

SCENE THREE

*Morning. The meat grinder is on the table, along with a large bowl and a roll of aluminum foil. The bed is a wreck. Somewhere under the covers and sheets, STEVE lies face down, although, at rise, there's no visible clue that he's there.*

*We hear a muffled phone ring. It rings for several seconds. Then silence. Then it rings again for several seconds. Then silence.*

*CANDY enters from the bathroom wearing lingerie. She pours a cup of coffee, opens the refrigerator, and takes out a carton of half-and-half. We can see that there are no packages of "hamburger" left. She adds cream to her coffee then sits at the table and anxiously sips it.*

CANDY

Won't be long now. As soon as Mom and Daddy are off to church, we can get started.

*(Her phone rings. She digs it out of her purse and answers; her tone is sexy and flirtatious)*

Hello, Colin. ... Of course I miss you. Friday night was amazing. ... Mm-hmm ... Mm-hmm ... You know I liked that! ... Oh, I liked that, too! I liked everything you did, Baby. ... Stop worrying. You were terrific. I just needed a break. You wore me out!

*(A beat, her tone suddenly becomes agitated)*

No, I haven't heard from Steve. Why would you ask? ... No. Just that few minutes he hung out with me right after we got to your place. ... Yeah, while you were in the bathroom. But when he left, that was the last I saw of him.

*(Another dramatic tone shift: she's consoling)*

Doesn't he have a girlfriend? Maybe he's hanging out with her. ... Hmm. Well, I wouldn't know where he might be then, but I'm sure he'll turn up somewhere. Stop worrying about

CANDY (cont.)

him. He's a big boy. Listen, I just got outa bed. Lemme call you back after I've had my coffee, okay? ... Bye.

*(She hangs up the phone, looks at the time, and takes a last sip of coffee)*

It's time, Baby.

*(She removes an outfit from the bottom drawer of the chest of drawers. The outfit is more suited to an adolescent girl than a thirty-two-year-old-woman. She exits to the bathroom. From off)*

That was Colin, by the way. He's worried about you. He hasn't heard from you since you left Friday night. I guess he shouldn't have left us alone like that. Silly boy. Doesn't take five minutes to make a damn date. Hell, that's okay. What he doesn't know won't kill him.

*(There's a beat. Then, a subtle change in CANDY's voice and tone as she takes on the persona of a young girl. She continues from off)*

I mean, I like Colin and all. He's very good looking. And he makes me feel real good when he kisses me, and touches me. *(Squeals)* He does such naughty things! But I only like Colin ...

*(Entering from the bathroom dressed in the outfit from the bottom drawer and carrying the new shower curtain, she addresses the bed)*

I love you, Daddy!

*(She continues while spreading the shower curtain on the floor and placing a chair in the middle facing the audience)*

I love when you kiss me, and when you touch me, and when you do those naughty things to me! Nobody does those things as good as you do. I'm so lucky to have a daddy like you that loves me so much.

*(Sitting in the chair, she puts her hair in pigtails as she continues)*

I have a surprise for you, Daddy. You'll never guess what it is - not in a million, gazillion years! I can't wait to give it to you. You're gonna love it so much. I know you will, 'cause you love me, and I love you. You'll always be my daddy, and I'll always be your little girl.

*(She takes the gimp mask from the top drawer.)*

CANDY (cont.)

Come on, Daddy. Time for your surprise!

*(She pulls the covers and sheet back on the bed revealing STEVE who appears to be asleep. He wears only underpants. We never see his face.)*

Look at you, Daddy!

*(CANDY pulls the gimp mask over STEVE's head so that it completely covers his face.)*

No peeking!

*(She shakes him until he stirs and groans, then drags him out of the bed.)*

Come on, Sleepy Head!

*(STEVE provides little assistance as CANDY moves him across the stage to the chair she has prepared. It should be clear that he's been drugged and is still incapacitated.)*

Boy, Daddy! Little too much to drink last night? Mommy would be pissed if she saw you like this?

*(Covers her mouth, giggles)*

She'd be pissed if she heard me say pissed.

*(Mocking REGINA)*

Miss Potty Mouth! Miss Potty Mouth!

*(Seriously ...)*

Oh, don't worry. I won't tell her. I would never do that to you, Daddy. Besides, she doesn't wanna know. As long as she doesn't know, she doesn't have to pretend.

*(STEVE groans and collapses)*

Goodness, Daddy! Did Mommy put crunched up pills in your drink again? You're so silly. You know Mommy loves you. She just doesn't understand how much you love me. She thinks she's helping.

*(CANDY coaxes, pulls, and shoves STEVE's nearly limp body into the chair. She removes the handcuffs from the top drawer and cuffs his hands behind the back of the chair. She adjusts his body so that he's sitting up with his head slumped forward. She stands directly front of him with her back to the audience, bends forward at the hips and props herself with her hands on his knees.)*

I know what you want, Daddy. *(Giggles)* Naughty Daddy!

CANDY (cont.)

(Beat)

First, your surprise.

*(CANDY pulls a suitcase from under the bed and moves it to the table. She unlocks it and removes an assortment of menacing scalpels, knives, saws, and shears and lays them out beside the meat grinder.)*

Don't worry, Daddy. I won't tell Mommy. I know how much she hates it when we cut up together. She gets mad, and then y'all fight. Then she falls apart. I get scared 'cause I think you're gonna hurt her, and I go all to pieces. It's better when we keep it a secret so she can pretend.

*(She puts the empty suitcase aside and withdraws a sledge hammer. She stands behind STEVE, plants her feet, raises the hammer over her head ...)*

I love you, Daddy!

*(Blackout)*

Surprise!

*We hear a loud crunch. A beat, then we hear the meat grinder. We hear the dogs bark. Sound fades.*

*End of scene.*