BARBECUE

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(originally commissioned by Steppenwolf Theatre Company)

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BARBECUE

SETTING: A COVERED PAVILION, SURROUNDED BY A LARGE PARK.

TIME: NOW (AFTER AND BEFORE)

Note: For most of the First Act, Everyone wears an Old T-SHIRT with their Name on the Front and on the back it reads, “O’MALLERY FAMILY REUNION”.
ACT ONE : AFTER

ZIPPITY BOOM.

JAMES T, a 40/50ish White Man with a Bluetooth Headset, stands speaking.

JAMES T.
This is the thing that I don’t seem to understand. Why? On god’s green earth. Do you actually believe that we still give a damn? I can’t seem to wrap my brain cells around that particular- No... No... No- Because its not about that. You wanna make it about that. But it ain’t gonna be about that as long as I’m here. And I’m here. Now you gat me out here this morning. To secure this place. And I’m here. Now we know she’s a fool. We know that she gonna get up in here and act the plum fool. Of course she gonna be liquored up. Liquored up. Cracked up. Something Uped. She will be Uped on something. You know that. I know that. And that's the problem. Why do we give a damn anymore. This is not about Mama. Mama didn’t give a damn when she was here and now that she’s dead everybody wanna bring her back up out the grave to say what the hell she would do if she was here. She ain’t here. She Dead. And she didn’t give a damn about Barbara’s bullshit so don’t try and make it out like she would give a damn now. She dead. Let the heifa stay dead... Taking it easy? What? Who the hell are you talking about? I’m talking about Barbara. Zippity Boom. Our sister. Remember her? She don’t know from no gatdamn “taking it easy”. She gat two modes. Zippity. Boom. Aint shit in between. Aint no zippity do dah. When she taste liquor. She go Zippity. Boom! Period. I know it. You know it. And all these others who comin today knows it. Now ya’ll wanna sit back today and act like we a normal gatdamn family. We ain’t no normal gatdamn family and we ain’t never been no normal gatdamn family but now all of a sudden ya’ll read a book or see a tv show and ya’ll wanna gather up and act like we a normal gatdamn family. Zippity Boom is gonna walk up in here and act out her head- Barbara don’t give a damn about us all being here. Why should she give a damn about that? How you gonna keep liquor away from Barbara? She wake up high. Zippity Boom will roll up in here and it will be a Wrap.
We might as well draw three gatdamn circles on this gatdamn cement floor pitch a tent and hand out tickets because when ZIPPITY BOOM rolls up into this heah park its gonna be the Greatest Show on muthafuckin Earth.

He looks off.

JAMES T.
Is that you riding up?

He waves.

JAMES T.
Yeah... this me waving.

He clicks his Bluetooth off. Goes to a Cooler and takes out a Beer and Drinks.

Soon. LILLIE ANNE comes on stage. She is also 50/60ish and White.

LILLIE ANNE.
Hey there.

JAMES T says nothing. He just stares at her and continues drinking his beer.

LILLIE ANNE.
What?... Do these shorts make me look fat?

JAMES T.
Naw, yo’ fat makes you look fat.

LILLIE ANNE.
Shut up James T and come help me-

JAMES T.
Don’t shut up James T and come help me nuthin. I been tellin you for the last month that I didn’t want to be here today and I’m not planning to help do nuthin.

LILLIE ANNE.
You are here and I need your help now get up and help me bring some of this stuff up here so we can start decoratin-
JAMES T.

Decoratin’?

LILLIE ANNE.

We gotta make it look like something don’t we?

JAMES T.

We ain’t gotta make it look like nuthin... I’m ain’t decoratin’-

LILLIE ANNE.

She has to believe its a gatdamn party otherwise what the hell is the use?

JAMES T.

That’s exactly my gatdamn question. What the hell is the use?

LILLIE ANNE.

She’s our sister.

JAMES T.

She’s a gatdamn waste of-

LILLIE ANNE.

James T I’m not gonna dance with you over this all day today. Now if you want a pat on your gatdamn back for comin today then come on over here and I will pat you on your gatdamn back but I don’t have the energy nor the interest in rustlin and tumblin with you over being here. You and me both know you ain’t gat nuthin else to do this morning and therefore the least you can achieve in your trailer park living asshole of a life is to help your sister in her time of need.

JAMES T.

I gat four sisters in a time of need one of which is you.

LILLIE ANNE.

I’m talking about the sister with the Crack Habit.

JAMES T.

I gat two of those.

LILLIE ANNE.

I’m talking bout the one with the Crack Habit and the Alcohol problem.
JAMES T.
And two of those.

LILLIE ANNE.
The one with the Crack Habit, Alcohol problem and the mental illness.

JAMES T.
Fuck her.

LILLIE ANNE.
Too late. Life done already done that.

From off: “BEEP BEEP.”

They both look off.

JAMES T.
What the- ???

LILLIE ANNE.
I know she did not bring them bad ass -

(shouting off)

ADLEAN, I KNOW YOU DIDN’T BRING THEM BADASS GRANDKIDS AFTER I TOLD YOU NOT TO BRING THEM NASTY GOOD FOR NUTHIN’ BADASS-

KEEP THEM GATDAMN GRANDKIDS IN THAT CAR !!

(to JAMES T)
They wanna get my pressure goin’.

Two 50ish White Women enter. They are ADLEAN, who carries a carton of Menthol Cigarettes and MARIE, who carries a large bottle of Jack Daniels.

MARIE.
(to LILLIE ANNE)
Why you screamin so gatdamn loud this early in the mornin?

ADLEAN.
Hey there James T, how that cancer in your balls doin’?

JAMES T.
I guess about the same as that cancer in that one good titty you gat left.
LILLIE ANNE.
(to ADLEAN)
Didn’t I tell you not to come bringin’ them gatdamn badass grandkids of yours?

MARIE.
(regarding Jack Daniels)
Where the cups at?

ADLEAN.
They stayin’ in the car is that a problem for you or should I just bag them back into the street and have them play in traffic?

JAMES T.
You should have left them wherever the hell they woke up this gatdamn morning. This ain’t no damn place for no gatdamn grandkids.

MARIE.
Its a gatdamn park ain’t it?

LILLIE ANNE.
Today. It ain’t. Today. We gat important business to attend to and we don’t need no damn badass-

ADLEAN.
(yelling off)
BOOTY IF YOU DON’T STOP BOPPIN YO’ HEAD UP IN AND OUT OF MY SUN ROOF I’M GONNA COME OVER THERE AND SLAP THE FUCK OUT OF YOU WITH A HAMMER TILL YOUR THROAT CLAP!

LILLIE ANNE.
Adlean-

ADLEAN.
(still shouting off)
AND I MEANS THAT! I’LL BEAT YOU TILL I SEE THE WHITE MEAT.
(now back to the others)
Stupid ass fool.

MARIE.
I told you he gonna need somethin’ stronger than them gatdamn ritalins.
ADLEAN.
He eat that shit like its cornflakes.

JAMES T.
You break a tire iron over his gatdamn forehead and them ritalins might take hold.

LILLIE ANNE.
Could we all take a moment. And shut the hell up!!

Silence.

LILLIE ANNE.
Now. I gat some stuff in my car that I need ya’ll to help me take out and bring up here to cook and decorate.

MARIE/ADLEAN.
Decorate?

LILLIE ANNE.
Yes! Decorate! We have to make this look like a real party or it will not work. She won’t even get out the car if she don’t believe its a real party.

ADLEAN.
So you bought real food?

LILLIE ANNE.
Naw I went to the fake grocery store and bought some fake food, what the hell do you think, heifa?

MARIE.
Where the Mixers and Cups at?

LILLIE ANNE.
I just told you I have everything in my car and I-

MARIE turns and Walks off towards the car.

Silence.
LILLIE ANNE.
(re: MARIE)
Now pretty soon, that Jack Daniels will start talking for that heifa. And she won’t be of no damn use. I want Barbara to see just that.

ADLEAN.
Why?

JAMES T.
So she’ll think it’s a real family event.

LILLIE ANNE.
Exactly. Now James T. I got a bunch of stuff for the grill so I need you to get on that. Adlean you can help me blow up the balloons and put up the party favors and Marie-

MARIE.
(from OFF)
WHY THE HELL IS YOUR DOORS LOCKED IF YOU WANT US TO HELP YOU OUT SO GATDAMN MUCH!!!

LILLIE ANNE.
Marie will drink and let that Jack start talking.

ADLEAN.
You really expect Barbara to show up?

JAMES T.
That’s my next question.

LILLIE ANNE.
Fonzi is bringing her.

JAMES T.
Fonzi???

ADLEAN.
When he get out of jail?

LILLIE ANNE.
Fonzi been out of jail for a year and half now.

JAMES T.
Where the hell he been at?
LILLIE ANNE.
He been staying away from the family hoping to get his life back together.

ADLEAN.
What he gat to stay away from the family for that for?

JAMES T.
That asshole owe me 20 dollars.

ADLEAN.
20 dollars? That asshole owe me 50.

LILLIE ANNE.
Fonzi thought it would be best if he kept himself away from up under our influence while he lived in his sober house and-

ADLEAN.
From up under OUR influence?

LILLIE ANNE.
Yes.

JAMES T.
Correct me if I’m mistaken but ain’t he the one that they had to mount a Manhunt for 10 years ago?

LILLIE ANNE.
He thinks its better to-

ADLEAN.
Better to just contact you cuz you the one that likes to keep secrets and stuff.

MARIE reenters.

MARIE.
(to LILLIE ANNE)
Heifa where your keys at?

ADLEAN.
Fonzi is out.

MARIE.
What??!! That asshole owe me 72 dollars!
JAMES T.
You’re in luck because he’s bringing Barbara here.

MARIE.
Fonzi ain’t got no license. He’s a felon.

LILLIE ANNE.
Well he’s out.

ADLEAN.
Been out more than a year according to her. They been communicating. Back room deals and stuff.

LILLIE ANNE.
We are not here to figure out who owes who what from 10 gatdamn years ago. We are here for Barbara. Our sister. Zippity Boom. We are here for her. Everybody knows, A Barbecue is her favorite type of party. And this is her favorite park. Now when the time is just right. When she is safe and comfortable. In the bosom of her loving brother and sisters. And the heifa can’t see what’s coming. We will start the fucking Intervention.

BLACK.
JACK TALKIN'.

JAMES T, LILLIE ANNE, ADLEAN and MARIE are all now played by Black Actors.

They are in the Same Costumes as the White Actors from the last scene.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that there be No Attempt to make either cast look like the other.

Therefore, the Ages of the Black Cast are irrelevant.

The BBQing and Decorating are now in full steam.

JAMES T is Turning Meat on the Grill and Drinking a Beer.

ADLEAN is blowing up Balloons with PARTY words on them while in between popping pills and chain smoking.

LILLIE ANNE is laying out table cloths and utensils and the like while also texting on her smart phone.

MARIE, loaded, drinks from a Big Red Plastic Cup full of ice and Jack Daniels.

She does nothing else but stands around talking shit.

MARIE.
(continuing)
...that’s what I’m trying to tell you. It was me, Tina, Tyrone, Melvin, Terry and Alphonso.
ADLEAN.
Melvin wasn’t there.

JAMES T.
He was there.

ADLEAN.
I’m telling you Melvin wasn’t there. He was locked up with Henry and Junior.

JAMES T.
What the hell you talking about?

MARIE.
(to ADLEAN)
Adlean, you wasn’t even there so how the hell you know who was where?

LILLIE ANNE.
(to ADLEAN)
Melvin was there.

ADLEAN.
How the hell you know? You didn’t show up until after ME?

LILLIE ANNE.
I know because Melvin was the one who called me.

ADLEAN.
I don’t remember seeing Melvin.

MARIE.
And what the hell that gat to do with anything. You probably don’t even remember waking up this morning with all them damn pills you poppin.

