

THE GOOD GIRL

Written by

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JUSTINE

(v.o.) As a girl, you see the world like a giant candy store, filled with sweet candy and such. But one day you look around and see a prison and you're on death row. You wanna run, or scream or cry. But something's locking you up. Are the other folks cows, chewing cud till the hour come and their heads roll? Or are they just keeping quiet, like you... Planning their escape?

(Camera zooms on Holden/Tom)

GWEN

On your left, honey.

JUSTINE

What's that cashier's name?

GWEN

Can't say.

JUSTINE

When did he start working here?

GWEN

Don't know. Yesterday?

JUSTINE

Who is he?

GWEN

Don't know. Can't say.

JUSTINE

What are you doing?

GWEN

It's called work, princess. Kind of fun. You might want to give it a go someday.

CHERYL

Attention, shoppers. There's a Retail Rodeo special on aisle three. Liquid drain cleaner. Two 12-ounce cans for \$5. Liquid drain cleaner has churning power and will churn right through your pipes. Ladies, shove something clean and new up your filthy pipes. Liquid drain cleaner on aisle three. Have a good day and thank you for shopping at Retail Rodeo.

CORNY

Hey, Justine. Can I talk to you for a second?

JUSTINE

Yeah.

CORNY

I was just curious. Have you ever been to a Bible study?

JUSTINE

Yeah.

CORNY

We got a good one going on every Wednesday at the First Church of Nazarine. Rodney

comes, Benita comes. You got any interest in reading the Bible?

JUSTINE

I have my own, you know, beliefs.

CORNY

We don't preach fire and brimstone. Just the Ten Commandments. We're not interested in scaring people. We're about loving Jesus.

JUSTINE

I kinda like my nights to myself.

CORNY

Well, maybe you'll have nights of eternal hellfire to yourself. Just kidding you. Drive safe.

JUSTINE

Bye-bye.

BUBBA

Hey, Justine.

PHIL

Hey, Teeny. How was your day?

JUSTINE

The same. How was yours?

BUBBA

The wind was flipping paint in our eyes.

PHIL

Paint stings. Feel like I've been attacked by hornets in my eyeballs.

JUSTINE

Bubba, stand up.

BUBBA

Why?

JUSTINE

For Christ's sakes. Look at that couch, Phil. Y'all got paint all over it. This ain't gonna come off. Damn it, Phil.

TV REPORTER

...including this gorgeous eggplant...

PHIL

I think we got most of it out.

JUSTINE

You two were stoned. You, keep frying your brain liike that, you'll slip off a ladder and crack open your head bone. You do really stupid things when you're high, Phil.

PHIL

Like what?

JUSTINE

Like sitting on my couch with your big blue ass. Everything just turns to shit. You finally get nice things, then everything just gets messed up. Why is this TV

buzzing?

PHIL

It's the wind doing that. They the wind's coming in different lately.

JUSTINE

Different from what?

JUSTINE

What you reading?

HOLDEN

Catcher in the Rye' I'm named after it.

JUSTINE

What's your name? Catcher?

HOLDEN

Holden. After Holden Caulfield. He's the main character.

JUSTINE

What's he do?

HOLDEN

He's put upon by society. Hypocrisy of the world.

JUSTINE

I notice that you're, uh, not very social.

HOLDEN

I'm a writer.

JUSTINE

What do you write?

HOLDEN

Novels, plays, screenplays, stories,
poetry.

GWEN

(to costumer) That's good. Justine will
be right with you. Where is she?

JUSTINE

I better go. What happens at the end
of your book?

HOLDEN

Oh, he has a nervous breakdown. Goes
to a mental hospital.

GWEN

You don't get paid to pick your crack.
You get paid to work.

JUSTINE

I'm not sure I can do makeovers.

GWEN

Oh, come on! A little pancake, eyeliner,
mascara, rouge on the cheeks and powder
it up. Then you take a moist tissue,
roll it in a ball and toss it in their
face! Jeez, Louise... I'm talking to a
tree stump! Girl, where are you?!

JUSTINE

Sorry, I'm just a little tired.

GWEN

It's the food you eat, Justine. Look at me. I am 10 years older than you and have 10 times your energy. Cause I don't eat meat and I don't eat dairy. It's probably why you can't get pregnant, honey. And why you have that hung-jaw look on your face. It's the cheese in your pizza and the chicken in your salad.

JUSTINE

I went to the doctor. He says I'm fertile. He says I could repopulate the entire planet.

GWEN

Then what's the deal here? Did he say you get enough vitamins?

JUSTINE

He didn't say.

PHIL

You could make paint where, at different angles, the house is different colours. You stand at the front door and the house is red. You stand at the street and the house is green. Or you could make, like, an invisible paint. Make the whole house disappear.

BUBBA

What would be really neat is a paint that could change the molecular structure of a house, like a chemical acid deal.

PHIL

What do you think, Teeny?

JUSTINE

I think you two are a pair of potheads.

CHERYL

You getting a whole one of these or
a half?

CUSTOMER

That oneright there.

CHERYL

You didn't bring this into the store?

CUSTOMER

No.

CHERYL

Well then, I'll charge you for it. This
is a hand lotion. So don't put it anywhere
else, even if you need lubrication.
We try to keep frivolous lawsuits to
a minimum, unless, ofcourse, the customer
is at fault. Here's your change and
Fuck you very much.

CUSTOMER

Excuse me?

CHERYL

Thank you very much.

GWEN

Good as new, I'll tell ya, good as new.

JUSTINE

Now, you might be interested in purchasing some of the products I used today...

CUSTOMER

Oh, I'm not buying anything today.

GWEN

Well, that'd be a mistake. These are bargain prices.

CUSTOMER

I didn't bring my purse.

