

BLACK

SOUND FX - Fires burning.

The sound of a tree toppling.

LIGHTS:

**INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING**

A woman, HILLARY, very glamorous, 40's, is setting a long table for a dinner party (Centre stage right).

There is a well stocked booze trolley stage right. Stage left by a window is a sofa. There are two doors. A front door (DOOR 1) stage left and a door to the kitchen (DOOR 2) and rest of the house Centre stage right.

DOOR 1 opens and Hillary's husband, ANDRE, enters wearing a plastic full body suit with hood and gas mask. Smoke follows as well as an orange glow and the increased sound of an intense blazing fire.

He has two bags of shopping. He put the bags on the table. Hillary takes them off the table and through DOOR 2 to the kitchen.

Andre, tired from his unknown ordeal, takes off his suit first. Trousers, then top to reveal he is also dressed very glamorously in a three piece suit. He takes off the mask last. He is wearing a hair net beneath.

ANDRE

My God darling you will never guess what?

HILLARY returns. She gestures to Andre's hair net. he takes it off.

HILLARY

Did they get the aubergine's? They said they were out but they'd make a special effort to source some for me.

ANDRE

I haven't checked. You'll never guess what?

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HILLARY

You didn't check?

ANDRE

No. Sorry. You'll never guess...

HILLARY

Why didn't you check? What if they didn't get our order right? Which they never do? You have to check these things Andre.

ANDRE

The suit isn't heat proof my darling. Just ash. I didn't have time.

HILLARY

Why didn't you wear the heat proof one?

ANDRE

Because it would have ruffled my new 3-piece.

He gestures to his suit.

HILLARY

And now we don't have aubergines.

ANDRE

We don't know that. But Darling, you'll never guess what?

HILLARY

What?

ANDRE

The Anderson's tree fell.

Hillary stops and smiles.

HILLARY

As predicted.

Andre smiles back at her.

ANDRE

Right, you got that dead on the money. And, and it fell right over their moat. Like an attack on an Arthurian castle it fell, flaming, across their moat.

HILLARY

My goodness. Did it destroy anything?

ANDRE

Well those hideous gatekeeping gargoyles things took a big hit.

HILLARY

Molossian hounds.

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ANDRE

What?

HILLARY

They are Molossian Hounds. Gatekeeping dogs from ancient Egypt. Protectors of the Pharaoh. Huge beasts. Like little horses. Extinct now.

ANDRE

Very extinct. So anyway they're panicking like crazy because the fire has made it across.

HILLARY

Of course it has. We told them.

ANDRE

We did tell them.

HILLARY

How many times. Fifteen feet isn't wide enough. Not now.

ANDRE

Not now.

HILLARY

Are they able to get a helicopter?

ANDRE

They're waiting. I couldn't really hear what they were shouting at me but Bill sent a text saying sorry they couldn't come tonight.

Andre takes out his phone to show her the text. Hillary doesn't look.

HILLARY

Were they coming? I thought we had decided not to invite them to anything anymore?

ANDRE

Yes, true, I think it was a dig to be honest.

HILLARY

Hmm.

Andre goes to the trolley and pours himself a whisky. He takes a swig.

ANDRE

So the delivery boy didn't make it.

Hillary stops and turns flustered at the news.

HILLARY

Again. What do they teach these kids?

ANDRE

It's the equipment. Their jackets just seem to go up.

HILLARY

I have sent letters time and again about those jackets. How many lives lost all in the name of advertising?

ANDRE

Too many. Don't they have a union to deal with these things? Sounds like a workers rights issue. Maybe I could take a look.

HILLARY

No. No more pro bono. You promised. You've done your charity.

ANDRE

You're right. I have.

HILLARY

Did he not jump in the moat?

ANDRE

He couldn't now we've put the fence up around it.

HILLARY

Oh yes. Is it that high?

ANDRE

He wasn't tall.

HILLARY

So he's over the other side?

ANDRE

Yes, I can put on the sprinklers but we're over our quota this week.

HILLARY

That's your fault for having two showers.

ANDRE

I was covered in ash.

HILLARY

Wear the correct attire and we wouldn't have to be without water.

ANDRE

We have water.

HILLARY

For tonight. Because I cut you off. Three coffees a day darling. No more.

ANDRE

Yes, you're right. I'm sorry. It's an addiction. I genuinely believe that.

HILLARY

Will you contact the authorities to come and collect the boy. It was a boy.

ANDRE

I think so.

HILLARY

I doubt they'll come tonight so we need to send out an apology for the unpleasantness on people arrival.

Andre looks at his watch.

ANDRE

Cocktail?

HILLARY

Yes please. Gin and tonic. Just a small.

Hillary exits.

Andre goes over to the bar and makes two drinks. He then goes to the window and looks out. The orange glow warms his face. Then there is the sound of a helicopter.

ANDRE

They got their chopper.

HILLARY (O.S.)

Wonderful darling. Will they lose the house do you think?

ANDRE

Yep. The front's caught. It'll be gone by morning. It's their own fault. In this day and age any moat under 30 feet is madness. Or cut down your trees. Idiots. I mean what is the point of living in a moated community if you don't get the right moat? And after the deal I got them.

HILLARY (O.S.)

I have no sympathy.

ANDRE

That reminds me sweetheart, they took the wood. Did you hear? Our trees. The men. They took the wood.

HILLARY (O.S.)

Wonderful darling. I will miss those weeping willows... Oh, oh no.

ANDRE

What is it love? Everything ok?

Hillary returns. She is holding a bottle of wine.

HILLARY

Not only have they forgotten the fireworks...

ANDRE

Which I think is a good thing...

HILLARY

It's a celebration. Not only have they forgotten those but this is the wrong wine. Aneka is gluten intolerant. She can't drink this. I specifically ordered gluten free, organic wine. For Aneka. This is a disaster.

ANDRE

Do we not have something else she can drink?

HILLARY

No Andre. We do not. We are not gluten intolerant so we do not have gluten free wine. Or gluten free anything. That I know of. You have to reorder it.

ANDRE

But the boy is dead.

HILLARY

They'll send another. This is important Andre. If she arrives and we can't facilitate her needs what kind of impression would that make?

ANDRE

But I'll have to put the suit back on.

HILLARY

You should have checked the order then shouldn't have you.

ANDRE

But they still wouldn't have had the right wine.

HILLARY

And you could have told the boy and maybe his renewed focus on his job would have meant he wouldn't have caught aflame and been burnt alive on our front garden. Call them.

Andre is beaten. He takes out his phone.

HILLARY

And see if they can pick up the boy while they're at it. Tell them there is a big tip in it for them if they can.

Andre goes into the next room to make the call.

Hillary potters around for a moment then she hears a scream from outside. She rushes to the window.

HILLARY

Oh for Goodness sake. Andre?!

ANDRE (O.S.)

I'm on the phone.

HILLARY

It's Betty and Mandrake. Manny has gone up.

She shouts out the window.

HILLARY

Manny, Manny!! Jump in the moat. Jump. In the moat. Betty, get him in the water.

Hillary rolls her eyes. There is a splash and a scream.

HILLARY

Andre I don't think he can swim.

ANDRE (O.S.)

I am on the phone.

