with a loud crack. She shouts.

JEAN  
BINGO!

The LADY next to Jean leans over.

LADY  
Gee, you're lucky tonight. That's the third game you've won.

JEAN  
Yeah. I've been having a run of good luck lately.

As Jean sits down she glances at the newspaper next to the lady and sees a large advertisement for "Florida Lotto - Grand Prize - Largest Ever - \$75 million".

JEAN  
Now, there's an idea.

INT. CHARLIE'S VILLA - NIGHT

Charlie throws his empty T.V. dinner packet into the trash and places his empty beer bottle carefully on the floor beside the bin. He goes to the cupboard and takes out the chocolate bar.

Taking it into the lounge, he sits in his favorite chair and tears off the wrapper. He closes his eyes in ecstasy when he savors his first bite.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Bob, Maggie and Miranda are tipsy from the wine. Miranda leans over to Maggie. She nods her head towards Rodney and Stacey in the corner.

MIRANDA

Who's that girl with the Manager?

MAGGIE

Who? Oh, that's Stacey, the receptionist

MIRANDA

(Sniffs)

She was the one that was rude.

MAGGIE

Was she? That's not like her.

MIRANDA

Well, she was.

Rodney leans over and kisses Stacey.

MIRANDA

That's not appropriate. He's her boss.

BOB

Oh, come on now, Miranda. You can't tell me that you haven't seen that before.

MAGGIE

(Snorts into her wine)

Or done that before.

BOB

I believe that they're going to get engaged soon. Bernie told me that he saw Rodney in town picking out a ring.

MIRANDA

(Sniffs)

Well, even so. Not in a restaurant where their clients are dining.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Why ever not. Good to get the  
gossip first-hand for a change.

Maggie has another large swallow of wine and spies Henry and Judith who she and Jean saw in a compromising position. Maggie leans forward and motions Bob and Miranda closer.

MAGGIE

Now, Jean and I saw something that  
would put you off your kippers.

Maggie nods at Henry and Judith.

MAGGIE

At noon every Wednesday, those two  
get together for a session of me  
Tarzan you Jane.

MIRANDA

What?

BOB

You don't say?

Bob turns around and has another look at the couple.

MAGGIE

You know. Hide the salami.

Miranda looks bewildered while Bob tries to contain his laughter.

MAGGIE

Slip a hot dog in the bun.

Miranda shakes her head.

MAGGIE

You know. Noonies.

Miranda still looks lost.

BOB

(Laughing)

Don't you mean nooners?

MAGGIE

Whatever. She doesn't understand me  
anyway. Oh, for goodness sake,  
Miranda. They get together for a  
humpty dumpty.

Miranda shakes her head in confusion.

(CONTINUED)

BOB  
(Laughing)  
Sex. They have sex.

MIRANDA  
You're kidding?

Miranda turns around and stares at the couple.

MAGGIE  
No. Each and every Wednesday like  
clockwork. I've heard that the  
script that he gets filled most  
often is the one they say no older  
man can do without.

MIRANDA  
Which one?

MAGGIE  
Viagra.

Bob, Maggie and Miranda laugh loudly. The other patrons  
stare at them.

FADE OUT

Miranda is directing Jerome, Duane and Milton in the removal  
of the furniture that does not fit her villa.

MIRANDA (OS)  
Now for the wall unit. Be careful,  
don't hit the...

There is the sound of a large thud.

MIRANDA (OS)  
Sideboard.

JEROME(OS)  
Sorry Missus.

FADE IN

EXT. MIRANDA'S VILLA - MORNING

JEROME  
You sure you don't want this stuff  
Missus?

MIRANDA  
It's Miss Chapman to you. No, I  
don't require it any longer you can  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
just put it near the dumpster.  
Rodney said he would organize  
someone to get rid of it.

JEROME  
Okay, Missus.

Miranda gives him a dirty look.

JEROME  
(Swallows)  
Okay, Miss Chapman.

When Miranda goes inside, Charlie bails up Duane and Jerome.

CHARLIE  
What's going on?

JEROME  
She don't want this stuff anymore.  
So, we gotta put it near the  
dumpster.

CHARLIE  
You sure she doesn't want it?

JEROME  
Yep. She said the Manager is going  
to get someone to take it away.

Charlie looks over the pieces of furniture and whistles.

CHARLIE  
Looks like good stuff. Could be  
worth a penny or two. If some of  
this goes missing before the truck  
arrives you didn't see anything,  
right?

Jerome and Duane nod.

JEROME  
No, we didn't see nothing. Did we  
Duane?

Charlie shuffles off and grabs a couple of residents. They groan as they lift up a piece of furniture and make off with it around the back of the villa. They stop at Jean's place and she is surprised to see them and the wall unit when she opens the door.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN  
Charlie. What in the world?

CHARLIE  
Got you something.

JEAN  
It's massive.

CHARLIE  
Yeah, I know, but it would look  
good in your lounge.

JEAN  
But, I cannot afford to pay you for  
it.

CHARLIE  
(Winks)  
That's okay. A kiss will do.

Jean smiles and kisses him on the cheek. Charlie sighs at  
the touch of her lips.

CHARLIE  
(Wistfully)  
Oh, if I only had a million dollars  
I would whisk you away from all  
this.

JEAN  
You're sweet Charlie.

CHARLIE  
Okay boys, let's lift and get it in  
there.

INT. MIRANDA'S VILLA - DAY

Miranda is sitting in her silent unit with a cup of tea,  
staring into space. The unit is still a bit crowded with  
furniture but not as much as it used to be.

EXT. MIRANDA'S VILLA - DAY

Maggie and Jean walk up the footpath to Miranda's villa.

JEAN  
You're sure that she'll want to  
come with us?

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

No, but she was pretty funny last night after a drink or four. I rang Bonnie this morning and booked an extra space just in case. If she doesn't want to come with us we'll have to go back to calling her Miss High and Mighty.

Maggie bangs on the door and after a moment we can hear Miranda shuffling over to open it up.

MIRANDA

What do you want?

Maggie is a little taken aback by her tone, but pushes forward. She smiles encouragingly at Miranda.

MAGGIE

Grab your purse. You're coming with us.

Miranda is suspicious.

MIRANDA

Why? Where?

JEAN

We have a standing appointment at the hairdressers at this time every week. Maggie made a booking for you too.

Miranda touches her hair to check that it's in place.