JUSTINE

I hate my job.

HOLDEN

That makes two of us.

JUSTINE

I hate everyone here. I hate Gwen. I don't know what the hell she's so happy about. I'm sorry I don't understand why maniacs get shotguns and shoot everybody to pieces.

HOLDEN

Maybe you're a maniac.

JUSTINE

Maybe so. You know you're lips are real pouty, like a woman. And how your eyes droop off to the side. How old are you?

HOLDEN

Twenty two.

JUSTINE

I'm an old lady next to you.

HOLDEN

How old are you?

JUSTINE

How old do you think?

HOLDEN

I don't know.

JUSTINE

I am thirty years old.

HOLDEN

How long you been workin' here for?

JUSTINE

Forever and a day!

JUSTINE

You don't have a car?

HOLDEN

Oh, I live right down the street.

JUSTINE

Well, you can ride in here, there's room.

HOLDEN

You wanna come in?

JUSTINE

I don't know. I'm in a funk.

HOLDEN

Well, I'm not gonna beg ya.

HOLDEN

I'll be in my room.

MOTHER

Okay, Tom.

JUSTINE

They call you Tom?

HOLDEN

It's my slave name. Holden's what I call myself. This is my room.

JUSTINE

Not aolt to look at. What are your folks like?

HOLDEN

They're okay. They don't get me. I mean, they're alright.

JUSTINE

My husband doesn't get me.

HOLDEN

Since when do you have a husband?

JUSTINE

Since seven years. He's a painter.

HOLDEN

What's he paint?

JUSTINE

Houses. He's a pig. He talks but he doesn't think. You go to college?

HOLDEN

Um, I had to drop out. I had a problem with drinkin' and stuff. I'll go back. I just gotta prove to my parents that I can fly staright. You go to college?

JUSTINE

No, I was afraid I'd lose Phil if I went. Now that'd be reason enough to go. I saw you in the store and I liked how you kept to yourself. I can see in your eyes that you hate the world. I hate it too. You know what I'm talkin'

about?

JUSTINE

After livin in the dark for so long
a glimpse of the light can make you
giddy. Strange thought come into your
head and you'd better think 'em. Has
a special fate been callin' you and
you not listenin? Is there a secret
message right in front you, and you're
not reading it? Is this your last, best
chance? Are you gonna take it? Or are
you goin' to the grave with un-lived
lives in your vains?

(TV conversation)

PHIL

Teeny, you're pretty. Bubba, isn't Teeny
pretty?

BUBBA

I've seen better, I've seen worse. Nah.
That's why I ain't never married. You
got yourself the best fish in the sea.

PHIL

I wonder what it'd be like to be a woman.
All that smooth skin and long hair.

BUBBA

If I was a woman, I'd be a slut. A lesbian
slut.

JUSTINE

Gwen says smokin' marijuana lowers your
sperm.

PHIL

Lowers it to where?

JUSTINE

Maybe you're the infertile one 'round here. Maybe every time you smoke a little dooby, you're killin' our unborn children.

GWEN

Alright, close.

JUSTINE

Why you limping.

HOLDEN

I twisted up my ankle on the stairs. I was wonderin', maybe you could give me a ride home?

JUSTINE

Yeah, sure okay.

HOLDEN

Alright I'll talk to you about it later.

GWEN

All I know is, everyone should have one beau, before anyone has two beaus.

JUSTINE

He's not my beau, he's my friend.

CHERYL

Happy Halloween Retail Rodeo shoppers!
There's a Retail Rodeo special on all
bulk candy on aisle four. Ghouls and
goblins, witches and warlocks, wandering
these aisles, day after day. I'll put
a Halloween curse on you.

GWEN

Night Corny. Happy Halloween.

CORNY

Well I'm not a pagen but thanks all
the same.

GWEN

Which ankle did you twist, Holden?

HOLDEN

My, uh, left.

GWEN

Maybe you should put some cold water
on it so it doesn't swell up and inflame.

HOLDEN

Okay.

JUSTINE

You're a writer so you have yourself
a goal. I used to lie in bed and imagine
other cities, other jobs I could have.

Other husbands. Now I don't even know what to imagine anymore. Holden, I have a husband.

HOLDEN

You said he was a pig.

JUSTINE

Well, Holden. I don't want to hurt anybody.

(TV sounds)

PHIL

I was thinking about what you were sayin' about my sperm bein' low. I mean, I know I got good sperm. It's baby-makin sperm. I suppose it couldn't hurt to have it confirmed by an expert.

JUSTINE

Oh who gives a shit, who needs a F&\$%' baby around here anyways? If you wanna make yourself useful, why don't you get that goddamn TV fixed?!

PHIL

What the hell?

JUSTINE

It sounds like a helicopter is landin' in here.

GWEN

You want a blackberry, honey? A man was sellin' 'em on the road.

JUSTINE

No thank you.

CORNY

This is for you Justine. It's from Holden.

JUSTINE

Well where is he?

CORNY

He's got the day off. He came by this morning with it.

JUSTINE

Thanks.

CORNY

Don't mention it. Hey, Gwen.

GWEN

Hey sugar.

HOLDEN

Dear Justine. Because of you I'll be quitting the Retail Rodeo. The last two days have been the most god-awful days of my life. I've not been able to get rid of you in my head. I never wanted anything so bad, and I have wanted many things. I'd given up long ago on being gotten by someone else, and then you came along. The idea of being gotten, because of circumstance, will never get got is the worst feeling I've ever felt, and I have felt many bad feelings. I'm sorry I can never see you again, Justine, forgive me for being so weak, but that is who I am. Goodbye, Holden Wurther. If for some reason, you could

change your mind and want to be with me, body and soul, meet me after work. I will be waiting for you at five PM outside Chuck E.Cheese. If you are not there at five, you will never see me in your lifetime.

