

## Want

By Shayne M. Kennedy  
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*Scene 1. Summer. A very low rent studio apartment on Chicago's South Side, on the second floor or higher. It is sparsely furnished. A neatly made bed—an anomaly in an otherwise cluttered space. A couch, an older tv, no cable. The kitchen appliances are decades old; the oven gets little use. An old radiator is mounted to the floor. There is a shelf for books that has a few beat up 3-ring binders on it. A weight bench, barbell and free weights fill one corner. A tattoo gun and inks sit on the top of a dresser, but they shouldn't stand out. There's some laundry in a pile on the floor, possibly clean. There are only two doors, one to the shared hallway and one to the bathroom. The windows are open, a box fan propped in one of them, probably broken.*

*MACK is about 25 years old, and of impressive stature. He wears a dingy t-shirt and belted khaki pants. At rise, he is doing bench presses. He does three or four, sits up, picks up a can of beer from the floor and drinks, sets it down, returns to bench pressing. There is a noise in the hall, the voices of a man and a woman, coming up the stairs, laughing, a little too loudly. A knock. MACK sits up, drinks, waits, soundlessly.*

WALLY

*(from behind the door) Let us in, you no-neck bastard! (to his companion, but overly loud) I know he's here, he don't talk to nobody but me! (laughter) Seriously, man! Let us in! I got my cousin out here. You gotta hook her up!*

*MACK rises and crosses to door, unlocks two or three locks and WALLY and TRINITY come spilling in. WALLY is mid-20s, wiry, dressed in shorts or swim trunks and a bro-tank, worn without irony. TRINITY is early 20s, wearing a swimsuit with a dress-style cover up, flip flops. She has a huge amount of shiny, black, curly hair. They swing the door open wide and it stays that way.*

MACK

I'm not working today.

TRINITY

*(looking around)* You don't need the money?

MACK

Who's she?

WALLY

This is Trinity, she's my cousin. *(no response)* Trinity, this is my neighbor, my friend, my bro-ski, Mack.

TRINITY

Hi.

WALLY

Dude, we had to take a train AND a bus to get here from the lake. *(MACK shrugs)* Let's at least have a beer while you think about it.

MACK

I'm not—

WALLY

Just a beer!

*He holds up a plastic grocery bag with three or four loose beers in it. They sit around the room. MACK downs the beer he was previously drinking and opens a new one. WALLY and TRINITY each open a beer.*

WALLY

So we were at the lake. It was packed. It was ridiculous.

TRINITY

My parents got our spot at 10, and we were so far back from the water.

WALLY

And we had no shade.

TRINITY

Well, we had that one umbrella.

WALLY

Oh yeah, this piece of shit umbrella that I had to carry from the L stop, through the baseball fields, over the bridge across the Drive, and down into the sand. But get this. You know how you walk down the steps from the bridge, and then you still hafta cross that bike path or whatever to get to the beach?

MACK

Yeah.

WALLY

I'm telling you, there were 5000 bikes on that friggin' path. It was like fucking Frogger. And I kept taking a step, and then back. Try to put my foot out, pull it back. And no one would stop.

*MACK yawns.*

Am I fucking boring you?

MACK

No, man, sorry. I was up til 4 working on somebody. Go on.

WALLY

So finally, I just step out, into full on bike traffic. And they're all like, "Whoa!" and swerving and shit. And one guy actually goes off the pavement, and like, into the sand. Falls off his bike, his little helmet goes crooked, whatever.

TRINITY

He was pissed.

WALLY

He goes, "Hey!" in this like little squeaker voice. Like a fucking chew toy. And he goes, "Hey! You just ran me off the road!" And his voice is like little squeaky mouse man. So I go, "Dude! I was just trying to get across. I've been standing here for five minutes." And he fuckin' says—do you know what he fuckin' says? He says, "Bicycles have the right of way." The right of fuckin' way! So I walk over to him, I pick up his bike for him.

TRINITY

He didn't like that.

WALLY

And I go, "Listen, little buddy, go home and wash the sand out of your ass crack so your boyfriend doesn't get a rash." And we kept walking. Do you believe that shit? I came up with that right on the spot.

MACK

Huh.

WALLY

Hey, it's 97 goddam degrees. I know Trinity's mom's got some tamales waiting for me 50 steps away. I don't apologize for crossing the road.

TRINITY

*(raising her can to WALLY)* You shouldn't.

*PIRI appears at the still open door. She appears to be older than 55 and looks homeless. She is Hungarian born, raised in America, in a Hungarian-speaking household. Her manners preclude her from just barging in.*

PIRI

Tattoo man! You in here?

WALLY

Oh shit. This broad.

TRINITY

Who is she?

PIRI

Tattoo man!

MACK

I'm here.

PIRI

*(she crosses the threshold)* Rent money. Due today.

WALLY

I put mine under your door already.

PIRI

I got it. I not bother you.

MACK

It's Sunday, Piri.

*PIRI pronounces her own name closer to "Piddy," all the other characters pronounce it "Peery," and she corrects them.*

PIRI

Piri. I won't be here tomorrow. My grandbaby's got his big band concert. I'm taking the train and staying by my son's house three nights!

MACK

Well, hold on then. I don't have it ready.

*Over the next several lines, MACK goes to a cabinet, takes out a shoebox and gets his rent money out of it, counts it out and brings it to PIRI.*

WALLY

*(to PIRI)* You call the plumber about my shower?

PIRI

I fix that already. You just twist the thing.

WALLY

No! That fixes it for 5 minutes. Call the plumber.

PIRI

I gotta check with my son. I'm seeing him tomorrow for my grandbaby's big band concert.

WALLY

Fuck your grandbaby and his band! I wanna take a hot shower!

PIRI

Fuck you, you talk to me like that! What you need to shower for? Who's getting close to you, you skinny weasel?

WALLY

*(ready to fight)* Here we go . . .!

MACK

Enough. You got my money. Get out. I'll see you next month.

PIRI

Wait! I need you to buy a raffle ticket for my grandbaby's band concert.

MACK

What? No. You just cleaned me out with the rent.

PIRI

*(turning to WALLY and TRINITY)* You two! You buy a raffle ticket for my grandbaby's band.

WALLY

Fix my shower.

PIRI

Five dollars each. Five for twenty.

WALLY

I don't have any money.

TRINITY

I do. I have a five.

PIRI

You're a good lady. Why you hang around these two?

*TRINITY takes out a five and exchanges it for a ticket and a pen from PIRI.*

TRINITY

I put my name on it?

PIRI

Uh-huh. They gonna draw it right after the concert. What Piri do for you is I go up and hand them in at the last minute. That's the way you win a raffle. You gotta put your ticket in at the very last minute.

WALLY

Don't they shake them up?

PIRI

Of course they do, but it don't matter. The last minute one always wins.

TRINITY

*(looking at her ticket stub)* Well, you just call me up when I win the grand prize.

WALLY

What is it?

PIRI

\$10,000.

WALLY

Which means they sold twenty-five hundred tickets, at least.

PIRI

Who cares? You got one, you got a chance.

MACK

All right, Piri. See you next month then.

PIRI

Piri. Bye now, Mack. You be nice to this girl. She's a good lady. *(as an afterthought)*  
You got any junk for me?

MACK

No, not now.

PIRI

Next time. You save these cans for me.

MACK

Sure. Maybe.

*PIRI exits.*

TRINITY

When she first asked for junk, I thought she meant—

MACK

She meant junk.

WALLY

She takes it to the junk store a block down and sells it to the guy there. For like, pennies. I swear. He can't give her more than a quarter for the shit she brings in.

TRINITY

Maybe he's just being nice.

WALLY

He's an asshole. So we gonna do this tattoo or what?

MACK

I already said no.

WALLY

You need the money. I just heard you tell Piri you're broke.

MACK

I heard you tell her you were, too.

WALLY

Yeah, but I was lying.

*(an uncomfortable pause)*

TRINITY

*(pause)* Where's the bathroom?

MACK

That door.

TRINITY

Gotta pee. *(she exits to bathroom)*

WALLY

Dude, you hafta work on her for me! I'm gonna pay you. It's not like we're asking you to do it for free.

MACK

I been up late the last two nights. My hand cramps up. I won't do a good job.

WALLY

Who cares? Do me one favor! I'll hit you back I swear. I'll buy you ten raffle tickets! *(MACK scoffs at this)* I need a wingman here.

MACK

What?

WALLY

I'm trying to impress her, Macky. I thought I had the hookup here and now you're cockblocking me. *(reaching for a binder)*

MACK

*(stopping him)* She's your cousin. That's—

WALLY

Oh, no! She's like my fake cousin, you know? Like my parents been friends with her parents forever. We've just always known each other, called each other's parents aunt and uncle and shit.

MACK

Today is my day off.

WALLY

You can change your plan, dude! You know why you're all rigid like that? The army did that to you. It fucked up your hand and it made you obsessed with the rules. Nothing's gonna collapse if you do something different.

MACK

I don't—

WALLY

Shit, man! Just do me a fucking favor! You're my friend right? *(MACK nods)* Just do this one thing for me.

MACK

*(After a thinking pause)* Okay.

WALLY

You will?!? For real?!? You're the best, boy, the fucking best! *(calling)* Trinity! I got him to do it!

TRINITY

*(coming out of bathroom, zipping her pants)* Really? *(Screams with joy, jumps on MACK, making him uncomfortable, WALLY equally uncomfortable, as he feels like he's the one who merits praise)* Awesome! Is it gonna hurt?

MACK

Um, yeah.

TRINITY

Really bad? I'm gonna need another beer.

WALLY

This calls for more than beer. Macky, whaddya got?

MACK

I don't know.

*WALLY begins looking through cabinets—they are sparsely filled—until he finds a bottle of something like Jagermeister—from Europe, and strong.*

WALLY

This'll do!

MACK

Oh, you know . . .

TRINITY

Oh my God! I can't drink that straight.

WALLY

Yes, you can. You don't even taste it, you just throw it back.

MACK

*(as an objection)* That's from when I was stationed over there. The guys in my unit, we all bought a bottle the night before we came home.

TRINITY

*(not hearing the objection)* That's so sweet!

WALLY

God bless the troops, or we'd have nothing to drink right now!

*WALLY opens the bottle and pour 3 shots in some kind of inappropriate glass—ie coffee mugs. MACK paces, willing his anger under control.*

You drinkin', Mack?

MACK

Not if I'm gonna work.

TRINITY

I'll have his.

WALLY

You sure?

TRINITY

I don't want this to hurt.

*WALLY's phone rings. He looks at the screen.*

WALLY

Shit! *(he answers phone, he is talking to someone who is hard of hearing)* Hi, Helen! This is me, this is Wally. I'm about twenty seconds from your house. I'll be there real quick. Okay, tell Rufus I'm comin' for him. Bye-bye. *(hangs up)* Dammit! I totally forgot I had a dog this afternoon. This old lady just had surgery, and . . . shit! I gotta go.

TRINITY

Where does she live?

WALLY

Like four blocks. I'll be back. Good luck! Get started.

*WALLY runs out. An awkward silence. Two people who only know each other through a mutual friend have been left suddenly without that friend. TRINITY drinks one shot.*

MACK

So what do you want?

TRINITY

A tattoo, right?

MACK

Well, yeah.

TRINITY

Oh! I'm sorry! I totally . . . I just . . . I want a raven.

MACK

Like a blackbird? *(He pulls down one of the binders and begins to leaf through it)*

TRINITY

Are they the same thing?

MACK

I don't really know. *(shows her a page)*

TRINITY

*(laughing)* Well, I don't know either! It looks right to me!

MACK

Where do you want it? (*TRINITY points to her hip area*) Okay. You have to put these on. (*he hands her a pair of old, nasty, cotton gym shorts*) You can change in the bathroom.

TRINITY

Oh, that's okay. (*she drops her pants*) Underwear on or off?

MACK

Jesus. On.

TRINITY

Good. (*puts the shorts on*) I was afraid I was gettin' some kind of disease from these shorts.

MACK

They're clean. They're just old. Do you want the bird flying or not?

TRINITY

Um, I think flying. In my mind it was flying. (*She drinks the second shot.*)

MACK

(*showing her a different page in the binder*) Like this?

TRINITY

Did you draw all that? (*trying to turn page*)

MACK

(*stopping her*) These are the only birds.

TRINITY

(*pointing*) Did you ever put that one on anybody before?

MACK

No.

TRINITY

Then that's it! Shit! I'm gonna be the only person in the world with this exact tattoo!

MACK

So, you should lay down.

TRINITY

(*drinks the last shot before positioning herself on the couch, suddenly nervous*) How'd you learn to do this?

MACK

*(as he gathers equipment)* There was a guy in my unit. In the army? *(TRINITY nods)* A guy in my unit taught me.

TRINITY

Where's the guy now? The guy that taught you?

MACK

He got killed in Afghanistan.

TRINITY

What was he doing there?

MACK

The war?

TRINITY

Oh, yeah. *(pause)* Is that where you were at?

MACK

For a while.

TRINITY

You know the raven symbolizes a shape shifter?

MACK

Hmph.

TRINITY

Like something that can metamorphosize into other stuff.

MACK

Like a Transformer?

TRINITY

*(laughing)* No, stupid! Not a machine. Something like magical that starts out as one kind of living thing but can change into something else.

MACK

Huh. *(brief pause)* Okay, I'm gonna fix these shorts now, so I can prep your skin. *(He tucks the waistband of her shorts into her underwear on the hip he's going to work on)*

TRINITY

*(as he wipes her skin with rubbing alcohol)* Oh! That's cold.

MACK

Sorry.

TRINITY

Did you ever see Saddam? In Afghanistan?

MACK

No.

TRINITY

Oh.

MACK

He's from Iraq. I was in Afghanistan. They're two different countries.

TRINITY

So there's like, two wars?

MACK

Yes. *(He quickly shaves the area to be tattooed)*

TRINITY

Wow. *(pause)* There's no hair there.

MACK

Yes, there is. *(he finishes, picks up a ball point pen, makes a few marks on her skin)* Like this big?

TRINITY

*(looking at the marks)* That's good. Are you going to do a stencil thing?

MACK

I don't need to.

TRINITY

I'm super scared. *(beginning to slur her words)* So how come you don't work in a shop?