HILLARY

For God's sake Manny, use your arms... Oh my god, his hair's gone up Andre. His hair. What did you put on it Mandrake? Paraffin? Ooh, he's gone under. Betty, can you see him?... No, it's just Koi. I'm surprised it's still alive to be honest. The temperature is not ideal... No it won't hurt you. Can you see Manny?... There, there he is Betty. There, over by the waterfall. He's face down so you better hurry... Oh, the falls are sort of spinning him in the water like a rotisserie walrus. Faster Betty... Yes, that dress does look heavy. Who is it? Really?!! A Van Der Spanner flame proof... It's beautiful Betty... No, I can't come out Betty. I don't have the right attire and with my asthma its a death sentence... Yes yes there you go. Mouth to mouth my love. He's in with a chance.

Hillary looks on as the drama unfolds outside. Her face betrays the way it's going.

HILLARY

Andre, Betty is going to need a stiff drink. She's just lost Mandrake.

Andre returns.

ANDRE

Oh no.

HILLARY

Yes, I don't know what he was wearing but it certainly wasn't sensible attire for our current climate. Anyway he's in the Moat. Can you fish him out in the morning? And make Betty a martini. Dirty. Strong. Oh and the wine?

Andre goes to the trolley and begins to mix a martini.

ANDRE

It's on its way. I had to order a crate to make it worth their while. Which is foolish as it's heavier. I told them, mobility is everything when negotiating the blaze but they wouldn't have it.

HILLARY

Money is all these people understand even now. Will they pick up their employee?

ANDRE

Not their problem they say. He was a freelance contractor. They apparently do have some sort of union which we can contact but I forget the name. I'll look them up tomorrow.

The door opens and Betty enters. Betty is in her 30's, drenched and singed in what was probably a beautiful cocktail gown previously. Her make up has streamed down her face. She is in shock.

HILLARY

Betty darling. What a start to the night. Are you ok? Here, we've made you a drink.

BETTY

He's dead.



HILLARY

I know. It's so horrible. When will this terror end?

Andre hands her the martini.

ANDRE

It's a double.

BETTY

I felt his lips go cold as I was blowing air into his lungs.

ANDRE

I should put the water temperature up but there is a small chance we may need to drink it should the situation worsen and you know, bacteria in warm water, it's just a nightmare.

BETTY

I tasted his last cigar.

HILLARY

That may have been the smoke he inhaled sweetie. Why weren't you wearing your masks?

BETTY

He'd just dyed his beard. And obviously you can't have one person wearing a mask and not the other. The judgement is just too harsh. So I stood by my man. Oh god, what will I tell his children? They already hate me.

HILLARY

They're just young.

BETTY

His daughter is two years older than me.

HILLARY

Yes well they are sheltered. They do not understand inter-generational love.

ANDRE

What did he have in his hair? Just so I know who I'm complaining to tomorrow. There shouldn't be any flammable hair products on the market. It's an important issue.

BETTY

It was from Panama. He didn't like the off the shelf inflammable pomade. The smell. He wanted the real deal.

ANDRE

It does smell wonderful.

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HILLARY

Come on now. Let's not dwell on it. Let's get you cleaned up hey.

BETTY

He was such a good magician.

ANDRE

Was he?

HILLARY

Yes he was Andre.

ANDRE

Yes, of course he was. Sorry, I'm just thinking back to that time he almost died when he choked on a sponge ball that he was meant to have made disappear.

BETTY

I don't remember that?

ANDRE

No, before your time I think. Who was his assistant then? Magda, the Ukrainian girl.

HILLARY

Yes.

ANDRE

She could perform mouth to mouth.

Hillary gives Andre a look.

ANDRE

Sorry, but she sucked that ball out of his throat by lung power alone. Very impressive. Those kids... they loved it. Thought it was all part of the act. Another?

Betty hands him the glass with a nod. Andre goes to the trolley.

BETTY

He was playing with that fallen tree from next door. Then he started screaming and I thought he it was one of his tricks. But then I realised it wasn't his fake scream. And I smelled the flesh cooking and I knew it was real.

ANDRE

But you didn't know he couldn't swim?

BETTY

We don't go swimming. He had a self consciousness about his legs.

HILLARY

Yes, well in Collingwood Moat Gardens swimming is a requirement for any resident. You can't be too careful in these heated times.

BETTY

Yes, he always talked about getting a moat. But we live by the beach so he kept trying to make plans for a half moat. It would have lead from the ocean to our garden and back to the ocean. The architects thought him mad because you can't have a tidal moat but he was convinced he could make it work. And he wanted dolphins. He was trying to get some sort of sponsorship from a dolphin charity but they had a similar view as the architects. I need a wee wee.

HILLARY

Yes, Andre. Show her to the bathroom would you.

BETTY

I didn't want to go in the moat.

HILLARY

We appreciate the consideration.

Andre leads her out DOOR 2. Then he turns to Hillary.

ANDRE

That's a real shame. Mandrake was a fabulous party guest. So many stories. His sleight of hand got increasingly poor after a couple of drinks but that was half the fun. Rest in peace magic man. Rest in peace.

Andre looks at his watch.

ANDRE

Anneka and Basil will be here any moment. Shall I put the canapes in the oven?

HILLARY

Yes, goodness I almost forgot about the canapés. Can you text them and let them know about the tragedy and not to mention it once they're here. We don't want this night to turn maudlin.

ANDRE

Good god no.

Andre goes into the kitchen.

Betty returns. Her dishevelled hair is tied up now and her make up is wiped off.

BETTY

I should call his children.

HILLARY

No no Betty darling. Leave it till tomorrow.  
Give them one more nights peace.

Andre returns.

ANDRE

Yes, it's a kindness. We can't move him till  
the morning anyway so really it would just  
cause more of a fuss than necessary.

HILLARY

Exactly. Let's get the party started and  
we'll deal with the rest tomorrow. You  
should stay the night in fact. So we can get  
up early and make all the necessary  
arrangements. I have a wonderful funeral  
service. Fast, efficient, artistic.

ANDRE

Yes, they specialise in burns so he'll be in  
good hands. Swelling and Son they're called.  
Here you go.

He hands her another drink.

They all stand there for a few  
moments of silence as they drink  
their drinks.

BETTY

Can we put some music on?

HILLARY

Oh,oh, yes. Of course. My god. In all the  
kerfuffle we forgot the ambience. Andre...

Andre takes out his phone. He  
selects something.

Beethoven blasts over the  
speakers.

HILLARY

Something a little more sedate I think  
darling.

ANDRE

Vivaldi?

HILLARY

Oh yes.

Vivaldi's Four Seasons begins.

Betty, still a bit traumatised sways with the music. All seems peaceful.

Then the sound of a helicopter loudly interrupts the peace. It gets louder until it sounds directly overhead.

ANDRE

Jesus Christ, we're being buzzed.

BETTY

Oh god, this is it. This is it. The evacuation. All is lost.

Hillary looks out of the window.

HILLARY

No, no, it's just Anneka and Basil. Oh look at them would you. Bloody show offs.

Hillary goes to a button on the wall which accesses an intercom/PA system.

HILLARY

Hey, you in the sky. You're not James Bond you know.

Hillary laughs.

