

thin / ice

By

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Characters

Annie: 20 years old, college dropout, emaciated, anorexic, lives at home.

Dudley: 21 years old, in college, boyfriend of Annie.

Bennie: 14 years old, younger brother of Annie.

Peaches: Mid-Forties, mother of Annie and Bennie, ex-actress.

Detective Dan: Late thirties, not related to anyone in the cast.

Leper: A small hallucination of Annie's.

Setting

Suburbia anywhere. Winter and snowing heavily always. Inside the home of Annie, Bennie, and Peaches.

Time

Present.

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ACT I
SCENE ONE:

*(The setting is the inside of Annie, Bennie, and Peaches' home. On stage it is clearly seen the first floor of this house which has a kitchen and a door that leads to the downstairs bathroom, and also the front door to the house. Perhaps this downstairs level of the home is stage left. Stage right, perhaps, is the second floor of the house. There are stairs, or maybe just a few steps that divide the first floor from the second floor. The second floor is a living room. The living room is spacious. There is a couch and coffee table in the room. There are doors, which lead to three bedrooms and one bathroom on the left, right, and back walls. Outside it is winter and snowing heavily. **Annie** and **Dudley** are on the second level having an argument. Annie wears a wedding gown on her emaciated, thin body. Dudley wears a suit.*

Dudley

Please?

Annie

Have you even been listening?

Dudley

I, listen? All I've been doing is listening!

Annie

To yourself and how right you always are and how my methods are somehow deficient and how-

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Dudley

Methods? Are we arguing about the same thing?

Annie

Oh, please call me irrational. Five minutes without the insinuation is far too long!

Dudley

Said the woman in the wedding gown.

Annie

You said you liked this dress.

Dudley

It's a wedding gown and we're on our way to my parent's house.

Annie

All I'm saying is I'm ready to go and -

(The telephone rings.)

Dudley

No, you're not.

Annie

You are so fucking paternalistic!

Dudley

Isn't that what you're missing?

(The telephone rings. Annie's offense silences her. The telephone rings again and she answers it.)

Annie

Hello? *(listens)* I did not forget you. Monday's Mom's - *(listens)* No. It's Mom's day. Well, I don't - *(listens)* Fine. *(hangs up)*

Dudley

All I'm saying is that I -

Annie

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You don't want me constantly insisting I'll cook a meal or prepare an extravagant dessert with my extensively devised fat free methods.

Dudley
They taste like little bricks.

Annie
But they're healthier.

Dudley
Timmy couldn't shit for a week.

Annie
Who's that?

Dudley
What are you going to tell my parents when -

Annie
Jesus Christ, I'll make some fattening ones, we have time.

Dudley
When they ask what you're studying at school?

Annie
I don't see why they'd ask me that now.

Dudley
Will you tell them you haven't been to school since last semester? That you indicate no intention of ever returning.

Annie
I fucking do to. Would you be in school now?

Dudley
That the bulk of your daily accomplishments are prancing around in a wedding gown and cooking inedible food.

Annie
You wouldn't be in school either.

(The telephone rings.)

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Annie

Don't even pretend you'd be handling yourself better if you were me right now. You have no concept -

*(The telephone rings again.
Annie answers it.)*

Annie

What? *(listens)* Alright, I said I was on my way. It takes time to find the keys and everything. *(listens)*

Dudley

Is that Bennie?

Annie

I'll be there in five minutes.

Dudley

You can't pick him up in that, he barely fits in as it is.

Annie

Alright, bye. *(hangs up)* Look, there's an Eddeman's cake in the fridge, I'll just say I baked it. And I'll come up with an impressive life plan while I'm in the car and when I recite it to your mother and father I'll curtsy, serve the cake, and lightly mention with a carefree smile that for some people, when their father dies they want to hibernate until death.

Dudley

I know. You've lost a lot of weight.

(the telephone rings.)

Annie

I used to be fat, Dudley.

(Annie picks up the phone and hangs it back up like a slap.)

Dudley

Two months ago.

Annie

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Oh, please criticize my intelligence level next and how you got better S.A.T. scores and how you're going to a *good* school and I'm going to an *art* school.

(The telephone rings.)

Dudley
You're not going to any school!

Annie
My father died!

Dudley
So your brain doesn't work?

(The telephone rings. Annie picks up the phone.)

Annie
Just fucking walk! *(hangs up)* Enough. I'll grab the cake, no one will know. Let's just go to your mother's party.

Dudley
No, Annie.

Annie
What do you mean, "no"?

Dudley
I mean, I'll just go.

Annie
Why?

Dudley
I think we've grown apart. I think I've grown up and you've grown in, and it's time to -

Annie
Because I fucked up the brownies?

Dudley
You don't make me feel good anymore.

(Annie wobbles and begins to faint. Dudley, use to this

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episode, quickly goes to Annie and holds her steadily so she doesn't fall over. She comes out of her faint spell quickly.)

Annie

Fine. I never see you anyway. You're always at school.

(Dudley grabs his coat. As he leaves down the stairs he says.)

Dudley

Do you want me to get Bennie?

Annie

Bennie can walk.

Dudley

I'm still here for you, as your friend.

Annie

We were never friends.

*(Dudley exits, the door slams shut. Annie sits down and cries, but then quickly pulls herself together emotionally. She goes to a toy chest and takes out her step for step aerobics and starts to exercise in the wedding gown. The downstairs front door again opens, and **Peaches enters.**)*

Annie

What the hell do you want?

(Annie abruptly stops exercising and quickly puts the step back in the toy chest. Peaches, Annie's mother, comes up the stairs to the living room. Peaches is in her mid-forties and

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*extremely attractive, though
her beauty has faded. As
Peaches comes upstairs she
says)*

Peaches

Annie Banani? I have no time, where's the satin skirt
I had you iron?

Annie

In your closet.

Peaches

(upon noticing Annie in the dress) Do you sleep in it,
too? It isn't yours, you know. Just because you've
worn it for months doesn't make it your property.

*(Peaches takes off her
clothes and walks where
needed to get ready for her
date as she talks.)*

Annie

You forgot Bennie again.

Peaches

No, I only get him Mondays.

Annie

I know, he called for you -

Peaches

(provoking) What day is it?

Annie

Monday.

Peaches

Wrong! Damn it, you forgot your brother. Where is he?

Annie

Walking.

Peaches

In the snow?

Annie

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Where are you going?

Peaches

Out.

Annie

Out?

Peaches

On a date. You had the car, why didn't you just pick him up when he called?

Annie

Who are you going on a date with?

Peaches

Hey! Don't forget your brother at school, ever.

Annie

He wasn't at school, he was at practice.

Peaches

So he's walking home with wet hair!

Annie

I guess.

Peaches

Where are my pearls?

Annie

What?

*(Annie takes her earrings off
and sets them on the coffee
table.)*

Peaches

My pearl earrings.

Annie

I think you left them on the coffee table.

Peaches

Why was Dudley flying down the block like a bat out of hell?

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Annie

We broke up.

Peaches

(stops) Look at you. Look at yourself. He broke up with you. Why do you think he did that, Annie?

Annie

Good, get mad.

Peaches

What happened?

Annie

I dumped him. He's never around anyway. I'll find a new boyfriend.

Peaches

Who would date you if not Dudley?

Annie

I don't know. Who the fuck are you dating now?

Peaches

That's my wedding gown, take it off.

(Annie takes off the gown and lays it on the couch and sits beside it in her underwear. Peaches comes back out. There is a moment of silence.)

Peaches

You no longer have breasts.

Annie

Shut up.

Peaches

I got a new client today.

Annie

So?

Peaches

She's this elderly woman who was trying to cross the street in the cross walk. There was this patch of ice,

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I guess, in her path. Thinking she might slip, she walked out of her way around it. But a bicyclist hit her from behind and she stumbled from the momentum into oncoming traffic. Everything's broken. She should've just taken a slip on the ice.

(Peaches gets up from the couch and places the gown back down on the couch.)

Peaches

Hey, this is an ice patch, not oncoming traffic.

(Peaches gets her coat and purse.)

Peaches

You're watching your brother tonight so don't go anywhere.

Annie

He's fourteen.

*(Peaches goes downstairs and exits. Annie collects herself and puts the wedding gown back on. She puts in the record player an old record of opera. The front door swings open roughly. Annie pays no attention. The door slams shut. **Bennie** enters.)*

Bennie

You bastards!

Annie

Technically, you, too, are a bastard.

(Bennie comes shivering up the stairs. His hair is frozen on his head and there is a half inch of snow on his shoulders and head.)

Bennie

It's snowing.

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*(Bennie shakes the snow off
of himself over Annie and her
gown.)*

Annie

Not on my gown! Water stains!

*(Annie punches and grabs
Bennie, but he escapes and
runs to his room leaving the
door open.)*

Bennie

Where's Mom?

Annie

At a business meeting.

Bennie

For what business?

Annie

For the business that's none of your business. What do
you want for dinner?

Bennie

Noooo! I forbid it!

Annie

Fine, then you make dinner.

Bennie

I will. It shall be easy to swallow and delightful to
pass.

*(Annie recognizes Bennie's
outfit.)*

Annie

Take it off!

Bennie

You're wearing Mom's dress.

Annie

I specifically got permission to wear this.

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Bennie

Liar.

Annie

Mom isn't dead.

Bennie

I'm the man of the house.