MACK

*(as he continues drawing on her)* I do better when I don't have a boss. And to work in a shop, you need to take a test and have a license. That costs money. Then some shops make you rent your station. More money. *(TRINITY's head is lolling)* If I could open my own shop, that'd be the way to do it. I mean, that's kind of what I have going here. I wish I had a big sign for the wall. "Mack's Ink," something like that. I mean, I know it's my apartment, but I kind of think of it as my shop, you know? *(TRINITY does not respond, she has passed out)* Shoot. Hey! *(no response)* I'm gonna do the linework now. That's like the outline. *(no response, he turns on gun and begins working. TRINITY may shake her head a bit, like there's an annoying bug flying around, but she does not feel the*

*pain. MACK works for a minute, stands up, paces) Dammit. (He goes and stands in front of fan, picks up half-full beer, drinks it, turns back to TRINITY, stares at her for a moment, perhaps her leg flops off the couch. MACK walks back to her, picks up the gun, works for another 5 seconds or so. He sets the gun down suddenly, lays on top of TRINITY and kisses her. He grinds on her for 20 seconds or so, until he comes. He stands up, mortified) Shit. Trinity? (she is still unconscious. He grabs a pair of pants from the floor, goes into the bathroom to change.)*

*TRINITY rolls off the couch and onto the floor, waking herself up.*

TRINITY

Ouch. Mack?

MACK

One second.

TRINITY

Where are you?

MACK

*(coming in with different pants on)* I spilled ink on my pants. I didn't want it to stain anything else.

TRINITY

Am I done?

MACK

No. I barely started the outline.

*TRINITY lays back down. MACK picks up gun and goes to work.*

TRINITY

I can't feel anything.

MACK

That's good.

TRINITY

How much more?

MACK

*(shutting off gun)* My hand's kind of shaky. Give me a second. *(pause)* Um, Trinity? Would you want to, like, have dinner with me, or something? Like maybe tomorrow?

TRINITY

Oh. I don't know. Um, I just . . . I don't . . . Oh God. (*she runs into the bathroom and we can hear her vomiting violently*)

MACK

Oh, Christ.

TRINITY

(*emerging, wiping her mouth with MACK's dirty pants*) Sorry. I got throw up on your pants.

MACK

They were already dirty.

TRINITY

I feel bad.

MACK

It's okay. Forget about the dinner thing. That was stupid. Why don't you come back Wednesday night and I'll finish the bird?

TRINITY

I could bring food.

MACK

You don't have to.

TRINITY

I just threw up on your clothes. I'm gonna bring dinner over. Maybe Wally'll come too.

MACK

(*hands her a little plastic container full of something like petroleum jelly*) Here's some stuff to put on it, if it starts bleeding or anything. It probably will, so just keep this stuff on it and keep it covered with gauze. The shading and coloring part doesn't hurt as much. That's what people say.

WALLY

(*from OS*) Hey! I got Rufus tight to the hydrant. (*bounding up stairs and entering*) All done? Let me see!

TRINITY

Not yet. We're coming here to finish it on Wednesday night. Wanna come with and eat dinner?

WALLY

I gotta close the pet store on Wednesday. I don't get off til nine. But I'll come over after that.

Oh. Okay.

So did it hurt?

I didn't feel a thing.

*Scene 2. Wednesday night. MACK cleans up tattoo stuff. TRINITY emerges from bathroom.*

Oh my God! It's so beautiful. It's so beautiful. I can't believe you just, like, made this up, and put it on me outta nowhere.

It's going to bleed.

What?

Keep that stuff on it. That stuff I gave you? Keep it coated for a few days and it will scab over. Don't scratch it.

That's gross.

I'm just warning you. It's gonna get crusty and itch like a motherfucker.

Okay. How bad?

MACK

Just let it heal. It's like an injury.

TRINITY

*(after a moment)* Well, it's the sweetest injury ever. It doesn't even hurt that bad. I was so scared on Sunday. I think that's why I threw up. I mean, obviously I drank too much, but, like, I was so worried I actually worried myself sick, which I thought was just an express—

MACK

*(handing her gauze and tape)* Keep gauze on it for about 3 hours.

TRINITY

Okay. *(staring at her hip)* It's amazing. Seriously.

MACK

*(matter of fact)* Let's eat.

*He begins to open bag of Chinese food boxes and unpack.*

Want chopsticks or a regular fork?

*TRINITY doesn't answer. She's mesmerized by the raven.*

Chopsticks?

*TRINITY crosses to MACK and kisses him, testing the waters, but not too aggressively.*

Fork?

TRINITY

How can you be, like, stuck in this apartment when you can do this?

MACK

I'm not stuck.

TRINITY

You know what I mean.

MACK

Not really. All's I needs a sign, and it'd be like a real shop.

TRINITY

Fork. I'm a joke with chopsticks.

MACK

Me too.

*TRINITY covers the tattoo with gauze and tape. They eat for a moment.*

TRINITY

Wally should be here pretty soon. *(pause)* Don't you think they should promote him to, like, manager if they're making him close the store all the time?

MACK

I don't know. Does he want to be a manager?

TRINITY

Why wouldn't he? He does a lot and he makes barely above minimum wage.

MACK

But he likes the animals.

TRINITY

Ugh! He's so unmotivated, he drives me crazy. I should be like, "Wally! Go to school! Wally! Look for a new job!" You know his dad managed a drug store, and it's like, Wally hasn't even gotten that far. All parents want their kids to do more than they did, right? Isn't that, like, America?

MACK

What do your parents do?

TRINITY

My dad drives a truck. He's been gone for the last two weeks, but I think he's coming home on Friday.

MACK

Does he like it?

TRINITY

I don't know. It's pretty good money, I think. I keep trying to get Wally to apply at his company, but he won't because he has those two DUIs. It's so stupid.

MACK

I guess your parents like him, though.

TRINITY

I guess. *(exasperated sigh)* My whole family's kind of sick of him. I mean, he's always around. My dad says I'll never meet anybody with Wally standing right behind me.

MACK

There's nothing between you and . . .

TRINITY

Wally! Fuck no! What made you think that?

MACK

I don't know.

TRINITY

Oh no! That'd be like getting with my brother. My mother would have a heart attack if I told her Wally and me got together.

MACK

Why?

TRINITY

She says he smells like a dog, and he's always covered in animal hair. Which, even though it's true, is a little ironic coming from my mom.

MACK

Why's that?

TRINITY

Because she's always covered in hair, too. My mom, she shampoos and sweeps at my salon.

MACK

You have a salon?

TRINITY

No! Yeah, right! I'm a nail technician at a place on 55<sup>th</sup> and Kedzie. It's called "Who Did Your Hair?" You ever see it?

MACK

No.

TRINITY

It's all right. The shampoo girl quit, and I got my mom in there too. She was mad when I quit high school, but then I went to nail school and got her and me jobs.

MACK

That's good.

TRINITY

Last year she cried cuz I got third place in the South Chicago Beauty Expo. I did nails with fireworks on them. Sparkly as fuck. She cried and cried. She said, "Trinity, my baby, you have intelligence for nails."

MACK

So you're kind of an artist.

TRINITY

Not like you. I can't do anything with a pencil and paper, and for sure not on skin. I'm just shapes and colors.

MACK

That's all I am too.

TRINITY

You're crazy if you think that. Nobody got a tattoo like this!

*She undoes her pants, removes the gauze to look at it again, WALLY walks in and misreads the situation.*

WALLY

Oh! Jesus!

TRINITY

Wally! Look at my tattoo! It's done!

*She runs to Wally and shows him the raven. He is entranced.*

WALLY

Wow. That looks . . . awesome. Great job, Macky.

MACK

Thanks.

WALLY

What do I owe you?

*MACK is a bit confused. There is an uncomfortable pause.*

TRINITY

What?!? No, stupid, I paid for it already!

WALLY

I said I would get it for you.

TRINITY

I can pay for my own shit. I got a job.

WALLY

I know, but I wanted to get it for you.

TRINITY

I don't need your charity! You got extra money, get your own tattoo!

WALLY

I don't want one.

TRINITY

Yeah right.

WALLY

Who do you think did my goddam back?!?

*He pushes up his shirt to reveal a panel of tattoos on his back.*

TRINITY

You did that?

MACK

Yeah.

TRINITY

Why?

MACK

Practice.

WALLY

It's a buncha different stuff. There's a mermaid, and a Polish Eagle, and an ankh. There's some Greek letters and a rose under here. Roses seem kind of gay so I made him do it near the side. And then a tiger head. It's just a bunch of stuff. But it looks cool from far away, right?

MACK

It's just practice. He's a good friend.

TRINITY

You are, Wally. You're a really good friend. *(a pause)* I'm gonna go show the girls at work my bird. They're gonna love it.

MACK

You should wait til it heals to show them. It'll look better.

TRINITY

Then I'll show it to them again!

*She kisses MACK on the cheek and hits WALLY on the back of the head before grabbing her purse and exiting.*

WALLY

She's a great girl.

MACK

She talks a lot.

WALLY

It's weird because I always see her with her family, you know? We never go out on our own. But I always just figured we'd end up together.

MACK

Sure.

WALLY

Not that it's kept me from hooking up with other girls. I mean, you know that bartender at Demma's? The one with the long brown hair?

MACK

Yeah.

WALLY

I bagged that last Friday. And I knew I was gonna see Trinity on Sunday. I'm a total scumbag.

MACK

No, you're not.

WALLY

We're twenty-five, me and you. She's almost twenty-five. What am I waiting for? If I want her, I should just say so and let it play out.

MACK

The thing is . . .

WALLY

But everything could fall apart after that. And you can't go back and fix it if it breaks—it's always hanging there.

MACK

I think I'd—

WALLY

You're a cautious guy. I'm not. I kind of play it like I feel. But if I tell her, and then later on I lose my feelings for her, which maybe aren't that strong anyway, obviously, if I'm fucking random bartenders, but if I lose my feelings for her and I tell her so, like "Hey, Trinity, great news! I don't like you that way anymore!" It's like, she'll never believe that in a million years. So once I tell her, that's it for life. Because you could say the same thing whether or not you've actually got feelings. How could you prove that you're not feeling something?

MACK

She's nice.

WALLY

Of course she is! It's not like I **had** to stay friends with her—Hold on. Do you . . .? Really?

MACK

I'm real sorry, Wally. I like her. Kind of.

WALLY

No worries.

MACK

Really?

WALLY

Dude, it's fine. *(long pause)* Did I ever show you this trick I can do? *(he picks up an empty beer can)* Watch this. *(He puts the bottom of the can into his mouth, leaves it there for a moment, turning his head from side to side, and removes it)* Check that out.

MACK

Wow.

WALLY

Try it.

MACK

Nah.

WALLY

Seriously. Just gotta relax your jaw. It looks cool, but it's not that hard.

MACK

I don't want to.

WALLY

You're afraid?

MACK

No. I just don't see the point in it.

WALLY

There is no point. Just do it.

*MACK picks up can and manages to get it in his mouth. As with all tricks like this, it's not the getting in that is difficult, it's the getting out. MACK*

*struggles and begins to panic. He gags. WALLY watches the struggle, past the point where he should have helped.*

WALLY

Relax.

*Suddenly, the can slides out easily and MACK inhales deeply.*

MACK

Shit.

WALLY

You're fine.

MACK

Shit.

WALLY

Listen, you know what? I don't think I even want her, it's more like I just got used to the idea. So go for it. If it works out, great.

MACK

Really?

WALLY

Yeah, I'll keep looking for bangable bartenders. South Side's full of 'em.

MACK

You're a great friend.

**Scene 3.** *A week later. In the darkness, the opening riff of "Piano Man" is played on harmonica. PIRI and HOPPER in street. PIRI pulls a beat up old wagon full of junk. Her posture and gait suggest a motherly weariness with HOPPER, who is high-energy, twitchy, an addict.*

PIRI

I tell you this story all the time. How come you don't know it by now?

HOPPER

One more time. That's it.

PIRI

A hundred pieces. All gold.

HOPPER

Solid? Did you ever bite on it?

PIRI

What the hell? Did I ever bite on it? No! Why a kid would bite on a plate? My parents' plate? They smack me around I bite on it.

HOPPER

But you're sure it was solid gold?

PIRI

The plates, the saucers, the tea cups, the punch bowl . . .

HOPPER

There was a punch bowl?

PIRI

I tell you this already.

HOPPER

You never said nothin' about a punch bowl.

PIRI

You were out of your mind. You forget.

HOPPER

Tell me now.

PIRI

You couldn't lift it up. It take two people to carry it from the closet to the table. But we had servants. They do for us. We sit.

HOPPER

Oh, that's right! Now tell about the noise.

PIRI

It made a noise, like a bell, when you tapped it with the ladle.

HOPPER

Like a golden bell?

PIRI

Just like that. Ding!!!

HOPPER

Why didn't your parents bring it here?

PIRI

I don't know. You run from war, you don't think about drinking punch. You think clothes, you think food, you think stay alive.

HOPPER

But just one or two of those pieces would've set them up in America for life!

PIRI

How you gonna carry a punch bowl when you've got two suitcases and a baby on your back and you have to look out for the landmines?

HOPPER

I'da left the baby.

PIRI

You're a bad man. You gonna buy some of this metal off me?

HOPPER

You got copper?

PIRI

A little. A lot of cans.

HOPPER

C'mon, I'll open up the store.

*Lights shift to MACK and TRINITY in his apartment. He is playing the harmonica on the couch and she is digging through her bag. MACK knows four songs on the harmonica. They are: Oh, Susannah!, Piano Man, Love Me Do, and You Don't Know How it Feels. He is not interested in learning any others.*

TRINITY

That sounds nice. (*MACK plays*) Here it is! (*MACK stops.*) My brother will be so happy.

MACK

What does he want on it?

TRINITY

(*handing MACK a remote controlled car*) Don't matter.

MACK

Did you bring paint?

TRINITY

*(pulling a few jars nail polish from her purse)* Black, probably. Just trick it out—make it kick ass.

MACK

Why does an 8 year-old need to kick ass?

TRINITY

Everybody needs to kick ass, stupid.

MACK

Pull down the blue binder. *(TRINITY does, hands it to him, he flips pages, stops, points at something)* That?

TRINITY

Meh. *(TRINITY flip pages while MACK pours nail polish out on to a magazine he will use as a palette. He will use a toothpick to paint.)* Oooh! That!

MACK

That's like a crown of thorns thing. You want something Jesus-y?

TRINITY

I don't think third graders are gonna think about the crown of thorns when my brother's winning every race at recess. *(pause)* Thanks for doing this. Augie was super excited when my dad brought him this. Then that other fuckin' kid has the same one. Augie tells my dad, and my dad, instead of being like, I don't know, understanding, gets like, pissed at Augie, like, "So it's not good enough for you because someone else has it? I drive all over the country . . . blah blah blah . . ." Every time my dad comes home he's a bigger asshole. It's like he expects us all to just adore him. But we got other shit to do.