MIRANDA

Why, is there something wrong with my hair?

MAGGIE

(Rolls her eyes)

Yes, it looks like a robin has made a mess in it.

MIRANDA

What!

Miranda steps back as if to go and check. Jean grabs her arm.

JEAN

She's just teasing. You'll get used to her. There's nothing wrong with

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JEAN (cont'd)  
your hair but we would like your  
company.

Miranda ponders Jean's comment.

MIRANDA  
Well, I'll come and sit and watch.  
I'll just get my scooter.

Maggie grabs onto her other arm.

MAGGIE  
No, you're going to walk with us.  
You need to get used to life here.  
Come on, it's fun. Bonnie always  
has plenty of gossip.

Miranda pretends to be reluctant but is secretly happy at  
being invited.

MIRANDA  
Oh, okay. Just to make you happy.

Miranda reaches in and gets her bag and keys from the  
sideboard.

Maggie rolls her eyes again at Jean.

INT. HAIRDRESSER - DAY

The salon is full of residents having their hair washed,  
colored and set. Predominately the hair color of choice is  
blue. One WOMAN is snoring under a dryer.

As Maggie's hair is finished, she sits and waits while  
Jean's and Miranda's are washed before waiting for their  
turn under the dryers. Miranda spies Ted, Charlie and Bob  
walking past with fishing rods and tackle boxes on their way  
to the bus.

MIRANDA  
Where are they going? I didn't know  
there were good fishing spots  
around here.

MAGGIE  
There's plenty, but those guys  
wouldn't have the foggiest notion  
of where they are.

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA  
What do you mean?

JEAN  
They think that they fool us by  
pretending to go fishing, but they  
don't.

MAGGIE  
No, they are going to the races.

MIRANDA  
The races?

MAGGIE  
The dog races.

Miranda stares out after the men.

MIRANDA  
You're kidding right. They get  
dressed up in all that gear just to  
go to the dog races?

JEAN  
Not only the races. To the local  
casino...

MAGGIE  
The beach and the strip club.

MIRANDA  
(Shocked)  
The strip club.

MAGGIE  
Yep. All in the name of sport.

Jean leans towards Miranda and peers closely at her face.

JEAN  
Tell us. What work have you had  
done?

MIRANDA  
(Flushes)  
I don't know what you mean. I'm all  
natural.

MAGGIE  
Oh, puulease. You look more plastic  
than a drawer full of Tupperware.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN

I bet if I look behind your ears  
you'd have more stitch marks than  
an embroidered cushion.

Jean goes to turn Miranda's head to have a look. Miranda  
whips her head away from Jean's hand.

MAGGIE

'Fess up.

Maggie reaches over to pat Miranda's hand.

MAGGIE

We're just jealous you know. I  
mean, whew, you look about ten  
years younger than us. If I had  
some cash, your plastic surgeon  
would be the first person I'd ring.

Miranda turns to inspect herself in the mirror.

MIRANDA

(Worried)

Only ten?

JEAN

(Laughs)

Okay, fifteen. You're gorgeous and  
you know it. Come on, tell us what  
you've had done.

MIRANDA

(Proudly)

I have had a few nip and tucks over  
the years.

She pulls her ear forward and shows them the nearly  
invisible scars.

MIRANDA

I've had a brow lift, eye lift, two  
face lifts, a breast augmentation  
and a touch of Botox.

MAGGIE

You're joking. Gees, is any part of  
you real? That must have cost a  
pretty penny.

MIRANDA

(Sadly)

Well, I could afford it...then.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)

See the woman over there snoring  
under the dryer.

Jean and Maggie both look.

JEAN

Yeah.

MIRANDA

Well, I can tell that she's had a  
face lift done and not a very good  
one. She's too tight under the  
chin. I bet she went to Thailand  
for it.

MAGGIE

You can tell all that from way over  
here.

MIRANDA

Oh, yes.

(Laughs)

You could say that I'm an expert.

JEAN

So, that's why she looked so rested  
from that trip overseas. It wasn't  
the holiday. It was the surgery.

Miranda nodded at another WOMAN.

MIRANDA

And that one. Her breasts are not  
quite even.

Jean and Maggie cock their heads trying to make out the  
woman's breasts from underneath the hairdressing cape.

MAGGIE

I can't tell. Are you sure?

BONNIE removes the woman's cape and she gets up from the  
chair, ready to leave.

MIRANDA

See how she is holding her body at  
a slight tilt. She is trying to  
compensate that one is higher than  
the other.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN  
But wouldn't her bra fix that.

MIRANDA  
Sure, but not psychologically.

MAGGIE  
(Thoughtfully)  
Well, what do you know, and I  
thought that I already knew all the  
juicy gossip about everyone.

The ladies laugh together.

EXT. HAIRDRESSER - DAY

The ladies are leaving the shop when the men walk past after their fishing adventure. The men are carrying their rods and Ted has a fish in his icebox.

BOB  
Good afternoon, ladies.

MIRANDA, JEAN AND MAGGIE  
Good afternoon.

Maggie winks at Miranda

MAGGIE  
How did you go today? Any luck?

TED  
Yes, I got one. But the others...

He shrugs.

MAGGIE  
Well, show us then?

Ted lifts up the lid of the icebox to show a large perfectly gutted fish.

MAGGIE  
Well done. We'll see you at cards  
this evening?

CHARLIE  
Sure, wouldn't miss it.

The men and ladies walk off in two groups. Maggie lets the men walk off a little before she turns back.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Hey guys? Which market did you get the fish from? I think I'll get one for my dinner.

The men stand there spluttering.

TED

It's...it's not from the market.

MAGGIE

Sure, sure and I'm your Auntie Mary. I didn't know that Florida stocked New Zealand Rainbow Trout in its rivers.

The ladies walk off laughing while the men look at each other guiltily.

CHARLIE

How does she know that?

BOB

Bugger if I know.

With sirens blaring an ambulance races past and turns up a side street. Jean grabs Miranda's arm.

JEAN

Come on, let's see what's going on.

The men and women move as fast as they can after the ambulance. They turn a corner to see it pulled up outside Henry's villa. Judith, dressed in her robe, is crying outside.

MAGGIE

Oh my God.

CHARLIE

What do you think's going on?

MAGGIE

Well, duh. Obviously there's something wrong with Henry.

JEAN

But, he looked fine yesterday.

BOB

Maybe he overdosed. Did you see all those scripts that he had filled.