ADLEAN.
Heifa, you wait till you get a disease in yo’ titty-

MARIE.
I was the one who told you not to go eating no damn corn out no damn can. Its them damn canned goods that gave you that damn cancer.

LILLIE ANNE.
Marie shut the hell up.
MARIE.
I’m telling the truth. They put that damn cancer in all these damn canned goods.

JAMES T.
Who the hell put it in there Marie?

MARIE.
Them damn middle easterners.

ADLEAN.
How the hell do middle easterners put cancer in a damn canned good Marie?

MARIE.
I don’t know! How the hell did they blow up 9-11?

LILLIE ANNE.
Marie, help do something and be quiet.

MARIE.
Ya’ll don’t want to believe me but that's the damn honest to god truth.

JAMES T.
We don’t get Canned Goods or CORN from no damn Middle Easterners.

MARIE.
Who you think own the damn grocery stores?? HUH? And Why when I pick up my phone to call somebody for help for something they sound like they in the gatdamn MIDDLE of the gatdamn middle east.

LILLIE ANNE.
They in India fool. They ain’t in no gatdamn middle east.

ADLEAN.
They ain’t even gat no phones in no damn middle east. You just like making shit up.

MARIE.
Alright. Ya’ll believe what ya’ll want but I don’t eat no damn canned goods and I ain’t gat no damn cancer so the proof is in the damn puddin.
JAMES T.
No the proof is in that damn Jack Daniels you slurpin.

MARIE.
Anyway as I was saying, it was me, Tina, Tyrone, Melvin, and Terry-

ADLEAN.
Melvin wasn’t-

JAMES T/LILLIE ANNE.
Yes he was!!

MARIE.
We was all at the house on Baltimore. And Mama had just started batterin’ some chicken and Big Bob came runnin in shoutin’- “HE KILLED MAMA HE KILLED MAMA!” And I was like “WHO KILLED WHO??!!” And Big Bob was like “WHOOKIE JUST KILLED MAMA!!” Then all of a sudden the rest of Big Bob’s brothers and sisters come running into the damn house with Blood all over their arms and stuff and I’m like “WAIT A GATDAMN MINUTE WHATS GOIN’ ONS???”

(laughing)
And they all started talkin real fast real quick and we all ran out to the porch and they pointed across the street at their house and-

LILLIE ANNE.
Why you laughing?

MARIE.
(simply)
It was funny.

LILLIE ANNE, JAMES T and ADLEAN
look to each other knowing the Jack Daniels has set in.

MARIE.
So of course me, Tina, Tyrone, MELVIN, Terry and Alphonso, we take our curious asses on over there to see what was what and when we get there we walk into the kitchen and see Whookie standing there smoking a cigarette with his mama’s head sitting on the counter next to him... Her body on the floor and her head on the counter. Blood everywhere...
and Whookie was real cool just talking to her like ain’t nothing was nothing. “I told you to give me a gatdamn cigarette. I ain’t gat time for no damn games mama. Now you see. Now you see. All you have to do is give me a gatdamn cigarette and we be cool.” This crazy fool chopped his own mama’s head off cuz she refused to give him her last damn cigarette. Ya’ll remember.

LILLIE ANNE.
Of course we remember. Every time you tell this damn story we remember.

ADLEAN.
I really don’t remember Melvin being out of jail when that happened...

LILLIE ANNE.
I told you Melvin called me and told me to get over there and I called you.

ADLEAN.
I remember you calling me but-

MARIE.
Its them gatdamn pills they gat you on, I told you, you don’t need all them damn pills!!! That’s how folks lose time and shit and who you think run them doctor offices and them pill companies?

JAMES T.
The middle easterners?

MARIE.
You damn skippy. They gat all that shit on lock. Trust me.

JAMES T.
What the hell is your point Marie.

MARIE.
What the hell is my point?

JAMES T.
Yes. Your point. What the hell is it?
MARIE.
My point is that ya’ll know that Barbara has been known for carrying razor blades between her teeth.

LILLIE ANNE.
She gat dentures.

ADLEAN.
What?

LILLIE ANNE.
Barbara’s teeth fell out 5 years ago and the doctor gave her dentures?

ADLEAN.
I didn’t know about all that.

JAMES T.
From all that damn shit she been doin. Rotted her damn teeth clean out her damn mouth.

MARIE.
That heifa has been known for carrying razor blades between her damn gums or teeth or something.

LILLIE ANNE.
That was just that one time and they couldn’t prove it was-

MARIE.
When they caught Zippity Boom, she had on a halter top and som’ apple bottom shorts. She said a couple of wimmen jumped her. One held her hands behind her back and the other was beatin her up side her face. Barbara pushed that damn Razor blade to the front of her damn mouth and sliced the both of them up. Zippity Boom is baddd. She Do. Not. Play.

LILLIE ANNE.
And?

MARIE.
And???. And???. I just told you she carry razor blades in her in damn mouth and you sayin’ AND???

ADLEAN.
So you think she might get violent?
MARIE.
Zippity Boom climbs out jail house windows and beats up grown ass men with bats. YES! I think she’s might get violent.

JAMES T.
She right. Zippity Boom just might get violent and we need to be prepared for just that. That’s why I brought along this.

He takes out a Taser Gun.

LILLIE ANNE.
James T where the hell you get that?

ADLEAN.
Is that a Taser Gun?

JAMES T.
Naw its a glass of lemonade.

LILLIE ANNE.
Where the hell did you-

JAMES T.
Don’t worry about it.

MARIE.
This ain’t Iraq put that shit-

JAMES T.
The minute Zippity Boom get out of hand this will calm her back down.

LILLIE ANNE.
She gat a bad heart!

JAMES T.
Then she better stay calm.

ADLEAN.
I don’t think Barbara is going to get violent. I don’t think she will even be coming today.

MARIE.
Zippity Boom can smell free liquor within 10 square blocks. If Fonzi can get her within them 10 square blocks then Zippity Boom will be here.
LILLIE ANNE.
You brought a Taser Gun to your sister’s Intervention, James T.?

JAMES T.
And I gat some gatdamn rope and duct tape in the glove compartment of my damn car.

LILLIE ANNE.
This has to be voluntary fool. The whole point is that we tell her how much we love her and how much we want our real sister back and stuff.

ADLEAN.
And stuff.

JAMES T.
And after we tell her all that bullshit and she starts to buck up like the gorilla that she is, then I’ll have to put her down.

LILLIE ANNE.
James T-

JAMES T.
I told you that I didn’t want to come messin with Barbara this morning!!!

ADLEAN.
She ain’t coming so ya’ll wasting ya’ll gatdamn breath!

LILLIE ANNE.
(to ADLEAN)
Could you be just a little bit optimistic! This is suppose to be a gatdamn Intervention and we need a little bit of Optimism for it work!

MARIE.
She on CRACK, Lillie Anne!

LILLIE ANNE.
YOU’RE ON IN CRACK, MARIE!

Silence.
LILLIE ANNE. That’s right. We know all about it.

Silence.

MARIE. You don’t know about nuthin.

LILLIE ANNE. James T??

JAMES T. Adlean told me she found-

ADLEAN. I never told you nuthin don’t go putting my name-

JAMES T. You told me you found some stuff in her purse last week.

Last week?

ADLEAN. I never said-

MARIE. What the hell you going through my purse for, Adlean?

LILLIE ANNE. What the hell you doing Crack for, Marie? You’ve seen what its done to your family.

MARIE. I ain’t like Barbara. Zippity Boom has always been a gatdamn glutton.

JAMES T. Its CRACK, Marie. Are you out of your gatdamn mind? After Tina and Melvin and now Barbara, how could you be stupid enough to get anywhere near that shit.

MARIE. You of all gatdamn people ain’t gat no room to talk.
ADLEAN.
Marie you left your purse in my bathroom last week and I
wasn’t even trying to look into-

MARIE.
But you did. You did. Nosey Heifa. How you know it was mine?
Huh? See you know so damn much how you know the stuff was
mine?

LILLIE ANNE.
It was in your Purse!

MARIE.
There’s a lot of shit in my purse that ain’t mine!!

JAMES T.
Open your purse.

MARIE.
I ain’t opening nuthin. This ain’t my intervention. And you
ain’t my daddy.

ADLEAN.
If you want us to believe you then you have to open your
purse and-

MARIE.
I don’t have to do nuthin but stay black and die.

LILLIE ANNE.
Is that what you want? You want to die, Marie?

MARIE.
Who’s gatdamn Intervention is this??!!

LILLIE ANNE.
I’m not trying to do no damn intervention on you. I just want
you to know that we know! And if Barbara can get some help
then maybe you need to think about it as well.

MARIE.
I don’t need-

JAMES T.
Negro, please.
MARIE.
And how many beers is that for you James T? You smell like a gatdamn discount liquor outlet. And to top that off you’re HIGH as a kite. Should we intervene on yo’ weed tokin broke ass? And you Adlean, how many gatdamn painkillers did you throw down your gatdamn throat since you been sitting up in here? Lets get yo’ oxy codine perc-a-muthafuckin-set ass an intervention up in this heah park. And Lillie Anne you’re the worse of all. You like putting shit together sittin yo’ fat ass up on your high horse telling everybody else what the hell is wrong with their lives. Well grab a gatdamn mirror and a notepad cuz yo’ ass-

JAMES T Shoots MARIE with the Taser Gun.

She Freaks Out. Foams at the mouth. And falls to the Ground.

ADLEAN and LILLIE ANNE look at him like he’s crazy.

JAMES T.
That’s set on Low. Barbara will probably need it set to Medium High if she go Zippity Boom. But I’ll be ready for her.

He turns Meat on the Grill. And continues to drink his Beer.

BLACK.
LILLIE ANNE (texting) and ADLEAN (smoking and poping pills) look to MARIE who is still recovering from the shock of the Taser.

Soon MARIE pours some more JACK DANIELS into her Big Red Plastic Cup full of Ice.

JAMES T drinks a Beer.

After a moment.

MARIE.
What the hell just happened?

LILLIE ANNE and ADLEAN look to JAMES T.

Then.

ADLEAN.
(to MARIE)
You blacked out.

MARIE.
I blacked out.

LILLIE ANNE.
That damn Jack gat to talking and you blacked out.

MARIE.
How long was I out?

LILLIE ANNE.
...Bout 20 minutes.

ADLEAN.
You were talking all that stuff about canned goods and-

MARIE.
And blacked out.
...Yup.

Silence.

LILLIE ANNE.
(re Text)
Alright!! Fonzi says they’re 10 minutes away. Does everybody have their letters?

What letters?

JAMES T.

LILLIE ANNE.

Gattdamnit I told you we were all suppose to write a letter that we read to her and after every letter that person is suppose to ask-

ADLEAN.

Wait a second. You already lost me. We read her a letter and then ask her something?

LILLIE ANNE.

Ask her to go to rehab. To get help.

JAMES T.

I keep trying to tell you that Zippity Boom don’t want no help.

LILLIE ANNE.

We ask her. Over and over. After each letter. Only she can’t answer.

She can’t answer.

ADLEAN.

LILLIE ANNE.

No. She has to wait until everybody is done with their letters and everybody has asked her to go to rehab, over and over, then she can answer. So its about the accumulation of our outpouring of love. We are asking her to make the choice to start the first day of her life again.

Silence.

They all just look at LILLIE ANNE.
LILLIE ANNE.
So who remembered to write a letter to read?

JAMES T, MARIE and ADLEAN are silent.

LILLIE ANNE.
Useless... All of you... Useless.

ADLEAN.
This yo’ thang you runnin it. So run it.

LILLIE ANNE.
Ya’ll just gon have to speak from the gatdamn heart then.

MARIE.
What the hell does that mean?

LILLIE ANNE.
Speak your truth.

MARIE.
And what the hell does that mean?

JAMES T.
It means you should tell Zippity Boom to put the gatdamn crack pipe down and get some gatdamn help.