MACK

He imagines it different when he's away. I joined the army right out of high school and the first time I got to come home, nothing lived up to how I was dreaming it would be. Not the food, not the people, not the house.

TRINITY

It's two bedrooms and one bathroom when he leaves and two bedrooms and one bathroom when he comes back. What does he expect? The fucking White House?

MACK

It's not the building. When you're away from home, it just seems like being there is so impossible that the people who are there all the time should appreciate it more.

TRINITY

Appreciate sharing a bedroom with an 8 year-old? How many 23 year-old girls you know share a room with their 8 year-old brother?

MACK

You're the only 23 year-old girl I know.

TRINITY

*(laughs)* That looks good. *(MACK continues working)* I just think, how am I ever gonna get out of there? You know? I could live on what I make, I think. Food and stuff. But I just can't get started. I shoulda finished high school, at least for the graduation checks.

MACK

You could join the army.

TRINITY

*(laughs loudly)* And what? Paint nails for the troops?!?

MACK

They teach you what to do. You could do it. It's not that bad.

TRINITY

Yeah? Then why'd you quit? *(no answer, then a little dreamily)* I did do somebody's nails cammo once. Pretty sweet.

MACK

*(not looking up from his work, and quietly)* You could move in here.

TRINITY

For real?

MACK

I don't know. Not if you don't want to.

TRINITY

You think that would be okay?

MACK

I'm the only one it would matter to. And I like it better when you're here.

TRINITY

Really?

MACK

It's nice to, like, have somebody.

TRINITY

Really?

*MACK drops the work quickly and wraps TRINITY in a crushing embrace, kissing her very hard. They begin to make love on the couch as lights fade on them and come up on PIRI and HOPPER. HOPPER is sitting on the wagon, on the scrap metal, face in hands. It seems likely that he is asleep. PIRI strokes his hair as she would a sleeping child's.*

PIRI

One hundred pieces. Twenty place settings, plus the extras. Napkin rings? You ever see a red napkin in a ring made of gold? That's a sight, Mr. Hopper. You gonna wake up? No. (*WALLY enters, angry, wired.*) Hey, you! Dog walker man!

WALLY

What? What do you want?

PIRI

You help me get Mr. Hopper off my wagon.

WALLY

I have places to be.

PIRI

Just help me one minute.

WALLY

Whatever.

*He moves to lift HOPPER from the armpits.*

PIRI

Be careful! He's sleeping!

WALLY

He's not a baby.

PIRI

Lay him down soft.

*WALLY maneuvers HOPPER into lying down position on sidewalk.*

WALLY

Why the hell is he sleeping out here? Why doesn't he go into his shit shop and pass out?

PIRI

He don't have the medicine he needs to stay awake. Can you carry him to the store? It's only a block.

WALLY

I have a striking workshop at the gym in a half hour.

PIRI

You goin' to the pet shop?

WALLY

Not til tomorrow. They cut my hours. It's a fucking joke anyway. *(pause)* You seen Mack?

PIRI

Tattoo guy's at his place. He hasn't left the building since his girl came over. With that beautiful hair.

WALLY

His girl?

PIRI

Yeah, his girl. She's there everyday.

WALLY

His girl. That's a fucking joke. What does that guy have that I haven't given him? Shit. Down to part time at the store, no girlfriend, a crappy apartment . . .

PIRI

Oh, you just fine.

WALLY

Yeah, I'm fine. Doing things for everyone around me and not once do I get paid back. If I had any money, I'd move outta this shit-heap—

PIRI

Hey!

WALLY

Oh, fuck you. You know this building is shit. Your son's a shitty landlord and the place is falling down.

PIRI

You gonna wanna find another place to live.

WALLY

Who says?

PIRI

I see my son this week. He needs to raise the rent for you.

WALLY

For me?

PIRI

For the whole building. It's gonna go up \$50.

WALLY

*(shoving her)* That's complete bullshit.

PIRI

Don't you push me. You unhappy about it, you move away.

WALLY

Fuck you. I'm sick of all of it.

PIRI

You go see your friends?

WALLY

Yeah. Yeah. My great friends. Maybe I can get another stupid fucking tattoo out of the deal.

PIRI

You tell him I'm comin' up.

WALLY

He'll be real happy about the rent, let me tell you.

*Lights fade on PIRI, rifling through her wagon and watching over the sleeping HOPPER. WALLY walks away from them. Lights rise on MACK, laying on top of TRINITY, finished.*

TRINITY

You're crushing me.

MACK

*(rolling off of her)* Oh, Christ. Sorry. I was falling asleep.

TRINITY

It's okay.

*They lazily gather their clothes over the next few lines. It is not necessary that they have fully undressed to have sex. It's probably better if they don't—if pants are still around one ankle, etc.*

MACK

Did you want to do that?

TRINITY

What?

MACK

Did you want to do that? I mean, I didn't make you . . .

TRINITY

I didn't say no.

MACK

Okay. *(pause)* Was it okay?

TRINITY

You're really strong.

MACK

Did I hurt you?

TRINITY

No. *(pause)* I'm gonna do it. Move in here. If it's still okay.

MACK

*(he has lost some of his enthusiasm for the idea)* Yeah. Of course it is. *(pause)* The bird looks good.

TRINITY

What?

MACK

The bird. It healed really good.

*WALLY barges in through the unlocked door.*

WALLY

Is Trinity still—oh fuck no! *(He covers his eyes.)* This is kinda bullshit, you two. Lock the fucking door.

*TRINITY giggles and hurries to finish dressing. MACK jumps off the couch in his t-shirt and underwear.*

MACK

Sorry, man.

*WALLY uncovers his eyes.*

WALLY

Mack! Put your goddam pants on, dude! I walk in on you fucking my cousin—

TRINITY

Oh shut up!

MACK

*(Pulling on pants)* Sorry. Don't go. Stay. What's up?

WALLY

Oh, gee thanks. Well, let's see. My whole life is going down the shitter. I have exactly two friends I'd come to for help and they're . . . busy.

TRINITY

Nothing's in the shitter.

WALLY

What the hell do you know? Last night Jim told me the pet shop's gonna be closed on Mondays and half the day on Tuesday. Guess whose 12 hours those were?

MACK

Sorry.

TRINITY

That sucks. You'll find something else.

WALLY

Not quick enough. Rent's going up, you know.

MACK

What?

WALLY

\$50 more starting next month.

TRINITY

That's brutal. They hafta give you a certain amount of time before they do that. Check your lease.

WALLY

I don't have one.

TRINITY  
You never signed a lease?

MACK  
Me neither.

TRINITY  
Wow. That's stupid.

WALLY  
Thanks for judging. That really helps.

TRINITY  
Now is the perfect time to go for truck driving.

WALLY  
Fuck truck driving, Trinity! Have you heard of this thing called the economy? Well, it's down. People aren't moving a lot of shit from place to place because nobody's buying anything and nobody needs to get more stuff to sell. There's guys lining up for driving jobs, experienced guys, guys without two DUIs. I'm fucked.

TRINITY  
God, it will work out.

WALLY  
How? Quit being so stupid.

TRINITY  
I'm stupid? Sign a goddam lease and this don't happen.

WALLY  
Are you fucking kidding me? *(he approaches TRINITY as is to smack her, MACK steps between them, hands WALLY a beer)* Jeez.

MACK  
Sit, man. Drink.

*(a moment while everyone calms down and separates)*

WALLY  
Mac, listen. *(pause)* I know it'd be tight, but I'm hardly home that much and it'd save us both money. And it'd just be for a few months or whatever, til we figure out where to go next, but maybe we split an apartment for a while.

MACK

What?

WALLY

I move up here, or you move down to my place. You know. Roommates.

TRINITY

I'm already—

WALLY

This is between me and Mack. We'd be able to start saving right away, cuz the rent would actually go down for each of us, from what we're paying now, you know?

TRINITY

I'm moving in up here.

WALLY

You're gonna take this whole apartment?

TRINITY

No, with Mack. I'm moving in with Mack this weekend. That's what we were just talking about before.

WALLY

But you can stay with your parents.

TRINITY

I'm coming here. Mack wants me to and I want to—I want to get out of that house. Every time my dad comes home the whole family goes to hell. You know that. I want to be on my own.

WALLY

This is fuckin' great.

MACK

C'mon, man. Please don't be pissed.

WALLY

I'm gonna get evicted from this shitbox and go where?

MACK

You're not getting evicted.

TRINITY

You just have to find another job. A night job. Or find more dogs to walk.

WALLY

That should be a breeze.

TRINITY

I'm gonna go talk to my mom and start packing.

*TRINITY kisses MACK, exits.*

WALLY

Don't you fucking work fast.

MACK

What does that mean?

WALLY

What's it been? Two weeks? She's moving in with you?

MACK

She needed a change.

WALLY

Ten years I put into getting in that. Never came close. You sealed the deal in less than a month. I admire you, man. *(raises his beer)* To Mack.

*On the street, TRINITY exits the building and encounters PIRI and a groggy, but standing HOPPER.*

PIRI

There's a lady we're waiting for!

HOPPER

What?

TRINITY

Me?

PIRI

Stop right there, Pretty Hair Lady!

TRINITY

I need to grab the bus.

PIRI

There's lotsa busses.

TRINITY

I don't have any cans, or whatever, any junk for you.

HOPPER

*(reaching out to finger a chain around TRINITY's neck)* If you ever find yourself in need of quick money, I buy gold.

PIRI

She don't need your pennies.

TRINITY

I wouldn't sell this. My grandmother gave it to me.

HOPPER

I'm just saying, if you every find yourself in need—

PIRI

She's not gonna be in need. *(to TRINITY)* You give me one minute.

TRINITY

I don't want to.

PIRI

You the grand prize winner, Pretty Hair Lady!

HOPPER

What'd she win?

PIRI

You buy a raffle ticket from me? You pay five dollars? I tell you I put it in for you at the last second?

TRINITY

Yeah.

PIRI

You win!

TRINITY

What?

PIRI

They been trying to call you, that number no good.

TRINITY

They shut me off. I didn't pay—

PIRI

Finally they call my son, they know it was one of my grandbaby's tickets that won. My son call me, I know it was you.

TRINITY

I won the raffle?

PIRI

You did.

TRINITY

How much?

PIRI

Grand prize.

TRINITY

How much?

PIRI

Ten thousand.

HOPPER

Holy shit.

TRINITY

Ten thousand dollars? You better not be fucking with me. I won ten thousand dollars?

PIRI

You gotta go pick it up at his school. They won't put it in the mail. They won't give it to my son.

TRINITY

*(screaming)* I won! Mack!!!!

*Lights fade on TRINITY spinning in a circle and screaming.*

**Scene 4.** *MACK's apartment, a few hours later. WALLY and HOPPER together on couch, PIRI is off to the side, and TRINITY is up and about, opening cabinets and looking under things—scouting out her new place. All are drinking beer and eating chips straight from opened bags.*

WALLY

*(crushing his empty can)* Trinity, what's taking him so long?

TRINITY

How should I know?

WALLY

Maybe he stopped to check the stock market on the way home! *(all laugh)* He's doing a big investment and he got delayed! *(all laugh)*

PIRI

You got to be very careful with money. That's your money, lady.

TRINITY

I know.

PIRI

You make the decisions about it.

TRINITY

I get it.

WALLY

*(quietly, to HOPPER)* Talk about luck.

HOPPER

Ten thousand dollars, for what? For buying a ticket? That's nothing.

WALLY

I stuffed his damn pockets. I played it right into his hands. That lucky fucking bastard.

HOPPER

What's that?

WALLY

That Mick is the luckiest bastard I ever knew.

HOPPER

How much a tattoo cost?

WALLY

What? I don't know.

HOPPER

You don't have one?

WALLY

I got about twenty, but they were all free.

HOPPER

Really? (*WALLY nods*) Ha! Then you're the luckiest bastard I ever knew.

*MACK comes through the door with a case of beer. TRINITY meets him.*

WALLY

Ladies and Gentlemen: Bill Gates! (*all laugh*)

TRINITY

Hello! I'm the one who won the money!

WALLY

Right! I'm sure Macky won't see a cent of it!

TRINITY

(*to MACK*) You just got one case?

MACK

Yes.

TRINITY

What if we run out?

MACK

Then people can leave.

TRINITY

Mack!

MACK

They already went through half a case! It's not like we invited them to a party!

TRINITY

Everyone wants to celebrate. Don't be a grouch. (*to the room at large*) Here's beer!

*She moves to fridge area, but HOPPER and PIRI go to her for new drinks. She becomes occupied with opening the case and getting them out.*

WALLY

So, Mack, it looks like Trinity can get her own place now, right? I mean, ten grand should set her up fine. She could probably get something pretty nice and not even hafta worry about it for a while.

MACK

I don't know what she wants to do.

WALLY

You just tell her what you want to do. You want to move in with me, help me out, and she can do her own thing.

MACK

We already, like . . . you know.

WALLY

You think because you fucked her you have to give her shelter? You know how many girls I've fucked that I haven't had move in with me? Every single one! And that's no short list, bro. (*loudly*) Trinity!

MACK

Don't!

WALLY

Trinity! What do you think about getting your own place with your winnings? Instead of moving in with Mack? You know, 10G will set a girl up.

TRINITY

I've thought about that, actually. And really, it's not that much money.

HOPPER

What?

PIRI

You're crazy!

HOPPER

When you didn't win it, it sure seems like a lot.

TRINITY

I'm just saying, if we're talking about being set up for a while, it really wouldn't even pay rent on a nice place for a year.

MACK

I thought you said what you really needed was just money to get started.

TRINITY

Don't you want me here?

MACK

*(unsure if no or yes is the right answer)* No. I mean yes. I want you here. I said you could stay here and I'm not going back on that. If you still want to.

TRINITY

Of course I do.

PIRI

I need some ice. It's very hot in here.

TRINITY

Besides, this will always be the place I bought the winning ticket! Remember, Mack, I was right in this spot. *(She returns to the spot and physically reenacts the purchase of the ticket.)* Wally and I just come from the beach and Piri came in to get your rent money. That was before I even had my tattoo! Then she asked you *(poking WALLY in the chest)* to buy a ticket and you, you said no! You lied and said you didn't have any money! Think about it, if you had said yes, I wouldn't have won! This would've been your ticket. I'm not saying you would've won, necessarily, but I probably wouldn't even have bought a ticket if you had bought one.