(CONTINUED)

TED  
Probably a heart attack.

JEAN  
Maybe a stroke?

MAGGIE  
Too many noonies.

BOB  
You mean nooners.

MAGGIE  
Noonies, nooners, whatever.

Dr. Reginald and Rodney come outside the unit and stand talking on the street. Other residents walk up, drawn by the ambulance's siren. Two paramedics come out with a body on a stretcher covered by a sheet.

BOB  
He's a goner.

MIRANDA  
Oh, no.

MAGGIE  
Oh, don't worry. You'll get used to it. What do you expect with a bunch of old fossils living in one place. There's bound to be a death or six.

CHARLIE  
(Thoughtfully)  
Wonder whether I can get his villa?

After the ambulance's doors close they walk away.

INT. CARD ROOM - EVENING

All six residents are sitting around a large round table playing poker. They all have mugs of coffee or tea in front of them. There are no other residents in the room.

Soft music is playing in the background. Jean seems to be the only one who is playing seriously and the pile of chips in front of her is significantly larger than the others.

JEAN  
Okay, ante up. Miranda, are you in this round?

Miranda shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA

No, not yet.

BOB

You've got to join in sometime.

TED

Yeah. Live a little.

MIRANDA

Next round. Promise.

Jean deals the cards. Maggie massages her temples like she has a migraine.

MAGGIE

So, what do you reckon Henry's got written in his will?

CHARLIE

Didn't he have some property up in Kansas?

MAGGIE

Not sure. Did anyone hear about him having any relatives?

TED

No, he never said.

BOB

Two cards please Jean. Could be a good thing. Remember when Fran Singleton died. Those bastard kids of hers were sniffing around for any leavings even before she was buried.

CHARLIE

One card, Jean, please. Yeah. Rodney had the doors and windows barricaded after the first window was broken.

MIRANDA

What? They broke in?

CHARLIE

Yeah. She was barely cold when the first one of her wastrel offspring came traipsing in. When he found the door was locked, he picked up a ceramic plant pot...

(CONTINUED)

JEAN

Her favorite one too. The one shaped like an elephant that she bought on her trip to Thailand.

CHARLIE

He just tossed it through the window. There was bits of dirt and plants everywhere.

Maggie massages her temples again.

MAGGIE

Really sad. Her favorite peonies were in it. It was the last plant her late husband gave her.

TED

Fold. Can't stand it when a person's property is disrespected.

MAGGIE

Then all three of them were sniffing around the next day. Wanting to be let into her villa. I'm sure that they were just going to raid it for whatever they thought was valuable.

JEAN

Vultures!

BOB

That's why Rodney barricaded up the doors and windows until the will was read.

MIRANDA

Goodness.

(beat)

Do they know yet how Henry died?

BOB

Bugger! Fold. Died in his sleep, I was told.

CHARLIE

Bastard!

MAGGIE

Lucky bastard!

Jean lays her cards on the table.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN

Full house.

All the residents groan and throw their cards on the table. Jean sweeps up the chips and starts placing them onto her already large piles.

JEAN

Well, there's no way I'm going that young. I'm going to hang around 'til I'm 120 just to piss off the kids.

CHARLIE

Well, with my career I thought that I would have clocked out long ago...

(Shrugs)

Who knew? Are you dealing again Jean?

BOB

Well, I'm planning on not going at all...not until I get grandkids anyway.

MAGGIE

(Snorts)

Well, you could be here for a long time. Hope you got enough cash 'cause I don't see Warren and Phil having any kids...unless they get a surrogate.

BOB

(Cranky)

I've told you, they're just friends!

MAGGIE

Yeah, yeah, you just go on believing that.

(beat)

Miranda, what's your death wish?

MIRANDA

Me?

(Pauses with a smile)

I'm going to die plastic.

The ladies laugh.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

(Serious)

Well I'm going to die dead. Fold.

Jean wins the pot again and she gleefully rakes up the small amount of chips from the middle of the table.

CHARLIE

Does anyone want anything stronger?

MAGGIE

A horse tranquilizer for this bloody headache if you've got one.

JEAN

Yes, please.

BOB

Oh, yeah.

Ted nods while Charlie reaches below and whips out a bottle of whiskey from his bag. Miranda pulls a bottle of pills from her handbag.

MIRANDA

Here.

She shakes three pills into Maggie's palm.

MAGGIE

Thanks Miranda. That should do the trick. Hey Charlie, where did you get that?

Charlie starts tipping a measure into everyone's mug. He winks at Jean.

CHARLIE

Don't ask me no questions and I'll tell you no lies.

He gets to Miranda but she places her hand over her cup to stop him. Jean sees her.

JEAN

Come on, Miranda. Live a little. It's not going to kill you.

Maggie pops the tablets into her mouth takes a healthy sip of her spiked drink to help swallow them down. She smacks her lips in appreciation. Bob smiles encouragingly at Miranda. Miranda, who wants to please Bob, raises her hand and accepts the splash of whiskey in her tea.

(CONTINUED)

TED

Just a small one thanks. Charlie.

Miranda takes a swallow of her tea and chokes on the burning alcohol. Bob pats her on the back.

JEAN

Did anyone see the paper yesterday?

She passes the cards to Bob who starts shuffling. He then deals out the cards and includes Miranda. She hesitates but he gives her an encouraging smile. She gives way and accepts the cards.

TED

Too much bad news.

BOB

The only parts I read are the obituaries.

MIRANDA

Really?

BOB

The rest is just rubbish. Only good for lining bird cages and starting campfires.

MAGGIE

Was there an article about surrogacy?

Bob throws her a dirty look.

JEAN

There was an ad for Florida Lotto. It's got a huge jackpot coming up. \$75 million.

CHARLIE

Whew, that's a lot. Two cards, Bob.

JEAN

Yeah, well, it just got me thinking.

TED

Three cards please Bob. About what?

JEAN

(Jokingly)

Well, if we won some of that money, Charlie would have to marry me.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE  
Any day, love. Any day.

MIRANDA  
Really?

JEAN  
No, not really.

CHARLIE  
I'll raise you twenty on that offer, Jean. Have you got it in you to see me on it?

JEAN  
Humph.

BOB  
How many cards do you want Miranda?

MIRANDA  
Four.

MAGGIE  
If you need four cards you're in major trouble, like Jean.

JEAN  
How about we all go in for a ticket?

