

**THE RUB**

Pilot

by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. MASSAGE ROOM DAY

Dim lights, seductive music. A Cowboy boot hits the ground as a rugged, middle-aged guy, LARRY, undresses and eagerly lies face up on a massage table. He pulls a thin sheet to just barely cover his crotch as the door opens, revealing RILEY CLARK (late 20's, cute as hell, wearing jeans and a tight t-shirt).

LARRY  
I've got a special request today.

RILEY  
Oh, yeah. How special is it?

She grabs his Cowboy hat, puts it on, playful.

LARRY  
It's a little embarrassing actually.

She circles the table, running her finger along the edges.

RILEY  
Will it make me blush?

LARRY  
Only one way to find out.

RILEY  
Then let's get started Cowboy.

She grins, grabs the sheet, and yanks it all the way off his body as we hear the LAUGHTER of children. SMASH TO:

EXT. RILEY'S BACKYARD DAY

A family birthday dinner in the backyard of a modest tract home in Beaumont, Texas. **CHYRON reads: 2 Months Ago.** Riley's fraternal 7-year-old twins TRAVIS (confident/athletic) and KATIE (watchful/sensitive) kick a soccer ball around as Riley and her husband KYLE (handsome, ex-jock) sip margaritas with Riley's mom LINETTE (plump but pretty/hard to please). We barely recognize Riley at first. Fresh-faced, hair pulled back, barely any make-up now. A happy and efficient, eager-to-please mother and wife.

RILEY  
Mama, I saw her at the dentist the other day. She seemed perfectly fine.

LINETTE  
I hear her cocaine problem is just out of control. And she's pregnant again.

RILEY  
That is total gossip. You don't know that for sure.

LINETTE

I most certainly do. I heard it at church. It's not gossip when you're concerned.

KYLE

I heard Bill's filing for divorce.

LINETTE

There ya go. Thank you Kyle. I'm puttin' 'em on top of my prayer list. No mistake's too big for the Lord.

RILEY

(to Kyle, playful)  
That's good to know.  
(yells to the twins)  
Kiddos, time to open Daddy's presents.

The twins cheer and hustle over to jump into Kyle's lap.

LINETTE

Riley, don't let 'em jump all over Kyle's hurt leg like animals.

KYLE

I'm fine, Linette.

Riley pulls them off anyway, handing Kyle a large, beautifully wrapped gift with a smile.

RILEY

This one's from me and the kids.

KYLE

Someone sure knows how to make their presents look pretty.

TRAVIS

Happy Birthday, Daddy.

KATIE

We love you, Daddy.

KYLE (CONT'D)

(kisses them)  
I love you both more.

He opens the box. A beautiful leather jacket. His smiles fades.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Babe, you promised not to spend money on a fancy gift this year.

Riley ignores this, holds the jacket up. Pleased.

RILEY

It's not that fancy. You deserve something nice.

Kyle doesn't even look at it. He gets up and huffs inside. Riley glances at her mom, frustrated, and follows after him.

LINETTE

OK, who wants some of Mee Maw's famous German chocolate cake?

The twins cheer as she dutifully distracts them.

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE, THE KITCHEN NIGHT

Modest and homey. Kyle and Riley in the midst of an argument.

KYLE

I don't think you understand how big a mess we're in!

RILEY

I totally understand, it's all we talk about anymore. I wanted one fun night with the family for a change.

KYLE

So I'm supposed to fake it? You know I had zero luck finding a job today and you're out jacking up our credit cards when we barely get by on my disability check!

RILEY

I got the jacket for 70% off after trompin' all over town. Would you settle down? It's your birthday.

KYLE

I can't, babe. I've tried. The bank called again about our mortgage payment.

(raw and vulnerable now)

It's been the worst day of my life.

Riley, agonizing for him now, moves closer.

RILEY

Baby, I know, but things are gonna get better. I promise.

KYLE

Did your mom have any luck finding you a job at the salon?

RILEY

I'd rather yank my toenails out than work with my mom. I'll find something.

KYLE

And it won't be enough. I've screwed everything up so bad! I can't stand how everyone stares at me now like I'm such--

RILEY

Kyle, stop it. That's all in your head. We're gonna pull through this. Like we always do. Together. ...loving each other.

(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)  
(she kisses him)  
That's what matters, right?

A beat. He finally nods. And kisses her back.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
So many people don't even have that.  
(kissing him again)  
I love you so much. We're lucky.

He brushes the hair off her face. Kisses her again. Smiles. It gets more and more heated. Soon they're undressing, groping, pulling each other down the hallway, stumbling into the bedroom--slamming the door shut to block out the world.

INT. RILEY AND KYLE'S BEDROOM THAT NIGHT

Kyle's fast asleep, but Riley's wide awake. Finally, she gets up, goes to the window and stares outside. Worried.

EXT. RILEY AND KYLE'S BACK YARD DAY

Riley's on her cell, alone, cleaning up after the party. (Note: She's hyper-organized and efficient, always cleaning things up.)

RILEY  
No, everything's fine. Kyle's really sorry for stomping off like that.

INT. TRENDSETTER HAIR SALON DAY

Modern decor. Thirty years ago. Linette's at work in a smock, checking a row of CLIENTS sitting under dryers as she talks to Riley on her cell.

LINETTE  
I just don't know how you take it. He's either moody as hell or flying off the handle about something.

INTERCUT Linette and Riley.

RILEY  
It's easy, Mama. I love him. He'll be fine once he finds a job. Everyone's saying construction's about to rebound.

LINETTE  
No one I know is sayin' that. They're all saying it's gonna get even worse.

RILEY  
That's really not helpful, Mama.

LINETTE  
It's reality, Riley. You can't both be out of work. How long have I been telling you I don't think you're going about this the right way?

RILEY  
Since I was born.

LINETTE  
Don't get snippy. You need a plan.  
You've always let Kyle lead the way.  
That's how you got in this mess.

RILEY  
I really don't need relationship  
advice from someone who's been married  
five times.

LINETTE  
I've been married four times. Clyde  
was twice and there is nothin' wrong  
with tryin' something till you get it  
right.  
(knows this is touchy)  
I could ask here at the salon? Might  
be washing hair for me at first, but--

RILEY  
Someone's screaming in the house.  
Gotta go!

She clicks off, irritated. Linette looks at her phone. Perturbed.

EXT. HILTON HOTEL DAY

Riley walks out after a discouraging interview. She crosses a  
name off a long, detailed list as a spiffy Latina, SELENA RIOS  
(pleased with herself) walks up.

SELENA  
Riley? Ohmygod, girl, how are you?!

RILEY  
Selena. You cut your hair. Wow.  
What're you doing here?

SELENA  
Lunch with a friend. You?

RILEY  
(groans)  
Job hunting. Frustrating as hell.  
Literally no one's hiring. I've been  
looking for months. Remember in school  
how they kept telling us massage was  
one of the top ten most in demand  
professions? Huge lie. I've been out  
of work since you and I got laid off  
at Beaumont Country Club a year ago.

SELENA  
Girl, that's awful.

Just as a VALET delivers her sexy new red Mazda convertible.

RILEY  
Wow. Nice car.

SELENA

I got the most awesome job at a spa in Sugarland. The tips are insane.

RILEY

Isn't that like an hour away?

SELENA

Trust me, it's worth it. Tell 'em I sent you if you really need a job.

(she hands her a card from her purse)

It'd be a kick to work together again.

She gives a quick hug, hops in her Mazda and zips off. Riley watches after her. Smiles. Maybe her luck is about to change?

EXT. SUGARLAND STRIP MALL THE NEXT DAY

Riley pulls up in her beat up '95 Nova to stare at a strip mall. Bubba's Texas Barbecue. A dry cleaners. Beaumont Karate Academy. Not impressive. She finds the address she's looking for--a simple storefront with a drawing of a pair of women's hands holding a sign: THE RUB. A HEALING CENTER FOR MEN AND WOMEN. Riley frowns. This is the spa?

INT. THE RUB OFFICE DAY

Riley sits in a messy office. Unpacked boxes, files stacked high. She grimaces, but is determined to make the best of this as GEORGIA GAINES (50's, country gorgeous, big hair, big tits, big personality) enters in tight jeans, heels and a sexy blouse.

GEORGIA

Howdy honey! Sorry to keep ya waitin'. NASCAR's in town, we've been busy as a frog in a hot skillet. I'm Georgia Grounds. We spoke on the phone.

RILEY

(rises, shakes her hand)  
Riley Clark. Nice to meet you.

GEORGIA

I had your resume right here somewhere. I swear I'd lose my head if it wasn't attached to my neck.

RILEY

I have another one right here.

She offers it, can't help but stare at Georgia's impressive tits.

GEORGIA

Stare all you want, honey. They're real. I've got tiny little feet 'cuz nothin' grows in the shade!

(she laughs, looks Riley over)

Damn, you've got a cute little figure yourself. Any scars or weirdo tatoos?

RILEY  
Excuse me?

GEORGIA  
One gal ended up having a HUGE  
Swastika tattooed smack dab across her  
upper ass! Did NOT go over well here.

RILEY  
(unsure)  
I guess not. No, no tatoos.

GEORGIA  
And you're a good friend of Selena's?

RILEY  
(lies)  
Uh, yeah, very.

GEORGIA  
Great girl. Bit of a handful but very  
popular here.

RILEY  
We had a lot of fun working at the  
Beaumont Country Club together.

GEORGIA  
Well, we're not as fancy as that.  
Folks come here 'cuz they know they'll  
get their money's worth. Who doesn't  
like a good rub, I always like to say.

RILEY  
I totally agree. Here's my resume and a  
letter of recommendation. I specialize  
in Deep Tissue and Shiatsu. But I'm  
proficient in Thai, Swedish and Sports.  
And very interested in offering  
Reflexology and Hot Stone Massages.