WALLY

Wow.

TRINITY

Not to be mean, Piri—

PIRI

Piri.

TRINITY

—but I kind of bought it out of pity. I felt bad that no one was buying one.

HOPPER

One ticket.

TRINITY

But it's just like everything had to go exactly right for me to win. If Wally and I got here later, if we'da missed that first train, we probably wouldn'ta even crossed paths with Piri!

PIRI

Piri.

TRINITY

If it rained that day, and the picnic got canceled? We'd never woulda come here at all! It's just amazing. The whole universe went just right to get this money into my hands. It feels like kind of a big responsibility. It's scary, really.

WALLY

If it's too scary, you can give it to me! *(all laugh)* Seriously, I'm broke. *(all laugh)*

TRINITY

Mack, help me put this beer in the fridge.

*TRINITY and MACK move to fridge and unload beer.*

HOPPER

*(to WALLY)* You need money, dude?

WALLY

*(laughing derisively)* You gonna loan me some?

HOPPER

I got some guys sometimes need some help, that's all.

WALLY

What guys?

HOPPER

They have a business behind my store.

WALLY

I'm not shooting anybody.

HOPPER

Whoa. Who said shooting? For all I know they need a guy to sweep the office. I just know they're down a guy. That's all.

WALLY

Well, I got a job at the pet store.

HOPPER

That pay pretty good? *(WALLY does not answer.)* You know where my shop is? *(WALLY nods.)* You need a gig, you stop by. They can usually find a guy pretty quick when they need one, so don't wait too long.

PIRI

*(finding a can in the trash)* Who threw out this can? Nobody throw out cans! Get me a big bag!

TRINITY

Oh God. Mack, where's the trash bags?

MACK

Under the sink.

*TRINITY proceeds to find a trash bag and hold it out for can collection.  
HOPPER and PIRI collect cans from about the room. MACK approaches  
WALLY.*

Sorry about the apartment, man. I didn't think she'd go for it. *(no answer)* This is wild, huh?

WALLY

Yeah, all the gutter trash, here in your apartment.

MACK

What's that supposed to mean?

WALLY

I was including me.

MACK

Oh.

WALLY

What do you think she should do with the money?

MACK

I was thinking about that on the way to the liquor store and you know what I thought? I thought how cool would it be if she bought ten thousand bucks worth of lottery tickets? I mean, you might actually win! You'd be like, reinvesting it. And you could turn ten thousand into a million. In just one day!

WALLY

Yeah.

MACK

Do you seriously need a loan? I mean, I can't give it to you, but I could talk to her and see if we can help you out.

WALLY

*(insulted, but covering it)* No, man. I'll be fine. *(pause)* I just got a line on a possible gig.

MACK

Where at?

WALLY

Down the street. (*quickly changing tone and subject*) Hey, everybody! Let's have a toast!

TRINITY

I'm not making it.

WALLY

Mack, make a toast. (*perhaps elbowing HOPPER, i.e. "Watch what I'm gonna do here."*)

MACK

No, man.

WALLY

Come on! You're the host! You got the girl, she's got the money, think of something nice to say!

MACK

(*standing and then, awkwardly*) Well, I'm happy for Trinity . . . that she won . . . and that she's moving in here . . . I'm happy about that. I'm glad she likes her tattoo a lot, it turned out pretty good and even though she said it's like a shape-changer or—

TRINITY

Shape shifter.

MACK

Right . . . I hope she never changes, cuz she's pretty cool. And that's it.

WALLY

Cheers!

ALL

Here, here! Cheers! (*PIRI may say, "Egészségére!" a standard Hungarian toast. Pronunciation at [translate.google.com](http://translate.google.com)*)

WALLY

Trinity, I know what you should do with the money!

TRINITY

Can't wait to here this.

WALLY

Take all of it and buy lottery tickets—like, reinvest it.

TRINITY

Oh, you stupid fucking dipshit!

MACK

What?

TRINITY

Yeah! Great plan! I buy ten thousand lottery tickets, don't win, and then I'm done. You're a jackass, Wally.

WALLY

*(patting Mack on the shoulder, is he emphasizing his humiliation or consoling him?)* On that note, good night. *(He moves toward fridge, grabs two beers.)* I'll take one for my baby, and one more for the stairwell.

PIRI

I'm taking mine to go, too. You got a brown bag?

TRINITY

No, I don't think so.

MACK

No.

PIRI

C'mon, Mr. Hopper. Let me bring these cans to the shop.

WALLY

*(moves toward door)* Really, Trinity, what are you gonna do with the money?

TRINITY

Maybe I'll buy a dog and hire you to walk it!

WALLY

Wow.

TRINITY

I'm gonna just give it a few days and see what makes sense.

WALLY

That's smart. That's really smart.

*Lights fade slowly as TRINITY and MACK are left alone in the apartment.*

**Scene 5.** *The counter at HOPPER's junk store (keyword: junk). A glass counter filled with stuff no one would want to buy. Perhaps the merchandise is difficult to see because the glass is cloudy and scratched. WALLY sits on a stool in front of it, inspecting what is inside. Is there anything worth stealing? Might be. He looks around for a key, tries to jimmy the sliding glass open.*

MACK

*(walking in)* Is this your new job? Junk thief?

WALLY

What are you doing here?

MACK

I need to talk to him.

WALLY

About what?

MACK

What are you, the doorman?

WALLY

You never come in here.

MACK

Neither do you.

WALLY

I have an appointment.

MACK

Looks interesting.

WALLY

Not with Hopper.

MACK

With who? *(indicates rear of store)* With those guys? *(WALLY doesn't answer)* Are you in trouble?

WALLY

Hell no! Whaddyou care anyway? You ain't my mother.

MACK

Tell me what you're seeing them for.

WALLY

None of your fucking business.

MACK

Fine. When he shows up, tell him I brought his coat. He left it in the apartment.

WALLY

At your big party? Celebrating your big windfall?

MACK

Trinity's.

WALLY

Trinity's part of it, man. Part of the jackpot. I played this whole thing right into your hands.

MACK

Wait . . . what?

WALLY

Jesus. I give up the girl, because you're my buddy, right? I clear the way, because we're such good friends, and I don't want nothing to come between us. I say, "Take her," which you do, inside of three weeks.

MACK

You didn't have a chance with her. She thinks you're like a little bug.

WALLY

What?!? What the fuck do you know?!? You wouldn'ta had a chance with her, you bastard. I brought her to your apartment. I hand delivered her to you. You're not gonna find a girl like that in the army. You're not gonna find a girl like that inking drunks at midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

MACK

You're right.

WALLY

Damn straight. So now not only am I the third wheel, frozen out completely with her moving in, but I managed to stuff your pockets with cash in the process.

MACK

It's Trinity's money.

WALLY

Right. You won't see a penny of it. She lives with you. She's not gonna buy anything for the place? Any groceries? Any booze?

MACK

I don't know.

WALLY

You do know!! You do fucking know! I'm cleaning out goddam rabbit cages for 10 cents above minimum wage and you're making plans! You're making fucking plans. (*MACK shrugs*) And listen, am I ever gonna get the 8 bucks you owe me? Or do you have to check with Trinity about that?

MACK

What 8 bucks?

WALLY

The night before I brought Trinity to your house, we ordered pizza. I paid.

MACK

And I was gonna pay next time. I thought we were switching off.

WALLY

That's what you thought?

MACK

Yeah. But here. (*begins digging in his pockets*) I think I have a ten.

WALLY

Fuck your ten! I don't need it. Then you'll be after me for the 2 bucks. It's not worth being in debt to you, you Mick fuck.

MACK

Get out of my way.

WALLY

Move me.

*They tussle. WALLY's intensity heightens quickly. WALLY pulls a knife.*

MACK

What the hell are you doing?

WALLY

I'm not your fucking bitch, Mack!

MACK

You're losing your goddam mind!

*HOPPER returns.*

HOPPER

What the hell is this? I leave you to watch the store!

*The fight continues. MACK is clearly stronger than WALLY, but WALLY is enraged and MACK is considerably calmer. Eventually, WALLY makes an attempt at sticking the knife into MACK who sees it coming and moves. The knife is stuck deeply into something on the counter (perhaps a wooden cutting board, a brick of Styrofoam for sticking fake flowers in, whatever). MACK shoves WALLY back.*

MACK

*(now somewhat shaken)* Here's your coat, Hopper. You left it at my place.

*He exits.*

WALLY

*(yelling after him)* Don't you ever fucking talk to me again. Don't you look at me!

HOPPER

*(to WALLY)* You gotta get out of here.

WALLY

Fuck you. I'm waiting for these guys.

HOPPER

You can't wait in here. Go wait in the alley. Ask for Bobby.

WALLY

Fine.

*He pulls his knife out, closes it, pockets it and exits as lights shift to--*

**Scene 6.** *The apartment where TRINITY is hanging a painting on the wall. She has purchased several thrift store items to put up around the apartment, a throw, some sconces, a vase. None of it is disgustingly shabby, but, clearly, none of it is new. The thing she is hanging now, a painting of a crowded street scene or a fair—something with a lot of people, is the last of her purchases to be put in place. MACK enters, straight from the fight.*

MACK

That bastard!

TRINITY

Oh, my God! Who?

MACK

Nobody. Wally. I got in a fight with Wally.

TRINITY

Over what? Me?

MACK

No. He's such a little freak. He's got no reason to pull a knife on me.

TRINITY

He did what?

MACK

I couldn't say anything right. He's going off on me. Blaming me.

TRINITY

*(grabbing his head)* You get hurt?

MACK

No. He's a terrible fighter. That MMA shit ain't gonna work out.

TRINITY

What an asshole. *(jumping up and wrapping her legs around him)* I'm glad you're okay. And you're right. He is a bastard.

MACK

*(walking around the room with her attached to him)* What've you been doing?

TRINITY

Hanging stuff.

MACK

You need help?

TRINITY

Nope, I'm all done.

MACK

*(setting her down, and looking at the painting of the crowd)* That looks nice.

TRINITY

And it was only 5 bucks.

MACK

Really? You get it at Hopper's?

TRINITY

Nope. The other second hand place. On 63<sup>rd</sup>.

MACK

Why didn't you buy something new?

TRINITY

Just cuz you have money doesn't mean you hafta spend it.

MACK

I guess. Five bucks, huh? With all those people in it?

TRINITY

Yeah.

MACK

That's probably only like a quarter for each person!

TRINITY

Do you think it would be cheaper if it was a vase of flowers?

MACK

It ought to be. People are hard to do.

TRINITY

*(pinching his cheeks like a little kid)* You're the cutest thing in the world. *(pause)* Don't worry about Wally. You know he's just jealous, right? He's jealous that we're happy.

MACK

I think it's more about the money, but whatever.

TRINITY

What do you think about mutual funds?

MACK

I don't know what that is.

TRINITY

It's where you invest a little bit in a bunch of different things, like, spreading out your money so nothing's too risky.

MACK

Why would anyone want just a little bit of your money?

TRINITY

I googled it at work. A mutual fund is a “professionally managed collective investment scheme,” so I guess someone like, collects the money from a lot of people.

MACK

Who collects it?

TRINITY

I don’t know. The guy who’s professionally managing it, I guess.

MACK

When do you get it back?

TRINITY

Whenever you want, I guess.

MACK

I doubt it.

TRINITY

It’s my money.

MACK

Then why hand it over to a stranger?

TRINITY

Because I don’t know anybody that knows about investing. How do I know what the hell to do with it? I’m trying to put this money somewhere smart, Mack. I’m not smart about money.

MACK

Can’t you just put it in the bank and use it when you need it?

TRINITY

I’m trying to turn it into more money.

MACK

You’re not satisfied with ten grand?

TRINITY

I am.

MACK

Then just decide what you want to do with it and do it. Why do you need more?

TRINITY

What's so bad about wanting?

MACK

Nothing. But you already got something. Just be happy with what you have.

TRINITY

I am. I'm really glad I won. I don't wanna feel like before. I play it smart, I can make this money last. For years, maybe.

MACK

What if you don't have years?

TRINITY

Why wouldn't I?

MACK

People die every day. You wanna die with all that money just sitting in a bunch of different people's companies or whatever? Making you a few dollars every day?

TRINITY

I'm not dying tomorrow!

MACK

Who says?

TRINITY

I do. I'm not the one who has people pulling knives on me left and right.

MACK

I just thought you'd wanna do something with it. Take a trip, open a shop, have something to show for it.

TRINITY

I do have something to show for it. I have the money.

MACK

Fine.

TRINITY

Having it, it's crazy, it makes me feel nervous and safe at the same time. Like, it's so nice to have it, but it's so hard to know what to do about it and I'm pretty sure I'm gonna mess it up. It makes me not wanna do anything.

MACK

So just put it in a plastic bag and put it in a drawer.

TRINITY

Quit it.

MACK

What? That's fine. It's your money. Do whatever.

TRINITY

*(like talking to a toddler, pulling his ears and rocking his head)* Don't be mad at me! Smile right now!

MACK

I'm not mad.

TRINITY

I know what will make you not be mad at me anymore! *(She retrieves a rolled up vinyl banner from a bag in the corner of the room.)* A present!

MACK

Seriously?

TRINITY

Like me again!

MACK

I like you.

TRINITY

Open it. Or unroll it. And then you'll *really* like me.

*MACK does. It is a professionally made banner reading "Mack's Ink Shop" and bearing a picture of Trinity's raven tattoo as its logo.*

MACK

Holy smokes. Trinity.

TRINITY

Do you like me again?

MACK

This is amazing.

TRINITY

Say you like me again.

MACK

You spent some of your money? On this? *(she nods)* For me? *(she nods)* Was it a lot?

TRINITY

Don't ask how much a gift costs. You like me?

MACK

You're my girl. And this is the greatest present.

*He wraps her in his arms and squeezes her impossibly tight. She is buried in him. After a moment, she starts to cry.*

What's up? Stop? Am I hurting you? What?

*He pushes away from her, but she clings to him.*

TRINITY

Stay.

MACK

Okay.

*He holds her gingerly for a bit. He really doesn't know what to do with a woman crying.*

You're freaking me out. Can you stop? What's wrong with you?

TRINITY

Oh, that's real nice.

MACK

I mean it. I'm trying to ask. Tell me what's wrong.

TRINITY

I went to my parents' today, to pick up some more stuff . . .

MACK

Yeah?

TRINITY

I don't wanna tell you because if I do you're gonna feel, like, pressured. And you'll say you're not mad at me but I think you really will be.