Annie

Bullshit. Now take it off.

*(Annie rips the coat off of
Bennie, then pushes him to
the couch and sits on him.)*

Bennie

Really. Where is Mom?

*(Annie lets Bennie up. They
sit beside one another.)*

Annie

I told you, so don't ask again.

Bennie

A meeting?

Annie

Top secret.

Bennie

About what?

Annie

Her new client.

Bennie

Who's her new client?

Annie

I'm not supposed to tell you, but her new client is this woman who got hit by a bus. The police and medical examiners all thought she was dead, so they informed the family, had a funeral and buried her. A month later, Mom's client dug herself out of the

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ground! The media's trying to roll with it, but they haven't got enough information to go public.

Bennie

You want to hear something really scary?

Annie

Sure.

Bennie

Once you contract Leprosy, body parts fall off until there's nothing left but mental consciousness and then you die.

Annie

Okay, go ahead.

Bennie

I just did.

Annie

Oh, I thought you said scare me, not bore me.

Bennie

Fine. Once there was this man who lived in the sixteenth century in Italy who -

Annie

Save it, I already took that class.

Bennie

Well, this time it's good. I'm doing this report on leprosy and the average leper of the sixteenth century.

Annie

Hey, maybe you could get a real leper to come in for show and tell.

Bennie

Maybe.

Annie

Dinner?

Bennie

I'm making it.

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Annie

Right.

(Annie stands from the couch to leave, but she upon rising begins to faint. She wobbles and falls heavily forward onto the coffee table shattering it. Bennie rises and tries to get Annie to come to.)

Bennie

Annie! Annie! Follow my voice! Annie Banani!

(Annie comes to screaming.)

Annie

My wrist! It fucking hurts, Bennie!

Bennie

Is it broken?

Annie

My wrist hurts!

Bennie

Let's go to the hospital.

Annie

Call nine, one, one. I'll need an ambulance. You can't drive! Call them!

(Black out.)

SCENE TWO

(The setting is the same. It is late at night. Annie sits, still in the wedding gown with a cast on her wrist. She is alone for a moment. Then Bennie comes out of his room and goes over to her. He is wearing pajamas. Annie seems to be mourning while holding her tummy.)

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Bennie

It doesn't still hurt, does it?

Annie

No.

(Bennie quickly goes back to his room, gets a notebook and a dark marker and returns to Annie.)

Bennie

Can I sign it?

Annie

No.

Bennie

Why? Can't I be the first to sign it?

Annie

I like it white.

Bennie

I'll draw something. I've recently mastered two characters from Eon Flux.

Annie

I really don't want porn on my cast.

Bennie

It's not porn.

Annie

Could you please go back to bed?

Bennie

Where's Mom?

Annie

Out still. Why are you concerned with her?

Bennie

It's two in the morning.

Annie

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Just forget it, alright? Go back to bed. *(pause)*
You're pissing me off. *(pause)* Do you think Mom
actually gives a shit about you? She's off on some
date right now.

Bennie
You said she was at a meeting.

Annie
You can draw on my cast if you want to.

*(Bennie slowly gets his
marker and begins to draw on
Annie's cast.)*

Annie
You know what, Bennie, I just want to be alone right
now.

Bennie
I have to work on my report.

Annie
So, do it tomorrow.

Bennie
I want to wait up for Mom. What if something happened?

Annie
Stop feeling sorry for her. I'm the reason Dad killed
himself, she isn't.

Bennie
We all promised not to talk about that -

Annie
Because of Mom. You couldn't even fathom what's going
on right now, so just stop trying, okay?

Bennie
How are you the reason Dad killed himself?

Annie
I don't know.

Bennie
You are so narcissistic.

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Annie

If you're going to wait up, do your report.

*(Bennie takes his notebook and begins reading and shuffling through pages. Annie spaces out, still holding her tummy. Then, a hobbling man enters from seemingly nowhere. He is a **leper** dressed in rags and he carries a bundled infant with him. Only Annie can see him.)*

Leper

(holding out the bundle to Annie) Please take her. She isn't safe with me. Take pity and take her, please, before they come.

*(The downstairs door flies open. Peaches and **Dan** enter. They are both noticeably drunk. The leper disappears. Bennie and Annie look at one another confused. They each then scurry into their rooms. Eventually, Bennie comes back out to eavesdrop on his mother's conversation.)*

Peaches

Please, make yourself comfortable. Oh, but don't sit there. That's a mess.

Dan

It looks much better here. Much more sunny.

Peaches

Well, there'll be no hauling away of bodies for you. I'm sorry, that was off color. Let's go upstairs.

Dan

I don't want to impose.

Peaches

You're not.

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Dan

What about the children?

Peaches

They're asleep. Would you like another martini? I've got Vermouth. I'm a pro.

Dan

I don't -

Peaches

I'm making you one. *(pause)* Do you feel awkward being here?

Dan

No. A little.

Peaches

I hate the loneliness. There's no one around to talk to anymore.

Dan

I'm sorry for your loss.

Peaches

Don't be sorry. I'm not sorry. Only lonely. *(sings)*
"Only the lonely...down down down dumbe do da"

Dan

Your children must be a comfort.

Peaches

Yeah. My oldest is such a comfort she quit school to be here all the time. My youngest gave up on all his friends.

Dan

Well, I'm sure they're going through more than they can handle right now.

Peaches

Yeah.

Dan

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So it's Annie who's not in school? That must be rough. You should encourage her to stick with some kind of daily routine so she doesn't get depressed.

Peaches

She had one, 'til she dumped her boyfriend. What I wouldn't give to be her age again.

Dan

You should talk to her about things.

Peaches

I should talk to her. She's pregnant two months and hasn't told me, that's how much she wants to talk.

Dan

She's pregnant?

Peaches

I don't know. I found a pregnancy test in the bathroom, which was positive. I'm not pregnant, I know that.

Dan

Could it have been a friend's?

Peaches

My kids don't have friends, Detective.

Dan

Well, I'm sure Annie will come to you when she's ready.

Peaches

Sure she will. Let's go upstairs, before I lose my nerve.

Dan

After you.

(They ascend the stairs into the second floor, their martini's in their hands.)

Dan

Careful there.

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Peaches

You'll love it up here. It's so much cozier -

*(They reach the landing and
Peaches meets eyes with
Bennie.)*

Peaches

What are you doing up?

Bennie

I waited up for you. I thought something had happened.

Peaches

No nothing happened except that I had a nice evening.
You should go to bed, it's late. You remember
Detective Sanders?

Bennie

Yes.

Peaches

Good. We'll just be up chatting for a bit. We would
like our privacy, so please go to bed.

(Bennie exits to his room.)

Peaches

I'm just going to slip into something more
comfortable. The bathroom's through that door if you
need it.

*(Peaches goes into her
bedroom and Bennie comes back
out.)*

Bennie

What are you doing here?

Dan

Well, son, there have been some new developments with
the case, so I thought to spend some time with your
mother to see what she might know.

Bennie

Now he's a "case"?

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Dan

Very probably.

Bennie

And you need to discuss this in the middle of the night?

Dan

Well, I am friends with your mother.

Bennie

Why?

Dan

For all the same reasons you were waiting up for her this evening, I suppose.

Bennie

She isn't Betsy Frost anymore, alright? That show was canceled in like seventy-eight or something, so why don't you just come back for her autograph in the morning.

(Bennie grabs the notebook he left behind and exits to his room. Peaches comes out in a robe that was once sexy years ago. Peaches sits beside Dan on the couch and raises her martini glass.)

Peaches

What shall we toast to?

Dan

I always toast to world peace.

Peaches

Oh, let's not waste it, Dan. Let's toast to new beginnings. Out with the old and in with the new. Trim the fat.

(They clink their glasses and drink.)

Peaches

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I'm really very glad we met. Though under strange circumstances.

Dan

Truly unfortunate.

Peaches

But at the same time, if the circumstances weren't as unfortunate as they were, we wouldn't have met, and even if we had, we wouldn't have been able to do all that we're doing about it.

Dan

I find you very attractive.

Peaches

Oh, please. Maybe long ago.

Dan

And I probably shouldn't tell you this in this setting...

Peaches

I'm flattered. Oh, don't be embarrassed.

Dan

Because it's extremely unprofessional of me. However, because we're friends now, I'd like to tell you, that, you're husband's case is not as open and shut as we thought.

Peaches

What do you mean?

Dan

We're reopening the case to investigate the possibility of homicide.

Peaches

What?! Why?

Dan

Certain factors don't add up as a suicide.

Peaches

But he killed himself.

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Dan

How do you know that?

Peaches

Isn't it obvious?

Dan

No. That's why we're reopening the case.

Peaches

I'm shocked.

Dan

Do you know of anyone who was an enemy of your husband, who might be capable of doing such a thing?

Peaches

See, Detective, I knew something was wrong. I knew there was a reason I had to be near you. I'm really scared right now.

Dan

I'm sure there's nothing to worry about. And like I said, we're just investigating the possibility. We might find that it definitely was a suicide.

Peaches

Yes and I think that it was.

Dan

Can I ask you why you think that?

Peaches

Charlie was a very guilty man. He would do things and feel guilty. I never had to call him on his bad behavior, because before I could get the chance to confront him, he would beat himself up over it. He'd wallow in depression for days over littler things. Killing himself is really the ultimate punishment.