LILLIE ANNE.
It means... you need to tell Barbara what she means to you. She needs to know we are here to support her and not to make her feel bad or anything like that. Speak about how yall use to have so much fun with her when we was young, James T, how you use to put her on your shoulders and take her to the penny candy store, and Adlean how she would brighten up your day with the way she always came into your room and tickled your feet in the morning, and Marie how she use to lay in the grass with you and you all would look up at the stars counting the constellations until mama would call you in for dinner and on the way in you and Barbara would catch fireflies and how we all use to use them as night lights stuck in a jar when we slept outside in that ole tent in the back yard next to that ole swing set.

Pause.
MARIE.

So lie to her.

LILLIE ANNE.

Yes. Lie to her. Barbara don’t remember shit about her childhood anyway.

JAMES T.

What happens when she tells us to go Fuck ourselves and stay out her gatdamn life.

LILLIE ANNE.

Ignore it.

ADLEAN.

Ignore it.

LILLIE ANNE.

Ignore it.

ADLEAN.

And you’ve seen this work before?

LILLIE ANNE.

Works all the time on TV. They always cuss and fuss and stomp and shout but if you keep after them they will eventually say “yes”. We just might have to wrestle Zippity Boom down with love.

ADLEAN.

Are you talking about that show where they chase them folks out into the streets yelling at them to please go get some help and stuff?

LILLIE ANNE.

Yes.

MARIE.

So we suppose to chase Barbara around this park begging her to go to rehab?

LILLIE ANNE.

If we have to.
ADLEAN.  
I’m not chasing nobody around this big ass park, I gat cancer in my titty, I can’t be chasing folks around parks.

JAMES T.  
Say she agrees.

MARIE.  
Which she wont.

JAMES T.  
Of course she wont. But say she does.

LILLIE ANNE.  
She will.

JAMES T.  
Say we win the lotto and we look up and Pigs are Flying and Zippity Boom decides to go to Rehab. Then what?

LILLIE ANNE.  
I have it all set up.

ADLEAN.  
You have it all set up.

LILLIE ANNE.  
There is a place waiting for her. They are expecting her within the next 24 hours. Its called Halcyon Dreams. The plane ticket has already been bought.

ADLEAN.  
The plane ticket has already been-

LILLIE ANNE.  
Bitch, Is your name Echo?!! Yes a plane ticket! She can’t WALK to Alaska can she?

Silence.

JAMES T, ADLEAN and MARIE all look on LILLIE ANNE as if she’s lost her mind.

Then.
MARIE.
Alaska?

LILLIE ANNE.
Yes! I’ve researched!

MARIE.
What research?!!

Beat.

LILLIE ANNE goes over to her Purse and rifles through it. Soon she retrieves a colorful Brochure.

LILLIE ANNE.
See here! Halcyon Dreams Alcohol Rehab and Drug Addiction Treatment!

MARIE snatches the Brochure.

MARIE.
(reading)

... 
Psychotherapy?
Acupuncture & Acupressure?
Massage??
Hypnotherapy?
Equine Assisted Therapy??

JAMES T.
What the hell is that?

MARIE.
(continuing)

Spiritual Counseling?
The Ropes Course?
YOGA!!??

LILLIE ANNE.
Yes Yoga!

MARIE.
How the hell you gonna send somebody all the way out to Alaska for Yoga??!!
JAMES T takes the Brochure and Reads.

JAMES T.
(reading)
With Equine Assisted Therapy, rather than talking to a therapist, you and others interact with a horse...
(to LILLIE ANNE)
Is this som’ fuckin joke?

LILLIE ANNE.
No. It ain’t no damn joke.

MARIE.
Yoga and Horses.

LILLIE ANNE.
Yes Yoga and Horses.

ADLEAN.
And Massages! And Acupuncture and Acupressure! What else does that say? Let me see that.

She takes the Brochure from JAMES T.

LILLIE ANNE.
Its all a part of her treatment.

ADLEAN.
(reading)
Hypnotherapy... your therapist will tap into any feelings of anger, fear, anxiety, sadness, or pain that you may have?
(to LILLIE ANNE)
Barbara ain’t gat none of that.
(reading)
... which enables you to think back to the first time you had these emotions and see where they are coming from.

MARIE.
It’s coming. From a gatdamn. Crack pipe.
...By going back to the source of these feelings, the client is able to understand them more clearly and express them, thus releasing the pain.

JAMES T.
Zippity Boom ain’t in no Pain... She HIGH!

LILLIE ANNE tries to take the Brochure.

ADLEAN.
(moving away)
Wait- wait- wait a damn second.
(reading)
The Ropes Course.

MARIE.
Zippity Boom ain’t gonna climb no Rope. She carry **Razor Blades. In Her Mouth!!!**

ADLEAN.
(reading)
One of the unique treatment methods we employ is a **ropes course.**

(she gives them All a **Look,**
then continues **READING**)
The ropes course is a fun, safe yet challenging personal growth and team building activity in a beautiful setting, but it also helps our clients meet a number of goals by focusing on personal achievements...

JAMES T.
Barbara ain’t got no **personal achievements!**

ADLEAN.
(reading)
And asking participants to confront their personal fears and anxieties.

MARIE.
(to LILLIE ANNE)
Zippity Boom don’t have no fears and she don’t get Anxious. She get **Fucked Up!**
JAMES T.
(disgust)

MARIE.
(disgust)
In Alaska.

ADLEAN.
(to LILLIE ANNE, in disgust)
And this is your research.

Silence.

LILLIE ANNE just looks at them all.

Then.

LILLIE ANNE.
(calmly)
... May I have that Brochure back please.

Pause.

ADLEAN hands her the Brochure.

LILLIE ANNE Calmly looks over the Brochure. Then begins to Read.

LILLIE ANNE.
(calmly)
**The Philosophy of Halcyon Dreams.**

("she looks to her Family then reads")

We do not believe that drug and alcohol dependency is a disease. Instead, we believe your addiction is the result of four causes of dependency, which are:

1. Chemical imbalance
   ("she looks to her Family then reads")

2. Unresolved events from the past
   ("she looks to her Family then reads")

3. Beliefs you hold that are inconsistent with what is true
4. Inability to cope with current conditions

Over the years, we at Halcyon Dreams have learned through extensive research that addiction is not the problem, but rather a symptom of a deeper underlying-

FROM FAR OFF: BEEP BEEP

LILLIE ANNE.
(looking off)
That’s them.

She waves OFF. She puts the Brochure Away.

LILLIE ANNE.

Music!

She races to an Ipod Speaker Hookup and turns on Music.

She abruptly turns to the others.

LILLIE ANNE.

Dance.

JAMES T., MARIE and ADLEAN reluctantly start Dancing.

LILLIE ANNE.
(shaking hips)
Listen all of you. Do Not Mention ALASKA to Zippity Boom. Period. She don’t need to know where the hell she’s going.

MARIE.

She gonna ask.

LILLIE ANNE.

Let her.
ADLEAN.
Wait a second.

LILLIE ANNE.
What!!

ADLEAN.
You expect us to try and get Zippity Boom on a plane to ALASKA Today??

LILLIE ANNE.
Yes Alaska. It needed to be some place that she couldn’t escape on foot. She can’t hitch hike back from Alaska so gatdamn easy.

JAMES T.
She will surely try.

LILLIE ANNE.
I’ve told them all about Zippity Boom’s tendencies.

MARIE.
Have you told them about them damn razor blades in her gatdamn mouth tendencies?

LILLIE ANNE.
(looking off but speaking to Others)
They’re parking.

She motions for them to “Party”

They all “party” Laugh.

It begins to feel rather genuine. This is a family who know how to LIE. Together.

JAMES T.
How long do we have to keep this shit up?

LILLIE ANNE.
I will give a signal when the Intervention is to begin.

ADLEAN.
And what will that be?
LILLIE ANNE.
The Fishtail dance.

MARIE.
So we wait until Barbara starts doing the Fishtail Dance then we-

LILLIE ANNE.
No! When I start doing the Fishtail Dance then we’ll-

JAMES T.
Why would you ever do the gatdamn fishtail dance? You know you can’t dance worth nuthin Lillie Anne.

LILLIE ANNE.
So what! The signal will be the FISHTAIL DANCE!!

ADLEAN.
Then the gig will be UP because you can’t do the fishtail dance for shit.

LILLIE ANNE.
You know what? Fuck you Adlean.

ADLEAN.
No you know what? Fuck You Lillie Anne. I’m just trying to give some constructive criticism cause you ain’t the only one up in here with a GED.

LILLIE ANNE.
Don’t start with me you just be ready for when I bend over and do the gatdamn fishtail dance, that's the signal for everybody to stop whatever the hell they doing-

JAMES T.
And do what? Laugh??? Cuz that's what we usually do when we see you trying to dance. So we should just change the signal to when everybody starts laughing at your dumb ass trying to dance.

BARBARA, mid 30’s-40’s White Woman
ENTERS while LILLIE ANNE continues oblivious.
LILLIE ANNE.
I don’t give a hot googolie damn who laughs as long as we can get Barbara’s stupid ass onto that damn plane **tonight** to the Rehab! You can laugh all damn day if you like just don’t mention shit about where its at or start acting like this fake ass Barbecue is really an INTERVENTION until I give you the Fishtail dance signal!!!

She turns and sees that BARBARA is standing next to her and has heard everything.


Then.

LILLIE ANNE puts her hands behind her back, bends over and begins to dance the FISHTAIL.

**BLACK.**
INTERVENTION.

BLACK CAST.

BARBARA is Bound and Gagged with Rope and Duct Taped to a supporting Pillar/Column.

EVERYONE stands around her.

JAMES T holds his Taser Gun as he speaks.

JAMES T.
... And I remember the time. I use to put you on my shoulders and we’d go down to the penny candy store. And you’d get them lemon heads. And them red hots. And mix them together. Once they were good and soggy in your mouth you’d open up wide and stick your tongue out and laugh. You called it pink lemonade. I miss that sister, Barbara. I miss the way as you got older you’d call me and we’d talk about Eric and Peanut and all those men who ever tried to hurt you. And you’d say “brotha I need your help”. Once or twice I’d come over there and hold one of them down while you beat the hell out of ‘em. I want that sister back. That’s the sister I want back.

(suddenly very emotional)
... You been on this a long time Barbara. And sis its time to let it go. Its time to let it go Zippity Boom. And come on home. Go get the help we’re offering you and come on home. We need you to let it go Barbara. Get the help. Will you do this? Will you take this opportunity that we are offering to you? And come on home.

Silence.

The Bound and Gagged BARBARA makes no gesture of speech or movement.

LILLIE ANNE.
(softly)
Alright, Adlean. Now you.

ADLEAN looks to LILLIE ANNE and doesn’t move.
LILLIE ANNE.
(softly)
Go on. Tell her what you have on your heart.

Slowly ADLEAN steps closer.

ADLEAN.
... Barbara. I remember how you used to come in and... tickle my feet in the morning. You knew I never liked getting up for school so you said you’d wake me up with a laugh. And I know sometimes I’d bust you in the jaw with a shoe, but the ticklin’ grew on me and I started to expect it. Well sis, I need my little tickle alarm clock back in my life. I would like to leave this earth knowing that you had gotten your life back together... put your self together in a whole different way without all those drugs and drink. It makes me very sad to have to be riding through downtown with my grandkids and see you standing on the street corner after having shitted on yourself. That one time I stopped... it broke my heart to see you. But you should know I have not stopped many many many times Barbara. The time you were riding on the front of that old man’s Hoveround wheelchair. In the middle of the street. The time you were chasing down some wimmen with a hot glue gun and no draws on your ass. Ass just in the air. In the middle of the street. I said to myself. “Is that my sister Barbara? In the middle of the gatdamn street?” ...I don’t stop anymore. For the sake of my grandkids I don’t stop. But Zippity Boom you have to stop. You need help. We’ve found a place that can help you. We will be here to support you when you return. Will you please take this gift we are giving you. We love you. Will you please go to rehab? Will you please take this help from those nice people up in Alaska?

