

FOR SALE

by

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FADE IN:

INT. JOCELYN INVESTMENT KITCHEN - DAY - FLASHFORWARD

A hand trembles holding an envelope marked "ONE MONTH PAST DUE". Shuffles to another "TWO MONTHS" then "THREE MONTHS". Carefully opens the last envelope; "\$8,500".

RING from the phone, the bill drops as the hand reaches for the receiver and stops. Unlisted is displayed on the caller ID, CLICK of the answering machine:

JOCELYN'S VOICE

Hello this is Jocelyn. I'm not here right now, but leave me a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

PHONE

Dear client Jocelyn Miller. You are four payments past due on your mortgage. Please give us a call back between the hours of nine -

JOCELYN MILLER (30s) presses delete, BANGING and loud thuds at the door.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

HELLO! Is anyone home?

She bolts down peering out the window blinds.

END OF FLASHFORWARD

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A lush field and trees fades to dirt. A road is paved and wood boards burst up, evolving into homes with real estate signs in the yards.

INT. TRAILER - DAY

BEEPING of an alarm clock. Slamming it off TREVOR SUMMERS (40s), rolls over to his snoring wife ROSE (40s). Groggily he trudges out of bed.

INT. HEWITT KITCHEN - DAY

ROBERT HEWITT (50s) slides a pancake off the frying pan onto a plate adorned with fresh fruit and bacon.

INT. SMALL HOME KITCHEN - DAY

MICHAEL CLARK (20s) reads "PLUMBING FOR DUMMIES," sighs, puts it down and opens up "MAXIM" magazine.

INT. MILLER KITCHEN - DAY

Jocelyn kisses FRED (30s) on the cheek. THOMAS (8) and AMELIA (6) burst through with their backpacks, Thomas's hits Fred's coffee cup off the counter and onto the floor.

JOCELYN

Don't run!

INT. HEWITT KITCHEN - DAY

Robert places the plate on the table next to two identical ones. He sits down and picks up the newspaper "APRIL 12, 2008".

INT. HEWITT KITCHEN - DAY LATER

Robert's plate is empty, the paper thoroughly read. The other two plates remain untouched. FOOTSTEPS rush down the stairs. DANIELLE (16) in a catholic school uniform flings open a kitchen cabinet.

ROBERT

I made you breakfast.

Danielle snatches a granola bar out of the cabinet.

DANIELLE

There isn't time, I'll be late for school.

Robert gets up, as TIFFANY (30s) comes downstairs. A small white Maltese following her steps.

TIFFANY

Morning dear.

Tiffany pecks Robert on the cheek, the dog barking at him.

ROBERT

I made breakfast.

Tiffany reaches into the cabinet taking out a granola bar.

TIFFANY  
Sorry honey I'm on a diet.

ROBERT  
What are your plans today?

TIFFANY  
Today ... I was ...

Danielle emerges from around the corner with her bag.

DANIELLE  
Dad I'm going to be late

ROBERT  
We'll talk later.

Robert briskly gaits to the front door.

TIFFANY  
Have a good day dear.

INT. TRAILER - DAY

\$400 in cash is put in an envelope labeled "OASIS TRAILER PARK". Trevor sits at a small table and opens up "SKYMALL" magazine.

TREVOR  
Can you drop the rent off to Del?

The trailer is cluttered and run down, Rose cooks eggs in the confined corner kitchen.

TREVOR (CONT'D)  
Look we can get an Armadillo beer holder for only \$35.

Tossing the eggs onto a plate, she slams it down on the table.

TREVOR (CONT'D)  
You okay?

ROSE  
Your eggs are getting cold.

TREVOR  
Let them. We can buy more.

ROSE

You're always wasting money, why not try to save some for once?

TREVOR

You act like we're broke.

ROSE

Aren't we? I barely have enough room to cook. I thought you said you'd throw some of this stuff out.

TREVOR

You've been watching too much of that Hollywood wives show.

ROSE

No, this pig sty would be too cramped for their dogs.