HILLARY

Only Basil. Come see Betty. He's harnessed to the bottom of a helicopter and is being hoisted over the flames, woman in hand.

Hillary laughs. Andre joins her. Andre looks on a bit jealous.

ANDRE

He's going to ruin those brogues.

Andre presses the intercom button.

ANDRE

You're going to ruin those brogues you idiot!!

HILLARY

What are they signalling?

ANDRE

I think he wants us to open the door.

Andre presses the intercom.

ANDRE

Not too low you fool. The power lines are just there.

Andre turns to Hillary.

HILLARY

They're dead darling. They went last week.

ANDRE

What? So we're on the generator?

HILLARY

Not just any generator.

Andre looks at her with gleeful anticipation.

ANDRE

The Hammerblast?

HILLARY

The Hammerblast 3000 Apocalypse Class. Flame proof, earthquake resistant, armour plated. The only generator to get the thumbs up from the US Army, the British Prime Minister, the Taliban and Tom Hanks.

ANDRE

It came?

HILLARY

Obviously.

ANDRE

You didn't tell me.

HILLARY

Because you'd want to play with it.

ANDRE

No I... Ok, I would but still...

HILLARY

It has been revealed in the way it would have wanted. Doing its job under difficult circumstances.

ANDRE

It's powering everything?

Hillary nods with a smile. Then the door opens and Basil and Aneka enter.

BASIL

Did someone say Unassailable power?

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HILLARY

Not quite.

BASIL

Well I'm hear nevertheless. How the fuck are you Hillary you hot bitch?

HILLARY

Inappropriate language given the circumstances Basil.

BASIL

I try. And you Andre you sad old fart?

ANDRE

Did the shoes survive? You can't waste these things these days.

BASIL

I love the smell of burnt Italian leather in the evening.

ANDRE

You disgust me.

They hug.

BASIL

Did you know there are two dead bodies outside? One in the moat, one by the gate.

HILLARY

Oh yes. Andre was meant to let you know.

BASIL

Well maybe he did. It's hard to look at your phone when you skirting rooftops attached to a high tensile cable suspended from a machine that shouldn't exist in physics.

Hillary turns to Anneka.

HILLARY

Now Anneka, I just wanted to apologise in advance that your gluten free wine is delayed. It is inbound I am assured but the fools at the shop got the order wrong.

BASIL

Ah, so the fiery death was karma.

ANDRE

I may have withdrawn the drawbridge at tad prematurely and tripped him. But he was an accident waiting to happen.

ANNEKA

I'll just have water for now Hillary, thank you.

Anneka turns to see Hillary.

ANNEKA

Betty? Is that you?

BETTY

Anneka? I didn't realise the Anneka that was on the invite was you.

ANNEKA

And I didn't realise the Betty on the invite was you. How strange.

BETTY

Yes, how've you...

Anneka punches Betty in the face.

ANDRE

Holy shit.

Basil claps.

BASIL

Yes!!

HILLARY

Hmm.

Anneka turns to Hillary in a fury.

ANNEKA

Hillary, I'm afraid I can't be in the same room as this woman. This woman, if you can call her that, this woman, ruined my chances of getting into an Ivy League school. This woman.

BASIL

That woman?

ANNEKA

I'm serious Basil. I refuse to be in her presence.

BASIL

Well why don't you pop into the room next door and we'll go on with the party. Or is this going to be a real bitch heat frenzy hoe down? In which case, have at it while I sit on the sidelines massaging my loins.

ANNEKA

You never take me seriously Basil. I hate you.

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BASIL

Because you use phrases like 'I hate you' at the beginning of a fight. You leave yourself nowhere to go. How can I take you seriously when you fail to understand the fundamentals of petty arguing?

ANNEKA

Fuck off.

BETTY

Anneka I did no such thing and you know it.

ANNEKA

You lying whore.

HILLARY

Can we leave this for the after dinner discussion? I did have some pre-chosen topics but if you would like to clear the air instead then that is the appropriate time.

ANNEKA

I was destined for higher things.

BETTY

No you weren't Annie. You just believed everything he told you. He told me the same things.

ANNEKA

Don't you mention his name.

BETTY

I didn't.

BASIL

Who's name?

ANNEKA

Mr Phillips.

BASIL

Mr Phillips?

ANNEKA

Yes.

BETTY

He was our English teacher in High school.

BASIL

Oh. Right. And you both fucked him?

HILLARY

Please can we not be so vulgar.

ANDRE

Did you?

BASIL

Yes. Did you?

BETTY

She thinks that I intruded on her special relationship with Mr Phillips.

BASIL

By fucking him?

ANNEKA

It was special. He inspired me.

BASIL

With his penis?

ANNEKA

With his words.

BETTY

They weren't his words you idiot. They were Shakespeares. And Elvis Costello.

ANNEKA

I know that.

BETTY

Did you? Show them your tattoo.

BASIL

You have at tattoo?

ANNEKA

No.

BETTY

She did. Under her left butt cheek.

ANNEKA

It's the top of my thigh not bottom of my butt cheek.

BETTY

You say Potato, I say butt cheek slut stamp.

Annika goes for Betty again.

BASIL

Is that what that scar is on your ass?

ANNEKA

Upper thigh!!!

HILLARY

For goodness sake ladies. Hasn't there been enough blood shed tonight. We haven't even had the canapés.

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Andre looks up at this and sneaks into the kitchen.

ANNEKA

I'm sorry Hillary. But she ruined my life.

BASIL

Your life is pretty good.

ANNEKA

But unfulfilled.

BASIL

Cheers.

ANNEKA

Oh shut up. You're just window dressing and you know it Basil.

BASIL

And what a window.

BETTY

Look, I've just lost my partner so I'm not in the mood for a fight. You know what happened. I know what happened...

BASIL

What happened?

BETTY

That won't change between now and dessert. So let's park it. Out of respect for Hillary.

BASIL

No, come on. You can't leave it at that. I'm semi erect and I don't know why. The possibilities are too vast. Please, don't let it hang this way.

All the women roll their eyes.

Andre reappears cheerfully with the canapés.

ANDRE

Canapes. Not burnt.

Hillary looks relieved at the distraction. Then the doorbell rings and scares Andre into dropping them on the floor.

HILLARY

Aagh!!

ANDRE

That'll be the wine.

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ANNEKA

Thank god.

Andre goes to the door. He presses the intercom.

ANDRE

Hello?

EDEN (O.S.)

Let me in!! Let me the hell in!!!

ANDRE

Do you have the wine?

EDEN (O.S.)

Yes, yes. Let me in.

Hillary goes to the window.

HILLARY

Yes, it looks like on of their jackets. Best lower the bridge Darling otherwise the heat will kill the flavour.

Andre presses a button next to the intercom. A noise of a bridge lowering is heard.

Andre goes to the coat wrack and outs his suit back on.

ANDRE

Won't be a moment.

Andre stands at the door bracing himself. He then opens the door and is bundled over by the delivery woman, Eden, holding the crate of wine. Eden is 20's, a woman of colour and a bit fried.

HILLARY

Good christ it's an attack. Basil, get the prod.

Basil looks around baffled.

BASIL

The what?!

HILLARY

The cattle prod. It's under the sofa. Quick quick. She's killing Andre.

EDEN

No, I'm not you idiot. I'm on fire for Christ's sake.