JUSTINE

Gwen? What's wrong?

Gwen I'm okay. I feel a little sick.

JUSTINE

Gwen? Gwen you sick?

JACK

Justine? Justine what's goin' on in here? Gwen, you sick? We gotta get her to a hospital. Justine you drive her.

JUSTINE

Well what time is it?

JACK

It's a quarter to five. Why, you gotta be somewhere?

JUSTINE

Gwen?

GWEN

Oh, I had a dream. I had dream that

I sprouted a beard made of bean sprouts.

JUSTINE

I'm gonna let you off here, okay?

GWEN

Okay, You'll meet me inside?

JUSTINE

Yeah, you know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna park the car, then I'm gonna meet you inside.

GWEN

Okay. Your a doll.

HOLDEN

Hey. Oh god, I'm really glad you came.

JUSTINE

I just ditched Gwen at the hospital.

HOLDEN

Oh god, thank god.

JUSTINE

Where are we goin'?

HOLDEN

Let's go to my house.

JUSTINE

No, with your folks there?

HOLDEN

Let's just park somewhere.

JUSTINE

This isn't well planned.

HOLDEN

Look. I don't know. I don't care I just
wanna hold you.

HOTEL GUY

That's forty five dollars even. And
I need you to fill this out for me.

(Justine and Holden are in the hotel room and make
love.)

(after the made love)

JUSTINE

I can't do it.

HOLDEN

We'll be back here before you know it.

JUSTINE

I don't wanna... I don't wanna go.

HOLDEN

Justine. I'm yours. I'm all yours.

(they kiss)

PHIL

Hey.

JUSTINE

Hey.

PHIL

Were you been?

JUSTINE

Gwen got real sick today. She was throwin' up all over the store. I had to take her to the hospital, and sat with her.

PHIL

Did she sick up on you?

JUSTINE

No.

PHIL

Did she sick up on anybody? (chuckles)

JUSTINE

It's not funny, Phil, this is serious.
I'm gonna go up there tomorrow too.
And the next day.

JACK

Justine? What happened to you?

JUSTINE

What?

JACK

I went down to St. Catherine's to check
up on Gwen. I looked all over for you,
she was askin' for you.

JUSTINE

Well, how is she?

JACK

She was heavin' up until there was nothin'
left to heave. Doctor said she must've
eaten somethin' with some kind of parasite
in it or somethin'.

JUSTINE

I bet it was those blackberries.

JACK

They're gonna keep her in there until
she gets better so you're gonna have
to supervise cosmetics.

(there they go again)

JUSTINE

Stop it, somebody's gonna see!

HOLDEN

Who cares, I don't care. I crave you. I wanna know everything about you. Who are you?

JUSTINE

I'm just this woman. I moved to Texas when I was eleven. My daddy was in the Air Force.

HOLDEN

I wanna knock open your head and see what's inside. I've had so much pain in my life. I know you have too, I can see it.

(at the hotel, in bed,
probably after they made love)

JUSTINE

Holden gave me two of his stories to read. It's like what a story would be. I was about a boy who was put upon, his mother was cold and selfish, and his father wanted him to play football. Other people didn't get him, especially girls. Then the boy comes to believe no one can ever really know him. So he starts actin' out, drinkin', and doin' all kinds of drugs. At the end the boy kills himself but jumpin' over a bridge. The second story was pretty much the same as the first. Except at the end, the boy kills himself by drinkin' a bottle of bug poison.

JUSTINE

Your stories are intense.

HOLDEN

I just wanna leave some kind of legacy.
Somethin' great. After that I don't
care what happens to me.

JUSTINE

Don't say that. I wish there was a story
about me. I don't know who would read
it though.

HOLDEN

I would.

JUSTINE

I like this. I like havin' a secret.
You gave me a secret Holden.

HOLDEN

See, now that you met me you're mysterious.
And dark and twisted.

JUSTINE

I'm going to hell, aren't I?

HOLDEN

Yes, you are.

(she rolls on top of him and they kiss)

(they exit the hotel and Justine sees a car)

JUSTINE

That's Bubba's truck. Get in the car.
Phil takes that truck to work everyday.

Bubba picks him up, and drops him off.
Why, why would that truck be parked
there?

HOLDEN

I don't know.

JUSTINE

If he finds out about us....

HOLDEN

I won't let him hurt you.

JUSTINE

He's big, Holden. He'll kill you. He'll
beat me, but he'll kill you.

HOLDEN

You can't worry about somethin' that
hasn't even happened yet.

JUSTINE

I gotta go to the hospital.

HOLDEN

Okay. (leans in to kiss her; she pulls
away)

JUSTINE

Don't! I mean he could be followin'
us.

CORNY

Justine! Poor lady. She just passed.

JUSTINE

Who?

CORNY

Gwen! She just passed away.

JUSTINE

What do you mean? I thought she had a stomach ache?

CORNY

It got worse. She was on life support all day.

JUSTINE

I don't understand.

CORNY

It's God's will, Justine. No one can understand it. It was just Gwen's time to fly away home.

(Justine looks guilty and shocked)

JUSTINE

Gwen died today.

PHIL

What? Are you kiddin? What for?

JUSTINE

Parasite. Somethin' she ate.

PHIL

You okay?

JUSTINE

Where were you this afternoon?

PHIL

Paintin' on Boverly. Why?

JUSTINE

What time did Bubba bring you home?

PHIL

We knocked off early 'bout four. Bubba had a date with a stewardess, why?

JUSTINE

Oh. I can't believe she's dead. I wasn't a very good friend to her.