MIRANDA  
A ticket?

JEAN  
Say that we all put in ten bucks each. So that's sixty dollars in total. We can spend that on tickets and try our luck. Just one card thanks Bob.

BOB  
The odds to win will be terrible.

CHARLIE  
So what. Sounds like fun.

MAGGIE  
I have really rotten luck. Crap!  
Fold. See.

Maggie places her cards face up on the table.

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA

But didn't you say that Jean was really lucky?

BOB

Yeah Maggie, you did.

TED

How has your luck been running Jean?

He indicates the pile of chips in front of her.

TED

You look like you're rolling in it tonight.

JEAN

Lay your cards on the table guys.  
Ha, my three kings beat all of you.

She leans over and again sweeps up all of the chips.

JEAN

I must admit, I'm having a good run.

MAGGIE

You said you won fifty bucks on the slots the other night. What else?

JEAN

Bingo.

MIRANDA

Bingo?

MAGGIE

How much?

JEAN

One hundred and fifty. Then on the road outside I found another twenty. Not only that, at the supermarket the other day the soap I usually buy was less than half price.

TED

Soap that cheap. You are lucky.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN  
So, what about it?

MIRANDA  
What?

JEAN  
Putting some money in for a ticket  
or two.

CHARLIE  
Well, I'm all for it as long as it  
is you who buys it not crappy cards  
Maggie over here.

TED  
Count me in.

MAGGIE  
Me too.

BOB  
Ten bucks each. Okay.

They all look at Miranda.

MIRANDA  
Well, okay then. I can't be the  
only one who misses out.

BOB  
Great. Hey Charlie how about a top  
up?

CHARLIE  
Sure Bob. Coming right up.

BOB  
Let's have it straight this time.

CHARLIE  
Cheers, Bob. Cheers.

INT. TED'S BATHROOM - MID MORNING

Ted is nervously getting dressed. He is wearing his best suit pants, collared shirt and a fancy tie that's at least twenty years old. His shoes are highly polished.

He is looking in the mirror in his tiny bathroom trying to slick down his hair with Bryllcreem, but a tuft keeps sticking up at the back. He tries to bolster his confidence by talking to himself in the mirror. His neck tie is too tight and he pulls on it to try and loosen it.

(CONTINUED)

TED

This tie is too old. Maybe I should take it off? What if I'm a big disappointment? What if we have nothing in common?

(beat)

Come on old man, pull yourself together.

He jumps at the sound of the front door bell. He takes one last look at himself in the mirror and tries to straighten his tie again.

INT. TED'S VILLA - MID MORNING

Ted opens the door to a well presented middle aged man, Elijah. Elijah is very similarly dressed to Ted but is not wearing a tie.

He is nervously fiddling with the wrapping on a bottle of whiskey. There are similarities in their features and they hold themselves the same.

They also have nearly identical mannerisms and way of walking though Ted is slower and more cautious.

They stand staring at each other for a few seconds until Elijah pulls himself together.

ELIJAH

Theodore Jackson?

TED

Ted.

ELIJAH

I am Elijah Smith. We spoke on the phone?

TED

Yes, we did.

Ted realizes that they are still standing in the doorway.

TED

Sorry.

(beat)

Would you like to come in.

ELIJAH

Thanks.

Ted steps back and opens the door wider for Elijah to enter. He closes the door and leads Elijah into the lounge room.

(CONTINUED)

TED

Please take a seat.

ELIJAH

Nice place you've got here. Been here long?

TED

About six years. Moved here after my wife died.

ELIJAH

Oh. Sorry about your loss.

TED

And yours too. Do you want coffee, tea?

ELIJAH

Coffee, thanks. But only if you are having one?

TED

Coffee it is. Be right back.

While Ted is in the kitchen, Elijah gets up and has a look at the two photos on the mantelpiece. One is of a charming young lady and the other is a photo of Ted and AGATHA on their wedding day. There are no pictures of children.

Elijah moves over to the bookshelf that holds some knickknacks and well-read hard cover books. Most of the titles are war stories but some are old texts about counseling and troubled youth.

From the kitchen we hear the rattle of china and Ted comes back into the lounge room with a tray set with two coffee mugs.

With shaking hands, Ted places the tray on the table.

Elijah indicates the photos.

ELIJAH

Your wife?

TED

Agatha.

ELIJAH

She's beautiful. How did you meet?

(CONTINUED)

TED

At a dance. I had just turned twenty-five. I was supposed to meet another girl there but she didn't show up and boy, didn't I end up grateful. I saw Agatha as soon as I walked in. She was one of the backup singers. I'm not sure whether it was her voice, her smile or the way she moved but I couldn't take my eyes off her. I don't know what it was, but she captivated me. Somehow I found myself at the side of the stage. I stayed there all night, just staring...

Ted drifts off into his memories. Elijah gently guides him to the table and helps him sit. They start sipping their coffee.

ELIJAH

And?

Ted is brought out of his memories.

TED

And? Oh that's right. It was the third song when she finally noticed me staring at her with a goofy expression on my face. She winked at me. It wasn't until their final break that I summoned up enough courage to actually speak to her.

ELIJAH

You were nervous.

TED

Oh, yes. All night I had tried practicing what I was going to say to her. The one liners that I had heard from my friends over the years sounded corny and superficial. I didn't really understand what I was feeling, I just knew that I wanted to talk to her. I just couldn't find the right words. When she came down off the stage for the last time I plucked up the courage to take her hand. She didn't pull away. She just went still as if she was waiting for something...or someone.

(CONTINUED)

(Gratified laugh)

Me!

(beat)

I leaned down and kissed the back of her hand imagining myself as one of the suave gents that you see in the old movies and finally introduced myself.

(beat)

But, enough about me. What about you? Do you have a family of your own?

ELIJAH

No. No wife or children. Never found the right one.

(Shrugs)

Or had the time. Mom never married so I ended up being an only child. I don't think that she ever regretted not marrying. We were happy together. Now that she's gone I'm pretty much on my own.

(beat)

I didn't see any photos of children?

TED

No, unfortunately we were not blessed.

Ted starts to choke up.

TED

But, I always wanted a son.

With tears in his eyes Elijah takes Ted's hand in his own.

ELIJAH

Well, now you do.

They embrace.

INT. JEAN'S VILLA - MID MORNING

Charlie is sitting at Jean's table admiring Miranda's wall unit. Jean places a fresh cup of coffee in front of him.