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HILLARY

No you're not you horrible little criminal.

EDEN

Oh.

She looks down at her clothes.

EDEN

That dive must have done the trick.

She is still on top of a terrified looking Andre.

EDEN

Chill out man. You're in no danger. Yet.

HILLARY

Is that a threat?

EDEN

It's a fact. Or didn't you notice the fire outside that's been burning endlessly for months.

HILLARY

Don't talk to me like that young lady. I will have your badge.

EDEN

What badge? Look, I'm just saying there is an imminent threat. If you didn't notice

She gestures to her singed self.

BASIL

We are aware of the fire. We're not blind.

EDEN

Hmm. Anyway the threat level has gone up. Particularly here. I caught fire just checking on my former colleague.

HILLARY

The threat level? No, it can't have. We have access to the early warning system. Everyone in the Collingwood Moated Community does. Whenever the threat level rises each house gets an alert. Where is our alert?

EDEN

Don't ask me babe. But it has. Watch the news if you don't believe me. The roads are down or blocked by a billion cars.

ANDRE

Even the I-70?

EDEN

Just went. A section collapses. Or melted. Can't be sure. But it's gone. So the only way out of here is helicopter now.

Basil looks at his phone.

BASIL

Shit fuck fanny pack. She's right. It's all gone apocalypto out there. Fifty seven dead in the collapse of the I-70. Hundreds more thought lost as a strong easterly fed the beast and incinerated Newton Canyon.

BETTY

Oh god, I went to Drama class there.

BASIL

Don't worry. You're not there.

HILLARY

Right, well then. Let's not panic shall we. There are protocols to follow. And remember, we have the best moat money can buy. And generator. We'll be safe until well after the party has finished.

EDEN

Party?

BASIL

Yes, and protocol number one being another drink. Andre my man.

ANDRE

Yes. Good plan.

Andre goes to the bar and begins pouring drinks. Anneka takes the bottle of wine from the crate and pours herself a glass.

Eden picks up a canapé from the floor and eats it.

Hillary composes herself.

HILLARY

Ok, so how will you get back to your job...?

EDEN

Eden.

HILLARY

Eden. How lovely. So?

EDEN

So what?

HILLARY

As you can see we are throwing a little soiree.

EDEN

Yep. Throwing it on the floor it seems.

HILLARY

That was a little accident. But help yourself. It's the least we can do.

EDEN

Yes it is.

HILLARY

Anyway we thank you for your service...

She takes a \$20 note from her purse and hands it to Eden who just looks at it.

HILLARY

Oh, are you cashless? Do you have one of those tappy tap machines?

EDEN

Are you telling me to leave?

HILLARY

I'm afraid this is a private affair and so...

EDEN

Didn't you hear me?

HILLARY

Yes, it is all very awful isn't it but that is out there and we are in here and we are having a party.

EDEN

I can't go out there. It's all cut off. I go out there I die.

HILLARY

But you got here fine?

ANDRE

Obviously didn't take the I-70.

HILLARY

No, so surely there is a route back for you. A back road maybe. One suitable for smaller vehicles.

EDEN

A back road? Look, I understand you're having a do. And that I am not on your 'list' but there is literally nowhere else for me to go so order your helicopter and I'll sit in the corner being quiet until it comes and we can all get out of here. OK.

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HILLARY

Oh no, that's not going to work my dear.  
This is a moated community. We are prepared  
for such eventualities.

EDEN

No you're not. No one is or can be. This  
fire has decided now is the time for a  
reckoning and it's heading this way. I would  
have turned back to home if it hadn't been  
cut off so i thought coming here was my best  
chance of survival.

HILLARY

Well I'm afraid we aren't an emergency  
service. And the way your company has acted  
tonight you surely can't expect us to take  
you in.

EDEN

I don't work for the fucking company. I'm a  
freelance contractor.

Andre nods.

EDEN

And I am a human being. You don't let me  
stay then I die. It's not a complicated  
choice.

HILLARY

I think you're over simplifying. Or being  
overly dramatic. I don't know which with all  
this shouting but I do know that the  
authorities will have this in hand. We have  
paid to be informed of and bufferd from such  
events. We will be ok.

Eden goes to the door. She  
gestures for Hillary to join her.

Hillary does so. Eden gestures for  
her to open the door. Hillary  
reluctantly does so. But the  
handle is hot and singes her hand.

HILLARY

Ow. You did that on purpose.

EDEN

Yes I did. Look outside.

Hillary looks outside.

EDEN

You see that.

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HILLARY

Yes.

EDEN

Right then. All the helicopter.

HILLARY

Yes, well I shall do that but here is the problem and it is not my fault you understand but the helicopter, which we will most certainly be ordering after dessert, is for guests of the house only. There is a list. Finger prints and bio metrics etc. We couldn't let you on even if we wanted to. Which we do obviously. But we can't. Can we.

ANDRE

No.

BETTY

Am I on the list?

HILLARY

Yes Betty.

BETTY

But I didn't do any biometrics.

HILLARY

Manny did them all while you were asleep. You're fine.

BETTY

Right. OK.

ANNEKA

Shame.

BASIL

What we're saying sweetheart is that this isn't going to work. No room at the inn. Too many soldiers on the chopper.

EDEN

My brother is a chopper pilot. He spends all his days flying Moater heads like you around. So I know the specs for all the choppers that are in use right now. And there isn't a single one that only takes five. And let's not forget the fat man in the water outside.

BETTY

He's not fat.

EDEN

He's not thin.

BETTY

It's a suit.

ANDRE

A fat suit?

BETTY

Yes. He lost so much weight since the fires began. But his image is that of a husky gent so he had a self inflating fat suit made.

ANDRE

Not made to float though.

BETTY

The fire must have shorted the inflation system and he took on some water. He wasn't a swimmer.

EDEN

Whatever!! There is a dead guy in a tuxedo in your moat. That tells me there is a spare spot on your helicopter. My spot. So sit and have your duck ala grande and ignore me. But I am getting on that chopper. OK?

Hillary is a bit dumbstruck.

HILLARY

But the biometrics?

EDEN

You've got a computer. A phone. You can stick me on the list with a waft of your highly manicured fingers. I know how it's done. I do have knowledge you know.

Hillary is taken aback at this.

HILLARY

I'm not a racist.

EDEN

No, you'd have to be around other races for that.

HILLARY

I have friends of colour. Why, Anneka is Scandinavian for goodness sake. And Basil is part Navajo.

BASIL

For the purposes of my casino business I am most certainly 1/8th Navajo.

Basil makes a racist headdress gesture to demonstrate his 'heritage'.

HILLARY

So there you go. Put your race card away and we won't mention it again.

EDEN

I didn't mention it.

HILLARY

Ok, you can sit there.

She gestures to a seat by the window. Eden sits on it and looks out of the window.

ANDRE

Darling, are you sure?

HILLARY

I will not be called a racist.

EDEN

You weren't.

HILLARY

And I never will be. Now, the canapés are obviously off the menu so we will proceed to the starter. If everyone could take their seats.

The guests sit. Mandrake is conspicuous by his absence.

ANDRE

Perhaps we should all shimmy round yes. That gap has too much weight to it now.

BASIL

Like his suit after taking a dip.