GEORGIA  
Oh, fancy, huh?  
(barely looking at the  
resume)  
Look, honey, here's the deal. I've  
been doing this a long time. I go on  
my eyes and my gut when I hire and  
both scream a big fat yes about you.  
If Selena thinks you'd fit in here,  
that's good enough for me. Plus...love  
your shoes. Can I show ya around?

Riley nods, wow, this is going really well.

INT. THE RUB RECEPTION AREA DAY

Fish tank. Potted plants. Serene vibe. Georgia leads Riley in.

GEORGIA  
Everyone checks in at the front desk.  
(re: the aquarium)  
(MORE)

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
Studies have proven folks noticeably  
relax when they look into a fish tank.

RILEY  
I wasn't aware of that.

GEORGIA  
We have separate waiting rooms for men  
and women. Steam and saunas.

She points to glass doorways leading to a men's and a women's  
waiting room. CLIENTS are waiting for appointments.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
In my mind you can only take the  
unisex thing so far.

INT. THE RUB HALLWAY DAY

Georgia leads Riley down a long red hallway lined with doors.

GEORGIA  
I like a homey vibe even though we're a  
full service spa. We do facials and  
nails, but our bread in butter, what  
we're known for, is having the best  
damn female massage therapists in town.

RILEY  
Sounds good to me.

GEORGIA  
Tell me if I'm wrong, but there's just  
something about a woman's touch.

Riley smiles, she likes this woman already, as Georgia opens a  
door and leads her into--

INT. STAFF LOUNGE DAY

Feels more like a lived in rec room/den. Sofas, TV, card table,  
work out area, kitchenette/bar. DEE ANN (30's/sexy redhead) is  
making a sandwich. KENDRA (23, black and beautiful) and JOLENE  
(brunette/45/opinionated/past her prime) are riding Lifecycles.

GEORGIA  
Girls, say howdy to Riley. I'm giving  
her the grand tour.

The girls ad-lib friendly hellos. Riley smiles hello to them.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
Kendra's only worked here three  
months, but I've got clients lining up  
for her deep tissue massages.

KENDRA  
I teach pilates at Curves on Delmont,  
too, if you ever wanna take a class.

GEORGIA  
Jolene's been here since we opened. If  
you have questions about anything--

JOLENE  
Now she thinks I'm old as the hills.  
Nice to meet ya, Riley.

GEORGIA  
And Dee Ann here loves anything New  
Agey and wild. You two should discuss  
your Hot Stone massage idea.

DEE ANN  
Our female clientele would gobble that  
up. Not so sure about the men.

GEORGIA  
The girls hang out here between  
clients. They have some mean poker  
games if you're into that. I don't  
have many rules, but I'm really strict  
about one thing. Right girls?

THE GIRLS  
Everyone goes home happy!

GEORGIA  
Love it when they do that. And one  
more thing I wanna show you--

INT. THE RUB VIEWING ROOM DAY

Georgia and Riley enter a closet-sized room with a 2-way mirror  
view into a massage room next door.

GEORGIA  
Did Selena mention our viewing room?

She moves so Riley can see through the glass: A MASSAGE GIRL  
skillfully rubs oil on a CLIENT'S muscled chest.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
All first-timers get put in here.

The girl's hands move down to the guy's stomach.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
Just so I can keep an eye on things.

The girl seductively peels off the guy's boxers.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
(oblivious)  
The welfare of my girls has always  
been my number one priority.

Riley stares, her mouth falling open.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
What's wrong, honey? It's just for--

RILEY  
There's been a really big mistake. I  
had no idea--

Confused, Georgia turns. Sees what Riley is referring to.

GEORGIA  
Oh, for God's sake!!!

Riley whips around to leave and runs RIGHT into a wall! She  
recovers and bolts out as Georgia rushes after her.

EXT. THE RUB DAY

Riley heads to her car as Georgia catches up, grabbing her arm.  
Kendra and Dee Ann watch from the doorway. What the hell?

GEORGIA  
Would you hold on a minute?! That is  
absolutely not the norm here.

RILEY  
You weren't kidding when you said this  
is a "full service" spa.

GEORGIA  
The majority of what goes on here is  
completely legit. I can't always  
control what the girls do when they're  
alone with their clients.

RILEY  
Obviously. I am so outta here.  
Another total waste of my time!

She gets in her car. Speeds off. OFF Georgia, watching her go.

INT. RILEY'S NOVA DAY

Riley speeds down the freeway, on her cell now, pissed.

RILEY  
How could you do that to me?!

INT. EXPENSIVE STORE AT THE MALL DAY

Selena's on her cell, shopping for designer handbags, amused.

SELENA  
You said you needed a job. How'd you  
think I was making so much money?

INTERCUT Riley and Selena.

RILEY  
I thought you were working for it.  
Like a normal person!

SELENA  
(trying out a handbag)  
Trust me, I give plenty of good ole fashioned massages, just like the other girls do, but it didn't take long to figure out how to make major bank. I'm totally out of debt now. I have a cute new condo and I just booked a week vacation in--Cancun.  
(so a SALESLADY won't hear)  
If a guy wants a little "extra" attention with a release at the end, so what? Let him pay for it.

RILEY  
Last time I checked that was called prostitution. Not the kind of job I was looking for.

SELENA  
Your loss. I'm out shopping for a new handbag I don't really need. What're you doing?

Riley considers this. Flares. Hangs up.

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE DAY

Riley walks in, eager to see her family. She puts down her keys as her phone chirps with a text. She glances at it: TOOK THE KIDS FOR PIZZA AND A MOVIE. XOXOX, MOM. She looks into the den.

RILEY  
Kyle? Honey?

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE (SERIES OF SHOTS) DAY

She searches the bedroom. Empty. The kid's room. No one's there. The backyard. No sign of him. She enters the kitchen, sees a note with her name on it. She quickly opens it:

BABE, I JUST CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE. I'M SO SORRY. LOVE, KYLE.

Riley can't breath at first. Her heart starts pounding out of her chest. She rushes to the garage. His car is gone. To his closet. His suitcase and clothes are missing. To their medicine cabinet. His side is totally empty. OFF Riley, floored.

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE LATER

Riley paces, manic. A KNOCK at the door. She rushes over, opens it to find Kyle's hunky, but shy best friend, EVAN ATKINS.

EVAN  
I got here fast at I could. You OK?

RILEY  
He hasn't called you or anything?

EVAN  
No, I tried his cell. It's been  
disconnected. What the hell's going on?

She hands him the note. He quickly reads it, upset.

EVAN (CONT'D)  
I told him yesterday I was gonna talk  
to Coolidge again about giving him his  
job back. He seemed fine.

RILEY  
He barely goes to the store without  
telling me. What am I gonna go, Evan?

Evan, heart breaking for her, takes her in his arms.

EVAN  
He'll come back. I'm sure he will.

RILEY  
What if there's someone else?

Evan pulls away. There's something really sweet and substantial  
about this guy.

EVAN  
There's no way in hell. Kyle's totally  
in love with you. Always has been.

RILEY  
Then how could he do this to me?

Evan shakes his head. With no idea. As Linette walks in with the  
twins, returning from the movie.

LINETTE  
Hey, Evan. Cute shirt. What's up?

One look at Riley tells her something is terribly wrong.

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE THAT NIGHT

Riley's camped out on the sofa, utterly drained and wrecked,  
surrounded by her mom and her best friends since high school:  
PADMA (fun and single) and LACEY (bossy and married).

LACEY  
Sweetie, there's nothing else you can  
do tonight. The kids are fast asleep.

PADMA  
They have no idea anything's wrong.

LACEY  
The police have all Kyle's  
information. Padma and I are gonna  
sleep over tonight so you can--

RILEY  
Guys, you really don't need to.

PADMA  
(pouring Riley some wine)  
Oh yes we do. I brought Xanax for all  
of us! Linette, should we open another  
bottle of wine?

LINETTE  
Were you reading my mind?

LACEY  
Drugs and wine?

PADMA  
Give it a break, Lacey, she frazzled.

LINETTE  
We all are. It's been a day from hell.  
(trying to be strong)  
We'll have a sleep over! Just like  
high school. I'll make s'mores!

She heads off. As Padma and Lacey sit on either side of Riley to  
comfort her as we MOVE tight on Riley's face. The look in her  
eyes says it all. This has been the worst day of her entire life.

EXT. RILEY'S HOUSE, THE FRONT YARD DAY

Unmown lawn. Broken garage door. **CHYRON reads: Four Weeks Later.**

LINETTE'S VOICE  
Whatdaya mean the cable's off?

INT. RILEY'S KITCHEN THE NEXT MORNING

Linette cuts the twins' hair as they eat popsicles. Riley's at  
the island, going thru stacks of meticulously organized bills.

RILEY  
They said they can't turn it back on  
till I pay the bill.

LINETTE  
I can't even watch my soaps when I'm  
babysitting now?

RILEY  
Mama, please. And I really need you  
tomorrow, too, so I can look for work.

LINETTE  
I can't take another day off. I'm  
broke now too.

The phone RINGS. Riley grabs it in frustration.

RILEY  
Hello?  
(faux cheerful)  
Mr. Andrews. Thanks for calling back.

She heads into the den for privacy. Hopeful.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Did you get a chance to evaluate my--  
Yes, I know we've already had one  
extension, but-- What happens if we  
can't pay the mortgage by then?

She's told something she doesn't want to hear. She glances back into the kitchen where her mom is goofing around with the twins. Her eyes fill with tears, completely overwhelmed.

INT. RILEY AND KYLE'S BATHROOM DAY

Riley leans against the closed door, on her cell.