Dan

Why was he so punishing to himself?

Peaches

I don't know.

Dan

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Was he punishing to the kids?

Peaches

Never. They didn't even know about the stuff he punished himself for.

Dan

What stuff? What were these things?

Peaches

Drinking and doing stupid shit most of the time.

Dan

Like hitting you, you mean?

Peaches

Oh, no. Nothing like that. Okay, one time (*laughs*) I shouldn't be laughing, this is terrible. But this one time, Charlie and I had to go grocery shopping in town. So while I went in to shop, Charlie decided to stay in the car, because he had been drinking, but wouldn't admit it. When I came out (*laughs and composes herself*) when I came out, there were police standing near the car, and Charlie was being questioned. I thought someone had hit us in the parking lot, until I saw this horrified woman clutching her son. He must have been five. Apparently, Charlie (*laughs hysterically*) Charlie had grabbed the boy and pulled him into our car to lecture him on (*laughs*) safety with play, not to play in the parking lot, all this shit. And the mother thought Charlie was kidnapping him, so she called the cops. Charlie saw how terrified the mother was so he felt horrible. He locked himself in his room and drank the rest of that week.

Dan

That doesn't seem so bad.

Peaches

Yes it was. You don't grab someone's kid and yell at them in your car. That's crazy. That's where Annie gets her craziness.

Dan

I mean, not bad enough to kill yourself over it.

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Peaches

Yeah, well, he's done worse than that.

Dan

What else has he done?

Peaches

Can't I save my stories for another day?

Dan

Did something, some event happen, large enough to warrant Charlie killing himself?

Peaches

Yes, but let's talk about something else.

Dan

This is important.

Peaches

If it was important, I'd be called to go down town. It's almost three in the morning. The only thing that's important is getting me out of this robe.

Dan

Peaches, you may be called to the station then.

Peaches

Will you be there?

Dan

Most likely. I also think that since the case is reopened, you and I shouldn't see one another like this.

Peaches

I don't fucking believe it.

Dan

I think I'm going to go.

Peaches

Don't read too much into anything I just said.

Dan

We may call you to the station -

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Peaches

You've already mentioned.

(Dan goes to the stairs to exit. Peaches gets up and goes over to him.)

Peaches

We'll have to sneak around then. *(she kisses him)*

Dan

You won't let me say no will you?

Peaches

That's right.

(Peaches leads Dan to her bedroom. They shut the door. Annie comes out and tiptoes down the stairs. She goes to the refrigerator, opens it, and eats whatever is in sight. Stuffing her face. She makes noises of eating. Bennie comes out of his room, hears her eating, and goes downstairs. At first she does not notice Bennie.)

Bennie

Are you pregnant?

Annie

(stops abruptly) No. Why would you ask that?

Bennie

I heard Mom say she found a test. *(pause)* So are you?

Annie

No.

Bennie

Why would Mom say that? Did you have an abortion?

Annie

No. Look, I'm not pregnant. You can't get pregnant when you're as thin as I am.

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Bennie
Well, was the test Mom's?

Annie
Mom's too old to get pregnant.

(Annie sits down on the floor. Bennie goes over to her and sits next to her.)

Bennie
Did you get pregnant when you were fat?

Annie
Yes.

Bennie
Did you starve it out of you?

Annie
(cries) Yeah.

(Bennie puts his arm around Annie.)

Bennie
Does Dudley know?

Annie
This has nothing to do with Dudley.

Bennie
Whose was it then?

Annie
It's complicated, but I just lost it when I blacked out. At the hospital I lost it. The doctor said so. Then they cleaned me out. I don't feel very good right now, Bennie. *(pause)* I thought it was Dad living in me.

Bennie
You got pregnant right when he died?

Annie
Pretty much.

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Bennie
Why didn't you tell anyone?

Annie
I did.

Bennie
Who? Not me.

Annie
Dad. And then he killed himself and it's my fault, and now it's my fault I'm not pregnant.

Bennie
It's not your fault.

(Bennie holds Annie and she sinks into his hug, exhausted.)

Annie
It feels like my fault.

Bennie
But it's not.

(They fall asleep as the lights come down.)

SCENE THREE:

(It is early morning. Annie and Bennie are on the floor where they fell asleep. Annie wakes up and the leper is there sitting at the other side of the kitchen. He is still holding the infant. They lock eyes. Annie slowly crawls over to him and reaches out to touch him. When she is almost touching him, he extends the infant to her. She shakes her head refusing to take the child.)

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Annie
My arms are too thin. I'd drop her.

Leper
They look fine to me.

Annie
They're weak. Let me see her.

*(The leper moves over to her
and shows her the infant.)*

Annie
She's so small.

Leper
She was just born.

Annie
Why don't you want her?

Leper
I do want her. She's my daughter.

Annie
You tried to give her to me before.

Leper
Because it's criminal that I keep her. Should she
catch this disease she would fall apart.

Annie
Are you falling apart?

Leper
We both are. I lost my good tooth.

Annie
I lost my period.

Leper
But gained something for it.

Annie
No, that's gone also.

Leper

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I'm to be exiled to an island; a colony. If they come and find her with me, they'll kill her.

Annie
Where's her mother?

Leper
She's not here.

Annie
She died of Leprosy?

Leper
And starvation.

Annie
I could die of that.

Leper
That's a very pretty gown you're wearing.

Annie
I never take it off.

Leper
Are you to be married?

Annie
In my head I was. Awhile ago, when my mom would leave the house, my dad would take this dress from the attic and let me wear it. There was always this classical record playing and we would dance.

Leper
After we got married, she got pregnant.

Annie
I was never married.

Leper
But now you wait to be.

Annie
It was just a game. It wasn't real.

Leper
Your baby was real.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Annie
She was never a baby. Maybe a zygote.

Leper
It was a crime of yours to lose her.

Annie
But I didn't get rid of her -

Leper
No you didn't. She's here.

Annie
That's my baby?

*(The leper gives her the
infant. She looks at the
infant a long time.)*

Annie
Does she look like me?

Leper
And me.

Annie
What's her name?

Leper
Whatever you name her.

Annie
(thinks) Drusilla.

Leper
That was my wife's name.

*(The leper inches his way
back from Annie and the baby.
Bennie wakes up and stands
up. The leper is gone.)*

Bennie
I'm going upstairs to sleep.

Annie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Goodnight.

(Bennie notices Annie crouched with hunched shoulders around a wadded blanket. There is nothing inside the blanket that he can see. He goes upstairs. The lights fade down on Annie and her baby.)

SCENE FOUR:

(It is late morning. Annie is still downstairs sleeping with the blanket nearby. The second floor is bare of people. Then Peaches emerges from her bedroom holding her head. She walks downstairs to the refrigerator. She gets a pitcher of water from the fridge and fills a glass of water. She drinks that glass and refills the glass with more water. She shuts the fridge then notices Annie asleep on the floor. She then looks around the kitchen and sees empty Doritos bags, ice cream cartons, half eaten cupcakes, and trash remnants of Annie's binge. She again opens the refrigerator and discovers only two eggs, soda, and old food in there. Annie ate everything else. Peaches gets pissed off by this and chucks the empty trash at Annie's head and back.)

Peaches

Should I ask? What the hell's the matter with you?
Eat like a normal person! You didn't even leave a
Poptart for breakfast!

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

(Annie looks at Peaches as she scolds her.)

Peaches

Don't get up. Stay there. Wallow in it.

(Peaches puts on a pot of coffee. She turns back to Annie.)

Peaches

The only person that gown looks good on is me. I have a full chest for it and a round ass. That dress is sexier on a hanger than on you. You think it's so special. Do you think it thinks the same about you? You know where I got that dress? In Italy, in 1988, during a lunch break when we shot *Snatching Ms. Lucy*. I got it, because I knew no man I ever came across could give me what I deserved. Mom and Dad never did, either. If I left it up to them, they'd give me a shotgun wedding. So I bought my own dress. And I bought my own ring.

Annie

Dad didn't get you your ring?

Peaches

Oh, he got me a ring, all right. Damn near the ugliest piece of shit I've ever seen.

Annie

He told me this dress and that ring were his mothers. They were in the family.

Peaches

(laughs) Well, Annie, Charlie was drunk off his ass his whole life. He did give me a dress and a ring, which had been part of his classless family heirlooms forever. He didn't say a word when I showed up in my Italian dress. I doubt he even noticed I switched the rings. *(pause)* And you wear them like it's Daddy giving you a hug. *(beat)* Water doesn't do shit.

(Peaches grabs the bottle of gin from the cabinet and takes a shot.)

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Peaches

You wear that dress and it looks like you're trying to be me. You'll never live up to that gown. When I was your age I had an established acting career. Here *(takes off her diamond engagement ring)* Why don't you take my ring also. *(she chucks the ring at Annie's head.)*

(Peaches starts up the stairs, then turns back to Annie.)

Peaches

Don't think your daddy was so great. He sure as shit was not. *(to herself)* But I was.

(When Peaches reaches the upstairs floor, Dan emerges from the bedroom. Peaches swaggers over to him.)

Peaches

Did you sleep well?

Dan

I did next to my movie star.

Peaches

I'm no movie star. I'm a physical therapist.

Dan

Well, that physical therapy you gave me last night has me cured.

Peaches

I put some coffee on downstairs, but don't go down, I'll get it when it's ready. You're not hung over?