Hillary gives Basil a look. Then she got into the kitchen followed by Andre.

BETTY

Does the threat level mean the we will have to leave Manny's body where it is?

Eden shouts from across the room.

EDEN

Yep. Body disposal protocol is only enforced when the threat level is below amber. As we have just raised to that then they will most likely leave him where he dropped. Or sank.

BASIL

But there are worse places to be interred than the best moat money can buy.

BETTY

He wanted to be cremated.

BASIL

Yes a moat is kind of the exact opposite of that isn't it.

BETTY

He wanted his ashes to be turned into a wand that would be put behind the bar at the Magic Castle.

BASIL

I want my ashes to be formed into a dildo cast from my own penis.

ANNEKA

And what would you do with the left over ash?

BASIL

Ha ha. But at least an ash dildo would serve a purpose. What good is a wand formed of a dead magician? Really?

BETTY

He always hoped he would return from the dead.

BASIL

Really?

BETTY

I wasn't convinced but Manny had lots of ideas. He decided his best bet was a wand made of his ashes. I guess he thought being around lots of drunk magicians would give him the best odds of success.

BASIL

And now we'll never know.

Basil is trying to contain his laughter.

Hillary and Andre brings out the first course.

HILLARY

OK, now the party begins. Now here we have...

ANDRE

Before we begin I would like to raise a glass to Mandrake.

Hillary looks at Andre with deep irritation but she maintains her smile.

ANDRE

Mandrake, or as we knew him when he first came to the area all those years ago, Todd, was a great man. Maybe the best of us.

BASIL

Speak for yourself.

ANDRE

Always quick with quip if not his sleight of hand. Always generous with his time if not his money.

BASIL

Which he never had.

HILLARY

But spent like he did.

ANDRE

He died as he lived.

BASIL

In above his head?

ANDRE

Will you shut the fuck up Basil!! I'm trying to give a man some respect. He deserved that.

Betty stands and puts a hand on Andre's shoulder.

BETTY

Thank you Andre. I'm sure he would have appreciated the gesture but it's not necessary.

Andre sits back down.

BETTY

I have some things I'd like to say about Manny though.

EDEN

Can I say something about Manny?

BETTY

You didn't know him.

HILLARY

Did you?

EDEN

No, never met the man before tonight. But I thought you'd like to know he's on fire and about to pop.

Everyone rushes to the window.

ANDRE

The self inflation system has kicked back in.

ANNEKA

But he's moving?

BETTY

He's alive?!

ANNEKA

It's bubbles.

BASIL

Natural gas leakage? Or ass leakage?

EDEN

It's the suit. It's got a leak and the air is acting like a little motor.

HILLARY

He's heading to the bridge.

Hillary looks at Andre.

HILLARY

You didn't raise the bridge?

ANDRE

I was being attacked. It's slipped...

HILLARY

Raise it!!!

Andre runs to the panel and presses the button. There is the sound of a thing not working.

ANDRE

It's not lowering. Is it lowering? I don't think it's lowering.

Eden looks out the window.

EDEN

It's not lowering.

ANDRE

The circuit must have broken in the attack.

Made in Highland

EDEN

It wasn't a...

ANDRE

I need to lower it manually.

HILLARY

But the handle is outside.

ANDRE

I know.

HILLARY

Your suit.

Andre nods. He takes off his suit jacket and his pants.

HILLARY

I meant put your suit on.

She gestures to the smoke suit.

EDEN

There's no time man. He's almost there. That bridge is going go up and then we are fucked.

Andre takes the mask only.

ANDRE

I love you.

Hilary giggles. He grabs her and kisses her. Then he puts the mask on and opens the door. Standing in his undies, shirt and mask he gives the group one more look than he goes outside.

Everyone rushes to the window except Basil who grabs another drink then joins them.

ANNEKA

This mechanism. It is something that requires strength?

HILLARY

Yes, but my man is up to it. He goes to the gym.

BASIL

Before the fires.

HILLARY

Of course. But he works out. He jogs around the moat.

Made in Highland

BASIL

I'm sure that will be a big help. Come on man. Find the crank.

HILLARY

It's... the crank is in the little cupboard by the mailbox. The mailbox.

BASIL

That's not a crank man. That's a fucking hoe. A hoe!!.. No, for your garden.

HILLARY

The cupboard by the mailbox darling.

EDEN

The fucking cupboard man!! By the mailbox. Oh shit. The fatman has landed. Jesus, his head is burning like the bush of Moses. What's he got in there?

BETTY

He doesn't like the off the shelf stuff.

Eden just look at her  
incredulously.

BASIL

Crank it baby. Crank it. We can still salvage this. Crank it you weak mother fucker.

ANNEKA

For God's sake Basil. He's doing his best.

BASIL

His best is weak as child piss.

HILLARY

Why don't you go out there and help him then Basil. Come on Mr Muscular. Lend him your unassailable power.

BASIL

Can't. Asthma.

Basil coughs.

BETTY

Lots of that going around.

HILLARY

The perpetual smoke has had a longer lasting effect on our lungs it would appear.

EDEN

Jesus Christ I'll do it.



Eden goes to the door and puts on the small mask she arrived in. Basil stands.

BASIL

Wait. I'll come...Agh.

He holds his leg. Everyone turns to him.

BASIL

Damn it!! I have a blood clot in my thigh. It's working its way to my heart. It hurts when it shifts.

ANNEKA

You never told me.

BASIL

I didn't want to worry you.

ANNEKA

You must get it removed. Or dissolved.

BASIL

I'm going to. As soon as the roads reopen.

EDEN

Right, take a seat hero.

Eden goes out. Hillary looks outside.

HILLARY

Andre darling. You have help coming. No, not Basil... No, not me. The actual help.

EDEN (O.S.)

I'm not the help.

HILLARY

The girl.

BASIL

Yes, that's the crank. Fucking idiot. She's knows. Turn it.

There is a creaking noise as the bridge moves. Then there is a loud explosive POP!

HILLARY

What was that?!

Anneka looks out.

ANNEKA

Manny has popped.

(MORE)

Made in Highland

ANNEKA (CONT'D)

He kept getting bigger and bigger till he went pop.

HILLARY

Andre!!

BASIL

I can't see him. The bridge is...

They all look out. There is a crash as the bridge comes crashing down. Basil is devastated at this. Hillary looks desperately for Andre.

The lights flicker with a buzzing sound.

Then the door flies open and Eden enters with Andre over her shoulder. He is burned and bleeding.

HILLARY

Oh good god. Andre!!

Betty rushes to their side and helps lower Andre onto the table.

HILLARY

What happened?!

EDEN

Fuck, I... the fatman fucking popped, you see that?!! A man popped.

BETTY

It was his suit.

EDEN

We were cranking the shit out of that bridge. And he floats over and goes full blimp. We almost had that fucker up then there's this fizz and an explosion. I was behind your man here but he got showered in all kinds of shit.

Basil sniffs the mowing Andre.

BASIL

Definitely a bit of Manny in there. I can smell the pomade.

EDEN

Yeah, his fucking head clocked Andre and then all this flaming rubber shit landed. I kicked him into the moat to put him out but I think the rubber congealed on him.

BASIL

Do you think he'll bounce back from this?