RILEY  
Miss Gaines? Oh, hi. It's Riley Clark.  
Right, the bolter. Look, I'm really  
embarrassed about that. I know it's  
been a while. But I was...wondering.  
(she bites her lip)  
How much could I make a week at your  
spa?

She hears a number that clearly jolts her.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. THE RUB DAY

Riley and Georgia head down the hall. Riley's first day of work.

RILEY  
I need to make two things very clear.  
I've got kids, they're a priority. My  
schedule has to be flexible. Secondly,  
there's no way in hell I'm having sex  
with anybody.

GEORGIA  
(amused)  
Honey, first of all, lots of our gals  
have kids. This job is all about  
flexibility. I run a completely legit  
establishment. Be that as it may, you  
girls are captain of your own ships when  
you get behind closed doors. I make my  
money booking out the rooms.

She grins as if this somehow explains everything. OFF Riley,  
realizing this is a woman who likes to play it both ways.

INT. THE STAFF LOUNGE DAY

They enter and Georgia takes Riley over to her locker as Kendra,  
Jolene, Selena and Dee Ann glance over as they prepare for work.

SELENA  
OhmyGod, you changed your mind!

She rushes over and gives Riley a big hug like they're best  
friends. Riley forces a smile as Kendra comes over.

KENDRA  
We heard what happened during your  
interview. That must have been so  
embarrassing.

JOLENE  
I've worked here nine years, that kind  
of thing is strictly forbidden here.

DEE ANN  
(knowingly)  
I don't know if I'd use the word  
strictly.

GEORGIA  
Dee Ann, enough. I explained to Riley  
how things work. There's a reason  
discretion's one of my favorite words.

DEE ANN  
Georgia gives us lots of free rein.

JOLENE  
Too much, if you ask me.

GEORGIA  
(with a smile)  
No one did, Jolene. Y'all help Riley get settled in. And could y'all straighten up some like I've asked a million times? Riley, I picked a really nice fella to be your first client. He'll be here at ten.

She smiles and walks out. Selena whispers to Riley.

SELENA  
We pretty much do whatever we want. You're gonna love it!  
(to the others)  
Y'all, Riley has the hottest husband. He played football at U.T. How is he?

The girls perk up, curious about Riley's relationship status. Riley has no intention of letting these girls get to know her.

RILEY  
I...broke it off with him...a while back. I'm on my own now.

SELENA  
Perfect! I've got a new party buddy.

JOLENE  
That's not very nice, Selena.  
(to Riley, sincere)  
Sorry to hear that, hon. I've always been on my own.

KENDRA  
You could meet someone, Jolene, if you put out a little effort.

DEE ANN  
Kendra just got engaged to a total sweetheart. He's in law school.

JOLENE  
(affectionately)  
And she's barely 23.

KENDRA  
This is one of four jobs I have to pay off my student loans--  
(proud of herself)  
So Bobby doesn't have to worry when we get married.

SELENA  
(smiles, jealous?)  
Isn't that adorable?

OFF Riley--unnerved by this new world she's entering.

INT. MASSAGE ROOM DAY

Riley gives an intense and efficient sports massage to HANK (clean cut/40's) as he lies on his stomach. Hank frowns.

HANK  
Uh, can you make it a little more...  
gentle? And sensuous please.

RILEY  
Oh, sure.

She kneads his back with long, assured, sensuous strokes.

HANK  
Mmm, that's better. Lower.

Riley's hands move down his back toward his ass.

RILEY  
So Hank, do you uh come here a lot?

HANK  
Every Tuesday. Never miss a week.

RILEY  
It's my first day.

HANK  
Georgia told me. That's why I chose  
you. ...can I turn over now?

RILEY  
Sure.

He turns over, glancing at her expectantly. Riley adjusts the sheet so it's covering his crotch. He sucks in his gut.

HANK  
Damn, you're really pretty.

RILEY  
(making an effort)  
Thanks. You're cute yourself.

He grins, encouraged, and reaches over to grab her ass. Riley quickly takes his hand and places it back on the table.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Relax, Hank. Lemme do my job.

He squints. Huh? She massages his arms now.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
So, you married?

HANK  
Yeah. Unfortunately.

RILEY  
That's not very nice.

HANK  
My wife and my kids are a pain in the  
ass. This is the one thing I do all  
week that's just for myself.

RILEY  
(engaged now)  
Maybe that's part of the problem? You  
need more outside interests.

Hank looks at her. Is she for real?

RILEY (CONT'D)  
I'm just sayin' you gotta have  
balance, right? Or you start blaming  
everyone else for something you need  
to work on yourself. What exactly  
makes your wife so difficult?

Beat. Hank pops up.

HANK  
OK, this is not what I had in mind.

He tries to leave, but Riley blocks his way.

RILEY  
Wait, what's wrong? I'm sorry.

HANK  
I'll ask Georgia for Selena.

RILEY  
No, please. I told her I could handle  
this. I really need this job, Hank.

HANK  
Then you should know the girls who  
don't give extras don't last very long  
here. And I had a really great tip for  
you. But I'm not in the mood anymore.

He moves for the door dejected. Tight on Riley--in a split  
second she makes her decision. She grabs his arm.

RILEY  
Then we'll have to get you in the mood  
again. Trust me, Hank, I know how.

There's something in the way she says it that's both playful and  
assured. She sits him back on the table. Intent.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Everyone's gonna go home really happy.

Hank swallows. Riley steels herself, dims the lights. She unbuttons her jeans and slowly takes them off to expose her cotton briefs. She shoots him a grin. There's something both hesitant and seductive in the way she does it.

HANK  
Now you're talking.

He moves for her, but Riley holds a finger up to stop him.

RILEY  
I have rules.

Hank nods. Way turned on. As Riley moves towards him and Dolly Parton's "The Track of My Tears" begins to play, taking us to--

INT. RILEY'S CAR NIGHT

Riley makes the long drive home in the dark. Light from the street streaks off her face. A myriad of emotions as she replays the events of the day: she's amused, astounded, exhilarated, ashamed.

ON THE RADIO  
"Just take a good look at my face.  
You'll see my smile looks out of  
place. If you look close it's easy to  
trace. The track of my tears--"

Riley glances at an envelope packed with cash on the seat beside her. She suddenly SCREAMS in anger, swerves to the side of the road. Stops. And just sits there, fighting to catch her breath as a more upbeat COUNTRY song comes on, taking us to--

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE NIGHT

Riley, Linette and the twins practice a country western line dance in the living room. Step, step, clap, clap, foot tap, lasso, spin! Travis is a natural and loves every minute. Katie struggles and finally gives up, turning off the music.

KATIE  
This is so lame. I hate it!

RILEY  
Honey, you're doing so much better.

KATIE  
Anything would be better than--  
(gagging like she's sick)  
country western.

LINETTE  
Katie, that's not very lady-like.

TRAVIS  
The class voted, country western won.

KATIE  
Doesn't mean I have to do it.



RILEY  
I'm lucky to have this. My career is very "useful". And no one's "naked", they're covered with a sheet.

LINETTE  
That's naked as far as I'm concerned.

Riley really doesn't want to get into this.

RILEY  
So, how were the kids today?

LINETTE  
I think it's time you tell 'em about their daddy.

RILEY  
...I'm not ready yet. I'm praying he'll come back. And they'll never have to know.

LINETTE  
I had that same feeling when your daddy abandoned me.

RILEY  
Daddy died of a stroke. It's not the same thing.

LINETTE  
It felt the same. He left me all alone with an 8-year-old to raise. But I bounced right back, didn't I?

RILEY  
(astounded/amused)  
You married someone else three months later!

LINETTE  
That's quite a bounce, now isn't it?

Riley shakes her head. Her mother never ceases to amaze her.

LINETTE (CONT'D)  
I know things are tough, but you need to open up to whatever the next chapter of your life might be.

Riley shoots her a bemused smile. If she only knew.

INT. RILEY AND KYLE'S BATHROOM NIGHT

Riley brushes her teeth. She finishes and stares at herself in the mirror, tears welling.

RILEY  
Just bring him back, God. Please. I won't even ask why he left.

INT. THE RUB GEORGIA'S OFFICE DAY

Georgia's working at her messy desk as Riley enters with a knock.

RILEY  
You wanted to see me, Georgia?

GEORGIA  
Hey, honey. Just wanted to say I'm  
gettin' great feedback on you.

RILEY  
That's nice to hear.

GEORGIA  
Clients tell me you're not like the  
other girls. ...exactly what are you  
doin' with them?

Riley's embarrassed, or is it evasive?

RILEY  
Just a good ole massage.

She looks for a place to sit, but every chair's piled with stuff.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Look, I was hoping I could add a few  
more shifts. I really need the money.

GEORGIA  
Sure, honey. The girls mentioned you  
were on your own. How long since you  
and your hubby split up?

Riley wasn't expecting this. Beat. She lies.

RILEY  
A year and half ago.

GEORGIA  
That's tough. My husband took off  
three years ago this August. With a  
good friend of mine who worked here.  
Never even saw it coming.

RILEY  
I'm sorry to hear that.

She starts clearing off of one of the chairs.

GEORGIA  
His loss. But trust me, running this  
place is a lot harder than it looks.  
My husband used to handle all the  
upkeep and finances. Now bills keep  
piling high, getting lost and unpaid.  
I'd swear this place is growing things  
if I didn't know better! Here, lemme  
help you with that.

They clear off the chair together.

RILEY

I could easily help you straighten up around here. You're really not utilizing the space. And your bills should all be on Auto-Pay so you don't get behind. But it's really none of my business. Just makes things easier.

GEORGIA

I'm all for easy. Have at it, honey.

RILEY

Really?

Georgia nods. Riley smiles and heads over to the desk to get to work. Georgia watches her, impressed.

INT. CRAZY CRAB SEAFOOD RESTAURANT DAY

Riley eats crab legs with Padma and Lacey.