Dan

I guess I didn't drink that much.

Peaches

We were wasted. We drank the same amount.

Dan

Well, maybe we didn't.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Peaches

Were you pouring your drinks out?

Dan

Naw, I guess it's just my man body. I can take a lot more booze than your tiny little lady body.

Peaches

Gosh, I hardly recall a thing last night. *(pause)* You?

Dan

How could I miss a beat? Such an unforgettable evening.

Peaches

What did we talk about then?

Dan

When you put it like that, I guess I don't remember every detail.

Peaches

That's because it's not the words that matter. We could have said anything and probably did, but it's not memorable in the way that the clinking of our glasses was.

Dan

And we did do that often.

Peaches

I sometimes worry that in the moment of..good times, I'll divulge some things that will bite me in the ass later. I don't want to worry about that with you, Dan.

Dan

There's no need to worry. I do remember a long discussion we had about my fascination with you when I was a young man.

Peaches

Oh, yes. I feel flattered all over again.

Dan

You know, I never would have recognized you; reading your name on paper.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Peaches

Oh, that.

Dan

Is your stage name your real name? Is your name now a changed name?

Peaches

Now my head's spinning. *(laughs)* Peaches is not my birth name. I changed my name to Peaches, because it sounds so much more light and effervescent than Drusilla. Imagine trying to get case as a pre-teen daughter on a network show with a serious name like Drusilla. I never forgave my mother for that one. That's why I named my kids Bennie and Annie. Cute, wholesome, to the point. They could get cast in any show. But they haven't got the acting bug like I had.

Dan

You named them yourself?

Peaches

Yup.

Dan

Without any input?

Peaches

Oh, yeah. I do everything my self. That way it doesn't get fucked up. Charlie's two cents wasn't even worth that. Annie went without a name for a week because Charlie had to have input. His input was walking around the super market with her interviewing random people about what her name should be considering her size and facial expression. After I caught him doing that I said, "Good work, Charles, go fix your self a drink." Then I reported to him that according to the survey her name is Annie.

Dan

And he believed you?

Peaches

I tell you, that man was gullible. Gullible 'til the day he died. Sometimes I wonder why I settled on him. I guess I figured, marry a weak man and live life; marry a strong man and live *his* life.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Dan

You think that's the case?

Peaches

Not any more.

(Peaches finally notices the broken coffee table.)

Peaches

Fucking kids.

(Peaches attempts to gather the broken glass but gives up.)

Peaches

I bet the coffee's ready.

(Peaches gets up and goes downstairs into the kitchen. She fixes two cups of coffee, then looks at Annie.)

Peaches

(shouts) Coffee table? *(Annie wakes up)* Why don't you take a bath until Dan leaves?

(Bennie emerges from his bedroom. He is wearing Speedos swim briefs, a swim cap, and goggles.)

Peaches

Wait. First I gotta shit.

(Peaches goes into the downstairs bathroom. Bennie centers himself in front of Dan rather obtrusively.)

Dan

Good morning, Bennie.

(Bennie does not respond or move.)

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Dan

I see you're in your Speedos, there, Bennie. *(waits for a response)* That's nice. I'm sorry we got off on the wrong foot yesterday -

Bennie

Did we? I hardly noticed.

(Bennie begins to stretch out his arms.)

Dan

Good. *(pause)* That's good. I wouldn't want things to be awkward between you and me.

Bennie

You mean "I".

Dan

What?

Bennie

Saying "you and me" in the context of being "between" is grammatically incorrect. "Between me" sounds wrong. "Between I" is correct.

Dan

That's very astute of you. You must do well in school.

Bennie

I'm one of the dumbest ones there.

Dan

So, are you on a swim team?

Bennie

No.

Dan

What's with the swim trunks then?

Bennie

Do you consider yourself a brilliant detective?

Dan

I wouldn't consider myself to be "brilliant" -

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Bennie
Neither would I. *(yells)* Mom! Mom!

Dan
Hey, don't yell for your mother. Why don't you walk downstairs and get her?

Bennie
Have you been downstairs?

Dan
Not today.

Bennie
There's a reason for that. *(yells)* Mom!

Dan
What do you need her for?

Bennie
I have to go to a swim meet.

Dan
So, you are on a swim team, little man.

Bennie
Good work, Detective.

Dan
Is that sarcasm I detect? *(laughs)*

Bennie
No, I have a cold.

Dan
Have a seat.

Bennie
Rather not.

Dan
Had a wild night last night, I see.

Bennie
Hardly.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Dan

How'd the coffee table break?

Bennie

Freak accident. My sister's a freak and she had an accident.

Dan

Hey, why call your sister a freak? She's your big sister. Come on now.

Bennie

Have you met my sister?

Dan

If I say no, will you tell me there's a reason for that?

Bennie

Oh, I get it, so you think I'm a smart ass?

Dan

The dumbest kids in the class often have to be. How long have you been on a swim team?

Bennie

Four years.

Dan

How'd the table break?

Bennie

Annie fell on it.

Dan

Drinking?

Bennie

No, she faints sometimes.

Dan

That have to do with her pregnancy?

Bennie

What?

Dan

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Have I crossed a line?

Bennie

I think so.

Dan

Have a seat.

(Bennie sits on the couch.)

Bennie

She's not pregnant. Tell my mom, okay? Discreetly somehow?

Dan

All of a sudden you care so much?

Bennie

You do realize I'm a fourteen year old boy and I'll never admit to that.

Dan

How far along was she?

Bennie

I don't know, not far or far enough to miscarry, but she has this eating disorder.

Dan

I know.

Bennie

Well, shhh..she thinks that gown covers her body.

Dan

Does it?

Bennie

You haven't seen her?

Dan

Not since three months ago when your father...I'm sorry. How are you kids holding up? *(Bennie laughs)* When I saw Annie last, she was...robust.

Bennie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Fat. I used to make fun of her, but I never thought she would take it so seriously.

Dan

I doubt she lost that weight as a reaction to your comments. She's probably going through a lot, you know, like you are. And your mom is.

Bennie

Mom? Does she seem like she's mourning to you?

Dan

That's a hell of a question.

Bennie

Come on, you're here. I'm not that dumb. Mom's drunk all the time and she's got her head, I don't know where, not with me and Annie.

Dan

Everyone mourns differently. Your mom may feel responsible.

Bennie

Responsible?

Dan

I'm sure she's going through doubting questions about what kind of wife she was. If there was something she could have done.

Bennie

My mom was not exactly ever a wife at all. Or, that's what Annie says.

Dan

She was married to your father. Let's not play games.

Bennie

You know how they met? Dad was a plumber. He did electrician stuff. Odd fix it jobs. Mom was working on a film -

Dan

She's quite the actress.

Bennie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Hello, all she's done is B films, because she's not opposed to showing her breasts on film.

Dan

Hey!

Bennie

You can't even call it film, I think it's just video with a filter.

Dan

That's enough. God, you treat your mother like -

Bennie

Like she treated Dad. They met because Mom clogged a toilet with her shit.

Dan

Foul mouth!

Bennie

It's the truth. Mom always says, if your father hadn't cleaned my shit -

Dan

ENOUGH!

Bennie

It would have stunk up the whole set.

Dan

Why did you wait up for her last night then? If you're just going to be cruel to her behind her back?

Bennie

I never leave Annie alone. I mean, if she's sitting by herself somewhere. I don't leave her as she is, I'll go and sit by her just so she isn't alone. She's..slipping away. My mom barely realizes Annie is in a bad place.

Dan

Would you stop getting down on your mother!

Bennie

She's lost fifty pounds in three months. She lost her boyfriend. She's lost her baby - apparently Mom knew

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

about it, but never helped Annie out at all. Where's my mom in this family? She isn't here. She's here but she's not *here*. She's never been here. She's off someplace all the time, and Dad cleaned her shit. Annie and me are just two more loads of shit she couldn't stomach to smell, but Dad's gone now.

Dan

Annie's pretty affected by her loss.

Bennie

Completely. She's not my sister. She's a new Annie. An Annie with a Dudley.

Dan

Her boyfriend?

Bennie

I never liked him, but Annie does.

Dan

When did they start going out?

Bennie

Just after Dad died. It's because Annie can't be alone. So now I sit by her, because there's no Dad and now no Dudley.

Dan

Your dad would sit by her?

Bennie

Yeah, that was his job, you know. Ever since Annie discovered she was fat. I only took over since Dad died.

Dan

What would they do together?

Bennie

I don't know. Sit around. Laugh.

Dan

Did you and your dad have a special relationship?

Bennie

Not like Annie did. She was Dad's favorite.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Dan

I ask because it's clear how Annie is living through all this, but it isn't clear how you're handling things.

Bennie

I'm handling everything. I'm the man of the house now. I'm picking up where Dad left off.

Dan

Where did Dad leave off?

Bennie

Close to Annie.

Dan

She needs a lot of care.

Bennie

Somehow.

Dan

Who's going to give Bennie what he needs? The care he deserves?

Bennie

Who cares? Listen, I'm going to be late for my swim meet.

Dan

Bennie, don't skirt the issue.

Bennie

I'm not.

Dan

Maybe we can work together. You take care of Annie. I'll take care of your mother.

Bennie

How does that work?

Dan

Well, first off, I'll speak with your mother and discreetly reassure her that her daughter is not and was never pregnant.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Bennie

Why don't you reassure her that her daughter
definitely was and she should care.