Hillary turns and kicks Basil in the balls. Aneka pushes him onto the sofa where he sits clutching his nuts.

HILLARY

Andre, darling can you hear me?

EDEN

I think he's got rubber in his ear.

Hillary looks in and pulls something out. Andre looks at her.

HILLARY

Darling, you are my hero.

BASIL

But he didn't even get the bridge up?

Aneka kicks Basil.

HILLARY

Andre, I want your permission to end the soiree. I don't think we can proceed with the main course with you in this condition.

ANDRE

(Weak)

No, please. You must go on. The meat has been seasoned. It will be ruined if it's not cooked in the next fifteen minutes.

HILLARY

But you're gravely injured.

ANDRE

It's nothing. I will be fine.

HILLARY

You have burns all over your body and the rest is covered in molten rubber. We need to get you to a hospital.

ANDRE

After dessert. We've come this far my love. We can't give up now. Do it for Manny. And the delivery boy. Please.

EDEN

Are you fucking crazy?!

HILLARY

Excuse me?!

EDEN

He's going to die unless we get that chopper  
he A.S.A.M.F.P. Fuck the meat.

Basil sniggers.

HILLARY

Someone like you wouldn't understand the  
value of a prime cut of meat. It is not just  
a slice of ham from a pigs buttock. What we  
have is the finest cut of the finest hand  
reared meat from the finest farm in the  
finest country in the whole goddamn world.  
To waste it would be an offence to not only  
our guests and my poor injured husband but  
to all those in need. All those poor folk  
who have lost so much in these fires.

EDEN

You're crazy.

HILLARY

This is my husbands wishes and I will  
respect them.

EDEN

Even if it kills him?

HILLARY

A dying wish is the most precious wish of  
all.

EDEN

Let's take a vote then. Who the fuck wants  
to get this man to a hospital and who the  
hell wants the main course? I vote hospital.

Eden puts her hand up. She looks  
around. No one else raises their  
hand.

EDEN

Are you kidding me?

BASIL

I'm starving.

Basil gets up and makes himself a  
drink. He puts an ice cube on his  
balls.

ANNEKA

I do not see the point in wasting good food.  
We can eat it while the helicopter comes  
yes?

BETTY

Yes, ring the helicopter Hillary. We will  
have the meat while we wait.

Made in Highland

Th two women go to either side of the room.

HILLARY

There, you see. A civilised response. There is no need for panic young lady. Now if you don't mind I will prepare our food. Andre, would you like me to prepare you a plate?

ANNEKA

He's passed out. Hillary, do you have a gluten free option for a side?

HILLARY

Of course Anneka. All needs are catered for here.

EDEN

Ring the chopper then.

HILLARY

I am going to.

EDEN

Now.

HILLARY

Yes.

EDEN

So...

HILLARY

Let me compose myself. My husband has been terribly injured you know.

EDEN

Yes, I do. I'm still picking bits of a non-fat magician out of my hair. Ring the chopper.

HILLARY

I will not be ordered around by a delivery person.

EDEN

Jesus, what's your code? I'll do it. If you can't compose yourself.

HILLARY

I'm not giving you my code.

EDEN

Why not? You think you're going to need to use it twice? It's a rescue code you only use when your house is burning and your life is in danger. A one time deal you'd think.

HILLARY  
It is a private code.

Eden picks up the phone.

HILLARY  
Fine. But if I start to cry it will be on  
your head.

EDEN  
I'll live. Hopefully.

Hillary dials and waits.

HILLARY  
Hello. Yes my code phrase is Pussy Willow  
tickles the Tommy knocker.

Eden raises her eyebrows. Hillary  
just turns away.

BASIL  
Wow.

HILLARY  
Yes, six berths. All registered on our  
survival list.

Eden nods.

HILLARY  
One of our party is badly injured.

Hillary starts to cry. She  
grimaces at Eden and points  
resentfully at her.

HILLARY  
My husband... In the line of duty. A  
husbands duty... No, you silly man not that.  
He was trying to rescue us and got horribly  
burned and rubbered... Just come now for  
Goodness sake. All these questions. This is  
an emergency you know. Send help.

She hangs up.

HILLARY  
They'll be fifteen minutes. Depending on air  
traffic.

There is a moment of silence.  
Andre moans.

HILLARY  
The helicopter is on it's way my love.

Hillary moves away and smiles.

HILLARY

Now who would like a glass of bubbles?

Basil and Betty raise their hands.

ANNEKA

I'll stick to my wine.

HILLARY

Of course.

Eden puts her hand up.

HILLARY

Right. Four glasses then.

Hillary goes into the kitchen.

BASIL

So, Eden, what's your story? Illegal immigrant taking cash in hand work to pay for their relatives to cross the border?

EDEN

Yeah asshole. You nailed it. I'm doing this and selling my sweet young ass on the side so I can bring my blind grandmother, crippled nephew and school teacher mother over the rio grande to this wonderful world of flames and fuckheads.

BASIL

I'm sensing some sarcasm. Was I off the mark?

EDEN

Shut the fuck up.

BASIL

No, I was wrong. I apologise. You are a third generation citizen of the USA and you have taken full advantage of the myriad opportunities the American dream offers. No doubt university educated. Possibly a doctorate?

EDEN

As if it's your business asshole I am doing my degree. And no it ain't cheap so I am doing this to pay for it. All of a sudden it doesn't seem worth it though. And I don't mean because I've seen behind too many elite curtains and discovered the game is rigged. I knew that going in. It's because the world is on fire and we are sitting here warming our toes.

Made in Highland

ANNEKA

I did a degree.

BETTY

I thought you were ruined.

ANNEKA

It wasn't an Ivy League establishment bitch.

BETTY

Poor little you.

ANNEKA

Fuck you whore.

BETTY

I never slept with him.

ANNEKA

Liar. And anyway you didn't need to. You just had to be there. Looking like you do. Looking at him.

BETTY

He looked at me.

ANNEKA

Of course he did. That's the point.

BETTY

He looked at everyone.

ANNEKA

He should have been looking at me.

BETTY

Why? He was your teacher.

ANNEKA

He was my everything.

BETTY

Yeah, well, he was a lot of things to a lot of people. But mostly he was a walking hard on with a thing for young girls.

ANNEKA

He was the love of my life you horrible cunt!!

Anneka screams and goes for Betty. She climbs over the prone Andre. Basil jumps out of the way and watches with glee. Eden tries to step in.



Hillary returns from the kitchen with a tray of champagne flutes.

HILLARY

Bubbles!!

She sees Betty and Anneka sprawled on the floor fighting. Eden is trying to split them up.

HILLARY

Ladies please. Basil, stop them.

BASIL

Not yet. They haven't torn anything.

HILLARY

Basil!!

Basil rolls his eyes and he and Eden separate the women.

HILLARY

Now this stops here and now. My husband is lying at death's door. The meat is on the oven and the bubbles are in the glasses. So let us sort this out now so we don't ruin the event. You two were clearly friends once. Calmly and without anger tell us what happened?

BETTY

Nothing. Nothing happened. Except everything. Annie was queen of the fucking universe. Centre of all things. Destined to be all the cliches. And then she wasn't.

ANNEKA

You're not telling this accurately.

