

THANKS TAKING

THE CAST

THOMAS WARREN ----- LATE THIRTIES
HENRY WARREN ----- MID THIRTIES
MARIAN WARREN ----- FOURTYISH
MOTHER ----- EARLY SIXTIES
CANDY WARREN ----- THIRTY

**Large living room. Present are Mother, her grown children,
Thomas, Henry, Marian and Candy**

THOMAS

Every year, the same thing. Is there any scotch left Henry?
Henry, go and see if there is any scotch.

HENRY

I'll check.

Henry exits.

MARIAN

Why do you always treat him like an errand boy?

CANDY

Cut the crap, Marian. Everyone treats him like an errand boy.

MARIAN

It's not right.

MOTHER

Don't say crap Candy.

CANDY

Better than shit, isn't it? You always take offense if someone
says shit, so I say crap instead.

MARIAN

What a roiling sense of humor, Candy.

THOMAS

Quite the comedienne. Where the hell is Henry?

CANDY

Maybe he found the scotch.

MARIAN

That was funny.

MOTHER

Not to me. What you people think is funny these days baffles
me. Yet I put up with it year after year.

THOMAS

Yes mother.

CANDY

Yes, you are the long suffering Mother.

MARIAN

It is only once a year, dear.

MOTHER

Don't dear me. You all come here just once a year.

THOMAS

It's Thanksgiving. We come for the sharing, mother dear.

MOTHER

There's that word again. And you come here for the taking not the sharing. I think of it as Thankstaking. What do you share, any of you?

A long pause they all look around the room at each other as Henry enters.

HENRY

Found the scotch ---

They all turn and look at Henry. Who checks himself for stains or open fly.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I didn't say anything? Something I did?

Laughter, all around.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Really, I didn't say anything.

CANDY

Mother did. Have you shared anything Henry?

HENRY

About to share the scotch. What did mother say?

MOTHER

You people don't know how to share. None of you.

CANDY

Henry is sharing the scotch.

MOTHER

It's not his. He is using and giving away what he does not yet have a right to. How is that sharing?

HENRY

It's ours, isn't it? Don't we all share? That's why we come here every Thanksgiving.

CANDY

You tell it like it is Henry.

MARIAN

Oh! Shut up Candy.

THOMAS

Marian, who died and made you boss?

MOTHER

I'm boss. I am also your mother. Maybe you have forgotten both of those facts. My husband died and left behind a ridiculous will which I must execute. Execute! I rather like the word. Execute, has a certain ring to it, don't you think?

THOMAS

Maudlin, the way you phrase it.

CANDY

Shut up Tommy boy.

MARIAN

What are you getting at mother?

HENRY

I think she is about to execute, aren't you mother?

CANDY

This could be interesting, more so than other Thanksgivings.

MOTHER

Thankstaking! Based on your behavior thru the years.

CANDY

How or what is being executed, mother dear.

MOTHER

A way of life is being terminated. Or, executed if you like. Mother has been on a journey in the months since we last gathered here.

THOMAS

A journey? Wonderful! Where did you go?

MARIAN

How much?

HENRY

How much what?

CANDY

Money, you idiot. Marian always thinks about money, don't you?

MOTHER

I'm afraid it's all she thinks about. Isn't that right dear?

MARIAN

That's not fair.

THOMAS

Fair or not, it's true.

MARIAN

I don't have to listen ---

MOTHER

I am afraid you do. Where I have been and how much it cost is none of your business. Any of you. It is my money.

CANDY

Aint that the truth.

HENRY

Are we being cut out or something?

MARIAN

Don't be ridiculous, Henry. Any one want a drink?

MOTHER

Is no one interested in Mother's journey? Other than Marian's obsession with cost.

THOMAS

I am.

CANDY

Tell us.

THOMAS

What journey have you been on Mother?

MOTHER

Spiritual, I have been on a spiritual journey ---

MARIAN

CANDY

Oh! No!

Oh, boy!

HENRY

A what? You were away?