JEAN

Here's your coffee.

Charlie nods at the wall unit.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Do you like it?

JEAN

Yes, but it sure is big. I haven't got enough stuff to fill it.

Charlie reaches for her hand and tenderly holds it.

CHARLIE

You don't need to fill it. It will probably fill itself over time with memories.

JEAN

So true.

(beat)

Henry's death seemed so sudden.

CHARLIE

Why? It's inevitable that in a place like this someone will die. In fact, I think that there has been quite a number since you've been here. Why does his bother you so much?

Jean shrugs his question off.

JEAN

Oh, I don't know.

CHARLIE

Is it because...

He raises her hand and kisses her palm.

JEAN

Maybe.

CHARLIE

Our time together will come.

JEAN

It just seems that time is going by faster. Rushing through the hourglass, falling quicker and quicker, speeding up like it'll run out.

CHARLIE

It won't. Not yet.

Jean shakes head trying to dispel her morbid thoughts.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN

Anyway, you're not ready yet.

CHARLIE

No, we're not. We just need a bit more...

JEAN

(Smiles)

Well, I have this really good feeling. The tickets are speaking to me. My luck is still there 'cause I got my juice at thirty percent off yesterday.

Charlie smiles with love at her silliness.

CHARLIE

Well, I'd better start making plans. Are you going to wear white?

JEAN

Don't you think that you should ask me first?

They both laugh.

INT. DR. REGINALD'S OFFICE - MID MORNING

Maggie is having a consultation with Dr. Reginald.

DR. REGINALD

Well, it's not good news.

MAGGIE

Didn't expect it to be.

DR. REGINALD

It's a .....

MAGGIE

Don't give me the gobbledygook name. Give it to me straight.

DR. REGINALD

Okay Maggie. It's a tumor.

MAGGIE

Cancerous?

DR. REGINALD

No, benign. But you will still need surgery. Your insurance will cover that. Let's get the forms started.

(CONTINUED)

Maggie shakes her head.

MAGGIE

No, it won't. I just have basic.

DR. REGINALD

Oh.

MAGGIE

Is there any other way?

Dr. Reginald rustles through his desk draw. He finally finds a brochure.

DR. REGINALD

Well, there is this.

He hands the brochure over to Maggie.

MAGGIE

A clinical trial?

DR. REGINALD

It is...experimental. There are no guarantees.

MAGGIE

I'll probably be treated like a monkey in a cage. How much would it be to go private, without insurance?

DR. REGINALD

Maggie, it would cost tens of thousands of dollars.

MAGGIE

(Sighs)

More than I have. So, what now?

DR. REGINALD

I'll let you think about the trial. It may be an option for you. Meanwhile take these scripts and have them filled as soon as you can, hopefully they will slow the growth down.

Maggie stares blankly at the pile of scripts that the Doctor has given her.

(CONTINUED)

DR. REGINALD

I'm sorry Maggie, but there is nothing else that I can do. Surgery is the only answer.

INT. TED'S VILLA - MORNING

Ted and Elijah have finished their coffees and are relaxing on the sofa.

TED

So, tell me about your work?

ELIJAH

(Happily)

It's wonderful...

(Face drops)

but depressing at the same time.

The youth of the city...

(Sighs)

It's so hard to do anything for them. The lack of resources, broken down buildings, untrained staff...a lack of power to instigate change.

(Pauses)

Some of the kids are just great, real potential. But they just get lost in the system...

Ted nods. He remembers what it was like.

ELIJAH

And the others.

Elijah dejectedly shakes his head.

TED

Even in my day we struggled against a lack of funds, the powers of office and the prejudice of the rich.

ELIJAH

That's right. It's still the same. They just don't get it.

TED

If we rehabilitate even five percent...

ELIJAH

They will in turn hopefully influence some of their wayward

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ELIJAH (cont'd)  
friends. Who in turn will improve  
the community as a whole.

(Dejected)  
It's just the funds.

Ted nods.

TED  
It's always about the money. But  
don't worry...  
(Gulps)  
Son.

Elijah smiles when Ted calls him his son.

TED  
I always felt, when I was working  
with kids in my day, if I could  
help even just one, and I did, it  
made it all worthwhile.

ELIJAH  
Yes...Dad, I agree, it does, it  
makes it all worthwhile.  
(beat)  
But, we could do so much more.

INT. RECEPTION - MID MORNING

Miranda is waiting for Rodney in the reception area. She sees Maggie leave Dr. Reginald's office with her head held high but with a worried look in her eyes. Before Miranda could hail her, she hears Rodney and Stacey talking through the half open door of the manager's office. She pauses, eavesdropping.

STACEY (OS)  
Is there any way we can manage it?

RODNEY (OS)  
Unfortunately no. I've looked and  
looked, there just isn't any more  
money. The owners have cut the  
budget again.

STACEY (OS)  
But Milton...Isabella?

RODNEY (OS)  
I have to give them their notice.  
They can only stay until the end of  
the month.

(CONTINUED)

STACEY (OS)

But, this job is Milton's whole life. You know how the residents love him even if he is a bit slow and has to ask for help. It's going to kill him. He doesn't have anything else.

RODNEY (OS)

(Exasperated)

I know. I know.

STACEY (OS)

And Isabella. She's just starting college. She will have to find a job that will work around her classes.

(beat)

Is there anything we can do?

Rodney and Stacey come out of the office. Rodney is running his hands through his hair and Stacey is wringing her hands with worry.

RODNEY

I've tried everything. I've begged, pleaded, scrimped and saved but it's this or cut down some essential services that our residents need.

(Vehemently)

And I won't do that.

STACEY

I know, love. I know.

Miranda stunned, walks out of the reception area, her errand forgotten. She doesn't hear Rodney calling out to her.

RODNEY

Miss. Chapman! Miss. Chapman? You wanted to see me?

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DRIZZLY AFTERNOON

Most of the staff and residents are at the graveside for Henry's funeral. Everyone looks solemn except for Judith who is weeping. Elijah is there standing beside Ted's side. The PRIEST commences the short sermon.

PRIEST

Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust.

Charlie whispers to Jean.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Someone bury him before I bust.

Jean giggles and hits Charlie playfully. Miranda gives her a, "What the hell are you doing?" look. The Priest continues on with the service.

JEAN

Stop that.