LACEY

So, you like this new place better than working at the country club?

RILEY

God, yeah. It's not nearly as uptight. I'm crazy about the owner and the clients are really nice so far.

PADMA

Remember that one guy you had at the country club, two minutes into every massage he gets a huge--

She tilts her crab leg up like a fierce erection.

LACEY

Padma, that's gross! I'd never let Dale get massaged by another woman.

PADMA

Why not? He'd come home relaxed. And horny.

LACEY

Dale comes home horny enough as it is. Call me a prude, I don't think married men should be getting "massaged" by anyone except their wives.

PADMA

You're a prude then.

RILEY

Really, Lace. People need to be touched more, not less.

PADMA

At work the only rubbing I get offered is from guys in my wing in their 70's bragging how Viagra has changed their lives. And perfectly willing to show me the results. Talk about crab legs!

She waves her crab leg again like it's really old but horny. Riley and Lacey laugh and groan, then it gets quiet again.

LACEY

(knows this is touchy)  
Have you heard anything about Kyle?

RILEY

(beat, shakes her head)  
The police said there's really nothing else they can do since the note made it clear he left of his own volition. I keep thinking he's gonna walk in the door one night. With some incredible excuse for leaving that somehow makes sense. Or I get so mad at him I can barely breathe. I'd never in a million years do this to someone I love.  
(she wipes away tears)  
I don't care how much pain I was in.

LACEY

Sweetie, when we were cheerleaders who was always the bossiest and most organized with all the best ideas?

PADMA

You were, Lacey.

LACEY

Besides me!

RILEY

I was.

LACEY

Exactly. And hard as it is for me to admit, you were the one everyone looked up to.

PADMA

With the biggest future ahead of them.

RILEY

I've pretty much screwed that up.

PADMA

Please. You're not even thirty yet!

LACEY

We just know you're gonna find a way to pull through this.

Riley searches them. And smiles. Yes, indeed she is. Donna Summer's "She Works Hard For The Money" comes up as we CUT TO--

INT. THE RUB MASSAGE ROOM MONTAGE DAY

Riley with one CLIENT after another. (Note: this should be stylized and fun, yet a realistic view of what her day is like. Riley in a different sexy, yet somewhat tasteful outfit with each client. Playing out her fantasies as well as giving them theirs. Or in a Rub t-shirt and shorts when giving legit massages.)

A seductive strip tease for an OLDER GUY. A deep, professional stretch for a PREGNANT WOMAN. Just chatting with a COLLEGE BOY. Dripping massage oil down a lean stomach. A playful whisper to a FAT GUY. Her chest moves just inches from a HANDSOME FACE. It's all a seductive dance, a drawn out tease.

CLIENTS are moaning, toes are curling, a hand grips the sheet. An OLDER LADY is asleep, blissfully snoring. Riley's intense focus as we move faster and faster now. She's really good at this! Breaking a sweat as bigger and bigger tips are left on the table. We get the feeling each client gets something special--personalized, unexpected. She's doing everything possible to give them pleasure, except actually having sex with them.

Ending with a shot of Riley, exhausted, massaging the thighs of a BURLY CLIENT whose hand is under the sheet pleasuring himself--as they hear a sudden CRASH and SCREAM in the hallway!

BURLY GUY  
What the fu--!

He bolts up as Riley pulls on a robe and opens the door to peek outside. There's some sort of ruckus at the end of the hallway.

RILEY  
Stay right there.

But the guy isn't taking any chances, he grabs his clothes and hauls ass past her for the rear exit. But something about the SCREAMING intrigues Riley.

INT. THE RUB HALLWAY NIGHT

She enters the hallway and heads toward the fray. Georgia, Selena and Kendra are in a major confrontation with a drunk and unhinged, well-dressed woman, VALERIE PETERS (mid-40's). She's ripping things off the wall--kicking, slapping, screaming.

VALERIE  
No! Get away, you're gonna regret it!

GEORGIA  
Selena, grab her arm!

SHERI  
I'm trying, damn it!

KENDRA  
You need to go home, Mrs. Peters!

GEORGIA  
Valerie, I want you out of here! Now!

VALERIE  
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! I know what goes on here and I'm calling the cops!

OFF Riley, stunned, what the hell? END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

INT. THE RUB HALLWAY DAY

Where we left off. Riley rushes in to help Georgia and Selena try to subdue Valerie as she rips pictures off the walls.

VALERIE  
I know what Jared does here!!

GEORGIA  
You don't know a damn thing.

VALERIE  
I heard him bragging to his poker buddies about all the "happy endings" he gets here! It's nothing but a whorehouse!

Georgia and Riley manage to grab her arms and subdue her.

GEORGIA  
That's a helluva ugly allegation. Only thing I see illegal here is you destroying private property!

VALERIE  
Ouch, you're hurting my arm!

GEORGIA  
Surprised you can feel it you're so soused up. Selena, call her a cab and get her home to sleep this off.

VICTORIA  
You haven't heard the end of this!

GEORGIA  
Yes I have. Nighty night!

Kendra and Selena haul Valerie out to the reception area. Riley looks at Georgia, unnerved.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
Honey, she's all bark. She's made crazy threats before.

RILEY  
Before? Does her husband know?

GEORGIA  
I seriously doubt it. I have a strict don't ask, don't tell policy when comes to husbands and wives. If she's not happy in her marriage let her go fix it. Not my problem.

RILEY  
It will be if she goes to the police.

GEORGIA

Trust me, no way she's gonna risk her status in town telling everyone what her husband does here twice a week. She's president of Jr. League, for God's sake.

Riley absorbs this. But something about this woman's pain is familiar.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

Hey, don't forget, margaritas over at my place after work. First Day of Spring Party.

RILEY

I really can't. Long drive home.

GEORGIA

Lame excuse. I insist.

EXT. GEORGIA'S COZY NEIGHBORHOOD COTTAGE NIGHT

Fun MUSIC. Tiki lamps. A casual party spilling out onto the lawn. FIND Georgia, Riley, Jolene, Kendra and Dee Ann sipping margaritas on the porch with Georgia's neighbors NADINE (70, feisty) and JAKE and JOY (young couple) holding their BABY GIRL.

GEORGIA

"Black Swan" was amazing. Natalie Portman can do no wrong in my mind.

NADINE

That movie was God awful! Last decent film I saw was "The Sound of Music".

GEORGIA

Honey, that was fifty years ago.

NADINE

Exactly. Point made!

The group LAUGHS, as does the baby. Riley leans in to admire her.

RILEY

Oh, she's so adorable. Look at those blue eyes.

JAKE

You got any kids, Riley?

RILEY

(taken off guard)

Oh, uh, yeah. Seven-year-old twins.

NADINE

Photos. Cough 'em up! Let us see.

RILEY

I don't have any with me.

NADINE  
(knows better)  
Oh please! Georgia, I think your new friend is pulling our leg.

Riley, put on the spot, relents, pulls out her cell to show off some PHOTOS of the twins. Georgia and the girls perk up. This is the first they've heard Riley mention her children.

RILEY  
That's Katie and Travis. In the cowboy outfits they're gonna wear at Spring Sing at school. They are so hyped up about it.

KENDRA  
I can't believe you have 7-year-olds.

They all press in to look at the photos, AD LIBBING how cute the twins are. But we can't help but sense Riley feels a bit exposed. She didn't plan on sharing anything about her personal life with these women.

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE NIGHT

Riley walks in exhausted from work and heads into the den. Gasps. Evan is waiting for her on the sofa.

RILEY  
What the hell are you doing here?

EVAN  
Your mom let me in. She and the kids went to bed. I have news about Kyle.

RILEY  
(flashing with hope)  
What is it? What happened?

EVAN  
A woman at work I'm friendly with said someone called her today about getting their disability benefits mailed to a P.O. Box in Colorado. She told him it has to be a street address. The guy wouldn't leave his name or number, but she said he sounded exactly like Kyle.

RILEY  
(defensive)  
That doesn't mean anything. It could've been anybody.

EVAN  
She knew him, Riley. She remembers the day he hurt his knee. It means he's out there somewhere trying to scrounge up money without calling anyone back home he supposedly cares about!

RILEY  
OK, you're pissing me off now. Kyle  
would never do that.

EVAN  
But he would leave you high and dry  
with nothing but a note? He blew me  
off, too, but at least this means he's  
alive.

Riley absorbs this, manages a nod.

EVAN (CONT'D)  
But you have to be realistic now. He's  
made his choice. From now on you have  
to do what's best for you and twins.

He just stares at her now. It's obvious he has feelings for her,  
but is incredibly conflicted because of the circumstances.

RILEY  
I need to go to bed now, Evan.

EVAN  
I didn't mean to upset you.

RILEY  
I'm fine. Let's talk later.

He nods. She nods. They just stand there a moment. Then he turns  
and leaves. Riley watches after him. Not so sure how to handle  
this friendship anymore.

INT. THE RUB STAFF LOUNGE DAY

Selena's doing her nails. Dee Ann and Kendra are on Lifecycles.

SELENA  
I had Mrs. Daniels again. She is the  
worst! Every week it's a different  
ailment she expects me to  
"miraculously" heal with an hour  
massage. And she barely tips.

DEE ANN  
That's weird. Her husband's very  
generous. And easy to please. If you  
know what I mean.

KENDRA  
(knowingly)  
And you've got the gift cards from  
Neiman Marcus in Houston to prove it.

SELENA  
Why can't I find a guy like that?  
First thing I'd do is ditch this job  
and get the hell outta Sugarland.

KENDRA  
So, he's gotta be rich now, too?

SELENA  
And gorgeous. Girl, I have standards.

DEE ANN  
(giving her shit)  
How's that working out for you so far?

Selena shoots her a dirty look. Kendra laughs as Riley walks in for work and heads to her locker to change.