CANDY

She didn't go anywhere. Did you mother?

THOMAS

Where did this spiritual journey take you?

MOTHER

To a new plane. You see, a journey of the mind and spirit takes place within ones self.

THOMAS

Oh, my god.

CANDY

So you didn't actually go on a trip or anything like that?

MOTHER

It wasn't necessary. Alex was my guide on this personal odyssey.

ALL

Odyssey. What? Who the hell is Alex. You didn't.

MARIAN

You didn't give this, this Alex any money? Did you?

MOTHER

I new I could rely on Marian to ask that question. That's all right dear, I know you can't help yourself. And I know what you are thinking Tom. Fear not, mother has not joined a cult. Henry, as usual you seemed befuddled. Not to worry. How my knew life has developed over this past year I will reveal later.

CANDY

Personally. I can't wait.

MOTHER

You are the one with that spirit of adventure.

CANDY

One question.

MOTHER

Yes dear?

CANDY

How old is he?

MARIAN

Candy?

HENRY

Who? How old is who?

THOMAS

Alex.

MOTHER

She. Alex is a woman.

MARIAN

Mother? How could you ---

CANDY

Oh stuff a sock in it Marian. Mother, how interesting.

THOMAS

Candy, Marian, your minds always go off on tangents. It's all right mother. Whatever you are involved in we will be here to help.

HENRY

I don't get it. Help what?

MOTHER

Poor Henry. There, there, dear. Before I go into the details of my future. This years thankstaking trinket, ---

They all turn to look at her,

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Don't look at me like that. Every year I get to see my devoted family on this day. They come here because they love their mother.

THOMAS

And we do.

MARIAN

Of course we do, that's why I always look forward to Thanksgiving. To visit with my mom.

CANDY

Cut the bullshit. We all come here for the same reason. The yearly hand out. Love you mom.

HENRY

Why are you so mean Candy.

MOTHER

All of you, listen. This is the last one. You won't have to force yourselves to come here to visit me any more.

Thanksgiving is being executed.

MARIAN

What are you saying? I love coming to visit, we all do. We grew up in this house, we love this place.

CANDY

And someday you hope to live here again, right? You can have this memory scar. I come once a year to see my mother get my yearly gift and can't wait to get the hell out of here.

THOMAS

Take it easy Candy.

CANDY

You take it easy, papa's pet. You had a great life here. Well I fucking didn't.

MOTHER

Candy!

CANDY

So are we going to wait till after dinner for this years treat.

HENRY

Candy?

THOMAS

You haven't been to the dining room have you?

CANDY

No.

MARIAN

Neither have I. Why do you ask?

MOTHER

Because if you had, you might have noticed that the table is not set for dinner.

HENRY

Why not?

CANDY

Maybe because there won't be dinner this year. Thank God. So what's the deal?

Thomas pours himself a drink.

THOMAS

Anybody else?

MOTHER

Sit down, all of you.

No one sits.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Very well, stand. Until now I have followed my late husbands wishes and doled out gifts to each of you at this time of year. Now I will explain the rest of his will.

MARIAN

There's more. I, we, were not expecting anything more. What is this supposed to mean?

MOTHER

Mean?

THOMAS

Yes, what does it mean? I thought the will was settled. You get everything, we get nothing and the Thanksgiving gifts are your way of making us join you once a year.

CANDY

I don't care but some of us, you three are waiting to see who inherits this place when Mother dies.

The other three are astonished.

MARIAN

I never said anything ---

HENRY

I know how much you wanted to go on living here.

THOMAS

Cut the crap both of you. I think Mother can leave this place to who ever she wants.

MOTHER

Thank you Thomas. But what you think doesn't matter. I don't want to leave this house to anyone. That said, the will states that I leave the remainder of the estate to be equally divided among his three children.

MARIAN

Three?

MOTHER

Don't interrupt, dear.

CANDY

Wait a minute. Three? There are four of us. Who are you leaving out? If its me fine I don't care but still ---

HENRY

There are four of us.

MOTHER

All will be explained, in due time. Now down to business.