Charlie reaches inside his coat pocket and removes a flask of liquor. He slips it to Jean who hides behind her umbrella to have a swig. Miranda glances over and catches them. Charlie mouths, "Do you want some?" and waggles the flask. Disgusted, Miranda turns away. He slips the flask back into his pocket.

CHARLIE

Apparently not.

Jean giggles then belches.

JEAN

Shush. Oops, excuse me.

CHARLIE

Who's that with Ted?

JEAN

Don't know, but they look similar.

CHARLIE

His nephew, maybe?

JEAN

Didn't think that Ted had any siblings.

CHARLIE

Not sure.

Bob moves over to stand beside them.

CHARLIE

Hey Bob. Who's that with Ted?

BOB

His son.

JEAN

(Loudly)

His son?

(CONTINUED)

Miranda and Maggie now both stare at Jean, giving her dirty looks.

MIRANDA

Shush.

JEAN

(Quieter)

I didn't think that he had any children.

BOB

Neither did he. I met him earlier. Name's Elijah. Ted's illegitimate son from way back when he was a teenager.

JEAN

Really?

BOB

You just never know. Do you?

Charlie ponders his past misdeeds.

CHARLIE

No, you just never know.

Miranda whispers to Maggie.

MIRANDA

They have no respect.

MAGGIE

They can sometimes be uncouth, but, I must admit...

The Priest plods on through his sermon. Maggie indicates him with a nod.

MAGGIE

If he doesn't hurry up I'm liable to throw a cup full of soil in myself just to get this over and done with.

MIRANDA

You're joking.

MAGGIE

No way. I haven't got time to waste.

Miranda looks thoughtfully at Maggie.

EXT. RECEPTION - MORNING

Bernie and Jean are getting on the bus to go to the shops.

BERNIE

So, what's this extra trip for Jean? Shopping day isn't until Wednesday.

JEAN

Need to make a special trip.

Jean waves the Florida Lotto ad at him.

JEAN

Did you see this ad?

BERNIE

No. Didn't catch it. When is it drawn?

JEAN

Tomorrow night. We're going in together to buy a ticket. Ten bucks each. You want in?

BERNIE

(Laughs)

No way. You know that it's all a crap shoot. Don't you? The odds are lousy.

JEAN

I know, I know. But, I have this feeling.

BERNIE

You and your feelings.

INT. BUS - MORNING

The bus pulls up at the shops. When Jean starts to step out she turns to Bernie.

JEAN

Last chance. You're sure?

BERNIE

I'm sure. Good luck.

INT. NEWSAGENT - MORNING

Jean is third in line for the lotto counter. The line moves slowly forward until she reaches the window.

JEAN

Two tickets please.

After purchasing the tickets she kisses them for luck as she moves away from the counter.

EXT. MIRANDA'S VILLA - LATE AFTERNOON

Miranda and Bob are sitting outside having a cup of tea. Over the street they see Duane and Milton tending the rose bushes.

MIRANDA

More tea, Bob?

BOB

Yes, thanks Miranda.

MIRANDA

How many years have you lived here at Amber Views?

BOB

Close on six years. Why?

MIRANDA

Just wondering.

She quietly sips her tea. Bob notices her thoughtful mood.

BOB

Come on. What gives?

MIRANDA

I don't know what you mean.

BOB

You're thinking.

MIRANDA

Yes.

(Pauses)

If we actually did win the 75 million and there were no other winners, how much would we each get?

(CONTINUED)

BOB

Let's see. 75 million less tax of 28 percent equals, 54 million. Now if there are no other winners, divide that by six and...if each of us took it as a lump sum...that would equal nine million each.

Miranda ponders over his answer.

MIRANDA

Hmm. I wonder if that's enough.

Bob looks flabbergasted.

BOB

How much do you need? We've only got a few years left.

MIRANDA

Don't be silly, I'm going to live forever. But, if we did win, what would you do with your nine million?

BOB

Not sure.

He looks around him.

BOB

I don't need very much. Maybe a trip to meet up with Warren.

(Sighs)

I'm going to have to accept his relationship with Phillip eventually. What about you?

MIRANDA

Yesterday, I was waiting for Rodney and I overheard he and Stacey talking. It seems like the Retirement Village is in trouble financially.

BOB

Well, it's not the richest one around. Most of the residents are here for charity not profit. There has been talk of money troubles in the past.

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA

I heard him say that he would have to let Milton and Isabella go at the end of the month. It's either let them go or cut some of the essential services that the residents need.

(beat)

Has it ever got that bad? You've been here six years, in that time has anyone been retrenched?

Bob drinks his tea and thinks back.

BOB

No. I can't remember any staff having to be let go. Unless there was a very good reason.

MIRANDA

What about the upkeep of the place?

Miranda points down at the broken concrete path.

MIRANDA

Has it always been like this or has it just deteriorated over the last couple of years?

Bob thinks about her comments and looks around at the infrastructure of the village.

BOB

No. You're right. It has declined over the last couple of years.

MIRANDA

Hmm.

BOB

Why, what are you thinking?

MIRANDA

I'm starting to enjoy it here. Oh, I know at the beginning I hated it. I whinged and complained and really just made life more difficult for myself and others. But now...

(Shrugs)

with Maggie and Jean, with Charlie, Ted and yourself, life is fun again. When I had my money and I was in my apartment in New York I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
was stuck, caught up in the  
trappings of wealth. I had no  
friends other than charity  
do-gooders. I admit I was lonely.  
But now, with practically nothing,  
I'm happy. Why would that be?

BOB  
Because of that old cliché, that  
money doesn't buy happiness, but  
friendship does.

MIRANDA  
You're so right. It's true. But  
money to help others also brings  
happiness and fulfillment.

BOB  
If you have money to give.

MIRANDA  
I like living here and I don't want  
to move.

BOB  
I like it here as well. I don't  
think I would want to move to a  
hoity-toity resort affair.

MIRANDA  
No. So, I've been thinking, if we  
do win the money I am going to  
invest in Amber Views. I don't want  
to see the staff sacked or have  
buildings fall apart around me. I  
don't want the residents who fall  
on hard times have to be forced to  
leave. What do you think?

Bob thinks for a minute.

BOB  
You're right. Who have I got to  
leave my money to. If Warren does  
have a child or adopt or something,  
I've already got a trust set up for  
them. What do I need money for?

Bob takes Miranda's hand.