PHIL

Don't say that, Teeny. 'Course you were. 'Course you were.

JACK

Retail Rodeo employees this is Jack Fields, your store manager. Before we open today, I just want to share some terrible and shocking news. One of our best employees, Gwen Jackson, died yesterday. Gwen was a real class act. She had a good attitude, she had ideas. We're all gonna miss her. Now, if any of y'all need to collect you thoughts and remember Gwen. GWEN, then today's the day. You'll be excused from work and we'll just have to do without you. Gwen, this one's for you.

(music comes over PA)

JUSTINE

Holden had the notion to go to Gabler's Creek, skinny dippin' and makin' love. He said we'd be like Adam and Eve, rollin' around around in the sticks and the dirt and bein' one with nature. He was so fixed on the idea thateven when the clouds started rollin' in, and the sky was gettin; dark, he kept on swimmin'. All my thoughts turned to death. I thought of Gwen's body, rottin' away. I thought of how nice a person she was, so full of life and good will. If there was a heaven, Gwen would be there. Givin' makeovers and offerin' up helpful advice. I thought if I died today, what would happen to me? A hateful girl. A selfish girl. An adultress. A liar.

(Justine and Holden are running towards the car and get in)

(Next scene they're in the car; back seats, kissing)

JUSTINE

What are we doin'?

HOLDEN

Makin' one out of two.

JUSTINE

(sighs) I haven't thought this through.

HOLDEN

Justine, will you leave him?

JUSTINE

And go where?

HOLDEN

Away. With you on my arm, my folks'll think I've changed. They'll stop thinkin' I'm suck a loner, I got a girlfriend, a pretty one, who knows me and likes me. And they'll be so happy, they'll give me money to write my novel.

JUSTINE

But where will we GO?

HOLDEN

We'll be like... Catcher in the Rye. Only by me. I'll be immortal and then like JD Salinger I'll just vanish.

PHIL

Hey, Teeny. We've been up to no good. We got the day off on account of the rain.

JUSTINE

I thought you might.

(TV sounds)

BUBBA

So I heard about your friend bein' dead,
and all. I'm sorry.

JUSTINE

Yeah. She was real healthy too.

BUBBA

Well, at least you were with her when
she went. (intense voice and look) Ain't
that right? You were... with her, when
she went?

JUSTINE

Yeah.

PHIL

Oh, I wish it would rain every day from
here on out. Never have to paint again.

JACK

Hey Justine. How you holding up?

JUSTINE

Fine.

JACK

Real shocker. I decided to move Cheryl
over to cosmetics. She got a little
too creative on the P.A. Maybe she'll
watch her P's and Q's over here. If
not she's out on her but. Now you listen
to Justine, sister.

HOLDEN

You want me to help you get stuff out of storage?

JUSTINE

Not right now, maybe later.

HOLDEN

Well, are you gonna give me a ride home? My ankle's actin' up.

JUSTINE

I gotta get home. Maybe Cheryl can.

CHERYL

What, you need a ride?

HOLDEN

Forget it.

JUSTINE

I think we gotta take a breather. I'm nervous.

HOLDEN

Well, can't we go to the motel?

JUSTINE

Not today.

HOLDEN

Well, let's go in the store room.

JUSTINE

Just be patient, Holden!

not being

(Holden looks freaky; sort of like he's losing his mind
able to be close to her)

JUSTINE

I was wonderin', when was that, uh,
bible study?

CORNY

Tomorrow night at eight. We'd love to
have ya.

JUSTINE

Can I bring my husband?

CORNY

'Course! A couple that prays together
stays together.

PHIL

What's this?

JUSTINE

The Holy Bible. There's one for you,
and one for me.

PHIL

Not very light is it?

JUSTINE

We're goin' to Bible study. A couple that prays together, stays together.

PHIL

I heard it was the couple that lays together stays together.

JUSTINE

Well you heard wrong.

JUSTINE

Cheryl? You think you can take this one?

CHERYL

Sure... Sit right down here ma'am, we're gonna make you pretty. Now how do you like your hair?

CUSTOMER

Wait, you gonna do my hair?

CHERYL

No, I just need to know if that's your usual way of wearing it all big and high. If it is then I'll just put more makeup on your chin to off-set. Now, you're gonna want to take a whole bottle of this home wthi you. It's got quite alot of ingredients in it so you're getting a good deal. It's got Ginco extract in it, do you know what that is?

CUSTOMER

No.

CHERYL

It's extract of the Ginco and it makes your skin real slick so that any liquid will roll right off, be it water or lemon juice or urine. I'll put that in a bag for you.

JUSTINE

Phil, what the hell are you doin'? We're gonna be late for Bible study. You're stoned, you got paint in your hair, would you just get in the shower?

PHIL

I completely didn't remember...

JUSTINE

Get in the shower.

BUBBA

Workin' on your spiritual life?

JUSTINE

Yeah, I guess.

BUBBA

Ain't that a hoot and a holler.

JUSTINE

What do you mean?

BUBBA

I saw you, Justine.

JUSTINE

Saw me what?

BUBBA

I saw you. We got some things to talk about, you and me. You come by my place after work. If you knwo what's good for ya.

PHIL

Hey. Where's Bubba?

JUSTINE

He left.

PHIL

Well, I'm ready. Let's go.

PHIL

I don't know what to say about Jesus. I'm stoned.

JUSTINE

Just let the other people do the talking.

PHIL

Jeez. We forgot the Bibles, Justine.

JUSTINE

Well, that's alright, they'll forgive us.

CORNY

Hi. Welcome. Hey there people! Glad you could make it!

JUSTINE

Hi Corny. This is my husband, Phil.

CORNY

Y'all are in for a treat. We got a good discussion going tonight. If man is made in God's image, what does that say about God?