Thomas aside to Candy.

THOMAS

If she leaves it to all of us we can sell it and split the money.

To Marian.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Or you can buy it from us.

MOTHER

That won't happen. You see the will asks me, when the time came, to have this place burnt to the ground with all his children in it. In the end you see he was not a very nice man, although he did like Thomas more than the others.

HENRY

Wait, wait a minute. This is stupid. How did he expect you to burn the house down with us in it?

CANDY

I think I will watch from outside. And why would you even think about burning it down.

MARIAN

Yes, Mother, I thought you loved this place.

MOTHER

Always hated it. That aside. The question was asked why would I think of burning it down, because after I do there will be a reward for doing so. The lawyers have explained it all.

CANDY

The insurance? And the other question, how are you supposed to go about burning it down with us in it?

MARIAN

Yes. Are you going to produce a gun and shoot us first?

MOTHER

Not to worry, you kids are in no danger. Of dying that is. Of course the lawyers also pointed out that a will cannot compel a person to commit a felony.

HENRY

What does that mean?

CANDY

It means after all that bullshit she's not going to do it.

MOTHER

Let me see now, how to explain this. In order to attain the fortune awaiting me on my world tour, I must burn down this place with all of Jake Warrens children inside, killing them in the process.

(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)

He really never liked any of you, including you Thomas. Oh, I know he doted on you, but that was only to make the others jealous.

MARIAN

This is ridiculous. You are going to burn this place down? Then what about us?

MOTHER

As I said, you kids have nothing to worry about.

CANDY

Good to know. Why?

HENRY

Yes, why do we who are about to die have nothing to worry about?

MOTHER

Because I am not going to do it. Primarily, because, Jake Williams had no children.

ALL

What?

Pandemonium.

CANDY

MARIAN

What the hell are you talking about? That can't be true.

MOTHER

Let me finish. All of you, be quiet and listen to me.

HENRY

What should we do?

THOMAS

What else can we do but be quiet and listen.

MOTHER

Thomas as usual the sensible one.

HENRY

I don't understand.

MOTHER

Let me tell you a story.

MARIAN

Story time? I don't think so ---

MOTHER

Once upon a time ---

CANDY

Cut the crap mother, what the hell is going on here?

MOTHER

Not much is going to go on until I tell my story, actually, your story.

THOMAS

Marrion's story?

MOTHER

Your story. All of you, this is your story.

CANDY

What about our father.

MOTHER

Fathers.

ALL

What?

More Pandemonium.

CANDY

She's lost her mind.

MARIAN

What is the matter with you mother.

HENRY

I'm confused.

THOMAS

I want to hear the story. All of you, shut up.

MOTHER

Thank you Thomas.

CANDY

Jesus, mother, what the hell ---

MOTHER

Language, language. Now then, the story begins when I discovered that Jake ---

HENRY

Our father ---

MOTHER

Don't be impetuous Henry. When I discovered that my husband, Jake, was sterile.

Everyone pauses waiting for what comes next.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

There I've said it.

MARIAN

Not possible.

CANDY

Ridiculous. He didn't know?

MOTHER

He did not know.

THOMAS

MARIAN

But you knew?

How?

MARIAN

How?

MOTHER

I see that I have your attention, now. Well, when we couldn't get pregnant I went to see a doctor. It wasn't me that had a problem, so it must have been Jake.

MARIAN

What did he say?

MOTHER

The Doctor? Not much, what could he have said?

MARRION

Not the doctor, father.

MOTHER

Jake never knew. He was the kind of man who would have been destroyed by such news. He was a 'Man's man'

CANDY

Didn't he get tested?

MOTHER

Unnecessary. It was the only explanation, which was born out by you four being born.

HENRY

But how?

CANDY

Henry, wake up!

MARIAN

Who?

MOTHER

I am coming to that.

MARIAN

I hate to sound morbid but this is suddenly intriguing. And after all, how does it affect the will?

HENRY

I'm confused. If father wasn't our father then who was our father?