(CONTINUED)

BOB

But if we do win, you must promise to take a trip with me. Let's go and see the ruins of Italy and Venice and while we're there make plans for the village.

Miranda smiles and grips his hand tightly.

MIRANDA

You're on.

INT. MAGGIE'S VILLA - LATE AFTERNOON

Maggie stares at the brochure and the mountain of scripts that Dr. Reginald has given her. She picks up one and after taking her glasses off, holds it very close to her face trying to read the tiny writing. Sighing, she turns it over and tries to read that side. She can't make out those words either.

She goes to the kitchen and starts to make a cup of tea. She picks up a pill bottle and taps three tablets into her palm. Sighing heavily, she glances up at her lucky horseshoe hanging over the door.

INT. CHARLIE'S VILLA - LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie is digging inside his wardrobe. He grunts and drags out a battered cardboard box. He struggles to lift it up on the bed. When he opens the lid it is jam packed full with old maps and scrapbooks filled with postcards of American towns.

He pulls out some of the maps, finds the one that he wants and takes it to the kitchen table.

It is a large map of the United States with the states marked on it. There is a faded dark line tracing a path from one county to another. He selects a black marker and draws a line from Sarasota Florida to join up with the original line.

Charlie goes back to the box and digs around in it until he reaches the bottom. He tries to pull out an old recreational vehicle brochure but it gets caught on something. He digs again and an old rabbit foot key ring comes out with the brochure.

He thoughtfully strokes the foot.

INT. JEAN'S VILLA - LATE AFTERNOON

Jean is in the kitchen making a cup of coffee. She stops what she is doing and drags a kitchen chair nearer to the cupboards. She gingerly climbs up and opens up the topmost door. She reaches in and takes out an old shoe box that is covered in dust. Blowing off the dust she opens it to reveal that it is full of place named fridge magnets.

Climbing down she rustles through the box trying to find something but when she cannot find it, tips the box out onto the table.

She spreads them out until she sees one that is shaped like a four leaf clover.

JEAN

There you are.

She picks it up then licks her finger to rub some dirt off its leaves.

INT. TED'S VILLA - LATE AFTERNOON

Ted is standing in front of his bookshelf running his finger over the titles of his youth counseling books trying to find a particular one. Eventually, he finds it at the bottom of the bookshelf. He pulls it out and opens it up.

A picture of a rainbow with a pot of gold sitting at one end falls out of the book onto the floor. Ted picks it up and has a closer look. There is a figure of a small girl sliding down the rainbow towards the pot of gold.

The words written on the picture say, "Thanks Mr. Jackson for saving me. Aleesha."

Ted wipes a tear from his eye.

INT. MIRANDA'S VILLA - EVENING

All six of the residents are there. A table has been set out in front on the television, which holds a couple of plates of snacks.

Miranda is handing Charlie glasses, which he fills with liquor from his flask. There is a party-like atmosphere in the room but with added tension.

MAGGIE

What time's the drawing?

(CONTINUED)

JEAN

At 11.15. Only a couple of minutes  
away.

MIRANDA

Here, Bob, your drink.

BOB

Thanks Miranda.

Miranda turns up the sound when the program starts, and they  
all take a seat. Ted has the tickets in front of him. Maggie  
has a pen and a piece of paper to write down the numbers.  
Bob has been elected to call the numbers out.

MIRANDA

I'm so excited.

JEAN

Me too.

Charlie leans over and kisses Jean on the cheek.

CHARLIE

For luck.

The drawing, in front of a live AUDIENCE, starts and when  
the ANNOUNCER calls out the number, Bob repeats it. Maggie  
writes it down and checks it against the one on the screen.

ANNOUNCER

Now for the Florida Lotto Extra,  
draw number 1256. Has everyone got  
their tickets ready?

AUDIENCE

YES!

BOB

Come on, get on with it.

ANNOUNCER

First number is twenty-six. That's  
two-six.

BOB

Twenty-six.

Jean squeals.

ANNOUNCER

How was the weather over the  
weekend? Gorgeouuuussss.

(CONTINUED)

(Pauses)  
The second number is fifty-three.  
five-three.

BOB  
Fifty-three.

Jean squeals. Charlie looks at her.

ANNOUNCER  
Did you go to the Sarasota races  
last weekend? That filly in the  
third race was F.I.N.E.

(Pauses)  
The third number is one, number  
one.

BOB  
One.

Jean squeals louder.

MAGGIE  
Shut up Jean. I can't hear Bob.

ANNOUNCER  
Wasn't Runner's Girl a beauty, just  
like her owner S.T.A.C.K.E.D.

(Pauses)  
The fourth number is thirty-two,  
Three-two.

BOB  
Thirty-two.

Jean tries to squeal, but it is muffled, for Ted has his  
hand over her mouth.

ANNOUNCER  
The prize pool tonight is 75  
milliioonn dollarrs, is it going  
to be yours?

(Pauses)  
The fifth number is seventeen,  
one-seven.

Jean bites Ted's hand.

TED  
Ouch! For goodness sake, Jean.

JEAN

Sorry.

ANNOUNCER

In a few seconds folks we will see who has won the super jackpot tonight with the final number beeiinnngggg numberrr two that's number T.W.O. Two.

BOB

Number two.

Jean starts yelling and squealing as she runs around the room.

CHARLIE

Settle down love. Ted needs to check the numbers.

JEAN

We've won. We've won. WE'VE WON!

MAGGIE

Hold on. Hold on. Can someone gag her until we check.

In the background the Announcer reports.

ANNOUNCER

We have one winner folks. I repeat there is only one winning entry in this 75 million Jackpot Prize Draw.

The Announcer listens to his ear piece.

ANNOUNCER

The ticket is unregistered. I repeat, unregistered. Somewhere in sunny Florida the most beautiful state in the U.S.A some lucky person or people have won the jackpot. If this is you, please ring the Tallahassee office on the number on your screen with your ticket number.

Jean is still running around squealing. Miranda, shocked, is looking at her. Charlie is trying to catch Jean. Maggie, Tom and Bob are rechecking the numbers.

(CONTINUED)

BOB  
Miranda my dear, may I please  
borrow your phone.

They all jump up and down and hug each other. Charlie grabs Jean's hand and gets down on one knee before her.

CHARLIE  
Jean Richards?

JEAN  
Yes, Charlie Schwartz.

CHARLIE  
Would you do me the honor of  
becoming my wife?