RILEY  
'morning, y'all.

The girls AD LIB hellos. (Note: Jolene is not in this scene.)

KENDRA  
You gotta open yourself up to a broader spectrum of men, Selena. Bobby's not rich. Or gorgeous.  
(simply)  
And I'm totally in love anyway.

This gets an ahhhh from the girls.

KENDRA (CONT'D)  
And, trust me, every trick I've learned here about pleasuring men-- gets put to use in our bedroom!

Dee Ann hoots and high fives Kendra as she gets off the Lifecycle to grab a bottle of water. Riley's curious now.

RILEY  
So your boyfriend knows what goes on with you and your clients here?

KENDRA  
Girl, do I look like a fool? That's nobody's business but my own. It's not all my clients anyway. Just a few.

But Dee Ann is more blunt.

DEE ANN  
My husband knows exactly what I do to get big tips here. I love mixing it up. He loves the fact I make great money doing something I enjoy.  
(shrugs)  
It turns him on.

Riley doesn't flinch, but this is obviously blowing her mind.

KENDRA  
What about you, Riley?

RILEY  
What about what?

DEE ANN  
What kind of "extras" do you offer  
your clientele?

The girls look at each other, amused. They're obviously the group at the spa that doesn't have a problem with this.

RILEY  
I don't really...massage and tell.

KENDRA  
Oh come on! The three of us are cool.  
(quieter)  
We know who does and doesn't around  
here. Just like Georgia does. So she  
knows who to match with who.

SELENA  
Just don't say anything around Jolene.  
She thinks it's her duty to police the  
place since she's been here the  
longest.

Dee Ann gets off her Lifecycle, heads over to Riley.

DEE ANN  
What's the story? Your clients look  
crazy happy when they come out of  
their sessions with you.

KENDA  
All blissed-out goofy and drained--

She imitates a totally blissed out, goofy guy. The girls laugh.

DEE ANN  
(to Riley)  
How far do you go?

Now the other girls are really interested. As if Riley's being challenged to enter their secret club.

RILEY  
Just...far enough. Crap, gotta go!

She grins and heads out. Leaving the girls without an answer.

EXT. THE RUB DAY

Riley walks out, exhausted from work. She heads to her car, but stops when she sees Valerie Peters parked in a Lincoln across the street. Their eyes meet. An obvious recognition from the altercation a few nights before. But Valerie breaks the stare and quickly drives away. OFF Riley--unsettled, watching her go.

INT. BUBBA'S BOOTS & BUCKLES DAY

Riley and Linette watch as the twins try on new boots.

LINETTE (CONT.)  
It's Italian Night at church. Might be fun to take the kids for dinner. There's a little talk. A few songs.

RILEY  
Sounds fun. What do you think kids?

The twins barely look up from their boots.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
You guys are awfully quiet today.

TRAVIS  
Katie screwed up at Spring Sing practice again. She's gonna ruin everything if she can't learn it right.

RILEY  
Katie, we can work on it some when we--

KATIE  
It won't make any difference.

RILEY  
Yes it will. You're gonna be great.  
(tousling her hair)  
Some things just take a little extra practice. Travis will help, too.

TRAVIS  
No I won't. It's embarrassing. She's the only kid who can't do it.

RILEY  
Travis, don't talk to your sister that way. We all have different talents and interests. Right Mama? That's what makes life so interesting.

LINETTE  
Well, I'm not sure about that. But I definitely like these snakeskin boots best.

TRAVIS  
It's fake snakeskin, Mee Maw!

LINETTE  
Excuse me. Wouldn't wanna kill a snake.

KATIE  
(shoves her boots away)  
Just save your money, Mommie. I don't want 'em anymore.

RILEY  
Katie, it's the last thing you need for your costume. You're gonna be the prettiest cowgirl up there.

Katie won't look at her.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Mama, why don't you take Travis to the church thing tonight? I'm gonna hang out with Katie some.

LINETTE  
(grabs Travis, playful)  
It's a date!

OFF Riley, worried about Katie.

INT. RILEY'S DEN LATER THAT NIGHT

Country MUSIC plays. FIND Riley and Katie alone in the den as Riley patiently helps Katie practice the line dance.

RILEY  
That's better, sweetie. And one two clap, clap, foot tap, hee-haw!

Katie slowly gets the hang of it. She looks at her mom. Smiles.

INT. THE RUB RECEPTION AREA DAY

Georgia works the desk as Riley enters to check her schedule.

GEORGIA  
Honey, your two-o'clock cancelled. I booked you a new client. Jared Peters.  
(whispers)  
Valerie's husband.

A slight jolt as this registers with Riley. She turns to glance through the glass doorway to the men's waiting room and sees JARED PETERS, a nice-looking, but slightly paunchy guy in his 40's, waiting for her with a smile.

INT. MASSAGE ROOM DAY

Jared's on his stomach as Riley gives him a deep tissue back massage. Her mind racing with the realization that this is the man who's wife was so incensed.

JARED  
Feels good. I heard you were amazing. I love trying out the new girls.

RILEY  
Yeah, I heard.

JARED  
Excuse me?

RILEY  
Nothing. Just relax.

JARED  
I'm ready to turn over. I'm really tense in my upper thigh/groin area.

Riley rolls her eyes as Jared turns over. She covers him to the waist with the sheet as he looks her over.

JARED (CONT'D)  
Wanna get more comfortable for me?

Riley knows the drill. She strips to a tank and cotton panties for him. He likes what he sees as she massages his legs.

JARED (CONT'D)  
So, where'd you work before this?

RILEY  
Here and there. Lots of places.

JARED  
Single or married?

RILEY  
That's really none of your business.

JARED  
Just curious. Single, right?

RILEY  
Yeah, happily.

JARED  
You don't want a boyfriend?

RILEY  
You sure are chatty.

JARED  
I don't get much conversation at home.

This gets Riley's interest.

RILEY  
Oh yeah, why not?

He shrugs, but surprises her by opening up.

JARED  
My wife--doesn't have much interest in me anymore. Besides blaming me for anything that goes wrong. So I end up spending a lot of time here.

RILEY  
What do you think went wrong?

JARED  
With my wife?

RILEY  
(slaps him playfully)  
With your marriage, silly.

JARED  
(more vulnerable now)  
She stopped...really listening a long  
time ago. We got married really young.  
You couldn't keep us off each other  
back then. She was so into me. And I  
was so in love with her.  
(just the truth)  
Still am.

This surprises Riley. Saddens her, especially after what she's  
going through with Kyle. She moves to massage his arms now.

RILEY  
Then you've gotta make her listen. You  
can't just give up. You've gotta find  
a way to explain what you feel so she  
can know what you need. She can't read  
your mind.

JARED  
And I can't read hers. I have no idea  
what she wants anymore.

RILEY  
Then you've gotta find out.

He looks at her now. She brushes a strand of hair off his face  
and sees he's actually just a sweet and lonely guy who wants  
someone to talk to. He smiles.

JARED  
I'm glad I got you today.

She smiles back at him. An unexpected moment of connection.

RILEY  
I'm glad you did, too.

LATER--

Riley's alone after Jared's left. She finds a \$500 tip under the  
sheets. Damn! A big smile on her face as upbeat MUSIC comes up:

EXT. THE RUB DAY

Riley leaves after work in a great mood.

INT. RILEY'S NOVA DAY

She drives home, windows down. Hopeful for a change.

INT. DRESS STORE DAY

She shops and buys a pretty new dress.

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE, HER BATHROOM DAY

She showers. The water feels so good.

INT. RILEY'S BEDROOM DAY

She dresses in her new dress, checks her look in the mirror.

EXT. BANK DAY

She parks and looks out at the bank with a smile.

INT. BANK DAY

She strides in, goes straight to her MORTGAGE BANKER who is busy at his desk. And pays her mortgage. In cash. MUSIC/MONTAGE ends.

INT. THE RUB THE NEXT DAY

Georgia's working the front desk. (Dee Ann's in the background, feeding the fish.) As Riley walks in and heads over to the desk.

RILEY

Georgia, can I talk to you a sec?

GEORGIA

Hey, honey. What's up?

RILEY

Look I think I'm starting to get the hang of this. Feel free to give me all the extra shifts you want. Pile 'em on.

GEORGIA

Sure thing. Fellas can't seem to get enough of you.

RILEY

And you could do all the scheduling online instead of that tattered old book of yours. Much more efficient. Just so you know.

GEORGIA

I'll keep that in mind, honey.

OFF Dee Ann, overhearing this. And not at all pleased about it.

EXT. THE RUB DAY

Riley leaves work at the end of the day. Heads to the parking lot, but stops in her tracks. The word WHORE has been spray painted in red all over her car. PASSERBYS are gaping. Snapping photos with their cells.

OFF Riley. Shit!

END OF ACT THREE.

ACT FOUR

EXT. STRIP MALL PARKING LOT DAY

Riley's pissed as Georgia helps her clean off her car with rags and a bucket of soapy water. Passerbys are still staring and taking photos as Georgia suddenly snaps at them.

GEORGIA

Never seen the word WHORE before?!

The Passerbys quickly disperse, grumbling among themselves.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

(so they can hear)

Your sister sure is gonna be glad we cleaned this off her car, Riley.

RILY

(hushed irritation)

Oh, that sounded convincing. Look at this mess!

GEORGIA

We'll have it cleaned off in no time.

RILEY

What if someone I knew saw all this?

GEORGIA

Guess you'd have to make a big joke and act surprised.

RILEY

I bet it was Valerie Peters. I saw her parked out here yesterday for no reason. Does she know I gave Jared a massage?

GEORGIA

Not that I know of. That bitch is working my last nerve. I've gotta get security cameras out here to prove who's been doin' all this crap.