*(Annie comes up the stairs
humming and holding her
bundled infant.)*

Dan

Good morning there, Annie. What have you got there?

Annie

Drusilla.

*(Annie puts on a record at
the record player and begins
to sway with her bundle.)*

Bennie

Are you okay, Annie?

Annie

This is the ice patch.

Bennie

What?

Annie

But will there be a head on collision as well?

Dan

Are you speaking metaphorically?

Bennie

You remember the Detective?

Dan

Drusilla's your mother's birth name, you know.

*(Annie stops dancing and
looks at Dan.)*

Annie

But that's his wife's name.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

*(Dan looks confusedly at
Bennie. Peaches comes out of
the bathroom downstairs and
up the stairs.)*

Peaches

Oh, good, everyone's up. *(noticing Bennie)* Shit!
Bennie! *(holds her head)* Motherfu—mmmmm! Your swim
meet, I know. God, I blanked. Bennie, are you late?

Bennie

Pretty much, yeah, really late. I'm kind of screwed,
thanks for asking.

Peaches

Shut it, all right! Annie, you can drive him. Hop to
it.

Dan

I'm not sure Annie's in the proper...Maybe we ought to
take him.

Peaches

Annie, you mind?

*(Annie shrugs her shoulders,
her mind is still with her
bundle.)*

Dan

Really, it's not trouble, Peaches, we can grab coffee
after, huh?

Peaches

Danny, my head's swollen with pain. The light of day
could pop it.

Dan

I'm offering.

Peaches

Don't push it. Annie, keys! Now!

Bennie

Wait, I need my sweats.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

*(Bennie runs into his
bedroom.)*

Peaches

Annie!

*(Peaches walks over to Annie,
snatches her bundle, throws
it to the ground and shuts
off the music. Annie gapes
wide eyed at the bundle.
Peaches goes to get her
keys.)*

Peaches

Snap out of it, Annie.

Dan

Look at her, if she's in a state where she has to
"snap out of it" to drive a car, then do you really
even want her to drive?

Peaches

Well, I'm not dressed.

Dan

Is she?

Peaches

More or less.

Dan

Come on.

*(Peaches goes to her
bedroom.)*

Dan

Bennie! *(shouts)* Your mother and I will take you.

*(Bennie comes out of his
room.)*

Dan

Wait in the car.

Bennie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Which one?

Dan

Mine. *(throws Bennie the car keys)* We'll be out in a second.

(Bennie exits out the front door.)

Dan

Annie.

Annie

Hi. *(gathers her bundle back up)*

Dan

Is that your baby, Annie? *(she just looks at Dan)* I know you're no longer pregnant. Things are really hard right now, but they're going to get better.

Annie

Drusilla just popped in my head. I didn't even think. It just came.

Dan

Who, your mother?

Annie

Why is that her name?

Dan

That's her birth name, but she changed it.

Annie

(looks at bundle) Yes, birth name. But he said it's his wife's name.

Dan

Who? Your father, you mean?

Annie

My father?

Dan

Will you be alright alone here?

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

*(Peaches comes out of her
bedroom in a dress.)*

Peaches

Let's go!

Dan

I'm not sure we should leave her alone.

Peaches

Annie? Why? She's always alone. She barely leaves the house.

Dan

What?

Peaches

Come on. Where's Bennie?

Dan

Car.

*(Peaches descends the stairs
and exits. A car horn honks.)*

Peaches

Shut it, Bennie!

*(Dan goes to Annie and puts
his hands on her shoulders.)*

Dan

We'll be back later. Will you be all right?

Annie

I think so. How did you know I'm not pregnant?

Dan

I can see your bundle.

Annie

(smiles) Yes. She's right here. I wish Dad could see, he would be proud, and happy. Maybe I'll show him. Yes.

*(The car honks again. Dan
exits while saying)*

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Dan

Take care, Annie.

Annie

Bye.

*(Annie puts the record player
back on and sways to the
tune. The leper comes on
stage from seemingly
nowhere.)*

Leper

How's our little one doing?

Annie

Dad?

Leper

You look so pretty, Annie, in that dress. You look
just like your mother did on her wedding day.

Annie

(shows diamond ring on her finger) Does this look
familiar?

Leper

Oh, yes. She wore that also. I put that right onto her
finger.

Annie

She said this was not from you.

Leper

I put it on her finger.

Annie

You told me this dress was in your family.

Leper

It was. It was my mother's and Drusilla got married in
it.

Annie

But it's not! And Drusilla is my baby not your wife!

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Leper

That is very true now. By logic it is.

Annie

I'm confused.

Leper

She'll grow up to look just like your mother, as you did.

Annie

This dress is not from you!

Leper

Annie.

Annie

Mom bought it in Europe. She hated your dress. She hated your ring.

Leper

She was always very cruel to me.

Annie

But I never was.

Leper

You were the wife I was meant to have. Sometimes we get put in bodies that seem to be the wrong role, so we bend the rules.

Annie

Why?

Leper

Because that's how we care.

Annie

That's so strange. It seems so strange now.

Leper

Things aren't always what they appear to be, you know.

Annie

You're not who you appeared to be at first.

Leper

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

I'm not where I am right now because of what appeared to be.

Annie
Where are you?

Leper
In your mind.

Annie
Why are you here?

Leper
To see it all through.

Annie
Did you kill yourself because of me? Of what I told you?

Leper
Nothing is as it seems. *(to child)* Hold on to that. And be cautious of appearances.

(The doorbell rings.)

Annie
Even I look to fool.

(The leper disappears. Annie looks at her gown. There is a knock at the door. It is Dudley.)

Dudley
(from outside) Annie? Annie, are you in there? I'm coming in.

(Annie takes off her gown and her ring, not once setting down her bundle. Dudley enters, and seeing the kitchen is a mess, he picks up the trash as he calls up to Annie not knowing whether she is there or not.)

Dudley

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Annie? Annie? Are you home? I see evidence that you are. Annie, I came to apologize for...being entirely unsympathetic to.. oh hell. *(to himself)* I fucked up. *(shouts)* I know you're home, because I can smell your coconut perfume. You're crazy and I don't mind. You throw rocks at me, your baking is poison, and I'm cleaning up your kitchen. I'm coming up!

(He ascends the stairs and sees Annie standing in her underwear.)

Dudley

Where's your dress?

Annie

I don't need it anymore. It changed my appearance, drastically.

Dudley

Well, you appear as you are now.

Annie

Not honest enough.

Dudley

Can I get you your clothes? I mean, I love you. I don't miss you, but I've loved you in your absence and I see how I care about you - for some reason.

Annie

You've never seen me.

Dudley

Not like this. You're beautiful. I'm so sorry for...everything.

Annie

You've not met me yet. Before we began, I was my father's wife in play and this is our imaginary child, but she will be the hand of reason.

Dudley

I'm sorry?

Annie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Once my mother tried to kill me. I was five and I pooped in the bathtub. I had been constipated for months and I rapidly gained weight from the food I ate. I ate so much, but it couldn't push through, so my mom fed me laxatives. So many. Pills mashed into my food. In the tub, it felt like...like as painful as a miscarriage pushing through my intestines and I pooped in the hot bath. No bubbles. Nothing to veil the truth of what I had done. It was me and the longest - it didn't float. Mom turned red with anger. She beat me down, as Dad cleaned my shit. He said Mom didn't mean it and gave me this warm hug that told me where my bruises were, but washed everything else away.

Dudley

I never knew your dad.

Annie

My mom divorced me that day, somehow, because she wouldn't divorce Dad. I don't know why she never did. She had Bennie a year later. And everything was fine, or so it seemed.

Dudley

Let's wrap this around you. (*refers to the cloth of her bundle*)

Annie

No! Don't you listen?

Dudley

You're crazy.

Annie

I...I get it now. (*looks at the bundle*) I understand. I'm going to leave the house now.

Dudley

Not without clothes.

(*Dudley goes into her bedroom and retrieves pants and a shirt.*)

Dudley

Here. (*he helps her get dressed*)

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Annie

I think you do love me.

(Annie and Dudley descend the stairs and exit the house.)

ACT II
SCENE ONE:

(Bennie and Dan enter through the front door into the kitchen. Peaches follows. Bennie and Dan are in good spirits. Bennie has one purple ribbon around his neck that says "5th Place".)

Dan

That was really fantastic, Bennie! *(to Peaches)* Wasn't that fantastic?

(Peaches begins to fix herself a martini.)

Peaches

It was five hours. *(smiles)*

Dan

Are you going to put that ribbon with the collection?

Bennie

What collection?

Dan

The one with all your ribbons and trophies?

Bennie

This will necessitate the collection. Actually the next ribbon will create the collection, the purpose this ribbon will serve is to mark the territory of where the other ribbons will go, you know, when I start winning.

Dan

Four years on a swim team and no ribbons?

Bennie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Sometimes I get the black ones.

Dan

What place is that?

Bennie

Most improved. I make a point to burn those.

Dan

But you had such speed.

Bennie

I was fifth.

Dan

You were flying.

Peaches

I couldn't tell which one you were.

Bennie

Thanks, Mom.

Peaches

You're welcome, Sweetie. *(to Dan)* Oh, how rude of me, would you like one? *(lifts her martini glass)*

Dan

Isn't it a little early?

Peaches

Well, I thought we were celebrating.