Jean drops down to him and hugs him. She then captures his cheeks in her hands and passionately kisses him.

JEAN  
Yes. Oh, yes. I thought that you  
would never ask.

The other residents laugh and hoot around them.

TITLE CARD - TWO DAYS LATER

EXT. TALLAHASSEE LOTTO OFFICE - DAY

The Amber Views bus is parked outside.

INT. TALLAHASSEE LOTTO OFFICE - DAY

The six residents are posing for pictures with a novelty over-sized check. Bernie is watching from the sidelines with tears in his eyes.

TITLE CARD - SIX WEEKS LATER

EXT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

There is a very large, ultra modern Winnebago parked outside with, "Just Married" written down the side in melting shaving cream.

The last of the congregation rush into the church at the sounds of the organ playing the opening bars of the "Wedding March".

INT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

Charlie, with Ted and Bob by his side, watch as Miranda and Maggie walk arm in arm with Jean down the aisle. The church is filled with all the residents and staff from Amber Views.

Judith is crying while Elijah is filming the ceremony with a hand-held camera.

Jean joins Charlie and the Priest at the altar. Charlie turns to Jean and clasps her hand.

CHARLIE

Aren't I the luckiest bloke alive?

JEAN

No, Charlie. I'm the lucky one.

She gives him a kiss.

MIRANDA

Hey, none of that until you've said your vows.

Jean pokes her tongue out at Miranda. The congregation laughs.

INT. CHURCH - LATER

PRIEST

I now pronounce you Man and Wife.

(beat)

You may kiss the bride.

Jean and Charlie kiss to the hoots and cheers of their friends.

JEAN

Come on my knight in shining armor.  
Our chariot awaits.

Charlie offers Jean his arm and they walk down the aisle together. Ted offers his arm to Maggie. She graciously accepts it and they pose together for Elijah's camera. Bob holds his arm out for Miranda and they follow the other guests down the aisle until they meet up with Bernie in the back row.

Bernie slaps Bob on the back.

BERNIE

So, happy days. Jean was right. I should have gone in with you guys

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BERNIE (cont'd)  
in the ticket. When are you flying  
out?

BOB  
In seven weeks. We want to be here  
for Maggie first.

Bernie nods.

Bob lets go of Miranda's arm and gathers Bernie in a bear  
hug then slips a piece of paper into his hand.

BERNIE  
What's this?

He opens up a check for \$50, 000 and tears well in his eyes.

BERNIE  
You're kidding me. No, No I can't  
accept it. I didn't put any money  
in.

Bob and Miranda smile at each other.

BOB  
Do you really think that we care?  
We are going to put our winnings  
into improving Amber Views and that  
also includes helping out our  
friends.

Miranda kisses Bernie on the cheek.

MIRANDA  
So, will you accept it and keep  
driving the bus for the boys?  
(beat)  
But...no more trips to the strip  
clubs. Okay?

Miranda walks out of the church leaving Bernie and Bob  
open-mouthed in shock.

BOB  
How in the hell does she know about  
that?

Bernie shrugs.

EXT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

Charlie and Jean are kissing and hugging all the residents and staff before climbing into their Winnebago.

Jean stands in the open doorway as Charlie starts the engine. She purposefully tosses her bouquet to Stacey who almost drops it. Stacey looks over at Rodney.

RODNEY

What the hell!

Rodney gets down on one knee in the car park, pulls a ring box out of his pocket and opens it up. With residents cheering on, he proposes.

RODNEY

Stacey, will you do me the honor of becoming my wife?

STACEY

Yes. Oh, yes.

Everyone has tears in their eyes when Stacey leans down and kisses him. Rodney slips the ring on her finger.

CHARLIE

Well, that's finally done.

He leans over and kisses Jean.

CHARLIE

Let's go, my love.

Jean nods happily. She frantically waves out of the window as they drive away. On the back of the vehicle is a large four leaf clover and "Winners" stenciled underneath.

Maggie, Ted and Elijah wave them off.

TED

When's your operation?

MAGGIE

Tomorrow. So, what are you going to do now Ted? You haven't said.

Ted places his hand on Elijah's shoulder.

TED

I'm going to move back to Brooklyn with Elijah. We are going to set up a foundation for troubled youths...and

(CONTINUED)

Ted smiles at Elijah.

TED  
I'm going to get to know my son  
better.

Maggie nods.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Bob and Miranda are sitting in a waiting room. A NURSE walks in.

NURSE  
You can see her now.

Miranda accepts Bob's arm and they follow the nurse into Maggie's private room. She is lying in the bed with a drip in her arm and a large bandage wrapped around her shaved head.

MAGGIE  
Hi.

Miranda leans down and kisses her cheek.

BOB  
So, how did it go?

MAGGIE  
(Smiles)  
The Doctor's just left. I've got  
the all clear. He said that he got  
everything out.

Miranda has tears in her eyes. Bob hands her a handkerchief and she wipes them away.

MIRANDA  
That's wonderful news. So, how long  
do you need to stay in here?

MAGGIE  
A couple of weeks, then house rest  
for another couple.

Miranda and Bob glance at each other. Maggie looks at them suspiciously.

MAGGIE  
Why?

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA

Well, we were wondering if you  
wanted to come to Europe with us?

BOB

Say in about seven weeks time?

MIRANDA

It would be so boring without you.  
We would love you to come. Please  
say yes.

Maggie ponders the idea for a long moment.

MAGGIE

Well...

MIRANDA

Well?

Maggie smirks at Bob.

MAGGIE

Will you take me to a strip club?  
I've always wanted to go?

Miranda is shocked at Maggie's request.

BOB

Of course, anywhere that you want.

TITLE CARD - SEVEN WEEKS LATER

EXT. GAY STRIP CLUB - ROME - NIGHT

Maggie, Miranda, Warren and Phil are cheering the MALE  
STRIPPER on stage while Bob looks on, his face pale.

EXT. GRAND CANYON - EARLY MORNING

Charlie and Jean are standing outside their vehicle with  
mugs of coffee, watching the sunrise over the canyon walls.  
Charlie kisses Jean.

EXT. JACKSON-SMITH CENTER FOR YOUTH - MID DAY

Ted and Elijah are with the MAYOR cutting the ribbon at the  
opening of their new Youth Center.

After the ribbon is cut, father and son embrace, then they  
turn and walk into the building.

FADE OUT

CREDITS