MACK

Jesus. Just tell me.

TRINITY

My parents left.

MACK

You guys fight?

TRINITY

No, like, before I got there. They left. With Augie.

They left . . . town?

MACK

Yeah.

TRINITY

You didn't know they were going? Your mom didn't tell you?

MACK

No.

TRINITY

You call her?

MACK

*TRINITY cries.*

What?

TRINITY

Yeah. She answered and said she was sorry but my dad wouldn't let her talk to me.

MACK

Where are they?

TRINITY

She said they're going to Louisville.

MACK

Why the fuck would they go there?

TRINITY

She said my dad's route is changing and he's gonna be based outta there.

MACK

That makes sense.

TRINITY

What?

MACK

I mean it's crazy.

TRINITY

That's what I said and she said, "You make your bed you lie in it."

MACK

And they took your stuff?

*TRINITY shakes her head no.*  
 They left it?  
*TRINITY points to the corner where there is a big garbage bag filled to bursting with clothing, toiletries, etc.*  
 No.  
*TRINITY nods.*  
 They put it out?

TRINITY

In the alley.

MACK

Bastards. Everyone we know is a fucking bastard, Trinity. *(pause)* You're gonna stay here. That was the plan anyway, right? *(TRINITY nods)* So fuck them. Business as usual. It's me and it's you and we're happy and if people don't get that or they're jealous or whatever, they can fuck off.

TRINITY

Okay.

MACK

We got a roof, we got jobs, we don't need a thing.

TRINITY

Right.

MACK

Even if we did, we got the money to buy it, right? Rainy day fund?

TRINITY

It's pretty rainy.

MACK

Nah. This ain't nothin'.

*Scene 7. A week or so later. The apartment. It is storming outside and TRINITY is sitting in the window, painting her nails, getting wet. Her hair has lost something of its beauty. She has not recovered from being abandoned. Through the unlocked door, WALLY walks in silently. TRINITY does not see him. He steps gingerly around the room, until he reaches the point where he's going to scare her if he announces himself.*

WALLY

*(quietly)* Trinity?

TRINITY

*(jumping)* Oh! Jesus Christ, Wally. You just walk in?

WALLY

I knocked. You must not have heard it.

TRINITY

I was zoning out, I guess. *(a brief pause)* And you shouldn't come here anyway. You pulled a knife on Mack?

WALLY

That was so stupid, Trinity. It was nothing. I'm surprised he even told you about it.

TRINITY

You freaked him out.

WALLY

What? A big guy like him? Girl, he was playing you. It was nothing. I was kidding around. I'm sure he knew I was kidding around.

TRINITY

He was really pissed.

WALLY

Yeah . . . well . . . he likes to get mad, I think.

TRINITY

You should leave before he gets back.

WALLY

Okay. I will. But I gotta tell you something. Guess who I just heard's pregnant?

TRINITY

I don't know.

WALLY

Well, at least take one guess.

TRINITY

Are you the dad?

WALLY

Fuck no! Are you ready? Piri! Crazy Piri!

TRINITY

What?

WALLY

Yeah! With the gold dishes and the junk collecting. *(pause)* Shit. Her and the junk man are gonna have a little junk baby.

TRINITY

He's the father? Hopper?

WALLY

That what she says. The junk lady and the junkie.

TRINITY

That's gross.

WALLY

Why? Poor, stinky people need love too. But that baby is fucked.

TRINITY

Seriously. And she's like 60.

WALLY

I don't think so. If you really look at her, behind that hair, I don't think she's that old.

TRINITY

It's still gross.

WALLY

Totally. *(pause)* Hey, I talked to your dad the other day.

TRINITY

Let me guess? He didn't say to tell me hi.

WALLY

C'mere.

*He opens his arms but she doesn't move.*

Seriously, get over here.

*She steps to him and he wraps her in his arms.*

Don't hate your family. They weren't real nice, and your dad especially pulled kind of a dick move, but he's been like that before. You've seen it. It takes him a week or so and then he sees what an asshole he was and says sorry. Tell me you don't know that.

TRINITY

I do. I do. But this isn't like he just hit me, or hid my keys or something. They left.

WALLY

I know, but that's okay. You got me. You got the girls at the shop.

TRINITY

And Mack.

WALLY

Yeah, I guess. Just my opinion, but I still say it was kind of a quick jump you made into this place, Trinity. I wanted to talk to you about it, but there really wasn't any time. You like, met him, and the next day you're living here.

TRINITY

That's not true.

WALLY

It was pretty quick.

TRINITY

It just happened. And I was happy.

WALLY

Are you still?

TRINITY

I guess.

WALLY

You in love with him?

TRINITY

I could be.

WALLY

Really? Really? I never saw that coming. I didn't see him as your type.

TRINITY

What does that mean? I have a type? What is it?

WALLY

I don't know. I know what it ain't—blockheads.

TRINITY

So Mack's a blockhead?

WALLY

Kinda. I'm not trying to be mean, but he's not really smart, you know? Like, he found what he's good at and he's fine just doing that forever.

TRINITY

You work in a fucking pet shop.

WALLY

But I'm training, Trinity. Six months from now, I'm gonna fight. A year from now, I'm gonna be pay-per-view! You won't even believe it. The fucking Allstate Arena, magazine covers, all kinds of crazy shit!

TRINITY

And in the meantime?

WALLY

Well, I got the pet shop, but I got some other shit going. Hopper hooked me up with some guys.

TRINITY

Didn't you just say he's always high?

WALLY

Not always, but it doesn't even matter. He was just the . . . link . . . he just did the introduction, you know? Now I'm making good money again, working for them, these other guys, occasionally.

TRINITY

Doing what?

WALLY

Whatever! Running errands! It doesn't even matter, Trinity, because it's temporary. That's the key word. Temporary. I'm moving on, moving forward, moving up! Mack's stuck here. I'm worried that you're gonna get stuck with him.

TRINITY

Mack is happy. He's an artist. You know—you're wearing it.

WALLY

Don't fucking remind me.

TRINITY

It's okay. I'm okay.

*MACK abruptly enters.*

MACK

What the hell are you doing here?

WALLY  
Dude, I came over to talk—

MACK  
Trinity doesn't want to talk to you!

WALLY  
She was okay with it before you got here.

MACK  
You leave your knife at home today?

WALLY  
Dude! Seriously! I wanna talk to you. I'm sorry about that whole thing. It got outta hand. I was trying to goof around with you.

MACK  
No, you weren't.

WALLY  
I was, man. I was kinda geeked out on this muscle builder shit I'm taking and I'm afraid you thought I was serious.

MACK  
You were.

TRINITY  
Mack, listen to him.

MACK  
Why?

TRINITY  
Maybe it wasn't like you thought.

MACK  
Are you kidding me? Ask Hopper about it. He kicked this asshole out of his store.

TRINITY  
Hopper won't even remember it.

WALLY  
Yeah, seriously.

Can you guys just make up? TRINITY

Why? MACK

Just be friends again. For me? TRINITY  
*MACK stares at her in disbelief. WALLY puts his hand out.*

How about it, buddy? WALLY

(*less than half-heartedly*) Fine. MACK  
*They shake hands insincerely.*

(*clapping*) Yay! TRINITY

You guys wanna get some food? WALLY

I just ate. MACK

I can tell. You have something on your face. TRINITY  
*She approaches him and wipes her fingers on his cheek.*

Salsa? MACK

Pasta. TRINITY  
(*grabbing his cheeks and baby talking*) You're a sloppy eater.

(*brushing her off*) Quit. MACK

Sorry. TRINITY

So, Trinity, you wanna eat? WALLY

TRINITY

Your treat, Moneybags?

WALLY

Hell no! You're the fucking millionaire!

TRINITY

Hah! I'm not even thinking about that money. I already spent a little and it felt awful.

WALLY

On what?

TRINITY

*(pointing to sign)* That.

MACK

I didn't ask for it.

TRINITY

I'm not saying you did. I just liked having the ten thousand all together. I'm saving now to get it back up to that.

MACK

You can return the sign.

WALLY

Not if it's custom.

TRINITY

You guys, stop! I wanted to do something big for you, Mack. You've been really good to me and I wanted to make you happy. *(pause)* But I'm not gonna spend any more of the money. I just like saving it, having it.

WALLY

For what?

TRINITY

In case I need it.

WALLY

Like for food?

TRINITY

Like for an emergency.

WALLY  
A ten thousand dollar emergency?

MACK  
Lay off her.

WALLY  
I'm just saying.

MACK  
She decided not to spend it and that's it.

WALLY  
Fine. Trinity, not too long ago, I was fucking broke. You know this. I will buy my food and you buy yours.

TRINITY  
Okay. Mack, I hate to ask, but do you have money? I'm working tomorrow. I'll have cash from tips.

MACK  
In the cabinet.

*TRINITY goes into the box in the cabinet and withdraws a few bills.*

TRINITY  
We won't be long. You gonna be all right?

MACK  
I'm gonna clean out the binders.

WALLY  
Have fun!

MACK  
Yeah.

*TRINITY kisses MACK as WALLY exits.*

TRINITY  
Love me big, Mac?

MACK  
Yeah.

TRINITY  
Big?

Big. MACK

(from hall) C'mon! WALLY

All right! TRINITY

*TRINITY exits as MACK pulls out his harmonica and plays a familiar riff over and over. He stops and reaches for a binder of drawings and begins to flip through it.*

**Scene 8.** *Two hours later. MACK has fallen sound asleep on the couch with the binder open across his stomach. He may have a blanket partly over his face. WALLY and TRINITY return, a little drunk. They are carrying a cheap bottle of wine, unopened.*

WALLY  
(as they enter) A thousand bucks says he's asleep!

TRINITY  
You don't have a thousand bucks!

WALLY  
(seeing MACK) I win!

TRINITY  
I never bet! (they laugh, TRINITY holds up wine) We might be in trouble. I don't know if he has a corkscrew.

WALLY  
It's twist off! (opens wine)

TRINITY  
High class!

WALLY  
Only the best for the girl who has everything.

TRINITY  
Hey, Wally? That was actually pretty fun.

WALLY

Why are you surprised?

TRINITY

It's just been tense lately. You not around, the thing with my family, Mack's pissed off all the time.

WALLY

About what?

TRINITY

Everything. He wanted a new gun and he found a used one on ebay, then someone outbid him with like less than five seconds left. He freaked out. I had to leave.

WALLY

Mack's buying a gun?

TRINITY

A tattoo gun, you idiot!

WALLY

Oh. Can't he just buy one? Why's he trying to get it cheap?

TRINITY

He asked me for the money, but . . . you know . . . he got along fine without my money before. I just feel like, we can't just spend on everything we want. It'll be gone too quick. Before? If he wanted a new gun? He woulda figured out how to get it, to save for it or whatever. I'm not gonna be able to deal with him asking me for stuff all the time.

WALLY

He doesn't deserve you.

TRINITY

Shut your eyes.

WALLY

What? Why?

TRINITY

Just do it.

WALLY

You gonna do something to me?

TRINITY

Yeah, stupid. I'm gonna punch you in the fucking face. Seriously, do it.

WALLY

Okay, okay.

*WALLY closes his eyes and stays very still.*

TRINITY

Do not peek.

*TRINITY moves to various spots around the room, opening and closing drawers, cabinet doors, making noises to confuse WALLY. At one of the spots, not the last one, she removes a key.*

You can look now.

WALLY

What?

TRINITY

I had to get my key.

WALLY

Key to what?

TRINITY

The box.

*TRINITY pulls a secure-looking metal lockbox out from under the bed.*

WALLY

What the hell is that?

TRINITY

It's where I keep stuff.

*TRINITY opens it. Inside the box is all of her money. There should appear to be about 1000 bills, not stacked neatly. Clearly, they have been handled and leafed through.*

WALLY

What the hell is that?

TRINITY

My money.

WALLY

All of it?

TRINITY

So what?

WALLY  
Put it in the goddam bank, Trinity!

TRINITY  
It's fine here. I feel better with it near me.

WALLY  
That's kinda sick.

TRINITY  
Shut up.

WALLY  
I'm sayin' . . .

TRINITY  
Well don't.

*TRINITY takes a few bills from her pocket and several coins and drops them in the box.*

WALLY  
What's that?

TRINITY  
My change from lunch.

WALLY  
Wasn't that Mack's money?

TRINITY  
He don't know how much I spent. And I said I'd pay him back when I got my check anyway.

WALLY  
Yeah you will.

TRINITY  
So what? He's not starving. Look at him.  
*They both look at MACK, asleep on the couch. WALLY slips his hand toward the pile of cash. Without ever turning her eyes from MACK, TRINITY slams the lid of the box on WALLY's fingers.*

WALLY  
(yelling) Shit! What the fuck?

MACK

*(waking up, immediately alert)* What's going on?

*TRINITY has already shoved the box back into hiding.*

WALLY

My fingers!

TRINITY

What happened?

WALLY

*(in disbelief)* I . . . hit them . . . on the weight bench.

MACK

You should be careful.

WALLY

I have grappling class tonight!

TRINITY

That's too bad. I guess we'll see you later.

MACK

Yeah. Bye.

**Scene 9.** *The sidewalk outside the apartment building. A Sunday late afternoon. TRINITY and MACK sit either on lawn furniture on the sidewalk, drinking beers. He has just come from a softball league game and is dirty. TRINITY is markedly less put together than we have seen her thus far. He plays one of his harmonica songs, thoughtful.*

MACK

I just wish there was a rule about it. You shouldn't be able to pitch around a guy every time he comes to the plate.

TRINITY

But doesn't it make you feel good that they're scared of you?

MACK

Scared of me standing there? You join a league to play softball, not to stand there.

*WALLY enters slowly.*

TRINITY

*(rubbing MACK's head, baby talking)* You're too good for those guys! They're a buncha— *(spotting WALLY)* Hey, Wally! What's up?

WALLY

Hey, Trin. Mack.

*MACK nods, grunts, picks his nails.*

TRINITY

So what's going on?

WALLY

Nothing. You guys seen Hopper?

TRINITY

Not since yesterday morning.

WALLY

Isn't he staying with Piri now?

MACK

Yeah, but we're not the doorman.

WALLY

I thought you were. You think he's in there?

MACK

What the hell did I just say?

TRINITY

I don't know.

WALLY

You guys pissed at me about something?

TRINITY

No.

WALLY

Well, what's up, then?

MACK

Whaddya need Hopper for?

WALLY

He owes some people some money, that's all.

MACK

Jesus.

WALLY

What?