Suddenly BARBARA moves on the word “Alaska”.

The others step back and glare at ADLEAN, who covers her mouth with her hands.

Silence.
LILLIE ANNE.
(to MARIE through clenched Teeth)

Marie.

MARIE keeps her distance from BARBARA.

MARIE.
... Barbara... Zippity Boom... Sistah... You remember when you and me and Lillie Anne and Adlean and Tina we all went out and had a girls night out? We went to that little club downtown on the corner of Grafton. What was it called? I think it was “Kellers”. Remember. We had to sneak Tina in cuz she had just turned 16 or something. We all sat up in there like we was grown and dared anybody to tell us any different... You had your first pina colada. And we could tell you liked it. Cuz that was the day we met Zippity Boom. Zippity Boom Boom. She came OUT that night for the first time and we was all laughing. We use to laugh, Barbara. Remember. Just all night. Remember when we gat back from Kellers that night... we snuck in through the side window and we had to almost smother you to keep you from laughing too loud and waking up mama and daddy... and we all just decided to sleep in the same bed... sistahs... togetha... we woke up just like that in the morning... togetha... woke up... from a bucket of ice cold water being thrown on us... looked down and saw that we were all tied to one another remember? Mama standing there ... empty bucket in one hand and in the other hand she had that green water hose she had cut in half... remember that... that green snake whip... she proceeded to beat the hell out of all of us... we all tried to go in opposite directions cuz we were too stupid to realize that meant we wouldn’t be able to go anywhere... she beat us black... and purplish blue... and you... Zippity Boom... you just kept right on laughing... I want my sister back... I want my sister that can take an ass beating and laugh through that shit... I want you to get help Barbara... Please will you go?

Silence.

LILLIE ANNE steps forward.

LILLIE ANNE.
... I’m sorry I lied to you. I’m sorry I had to have Fonzi lie to you as well.
I’m sorry he had to leave immediately and not explain himself but his parole requires that he not be around alcohol, drugs or firearms. Most of all I’m sorry we’ve had to bring you out in the public like this.

LILLIE ANNE pulls out a piece of paper.

LILLIE ANNE.

(reading)

“Barbara. The truth is. Nobody wanted you in their house to tear up their shit during this Intervention. And that’s a shame Barbara. Its a shame when your own family don’t trust you or want you near any of their shit... Barbara you are a thief and liar and the Truth ain’t in ya. So today we bring you here. To this Barbecue Party in your favorite park. To perform this Intervention. To Step In. Today we finally Step In. As a family. To encircle you with truth and love. In the open air. In the open air Barbara, my sweet sistah we encircle you TODAY with truth and love!!”

(she takes a moment to gather herself, then continues to read)

“Barbara. I don’t like that I have to be your SSI payee. You came to me. You confided in me that you were going to be getting Disability. But they wouldn’t give you the check. They told you that you had to have a payee. And you confided in me that you didn’t trust any of these other fools up in this family with your money. And you wanted me to be your payee. When I asked you what disability you had, Barbara, you said “Lillie Anne. I’m on crack.” And I said, “When did that become a disability”. But I see now Barbara. You. Are Disabled. We have Enabled you to become Disabled. Well today Barbara. We Step In. Starting from TODAY. You will no longer be allowed to call upon any of us. To ask any of us to come pick you up. Give you a few dollars for a beer or a pack of cigarettes. To come help you get Eric’s fingers from around your Throat. To come help you get Peanut and his other whores out of your house after another weekend junkie convention in your living room.”

EVERYBODY begins to look at LILLIE ANNE like she’s crazy.
LILLIE ANNE.
“If you do not take this gift of new hope we are offering and go to Rehab, I will no longer be your payee, Barbara. I will proceed to rip up every single gatdamn check from SSI that comes to my house for you. If you do not take this gift of new life that we are offering you, I will pull out my gatdamn cellphone right here and now and dial the police and have them come here immediately to arrest you for whatever shit you have on you at this moment. I will tell them that it was indeed you who took a sledge hammer to the door of the first grade class of North Fairmount Elementary School last month and stole their DVD player for Crack. I will call the fire department and report that the arson last year on Eric’s car, was indeed set by you and Eric for insurance money for Crack and all they have to do is look at the scars on his back because both of you were too stupid to get the hell out of the way of the gatdamn flames. I will call the FBI and notify them that Peanut is the leading child pornographer in this city and he sometimes stays at your house. They will proceed to raid your apartment and take everything you have in it out for evidence. I will then proceed to-

ADLEAN.
Gatdamn you gon do all that???

LILLIE ANNE.
Yes.

MARIE.
The police, fire department and the gatdamn FBI?

LILLIE ANNE.
Yes.

JAMES T.
Today? You gon do all that Today?

LILLIE ANNE.
Yes TODAY. She has to go TODAY! Or I’m going to take ACTION. That’s what an Intervention is gatdammit. You have to lay out the consequences of what will happen if she doesn’t go to the Rehab. Today!

MARIE.
But damn you didn’t tell us about all that earlier.
ADLEAN.
You said it was suppose to be voluntary. You didn’t say a damn thang about having to make threats.

LILLIE ANNE.
IT’S AN INTERVENTION!!

Silence.

JAMES T.
So you’re serious.

LILLIE ANNE.
James T you gat a Taser Gun pulled out on a woman that's Bound and Gagged to a Park Pavilion and you asking Me NOW if I’m Serious.

JAMES T.
Yes, are you seriously going to do all that if she don’t go to Alaska?

BARBARA Reacts.

LILLIE ANNE.
... I’m serious.

MARIE.
Wait a second, you can’t call the police up in here right now.

LILLIE ANNE.
Why the hell not?

MARIE.
What if other people besides Barbara might have some stuff on them that might be considered illegal or something?

ADLEAN.
... Like the crack cocaine in your purse heifa?

MARIE.
No, more like them three different gatdamn prescriptions you gat under the three different gatdamn last names of your badass grand kids. Like that. Or that pound of Weed that James T has in that secret compartment under his dashboard. Like THAT. So we can’t be callin the police up in here Today.
LILLIE ANNE steps as far away as she can...

MARIE.
(to LILLIE ANNE)
Where the hell you going?

LILLIE ANNE.
Can I speak to you all in private for a moment please?

JAMES T.
We in an open air park, how you gon speak in private?

LILLIE ANNE.
Could you all come over here please so Barbara can’t hear WHAT THE HELL I GAT TO SAY!!

They start going over to her.

LILLIE ANNE.
THANK YOU!!!

They are all near her now.

LILLIE ANNE.
(whispering)
Now the way an Intervention works is you have to be willing to cut the person off from everyone they love so that they know you’re serious.

ADLEAN.
(whispering)
For how long?

LILLIE ANNE.
(whispering)
What??

ADLEAN.
(whispering)
For how long do we have to cut her off?

LILLIE ANNE.
(whispering)
For forever if she don’t get no help.
MARIE.
(whispering)
But what about if she goes to get help and then climbs out a window and ends up back here.

LILLIE ANNE.
(whispering)
Then she is cut off!

ADLEAN.
(whispering)
But what if she did go, to get help, but she just couldn’t take it?

MARIE.
(whispering)
Right. What if she went to go get help, but she leaves without getting all the way Cured out of being a crack head alcoholic, then do we still have to cut her off forever?

LILLIE ANNE looks to JAMES T for help from this madness.

JAMES T.
(whispering)
She has to get off crack and stop drinking all together before she can come back into our lives. Period.

ADLEAN.
(whispering)
But why is that?

LILLIE ANNE.
(whispering)
Because you can’t have half a gatdamn recovery from drugs and alcohol!!

MARIE.
(whispering)
Why not?

JAMES T.
(whispering)
Why not???
MARIE.
(whispering)
Why the hell not? She don’t get no credit for going half way? I don’t think that’s right.

ADLEAN.
(whispering)
I don’t think that’s right either. I mean if Zippity Boom goes up there to Alaska and gets freezer burn or whatnot and has to come back here, how is that going to look that we just cut her the hell off.

MARIE.
(whispering)
Ain’t there other places closer to here that we could maybe send her.

JAMES T.
(whispering)
Oh. You mean like some place in the city. Maybe downtown.

LILLIE ANNE.
(whispering)
NO!

ADLEAN.
(whispering)
Now that’s not true and you know it. They gat to have some rehabs downtown somewhere.

Beat.

ADLEAN takes out her Iphone. Pushes a Button and speaks.

ADLEAN.
(to Iphone, whispering)
“Siri, Find a Rehab near me”

SIRI VOICE.
“I found 12 rehabilitation services... 8 of them are fairly close to you”

LILLIE ANNE Breaks the Whispering.
LILLIE ANNE.
She goes to Alaska **tonight**!!

MARIE.
Siri just found 8 gatdamn rehabs right around the corner!

LILLIE ANNE.
So what?

JAMES T.
Why can’t Zippity Boom just go to one of those?

LILLIE ANNE.
Do you think you can just walk up into Rehab and **check in**? It ain’t a Ramada! Halcyon Dreams has the best quality care for someone in Barbara’s position! I didn’t just randomly pick Alaska! You are not suppose to send them to anyplace close. You want them **out** of their elements! You want them to have a completely new landscape and environment! They need to be close to nature and stuff!

JAMES T.
Will you listen to reason, Lillie Anne? Now we’ve done everything you said to do today. We came out here at the crack of dawn and we spoke our gatdamn truths to Zippity Boom and the next thing is to get an answer out of her. Right?... **Is that Right?**

LILLIE ANNE.
Yes.

JAMES T.
All we are asking is that you rethink for one second if she gotta go all the way out to east bum fuck Alaska. Is that **absolutely** necessary??

MARIE.
Barbara might be better off in a Rehab that wasn’t 3,000 some odd miles away from her family.

ADLEAN.
We know you feel like her being around glaciers and shit will help change her elements but there are 4 of us, if you count Zippity Boom, who think sending Barbara to Alaska is crazy!

Silence.
LILLIE ANNE.  
There is only a handful of us left. Therefore. This family,  
is a endangered species. And its about time that we took a  
step in a different direction. If only for our own survival.  
Now I understand you have reservations. I understand you want  
Barbara to be safe and close to us but the entire point of  
this is that she NOT be safe and close to us. The point is  
that she NOT be around any of the vices that have allowed her  
to easily access her drugs and alcohol. And I’m here to tell  
you that this entire family. Is a vice. This city. Is a Vice.  
Therefore.... Alaska.... Yoga.... And muthafuckin’ Horses!!!  
Halcyon Dreams is ready to take her and its in Alaska and  
that's where the hell she is going TODAY or I’m gonna call  
the authorities up in here! Today!! Period!!

LILLIE ANNE begins to walk back  
over towards BARBARA.

MARIE Grabs the Taser Gun from  
JAMES T and Points it at LILLIE  
ANNE.

MARIE looks to JAMES T and ADLEAN.

JAMES T and ADLEAN say Nothing.

MARIE Shoots. LILLIE ANNE foams at  
the Mouth and Drops.

MARIE, JAMES T and ADLEAN go to  
her. They bound and gag her to the  
Pillar/Column alongside the Bound  
and Gagged BARBARA.

JAMES T, ADLEAN and MARIE stand in  
silence.

JAMES T goes to LILLIE ANNE and  
lightly taps her Awake.

JAMES T.

Lillie Anne... Lillie Anne...

Lillie Anne awakens.
JAMES T.
..We would like to be able to take the Gag out your mouth and hope that we can have a civilized discussion about these matters.

A furious LILLIE ANNE nods.

JAMES T goes to her and undoes her Gag.

LILLIE ANNE.
(immediately to MARIE)
Who tased me??!!

MARIE.
I’m sorry.

LILLIE ANNE.
You’re sorry??!!!

MARIE.
I’m sorry. Arright? But I couldn’t risk you calling the police up in here. I’m holding some stuff for somebody and the last thing I need is for the police to-

LILLIE ANNE.
UNTIE ME!!!

Beat.