TREVOR

You called it a cozy love nest when we moved in.

ROSE

Cozy's good for your honeymoon, not your life! A honeymoon I'm still waiting on!

KNOCK at the door KARL SUMMERS (40s) barges in.

KARL

Good Morning isn't it a beautiful day! How are you two doing?

Noticing the tension he backs out slowly.

KARL (CONT'D)

... I'll be outside.

Karl shuts the door behind him.

TREVOR

You want more room to cook?

ROSE

No! An Armadillo beer holder, that would make my life complete.

Heated, Rose jumps onto the couch, flipping on the TV.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Don't forget your lunch.

Trevor grabs a paper bag on the counter.

TREVOR  
I love you.

ROSE  
You're going to be late.

Trevor slumps out shutting the door.

TREVOR (O.S.)  
I'll grab you an Armadillo beer  
holder on the way home.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Trevor steps into his beat up Chevy S10, Karl in the passenger seat.

KARL  
What was that about?

TREVOR  
Got me. She's been acting weird  
recently.

KARL  
That time of month?

TREVOR  
No .... don't know, maybe.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY

Spring morning dew in the air, as packed rush hour traffic surges down the highway.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

The carpool line of SUVs snakes out. Jocelyn parked at the front of the line, lifts Amelia out of her beige Ford SUV.

EXT. SMALL HOME - DAY

A "SOLD NOTICE" is hung under a Real Estate signpost in the yard. Michael in a T-shirt and jeans, stands next to a REAL ESTATE AGENT (30s) in a suit.

MICHAEL

I can't believe they accepted the counter offer you recommended? It was twenty thousand more than theirs.

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Well they were trying to get it for a steal, but we caught them.

The agent checks his Black Berry.

REAL ESTATE AGENT (CONT'D)

Besides I don't think the price was a big concern, since they plan to flip it.

MICHAEL

Still that was quick, it only listed for --

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Nine days?

MICHAEL

Thought it would take longer.

REAL ESTATE AGENT

With my marketing and how you fixed it up, no one would have guessed it was the same place.

The agents drops the Black Berry back in his pocket.

REAL ESTATE AGENT (CONT'D)

This was the worst house, in the neighborhood, and now its the best.

MICHAEL

I don't think its that goo --

REAL ESTATE AGENT

I'm surprised it took as long as it did to sell. What's next for you?

MICHAEL

Guess I'll find another place, to remodel.

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Lets go view some properties. I'll even cut my fee by 5%. How's that sound?

MICHAEL

Good, but I have somewhere to get to. How about later this week?

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Take another of my cards just in case. I'll call you in a few days and we'll go hunting tiger.

MICHAEL

So uh when --

REAL ESTATE AGENT

End of the month. All the paper work's done, I'll let you know if there are any problems.

The agent speeds off in his BMW. Michael drops the card in a curbside trash can.

INT. SMALL HOME - DAY

Michael sits on the couch watching TV, a bowl of chips on his lap.

EXT. MILLER HOME - DAY

Jocelyn's SUV pulls into the driveway. Before it stops the side door flings open, and Thomas sprints out.

JOCELYN

Wait till I stop!

Thomas quickly finds the key under the welcome mat and hurls open the front door, darting inside. Amelia squirms about in her car seat.

AMELIA

I want out! I'll miss the show!

Drained Jocelyn unbuckles Amelia and sets her down, she instantly dashes inside. Jocelyn hauls out the two backpacks slamming the car door.

DAVID

They're full of energy.

Next-door DAVID (30s) closes the toolbox on the back of his truck.

JOCELYN

No more than the usual amount.

DAVID

Amber's the same. It seems like yesterday she was in diapers, now she's running around like your two.

JOCELYN

I know what you mean.

DAVID

Before we know it they'll be all grown up and gone.

A scream and laughter erupts from the Miller Home's open door.

JOCELYN

Sometimes I can't wait. When's the earliest I can send them to college?

DAVID

Oh I think it's a few years. You decide which ones you'll send them too?