MARIAN

Or is. May I ask, who our father is?

THOMAS

Obviously a sperm bank. Right mother?

MOTHER

Wrong Thomas. But thank you for your chivalry.

MARIAN

Do you mean to tell us that you, that you ---

MOTHER

Had affairs?

HENRY

Not true. Can't be true. Mother, how could you?

CANDY

Delicious.

Candy bursts into laughter.

MARIAN

Candy! Stop that. This isn't funny.

CANDY

It's not? (Still laughing.)

Marion takes a gentle swipe at Candy.

MARIAN

Candy, stop.

THOMAS

Let's all control ourselves.

HENRY

I'm still confused.

CANDY

You stay that way Henry, you're better off.

MOTHER

I want to address the situation.

MARIAN

Good.

MOTHER

You see, my thinking was that a sperm bank, as convenient as it might be would not allow me to choose the fathers of my children.

CANDY

Fathers?

Laughing.

CANDY (CONT'D)

You did say fathers.

THOMAS

Yes she did.

MOTHER

Yes I did.

MARIAN

What are you saying?

Candy is now laughing hysterically.

HENRY

What are you laughing at?

THOMAS

Mother?

HENRY

What is she laughing at?

CANDY

All those lectures about. Sanctity of marriage and honesty, I get it now. It was one big joke.

MARIAN

But, on who?

MOTHER

Whom! And, it was not a joke. You father, actually, my husband, wanted children. I would have preferred one but he insisted. So, I gave him you four.

MARIAN

You said, fathers, multiple fathers ---

Still laughing but controlled.

CANDY

Yes she did.

MOTHER

Before this turns into an inquisition. I think we are done here.

THOMAS

Hold on there 'Mother' I for one would like to know a bit more about this deception of yours.

MARIAN

As would I.

HENRY

Please.

CANDY

I think we all want to know more. I would be interested in learning something about my father.

THOMAS

How the hell did you manage to, to, ---

MOTHER

If you all insist. Where, to start?

CANDY

Cut the crap, mother. Start at the beginning.

MARIAN

That would be nice.

MOTHER

Well, when I was first faced with the problem of whether or not to tell my husband what I suspected was the cause of us not being able to have 'little ones' as he referred to them, I anticipated that he would not believe me. You see, I was never quite sure that he loved me. Oh, he married me of course, but I was more of a trophy wife. You may not believe this but I was quite a load of arm candy in those days.

HENRY

I believe you mother.

CANDY

How sweet.

MARIAN

Candy, please.

MOTHER

It occurred to me that Jake would either be broken by the fact that he was shooting blanks or would not believe it and divorce me, in either case. I couldn't afford either option.

THOMAS

A real dilemma.

CANDY

I guess so. What did you decide to do?

MOTHER

There was an alternative. You see one of Jake's business associates a very wealthy man had a habit of flirting with me. So I let him know that I might be open to something more, but with strings.

MARIAN

Mother!

More laughter from Candy.

CANDY

Holy, shit, let her finish.

MOTHER

Thank you. This is not easy for me so the fewer the interruptions the better.

THOMAS

One question? Why do you find it necessary to confess all this now?

MOTHER

It is not a confession. In my new way of thinking and after my spiritual journey, which I may go into later, it is a telling of the facts. I don't believe that I have done anything wrong. The timing, why now, will be made clear.

CANDY

I want to hear more about the rich guy. Was he handsome?

MOTHER

He was not bad looking, kind of sexy. Any way he said that he had been considering making me an offer for some time.

HENRY

What kind of offer?

CANDY

Why Henry? You surprise me.

THOMAS

Just listen, Henry.

MOTHER

At first I didn't know what to think. Then I got my nerve up and asked him what kind of offer. He didn't blink, he took me in his arms and whispered a sum of money if I would sleep with him.

CANDY

How much?

MOTHER

None of your business, but it was a considerable sum. I'll come back to that later. Thinking that I could kill two birds with one stone, I added something that I wanted, besides money.

HENRY

What was that?