BETTY

We were friends. Not best friends. But friends. We wanted something out of life. That was our connection. I wanted to be on stage. She wanted to own a multi national conglomerate. At 14 these things seem equally accessible.

BASIL

When in reality a stage career is virtually impossible.

ANNEKA

I would have started small. Local. After doing my time at Yale I would have opened up a pro-bono law firm.

HILLARY

You wanted to be a lawyer? I had no idea Anneka.

ANNEKA

No, not at all. I just wanted to help people, through a privately financed charitable venture in which I would lease a building for people to use as offices to do the pro-bono work. And after that I would have gone county wide, then state. Five years max. Then I'd sell the firm to a national and sit on the board.

BETTY

Easy.

ANNEKA

But this fucking...

Anneka points angrily at Betty.

EDEN

AAAAGGH!!

HILLARY

My goodness. Please, some respect.

Eden paces utterly bemused and upset.

EDEN

Shut up! Shut up all of you. No one cares. You don't see it because you're shockingly vacuous idiots but no one cares about you and your bitch feud. It is irrelevant. The world is burning. We should be finding common ground but you all just want your islands. You want to live inside these fucking moats and pretend none of this is happening. Well it is so fuck you and your stupid irrelevant bullshit. This door is almost impossible to touch. Soon it's going to be...

Andre sits up suddenly and SCREAMS loudly. He looks around. He tries to stand but can't. Hillary runs to him.

ANDRE

It hurts so much!! Put me in the moat. The water. Let me float away. Let me float away!!!

He slumps back down.

Made in Highland

Hillary stands dumbstruck.

HILLARY

Darling? Andre? Would you like some bubbles?  
Andre?

She knows he's not waking up.  
Anneka goes to him and takes his  
hand.

ANNEKA

Andre? The meat is almost ready. You must  
wake up.

Eden goes to take Andre's pulse.

EDEN

He's dead.

HILLARY

But we haven't had the main course.

Hillary slips into the sofa.

HILLARY

He bought it this morning. We've had it  
reserved for months. We picked out the  
animal ourselves. The farmer told us which  
would be the best. We picked the beast and  
he fed it the best food and tended it. It  
lived like a king until it came of age. They  
sent us a picture of the animal in its  
prime. Moments before it had it's throat  
slit and was butchered. It was the most  
beautiful thing I'd ever seen. A perfect  
animal. Our animal. That was the moment when  
I felt we had succeeded. And I wanted to  
share that with you all. We wanted to share  
it with you.

BASIL

We can still eat it.

Hillary glares with deadly intent  
at Basil.

HILLARY

You will not touch it you fiend. No one  
will. That meat is Andre's monument. A  
monument to a life well lived and I will  
bury him with it.

EDEN

I don't think that's going to be possible.

HILLARY

Try and stop me girl.

EDEN

Not me. Protocol. They won't take a dead  
body on the chopper. We will be made to  
leave him here.

BETTY

To burn.

HILLARY

No.

EDEN

You won't have a choice.

HILLARY

Yes I will. I have always had choices. I have lived my life in the pursuit of choices.

EDEN

I can see that but somethings are above that.

HILLARY

Then we will do it now.

BASIL

Do what now?

HILLARY

We will send off my beloved man in the manner in which he deserves.

BASIL

We're going to eat him?

HILLARY

He will be send down the river like a king.

EDEN

River?

HILLARY

The moat. We will set him a sail on the shoulders of the mighty torrent.

EDEN

It doesn't have a flow.

HILLARY

It has a flow option. For children.

BASIL

Won't he just go round and round?

Hillary nods.

HILLARY

Until it all burns down. Like a viking he will become one with the world. Fire and water will consume him and send him to Valhalla.

EDEN

Wait, we're going to give him a viking funeral?

HILLARY

Yes.

Anneka steps up.

ANNEKA

I can help you.

Hillary puts her hand gratefully on Anneka's shoulder in appreciation.

BASIL

Really? When was your last viking funeral?

ANNEKA

They're all viking funerals in my family idiot. And it will speed things up.

EDEN

The helicopters going to be here in less than ten minutes.

HILLARY

We must work fast.

Eden rolls her eyes. Basil laughs.

BASIL

Oh come on Eden. What else are we going to do while the world burns?

They all go to the table and bring it to centre stage. Hillary moves the table cloth.

Then they take Andre's body and place it slowly onto the table. Betty and Anneka wrap him in a table cloth.

Hillary takes candles out of a holder and places the empty holder onto Andre's head like a crown.

They stand and look at the newly interred Andre.

HILLARY

One more thing.

Hillary exits.

BASIL

Is this an authentic viking funeral then  
Anneka?

ANNEKA

To be honest it is not far off.

Hillary returns with a the meat on  
a tray. She holds it aloft .

ANNEKA

Ah, the feast.

Hillary places the tray on Andre's  
chest. She holds aloft a knife.

HILLARY

He was merely a man oh lord but he was my  
king.

She holds up her hand.

HILLARY

We are gathered here today to honour my  
husband Andre. He died as he lived. Having a  
party. But he was so much more than a great  
host and property lawyer. He blessed us with  
his grace. His power.

Hillary stands in a regal like  
pose and holds up her hand.

HILLARY

With this ring he made me his wife.

She puts her hand on his cock.

HILLARY

with this sceptre he made me his Queen.

She touches the other meat.

HILLARY

With this prime meat he sustained us through  
hardship.

Hilary gestures to the house.

HILLARY

He built me this castle. Of which I made a  
significant contribution to the interior and  
exterior design and in fact was the majority  
financier due to the downturn in the stock  
market that no one could have predicted at  
that particular moment.

Hillary gestures to the ash suit that adorns him.

HILLARY

He fought off the demon blaze with his bare hands. He held it at bay by constructing our moat.

BASIL

The best money can buy.

HILLARY

He was a king in everything but title. But I bestow this title upon you now my darling. By the power vested in me as your wife, lover, co-financier and hostess I dub thee king. Viking. My king. And I give thee back to the gods who sent you to us. I return you to the fire. Sail well my darling on the eternal moat. And know that I am safe. Amen.

Hillary gestures for them to pick Andre up. Everyone is hesitant. Then each one goes to a corner of the table and lifts.

They form a procession that leads to the door.

Basil tries to open the door but draws his hand back swiftly.

BASIL

Jesus fuck!! That thing is red hot.

BETTY

The fire is closing in on us.

HILLARY

I will not be deterred. He will be respected.

Hillary exits to the kitchen.

EDEN

The helicopter is going to have to pick us up off the roof. Do they have ladders?

Hillary returns wearing oven gloves.

HILLARY

Of course we have a ladder.

Hillary goes to the door and grabs the handle without fear. She opens it. There is a whumf!! sound as the fire is raging outside.

BASIL  
It's over the bridge!

HILLARY  
We have little time. Help me.

BASIL  
We have no time Hillary. Come on.

ANNEKA  
Where is the helicopter?

Betty points out the door.

BETTY  
There. There it is? That light.

HILLARY  
It guides our way.

BASIL  
Not really. I can't see a thing. My eyeballs are dried out.

EDEN  
Come on then. Let's get this asshole in the water.

HILLARY  
He's not an asshole.

EDEN  
Lift!!