PHIL

Yeah, that sounds like a good one.

works

(Justine recognizes one of the people. It's the guy who at the motel where she and Holden have been going to.)

JUSTINE

Phil, come with me to the car.

PHIL

What?

JUSTINE

Come with me to the car, I gotta get somethin'.

PHIL

What's goin' on?

JUSTINE

Just get in the car. Get in the car, Phil.

PHIL

What the hell?

JUSTINE

I don't want to go to Bible study.

PHIL

Why not?

JUSTINE

Because I don't want to. Now, can we please just get out of here?

PHIL

Justine, this is embarrassing. We're runnin' away from Bible study like a couple of Devil worshippers.

JUSTINE

I don't care. I'm not in the mood.

PHIL

You are freakin' me out, man. Why?

JUSTINE

Why? Because we forgot our Bibles is why.

PHIL

You just said a few minutes ago they'll forgive us.

JUSTINE

Yeah, well, they may not, alright. So can we please just get the shit outta here?

PHIL

I'm never goin' back to Bible study again.

JUSTINE

I don't care, fine by me.

CUSTOMER

I think I look too white, don't you think?

CHERYL

I'm just tryin' to match your face with your hair, I was thinkin' you're not white enough.

CUSTOMER

I think I look kinda wierd.

CHERYL

Well, the first rule of fashion is that you have to look wierd. What I'm doing here has come straight from France.

CUSTOMER

Oh.

CHERYL

It's called circ du face, meaning circus of the face and it's all the rage with the Frenchies.

CUSTOMER

Well, you're the professoinal.

CHERYL

That's right.

CORNY

Justine, what happened to you? I looked up and I saw you two drivin' off like vampires in the night.

JUSTINE

Oh geez, we forgot our Bibles.

CORNY

You coulda looked off your neighbor. It's a church, you know. You can't make water without bumpin' your nut on a bible.

JUSTINE

Oh. Well, we felt bad.

CORNY

(looks at the customer) What in blazes?!

CUSTOMER

Do you like it?

JUSTINE

I can't go.

HOLDEN

What?

JUSTINE

I can't go today. There's something important I need to tend to.

HOLDEN

I thought you said we'd go today.

JUSTINE

Well, something came up.

HOLDEN

What came up?

JUSTINE

Um, okay. I think, maybe, somebody's found out about us.

HOLDEN

I'm starting to wonder if you even want to go. I'm startin' to think you don't get me.

JUSTINE

Well, maybe I don't get you.

HOLDEN

You do, you do get me you just don't want to me 'cause I'm too intensified for you! Justine, who cares, who cares if someone finds out. We don't have to live like this, Justine. I know what it's like to go home every night and feel like you're hidin' out. We can leave all this behind...

JUSTINE

That's easy for you to say, Holden, you are not married.

HOLDEN

You just, you just gonna give up?! You gonna go crawlin' back?!

JUSTINE

Holden, you are gonna get us caught!

HOLDEN

You're so fucking afraid it makes me sick. Don't give up on us.

JUSTINE

I won't.

takes a few (Justine goes out of the backdoor of Retail Rodeo,
deep breaths, trying not to freak out)

JUSTINE

I'll see you tomorrow, okay? Okay?

HOLDEN

Okay. Good luck on your important thing.

JUSTINE

Thanks.

dog, Bitz, (Justine arrives at Bubba's. He opens the door and his
is barking.)

BUBBA

Easy Bitz, easy Bitz. Back in your corner!
Back in your corner! Back in your corner,

Bitz! Come on in. I wanna show you somethin'.
Sit. (Yells at dog again) I'm in shock.

JUSTINE

Why?

BUBBA

You know why.

JUSTINE

Bubba sat like that for what seemed like ten years before he began to speak. Finally, when he opened his mouth, he talked a blue streak about the ruin that was his life. He talked about how he loved Phil, and how he loved me. And how he always wanted a girlfriend just like me, and to be a guy like Phil, to this imaginary girl like me, that he never found. Then he wen on about givin' up your dreams and how it's all a part of gettin' older. Bubba had given up on his dream to be like Phil, and accepted his fate as Bubba, always and forever. Then, last week, a door that remained shut swung wide open. Bubba thought this no chance coincidence, a cosmic force was at work. The sounds of me makin' love to a man that wasn't Phil was like a shout in Bubba's ear from the creator himself. What it meant, or what to do, or why Bubba didn't know. All he knew was that he hated me for poisoning the well of idealism that he had drunk from for so long. I was no longer Bubba's image of perfection. To him I was just a liar, and a whore, and that sickened him. But on the other hand he loved me for opening his eyes and releasing him from the bitter chains of evny that bound him to Phil. Phil was no superman, just a cuckhold, and a foll, and that was beautiful. Bubba felt that there was just one thing left for us to do. Something that would solve both our problems and end this whole tragic cycle.

JUSTINE

Bubba, I am not gonna sleep with you.

BUBBA

But don't you see? This is my chance,
for liberation.

JUSTINE

But, one person's liberation is another
person's, well, badness. There's just
no way.

BUBBA

I'm gonna have to tell Phil then.

JUSTINE

Why?

BUBBA

He's my best friend. I can't keep him
in the dark about somethin' this big.
He's a cuckhold.

JUSTINE

You wanna cuckhold him yourself!

BUBBA

Well that's different. That isn't about
him. That's about my salvation. Look,
you've got your choice to make. Either
destroy your marriage, and break your
husband's heart. Or have sex with me
right now.

(Bubba is yelling at the dog again, and saying
Justine's name)

JUSTINE

Oh god! There was someone in the window!
Did you not see?

BUBBA

You're paranoid.

JUSTINE

I gotta go.