CANDY

Shut up Henry.

MARIAN

Be quiet Henry.

MOTHER

I told him that I wanted a child. That the affair could go on only until I was pregnant.

THOMAS

What did he say?

MOTHER

It was all right with him, after all he wasn't expecting anything long term. He had lawyers draw up papers where I would promise not to claim his paternity. And we then made arrangements to see each other. I have to tell it was wonderful, he was a perfect gentleman and we had a good relationship until I got pregnant. He left and I never saw him again. He got what he wanted and I got what I wanted and Jake got what he wanted.

CANDY

Wow, quite an adventure.

MARIAN

Wow, that was my father? How rich was he?

MOTHER

Doesn't matter.

MARIAN

Then who am I? I have a right to know.

MOTHER

You are, who you are. One of the things my journey has taught me is that. We are all in the final analysis, who we are or make ourselves into. That is that.

CANDY

What happened next? Who is Tommy's father?

MOTHER

The mailman.

Lightning strikes Thomas.

THOMAS

My father was the mailman?

MOTHER

Yes he was.

Henry burst out laughing.

HENRY

That's funny. Your father was the mailman. Marian's father was rich and your father was the mailman. That's really funny, don't you think it's funny.

THOMAS

Shut up, Henry!

MOTHER

He was your father too Henry so stop laughing. He was a very nice man.

Henry stops laughing.

HENRY

What?

THOMAS

Was? You mean he's (pause) dead.

MOTHER

They all are.

CANDY

Even mine? Who was he by the way?

MOTHER

Well, that is another story. He may be alive. I have no idea.

CANDY

Marian's father was rich and good looking. Thomas and Henry's father was the mailman. What about mine.

MOTHER

This one may be a bit hard to tell. Let me take a breath.

THOMAS

Would you care for a drink?

MOTHER

I no longer partake. So, no thank you dear.

HENRY

I can't wait.

MOTHER

You won't have to Henry. Now, here it is. Jake and I had an argument. He intimated that he thought Thomas was not his son. The argument was heated, but I convinced him that he was wrong. I pretended to be angry and told him that I wanted to go away for a while and he agreed.

CANDY

He did? Where did you go?

MOTHER

I told him that I wanted to visit my sister. He apologized and I went to Las Vegas.

MARIAN

You never told us about Vegas.

MOTHER

No I didn't. In any event Jake and I made up and that was that. Except you know what they say 'What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.' You Candy are living proof that it isn't true.

CANDY

Who was he? A croupier? A famous performer?

MOTHER

Honey, I have absolutely no idea. The wildest two weeks of my life.

CANDY

Can you believe that? I happened in Vegas.

THOMAS

And you criticized my lifestyle.

MOTHER

One other thing. As I said before, I have been on a journey over the past months since last we met. The money Marian's father gave me has accrued a lot of profit over time. I will be able to live comfortably for quite some time.

(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Now the hard part my children. First the good news. I will be traveling and will no longer need to keep this house. The four of you get the house.

THOMAS

We get the house is the good news?

MARIAN

That's wonderful!

CANDY

And the bad news?

MOTHER

You don't actually own the place. Not until I die. You will however have to maintain the property in the meantime. You can live here if you like. One or all of you.

HENRY

We don't get to sell it to Marian, is that right?

MARIAN

I'm willing to discuss price.

MOTHER

Where will you get the money?

The four of them look at each other speechless.

HENRY

Inheritance?

MOTHER

Oh, that. That's the truly bad news. I have made my peace with the world. And what you mistakenly thought of as an inheritance is making it possible.

MARIAN

Mother?

MOTHER

Yes dear. And all you other dears. The gravy train wont be stopping here any more.

THOMAS

What did we do, or say?

MOTHER

There is an old saying you might be familiar with. "It's not you, it's me." In this case it is me. And so I am off to enjoy the rest of my life and maybe do some good in the world. I'm off, to save the whales.

THOMAS

Save the whales? What about us?

MARIAN

What about me?