Dan

That was really something Bennie, I haven't felt that athletic energy in years. I used to be on a baseball team.

Bennie

And I bet you're going to tell me all about it.

Dan

It makes you feel alive to get out there and try your hardest.

Bennie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Standing in the outfield, watching the men, watching the *other* men, waiting for the ball, and watching.

Peaches
Don't be sarcastic.

Dan
Any team sport is good for you. I only wish your sister could've been there to see you.

Bennie
Me too.

Peaches
(to Dan) Are we going to have a seat upstairs? Bennie, tell me that glass is cleaned up.

Bennie
I wasn't the one who broke it.

(Bennie goes upstairs to the living room.)

Peaches
I thought I asked you to clean it!

Bennie
When would I have time to clean it?

(Peaches ascends the stairs.)

Peaches
Come along, Detective.

(Dan holds the gin bottle and examines how much Peaches must have drunk recently. Dan places it down and goes upstairs. Bennie goes into his room to change out of his sweats.)

Peaches
(sits on the couch and pats the seat beside her) Tell me, Detective, how were you planning to spend your Sunday?

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Dan

(sits) I was going to initiate a similar line of questioning.

(Peaches knocks back a large gulp of her martini, smiles, and giggles at Dan. Dan then snuggles and nibbles her neck like a frisky animal. Bennie opens his room door. He's wearing normal clothes. He sees them, and slams his door shut, all in a beat.)

Dan

Maybe we should wait until a more opportune and private moment?

Peaches

Oh, he's in there, he's not coming out. He likes it in his room.

Dan

Should we order pizza for the kids?

Peaches

Not unless you want to see Annie eat the whole thing.

Dan

I thought Annie wasn't eating so much these days.

Peaches

She binges. She purges. I blame television.

Dan

About Annie..

Peaches

What about her?

Dan

Do you think you'll talk to her?

Peaches

I don't want to embarrass her.

Dan

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Now, I know it's not my place -

*(Annie and Dudley storm into
the house and enter
downstairs in the kitchen.)*

Dan

But I think Bennie would be -

*(Annie is looking around the
kitchen subtly trying to find
her apparition of the leper.
Dudley tries to catch his
breath, he's keeling over.)*

Dudley

Stop! Would you slow down for five minutes!

Annie

You aren't letting me breathe!

Dudley

Why did you have to leave like that?

Annie

You didn't have to follow me.

Dudley

You would've left me there?

Annie

Dudley - please.

Dudley

In a graveyard?

Annie

Oh, it's nicer than the dirt field you call a lawn
over there.

Dudley

Annie, you brought me there. You led me. You didn't
like it?

Annie

I just - I have to find someone right now, okay?

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Dudley

I am not going to be jerked around by you.

Annie

Fine. Go be jerked around by one of your slutty co-eds.

Dudley

I don't have any slutty co-eds. Annie, I've never done that with anyone before. Why did we stop?

(Bennie bursts out of his bedroom and runs downstairs. Bennie shoves Dudley.)

Annie

Bennie!

(Dan goes down the stairs quickly.)

Bennie

Stay away from my sister!

(Dan restrains Bennie.)

Dan

Settle down, Bennie! Whoa! Whoa!

(Dudley frees himself.)

Annie

Just go, Dudley.

Dudley

But I love you.

Dan

I think you better leave. Sorry about all this.

(Dudley turns to go.)

Bennie

And never come back.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

(Peaches comes down the stairs with her empty glass. Dudley exits the front door.)

Dan
Lot of pent up anger you've got there.

Peaches
He should probably be in contact sports. *(shoots Bennie a look)*

(Dan releases Bennie. Bennie looks at Annie.)

Annie
Get over it.

(Bennie quickly goes up stairs.)

Dan
I'll talk to him.

Peaches
Why?

(Dan goes upstairs. Peaches looks Annie up and down, and goes to the gin bottle. Peaches begins to shake herself another martini.)

Peaches
Want one? We're celebrating.

(Dan has stopped Bennie upstairs.)

Dan
What was that all about?

Bennie
Are you, like, completely incapable of listening?

Dan
Why should it bother you? In a few years you'll have a girlfriend and be after the same things.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Bennie

You don't want me to mind you going after my mom.

Dan

I want you to approve, but that's not what we're talking about here.

(Dan kneels down to pick up the glass from the table. He holds the glass in his hands as he collect it.)

Dan

Look, I don't have a sister. I don't have a brother, and I don't have kids. I'm just, I'm here seeing someone that's hurt acting out of character and I'm just saying you can tell me about it if you need to.

(Bennie doesn't respond. He hesitates, then begins to pick the glass up with Dan. Downstairs, Peaches is finished making her martini.)

Peaches

I'm ecstatic you're wearing sweat pants like a fashion disaster. *(pause)* Oh, don't look cross. We're celebrating.

Annie

What's there to celebrate?

Peaches

The fact that you aren't wearing my wedding gown, for one.

Annie

I broke my wrist.

Peaches

How'd you manage that?

Annie

(frowns) Weight of the world, I guess.

Peaches

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

I'm making you a martini.

(Peaches begins to make Annie a martini. Upstairs, Dan and Bennie have collected all the glass into the bag. They stand up and brush off. Bennie goes into his room. Dan sits on the couch. He notices the record player and while Peaches speaks downstairs, Dan turns on the records and plays the opera very quietly, though he overhears them.)

Peaches

When I got pregnant with you, Annie, it was the end of my career. Come over here so I'm not shouting. You know what kind of a career I had, you know...but you can't fathom. It's to your benefit that you aren't pregnant anymore. Trust me. Oh, yes, a mother always knows. You don't want ice cubes in it do you?

Annie

No.

Peaches

You're not going to throw it up, are you? That's good Vermouth.

Annie

No.

Peaches

Annie, no one's taking this harder than you. I know just how special your relationship to your father was. And I'm not going to defile his memory by discussing it. That's between you and his ghost. But please be relieved you aren't pregnant.

(Peaches hands Annie the martini.)

Peaches

Please don't be so stupid as to mourn for *that*. I'll be spending the evening with the Detective.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Annie

Why?

Peaches

Never question.

(Peaches ascends the stairs with her fresh martini. Annie holds her drink and thinks, slipping into a fog.)

Dan

How is she?

Peaches

She is ready to rumble! Grrr!

Dan

I meant Annie.

Peaches

(sits beside Dad) I gave her her medicine. She'll be fine.

(Peaches takes Dan's hand, stands up and leads him into her bedroom. They shut the door though some "grrr"s can be heard for a moment. Annie, still in the kitchen, stares at her drink. She sits at the kitchen table. She takes a long time deciding to drink. She takes a sip. She takes another sip.)

Annie

Valet?! Bring the car around! Oh, yes I play Betsy Frost. Yes, you can have my autograph.

(Annie sips more consistently.)

Annie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Oh? Oh, what? No! It's just a little weight. No, I'm not - No! You can't kill off my character! But this - this was an accident! Oh? Oh! No!

(Bennie enters from his room. He listens. He goes to Peaches' door and listens. He makes an "ew" face. He goes to Annie's door and listens. Then goes to the stairs, and listens. He descends the stairs and finds Annie at the table drinking her martini.)

Bennie

What are you doing?

Annie

Keeping up appearances *(lifts her glass to toast, then drinks)*

(Bennie sits at the table.)

Bennie

What's with the martini? You don't drink.

Annie

Thanks for assaulting my boyfriend, by the way. Really, it's good, you're the dragon around the castle, it makes the knight want to rescue me more.

Bennie

He's a jerk.

Annie

So?

Bennie

So..

(Bennie takes Annie's casted wrist and draws it towards him on the table. With a black marker from his pocket he continues his sketch for a beat.)

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Bennie

I won my meet today. You should've seen me. I got first doing the four hundred meter fly. That's four laps! And Mom was there the whole time! You should've been there!

Annie

I want to be alone right now.

Bennie

No you don't.

Annie

Yes, I do.

Bennie

You never want to be alone.

Annie

Go away.

(Bennie caps his marker and goes up stairs, he stands at the top of the stairs listening for a beat. Then goes into his room and shuts the door. Annie finishes her martini. The lights dim. Annie rests her head on the table. She sleeps for a beat. The leper enters from out of nowhere. He carries the wedding gown. Annie lifts her head and sees him standing there. She sits up and she has the baby in the bundle in her arms.)

Leper

When did you stop wearing this?

Annie

Today.

Leper

But aren't you to be married?

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Annie

Stop asking me that. I never was.

Leper

Don't say that. How can that be true?

Annie

A wedding is the beginning. There's nothing beginning here. This is the end.

Leper

What has ended?

Annie

I went to your grave today.

Leper

I merely changed shape, Annie. I merely changed appearances.

Annie

Dad, you're dead.

Leper

I'm very much alive in you. Please wear the gown.

Annie

I have to give her back to you.

Leper

Carry her with you. Please, this cannot unravel.

Annie

She belongs with you. You're both dead.

*(Annie gives the bundle to
the leper, who takes it
reluctantly.)*

Leper

Please -

Annie

Is this why you killed yourself?

Leper

I'm falling apart -

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Annie

Did you kill yourself, Dad, because eventually there would be our child?

Leper

Annie, I didn't kill myself. How could I leave you? I wanted to be with you always.

Annie

How could that be?

Leper

I wanted it to be us always, just us.

Annie

If you didn't kill yourself, what happened?