JOCELYN

Well Amelia's excelling in finger paints so I was thinking Yale for her, maybe Harvard for Thomas.

DAVID

You'd better start saving for those.

JOCELYN

That's Freds' department.

DAVID

We just started a college fund for Amber.

JOCELYN

Isn't it a little early?

DAVID

With how my business is going I figured why not. I'm barely done building before they sell.

JOCELYN  
Construction's going that well?

DAVID  
It seems everyone wants to invest in homes these days. Just hired on ten more guys. At this rate I'll retire in five years.

David laughs as Jocelyn is awe struck.

JOCELYN  
Five years? What are you charging people?

DAVID  
Twice what it cost to build.

JOCELYN  
Don't you feel like you're stealing from them?

DAVID  
Oh no, most people turn around and sell for double what they paid. So really they're stealing from me.

JOCELYN  
But they have to fix it up a lot right?

DAVID  
Not always, some people sell them the same and make a killing. If you want I can get you a good deal on a house. Be a solid investment for the kids.

JOCELYN  
Is that what you're doing for Amber?

DAVID  
Oh yeah, I bought one of my own as an investment, and ended up selling it. I've done it twice now. She could actually go to Harvard if she wants.

Jocelyn looks over to David's daughter (5), who plucks a leaf, examines it, then eats it.

JOCELYN

Maybe we'll have you over for dinner sometime, and you can try your sales pitch on Fred.

DAVID

You know where to find me.

JOCELYN

Tell Margaret I said Hi.

DAVID

Will do.

Jocelyn slumps the bags to the house.

DAVID (O.S.) (CONT'D)

What's in your mouth?

INT. FACTORY - DAY

A blue liquid pours out of a barrel into an opaque white industrial vat stirring methodically. Trevor in a full hazmat suit holds the barrel. A siren sounds, he climbs down.

Removing his mask, Karl in the same outfit comes up behind him. Slapping Trevor on the back.

KARL

Lets get out of here, I'm thirsty.

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Karl hauls a twenty-four pack case of canned beer out of the freezer.

KARL

What are you going to do?

TREVOR

I don't know, buy her some candy.

KARL

Maybe you should move, if she hates the trailer so much.

TREVOR

To what? An apartment? Where I gotta pay to park. It's going to be half as big and cost twice as much.

Trevor and Karl step in line for the register.

TREVOR (CONT'D)  
Having to follow the buildings  
every rule, it's worse than prison.  
At least with the trailer there's  
some sense of freedom.

KARL  
I think you're confusing freedom  
with compactness.

Karl pulls out a handful of cash.

KARL (CONT'D)  
I'll get this.

TREVOR  
Grab me a lottery ticket.

KARL  
Same numbers?

TREVOR  
They're my lucky numbers.

KARL  
So Lucky you've never won anything  
in fifteen years.

TREVOR  
I won ten dollars in 97.

KARL  
I stand corrected, those are lucky.

INT. HEWITT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Robert shuffles in and hangs his coat on the hook. Danielle  
lays on the couch watching TV with a bag of potato chips.

ROBERT  
What are you watching?

DANIELLE  
Simply Stylish.

On the TV a skeleton thin model in underwear has fabric  
draped over her shoulder. Disinterested he walks to the

INT. HEWITT KITCHEN - NIGHT

Robert pours a glass of water from a Brita container.

ROBERT  
Have you seen Tiffany?

DANIELLE (O.S.)  
Not since she dropped me off.

INT. HEWITT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Danielle laughs at the TV, Robert comes back in the room.

ROBERT  
Want to get some dinner?

Danielle checks her cell phone.

DANIELLE  
I did an hour ago. I'm going out  
with some friends soon.

Slamming of the front door as Tiffany enters in a Tennis outfit, the dog at her feet. It runs over to Robert and immediately starts yapping.

TIFFANY  
Oh hi Robert, you're home early.

Tiffany pecks him on the cheek.