CANDY

Mother! When I grow up I want to be like you.

MOTHER

As I see it, Thomas bankruptcy will help you out of those divorce settlements, and do yourself a favor.

THOMAS

What?

MOTHER

Don't get married again, you are not good at it. And your taste in women, I don't know what to say.

CANDY

That was cruel mother.

MOTHER

Candy.

CANDY

Yes, mother?

MOTHER

Take this card. (Offers her a business card.) Your real name is Candice as I recall. Dump the 'Candy' act and settle down. You are not a piece of candy, you are a grown woman. Act like it. You're a smart girl, you'll get by.

CANDY

I guess I will have to. Who's card is this?

MOTHER

(Ignoring Candy, turns her attention to Henry.)

Henry, my dear Henry the one with no sense of adventure but with enough common sense and a frugal nature. Keep your hands on your wallet as you have done and I know you will be fine.

HENRY

Yes mother.

MOTHER

Marian, your love of this house and your greater love of money will be in conflict I know. So my advice to you is, grow up. You all have the means within yourselves to do well.

(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Find your inner peace as I have and make the best of what this house has to offer you.

CANDY

Will you be okay mother? Will we see you again?

MOTHER

Candice!

CANDY

Yes mother.

MOTHER

Teach them, if you can.

CANDY

Who? Teach who, what?

MOTHER

Your sister and brothers. You are the only one who showed any concern for my well being. I don't know where you learned it. Although you were always a considerate child. I am off to save the whales. Maybe I'll be back. Possibly I won't. Don't burn the place down.

(She exits)

THOMAS

What the hell just happened?

HENRY

I guess Thanksgiving is over.

(Candy bursts out laughing.)

MARIAN

Forever? Candy? What is so damned funny?

CANDY

Candice. Call me Candice. I may have been conceived in Vegas but today is my rebirth. I am starting over. Take good care of the place.

MARIAN

Wait one minute Candy or Candice or whoever you are. We all have to contribute to the upkeep ---

HENRY

That's right. Isn't it Tommy?

CANDY

I am starting over. I have to catch mother before she goes.

(She exits.)

MARIAN

What the hell? Have they both gone off the rails?

THOMAS

I don't know.

HENRY

Anybody ready for a drink now.

MARIAN

I am.

END SCENE I

SCENE II

(The same, one year later. Empty room. Thomas enters, slightly disheveled with some papers in one hand and a drink in the other. He sits puts the drink down and begins to peruse the papers.)

THOMAS

Crap! This Thanksgiving may be worse than the last.
(Marian enters.)

MARIAN

Have you read it?

THOMAS

Not all of it. Don't rush me.

MARIAN

Thank you for coming?

THOMAS

It's Thanksgiving. What about Candy and Henry?

MARIAN

Henry phoned. He is not happy but said he will be here. Well, what do you think?

THOMAS

Let me finish.

MARIAN

Ok, ok. I'm making coffee. Want a cup.

THOMAS

Thank you no. I've got a drink.

MARIAN

The Chevis?

(Marian exits.)

THOMAS

Of course! This is terrible.

(He continues reading. Candy enters unseen, behind him. Puts her arms on the back of his chair.)

CANDY

Interesting reading?

THOMAS

What the hell. You! (He rises to face her.) How could you do this?

CANDY

Me? Easy now big brother. I only wrote this as a warning.

THOMAS

Warning?

CANDY

Yes, warning. Mother is upset. How could you not maintain this place. The three of you.

THOMAS

Mother? You spoke to her?

CANDY

Of course I spoke to her ---

(Marian enters interrupts Candy.)

MARIAN

Well look who the cat dragged in! What may I ask is this all about?

CANDY

Did you read the letter?

MARIAN

Yes. That's why I asked you what it's all about.

CANDY

Did you both read it?

MARIAN

THOMAS

I said yes.

You know I did.

CANDY (CONT'D)

And yet you don't know what it's about? I know you both went to college. I now know both of you have read the letter, yet you don't know what it's about. Astonishing.