RILEY

What crap? It's happened before?

Georgia just keeps scrubbing.

RILEY (CONT'D)

Ohmygod, and you've done nothing about it? Why didn't you tell me? I would've parked somewhere else.

GEORGIA

I don't like upsetting my girls.

RILEY

So you ignore it? How can you be so lax? The place is a disorganized mess.

(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

The girls do anything they want. I can't come out to my car like this. Unlike you, I have a family to worry about.

GEORGIA

(offended)

My girls are my family and I really don't appreciate you telling me I'm not doing my job. In case you haven't noticed I'm not Martha friggin' Stewart, but I've been running a clean, successful business for the last three years--all by myself.

(on second thought)

Clean your own damn car!

Pissed, she heads inside. Riley watches after her with regret.

INT. RILEY'S NOVA

Riley drives home, lost in thought. She turns onto her street. Looks out, squints--

EXT. RILEY'S HOUSE DAY

Evan is mowing her yard with his shirt off, chiseled, glistening with sweat. The twins are nearby, making piles of cut grass, enjoying his company. Riley parks in the drive, jumps out.

RILEY

What the hell are you doing?

Evan turns off the mower, glad to see here.

EVAN

I think it's called mowing. I dropped by to see if I could help out and your mom sent me out here.

RILEY

That's sweet, but I can mow my own yard. And would you put on your shirt? The neighbors are staring.

Evan looks around and sure enough NEIGHBORS are peeking out. Who's this hunky guy mowing Riley's yard while Kyle is away?

EVAN

(putting on his shirt)

So, how've you been?

RILEY

Good, really busy.

EVAN

I heard. How's your new job?

(perplexed)

A friend at the bank said you came in the other day and paid your mortgage in cash.

RILEY  
(acts blase)  
Yeah. It's turning out better than I expected. It's super high end, the clients are really rich and generous.

EVAN  
(incredulous)  
In Sugarland?

RILEY  
Yeah, much more than Beaumont.  
Ok, thanks for dropping by.

EVAN  
I'm only half done, silly. And I promised the kids we'd play later.

RILEY  
That's really not necessary. Bye!  
(to the twins)  
Come on kiddos. Time for dinner.

The twins hustle over.

TRAVIS  
See ya Evan. We raked up all the grass in piles like you told us to.

EVAN  
Thanks buddy. You did a great job.

KATIE  
We have fourteen piles now.

EVAN  
OK, wow, thanks for counting 'em.

A beat. Riley takes the kids inside. Evan watches, frustrated. And just a little suspicious of this new job of hers.

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE DAY

The twins watch TV in the den. Riley helps Linette make dinner.

RILEY  
Mama, would you please quit asking Evan favors? And stop blabbing about my finances. It's nobody's business but my own.

LINETTE  
Don't be so sensitive. He's happy your new job's working out so well. And so am I. He definitely looks better with his shirt off, huh?

RILEY  
I didn't notice.

LINETTE  
Oh, right. You always noticed the boys with the best bodies. That's why you chose Kyle. You never gave a flip about brains.

RILEY  
That is so not true.

LINETTE  
(re: Evan)  
You never know, the Lord works in mysterious ways.

RILEY  
You're the one who works in mysterious ways. Kyle's barely been gone a month. How can you say something like that?

LINETTE  
Oh, so you wanna be giving massages the rest of your life?

Riley glares. Boy, is this loaded.

RILEY  
Can we please just drop this and have a nice dinner?

LINETTE  
Actually, there's something I wanna discuss with you.

Riley stops what she's doing. Oh God, what now?

LINETTE (CONT'D)  
I know it's not the best timing with all you're going through, but--  
(no easy way to say it)  
I met someone. At church!

Riley is speechless.

LINETTE (CONT'D)  
We've been seeing each other a little over a month. That's why I wanted y'all to come to Italian Night with me. To meet Mario.

Riley sits down, floored. And she thought she had secrets.

RILEY  
Wow. ...so, what's he like?

LINETTE  
Baldish, but really cute. Divorced twice--which is a negative, but who am I to judge?  
(excited)  
He works over at the Toyota/Prius Dealership by the mall and loves the Lord! I really want you to meet him.

Riley manages a nod. But we sense this throws yet another wrench in her desire to keep her life private and contained now.

INT. RILEY'S BEDROOM NIGHT

Riley enters with a glass of wine, lonely, and upset from her talk with her mom, when she sees Kyle come out of the bathroom, fresh from a shower, in nothing but a towel. She gasps.

KYLE

Don't listen to your mother. Has she ever even once had a successful relationship?

Riley shakes her head, breathless.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I've missed you so much. My leg's been killing me since I left. Come over here. I need a massage.

Riley stays right where she is.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Don't be mad, babe. I need a release. Like you give all the guys at that whorehouse you're working at!

Riley flares, picks up a chair and hurls it at him--SHATTERING her medicine cabinet mirror. SMASH TO:

INT. RILEY'S BEDROOM NIGHT

Riley bolts awake in a cold sweat. It was all just a dream.

INT. THE RUB STAFF ROOM DAY

Selena, Kendra, Dee Ann and Jolene play poker in between clients. Dee Ann's dealing out a new hand.

JOLENE

Hell, you'd think we'd be busier with the rodeo in town.

SELENA

The Gay Rodeo, Jolene, didn't you read the signs?

JOLENE

The gay rodeo? You're kidding me?

DEE ANN

Sounds frisky, count me in. Ok ladies--  
(calling the game)  
Seven Card Hi-Low Follow The Queen!

They all grab their cards.

KENDRA

So am I the only one who's noticed that Riley's booked solid all day?

They've all noticed.

JOLENE  
That girl's doin' something right.

DEE ANN  
Georgia said Larry Doyle booked her  
five days in a row.

SELENA  
Larry was my client!

JOLENE  
And he's movin' on. Welcome to my  
world, sugar.

DEE ANN  
Riley may seem plain vanilla, I'm  
telling ya, that girl's got some  
tricks up her sleeve.

KENDRA  
Whatdaya think she's doing with 'em?

SELENA  
She won't say.

JOLENE  
That's all I need. Someone else  
joining the three of you hoodlums with  
all the little "extras" you throw in.

DEE ANN  
(teasing her/playful)  
Sweetie, it's never too late to jump  
on the gravy train!

Kendra and Selena are amused. Jolene shoots them a look. They  
all love Jolene, but enjoy giving her shit.

KENDRA  
...Riley's in the viewing room right  
now with Woody Powell...?

The four of them glance at each other. Beat. They grin  
mischievously. (Even Jolene.) And bolt out of the room.

INT. THE RUB VIEWING ROOM DAY

Selena, Kendra, Dee Ann and Jolene crammed tight, watching  
through the two-way mirror as Riley (in a robe) sits on the  
massage table next to WOODY POWELL (cute but hefty, wearing  
boxers). Riley's showing him some type of brochure.

JOLENE  
(hushed and appalled)  
Oh, Good Lord. Porn!

KENDRA  
Jolene, hush.

They're extra quiet so they can hear what's going on.

WOODY  
(to Riley)  
I can't believe you remembered.

RILEY  
Of course I did. You took your wife to Las Brisas 25 years ago, stayed six nights in the La Villa suite and had a wreck one night driving the cute little pink Jeeps.

We see now that the brochures are from resorts in Acapulco.

Woody's impressed by her memory and thoughtfulness.

WOODY  
Most of the girls here barely remember my name.

(This irritates Selena, Kendra, Dee Ann and Jolene.)

RILEY  
Well, I know it's outta your price range now that you've got kids in college, but I found three less expensive resorts with the same vibe. One even has pink Jeeps!

She hands him the brochures. Woody's genuinely touched.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
That is if you're serious about proving to your wife you can be romantic again.

WOODY  
I most certainly am.

RILEY  
And you did the research on clitoral stimulation I told you about?

Woody nods again, blushing and a little turned on.

WOODY  
I sure did. I think I've got it now.

RILEY  
Good for you! She'll love it. Ok, Woody, let's get you all massaged.

She takes off her robe. She's wearing a teensy black lace babydoll slip. Woody grins. Obviously his favorite.

Kendra, Dee Ann, Selena and Jolene look at each other. Frown. What the fuck? How are they supposed to compete with this?

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE, THE TWIN'S BEDROOM NIGHT

Riley peeks in to find Katie alone with her laptop, reading.

RILEY  
Honey, can we talk a minute? I just got a call from Mr. Marshall. He said you're not participating in the Spring Sing rehearsals.

Katie just stares. Riley goes to sit next to her.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
You've got the dance down now. You love to sing.

KATIE  
Not in front of the entire school.

RILEY  
Even if the whole class is doing it?

KATIE  
(the real issue)  
Daddy's never coming home again, is he?

A horrible beat. The two of them just staring at each other. Riley swallows, gathers her strength.

RILEY  
Honey...of course he is. He'll be back... Before you know it.

Tears well. She pulls Katie in for a hug so she won't see.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
He loves you so much. More than anything. Just like I do.  
(stroking her hair)  
You don't have to be in Spring Sing if you don't wanna do it. I can call Mr. Marshall in the morning.

Katie pulls away. Considers her a moment.

KATIE  
Lemme sleep with it.

RILEY  
(amused)  
You mean sleep on it?

Beat. Katie nods.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
OK, sweetheart.

She smiles. Katie goes back to her reading. OFF Riley, her heart bursting with love and concern for her child.

INT. SANDWICH SHOP DAY

Riley eats lunch with Padma and Lacey.

RILEY  
I've actually paid all my bills on  
time this month. It's kinda shocking.

PADMA  
Hell, maybe I should get a job there.  
Are they hiring?

RILEY  
(laughs nervously)  
That's a horrible idea.

PADMA  
What's so horrible about it? I can  
give a good massage.