BUBBA

Phil is never gonna find out about any
of this. Don't fret. (the dog is still
barking)

JUSTINE

Get this damn dog away from me!

BUBBA

You're lookin' at a free man, Justine.
A free man.

JUSTINE

Great. Good for you.

BUBBA

Thank you. (Yelling at dog again.)

brushing

(TV sounds as Phil comes out of the bathroom, still
his teeth)

PHIL

I'm nervous.

JUSTINE

You're nervous? Why?

PHIL

'Cause I gotta go to that doctor tomorrow
and jism into a cup, that's why. What
if I can't do it?

JUSTINE

You can do it.

PHIL

You know, If you said you'd help me
I'd feel alot less nervous. It's gonna
be on your lunch hour anyway.

JUSTINE

Okay.

PHIL

You didn't even say nothing about the
TV bein' fixed.

JUSTINE

Oh. Is it? Thanks.

PHIL

You're welcome.

JACK

Well aren't you a fright? Justine, you talked to Holden lately? He didn't show up for work today, I wanna know what gives. I know you two are friends.

JUSTINE

We're not friends.

JACK

You eat lunch together every day.

JUSTINE

No, we don't.

JACK

Well, if you see him, tell him Jack Fields is lookin' for him.

Holden

(Justine gets in the car and is shocked when she sees in the car, more depressed than ever.)

JUSTINE

Oh my god. What are you doin'?

HOLDEN

You're a hooker, you hooker.

JUSTINE

I saw you. You followed me.

HOLDEN

So, how many guys you gettin' with?
You gettin' with every guy in the state?

JUSTINE

No, Holden, this is all because of you. He had me over a barrel. If I didn't sleep with him he was gonna tell Phil about us!

HOLDEN

I'm so alone!

JUSTINE

You've gotta get a hold of yourself! Are you drunk?

HOLDEN

Yes, I'm drunk! And I'll be drunk every day until the day I die! What do you care?! You jump on any pecker that's put in front of you!

JUSTINE

It's not what you think.

HOLDEN

I saw everything. Oh god. Oh god.

JUSTINE

Look, go home. Sober up. And meet me after work.

HOLDEN

Where you goin'?

JUSTINE

I gotta help Phil with his sperm.

HOLDEN

What?

JUSTINE

Just go. Go!

HOLDEN

I can't share you, Justine! Maybe with one man but not with a whole bunch of 'em!

JUSTINE

Great.

NURSE

Mr. Last? Would you come with me?

PHIL

Wish me luck.

JUSTINE

Good luck, honey.

BUBBA

Knock 'em dead, partner. (Justine and Bubba watch Phil walk into one of the rooms) You look nice.

JUSTINE

No, I don't.

BUBBA

I know you're angry and I can figure why. But, from where I stand, what happened yesterday was a wonderful thing.

JUSTINE

Nothin' happened yesterday, so drop it.

BUBBA

Well, I'm awful grateful to ya, Justine.

JUSTINE

Bubba, I mean it.

BUBBA

Let me just ask you one thing. How do I stack up against Phil? You know, how do I stack up where it counts?

NURSE

Ma'am? Your husband asked me to request for your presence.

(Justine knocks on the door.)

PHIL

Who's there?

JUSTINE

It's Justine. (gets into the room)

PHIL

C'mon. I can't do this on my own. I need help.

JUSTINE

You've never done it on your own?

PHIL

Not in a place like this! Not where
I have to hand over the results! Just,
let me hold your boob.

(holds her boob; Justine's face is full of pain)

JUSTINE

Ah, they're sore. (Justine looks fed
up with everything)

CHERYL

What's wrong with you? You look like
death.

JUSTINE

My stomach's crampin'. I feel sore.

CHERYL

Is it your period?

JUSTINE

Nah, it's stress.

CHERYL

This job is stressful. I'm breaking
out.

JUSTINE

You're breakin' out 'cause you put so
much makeup on your face.

CHERYL

Maybe you're pregnant.

JUSTINE

What?... No... (thinks about it)

HOLDEN

You know, sometimes, I think to myself, at least it can't get any worse. But it can. I can worse. As long as you can say you've hit rock bottom you can.

JUSTINE

Oh my god, Blackberries.

HOLDEN

A blind man can go deaf. A widow can lose her children. Babies starve and they never get food. They never get any food. They just come into the world and they die.

JUSTINE

Calm down, Holden!

HOLDEN

I can't calm down! I'd be easy if I was a hooker like you. I could calm down all over town.

JUSTINE

Hey, hey! I am not a hooker.

HOLDEN

I know you're not. I'm in agony.

JUSTINE

Why?

HOLDEN

What do you mean 'why'? I thought you hated your life.

JUSTINE

I do. I mean I'm depressed but... You are really depressed.

HOLDEN

I'll kill him. I'll murder him in his sleep. I'll kill my parents, I'll steal the money whatever it takes. You just, just whatever you want as long as it's you and me. Please don't forsake me Justine.

JUSTINE

Oh... I, I promise. (car is parked somewhere; Justine and Holden are sitting on the car, Holden's smoking)

JUSTINE

I realized then that Holden was at best a child, and at worst a demon. If I was ever gonna go straight I'd have to ditch him. Sometimes, to get back on the road to redemption, you have to make a few pit stops.

(Justine goes up to the "Blackberry Man")

JUSTINE

How much are the blackberries?

BLACKBERRY MAN

A tin for two dollars, miss. (gives her the blackberries) There you go.

JUSTINE

Thank you.

(Holden and Justine are in the car again, Justine's driving)

JUSTINE

Have a blackberry.

HOLDEN

We need a plan. We can't keep livin' day to day. We gotta chart a course and we just gotaa stick....