MACK

That's what you're doing? Muscling for Antonio?

TRINITY

What?

WALLY

I run errands, Trinity.

MACK

They hired *you* for muscle?

WALLY

That's funny to you?

MACK

Hell yeah, it is.

WALLY

I thought we made up. I thought we were friends again.

TRINITY

You are.

MACK

I can't give my buddy a little shit?

WALLY

Alls I know is, I'm getting paid to do this, so I must be doing a pretty good job.

*PIRI enters. It is now somewhat obvious that she is pregnant.*

PIRI

You having a meeting out here?

TRINITY

How you feeling, Piri?

PIRI

Piri. Thank you for asking. I'm okay. I went down to County, to get my vitamins. I forgot some paper, some card, they won't give me nothing. Now I gotta find the thing, get back on the bus and go all the way back.

WALLY

Your baby daddy in there, Piri?

TRINITY

Shut up, Wally.

PIRI

Piri. Yeah, he's sleeping. You need him?

WALLY

Can you get him for me?

PIRI

You just gotta yell. *(she yells, and if there is a window available, pounds on it)* Hey! Hey! Hopper, come out here now! Somebody need to see you!

TRINITY

How many weeks are you?

PIRI

Thirty weeks last Tuesday. Ten to go, and this baby coming out. Hopefully sooner. I had my son two weeks late. Hope my body changed in thirty-four years.

WALLY

You wanna call him again for me?

PIRI

Yeah. *(bangs on window, yells)* Hey, Junk Man! Get up and get outside! I'll tell you all about the gold dishes! *(to TRINITY)* The doctor at County says it's a miracle baby! He says he never had a pregnant lady over 50 before. He said he heard of it, but he never seen it.

TRINITY

It's pretty amazing.

PIRI

Maybe I get on tv when the baby comes. You know, local, or something? Like WGN? And maybe, if I do my hair good before I go to the hospital, and you do my nails? I think somebody might see me and give me a reality show. I think I'm already a grandma and now I'm a new mommy again.

WALLY

Oh, yeah, I'd watch that for sure.

MACK

*(laughing)* Seriously.

TRINITY

You guys are assholes.

*HOPPER emerges from the front door of the building, rubbing his eyes. He should look like he hasn't been outside in days.*

HOPPER

Somebody calling me?

PIRI

I was—

WALLY

*(completely interrupting)* I needed to see you.

HOPPER

What for?

WALLY

You owe some money to some friends of mine.

HOPPER

Oh, that? I worked that out with those guys.

PIRI

That's fine, then, let's go inside and I'll tell you about the dishes.

WALLY

Actually, it's not fine. I speak for "those guys" and you didn't work nothing out.  
*(moving in on HOPPER)* You owe them money and they want it today.

HOPPER

*(backing up)* Today? Oh, man. I haven't been down to the store today. I haven't been feeling good. I was sleeping just now, cuz of that.

WALLY

*(grabbing HOPPER'S arm)* You got the money down at the store? Let's go. I'll walk there with you.

HOPPER

*(struggling a bit to get his arm free)* No, man, that's the thing. I ain't opened the store in a few days, cuz I been feeling so bad. I only have a few bucks down there.

WALLY

You owe more than a few bucks.

HOPPER

I know it, buddy.

WALLY

*(wrangling HOPPER into a submissive position)* I'm not your fucking buddy.

MACK

Lay off him, Wally.

WALLY

I'm doing my job, dude. You're gonna defend this bastard?

PIRI

Stop that talk.

WALLY

Yeah, he's the love of your goddam life, I'm sure. *(to HOPPER, while slapping him rhythmically on the face or head)* Get me the fucking money today! Get me the fucking money today!

MACK

Jesus, stop it!

TRINITY

Wally, c'mon.

PIRI

*(to TRINITY)* You got the money! Let me borrow the money and I pay you back, I swear!

WALLY

Oh, shit, Trinity. You can't go around and rescue every junkie in the neighborhood. You'll be broke in a month.

MACK

Let him go, Wally. Trin, just say you'll do it. These guys won't mess around.

TRINITY

*(to PIRI)* I can't.

MACK

Trinity, seriously?!?

TRINITY

Shut up, Mack! It's not your money!

PIRI

Jesus, help us!

WALLY

*(really causing HOPPER physical pain now)* You seen me with my knife before? You seen me go all crazy? You think I won't do that to you? You think I won't do that to your old lady and the baby?

PIRI

*(stepping in)* You don't say one word about this baby!

*WALLY maintains control of HOPPER, but pushes PIRI away. PIRI falls awkwardly and does not immediately get up.*

TRINITY

You fucking asshole! *(runs to help PIRI up and comforts her)*

MACK

Are you kidding me, dude? You throw a pregnant lady down? You headlock a 90 pound junkie? You wanna fucking fight? Let's go.

WALLY

*(this is what he has waited for)* Sweet.

*WALLY releases HOPPER who crumbles to the ground and crawls to the side. The center action is now WALLY and MACK, circling each other, each deciding how to proceed.*

TRINITY

Mack, knock it off!

MACK

Me? Tell your buddy here to—

TRINITY

Shut up! You guys, quit it. Let it go.

*They pay her no regard. HOPPER sits on the ground with his head in his hands. TRINITY moves PIRI to the ground next to him.*

PIRI

You shoulda seen those plates. So gold. So shiny. And almost like a swirl to the center.

*HOPPER buries his head in PIRI. WALLY lunges for MACK and they tussle. They roll about on the ground. WALLY knows some tricks, but MACK has brute force on his side.*

TRINITY

You guys, this is stupid.

MACK

Shut up, Trin. Stay out of it.

*MACK overpowers WALLY. WALLY squirms and wriggles. They are extremely close together. Suddenly, MACK jumps up.*

Are you fucking kidding me? You bit me? You asshole!

WALLY

It's a street fight, motherfucker. You think there's rules in a street fight?

MACK

*(blood dripping from the bite)* What are you, fucking Mike Tyson? You fucking animal! You see this, Trinity?

WALLY

You need your girl to help you? Get you a Band-aid? You done?

MACK

Hell no, I'm not done!

*MACK charges WALLY and they go at it again. MACK, powered by rage, soon gets WALLY contorted into a difficult position.*

TRINITY

That's enough!

MACK

You give?

WALLY

Fuck you, you fucking caveman!

MACK

How about now?

*MACK maneuvers WALLY around slightly and then, with forethought, deliberately breaks his arm. There is a disgusting cracking noise. WALLY collapses. MACK stands.*

TRINITY

Mack! What the hell did you do?

MACK

You give?

WALLY

*(with difficulty) You broke my fucking arm! You bastard! (he begins gagging and retching in the street, using the good arm to cradle the broken one)*

MACK

You said there weren't any rules.

TRINITY

Mack!

MACK

Trinity, shut the hell up! He fucking bit—

TRINITY

No! Help me!

*PIRI has passed out against HOPPER, but the crotch and legs of her pants are filled with blood.*

MACK

Shit! What do we do?

TRINITY

Get her inside and I'll call the ambulance!

*MACK picks PIRI up easily and moves into the building. HOPPER is passed out and slides down to a laying position on the sidewalk once the support of PIRI is moved from him.*

WALLY

Call one for me too, Trinity!

TRINITY

Oh, fuck you! Get one of your dago friends to drive you.

*Lights fade on HOPPER laying in the street and WALLY cradling his arm, trying not to vomit.*

*Scene 10. The apartment. TRINITY is in clothes that may as well be pajamas. Her hair is not done, it's just out of the way. She is on the phone with her mother. She has all of her money out on the table and is organizing it, the way a little girl might organize her hair bows. There is joy in her handling of it. She is giving more of her attention to the money than to the conversation. In the background there seems to be noise like construction.*

TRINITY

I don't wanna sound mean, Mom, but that's kind of what you get for the way you acted. *(pause)* Did you expect any different? No, no, listen. I was hurt at first. But I'm okay now. You left me and I'm past that, and I'm living my life. *(long pause)* That's why you called? *(pause, she somehow gets closer to, or more deeply engaged with, the money)* I can't, Mom. I can't. Why? Because life is expensive. You don't abandon someone and then beg them for money. *(pause, she begins putting money back in the box)* Yes, you did. *(pause)* Sixty bucks? And then what happens next time? *(pause. PIRI knocks lightly and enters. She is no longer pregnant. Her eye is swollen and her lip might be bleeding)* I have to go. *(gesture to PIRI to sit down)* Jesus, Mom, stop. I'll try to do thirty. I'll see if I can do thirty. Bye. Goodbye! *(she hangs up)* Holy shit! What happened to you?

PIRI

He's losing his mind over there!

TRINITY

Hopper? *(PIRI nods)* Is he upset about the baby?

PIRI

I don't think so. He don't talk about the baby.

TRINITY

How about you? You gettin' over it?

PIRI

I guess. I'm not lucky. I never been a lucky woman. I thought this one time something magical gonna happen to me and it don't happen. I'm sad.

TRINITY

Want some ice?

PIRI

Just a wet rag if you got one.

*TRINITY gets a wet kitchen towel for PIRI who holds it alternately to her eye and lip. The construction noises intensify and subside.*

TRINITY

God, that building noise is annoying. How long that gonna last?

PIRI

That's Hopper.

TRINITY

What the hell is he doing?

PIRI

*(beginning to cry)* He's tearing the place up!

TRINITY

What for?

PIRI

Looking for something! Says I'm hiding something from him. That's why he's hitting me. "Tell me where it is! Tell me where it is!"

TRINITY

What's he want?

PIRI

Some crazy bunch of dishes! Dishes made of gold he thinks I'm hiding from him.

TRINITY

Oh. But that's just a story, right?

PIRI

What is?

TRINITY

That thing about the gold dishes.

PIRI

What about gold dishes? I don't know what the hell he's talking about with plates made of gold.

TRINITY

That story you told him before. I heard you tell it.

PIRI

You people are losing your minds. I never seen a gold plate in my life. I'm lucky I get better than paper plate. He's in there now, trying to pry up the floor, the carpet, the wood, saying that's where I put it. I tell him he's crazy, he does this to me, I run.

HOPPER

*(entering in a rage)* Where the fuck did you put them?!?

PIRI

I never seen a gold dish in my life.

HOPPER

*(grabbing her)* Of course you did. You ain't smart enough to make that up, all them beautiful words, all that gold. You gotta tell me where it is now.

TRINITY

Just tell him the story again.

PIRI

I don't know that story.

WALLY

*(entering, arm in cast and sling, carrying plastic grocery bag with beer in it)* Trinity? Holy shit! What's going on?

HOPPER

*(backing off PIRI, because he's scared of WALLY)* Listen to me, you bitch. Trust me when I tell you that I will find it. And you can count on it. I will hunt for it, and hunt for it and hunt for it, and if that means hunting you down and making you tell me the truth, then you better watch out for yourself.

WALLY

Listen, you fucking junkie douche bag. Get the hell out of this apartment before I crack this cast over your goddam head. Don't think anybody's forgot about that money. If it ain't me, it'll be a friend of mine.

*HOPPER exits.*

PIRI

He's lost his mind. He's gonna snap out of it. He needs his medicine.

WALLY

He needs to get his shit in order.

TRINITY

Why don't you go stay with your son a while?

PIRI

That's good thinking. I call him tonight. Thank you for the rag.

*PIRI attempts to hand TRINITY the wet and bloody rag.*

TRINITY

Keep it.

*PIRI exits.*

WALLY

*(offering TRINITY a beer from the bag, it is a higher end import)* Beer?

TRINITY

Yeah. *(noticing label)* Oooh! Look at you! Fancy beer!

WALLY

It's funny. I used to be able to drink anything. These guys I'm with now, they only like the good stuff. I got used to it, and I can't go back! Give a guy a little bit of money, and this is what happens. Not that I need to tell you that.

TRINITY

I don't spend my money.

WALLY

No shit. This place looks like—

TRINITY

It's fine. *(she commences straightening up and lights a candle or two)*

WALLY

So what the fuck got into Hops?

TRINITY

Who knows? He's tearing up the apartment. Looking for those gold dishes.

WALLY

Seriously? What a fucking idiot!

TRINITY

She won't talk about them. She can't remember it.

WALLY

Oh Christ, we heard her tell that story two hundred times!

TRINITY

I know. Ever since she lost the baby, she's been weird. *(a look from WALLY)* Weirder than normal. *(another look)* Okay! Weirder than she used to be, which was already weird, I know!

*They are both laughing now.*

WALLY

I'm starting to think this whole city is losing its mind.

TRINITY

I know what you mean.

WALLY

You okay?

TRINITY

Yeah.

WALLY

Good. I like to know you're okay. I gotta go away for a while.

TRINITY

Away where?

WALLY

Well, these guys I'm working for, I'm not so much good to them with my arm jacked up.

TRINITY

I'm sorry about that.

WALLY

Please. You didn't do it. And you couldn'ta stopped him doing it either.

TRINITY

I know, but . . .

WALLY

No buts! I don't hold you responsible, so don't even think about it.

*MACK enters.*

MACK

Hey.

*He crosses to his work area and begins to set things up.*

I have an appointment coming in.

WALLY

I just stopped by to say goodbye. Beer?

MACK

*(taking the offered can without comment)* You going somewhere?

WALLY

I was just telling Trinity, my broken arm kind of puts me out of commission for the stuff I was doing around here.

MACK

Beating up addicts?

WALLY

Collecting outstanding debt.

MACK

Right.

WALLY

But these guys seem to like the way I operate or whatever, so they're sending me out of town to do some negotiating for them.

TRINITY

What about the pet shop?

WALLY

I quit. About a week ago. I don't need that shit anymore.

TRINITY

So, is this, like, a promotion?

WALLY

I guess it kind of is. I'm taking a little trip. I'm gonna meet with some guys, some trucking guys, actually. Tri, I might actually end up talking to your dad.

TRINITY

Tell him I said fuck you.

WALLY

I might see him and hopefully I can get these guys to see things the way my bosses see them and maybe come to some kind of agreement.

TRINITY

Well, good luck! (*she hugs him*) How long you gonna be away?

WALLY

Depends on how long it takes. And if it goes good, they might have me go somewhere else.

TRINITY

Wow. Awesome.

WALLY

And listen, Mack? (*MACK turns*) I hope while I'm away . . . this sounds so fucking gay, I know . . . but, like, I hope when I get back or whatever, we can be friends like we used to be, before everything got screwed up and everything.

MACK

Hmph.

WALLY

Because I do think you're good for Trinity. And you know I appreciate your talent and I admire you and all that. Shit, I'm such a fucking homo.

