

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

Pink Houses

A graduate project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

For the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting

by

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Abstract

Pink Houses

By

Tina Salmassi

Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting

Pink Houses is a drama set in the San Fernando Valley in the summer of 1985, when the serial killer the ‘Night Stalker’ terrorizes the Southland. Deidra, a 52-year old drugstore worker longs for the attention of her coworker, Mehrdad, the pharmacist. When she’s met with ridicule at work and reaches a breaking point in her relationship with her overbearing mother, Deidra descends into madness as she imagines a love affair with the notorious killer.

PINK HOUSES

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS - EARLY MORNING

Establishing. A shitty part of Los Angeles. Newspapers and fast food wrappers are trapped against a mesh trash bin. A liquor store is open, casting an unnatural light onto the grimy street against the predawn sky.

The SIREN of an ambulance blares far away.

MOVE IN ON: A pink stucco house. Plastic OWLS and WIND CHIMES adorn the neat lawn. Someone loves these tacky decorations. A weak, summer breeze gently moves some of the CHIMES. The early morning is otherwise still and quiet.

INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

A HAND glides over sheer curtains, synchronized with the sound of CHIMES.

A gaunt man, the NIGHT STALKER (25), pulls his hand away from the curtain. He stands over a WOMAN asleep in her bed.

A dim, night light casts a faint glow in the corner.

The Night Stalker reaches for a small JEWELRY BOX on the night stand and opens it. He empties its contents into his hand.

He takes a few items, drops the rest on the floor. He pockets the stolen jewelry.

He slides open the drawer to the night stand. The Woman stirs in her sleep. He doesn't care.

He retrieves a GUN from the night stand. Checks the barrel. CLICK, cocked and loaded.

He lowers the gun in the vicinity of the Woman's head. With his other hand, he strokes his crotch. He pulls the gun back and smashes it down on the Woman's head.

INT. DEIDRA'S ROOM - EARLY MORNING

An ALARM goes off. The digital display reads 4:00 AM, an ungodly hour to be awake.

DEIDRA STOFFER (52), is wide awake in bed wearing a sensible nightgown and curlers in her hair. A sheer scarf protects her hair.

Deirda climbs out of bed, turns off the alarm and makes her bed with little sound and great efficiency. A standing FAN blows warm air from the corner of the room. It swivels left then right.

A TITLE CARD - 'Los Angeles - Summer 1985'

INT. DEIDRA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra turns on the shower and shuffles out of the bathroom.

INT. DEIDRA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Deidra prepares a tray of food - a handmade, MACRAME' DOILY, a GLASS of water, a pile of dry CREAM OF WHEAT in a bowl.

She fills an ELECTRIC KETTLE with tap water, plugs it in.

She pulls a LEAN CUISINE meal, Chicken Cacciatore, from the freezer and places it into a large microwave.

INT. DEIDRA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra checks the water temperature in the shower. Still too cold to get in.

RUTH (O.S.)
(impatient)
Deidra!

Deidra's mother, RUTH STOFFER (78), emaciated, translucent skin with platinum thinning hair, calls from another room.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Ruth struggles with her portable toilet. Her old lady panties are limp around her frail ankles as she tries to sit down to shit. There's no dignity in this display, especially for the former Miss Galveston County, 1930.

DEIDRA
(rushing in)
Mother, hang on. Let me help.

RUTH
My stomach's unsettled.

Deidra helps Ruth sit and adjusts her mother's nightgown.

DEIDRA

There we go.

INT. DEIDRA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Deidra grabs the kettle and pours hot water over the Cream of Wheat. Stirs and blows at the hot, bullshit porridge.

RUTH (O.S.)

Deidra!

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra sets the tray of food next to Ruth's bed then helps her pull up her panties.

Without looking over, Deidra closes the lid to the toilet with her free hand.

DEIDRA

You have a nice Chicken Cacciatore for lunch.

RUTH

I don't want chicken.

Deidra moves quickly to empty the glorified bedpan and disappears into the adjoining bathroom.

The sound of a TOILET FLUSHING. Deidra emerges from the bathroom and replaces the tray.

Instinctively, Deidra grabs an AIR FRESHENER and sprays the room. She then pulls the food tray closer to Ruth as she turns on the TV at the foot of the bed.

DEIDRA

(smiles)

Need anything else?

RUTH

No.

Deidra hands Ruth the large REMOTE CONTROL and fluffs the covers.

INT. DEIDRA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra HUMS as she checks the water temperature again. Steam wafts from the shower. She undresses quietly, curlers still in her hair, and walks into the shower.

RUTH (V.O.)

Deidra!

DEIDRA

Oh, for crying out loud.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra hurries into the room, frazzled. The towel slips from her body slightly.

RUTH

Why are you naked?

DEIDRA

(annoyed)

I was in the shower. What is it?

RUTH

The remote fell.

Deidra recovers the remote from the ground.

DEIDRA

Here. Try not to drop it. I have to go to work. I can't be here every time you drop the remote.