RILEY  
It's a little more than that.

LACEY  
A little more than what?

RILEY  
She's not...certified for one thing.

PADMA  
I'll get certified. I hate my job.

LACEY  
Since when? I thought you loved it?

PADMA  
I just say that so I don't sound whiny  
and pathetic. You think I wanna be  
changing granny diapers the rest of my  
life. Could you at least ask for me?

RILEY  
I already know, she's not hiring.

LACEY  
Riley, what's wrong? She's just--

RILEY  
It just bugs me. Everyone thinks  
massage is so easy. It takes a lot of  
skill, strength and endurance. It took  
me over 500 hours of classes and  
instruction to get my license. You  
have to intuitively understand the  
deepest needs of your clients--

SMASH TO:

INT. MASSAGE ROOM (SERIES OF SHOTS) DAY

--a guy on the table wears nothing but women's silky red underwear. It's Larry, the rugged guy from our opening scene. Riley's next to him, wearing his Cowboy hat, doing his nails. He grins with delight. So this is what he meant when he said he had something else in mind.

--Riley carefully applies hot stones and oil to a BUTCH WOMAN's back--as the woman munches on a bag of Cheetos.

--Riley reads *BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN* to a TEARY-EYED OLD RANCHER as she uses her other hand to massage his neck. She's crying, too.

--Riley tickles a blindfolded ASIAN GUY'S nipples with a feather as he squirms in pleasure. She rolls her eyes and glances at her watch, bored. Hey, it's a living. CUT TO:

INT. ANOTHER MASSAGE ROOM THAT NIGHT

Jared (Valerie's husband) is on his back, moaning with pleasure. PAN to find Riley (in shorts and a tank) giving him a very legit and intense foot massage.

RILEY

Jared, there's something we need to talk about. Someone wrote "whore" all over my car the other day and I think it was Valerie.

JARED

There is no way in hell.

RILEY

Are you aware that she barged in here drunk off her ass, threatening to get the place closed 'cause she knows what goes on here?

JARED

(sits up, jarred)  
Valerie was here?

RILEY

(massaging his hands now)  
I wasn't gonna say anything, but she's outta control. She overheard you bragging to your poker buddies about all the happy endings you get here.

JARED

Oh my God.  
(flushed with guilt)  
Why didn't Georgia say anything?

RILEY

Apparently, that's not her style. But I've got a family to worry about. I can't have some crazy wife stalking me. Did you say something about me to her?

JARED  
No. I mean, yeah. Just that you did an amazing job on my stiff neck.

RILEY  
Great. She obviously thinks that's not the only thing that was stiff. And that I'm having sex with you!

JARED  
She's just a little stressed lately. It's the first year all the kids are off to college. I think she feels--

RILEY  
What? Lonely?

JARED  
She's got her friends. Her charity work.

RILEY  
Maybe she wants you?

Jared looks at her, a pang of guilt.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
You said you still love her.  
(simply)  
You have to fix this.

JARED  
But how?

RILEY  
She's obviously trying to figure out exactly what you do here. And why. Maybe it's time to tell her?

OFF Jared, staring. Nothing could be more frightening.

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE NIGHT

Riley turns off the lights to go to bed when there's a KNOCK at the door. Unsure, she goes to open it. It's Evan. Intense.

RILEY  
What's wrong? What're you doing here so late?

EVAN  
We need to talk. I know how you've been making so much money at that new job of yours.

OFF Riley, mind racing, as her heart skips a beat.

END ACT FOUR.

ACT FIVE

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE NIGHT

Where we left off. Riley yanks Evan inside, hushed.

RILEY  
What the hell are you talking about?

EVAN  
I was out having a few beers and it was so obvious once I really started thinking about it!

Riley's eyes flash with fear. The moment she's been dreading.

EVAN (CONT'D)  
Why don't you come out and admit it?

RILEY  
I want you to leave right now. You have no business being over here.

EVAN  
(disgusted/incredulous)  
Kyle hasn't even been gone a month and you stoop to this? I thought I knew you so well. What's his name?

RILEY  
Who's name?

EVAN  
Your Sugar Daddy!

RILEY  
My--you think I have a Sugar Daddy?

EVAN  
Yeah, from work, right? How else could you be bringing home so much cash?

Riley turns away so he doesn't see her relief.

RILEY  
Wow, that is so...insulting!  
(turning back to him)  
I happen to be really good at my job. Why is that so hard for everybody to understand?!

EVAN  
'cuz it doesn't add up, that's why!

RILEY  
I'll tell you what adds up. I'm fighting tooth and nail to provide for my family after the most traumatic event in my life, Kyle walking out on me, and I really don't need you--

EVAN (OVERLAPPING)  
Riley, settle down, I'm just--

RILEY  
--coming over here after  
having a few drinks, making  
wild accusations!

EVAN (OVERLAPPING)  
(not so sure anymore)  
Riley, I was just really--

RILEY  
What?!!

Without warning, he reaches out, grabs her by the arms and kisses her on the lips! Stunned, she gives in for an instant then shoves him away.

EVAN  
Riley, you know how much I've always--

RILEY  
No, get out. Now! And stay away. From me, the kids. Everyone. Got that?!

Hurt and humiliated, Evan manages a nod. He turns, stumbles out. OFF Riley, breathless and guilty now for treating him this way.

INT. THE RUB STAFF LOUNGE DAY

Riley's at her locker, running late, changing out of her street clothes. She finishes, shuts the locker door and finds Selena, Kendra, Dee And and Jolene staring at her.

DEE ANN  
Busy girl.

RILEY  
Not enough hours in the day.

JOLENE  
For some people.

SELENA  
First I lost Larry Daniels to you. Now I see you're doing Ed Day.

KENDRA  
And Jabbo Jones. Girl, you think I wanna be sitting around here on my ass all day?

RILEY  
I take whoever Georgia gives me.

DEE ANN  
No, you asked Georgia for more.

SELENA  
Dee Ann heard you.

Riley absorbs this, realizes they're pissed.

RILEY  
I didn't mean to take any clients.

DEE ANN  
What did you think would happen?

JOLENE  
We spied on your sexy little therapy session with Woody Powell the other day.

RILEY  
I'm just tryin' to help, OK?

JOLENE  
Darlin', that's really not what we're paid to do here.

DEE ANN  
Not so smart long term. Sending all the guys back to their wives.

The others laugh, but Selena steps toward Riley, something about this doesn't make sense to her.

SELENA  
Why's that so important to you anyway? You left your husband.

This gets everyone's attention.

RILEY  
I just...think this job can be a lot more, that's all. Clients don't just come here for a massage. They come because some part of them's...lonely. And wants to be heard. Like we all do.

The girls just stare, but this touches some part of them.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Give 'em that--plus all the other stuff. And we'll all be busy.  
(genuine)  
I'm sorry if I took anyone's clients. I'll talk to Georgia about it.

She starts to leave, but stops. Turns to Selena.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
And just to set the record straight, I didn't leave my husband. He left me.  
(to all of them)  
A week before I started here. I have no idea if he's ever coming back again.

A beat. There's really nothing else to say. She leaves the room.

OFF the girls. Affected. Not what they were expecting from her.

INT. RILEY'S NOVA NIGHT

Riley drives home, lost in thought. Unnerved by the emotions her job brings up in her. She arrives at her house and notices a car as it parks across the street. A Lincoln. She squints and sees that it's Valerie Peters.

RILEY

Good God, you've got to be kidding me.

EXT. RILEY'S YARD AND STREET NIGHT

Riley gets out of her car, marches across her yard and gets in the passenger seat of the Lincoln to confront Valerie.

INT. VALERIE'S LINCOLN NIGHT

RILEY

You followed me all the way home? Are you out of your friggin' mind?!

Valerie notices bikes and toys on Riley's front porch.

VALERIE

You have kids of your own yet you're out ruining other people's families?!

RILEY

I'm not having sex with your husband. I told him to tell you that.

VALERIE

I'm supposed to believe some whore?

RILEY

Wow, that is really offensive. You've got a thing about that word, don't you? You spray painted it all over my car the other day!

VALERIE

I have no idea what you're talking about.  
(grabbing her purse)  
I brought money, I'll pay you whatever Jared does to keep you away from him.

RILEY

Jared and I aren't having sex!

VALERIE

Right. And he never did anything with any of the other girls I suppose?

RILEY

That's really none of my business and if you're so worried about what Jared's doing you should be talking to him, not me. He happens to love you. He talks about you all the time during his massages.

VALERIE  
I find that very hard to believe.

RILEY  
He doesn't think you give a crap about him anymore. He thinks you care more about your friends and your charities than you do him.

VALERIE  
That's insane. I've built my entire life around him.

RILEY  
Then why does he feel so lonely?

Valerie looks at her, a bit stricken now.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Look, I'm sure there are two sides of the story, but trust me, a man doesn't go looking elsewhere if he's getting what he needs at home.

She looks out at her house a moment. Then back at Valerie, more sympathetic.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
But you weren't getting what you needed either. Were you?

A beat. Valerie shakes her head.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
But there was a time when you were. He told me about them. ...if you love him you still have a chance.

Valerie considers this, vulnerable now.

VALERIE  
But what do I do?

RILEY  
Tell him you want him back. That whatever he's done or hasn't done is in the past--it's done, it's over. You love him. You wanna move on.

Valerie just stares. Tears well in Riley's eyes. We can imagine this is her fantasy of what she'd tell Kyle if he ever returned.

VALERIE  
...why are you crying?

RILEY  
Because that's something I'll probably never get the chance to do.

She wipes her tears. Valerie's taken aback to see honest emotion from this woman she hated five minutes ago. The two woman just look at each other. An oddly intimate moment between them.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
But you could drive home right this minute and do it.  
(she grins)  
Then screw the livin' daylights outta him.