TRINITY

No, you're not! I think this is so nice. (*sincerely*) Can you guys please hug?

WALLY

No fucking way!

*MACK laughs.*

Seriously, bro, I hope we can get it back to normal someday.

*MACK returns to setting up his stuff.*

TRINITY

I'm gonna cry! God, Wally, I'm gonna miss you!

WALLY

You too, sweet thing! (*he wraps her in his arms*) I'll always love you, you know that?

TRINITY

I know!

WALLY

(*releasing her*) You're the best. Thanks for everything, you guys. Even the arm, Mac. I guess it kind of worked out for me.

MACK

Yeah.

TRINITY

Travel safe. Are you flying?

WALLY

Train.

TRINITY

Good luck. I know you'll do great!

*TRINITY sees WALLY out the door.*

MACK

*(once WALLY is gone, and not loudly)* Good riddance.

TRINITY

Don't say that.

MACK

It's true. Who does he think he is? Fancy beer! Showing off like he's going on a business trip?!?

TRINITY

Stop it! Be nice. You just made up with him.

MACK

Are you that goddam stupid? That was just to get him to leave.

TRINITY

You know, all I'm gonna have now is you. My family is gone. Wally is going.

MACK

*(grabbing her arm)* That bastard tried to fucking stab me, Trinity. He bit me.

TRINITY

Jesus, Mac! He's like my brother.

MACK

He's a stupid, whiny little thug. I'm glad I broke his fucking arm.

TRINITY

You smell like whiskey.

MACK

So what? So fucking what? You smell. Take a fucking shower. Wash your fucking hair! No wonder your only friend is a crazy bitch!

TRINITY

At least my friends aren't a bunch of alcoholic assholes!

MACK

I stop at McNally's on my way home and somebody buys me a drink! I'm sorry I got friends now, Trinity. I'm sorry I'm not a fucking hermit anymore. Somebody buys me a drink and I return the favor. That's what friends do and there's nothing wrong with that!

Just because you won't part yourself from 25 cents doesn't mean the rest of the world can't spend something every now and then.

TRINITY

The way you'd have it, all my money would be gone by now and on what? On shit! On drinks and pizza and whatever other crap you think will make you happy! You're like an animal! You think ten minutes ahead! I'm trying to think of the rest of my life!

MACK

What life, Trinity?!? (*tightening his hold on her*) You're a greedy little miser stuck up here in this apartment because you won't just open your hand and risk a little.

TRINITY

You gonna break my arm now?

MACK

What? (*recognizing that he's still holding her*) No. Of course not. (*letting go, then after a breath*) God, Trinity, I'm sorry.

TRINITY

(*rubbing her arm*) Someday you'll be glad we have that money.

MACK

Maybe. I guess.

TRINITY

But it won't be any good if we don't have any friends.

MACK

I'm not gonna buddy up with Wally.

TRINITY

He was being really nice.

MACK

He fucking bit me, Trinity.

TRINITY

And you broke his arm. Isn't it, like, even? He'll be gone for a while and you can make it a fresh start when he comes back. (*pause*) Will you think about it? (*no answer*) My arm hurts.

MACK

I'm sorry. I'm really sorry.

TRINITY

I know. (*pause*) Is this a big tattoo coming in?

MACK

It's that cop with the sleeve. I should finish it today.

TRINITY

Awesome. He gonna pay you?

MACK

The second half.

TRINITY

How much is that?

MACK

Um, a couple hundred, two fifty maybe.

TRINITY

Could you do me a huge favor?

MACK

What?

TRINITY

My mom called earlier. Asked me to send her some money.

MACK

So why don't you?

TRINITY

Look, Mack, I know you think it's stupid, but I'm so close to having all my prize money back in order. And once that happens, I'll be better. I know, I'm being a psycho about it. I'll be able to pay you back, in like, a month.

MACK

How much does she need?

TRINITY

She said \$60.

MACK

Take it out of the cabinet.

TRINITY

Really, Mack? *(he nods)* You're the best! *(She jumps on his back.)* Carry me over there.

*He does. He opens the cabinet.*

MACK

Take out the shoebox. *(she does)* Is there enough in there?

TRINITY

*(climbing off his back)* Yep!

MACK

Good. *(walking into the bathroom)* If my appointment shows up, let him in, will ya?

TRINITY

Sure. *(removing three bills and a blank envelope from the box)* Thanks, Mack.

MACK

I know where you live.

*MACK closes the bathroom door and TRINITY is alone. As soon as she knows he can't see her, she rips out her money box, gets her key, opens it and puts one of the bills inside. She folds the other two, as if to ready them to send to her mother, has an intense moment of thought, puts another bill in the box and puts the box away. She scribbles a note on a piece of paper, mumbling. [possibly she hangs the key on a string around her neck]*

TRINITY

All I could do right now . . . tough here too . . . *(a knock on the door)* . . . one second!

*TRINITY stuffs and seals the envelope.*

**Scene 11.** *The apartment. PIRI and TRINITY sit on the couch together, drinking out of mugs. PIRI is again holding a rag to her head. TRINITY is reading what looks like a business letter. She is positively disheveled, no one would peg her for a beauty if they saw her today.*

PIRI

I got him figured out now. He stop as soon as I tell him that if he hits me again, I'll never tell him where those plates are. I tell him he better be nice to me if he ever want to see those plates.

TRINITY

*(distractedly, still reading)* Look what Mack did to my arm. *(She pushes up her sleeve to reveal a green and yellow bruise)*

PIRI

That's ugly, but that's how a bruise heals, you know. It gets real ugly before it gets pretty. You should just have him tattoo you some more, all up your arms, then the bruises don't show. (*TRINITY fully engaged in letter*) You want me to leave? You too busy for me with your reading?

TRINITY

No, I'm sorry. This is just confusing. (*a look at her arm*) Do you think I should leave him?

PIRI

Where you got to go?

TRINITY

I don't know.

PIRI

You can go with that skinny guy? With the broken arm?

TRINITY

Wally? No. He went away for a while.

PIRI

Don't leave something til you have something else set up.

TRINITY

I'm saving all my money.

PIRI

That's very smart.

TRINITY

If things ever get really bad, I know I have it and I can go.

PIRI

Then you got a safety blanket. That's good. You got it under control.

*TRINITY picks up letter again.*

What's wrong on that paper? You pick it up, you look sick.

*MACK enters, returning from an errand.*

TRINITY

Hey, Mack.

MACK

What's she doing here?

TRINITY

She's talking to me.

MACK

What for?

TRINITY

Jesus, Mack! I can't have a friend?

PIRI

I'm going, I'm going. I'm not here to cause problems.

TRINITY

*(to Piri)* Stay where you're at.

MACK

I thought she was gonna stay with her son, cuz she's getting beat up.

TRINITY

Too bad we all don't have a son to go to.

MACK

What the hell's that mean?

PIRI

My son take his kids to Florida for the week. They got a condo there. My daughter-in-law, she stays behind but me and her don't get along, so I'm waiting til he gets back to go up there—

MACK

*(noticing the letter)* Where'd you find that?

TRINITY

It was in a drawer.

MACK

No it wasn't.

TRINITY

I just stumbled on it. I just, it was just, I was getting—

MACK

It was with my money. Just fucking say it, Trinity. You were in my money while I was gone.

TRINITY

It was because—

MACK

You think I can't count? You think I don't notice that I'm short 5 bucks every now and then. I'm not retarded Trinity.

TRINITY

I know, I know that! I didn't take any today, I swear.

MACK

Why were you in there?

TRINITY

I was worried, about the rent. It's due next week, and it seems like you haven't had a lot of appointments this month. I was worried we'd be short, and then I thought you might make me pay out of the raffle money and I got really scared and short of breath, like a anxiety attack and so I just went in there to count. That's all. (*MACK seems appeased.*) But then I found this.

MACK

So what?

TRINITY

So the board of health says you have to quit tattooing here.

MACK

So?

PIRI

Ooh . . . that's serious.

MACK

Shut up.

TRINITY

It is, Mac.

MACK

What do you know?

TRINITY

(*reading*) "Failure to comply with this cease and desist order will result in fines and possible criminal prosecution. The State of Illinois takes—

MACK

*(grabbing the letter from her and tearing it)* I've read it, Trinity. I know how to fucking read.

PIRI

They're not kidding around.

MACK

So what? You see that sign, Trinity? That's enough for me. This is my shop! How are they gonna know whether I stop or not? It's my house. They gonna spy on me?

PIRI

They found out once.

TRINITY

Mack, they already know, which means somebody told them. That cop? Gene?

MACK

Hell no. I've worked on him 6 or 7 times.

TRINITY

Then who? Can you think of anybody that wasn't happy lately? With their tattoo, I mean. Anybody get an infection or something?

MACK

You think I'm some kind of hack?

*A sullen moment of silence.*

PIRI

I'm gonna go. Your skinny friend gonna be back by the time rent is due?

TRINITY

Wally? I don't know. I would guess, no, but he—

MACK

Son of a bitch!

TRINITY

What?

MACK

It was Wally, that scrawny little fuck! Remember how he was last time he was here? Remember that? "Oh, I'm such a little faggot, I wanna be friends again." That was a front, Trinity. That was a bucket of shit. He did this.

TRINITY

You don't know that!

MACK

Who else, Tri? Your fucking cousin! Everybody I work on leaves here happy. *(to PIRI)*  
It wasn't you?

PIRI

God no!

MACK

Wally. That asshole. That rat-faced fuck.

TRINITY

He's not like that, Mack.

MACK

Don't you defend him. Don't you fucking defend him, Trinity. *(MACK's phone rings. He answers after looking at the caller ID.)* Hey, Frank. How's it look? Yeah? You ready to start the other arm? *(TRINITY shakes her head vigorously. PIRI sneaks out, sensing where this is headed.)* Cool. I think it'll look great. *(TRINITY makes vigorous "no" and "stop" gestures with her hands.)* Let me check my calendar and see when I can get you in for a few hours. *(he covers the phone with his hand)* What?

TRINITY

You really can't.

MACK

Why not? This guy isn't gonna report me.

TRINITY

You've already been reported.

MACK

So I'm seriously supposed to do nothing?

TRINITY

We'll figure it out.

MACK

*(into phone)* Frank, come over at—.

*TRINA grabs phone and ends call.*

MACK

Walk away from me right now. *(she does, and quickly into the bathroom)* Brush your godddam hair while you're in there. You look homeless. *(calling to her)* It's too bad I

only broke his arm. I shoulda beat his head into the sidewalk. *(pause)* Did he say when he was coming back?

*Scene 12. Trinity alone in the apartment, counting money into the box. Clearly in pajamas, unwashed hair, almost sick looking.*

TRINITY

Eight seventy-five. Not bad for a bunch of garbage.

*She takes out her money box, gets the key from its hiding place, has a moment of sensory pleasure with the money, smelling it, touching it to her face. When she hears MACK on the stairs, she rushes to close it and put it away. She doesn't have time to hide the key, so she puts it in her mouth.*

MACK

*(from the stairs)* Trinity! Trinity? *(enters)* What the fuck? Why didn't you answer me? *(TRINITY shrugs)* There still coffee? *(TRINITY nods)* Fucking Mexicans. They must sleep in the goddam line. I get there at 6:30 in the morning, still 25 guys ahead of me. I figure, I'm white, I'll get picked, but no. Every truck that rolls up, guys ask my name, I tell them, they move on. People still hate the Irish? News to me.

TRINITY

*(key in mouth)* You smell.

MACK

What?

TRINITY

Like booze.

MACK

I brush my teeth.

TRINITY

It's your skin.

MACK

What the fuck is in your mouth? *(TRINITY shakes her head)* What is it? Come here. *(She backs away)* I said come here. *(a brief chase, he catches her easily, the room is small and he is large)* Spit it out. *(She doesn't)* Is it money? *(She fights him)* I said spit it out. *(He pries her mouth open with his fingers, fishing around inside it. She bites him)*

Jesus! Are you fucking kidding me?!? *(She spits the key into her hand and keeps it in a closed fist)* No. No ma'am. *(he grabs her arm and bites her fingers until she screams and opens her fist. The key falls to the floor.)* There we go. What's this to?

TRINITY

Nothing.

MACK

*(moving in on her)* I'm not a fucking idiot, Trinity.

TRINITY

It's not anything. It's private.

MACK

Is it for your diary? Where you write down all your secret feelings for Wally? How you miss his skinny ass and wish he would come back?

TRINITY

No.

MACK

What's it for?

TRINITY

It's not for anything. It used to be for my grandma's jewelry box. I just like the taste of it.

MACK

That's bullshit.

TRINITY

Really. It's copper. Look at it. It tastes nice.

MACK

You're a little freak.

*From the hall, a loud thump.*

TRINITY

What was that?

MACK

Who's out there?

HOPPER

*(from hall)* It's me, Hopper! I tripped. I fell, I mean.

You okay? MACK

Fine! HOPPER

You sell stuff to him? MACK

Yeah. TRINITY

What? MACK

The painting. TRINITY

Oh. MACK

Some kitchen stuff. We don't really need eight plates and all that. TRINITY

How much did you get? MACK

Three bucks. TRINITY

Liar. MACK

That's all he would give me. TRINITY

You know, it's one thing that you keep your raffle money separate, like a little fucking rat in a nest. It's another thing when you're selling MY shit, taking stuff out of MY apartment, right out from under my nose, and not giving me any of the money. MACK

He gave me three dollars. TRINITY

Where is it? MACK

TRINITY

I put it away. In the shoebox.

*She begins to tend to her bitten hand, with bandages, ointment, etc.*

MACK

*(going to shoebox)* I know how much was in here. There was eight dollars in here last night. There was thirteen and I grabbed five. So there better be 11 in here now.

TRINITY

There's not.

MACK

You just said you put three in here.

TRINITY

But I took five last night, after you left for McNally's.

MACK

What'd you need five bucks for?

TRINITY

Dinner. I just got some fries and a coke.

MACK

*(opening box)* Six bucks. We're broke, Trin.

TRINITY

I know.

MACK

Time to break into your big jackpot.

TRINITY

For what?

MACK

Food?

TRINITY

I'm not going to spend ten thousand dollars on fries.

MACK

Well, for fuck's sake, Trinity, spend it on something. We have nothing. You bring home \$50 bucks a week doing nails.

TRINITY

It's not my fault people aren't coming in.

MACK

If you were better at it, maybe more people would!

TRINITY

What about you? You go stand in a line every morning, you don't get picked, you come home and sit on your ass all day!