RUTH

Don't get sassy with me.

DEIDRA

(frustrated)

I'm going to be late. I'm opening.

(walking out)

And I don't have time to shower now.

RUTH

Well, just wash behind your ears.

DEIDRA

(under her breath)

No. I will not wash behind my ears.

INT. DEIDRA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra checks her hair in the vanity mirror by her bed. She stands in a camisole from another era.

Her freshly pressed uniform for THRIFTY DRUGSTORE hangs on the closet door. The gleaming name tag reads 'DEIDRA.'

She pulls the uniform off the hanger and carefully puts it on. Meticulously, she does her buttons, even the top one.

She runs her fingers through a well-organized array of MARY KAY LIPSTICKS. She stops on one and pulls it out.

DEIDRA
Pink coral for Wednesday.

RUTH (O.S.)
Deidra!

Deidra ignores her, finishes up her make up.

RUTH (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Deidra!

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks back into her mother's room as Ruth futzes with the TV remote.

RUTH
I want to watch Dallas and I said I don't want chicken.

Deidra flips the channel and picks up the Chicken Cacciatore.

DEIDRA
Dallas is on Friday nights. Here, it's Charlie Rose.

The TV stops on early morning CBS News.

RUTH
What's that on your face?

DEIDRA
Make-up.

RUTH

I don't like it.

DEIDRA

This lipstick is called *Coral Confession*. It's very modern.

RUTH

Well here's my confession, you look like a clown.

Deidra drops the tray of chicken back in front of Ruth.

DEIDRA

No, Mother. Clowns have white face paint and red noses.

(turning to leave)

I'm going to be late.

EXT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - MORNING

Establishing. A concrete parking lot landscape with a large SIGN for THRIFTY.

RICKY JOHNSON (18), stands in front of the Thrifty Drugstore. He taps out a song on his outer thigh as he listens to his WALKMAN. He thrashes his head around. His long hair goes with it.

Deidra pulls up in her faded, PINK.MARY KAY CADILLAC. She steps out of the car, keys in hand.

DEIDRA

Good morning, Ricky.

Ricky gestures with his hand in response - death metal horns.

INT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - MORNING

Fluorescent lights turn on in succession throughout the store, reflecting off the waxed floors.

Another worker, COLLEEN CHUNG (20), mousy with coke-bottle glasses, scurries in.

Deidra turns on the MUZAK - BLONDIE'S HEART OF GLASS.

Ricky cranks the volume on his WALKMAN then continues to sweep the floors, his head someplace else altogether.

Colleen walks into the cosmetics aisle, checks her hair in the mirror, grabs a can of AQUA-NET off the shelf and sprays.

DEIDRA
(under her breath)
Well.

Deidra restocks magazines and newspapers. She looks at the headline. It's an artist's sketch of a wanted man.

INSERT: Headline reads 'THE NIGHT STALKER'

MEHRDAD GHAZRI (50), bald with protruding back and chest hair under his white, pharmacist's coat, strides into the store.

Deidra looks up from the newspaper. She quickly straightens up, the electric shock of attraction running through her.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)
Good morning, Mehrdad. How are you?

MEHRDAD
Fine, thank you. And you?

DEIDRA
I'm fine. Just fine.

Mehrdad walks toward the pharmacy in the back of the store. Deidra watches him longingly.

She walks through the cosmetics aisle and quickly checks her coral lipstick in a plastic mirror. She smacks her lips.

JEROME DIGGS (47), stale suit and tie carrying a worn briefcase comes up behind her. He's the customer who shows up when they open and never leaves.

JEROME
How are you, Sister Deidra?

DEIDRA
Oh, Jerome. You startled me.

JEROME
I'm terribly sorry, Sister. I don't mean any harm.

Deidra smiles then walks toward Mehrdad's PHARMACY counter.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Salt and sugar, they look the same.

DEIDRA

(pausing to turn back)

What?

JEROME

Salt and sugar, they look the same. But taste very different.

DEIDRA

Yes they do. Excuse me, Jerome.

Deidra continues toward Mehrdad, pauses for a perfume tester.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

(under her breath)

Jasmine mist.

She sprays the perfume into the ether. Takes a sniff. Not bad. She sprays herself.

PHARMACY

Mehrdad thumbs through stacks of prescriptions.

Deidra approaches then stops to stare at him. She smiles, waiting to be noticed. Mehrdad looks up and smiles.

MEHRDAD

Yes?

DEIDRA

Oh.

(she stumbles)

Have you seen this?

She holds up the newspaper to show Mehrdad the headline.

MEHRDAD

(nodding)

Still on the loose. It's terrible, a terrible thing.

DEIDRA

Yes.

MEHRDAD

I hope you're taking precautions, Deidra.

DEIDRA

Precautions?

Mehrdad speaks without looking up from his work.

MEHRDAD

Yes, what are you, 55 years old? Single woman.
Living alone in the Valley?

DEIDRA

I'm 52.

MEHRDAD

What's that smell?

DEIDRA

I actually live with my Mother.