Leper

Things are not as they appear.

Annie

I don't understand!

(The leper backs away and fades away. Annie lowers her head to the table. The sun rises, it is morning. Bennie enters from his bedroom, he comes down the stairs and sees Annie. He approaches her and puts her arm around his neck and his other arm under her legs. She is so frail that he can lift her easily. She wakes slightly.)

Annie

Dad?

Bennie

I'm going to carry you to bed. Keep sleeping.

Annie

Mom killed Dad, Bennie. Mom killed him.

Bennie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Shhhh..

(Bennie carries Annie up the stairs and into her bedroom. He comes out and shuts the door behind him soundlessly. Bennie goes downstairs and begins to fix himself a bowl of cereal. Dan enters from Peaches' bedroom. He is in his boxers and night shirt. He goes into the upstairs bathroom, shuts the door, is in there for a beat. The sound of jiggling the toilet handle can be heard, then he enters, closing the bathroom door behind him. He goes down the stairs.)

Bennie

Now that you're living with us, I'd like to encourage you to wear pants.

Dan

Oh, it's just us men for the moment.

Bennie

That's a gamble.

Dan

The upstairs toilet is clogged.

Bennie

Don't look at me.

Dan

Well, I'll take a look at it later.

(Dan goes into the downstairs bathroom, and does not close the door. He begins to pee. Bennie is horrified.)

Bennie

Whoa! Whoa! I'm eating here.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

(Dan flushes, and enters.)

Dan
Sorry about that.

(Dan pours himself a bowl of cereal, and has a seat next to Bennie.)

Bennie
Don't want to give the pants a try?

(Dan rises)

Dan
Sheesh.

(Dan goes upstairs into Peaches' bedroom and comes back down wearing sweatpants. He takes a bite of his cereal.)

Dan
It's soggy now.

Bennie
Are you, like, under cover investigating my mom, or something?

Dan
Investigating your mother?

Bennie
It would've been a smarter move *not* to let us all know that you're a detective. Just some friendly advice. For next time.

Dan
I'm not investigating your mother.

Bennie
Are you investigating anything?

Dan
I'm pursuing possible avenues.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Bennie

Add Mom to the list.

Dan

Maybe I'll add *you* to the list.

Bennie

There's no reason not to.

Dan

Now what is that supposed to mean?

Bennie

That you aren't doing your job.

(Bennie rises and puts his bowl in the sink. He slings his back pack over his shoulder.)

Bennie

Just look into Mom, okay?

Dan

Damn it, Bennie. What do you have against your mother?

Bennie

You should listen to me.

Dan

It couldn't have anything to do with her according to the findings.

(Bennie exits through the front door. Dan pushes his cereal bowl away. Peaches enters from her bedroom. Her head is pounding. She makes her way down the stairs.)

Peaches

You're up early.

Dan

So are you.

Peaches

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

I'm not up. I'm suffering the journey to alleviate dehydration, then it's back to bed for me.

(Peaches pours herself some water and drinks.)

Dan

No working today?

Peaches

I'll get in by ten. Are you finding everything okay?

Dan

Had some cereal.

Peaches

Be sure to put it back on the top shelf so Annie can't reach it. Christ, water doesn't do shit.

(Peaches pours herself a shot of gin.)

Dan

Peaches! No, no, no.

Peaches

It works.

Dan

Come on, now. Have a seat.

(Dan sits her down. He gets a lemon from the fridge and cuts a slice and squeezes it into her water. He opens the cupboards.)

Dan

Let's see what we got here.

Peaches

There's nothing, trust me.

Dan

Here, we got some pancake mix. How does that sound?

Peaches

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

It sounds like it takes longer than three minutes to make.

Dan

Don't you worry about that, just drink your water.

Peaches

Okay, Dan.

(Dan clicks the burner on and lays a pan on it. Begins to mix the pancake mix with water and milk.)

Dan

So, no one minds that you get to work late?

Peaches

Everyone understands. All things considered.

Dan

Do you find that you're sluggish most mornings?

Peaches

You mean hungover off my ass?

Dan

I'm concerned. Maybe you should talk to someone.

Peaches

I talk to you.

Dan

No, you don't, Peaches. You don't talk about that.

Peaches

Well.

Dan

Well...

(Dan see that she's finished her water and fills her glass with more water. The pancakes sizzle. He finds a banana in the fridge.)

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Dan

Banana pancakes?

Peaches

Oh, I just got nauseous.

Dan

No bananas, then.

*(Dan puts the banana back and
flips the pancakes.)*

Dan

We're really leaning on the probability that it wasn't
suicide, Peaches.

Peaches

I take it we're not talking about the banana.

Dan

It may have been someone very close to him.

Peaches

Detective, with all due respect, why are you doing
this to me?

Dan

I know it wasn't you.

Peaches

Of course it wasn't me -

Dan

I know it.

Peaches

It was Charlie.

*(Peaches rises. She
approaches Dan seductively.)*

Peaches

I'm starting to heal, Dan.

*(Peaches puts her arms around
Dan.)*

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Peaches
Do you know why that is?

(She pecks him on the lips.)

Peaches
It has a lot to do with you.

Dan
I'm concerned that there's someone out there.

Peaches
Don't be.

Dan
I can't shirk the facts.

Peaches
What facts?

Dan
It's in my gut.

Peaches
Then it's not a fact.

Dan
The direction of those cuts in his arms. He would've pulled towards, not away. *(he demonstrates slicing his arm pulling towards his body)*

Peaches
(covers her eyes) Oh, Dan.

Dan
I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

Peaches
Oh!

Dan
I'm sorry. Have a seat.

(Dan guides her to her chair and sits her down.)

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Peaches

Oh, I need a drink.

*(Dan quickly refills her
water.)*

Peaches

Not quite what I was referring to. Look, Dan, Charlie
killed himself.

Dan

It doesn't add up.

Peaches

He killed himself, and that's that.

Dan

I'm sorry, Peaches I don't think that's the case.

Peaches

Dan. What I'm about to tell you, has to be kept
completely off the record.

*(Dan sits down next to
Peaches completely
attentively.)*

Peaches

Remember what I told you about Charlie?

Dan

Yes.

Peaches

This has to be completely off the record, you have to
promise me. I can't have this public information.

Dan

I understand.

Peaches

A few days before Charlie, you know, ended it, I
caught him with a young boy.

Dan

Caught him?

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Peaches

Yes.

Dan

I don't follow.

Peaches

Charlie had a problem. I didn't even know until I found him with a boy, here in the house. I don't know how Charlie got him in here. I don't know how far he got. I don't know when this sickness started or why. I don't know why the child obeyed me when I told him never to tell a soul about this. I don't even know why I told that little boy not to tell a soul. I'm probably going to hell. But that's why Charlie slit his wrists. So please, just drop it.

(Dan is speechless. Peaches scraps the pancakes out of the pan and onto plates.)

Peaches

I'm really not hungry.

(Peaches ascends the stairs and exits into her bedroom. She comes out dressed for work, and descends the stairs. She hesitates at the door, before exiting.)

Peaches

It means the world to me that you're here.

(Dan nods. Peaches exits. Annie enters from her bedroom. She is in full exercise clothes. She goes straight to the step aerobics steps in the toy chest, takes them out, and sets them up. She is determined about her actions. She puts the needle on the record player and opera begins to play. Dan ascends the stairs. Annie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

*begins her step aerobics,
furious and determined.)*

Dan
Good morning, Annie.

*(Annie waves hello to him.
She continues to step.)*

Dan
You're looking better - strong.

Annie
Thanks!

Dan
What's this you're listening to?

Annie
Brahms!

Dan
Quite a mature composer.

Annie
Thanks!

Dan
Mind if I turn it down a little?

*(Dan turns the volume down so
that it is not too loud at
all.)*

Dan
You aren't going to school?

Annie
I deferred this semester.

Dan
What were you studying?

Annie
Sculpture.

Dan

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Wow. Do you miss it?

Annie

I guess.

Dan

I suppose now you're sculpting your body.

(Annie stops.)

Dan

Changing its shape?

(Annie puts the steps away in the trunk. She begins to do jumping jacks.)

Annie

Yeah, I guess that could be true.

Dan

I made some pancakes. They're downstairs. They're still warm, I think.

Annie

No thanks. I'm going to go for a run after this.

Dan

It's snowing pretty hard out there.

Annie

That's okay. I like the snow.

Dan

Be sure to watch out for the ice. It can be slippery when there's a thin dusting of snow over it.

Annie

I know.

(Annie jogs down the stairs.)

Dan

You have a good day, now.

Annie

Thanks!

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

(Annie exits the house. Dan sits down and listens to the Brahms for a beat. He leans back and closes his eyes. Bennie enters the house downstairs. He notices the pancakes and hears the record playing.)

Bennie
Annie Banani, is that you?

(Bennie picks at the pancakes. Dan wakes.)

Bennie
I'm cutting today, let's go for a walk. Annie?

(Bennie goes up the stairs.)

Bennie
Fucking Dudley better not be here!

(Bennie reaches the second floor. Dan and Bennie see each other.)

Bennie
Don't tell Mom, okay?

Dan
I won't.

Bennie
What are you still doing here?

Dan
I can't seem to get moving.

Bennie
Is Annie here?

Dan
She went out for a run.

Bennie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Crap. Did she go with Dudley?