JUSTINE

Have a blackberry, Holden!

HOLDEN

But, they're dirty. (hesitating, he eats a blackberry and then smiles) They're sweet. If I could only get my hands on some money, someone could just tell me the answer. I gotta do. But If I ever do, I end up thinking about it instead. I gotta do. But do what? (Justine pushes the blackberry he's about to eat away from his mouth) What...? What was that for?

JUSTINE

They looked dirty. I, I think I saw a bug in them or something.

(Jack talking to Holden about something)

(Justine's talking to Holden's parents.)

JUSTINE

I'm worried about Holden. Tom. I'm worried about Tom. I just befriended Tom, recently, and now, well, I think he's mentally ill. He has this idea in his head that we've had some sort of affair. Which is crazy because I'm, I'm married. He's been sayin' all sorts of strange things, and makin' threats. And drinkin'. And, and I just think he would be better off in a place where people, professionals, could take care of him. Otherwise, he's just gonna get himself in trouble.

PHIL

What are you doin' in here? What's that?

JUSTINE

It's a home pregnancy test.

PHIL

Why you takin' it?

JUSTINE

'Cause I still haven't gotten my period.

PHIL

What's it say?

JUSTINE

Well, I haven't taken it yet. Could you give me a minute please?

PHIL

I wanna be here when you find out.

JUSTINE

Okay.

PHIL

The little plastic doohickey's turnin' blue. What's that mean?

JUSTINE

Blue?

PHIL

Bright blue.

JUSTINE

It means I'm pregnant.

PHIL

ALRIGHT!

PHIL

I knew it. Waste of time going to that sperm doctor. We did it. We're gonna

have ourselves a baby.

JUSTINE

Maybe.

PHIL

And tomorrow, we're gonna celebrate at Senor Tuna. Yes we are. I'm gonna bring Bubba. You can bring some of your friends from work. Or Bible study guy. Whoever. Too bad Gwen's dead.

JUSTINE

The test could be wrong, Phil. It's a little early to be havin' a party.

PHIL

Let's do it mellow then. You sure don't seem too excited.

JUSTINE

No, I'm excited. It's just, a lot of worries come with havin' a baby...

PHIL

Don't think negative. Think positive. We could have ourselves a tiny Phil. Or a tiny Teeny. Teeny's gonna have a tiny weeny Teeny.

JUSTINE

Do you think anything's gonna change havin' a baby?

PHIL

What do you mean? Everything's gonna change.

JUSTINE

Yeah, but I mean, do you think anything's really gonna change?

PHIL

What do ya mean?

when the (Holden and his parents sit on the couch and watch TV
phone rings. Holden gets it.)

HOLDEN

(picks up the phone) Hello?

WOMAN

Hi, this is Dr. Williams returning the
call of Jean Worther. I'm calling from
the Holland County psychiatric hospital.
(Holden hangs up)

MOTHER

Who was it, Tom?

HOLDEN

It was a wrong number.

face. He (Holden goes into his room with a crazy smile on his
stops starts to laugh. When he hears the phone ring again, he
something.) smiling and starts to look like he's thinking of

JACK

Either of you seen Holden? Boy is out on his ass!

CHERYL

Justine, somethin's goin' on. Something is definately happening.

JUSTINE

Go find out.

CHERYL

It's big. It's very big.

JUSTINE

C'mon Cheryl, I'm gonna kill you.

CHERYL

Someone stole fifteen thousand dollars from the safe. They blew the thing open with a gun.

JUSTINE

Oh my god.

CHERYL

Not only that but the cops know who did it.

JUSTINE

Who?

CHERYL

Somebody who works here.

JUSTINE

Cheryl!

CHERYL

Holden, Holden did it. Fool left his
cashier key in the door.

JUSTINE

Oh my god.

CHERYL

They can't find him though. They say
he robbed his folks too. You in on it?

JUSTINE

What?! No!

CHERYL

I know you two played hookie in the
store room. I never rat on ya, I've
done some things myself. But, still.
You in on it?

JUSTINE

I don't know what you're talkin' about.

CHERYL

Suit yourself.

CORNY

Justine. Can we talk to you for a second?

JACK

Hi, Justine. Go ahead and have a seat.

CORNY

Justine, you like workin' at the Retail Rodeo don't you? Like the company, like the people? You wouldn't want to jeopardize that by makin' some silly error in judgement would ya?

JACK

Holden stole fifteen thousand dollars from the safe last night. Did you have anything to do with it?

JUSTINE

No. I don't know anything.

CORNY

'Cause we know you're pretty tight with Holden.

JUSTINE

I hardly know him.

CORNY

I've seen you in the store room with him Justine. On many the occasion. I think you know him pretty well.

JUSTINE

I don't know anything.

HOLDEN

Justine! Justine!

HOLDEN

I did it! I finally did somethin'!

JUSTINE

Holden, the police are lookin' for you!

HOLDEN

Oh, who cares? I'm proud of myself.
Fuck them, Fuck all of them!

JUSTINE

Hey! They think that I'm in on it, too!
Corny's got a camera in that storage
room. That Bible thumpin' pervert's
been watchin' us the whole time.

HOLDEN

Well, we're outta here! Justine, I got
over twenty thousand dollars! I got
a gun, what else?!

JUSTINE

I'm gettin' all goosey. I think I'm
gonna crash. (takes a right turn and
stops the car) I'm pregnant, Holden.

HOLDEN

It's my baby.

JUSTINE

Not necessarily.

HOLDEN

Yes, it is. You know it is.

JUSTINE

Even if it is, you cannot raise a baby
on the run.

HOLDEN

Yes, you can. I mean, you can't raise a baby here. You know that. Justine. You hate your husband. You hate your job. You love me, so let's go.