MACK

I'd have work, I'd have money, if it wasn't for your fucking weasel-ass cousin. He pulled my life right out from under me, Trinity, and you don't give a shit! I know how to do one thing, and now I can't do it.

TRINITY

Well, learn how to do something else. Be a cop, a firefighter, a mailman, who cares?

MACK

Why don't you be a cleaning lady?

TRINITY

At least I make what I spend! You bring in NOTHING! And you spend money EVERY DAY at the bar!

MACK

I'm a grown man, Trinity! I can go have a beer if I want one!

TRINITY

It's never one!

MACK

Of course it isn't! I stay there and sit. People there don't fucking hate me like you do.

TRINITY

That's because they're drunks and losers.

MACK

*(moves on her)* Don't talk like that about my friends.

TRINITY

Go back and sit with your fucking friends. Take our last 6 bucks and buy a round of piss for the house.

MACK

I'm sitting right here.

TRINITY

Then I'm leaving.

*No response from MACK. TRINITY grabs her things and storms out. MACK picks a binder from the table and leafs through it. A few seconds pass, then a loud scream from TRINITY in the hall.*

MACK

What the hell?

*He exits into the hall. TRINITY continues screaming, verging on hysteria.*

*(from the hall)* Trinity, get back in the apartment! Now!

*TRINITY enters, visibly shaken up. After a second, she starts to gag and runs into the bathroom. We can hear her vomiting. MACK enters, dragging PIRI. She has been beaten badly.*

That fucking junkie!

TRINITY

You think Hopper did this?

MACK

Who else?

TRINITY

I don't know. You're telling me this is what he was dragging down the hall?!?

MACK

She's been dead awhile. All the blood is dry.

TRINITY

You mean she's been lying around like this?

MACK

At least a day. This isn't how a person feels when they just died.

TRINITY

Why didn't I stop by to see her?

MACK

Are you asking me?

TRINITY

No, I just . . . she always comes to see me and I was sort of glad she didn't yesterday, but . . . she was at her place, like this?!?

MACK

Looks like it.

TRINITY

How come you're so calm?

MACK

She wasn't my friend.

TRINITY

Oh, that's nice.

MACK

She wasn't really yours either.

TRINITY

She was too!

MACK

You just said you were glad not to see her!

TRINITY

That doesn't mean I can't be upset that she got fucking murdered, Mack!

MACK

You gonna call the cops?

TRINITY

Obviously.

MACK

You want her in here when they come?

TRINITY

I guess not.

*MACK moves PIRI'S body back into the hall. We can hear him drop her.*  
What the fuck are you doing?

MACK

*(From hall)* He dropped her, right? She needs to look like somebody dropped her.

TRINITY

I'm telling the cops the truth, Mack.

MACK

*(entering, grabbing her)* You're keeping me out of it. Say you found her in the hall, which is true. Say you heard Hopper drop something out there earlier, which is true. You don't need to tell them we had her in here. It's obvious what happened. They'll go with the obvious.

TRINITY

Fine.

MACK

I'll be at McNally's.

TRINITY

You're gonna leave me alone with a dead body?

MACK

What's she gonna do to you?

*He leaves. TRINITY finds her phone. After a moment, she dials.*

TRINITY

Mommy? Hi. How's Augie? Does he like that new school? Things are crazy here. Yeah? That sounds nice. Things are a lot worse than when you left. It's just—right. You like working there? That's good. I need—really? Do you think I—yeah, I guess. Okay. Sure. I just needed a friendly voice. I know. I'll get over it. Bye.

*She hangs up.*

WALLY

*(in doorway, quietly)* You know there's a fucking dead broad out here?

*Sirens sound in the distance as lights fade.*

**Scene 13.** *TRINITY sleeping on couch, late morning, securely under a blanket. MACK enters, with a fishing pole and a bucket with water sloshing in it. He takes out his harmonica and gets close to TRINITY's head before playing a loud riff right in her ear. She jumps.*

TRINITY

Jesus Christ!

Lookit! I caught one, finally.

MACK

That's great.

TRINITY

So let's cook it.

MACK

What?

TRINITY

Get up. Let's cook my fish.

MACK

Where did you catch it?

TRINITY

Jackson Park.

MACK

Can you even fish there?

TRINITY

Nobody stopped me.

MACK

I think you need a license.

TRINITY

MACK

You know what? Fuck licenses. I'm gonna do what I want, Trinity. Me pulling one shitty little fish from the Jackson Park pond isn't gonna bring down the state of Illinois.

TRINITY

I guess not. I just don't want you to get in more trouble.

MACK

I didn't get in trouble. Wally put me in trouble. If that whiny little shit ever comes back he's gonna get his.

TRINITY

Yeah.

MACK

*(setting down bucket and fishing pole)* I stopped at McNally's on my way to the park and Paddy told me they found Hopper.

TRINITY

Did they arrest that fucker?

MACK

Nope.

TRINITY

What the hell! Why not?

MACK

He was floating in the river.

TRINITY

Drowned?

MACK

They think he fell in and couldn't get out.

TRINITY

Wow.

MACK

He had a bunch of pots and pans tied to his pants.

TRINITY

What?

MACK

Paddy said they were rusty as shit, but they think that's what weighed him down.

TRINITY

Jeez.

MACK

Tough being a junkie.

TRINITY

I guess.

MACK

Get up.

I'm still tired.

TRINITY

Get up.

MACK

It's cold in here.

TRINITY

C'mon. You can take it.

MACK

*He rips the cover off her to find her nearly naked, with all of her cash around her.*

What is this?

TRINITY

My money.

MACK

I get that. Why are you sleeping with it?

TRINITY

It makes me feel better.

MACK

Why isn't it in the fucking bank, Trinity?

TRINITY

I like it here.

MACK

Has it ever been in the bank?

TRINITY

No.

MACK

Oh my God, you stupid fucking idiot.

TRINITY

What?

MACK

You've just had it here?!? Piri begging for money all the time? Hopper looking for every penny he can get his junkie hands on?

Not anymore.

TRINITY

Right.

MACK

Now it's just you. *(a look from MACK)* What?

TRINITY

Me? I'm after your fucking money?

MACK

You won't get a job.

TRINITY

I can't get a job.

MACK

You don't try.

TRINITY

I have tried.

MACK

You fish. For hours.

TRINITY

MACK

So what? So what, Trinity? At least I get my ass out of the house. At least I do something everyday. I brush my teeth and go into the world. I'm not laying here half naked rolling my fat ass around in a bunch of dirty money.

TRINITY

*(pulling on some clothes she finds on the floor)* Fuck you, Mack. I'm leaving.

MACK

To go where? Your family doesn't want you.

TRINITY

I'll do something on my own.

MACK

With what money?

TRINITY

I'll make some.

MACK

Every cent you make has to be added to your fucking stash, Trinity. You're a crazy fucking bitch and I'm the only one who knows it.

*He jab steps as if to take some of the money.*

TRINITY

Don't.

MACK

You don't like that, do you?

*He lunges again.*

TRINITY

Cut it out, Mack.

MACK

Why, Trin? Can't I just have a coupla bucks? I need to eat, if you're not gonna help me cook this fish.

TRINITY

There's crackers in the cabinet.

*He lunges.*

Stop!

MACK

Crackers ain't enough for me. I'm a big guy, Trinity. I need to go get a sandwich. (*He gets a small fistful of cash.*) There we go.

TRINITY

*(full blown panic)* Don't. Give it. Please. Give it back.

MACK

How much you got here, Trin? More than ten?

TRINITY

I don't know.

MACK

Yeah you do. How much you got? Tell me and I'll give this back. Eleven? You got eleven grand yet, Trin?

TRINITY

Ten thousand, three hundred fifty-four dollars and seventy-seven cents.

MACK

Well, I'm gonna take the four seventy seven and leave you nice and even.

TRINITY

Please don't. (*breakdown*)

MACK

(*softening quickly*) Tri, you're sick. I mean, I'm not messing around. You need help. Can you see you need help?

TRINITY

No . . . I don't know.

MACK

Remember when you first asked me to do your raven, how you said it was like something that could change shape?

TRINITY

Yeah.

MACK

That's like, what happened to you. You don't look the same. You don't act the same. Do you feel the same inside?

TRINITY

No.

MACK

I'm not asking you to go buy us a new car. I'm asking you to take five bucks out of this pile and let me go get a sandwich. Or even three, and you can go get some peanut butter. I'm worried about you, baby.

TRINITY

I am too.

MACK

Can you see that you're not right?

TRINITY

Kind of. Sometimes I can. But if you take five then I'll have less than I had this morning.

MACK

So what?

TRINITY

So it's less, Mack! It's less!

MACK

I care about you, Trinity, and I am telling you we have to get you some help.

Okay. TRINITY

Can you pick a five from that pile? MACK

Sure. *(she does)* TRINITY

What do you wanna do with it now? MACK

Put it back in the box. TRINITY

What box? MACK

There's a lock box. It's where the money lives. Right now it's under the sink. I move it around. But it's under the sink right now. TRINITY

Is it okay if I get it? MACK

I'll get it. TRINITY

Can you let me do it? MACK

I don't want you to touch it. TRINITY

I'm trying to talk you off the ledge, here, Tri. Let me get it. MACK

*(half laughing, calming, she returns the bill she's holding to the pile)* Okay. TRINITY

*(moving toward the sink)* Here? MACK

Let me open the cabinet? TRINITY

Okay.

MACK

(*opening the cabinet*) Let me take it out.

TRINITY

No. Then you won't give it to me.

MACK

I know.

TRINITY

*TRINITY covers her eyes as MACK takes box from cabinet. It's locked.*

This is what the key's for?

MACK

I'll do it.

TRINITY

Do you really not trust me?

MACK

Can I just do it?

TRINITY

Sure.

*TRINITY gets the key and opens the box.*

There we go. (*looking inside*) That's a lot of change.

Yeah.

TRINITY

Would it be easier for you to take the change to get the food?

MACK

I'm not gonna pay for groceries in all nickels!

TRINITY

Now you're making sense.

MACK

Should I take a five or five ones?

TRINITY

MACK

Whatever's easier for you.

TRINITY

*(taking one bill from the pile)* Okay. Will you come with me?

MACK

I think if you can do this on your own, that will be huge.

TRINITY

My heart is pounding.

MACK

I know you're scared. But you can do it.

TRINITY

Love me, Mac?

MACK

You know I do.

TRINITY

Love me big?

MACK

Yeah.

*He kisses her. She struggles mightily leaving the house, but eventually makes it. MACK stands still, surveying the room.*

TRINITY

*(from the street)* Mac!

MACK

Yeah?

TRINITY

I think I can do it!

MACK

That's awesome.

TRINITY

But don't touch the rest. I'll do it when I get back.

MACK

Okay! See you in a bit.

*He watches her from the window for a moment. Once she is a decent distance away, he grabs a backpack from the floor and dumps all the coins into it. He then collects the cash and shoves it into the pack as well. His last act before leaving the apartment is to carefully lock the lockbox and replace it under the sink. He pocket the key as he exits.*

**Scene 14.** *The apartment. TRINITY is packing her few belongings. She doesn't look as bad as she has, but it is clear she will never be what we saw at the beginning of the play. WALLY sits on couch, playing with a set of handcuffs.*

WALLY

These yours?

TRINITY

Remember that cop that Mack worked on? Charlie? He gave those to him.

WALLY

Why didn't Mack take them?

TRINITY

He just took my money. That's it.

WALLY

I heard people seen him. Around town.

TRINITY

Where?

WALLY

I don't know. Just different streets.

TRINITY

Can you find him?

WALLY

If I did it would just be luck.

TRINITY

Once I leave here, he won't know where to find me.

WALLY

Why would you want him to?

TRINITY

I want my goddam money back. But once they knock the building down, I don't think I have a chance. At least now, he might come back.

WALLY

For you?

TRINITY

For something.

WALLY

You want me to kill him?

TRINITY

Ha! You gonna fight him again? Those MMA skills really came in handy when he broke your fucking arm.

WALLY

I got this now. *(showing a gun)*

TRINITY

Why the hell did you get that?

WALLY

The guys I work for like my style. I'm moving up.

TRINITY

Well, once they knock the building down, you can just sit in the new parking lot and wait for him. If he shows up, shoot him.

WALLY

Sounds good. Then you and me can start over.

TRINITY

We're a team now?

WALLY

I don't have anybody. Neither do you.

*WALLY gets up, goes into bathroom. TRINITY picks up the vinyl sign and, after a look, begins to roll it up. MACK appears at door.*

I want that. MACK

Jesus! TRINITY

That's my sign. I want it. MACK

Where's my money? TRINITY

*(indicating backpack)* Right here. MACK

Give it to me. TRINITY

No. MACK

It's mine. TRINITY

I'm gonna do something with it, Tri. I'm gonna open a shop, have a business. MACK

No. TRINITY

*She lunges for the backpack but is ridiculously outmatched.*

Stop it, Trinity. I just came for my sign. MACK

*She jumps at him, scratches his face. He punches her, hard, and she falls.*

*(entering)* What the fuck? WALLY

Look who's here. MACK

Trinity, you okay? WALLY

MACK

Trinity, your boyfriend asked you something. *(kicks her)* Trinity, answer him. *(kicks her)*  
You okay?

WALLY

Stop it, dude, she's unconscious.

MACK

*(kicks her)* She's all right.

WALLY

Stop it.

MACK

Make me.

*WALLY moves in as if to start wrestling, pulls gun and shoots MACK in the knee. MACK crumples, gets WALLY in a headlock on his way down.*

Shoot my knee out, you fucking pussy? Afraid to kill me?

*In the scuffle, WALLY manages to handcuff MACK's ankle to the radiator. MACK begins choking WALLY. WALLY dies at his hands before MACK realizes his predicament.*

Take a man's livelihood away. This is what you get. Shit! Trinity, wake up!  
*If he can reach her, he slaps her face to bring her to.*

Trinity! Where's the key for these?

*TRINITY stumbles up and finds the key where WALLY had left it when he was playing with the cuffs earlier.*

Give it here.

*Out of MACK's reach, TRINITY shows him the key, and swallows it.*

You fucking bitch! Give it here.

*TRINITY grabs a single bill from the backpack and lights it on fire. She tosses it into a basket of laundry or a trash can and flames rise.*

TRINITY

Fuck you.

*She picks up the backpack of money and moves toward the door. MACK locates WALLY's gun, picks it up and shoots TRINITY dead. MACK alone as flames begin to engulf the apartment.*

END OF PLAY