Dan
What do you have against Dudley?

Bennie
I hate him.

Dan
Why?

Bennie
Why are you in our house? You can't just show up and act like the man of the house because you want to.

Dan
You seem to have a lot of aggression towards the men that come in this house.

Bennie
Whatever.

Dan
I suppose you think no one can do a better job than you?

Bennie
Are you *trying* to do a better job than me?

Dan
Did you act this way towards your father?

Bennie
What's it to you?

Dan
You don't have to get defensive.

Bennie
You don't have to get offensive.

Dan
Bennie, did you kill your father?

Bennie
Get out of my house!

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Dan

Bennie! You can trust me! I won't let anything happen to you, but I have to know!

Bennie

Get the fuck out of my house! Get out!

Dan

I care about you -

Bennie

You're not my dad! I have no dad! I'm the man of the house! Get out!

Dan

I'm going.

(Dan approaches the stairs.)

Dan

I believe you're a good kid.

(Dan descends the stairs, and exits. Bennie throws his backpack to the ground in anger. The lights go down.)

SCENE TWO:

(The lights come up. The Opera record is blasting. Annie is jogging up the stairs, down the stairs, up the stairs, then to her step aerobics steps, she steps for a beat, then does jumping jacks, then jogs down the stairs, up the stairs, down the stairs, and does jumping jacks. Then up the stairs she jogs and does her step aerobics. She is sweaty and in a zone mentally. Peaches comes home, enters into the kitchen with a bag of groceries. She sets them down and covers her ears.)

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Peaches

ANNIE! For Christ's sake! Turn that down!

*(Annie continues to step.
Peaches fixes herself a glass
of gin.)*

Peaches

I SAID TURN THAT DOWN!

*(Peaches goes up the stairs
with her drink.)*

Peaches

WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU?!!

*(Peaches crosses towards the
record player. Annie slows,
wobbles, and faints. She
falls to the ground with a
limp body. Peaches watches
this. Peaches stares at her
on the ground. The opera
blasts. She stares.)*

Peaches

ANNIE! ANNIE?

*(Peaches goes to Annie and
shakes her.)*

Peaches

ANNIE? Oh my, God! ANNIE!

*(Peaches shakes her. She
knocks back a gulp of her
gin. Shakes Annie more.)*

Peaches

Please, Annie!

*(Bennie enters from his
room.)*

Bennie

Annie!

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Peaches

What's happened to her?

Bennie

She fainted. She faints all the time.

(Bennie puts his ear to her heart.)

Peaches

Do something!

Bennie

What can I do? Look at her! She's wasting away!

Peaches

Why don't you make sure she eats? Why can't you look out for her?

Bennie

Annie, come on, Annie, please come around.

(A light falls on Annie and dims out Peaches and Bennie, they disappear. The leper appears. The leper shakes Annie very gently.)

Leper

(sings) Get up, get up you sleepy head. Get up, get up get out of bed.

Annie

It's too early.

Leper

(sing) Get up get up it's time for school. Get up, get up and wipe the drool.

Annie

(smiles) I'm not drooling.

Leper

Annie, open your eyes.

Annie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

What, Dad?

Leper
I've come to say goodbye.

Annie
Goodbye?

Leper
Yes. They've found me. They've found me with our baby,
and so we have to sail to the colony. Don't be afraid
for me. I'm sick and it's best I go where the other
sick people are. But I'll take good care of our
daughter. There are other children there, and doctors,
I'm told.

Annie
Will you visit?

Leper
I won't be able to.

Annie
Why?

Leper
It's time to let me go, Annie.

Annie
Can I come with you?

Leper
No, Annie, you have to stay here and be strong.

Annie
But I'll miss you so much.

Leper
And I'll miss you.

Annie
Who's done this to you?

Leper
Please, Annie, it doesn't matter.

Annie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

I have to know who.

Leper
Goodbye Annie.

(The leper begins to fade.)

Annie
Who?

Leper
Goodbye.

Annie
I don't want to say goodbye.

Leper
Goodbye.

Annie
Goodbye.

*(The leper is gone. The
lights fade down.)*

SCENE THREE:

*(Lights up. Annie is wrapped
in a blanket on the couch, on
the second floor. It is very
late at night and there is a
sense that everyone in the
house is sleeping. Annie has
been crying, her eyes are
swollen and she looks sad and
exhausted. Bennie enters from
his room. He's in his
pajamas. He sits next to
Annie.)*

Bennie
Please break up with Dudley.

Annie
Why did you kill him?

Bennie

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

I'm sorry.

(Bennie leans over and kisses Annie on the mouth. She turns her head away after a beat.)

Annie
Now we don't have him, Bennie.

Bennie
I know.

Annie
I thought he wanted me to be his. He only wanted me to be her.

Bennie
Dan knows. I'm going to be in so much trouble.

Annie
You're walking on thin ice. So was Dad. So was I.

Bennie
Can I sit here with you? I don't want to be alone.

Annie
Sure.

(Bennie and Annie sit in silence. They slowly fall asleep. The sun rises. They are still curled up on the couch. Peaches enters from her bedroom. She sees her children sleeping soundlessly. She goes over to Bennie and kisses him on the cheek. Bennie wakes up.)

Bennie
Huh?

Peaches
(whispers) Hey.

Bennie
Mom, I'm scared.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Peaches

Don't worry. Let's get you to your room.

(Peaches helps Bennie into his room, and closes the door so he can continue sleeping. She returns to Annie on the couch, who has woken from the movement of her brother leaving.)

Peaches

How's my girl?

Annie

I'm so sad. Mom, I'm crushed.

Peaches

I know.

Annie

I don't know what to do with my self, I could claw at my skin and it wouldn't help.

Peaches

I know.

Annie

Nothing helps.

Peaches

I don't know what your brother was thinking. It seems you've all got a touch of this. When I caught them -

Annie

Caught who?

Peaches

Bennie and your father. I wasn't surprised that he killed Charlie, I just don't know what he was thinking.

Annie

But -

Peaches

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

It wasn't only you, Annie. I'm sorry. It was anyone. Annie, life will be better this way. Dan won't do anything. I've got that man wrapped around my finger. I've never worked so hard my whole life. But it's working. Unless, Annie, do you want me to have Dan take Bennie away? Do you? This is your loss, Annie, I can't pretend to feel what you're feeling. I didn't love him. If you need Bennie taken away, I'll have Dan do it. Do you want that?

(Annie begins to cry as she finally understands the full picture.)

Peaches

You know what I've found? I've found I like Dan. There's a lot to like, isn't there?

(Annie nods through her tears.)

Peaches

Annie, this is the cross road for you. You can keep gliding over the ice patch trying not to fall knowing the other side is there, waiting for you. Or walk into on coming traffic. Please keep gliding with me.

(Lights dim and black out.)

SCENE FOUR:

(Lights up. Peaches is cooking in the kitchen, Dan enters through Peaches bedroom door, ready for the day. Dan goes down stairs to the kitchen. Bennie bursts out of his bedroom door. There is a bustling kinetic energy to the morning.)

Peaches

Good morning, Dear, did you sleep well?

Dan

Yes, I feel very well rested, what have you got there?

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Peaches

Omelet Sunday. *(calls upstairs)* Bennie! We've got to get you fed! You can't be late for your meet today!

Bennie

Coming Mom!

Peaches

Where is your sister?

Dan

She was up late last night, sculpting.

*(Bennie comes downstairs.
Peaches hands him a plate
with an omelet on it.)*

Dan

(to Bennie) Have you seen the sculpture your sister has been working on?

Bennie

Oh, yeah, she's such a freak.

Dan

Hey, little man.

Bennie

What? She got the idea from me, you know.

Dan

Did she now?

Peaches

Well what is it?

Bennie

It's a little man, it's a leper.

Peaches

A leper?

Dan

It's really something.

Peaches

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

Would someone wake that child up? We don't want to be late.

Bennie
(calls upstairs) Annie!

Dan
Don't yell for your sister. Go up and get her.

Bennie
This works better.

Peaches
(to Dan) It does actually.

Bennie
Annie!

(Annie enters from her bedroom. She is dressed normally and looks refreshed. She goes downstairs into the kitchen.)

Peaches
There she is!

Dan
Good morning, Annie.

Annie
Morning.

Peaches
(hands Annie a plate with Omelet) Here, yours is just the whites, no cheese.

Annie
Thanks.

Bennie
Okay, now we really have to get going!

Dan
Why don't you start the car up, crank the heat.

thin / ice
Mira Gibson

*(Dan tosses his car keys to
Bennie. Bennie catches them
and opens the front door.)*

Bennie

Don't be long okay?

*(Dan puts his plate in the
sink. And puts on his coat.)*

Dan

Ladies, I trust you'll follow right behind me?

Peaches

Yes, we'll be right out.

Dan

Don't eat too fast, though, your mother has perfected
The omelet and every bite should be enjoyed.

*(Peaches and Dan kiss for a
beat, then Dan exits the
house. Annie eats up the
omelet. Peaches puts on her
coat and hands Annie her
coat. As Annie puts her coat
on, Peaches says)*

Peaches

Annie?

Annie

Yeah, Mom?

Peaches

We're on the other side, and we're fine.

*(Peaches wraps Annie's coat
around Annie, then kisses her
on the cheek. There is a
honk. They both exit the
front door. The door closes
behind them.)*

END OF PLAY