JAMES T. Goes to Untie.

ADLEAN.
Wait a second!!

MARIE.
We need to make sure she ain’t gonna-

JAMES T.
(untying LILLIE ANNE)
Folks are going to start coming up in here soon so we either untie her and she calls the police or we leave her tied up and somebody else calls the gatdamn police.
LILLIE ANNE.
(to MARIE)
I should kick yo ass for that.

JAMES T.
Kick her ass later we have to decide on what is to be done.

LILLIE ANNE.
“What is to be done???” What the hell have you ever done?... 
What the hell has any of you ever done??... Nuthin... But sit around and complain. That’s all this entire family has ever done. We have already lost one brother and one sister to this mess and I be damned if I’m gonna sit up here and lose another one. I’ll kill Zippity Boom myself if I have to but I ain’t gon sit back anymore and just let this keep going on and on like its the normal way of the gatdamn world. I been watching that damn show for going on 5 years now, as a matter of fact Barbara has sat up in my own house and watched that show with me and the crazy thing about it all is that, we like to act like its just a gatdamn TV show. It ain’t!

(points to Black BARBARA)
Its standing right THERE in our face! Do you get it!! Do you see that it ain’t a TV show! That it is standing right there in our FACE! She needs HELP!... NOW!

Silence.

ADLEAN.
... And if she says no?

LILLIE ANNE.
(deadly)
... Then there will be gatdamn consequences.

MARIE.
... And that’s the crust of the problem you are going to have with me.

ADLEAN.
And me.

JAMES T.
... And me.

Silence.
LILLIE ANNE looks to them all. Then to BARBARA. Then back to the others.

LILLIE ANNE.

What if she says Yes.

JAMES T.

She wont.

LILLIE ANNE.

How bout we make a bet.

ADLEAN/MARIE.

A bet.

LILLIE ANNE.

Yes. A bet.

(to ADLEAN)
You like to play them dime, quarter and dollar slots down on the boat, don’tcha.

(to JAMES T)
You go to the race track every saturday, sunday, monday, tuesday and wednesday, don’tcha.

(to MARIE)
You play that funky monkey lucky spot scratch off every other hour on the hour like its going out of style, don’tcha.

(to all)
So ya’ll bettin folk. Right? Lets make a bet.

Silence.

JAMES T.
Are we talkin’ real Money?

ADLEAN.

Or just some ole bullshit.

LILLIE ANNE.

I’m talkin’ real money. I’m talkin cold hard cash.

MARIE.

Lillie Anne you know you don’t gamble.

LILLIE ANNE.

Git your money up.
ADLEAN.
You know your gambling, is like your gatdamn dancin’.

LILLIE ANNE.
Answer the question. Do ya’ll wanna bet?

Silence.

JAMES T.
Put your money where your mouth at.

LILLIE ANNE.
How much you gat?

MARIE.
How much you gat?

ADLEAN.
Yeah how much money You gat?

LILLIE ANNE.
I gat more than ALL ya’ll combined. And ya’ll know this. So huddle up. And count your coins. Cuz I’m about to take all ya’ll money AND send Zippity Boom to Alaska.

Silence.

JAMES T, MARIE and ADLEAN Slowly move away and form a whispering huddle.

LILLIE ANNE turns to BARBARA.

Lights Shift and we hear the different conversations in Whispers.

LILLIE ANNE.
(whisper to BARBARA)
You know how we gonna play them, right?

JAMES T.
(whisper to ADLEAN and MARIE)
Ya’ll know how we gonna play her right?
LILLIE ANNE.
(whisper)
All the money they come up with, is yours. *After* rehab.

JAMES T.
(whisper)
All the money she comes up with after Zippity Boom tells us to kiss her ass, we split 3 ways.

LILLIE ANNE.
(whisper)
Don’t think about it Barbara.

JAMES T.
(whisper)
We ain’t even gotta think about this.

LILLIE ANNE.
(whisper)
Just do it. It’s a beautiful place.

MARIE.
(whisper)
Ain’t no way in hell Zippity Boom is gonna agree to Alaska let alone yoga and horses and shit.

LILLIE ANNE.
(whisper)
They don’t know that I know you useta love yoga and horses and shit.

ADLEAN.
(whisper)
Lillie Anne needs to be taught a lesson, she needs some *consequences* for her ass.

LILLIE ANNE.
(holding up Brochure to BARBARA, whisper)
Look at all these pretty horses, Barbara.
(she begins flipping pages for BARBARA’s perusal)

JAMES T.
(whisper)
So. How much money ya’ll gat?
MARIE.
(whisper)
I want her Car.

LILLIE ANNE.
(whisper)
Look at all those sun salutations, Barbara.

ADLEAN.
(whisper)
I want her house.

LILLIE ANNE.
(whisper)
Can’t you just smell that clean air.

LILLIE ANNE Starts doing several
Sun Salutations.

JAMES T.
(whisper)
How much MONEY do ya’ll gat???

Beat.

MARIE.
(whisper)
How much money do you gat???

JAMES T.
(whisper)
I ain’t gat nuthin I just bought that pound of weed in my
glove compartment.

ADLEAN.
(whisper)
I just spent my last dime on them 10 cartons of menthols.

They look to MARIE.

MARIE.
(whisper)
Don’t look at me, I gat a minor crack habit myself, that I
gat to maintain.

Silence.
LILLIE ANNE does Upward/Downward Dog Sun Salutations.

LILLIE ANNE.
(again whispering to BARBARA)
You remember the time you came over to my house and we watched that episode with that meth head who got into a fight with everyone in her family in the same night? You remember what she told them at her Intervention? You remember where she told them they could all go and what they could all Kiss? You remember Barbara?

BARBARA Nods.

LILLIE ANNE.
(whisper)
Good. Whatever you do. Don’t say what she said during her Intervention. Say the opposite of what she said. Its that simple. It really is. We can take all their money Barbara. It can all be yours. Just say Yes, Zippity Boom.

(BARBARA does nothing)
Now I know I’m not suppose to bribe you with money during an Intervention. But that’s exactly what the hell I’m doing. I will pay you DOUBLE whatever they come up with... How about that?

LILLIE ANNE goes over to her siblings.

LILLIE ANNE.
What’s the Bet?

MARIE.
We want your car.

ADLEAN.
And your house.

JAMES T.
That’s our bet.

Silence.

LILLIE ANNE.
Let me get this straight.
ADLEAN.
Get it straight, get. it. straight.

LILLIE ANNE.
If Barbara says No. Ya’ll want my car. And my house.

JAMES T/ADLEAN/MARIE.
Yes.

Silence.

LILLIE ANNE looks to BARBARA and then back to others.

Silence.

LILLIE ANNE.
Ok.

Ok?

Ok.

Ok??

Ok.

... Ok.

LILLIE ANNE.
And if she says Yes.
Each one of you.
Goes to Rehab.

Dead. Silence.

LILLIE ANNE.

Silence.

MARIE.

What about-

LILLIE ANNE.

Put up.
Or shut up.

Silence.

JAMES T.

Bet.

Silence.

ADLEAN.

Bet.

MARIE looks to Others like they’ve gone crazy.

And you?

LILLIE ANNE.

...But-

MARIE.

Put up.

ADLEAN.

Or shut up.

JAMES T.

Silence.

MARIE.

... Bet.

Slowly. They all turn to BARBARA.

She looks to them.
LILLIE ANNE calmly walks over to BARBARA.

LILLIE ANNE carefully begins to un-gag BARBARA’s Mouth.

Silence.

Then.

LILLIE ANNE.
Barbara, our Sweet Zippity Boom, will you please take this offer to change your life, go to Halcyon Dreams Alcohol Rehab and Drug Addiction Treatment in Alaska, and become the person you were destined to be??

Silence.

BARBARA looks to her Brother and Sisters.

She opens her mouth to speak.

BARBARA.

AND. CUT.

Everyone drops Character.

The Lights Shift and the World is revealed to be completely Hollywood Back Lot Fake.

BARBARA easily removes her restraints and motions off stage where White Cast now Enters and the two Casts have an animated conversation that we clearly can not hear.
However Elaborate or Simple the production wishes, we are made aware that what we have been watching is the Filming of one Long Set Piece in a Major Motion Picture Starring the Black CAST and now we see a SET Visit by the White Cast who stand in normal street clothing, in awe of it all, talking to their Counterpart Black Movie Stars.

BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE.
ACT TWO : BEFORE

BARBECUE.

PROJECTION: ONE YEAR EARLIER.

WHITE BARBARA, fresh and modern.

She stands opposite,

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA, who is Chic, Famous, and Fabulous.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Hello.

WHITE BARBARA stands in awed silence, struck dumb. She holds a Cellphone in her Hand.

This happens all the time to BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA so she lets WHITE BARBARA take her all in.

Every so often, BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA laps into an English dialect, for no particular reason.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

(smiles)

...Yes its really me.... Hello.

WHITE BARBARA.

(awe)

Its so great to meet you.

They shake hands.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

(famous modesty)

It is an absolute honor and a pleasure.

WHITE BARBARA.

No the pleasure is all-
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA. I saw you on the phone as my driver was pulling up-

WHITE BARBARA.

Damn.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA. (calming) Nooooo...

WHITE BARBARA.

Shit.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA. Noooo.

WHITE BARBARA.

Fuck.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA. Nooooo

WHITE BARBARA.

Did I mess up somethin? Did I-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA. Absolutely not. Absolutely No. No. I’m. You know. The paparazzi have been after me for months now after the whole-

WHITE BARBARA.

I’m sorry.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA. No. Its not you. I’m just you know a little- I just wanted to ask you who you were talking to-

WHITE BARBARA.

Nobody.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA. But you were talking-

WHITE BARBARA.

No I wasn’t.
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I saw your mouth moving.

WHITE BARBARA.

I was checking my-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I thought my assistant told you not to tell any-

WHITE BARBARA.
I didn’t.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I thought we made it clear that I only wanted to meet with you- and only you- at this moment in our-

WHITE BARBARA.
I was checking my messages.

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA.
I was talking to my sister, Lillie Anne.

...

WHITE BARBARA.
She won’t be a problem. I promise. I was told you were going to be here a half hour ago. So I- She called. And I just you know...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Just as long as she knows-

WHITE BARBARA.
Absolutely. She would never. It’s fine.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
It’s fine?

WHITE BARBARA.
It’s absolutely fine.

Silence.
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

I want to be in the zone for a moment. You know. *Your zone.* Be in the real space be in the zone be with you and its not often that I can do this without you know-

WHITE BARBARA.

I know.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

I have less than a hour to sort of... you know- soak up.

WHITE BARBARA.

Yes.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

The environs.

WHITE BARBARA.

I completely get-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

And that’s more than most- I’m just saying this is a big deal that I’m here ...doing this... with you.

Pause.

WHITE BARBARA.

... I am *truly* sorry.

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Alright.

WHITE BARBARA.

Alright.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Alright.

Silence. They look to each other.
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Its going to be a great movie... And I’m not just saying that because I’m writing, directing, producing, starring, and singing the title song. I really think it’s going to be a contender for the Big One. Best Picture. I mean the scene of your Intervention in this park... Awards. Buckets. Of Awards. ...Half dozen Naked Golden Men in my arms—

WHITE BARBARA.
It was a conference call... I was on a... I was on a conference call with my family... when you pulled up.

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
... So everyone knows I’m here.

WHITE BARBARA.
... Everyone.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA sighs.

Silence.

She takes out her own Cellphone.
Dials and eventually speaks.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(into cell)
Could you have security park the decoy in front of the Western Gate and don’t let anyone in... thank you...
(he sighs)
Yes. Yes. No one. Period.

She hangs up.

WHITE BARBARA.
Wow. You can do that?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Do what?

WHITE BARBARA.
Close down a park? A public park.
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(honest)
...Do you know who I am?

WHITE BARBARA.
Yes. I think I know.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Then yes. I can close down a public park.

WHITE BARBARA.
Wow. I didn’t know that.