Valerie's offended at first, then she shakes her head and smiles for the first time. Riley smiles back at her. A beat. She gets out of car, looks back in.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Good luck, OK?

VALERIE  
Same to you.

Riley nods and smiles. Valerie drives off into the night. OFF Riley, watching her go.

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE, THE LIVING ROOM NIGHT

Riley comes home to find Linette asleep with a a MODERN BRIDE magazine across her chest. She shakes her head, takes the magazine and covers her mom with a blanket.

INT. THE TWINS BEDROOM ROOM NIGHT

Riley peeks in. The twins are asleep in their bunk beds. She enters and tucks Travis in. Then notices that under the covers Katie's wearing the leather jacket she gave Kyle for his birthday. She smiles, runs her finger along the trim and kisses Katie's forehead. Then just as suddenly, she breaks into tears. For all that she's lost, for all her children must be going through.

EXT. GEORGIA'S COTTAGE HOUSE, THE GARDEN THE NEXT DAY

Georgia's on her hands and knees, carefully planting vegetables in her garden as Riley walks up. She watches a moment, surprised to see this side of her, as Georgia looks up.

GEORGIA  
Hey, honey. Like tomatoes? Every year I have more'n I could ever give away.

RILEY  
Sure. I love 'em.

GEORGIA  
So what in hell's name happened with Valerie Peters? She called this morning and apologized for barging in last week. She wants to pay for all the damages.

RILEY

She followed me home last night. I thought it was Fatal Attraction time, but we actually had a nice talk.

GEORGIA

(stands, taken aback)  
About what?

RILEY

Let's just say she's gonna be the one giving Jared his massages from now on. She sent me roses this morning. He's taking her to Hawaii for a week.

GEORGIA

...you have a funny effect on people, don't you?

RILEY

Yeah. They either love me--or haul ass.

Georgia smiles. She knows the feeling.

GEORGIA

Well, I'm sorry to lose Jared, but relieved to have that crazy bitch outta my hair. Thanks for taking care of that. And that Auto-Pay you set up on my bank account--loving it! I thought maybe we could discuss your idea of putting the schedule online.

RILEY

Actually, Georgia...that's what I came over to talk to you about.  
(no easy way to say it)  
I can't work for you anymore.

Unsure, Georgia shields her eyes from the sun to see her better.

RILEY (CONT'D)

I took this job for the money, but it became some...insane attempt to understand why men do the things they do. What goes on in their minds. I'm guessing the girls told you my husband left me, not the other way around.

GEORGIA

Yeah, they mentioned it.

RILEY

Well, I've gotta let go of all that. And think of my kids now. I can't have crazy wives following me home at night.

GEORGIA

I get it, no job's perfect. But you've got what it takes to do this.

RILEY  
No offense, but I want a life I can be proud of.

Georgia absorbs this. It stings, but she hides it well.

GEORGIA  
We all do, honey. ...I wish you nothin' but the best.

Riley nods. Georgia nods back at her. It's painful and awkward. There's a genuine affection between them. Riley smiles and leaves. OFF Georgia, sad to see her go.

INT. RILEY'S HOUSE THE NEXT DAY

Riley, Linette and Katie (in her cowboy costume) are hurrying about, getting ready to leave for Spring Sing when Travis (in his cowboy outfit) enters in tears.

TRAVIS  
I used too much hair gel!

His hair is plastered with gel. A huge mess.

LINETTE  
(horrorified)  
Good Lord, you look like a wet possum!

RILEY  
Mama, that's not helping.  
(going to Travis)  
Honey, I told you just a dab.

TRAVIS  
Daddy always helped me do it!

LINETTE  
OK, I'll fix this. It's nothing compared to the disasters I see down at the salon. Come with me, Possum.

She leads Travis off to the bathroom as Riley turns to see Katie standing there in her Cowboy outfit, vulnerable.

RILEY  
Honey, you look so cute. I'm really glad you decided to be in the show.

She kneels to make sure Katie's costume looks just right.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
What made you change your mind?

KATIE  
(shrugs)  
I want you to be proud of me.

RILEY  
(melts)  
Oh sweetie, I already am.

She gives her a big hug and a kiss as the doorbell rings.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Oh God, what now? Check on your  
brother for me. We're running late.

Katie heads off. Riley hustles to open the door. It's Evan.

EVAN  
I just wanna say something in person  
real quick. I'm sorry about the other  
night. Kissing was...totally out of  
line. It won't happen again.

RILEY  
OK, well... I certainly hope not.

EVAN  
I want us to be friends again. They're  
hard to come by around here.

RILEY  
Yeah. They are. Long as we're clear.

EVAN  
We are. I am.

They both nod. But there's an entirely different energy between them now. Whether they want to admit it or not, it's sexual.

EVAN (CONT'D)  
Ok, bye then. But don't hesitate to  
call if you need help with anything.

RILEY  
Actually...the yard's only half mowed,  
last time I checked.

EVAN  
Damn, you're right. I'm on it.  
(he grins, cute)  
And I'll wear a shirt this time.

Riley smiles. Unsettled by her new feelings for him.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM DAY

Big CROWD gathered for Spring Sing. Bales of hay in front of a curtain on stage, Texas flags, a Country Western theme.

Riley sits in a middle row with Linette, Linette's new boyfriend MARIO (50's, bald, handsome) and Padma and Lacey as they wait for the show to begin and Linette chatters away.

LINETTE  
...I finally pulled a few strings and  
got Riley a job at the salon washing  
hair now that she's outta work again.  
Doesn't pay much, but it's a leg in.

RILEY  
Mama, we're here to watch the show.

LINETTE  
(proud of herself)  
And I'm movin' in to share expenses  
and help out with the twins!

PADMA  
(yikes for Riley)  
Wow, isn't that exciting?

Riley shoots her an unamused look.

LINETTE  
Just till Mario and I figure out where  
we're headed. Did I mention Mario  
sells Toyotas and Priuses?

MARIO  
(eager to impress)  
I'll cut you gals a deal you wouldn't  
believe!

Riley rolls her eyes as she notices heads turning around her.  
She glances back to see:

Georgia (in a big blonde wig and low cut dress) scrunching down  
an aisle to find empty seats with Selena, Jolene, Dee Ann and  
Kendra. They're quite a sight, all gussied up and sexy in stark  
contrast to the conservative parents and kids.

Georgia shoots a grin and a wave to Riley. Riley is touched and  
surprised to see her here as Georgia spots Mario and shoots him  
a naughty little wink. Mario grins back, he obviously knows her.

LINETTE  
Who in the Lord's name is that?

RILEY  
Oh, just um friends. From my job. My  
old job. What a surprise.

Padma and Lacey glance back, curious now, too. As Riley gives  
Georgia and the girls a little wave. Impressed they came all  
this way. They wave back as the lights go down and the  
performance begins. Banjos strum the "Cotton-Eyed Joe" as the  
curtain rises, revealing--

Travis and Katie's 2nd GRADE CLASS in their Cowboy costumes.

2ND GRADE CLASS  
YEE-HAW!!!!!!

In unison they form a line to sing and dance the Cotton-Eyed  
Joe. Step, step, clap, clap, foot tap, lasso, spin!

2ND GRADE CLASS (CONT'D)  
"Where did you come from, where did  
you go? Where did you come from Cotton-  
Eye Joe!"

One problem. Katie's just standing there. Frozen.

Riley's eyes flicker with panic. Oh God no.

The kids keep dancing and singing around her. Travis glances at his sister. Embarrassed.

MURMURS in the crowd. Why isn't that one girl moving?

Riley looks at Linette. What the hell do they do now? But Linette looks just as helpless as Katie does. Instinctually, Riley rises to go rescue her child as Padma grabs her arm.

PADMA

Wait, Riley, look--

Onstage, Travis has grabbed his sister's hand and pulled her into the fray. Katie responds and starts to sing and dance with the others. Travis grins. His support was all she really needed.

Riley sits down, relieved. As Katie relaxes into the music and starts kicking it up with the others. She's actually one of the most talented kids up there. She shoots the crowd a grin and does an extra fancy kick step.

The crowd APPLAUDS, realizing she was just a little nervous.

Riley smiles, tears in her eyes. Proud and relieved. She turns to Georgia and girls. Happy they're getting to see all this.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAY

Riley and Georgia take a stroll after the performance as refreshments are served in the background.

RILEY

Thanks for dropping by. They were pretty good, right?

GEORGIA

Amazing. We just happened to be in the neighborhood.

Riley shoots her a look, knows better.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

Honey, here's the deal. The girls and I want ya back. Clients are climbing the walls, asking for you. The girls don't have a crappin' clue--but want in on whatever it is you do to make your clients so happy. Truth is, I wanna new start, too. I've been in a real rut since my husband left. Letting The Rub go to seed. I'll make you full partner if you come back and run the place with me.

Riley's taken aback, she wasn't expecting anything like this.



INT. THE RUB RECEPTION AREA DAY

Georgia enters from her office in a velour track suit. Stops.

GEORGIA  
Well, I'll be damned. Look what the  
cat drug in!

Riley stands there with a box full of inflated plastic bags.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
What the hell's all that?

RILEY  
Fancy guppies, a pair of swordtails  
and a Siamese Algae Eater. Studies  
have proven folks noticeably relax  
when they look into a fish tank.

GEORGIA  
(amused)  
I wasn't aware of that.

RILEY  
(holds up some small plants)  
And some zucchini plants. For your  
garden.

Georgia walks over to check them out, genuinely touched.

GEORGIA  
Hell, there's only one thing to say to  
something like this.

RILEY  
What's that?

GEORGIA  
(big smile)  
Welcome partner!

RILEY  
I was hoping you'd say that.

They give each other a little hug and head over to the aquarium  
to add the new fish.

END OF PILOT