They all the a corner and lift Andre on his final resting place.

EDEN  
Ready?

ALL  
Ready.

Hillary stands in front of the procession. She begins walking at a funereal pace out of the door.

The other follows with Andre held on their shoulders.

They all exit. The door shuts.

The sound of a helicopter enters the scape of fire.



EDEN (O.S.)  
Thank Christ.

BASIL (O.S.)  
Don't drop him.

HILLARY (O.S.)  
Take him to the bridge. We will lower him in  
from there.

BETTY (O.S.)  
Lower him? My hands are blistering.

BASIL (O.S.)  
My brogues are melting.

EDEN (O.S.)  
We have to put him in now.

CHOPPER VOICE (O.S.)  
You down there. We have your house locked  
in. We will lower down a winch for the first  
person.

HILLARY (O.S.)  
Not yet. We need a minute.

CHOPPER VOICE (O.S.)  
Acknowledge this message by texting the  
number on the bottom of the helicopter and  
we will lock on to your exact position.

ANNEKA (O.S.)  
What? I can't see the helicopter. Just the  
light through the smoke.

BASIL (O.S.)  
Anyone? Can anyone see the number?

BETTY (O.S.)  
I can't see a thing. One of my eyes has  
stopped working.

HILLARY (O.S.)  
Maintain focus. We are almost at the sending  
off point.

EDEN (O.S.)  
The bridge isn't going to hold.

HILLARY (O.S.)  
It will. By my will.

BASIL  
It's fucking melting.

HILLARY (O.S.)  
It will hold.

ANNEKA (O.S.)

We are going to die Hillary. We need to get the helicopter.

CHOPPER VOICE (O.S.)

We have not received your acknowledgement. If we do not receive a message in the next minute we will assume you are dead and exit the area.

EDEN (O.S.)

Drop him.

HILLARY (O.S.)

NOOOO!!!

BASIL (O.S.)

Lift!!

There is a grunt then a big splash.

HILLARY (O.S.)

You bastards!!! Andre!!! Rest well my love. I will see you on the river soon.

There is a creak and cracking noise.

BETTY (O.S.)

It's giving way!!

EDEN (O.S.)

Jump!!

HILLARY (O.S.)

I won't leave him.

CHOPPER VOICE (O.S.)

You have 30 seconds to respond.

BASIL (O.S.)

This system is bullshit.

BETTY (O.S.)

I see it. I see the number. 3486. Text it someone.

BASIL (O.S.)

Hillary, text the chopper.

HILLARY (O.S.)

Goodbye my love.

There is a huge crack as the bridge gives way. Then a splash.

EDEN (O.S.)

Hillary.

Made in Highland

BASIL (O.S.)

She's... There she is. She's riding him.

HILLARY (O.S.)

We will go together my darling. The  
valkyries will fly us to the afterlife.

BASIL (O.S.)

Jesus, that's...

BETTY (O.S.)

Mandrake!! He's not dead.

BASIL (O.S.)

Don't be... He exploded. It must be...

EDEN (O.S.)

Tommy??

ANNEKA

The delivery boy?

EDEN (O.S.)

Tommy?!?!

ANNEKA (O.S.)

He's not alive. He's melded with Manny, or  
at least the self inflate motor. There's a  
sign.

EDEN (O.S.)

It's our jacket. The delivery service.

BASIL (O.S.)

It's melted into a sort of aqua-parachute.

BETTY (O.S.)

No it's like a sail.

BASIL (O.S.)

Whatever. The helicopter downblast is  
sending them towards Hillary. She's shouting  
something. Can you hear it?

BETTY (O.S.)

Fire Turks?

BASIL (O.S.)

She did hate the Turks.

EDEN (O.S.)

Fireworks. She had fireworks on her order.  
Tommy must have pocketed them to sell later.  
He's going to go up. Everybody d....

There is the sound of a bit  
fireworks style explosion.  
Followed by screaming and the  
sound of a helicopter crashing.

Made in Highland

Eden and Betty dive back in through the door.

BETTY  
Holy fuck!! Fuck!!

EDEN  
It... fireworks.

BETTY  
Hillary...

EDEN  
Seemed to enjoy it.

BETTY  
Basil was impaled...

EDEN  
The fucking chopper blade...

BETTY  
It fell on top of Anneka, I hated her but...  
oh god, not this.

EDEN  
They're all fucking dead. And so are we if  
we can't get off this stupid moated fucking  
house.

BETTY  
Can we call another chopper?

EDEN  
I don't know.

BETTY  
But your brother...

EDEN  
He quit.

BETTY  
But he knows people.

EDEN  
I'll try.

Eden goes to the phone. She picks  
it up.

OPERATOR (V.O.)  
Your code has been accepted. This phone is  
now disconnected. We wish you luck on your  
evacuation and hope to reconnect with you in  
this life or the next. Thank you.

Dial tone.

EDEN

We're dead.

BETTY

No, I won't give up.

EDEN

I mean this house. This house is classified as dead. They won't send anything for us now. We don't exist.

BETTY

I exist. I fucking exist. I know I made some poor life choices.

EDEN

Like fucking a teacher.

BETTY

I didn't fuck him. Honestly. I just reported him to the school board and she got caught up in it and she wouldn't back me up so nothing happened. And she blamed me...

EDEN

Fuck, sorry I asked.

BETTY

I did the right thing. Even Mandrake was a means to an end. I wanted to do magic. Be my own act. I was good.

EDEN

Well magic us the hell out of here.

BETTY

I could possibly make your watch disappear.

EDEN

Nah, I'm ok. I guess we just wait and let the smoke knock us out.

BETTY

Oh good.

The door bursts open and Hillary, soaking wet and blackened and burned from the fire, enters.

BETTY

Holy fuck!!

HILLARY

I did not die. The fire rejected me.

EDEN

After having a nibble first though?

Made in Highland

HILLARY

I have been cleansed. And I return to you now to bring you back to the light.

EDEN

How? The phone is cut off.

HILLARY

The failsafe.

EDEN

Failsafe?

HILLARY

The failsafe.

BETTY

So we're safe?

HILLARY

We will suffer, have no doubt. We will be challenged but ladies, we are up to it. We are up to it. Steel yourselves for...

EDEN

How do we get out?

HILLARY

We drain the moat.

EDEN

How?

HILLARY

The emergency flush.

BETTY

Yes, of course.

Hillary goes to the other side of the stage and pulls back a cloth to reveal a lever.

HILLARY

The last resort. A moment no moat owner wants to experience but here we are. Life or death. Sink or swim.

EDEN

So this does what?

HILLARY

It is a super flush. It empties the moat into a communal sewer that leads to the river. All the houses on Collingwood Moat Grden are equipped with one. And they all, like myself, would rather have died than invoke it. But I am not who I was minutes ago. My eyes are clear and I am ready to flush this shit away. Are you with me?

BETTY

Fuck yes.

EDEN

So this is the spot? We stand here and..?

HILLARY

Get flushed and shat out down the river.

Eden joins them both on the small  
space.

EDEN

Pull the fucking chain Hillary.

HILLARY

That's my girl. See you on the other side  
ladies.

They all hold onto each other.  
Hillary pulls the lever.

BLACK

The sound of a mighty flush is  
heard.

THE END.