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Alright. Now.
Might I have your phone?

WHITE BARBARA.
...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Just for the length of my stay.

WHITE BARBARA.
I’ll turn it off-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Well-

WHITE BARBARA.
I’ll turn it completely-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I’m gonna need your phone.

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA eventually gives up her phone.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
And... Could you walk in that direction?
She points and WHITE BARBARA looks off.

WHITE BARBARA.

...For what?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

I would actually like to begin by communing with the space... alone... and then I’ll invite you in.

WHITE BARBARA.

Invite me in? It’s a public-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Could you just walk off in that direction.

WHITE BARBARA.

... How far in that direction?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

I’ll tell you when to stop.

Silence.

Eventually, WHITE BARBARA slowly walks off stage.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

... Uh... keep going.

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA.

(From Off)

... Here?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

... further!

Silence.

Then. Once WHITE BARBARA has reached as far off stage as humanly possible she speaks again.
WHITE BARBARA.
(From further Off)

...Here?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Perfect.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA looks around the Park Pavilion as if she’s never seen one before.

She breathes in Fresh Clean Air...

She Communes with the Space.

Soon she Motions for WHITE BARBARA, who eventually Re-Enters.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I’ll need you to be absolutely honest with me and not let me get away with anything from my ole bag of tricks.

WHITE BARBARA.
Um... I didn’t know you had a ... bag of... tricks... but... Ok.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
If I’m going to inhabit this world of yours then I need YOU to Keep me in it.

WHITE BARBARA.
... Sure.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I want my struggle to be real and-

WHITE BARBARA.
Didn’t you grow up in the Marcy projects in Brooklyn?

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I beg your pardon?

WHITE BARBARA.
... I thought I read in some magazine about you growing up in-
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
You read something wrong in some magazine. I don’t know nuthin’ ‘bout no projects in Brooklyn.

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
You must be thinkin’ ‘bout some Jay Z song.

WHITE BARBARA.

...Yeah.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

...Yeah.

WHITE BARBARA.

...Ok.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

...Ok.

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
We should film it here. Shoot the entire movie. In this city. Around this very park. Right here. And not dress it up. No backlot. Soundstage.... But here. Right here.

(relish)
It smells like Barbecue.

(she breathes deeply)
It reeks of the truth, doesn’t it? This place is Authentic.

WHITE BARBARA.

... Well people do actually Barbecue here.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I want Real People ...Real Folk... Real Talk... You know what I mean?

WHITE BARBARA.

I think so. Real Talk.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I don’t want a bunch of glamour pusses. I might just cast it with Nobodies.
Nobodies.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Un-Heard-ofs.

WHITE BARBARA.

...Ok.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Just go out into the streets, into the COMMUNITY, you know, or better yet into Popeye’s Chicken and Biscuits and grab some Real Folk.

WHITE BARBARA.

I see.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

We don’t need a bunch of airbrushed faces “Pretendin’”.

WHITE BARBARA.

I was wondering—

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

And I want your Family on the Set with us...

WHITE BARBARA.

My family?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Everyday.

WHITE BARBARA.

Everyday.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Yes! Making sure we maintain the Truth...

WHITE BARBARA.

They would... love that, I’m sure- Could I ask you something—

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA is touching a Pillar as if it were a Talisman, and Suddenly she turns to

WHITE BARBARA.
How were you tied?

How were you tied up?

Um...

Show me.

I don’t... really remember. That was over a year ago or so-

Show me.

WHITE BARBARA goes to the Pillar and awkwardly approximates how she was tied up...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA studies WHITE BARBARA who holds her position, awkwardly.

Then.

I don’t believe it.

Believe what?

I don’t believe it happened that way.

What way?

That way.
WHITE BARBARA.

Well it did.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

It's just not believable.

WHITE BARBARA.

(removing herself from Pillar)

I'm sorry if my life isn't believable-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Oh, I believe you.

WHITE BARBARA.

But you just said-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

I just don't believe it.

WHITE BARBARA.

What???

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

And I don't believe anybody else will.

WHITE BARBARA.

If we're talking about Believability- first off you're Black.

Silence.

Silence.

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA goes close to WHITE BARBARA and the following conversation is done in whispers.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

(whisper)

You are sure you know who you're talking to, right?

WHITE BARBARA.

(looking around, whisper)

... You?
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(whisper)
Yes... Moi.

WHITE BARBARA.
(whisper)
You’re black.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(whisper)
I’m not black.

WHITE BARBARA.
(whisper)
You’re not black?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(whisper)
I’m a Movie Star... And a Sanga.

WHITE BARBARA.
(whisper)
Yeah you’re a black movie star singer.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(whisper)
No, my dear. I’m a Movie. Star. Sanga.

WHITE BARBARA.
(whisper)

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(whisper)
I don’t think you are understanding me. You see. When you reach the level of fame that I have. Race. Sorta. Falls away.

WHITE BARBARA.
(whisper)
Falls away.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(whisper)
Falls away. Like over a cliff. When you are as famous as I am, Race, takes a running nose dive over a cliff and you are just left with... Movie Star Sanga.
WHITE BARBARA.
(whisper)
... Ok.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(whisper)
So... if we could leave Race. Like completely out of the conversation. Like way out. Of the conversation. Like all the way back in Africa out of the conversation. That would be great.

WHITE BARBARA.
(whisper)
... Ok.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(whisper)
And I think you should apologize.

WHITE BARBARA.
(whisper)
For what?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(whisper)
Well, I think you know for what.

WHITE BARBARA.
(whisper)
Look, I won’t bring up the fact that I’m White and you’re Black if that disturbs you, but I’m not going to apologize for stating the-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(whisper)
1 million dollars is what they are planning on paying you. For your rights. To your life... So I think you will indeed apologize to the Movie Star Sanga that you have just insulted by calling her Black.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA steps away to where she was before.

WHITE BARBARA looks at her for a moment.
She looks around to see if this is some hidden camera joke and realizes that it isn’t.

WHITE BARBARA.

...I’m sorry... for calling you Black.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Apology accepted.

WHITE BARBARA.

Thank you...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

I’m sure we both have a lot of questions for each other. And my schedule is extremely tight.

WHITE BARBARA.

...Yes.

They sit.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

So.

WHITE BARBARA.

So.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Sooo.

WHITE BARBARA.

Where would you like to begin–

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

When was the last time you smoked crack?

Beat.

WHITE BARBARA.

I never smoked Crack, I smoked Meth.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Oh, we have to change that to Crack for the movie.
WHITE BARBARA.

But that’s not-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
You have to be a Crack head. Black folks don’t smoke Meth.

WHITE BARBARA.

Uh... Well actually...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Black folks in Movies don’t smoke Meth. Black folks in movies smoke Weed. And Crack.

WHITE BARBARA.

... Ok.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
So... when was the last time you smoked Crack?

Beat.

WHITE BARBARA.
As I wrote in my memoir, there were a couple of relapses but for the most part I don’t happen to smoke “crack” anymore.

“For the most part”

WHITE BARBARA.

For the most part, yes.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Why is that?

WHITE BARBARA.

Well, because “Crack”, is highly addictive.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

And?

WHITE BARBARA.

And I usually sell all my shit and run around half naked when I’m on it.

Beat.
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
...That never stopped you before.

WHITE BARBARA.
I know.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
What exactly is stopping you now?

WHITE BARBARA.
...Well in my memoirs I write about-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Fuck your memoirs.

WHITE BARBARA.
Fuck my memoirs?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Fuck your memoirs. I have to embody the truth of the character and not simply what you’ve put in some book.

WHITE BARBARA.
It’s not “some” book. It’s my life story.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I’m more interested in what’s not in your “life story”.

WHITE BARBARA.
But you’re buying the rights to my memoirs.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I don’t buy rights, darling.

WHITE BARBARA.
Then who does?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
The Studio is considering buying your life rights.

WHITE BARBARA.
Considering ...Oh...
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
And the Studio has flown me here on the company jet in order for You to convince Me that I should star in this movie as You. A Crack Head Alcoholic Ho.

WHITE BARBARA.
I thought-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
You thought I had already signed on?

WHITE BARBARA.
Yes.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I have not signed on. The Studio is hoping this visit-

WHITE BARBARA.
My literary agent said you were practically signed, sealed and delivered?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
What am I, a letter?

WHITE BARBARA.
My literary agent-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
She lied.

WHITE BARBARA.
But-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
They all lie. We are in the business, of lying.

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA.
Um... I actually... never was a Whore.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Who said you were a Whore?

WHITE BARBARA.
You did.
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
No I didn’t.

WHITE BARBARA.
You said I was suppose to convince you to play me, A crack head alcoholic whore.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
No. I said a crack head alcoholic Ho. Not a Whore. A Ho.

WHITE BARBARA.
Well I never was a Whore. Or a Ho.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
How is anybody suppose to believe you’re a Crack head. And an Alcoholic. And you Ain’t a Ho?... com’ on now that don’t make no kinda sense.

WHITE BARBARA.
I don’t know but... I’m Sorry. I was never a Ho.

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
You smell like a drink, you know that?

WHITE BARBARA.
What?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
You smell like you put yourself together this morning and had yourself a nice little drink to rub out the edges and afterwards you gargled for 30 minutes with something awful and peppermint flavored, am I right?

WHITE BARBARA.
(she’s right)
Wait a minute.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Look. I’m going to do this stupid movie about your stupid little life. And the reason why I’m going to do this stupid movie about your stupid little life is because I want some Oscars. Just like anybody else. Simple as that. Folks like to think of me as just some Sanga who became a Movie Star. But I’m not just some damn Sanga who became a Movie Star.
Them dummies at that Studio keep after me about when am I gonna start recording the Soundtrack. Thats all they care about “when is the Soundtrack coming out”. We don’t even have a damn script and they asking about a Soundtrack!! I’m Not just some damn Sanga!! Who became a Movie Star. You know how many units I sold off my last Soundtrack-

WHITE BARBARA.

No.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

10 Million... 10 gatdamn million Soundtracks sold!! That’s the only reason they are even considering letting me do this damn stupid movie about your stupid little life. But I’m gonna fool all of ‘em. I still got me some tricks up my sleeves. I’m gonna win me some bald headed butt naked Golden muthafuckas. You feel me???

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

... You one ‘em fake bitches?

WHITE BARBARA.

Excuse me?!!

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

(ghetto)
You one ‘em fake Alcoholic Crackhead Bitch Ass Ho’s?

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA.

You know what, I’ve sat here for the last several minutes as you rattled on and on about whatever crazy shit you were rattling on and on about- telling me I’m not believable, you’re not black and I’m a crack head alcoholic Ho... Well Ms. MOVIE STAR SANGA, MY LIFE is Believable!!! Because its True. Its YOUR LIFE that ain’t believable. You come here like a fairy tale in your company jet with your “walk over there” so you can commune get into your zone for some Awards- you want Real Talk... here’s some Real Talk... Fuck You Bitch!!

She starts to go.
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
That’s it!! That’s her! That’s Zippity Boom. That’s! Who I came down here to speak to—That’s who I wanna portray. NOW. We are ready! Ready for some serious chit-chat. I need to get down to the nitty gritty. I want you to talk to me just like that... like you use to talk before rehab. Ok? Lets have some Zippity Boom Boom!!

WHITE BARBARA just looks at her.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

... Somethin’ wrong?

WHITE BARBARA.
You don’t really want to do a movie based on my memoirs, do you?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Of course not, ain’t nobody got time for that.

WHITE BARBARA.
You just want the outrageous parts.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I want the Human parts. I want this to be a Human story. With Real Human heart. That can win me some Real Human Awards. So look. I guess you’ve heard about my little incident?

WHITE BARBARA.
You mean the one where you flipped—

Yeah. That one.

WHITE BARBARA.
Yes I heard.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I just left Rehab.

WHITE BARBARA.
Rehab rehab? Or just Rehab.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Rehab rehab.
WHITE BARBARA.

...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
We’ve kept it very hush hush.