ROBERT  
How about a romantic dinner, just  
the two of us?

TIFFANY  
Brandy and I already ate Honey, you  
should have called.

ROBERT  
That's fine, How was tennis?

TIFFANY  
Tennis?

ROBERT  
It's why you're in the outfit isn't  
it?

Tiffany checks her appearance.

TIFFANY

Oh yes hours ago, we spent more time in the club than on the court.

ROBERT

You two must be getting good. You practice almost everyday. When should I come watch?

TIFFANY

Oh we're not that good yet, still running around mostly chasing the balls. I should probably quit.

ROBERT

At \$150 a lesson, I'd hope you would be getting better.

TIFFANY

It's just money Robert.  
(to Danielle)  
What are you watching?

DANIELLE

Simply Stylish.

TIFFANY

Has the runway already happened?

DANIELLE

Not yet.

Tiffany jumps down on the couch with Danielle.

ROBERT

Guess I'll be going then.

Danielle and Tiffany glued to the TV.

TIFFANY

Have fun honey.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Michael snatches a housing listing magazine out of the display rack, instantly flipping through it as he opens the door.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Absorbed in the magazine Michael sits in a booth, he takes out a pen circling a house. The waitress NICOLE (20s) steps up and purposely coughs.

NICOLE  
Know what you want to drink?

Michael quickly flings open the menu.

MICHAEL  
Uh .... just a sec ... I'll have  
the ...

Nicole twiddles her pen.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
A ... After Work Special.

NICOLE  
Okay ... I'll be right back.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT LATER

Nicole carries a large red Margarita glass filled with six straws and fruit skewers. Michael is still buried in his magazine, as she places it on the table.

NICOLE  
I think you're the first person to  
ever order one of these alone.

Michael shocked stares at the drink.

NICOLE (CONT'D)  
Oh I'm sorry I almost forgot.

She lights two sparklers, dropping them in the drink.

NICOLE (CONT'D)  
How is it?

He leans in sipping from one of the straws, and coughs.

MICHAEL  
Strong.

NICOLE  
That's what you get with four kinds  
of Tequila and two rums.  
(MORE)

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Well Mr. Party animal you going to have anything to eat?

Catching his breath Michael flips open the menu.

MICHAEL

I'll have the ... just a sec --

NICOLE

Can I recommend the Texas Burger, it comes with barbecue sauce, bacon, and guacamole. It's very popular, that is unless you want the party platter. It's also recommended for six people.

MICHAEL

No that sounds good.

She takes the menu, Michael entranced watches her go. He then catches sight of the giant Margarita.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT LATER

Michael's plate empty a half drunken beer next to the full Margarita. Nicole finishes at another table and stops by.

NICOLE

Did you enjoy your meal? I see you still haven't finished the after work special.

MICHAEL

To tell you the truth it's a lot to handle.

NICOLE

Didn't notice the menu description said a blast for you and your coworkers to forget the hectic work day?

MICHAEL

I must have missed that part.

NICOLE

Next time you'll have to bring some friends along to help drink it.

Nicole places the bill on the table, catching sight of the house Michael circled.

NICOLE (CONT'D)  
(looking at the magazine)  
I've never seen someone so  
interested in those things. Are you  
in real estate?

MICHAEL  
No I just sold a house I remodeled.  
And I'm searching for the next one.

NICOLE  
A side job of yours?

MICHAEL  
No, I do it full time.

NICOLE  
Really? You support yourself like  
that?

MICHAEL  
Fairly well, I work as hard as six  
people.

Michael lifts the Margarita, Nicole amused.

NICOLE  
Call if you need anything.

MICHAEL  
There is one thing.

NICOLE  
Yes?

MICHAEL  
Would you care to join me for a  
drink some time? I could use your  
expertise.

He motions to the Margarita again.

NICOLE  
Sure.

Nicole writes her number on the bill.

NICOLE (CONT'D)  
But if I get a lousy tip I might  
not come.

MICHAEL

Don't worry I'm a big spender  
tonight.

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