MARIAN

What's astonishing is how you can take what mother gave us and you wanted no part of.

CANDY

You, read the letter? Both of you read the letter? Then let me explain. Mother has given me control of the property. Is that understood?

MARIAN

That is what I don't understand.

CANDY

You don't. Did you read what I wrote about, why?

THOMAS

That is all nonsense.

CANDY

The mortgage company and others had to track mother down and write to her about default and code violations.

MARIAN

That is no concern of ours. What concerns us is mother going back on her word to us. She gave this place to the four of us. You wanted out and now you are in control?

THOMAS

Of a bed and breakfast? What the hell is that.

CANDY

We haven't worked out all the details yet, of course ...

(Henry enter.)

HENRY

Sorry to be so late.

THOMAS

Not to late Henry. Candy ---

CANDY

Candice! Hello, Henry. Did you read the letter I sent you?

HENRY

That's why I'm here. Explain this, please.

CANDY

Short explanation. Mother wants me to oversee the conversion of this property to a retreat. A sort of bed and breakfast and place of mindful retreat.

THOMAS

A what?

HENRY

And why?

CANDY

One reason, nobody bothered to pay the mortgage.

HENRY

We didn't know about we thought ---

CANDY

Marian? How can it be? You who know so much about money didn't think about the mortgage or other management responsibilities.

(Mother enters unseen.)

THOMAS

Well, I guess we thought that mother had taken care of those things.

HENRY

I didn't know there was a mortgage.

CANDY

Mother said, this place would be ours if we maintained it. What did you think she meant?

THOMAS

Cutting the grass keeping the place clean, I guess.

MOTHER

You guessed wrong.

HENRY

Mother we didn't see you.

THOMAS

We weren't expecting you.

When did you---

MOTHER (CONT'D)

A moment ago.

MARIAN

What a wonderful surprise, mother.

(Marian moves to mother and attempts an embrace.

She is ignored.)

MOTHER

I don't have a lot of time. Candice, how is it going so far?

CANDY

To early to tell. I haven't finished or actually even started on the details.

THOMAS

What details? Mother what is going on here?

MOTHER

You all look well. A little pale, but well. Life sometimes presents opportunities to do some good in the world. And you my children have presented me with just such an opportunity. By failing to live up to expectations, three of you have placed the entire property in jeopardy. I have discussed this with Alex and have come to a logical conclusion.

MARIAN

Alex? Who the hell is Alex?

MOTHER

My friend and mentor.

THOMAS

Just who is this person?

CANDY

You wont like her.

MARIAN

You haven't joined some kind of cult, Have you? You are not giving my home to some --- what do they call themselves?

CANDY

They are our friends. Well mothers friends really. I only recently met them.

THOMAS

Hold on.

MOTHER

Hold on to what, dear. I have found a peaceful existence with the group. An existence I was not aware of ---

MARIAN

Oh my god, she's been brainwashed.

CANDY

She has not. But your mind could use a little dry cleaning if you ask me. Sorry mother.

MOTHER

That's alright dear. Why don't you all take seats. What I have to say won't take long.

HENRY

I don't get it.

CANDY

You might, Henry.

MOTHER

Candice!

CANDY

Sorry.

MOTHER

Firstly. I did not give you this house.

Mumbling and grumbling

MOTHER (CONT'D)

I did however promise it to you under conditions which you have not met ---

MARIAN

Mother.

MOTHER

Please do not interrupt. This place will pay for its self in the future as it will be operated by Candice at my discretion. It will be a place for meditation and self awareness and as such will function somewhat like a bed and breakfast, but to that end. People will board here and seek peaceful growth under the direction of Alex and Candice. You three are welcome to stay at the family rate if you like or you may participate in the operation of the place. Your choice. I hope that you will choose the later and experience personal growth as I have.

THOMAS

What are we supposed to do here.

CANDICE

All your questions will be answered, tomorrow.

MOTHER

Now before I take my leave I have this one thing to say children. Happy Thanksgiving.

CURTAIN.

Thanks Taking