WHITE BARBARA.

...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
So while I’m sitting in Rehab with all this time to kill... I had all these scripts being sent to me that needed a Title Song to the Soundtrack and I just kept reading this load of crap and reading that load of crap and then they sent me the galleys to your memoirs and I was like wow, this is a memoir about rehab and I’m sitting up here in rehab... It was soooo...

(honest)
... the people I use to trust... before the money... before the fame... The studio sent me your galleys and asked if I could sing a song for its soundtrack when it was made... I wrote them back immediately and told them that I wanted to Make the damn thing MYSELF... I wanted to Star, Write, Direct, Produce and THEN I’d Sang on the damn Soundtrack. So they sent me here. That’s what selling 10 million records off a Soundtrack can get you. Opportunity...

(to herself)
Even if it don’t come with a damn bit of respect.

WHITE BARBARA is dumbfounded.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(close)
You got anything?

WHITE BARBARA.
Excuse me?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(closer)
You holding anything?... A little bump, maybe?

WHITE BARBARA.

... No. I’m clean.

Silence.
WHITE BARBARA.

(serious)
...I’m clean... And I don’t do “crack”.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

(offended)
I don’t do crack either. I make too much money to do crack.

...Good.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

...Good.

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA.

I’ve heard that before.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Heard what before?

WHITE BARBARA.

“I make too much money to do crack”

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Yeah, you heard it because I just said it.

WHITE BARBARA.

No. Before you said it, I heard it. Before.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Well you should go get that checked out.

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Look. We got off to a shaky start. Let’s make like I just got here... reset the clock ...begin again... like none of this ever-

WHITE BARBARA.

Are you a Lesbian?

Silence.
WHITE BARBARA.

Real talk...

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA.

I read in a mag- there have been rumors since the time you lived in the Marcy Projects about you being-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

I grew up in the Church. I’m married. With a child.

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA.

... Are you a les-?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

-I learned to sing. In the Church... I love my Husband and my-

WHITE BARBARA.

(honest)

It's all lies.

... My memoirs. Its all lies. From start to finish. You’re right. Its not believable. I made it all up. In rehab... In rehab I read this one memoir that everybody told me had sold the most around the world... And I read it. It moved me... the strength I got just from reading this one little book... this memoir... and then one day... another woman came into rehab... and she was... deep in the rock bottoms- I went to my room and got this memoir and I handed it to her... because you see someone had handed it to me in my rock bottoms and it had changed my life... I handed it to her... and you know what she did... slapped it out of my hand... “that’s som’ ole bullshit”... “ain’t you heard”... “that’s som’ ole bullshit”... I picked it up off the floor and right there... right in the front of the book... in the part where nobody reads where nobody looks at- “This book... is a combination of facts... and certain embellishments... Names, dates, places, events and details... have been changed, invented and altered... for literary effect. The reader should not consider this book anything other than a work of literature.” I remember like it was yesterday... you’d think my heart would sink... that I’d be upset... angry... you’d think I’d want to find this man who changed my state of being... who gave me hope against all hope...
you’d think I want to find him and spit in his face... but instead I thought... Well hell.. I know how to lie... I know how to invent shit alter details I’m a gatdamn expert at changing the truth... I’ve been doing that my whole damn life... So I started writing-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

Its a lie?

WHITE BARBARA.


BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

All of it?... Its all-

WHITE BARBARA.

Are you a lesbian... A rug muncher. A clam licker. A muff diver. A tit gobbler. A bumper to bumper.

A Very Long Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

No...

WHITE BARBARA.

No...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

...But I love her.

WHITE BARBARA.

... What’s her name?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

...Robyn...

WHITE BARBARA.

Yes... yes... I read about her...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.

I had to give her up...

WHITE BARBARA.

She was your one true thing.
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
What makes you say that?

WHITE BARBARA.
You flipped your car ... that’s... that’s real.

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
... for a moment I thought that I was famous enough...
thought I was famous enough but I wasn’t... I’m not... so I
flipped my car... thought that would end it... but they found
me and brought me back... they always find me... and bring me
back...

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA.
Have you told Robyn that you love her? ...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Have you told your Family you made up a bunch of lies about
them?

...Yes.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
... No.

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA.
Is it helping?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
What?

WHITE BARBARA.
Rehab rehab.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
... Rehab keeps me away from certain things. Certain
individuals. Certain parts of myself. That I can’t trust
anymore...
WHITE BARBARA.
Everybody thinks he was the one who started you on that stuff.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Everybody thinks a lot stuff that ain’t true... The church ain’t so fresh and clean my darling.

WHITE BARBARA.
I’m not too big on religion neither so I-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I’m not talking about religion. I’m talking about the church. Church ain’t got nothing to do with my religion. And my relationship to God ain’t got nothing to do with the Church.

WHITE BARBARA.
Do you regret any of it?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Who are you? Diane Sawyer?

WHITE BARBARA.
(laughing)
Just asking...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Naw, I don’t regret.

WHITE BARBARA.
Just wondering if folks who have everything-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I don’t have everything.

WHITE BARBARA.
Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
And I don’t have to tell Robyn nothing. She knows.

WHITE BARBARA.
(smiles)
You’re addicted to her.

Beat.
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
...I have a bad habit... like you... you’re a liar.

WHITE BARBARA.
... That I am.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Well this is going to be a perfect partnership.

WHITE BARBARA.
Wait. You’re still interested?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
The transformation during the middle part of the movie when she’s in rehab will secure me various nominations.
(ghetto)
But only if I’m “toe-up from the flo-up” in the first third.

WHITE BARBARA.
Wait.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
What?

WHITE BARBARA.
What is that voice you just put on?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
What voice?

WHITE BARBARA.
That English Black thing voice.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(deadly serious)
I have no idea what you’re talking about.

Silence.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Could you do me a favor?

WHITE BARBARA.
(skeptical of everything)
...Ok.
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Could you go to my limo and ask the driver for the present that I brought for you?

WHITE BARBARA.
Oh you didn’t have to do that.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(simple fact)
I’m rich.

Silence.

WHITE BARBARA slowly Exits...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA sits a moment.

She Sings a Little.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(singing)

Jesus loves me...

Her voice isn’t what it use to be... She coughs and looks in her purse.

She pulls out a Cigarette.

WHITE BARBARA enters again holding a Wrapped Gift Box.

WHITE BARBARA.
What is this?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I don’t have a lot of time. I have to get back to the center before-

WHITE BARBARA.
Wait a second. You’re still in Rehab?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I told you I just left there.
WHITE BARBARA.
And you’re going back right now?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
The studio negotiated to get me out for just a few hours today.

WHITE BARBARA.
You don’t look like you just left Rehab today.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
The Studio sent a makeup and costume crew with the company jet.

WHITE BARBARA.
Wow.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
How long were you in rehab?

WHITE BARBARA.
Six long months.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
In Alaska?

WHITE BARBARA.
Yes. That part is true.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
With Yoga and Horses and shit.

WHITE BARBARA.
If you can believe it. That part is true as well...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I can believe it.

WHITE BARBARA.
I loved it. It was a moment that stopped time for me.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
What about that Glacier stuff in the book?
WHITE BARBARA.
... Oh right, they took us to Mendenhall Glacier and I tried to run away.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Across a Glacier.

WHITE BARBARA.
They strapped on these spiked things to my shoes. Took us all out on a tour to different parts of the Glacier. And I tried to run. I ran like hell, actually.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
And what happened?

WHITE BARBARA.
Pretty soon, I realized, I was on a Glacier.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
... That will be an amazing scene. We have to get an amazing cinematographer.

WHITE BARBARA.
Well uh, sure, yeah! Its beautiful up-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Can I see Zippity Boom now?

WHITE BARBARA.
What?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I’d like to talk to Zippity Boom now.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA starts to slowly unwrap the Gift Box.

WHITE BARBARA.
That was just a- a nick name that my family use to call me when I was in a really bad way. Its not like I can just become Zippity Boom- I mean I’d have to-
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA reveals A Ziplock Baggie filled with a Lighter, a Crack Pipe and Rocks of Crack Cocaine, sitting on top of a 6 Pack of Beer.

WHITE BARBARA jumps up and moves far away.

WHITE BARBARA.
(serious)
What the fuck is that?

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Motivation.

WHITE BARBARA.
(terrified)
... I can’t do this.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(ghetto)
“Bitch, please”. (normal.smile)
You like that?

WHITE BARBARA.
No. I don’t like that. I don’t like you talking like-

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Like what??

WHITE BARBARA.
I can’t I can’t go back to that dark place...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
Sure you can. Don’t worry I won’t tell.

WHITE BARBARA begins to involuntarily move towards the Drug and Drink.

WHITE BARBARA.
If anybody found out about this...
BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I’ve closed down the entire park.

WHITE BARBARA.
(closer. secret)
... People will find out...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
The Studio is buying the rights to your life story. Not to the Truth... I just need to commune a little with Zippity Boom Boom.

WHITE BARBARA.
(touching the drugs)
My Memoirs.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I told you.
(ghetto)
Fuck your memoirs...

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA rips off a Can from the 6 Pack as WHITE BARBARA unzips the Ziplock Baggie.

WHITE BARBARA lights the Crack in the Pipe.

AS BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA pops open a Can.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
(dark)
Zippity. Boom.

BLACK.
Six Months EARLIER

The WHITE CAST is BACK.

There is a large WELCOME HOME FROM REHAB, ZIPPITY BOOM!! sign strung across the Park Pavilion.

And Party Favors strung all over.

The WHITE CAST is Frozen in Place.

JAMES T with a Beer to his Lips.

MARIE with a Bottle of Jack Daniels to her Lips.

ADLEAN with a Cigarette to her Lips.

And LILLE ANNE with her Cellphone in Hand, mid-TEXT.

WHITE BARBARA Stands in front of them all with a Huge Smile on her FACE. She looks renewed and alive, typical of a successful rehabilitation.

Frozen.

Then.

LILLIE ANNE.

You wrote a book?

BARBARA.

Yes. A memoir.

MARIE.

What the hell is a “memoir”.

BLACKOUT
BARBARA.
My life story.

ADLEAN.
And you put us in it.

BARBARA.
You’re part of my life.

JAMES T.
And somebody published that?

BARBARA.
I found a great Literary Agent.

MARIE.
What the hell do you know about great Literary Asians?

LILLIE ANNE.
An Agent. Not an Asian.

MARIE.
Oh.

ADLEAN.
I still don’t understand what the hell this got to do with anything.

BARBARA.
(especially overjoyed)
Apparently. There is strong interest in a movie.

JAMES T.
A movie about what?

BARBARA.
Us.

MARIE.
Who the hell is Us?

They all look to MARIE like she is crazy.
LILLIE ANNE.
Heifa she talking about them making a movie based on her memoirs which is about us.

BARBARA.
Yes. About our Rehabilitation.

They all look around to each other and the various vices that they each hold in their hands.

ADLEAN.
We ain’t been rehabilitated.

BARBARA.
Look... remember the Intervention?

JAMES T.
Of course we remember the intervention, what the hell you think we welcoming you home from?

BARBARA.
Well... Okay... So...

MARIE.
Spit it out.

BARBARA.
While I was in Alaska getting better. I read a lot of books... A lot of memoirs about... overcoming addiction... hitting rock bottom... getting your life back in order... but there was one memoir that caught my attention the most... and it was the one that everybody told me had sold the most around the-

MARIE.
Zippity Boom what exactly have you written down about us that has gotten some Literary Asian so gatdamn excited about?

ADLEAN.
To hell with that, how much is they payin’ you for the movie rights of this memoir with my gatdamn name in it?

BARBARA.
One Million Dollars.
Silence.

JAMES T.
(dead serious)
Bitch, are you back on crack?

BARBARA.

... No.

LILLIE ANNE.
One million dollars.

BARBARA.
One million. Dollars.

JAMES T.
Let me understand somethin’, is you standin’ up here tellin’ us that we gon’ be rich...?