JUSTINE

I can't go tonight. I gotta pack my things and I'd have to get more money.

HOLDEN

Well, then tomorrow. I'll go to the motel and wait for you. Just be there by noon.

JUSTINE

This is all going too fast.

HOLDEN

Justine, what have you got to lose?

JUSTINE

Nothin'.

HOLDEN

So be there by noon.

JUSTINE

Okay.

HOLDEN

I love you, Justine. This is all gonna work out. I know it. I almost forgot. This is a story of your life. You inspired me. (they kiss and Holden gets out of the car)

PHIL

Hey Teeny!

JUSTINE

Hey.

PHIL

We were gettin' worried about ya!

JUSTINE

Sorry.

BUBBA

Justine, this is Liberta. Liberta, this is Justine.

JUSTINE

Hi.

LIBERTA

Hi.

BUBBA

Congratulations, on your expectation.

JUSTINE

Thanks.

LIBERTA

Do you think it's a girl or a boy?

PHIL

Doesn't matter. As long as it plays quarterback for the Cowboys.

BUBBA

Well, I hear Senor Tuna callin'. (phone rings)

PHIL

(picks up the phone) Hello. Yeah. Well, that's not right. What's that supposed to mean? Hey look. No. You don't know shit okay. Justine's pregnant. You got that? Well, look you better check your records again, pal, then call me! (hangs up) Some doctor says my sperm's no good. Does that mean Justine's not pregnant?

BUBBA

No. That just means they got it wrong, is all. They don't know everything.

JUSTINE

They just got it wrong, so...

(Justine and Phil are in bed together.)

PHIL

Looks like that wind's pickin' up again.

hurry. She
of the

(Justine is packing her things, she seems to be in a
drives down the street with her car and stops because
red lights.)

JUSTINE

How it all came down to this, only the

devil knows. Retail Rodeo was at the corner on my left, the motel was down the road to my right. I closed my eyes and tried to peer into the future. On my left I saw days upon days of lipstick and ticking clocks. Dirty looks and quiet whisperings. and burning secrets that won't ever die away. And on my right, what could I picture? The blue sky, the desert earth stretching out into the eerie infinity. A beautiful, never ending nothing.

CHERYL

Hey Justine.

JUSTINE

I know where you can find him.

JACK

Holden?

JUSTINE

He's at the Hotel Glen Capri, and he'll be there till noon.

JACK

You done good. You're a good girl.

PHIL

Hey.

JUSTINE

Hey.

PHIL

What's going on in the bedroom? Looks

like a twister hit it.

JUSTINE

Oh yeah. I was doin' laundry.

PHIL

I thought we were robbed. Why aren't you at work?

JUSTINE

They gave me the day off.

(TV reporter talking about Holden killing himself at the hotel)

PHIL

Retail Rodeo? You know that guy?

JUSTINE

No.

JACK

Attention Retail Rodeo employees this is JAck Fields, your store manager. As most of you all know by now, We lost another employee yesterday. Holden was a thief and a disturbed young man, and what happened was a sad thing. Perhaps we can learn a lesson from this tragedy, like don't steal and don't be disturbed. The important is to move on. Like dozens of those who quit. This one's for you Holden.

CHERYL

I thought we were gonna get a day off and go to the movies....

JUSTINE

What?

BUBBA

I was just at your house and the mail came. Phil was opening letters, and he opened this bill from the credit card company. And F&\$%. Please don't tell him about us, Justine. Please. Please. I love Phil. I love him more than myself. Please have mercy on me.

JUSTINE

Hey Phil.

PHIL

Have you been sleepin' around behind my back?

JUSTINE

What?

PHIL

I said, have you been sleepin' around behind my back?

JUSTINE

Yes. (he slaps her)

PHIL

Why? Why?

JUSTINE

I don't know why.

PHIL

Don't you love me? Don't you love me at all?

JUSTINE

You're the only man alive that I love.

PHIL

Oh god. Please don't tell me it's not my baby.

JUSTINE

It's your baby.

PHIL

Are you sure?

JUSTINE

It is. I swear. I swear to God.

PHIL

Who is he?

JUSTINE

It doesn't matter.

PHIL

Yes, it does. Was it some guy from work?

JUSTINE

Yes.

PHIL

Yeah, I know who it was. It was that

Bible guy, wasn't it? The Nazarine.
That's why you were actin' so spooked.

JUSTINE

Yeah, yeah.

PHIL

I'm gonna beat his ass.

JUSTINE

Don't.

PHIL

You're gettin' all swollen. I'm sorry
I hit you, baby.

JUSTINE

I'm sorry, Phil.

PHIL

I need to get stoned.

JUSTINE

Okay. Get stoned.

PHIL

I just gotta escape, you know. You ever
feel like that? Like you gotta escape?

JUSTINE

What are those?

CHERYL

Fake eyelashes. Extra long.

JUSTINE

Just do it normal for once?

CHERYL

You want me to make the other cheek purple to even it out?

JUSTINE

No.

CHERYL

D'you hear about Corny? He was goin' home after Bible study last night and two beefy guys with painted faces pulled up in a truck and jumped him.

JUSTINE

That's terrible.

sitting
just
(shot of Justine in the bathroom of Retail Rodeo. She's on one of the toilets, she's wearing fake eyelashes and looks trashy.)

JUSTINE

That day I read the story Holden wrote for me. It was kinda different from the other one, but kinda the same. It was about a woman who was put upon. Whose job was a prison, and whose life had lost all meaning. Other people don't get her, especially her husband. One day she meets a boy who is also put upon, and they fall in love. After spending their whole lives not getting got, with one look they get eachother completely. In the end, the boy and the girl run away together in the wilderness, never to be heard from again.