BARBARA.
We???

ADLEAN.
Yeah, WE!

MARIE.
Us.

Silence.

BARBARA.

LILLIE ANNE.
Well that’s all mostly fine with gooseberries on top BUT its also gonna be about mostly your death up heah in this here park if you think you aint gonna have to split-

BARBARA.
(ZIPPITY BOOM BOOM)
WHAT YA’LL EVER DO FOR ME? NUTHIN BUT PUT ME DOWN AND NOT BELIEVE ANYTHING I EVER WANTED TO DO IN MY WHOLE LIFE. HOW DO YOU THINK I GOT ADDICTED IN THE FIRST PLACE. BECAUSE NONE OF YA’LL EVER THOUGHT I WAS WORTH NUTHIN!!
SO FUCK YOU FUCK YOU FUCK YOU AND FUCK YOU. ITS MY LIFE STORY AND I’M GONNA GET ALL THE CHECKS OFF OF IT..

Silence.

JAMES T, MARIE, ADLEAN and LILLIE ANNE look to BARBARA as if she has lost her mind. Again.

Then.

BARBARA Smiles.

BARBARA.

WE GON’ BE RICH!!!

JOY ERUPTS!!

They all jump around like complete Fools having won the Lottery.

Soon, because of their age and “bad habits” they all have to catch their breaths.

Bent over and holding onto each other, they speak between ecstatic gasps.

MARIE.
(gasps)
We gonna be famous. And Rich!

ADLEAN.
(gasps)
I can’t believe it. I just can’t believe it, Zippity Boom you came through. Finally. You came through.

JAMES T.
(gasps)
Who would have thought you’d do something like this with your life. From the crack head whore you started out as.

BARBARA.
Well that’s the thing. I changed the crack into meth.
MARIE.
(serious)
I didn’t know you could change crack into meth.

Silence.

BARBARA.
In my memoirs. I changed the crack into meth. And I left out the whoring part.

Silence.

ADLEAN.
Who gon’ play me?

BARBARA.
It hasn’t gotten that far yet. All I know is there is this hotshot who’s thinking about directing it.

LILLIE ANNE.
I’m sure somebody famous is gonna be playing all of us. Our whole family will be famous.

MARIE.
Well where the book at, where my copy at?

BARBARA.
It ain’t published yet.

Silence.

JAMES T.
Well when is it gonna be published?

BARBARA.
Soon.

LILLIE ANNE.
Soon?

BARBARA.
Soon.

ADLEAN.
How the hell they makin’ a movie about a book that ain’t published yet?
BARBARA.
Cuz the studio people and the director read the galleys- And Marie before you ask what the hell is a galley, Its what they call the book before its a book... See that’s how they do it, they send the book before its a book to the big shots out in hollywood and the big shots out in hollywood buy it up before they even know if the book will be a hit or not. And my Agent told me they do this because they know that if they waited and the book becomes a hit then they’d have to pay MORE money. So they try and get the book rights BEFORE it actually is a book. That’s why they look at the galleys.

MARIE.
I don’t know what all the hell you just went on about but what I want to know is when is I’m gon get my money?

BARBARA.
...Soon. First. We have to ALL get our Story straight.

JAMES T.
What story?

BARBARA.
The story that I wrote in my memoir.

LILLIE ANNE.
How much did you lie about in this memoir, Barbara?

BARBARA.
...Everything.

Silence.

MARIE.
What the hell does everything mean?

BARBARA.
It means... everything.

The thrill is gone.

Some of them sit so as not to have a heart attack.

BARBARA.
First off, the memoir is called, Barbecue.
From here on, everyone looks to Barbara as if she is crazy.

Barbara. And it's called that, because I wrote that you all held a Barbecue Intervention... That you all ambushed me at this so-called Barbecue Intervention... That you all tased me with a Taser Gun. And tied me up to that pillar over there. James T, I gave you a pot habit. Marie, I gave you a minor crack habit. Adlean, I gave you cancer. And Lillian Anne, I made you into a stuck up bitch.

Silence.

Barbara. Alright. Anybody have any questions so far? James T, Marie, Adlean and Lillian Anne all raise their hands, still looking at Barbara like she's crazy.

Barbara. James T?

James T. (serious) Who the fuck are you?

Barbara. ... I'm Zippity Boom, I'm the one that if you listen to me carefully and do as I say, will make us all rich. You see, I didn't just stop at my rehabilitation. I wrote in my memoir that in order for you all to get me to go to Alaska, everybody had to go into their own rehabilitation.

Lillie Anne's hand goes back up.

Barbara. Lillie Anne?

Lillie Anne. What's gonna happen when they find out? That we ain't been to no rehabilitation.
BARBARA.
Rehab, is confidential. Its against the law for anybody to say anything about your rehab without your written consent. Its like going to the doctor or a lawyer. Plenty of people been in rehab. And we won’t ever know anything about it.

ADLEAN, Smoking, raises her hand.

BARBARA.
Adlean?

ADLEAN.
(smoking, upset)
Why the hell would you give me Cancer?

Beat.

BARBARA’s Cellphone Beeps. BARBARA looks at it. Its a Text Message. She reads it.

BARBARA.
Its from my Agent. She says she has great news and that she will call me in two minutes.

BARBARA can barely contain herself as she TEXTs back to her Agent.

MARIE raises her hand.

BARBARA.
Yes, Marie?

MARIE.
(serious)
I want to know, who told you about my minor Crack Habit?

Silence.

They all look to MARIE.

MARIE.
It ain’t nuthin’ I can’t control. I ain’t doin’ it every gatdamn day like Zippity Boom’s stupid ass was.
BARBARA.
Alright, one last thing. We all had a fucked up childhood. Our parents beat us. And molested us. And sold one of us into White Slavery.

JAMES T.
...What about Alphonso? What you say about him?

BARBARA.
He was the one who brought me to the Intervention. Then he left, because he can’t stand the family.

LILLIE ANNE.
Alphonso ain’t out of jail and ain’t getting out of jail.

BARBARA.
I know that.

ADLEAN.
He’s in prison. Fo’ Life! Anybody can find that out.

BARBARA.
... Oh.

MARIE.
Yeah, Oh.

Silence.

BARBARA.
(light bulb)
He broke out.

JAMES T.

BARBARA.
He broke out. Just for that day. If anybody asks. We just say he broke out. To take me to my intervention.

LILLIE ANNE.
And then what?
BARBARA.
He broke back in, I don’t know!

ADLEAN.
You don’t know.

BARBARA.
...Ok, if anybody finds out he got a life sentence. Then we’ll say Alphonso broke out of jail. Brought me here to my Intervention, then broke back into Jail. And we’ll say the reason we made up the story that he had already been out for a year is because we didn’t want anybody to know he broke out and broke back in because he would get a longer sentence.

JAMES T.
Longer than life?

BARBARA.
Yes.

LILLIE ANNE.
So now we gonna Lie about a Lie.

ADLEAN.
And when they find out its a Lie.

MARIE.
We just gonna keep on lying.

BARBARA.
If they ask. Yes. Everybody needs to Lie about the Lie. And keep on lying.

Her phone begins ringing.

BARBARA.
I need to know if everybody is on board with this before I answer this phone. There is stuff in my memoir I only could have known from you all telling me. Stuff that happened here. Before my Intervention. My Literary Agent needs me to make sure that there will be no family problems after the book comes out. And the movie deal is DEPENDANT on everyone backing up my memoir. So is Everybody on board to get RICH??!!!
Skepticism quickly turns into outright glee.

They shake their heads in the affirmative.

BARBARA answers the phone.

BARBARA.
(to her FAMILY)
Shh.
(to phone)
Hello?... Hey there... Yes...
(building excitement)
Yes...
(covers phone, to FAMILY)
A director is now Officially attached, she can’t legally say her name yet, but she’s an Auteur.

MARIE.
The hell is an Au-

OMNES.
(to MARIE)
Shh!

BARBARA.
(to phone)
Yes... Ok... That’s amazing...
(covering the phone, to FAMILY)
The Auteur and The Studio have decided on a great idea for the casting of the movie...
(now she’s listening, covering and repeating to FAMILY)
To make it really Real... Really Authentic... and **Believeable**...

The FAMILY’s excitement Grows!!!

AS

BARBARA listens and stops covering the phone and stops repeating...
Then BARBARA’s expression slowly changes to disbelief.

The FAMILY tries to hold on to their SMILES but their SMILES begin to slowly crack as they await what the hell BARBARA is being told...

Finally...

BARBARA hangs up. And turns to her FAMILY.

Silence.

BARBARA.
... In order... to make my memoirs... believable... the studio has decided... to make the family-

BLACK.
EPILOGUE.

The OSCARS.

Note: The following can be done as simply (pure audio) or elaborately (keep reading) as each production’s resources allows.

Thunderous Applause.

FAMOUS ACTOR’S VOICEOVER. And the Nominees for Best Picture are, (Movie #1)

A 30 second clip from a Movie about a MENTALLY CHALLENGED ADULT is shown or heard.

Thunderous Applause.

(Movie #2)

A 30 second clip from a Movie about a MENTALLY CHALLENGED ADULT IN THE HOLOCAUST is shown or heard.

Thunderous Applause.

(Movie #3)

A 30 second clip from a Movie about a MENTALLY CHALLENGED ADULT IN THE HOLOCAUST WITH ENGLISH ACCENTS is shown or heard.

Thunderous Applause.

BARBECUE.

A 30 second clip from the movie, BARBECUE, that we witnessed being taped under the PARK PAVILION is shown or heard.
Thunderous Applause.

Silence.

FAMOUS ACTOR’S VOICEOVER.
And the winner of the Oscar for Best Picture goes to...

Sound of an Envelope Opening.

FAMOUS ACTOR’S VOICEOVER.
(sheer joy)
Oh My God!! BARBECUE!!!!!

Cue SOUNDRACK THEME SONG!!

Thunderous Applause.

The White FAMILY, the Black MOVIE STARS and the BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA appear Onstage.

The White FAMILY looks Star Struck by a Mack Truck and obviously have been styled and dressed by someone who has no idea about their real life. To a person, they are completely Trashed.

The BLACK MOVIE STARS are done up for the Gods. They Shine and Sparkle almost to the point of appearing to be fully Airbrushed. Not a flaw in sight.

The BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA dressed to Kill holds an armful of OSCARS. She raises her most recent one in the Air.

BLACK MOVIE STAR BARBARA.
I told myself I wasn’t going to cry... First giving honor to God- I mean my Agent and Manager- Sorry... And the whole team at ELOMENOPEA. When I first read Barbara’s story I knew from the first page that I had to make this movie. And then I met her... Wow... Wow... Wow we never thought something like this would happen.
This has been a night I will remember for the rest of my—Wow... This movie began with the brave journey of this magnificent woman and her amazing family.

(she points to the dumbfounded WHITE FAMILY)

Thank you for sharing your stories from the bowels of your drug and alcohol addictions. I want to thank the Academy and all the tremendously brave Actors up here on this stage with me tonight. We took a chance and told a story no one believed anyone would ever come see and we ended up here! Not in my wildest dreams did I ever think this could come true. Thank you. Thank you all.

(she motions for WHITE BARBARA to come to her and they hug)

Barbara, this is your night. This is your family’s night. Your story has inspired everyone in this room tonight. And I want to, from the bottom of my heart, once again, thank my Agents, for sending me your memoirs at a time when most of you know I, myself, was going through some tough times. Thank you Academy, thank you Seth and Manny. And lastly, thank you, God.

Thunderous Applause.

She steps back and motions for WHITE BARBARA to say a few words.

Like a Deer In Headlights. WHITE BARBARA steps forward.

She Opens her Mouth to Speak.

And.

OSCAR EXIT MUSIC!!!

BLACK.

END OF PLAY.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

In the scene titled INTERVENTION, some of the language is lifted from the web site for Passages Malibu Alcohol/Drug Rehab, http://www.passagesmalibu.com/