MEHRDAD

I smell jasmine.

Deidra blushes.

MEHRDAD (CONT'D)

(in reverie)

Back in Iran my mother grew jasmine on her
balcony.

DEIDRA

Oh. That's lovely.

MEHRDAD

(snapping back to reality)

Well, I just think, you are a, you know, relatively
attractive woman. You should take precautions.

DEIDRA

(checking her hair)

You think I'm attractive?

Just then, LINDA STELLANO (24), AQUA-NET bangs in the stratosphere, appears,
POPPING her bubble gum.

LINDA

Hiya, Mehr-dad.

Mehrdad comes to life, he leans in across the pharmacy counter toward Linda. Work can wait.

MEHRDAD

Hello, Linda. How are you this morning?

LINDA

I'm like, totally hung over.

Linda GIGGLES as Deidra's smile collapses.

MEHRDAD

(flirtatious)

Oh, out drinking last night?

LINDA

I dunno, maybe.

MEHRDAD

Dancing?

LINDA

Like, you perv. Wouldn't you like to know.

MEHRDAD

You look like a good dancer.

DEIDRA

(interjecting)

I love to dance. I used to take tap classes at Pierce Community College on Tuesdays. But the schedule changed to Wednesdays and Mother plays bridge on Wednesdays.

Linda's bubble gum bubble POPS.

LINDA

(mocking)

Pierce Community College?

DEIDRA

That's right. It's on Victory Boulevard between...

LINDA
(interrupting)
I know where it is.

Linda struts off. Mehrdad stares after her.

DEIDRA
Do you like to dance, Mehrdad?

MEHRDAD
(uninterested)
Huh?
(pointing to Jerome)
I think you're needed.

Deidra looks toward the front of the store. Jerome waves at her next to the THRIFTY ICE CREAMS.

DEIDRA
Oh.

ICE CREAM COUNTER

DEIDRA (CONT'D)
You need something, Jerome?

JEROME
I would like some ice cream. Chocolate Malted
Crunch, double scoop please.

DEIDRA
Is this your breakfast?

JEROME
Life is uncertain, Sister. I like to eat my dessert first.

Deidra slips behind the counter to serve Jerome.

INT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - LATER

Deidra flips through the COSMOPOLITAN magazine at the front cashier. From the corner of her eye, she catches Linda dancing in the aisle. Ricky watches, foaming at the mouth.

Deidra turns to the Cosmo quiz.

DEIDRA
(under her breath)
How hot is your love?

She grabs a PEN and goes to work.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)
If your love was a flower, which would it be. 'A'
Rose. 'B' Tulip. 'C' Daisy. 'D' Orchid.
(contemplating)
If your love was a flower?

She holds up the bottle of JASMINE MIST and examines the picture of the flower on the bottle.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)
Kinda looks like a daisy.

She continues with the quiz.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)
If your love was a meal, which would it be. 'A' Filet
Mignon. 'B' Burger and Fries. 'C' Lasagna. 'D'
Caesar Salad.

Deidra looks up from her magazine toward Mehrdad, who stands and flirts with Linda.
Linda looks up and beckons Deidra.

LINDA
Deidra, come here a sec.

Deidra puts down the quiz and walks over.

LINDA (CONT'D)
So, like, Mehrdad here would, like, love to see you
tap dance.

Mehrdad looks uncomfortable, he most certainly does *not* want to see Deidra dance, but
Linda presses on.

LINDA (CONT'D)
So, let's see your moves, lady.

DEIDRA
Oh, I couldn't.

LINDA

Sure you could.

DEIDRA

No, really, I stopped tap dancing years ago.

LINDA

We don't mind. Do we, Mehrdad?

Mehrdad dodges the question, avoids eye contact.

DEIDRA

Really?

LINDA

(nudging Mehrdad)

You want to see her dance, right?

Linda traces her neon-pink LEE PRESS-ON NAILS along his jaw.

LINDA (CONT'D)

He totally wants to see you dance.

Deidra psychs herself up. She takes a deep breath.

DEIDRA

Okay.

Deidra closes her eyes and starts to tap dance. Her soft-soled shoes only SQUEAK on the waxed floor.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

(whisper singing)

*If you're blue, and you don't know where to go to,
why don't you go where fashion sits, puttin' on the
ritz.*

Linda pinches her nose, containing her laughter.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

*Dressed up like a million dollar trooper, trying hard
to look like Gary Cooper, super-duper.*

Deidra dances her little heart out and comes to the grand finale.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Puttin' on the ritz.

She stops and drops her arms to her sides as Linda bursts out laughing.

LINDA

Oh my God, Deidra. You are such a freakazoid. So, Mehrdad, was that hot? Are you, like, turned on?

MEHRDAD

I need to get back to the bench.

Mehrdad is not amused, he walks off.

DEIDRA

(looking to Mehrdad)

Oh, okay.

LINDA

He probably needs to go jerk off.

(mocking)

That was so hot!

Linda GIGGLES off, leaving Deidra dejected and alone.

Deidra slowly walks back to the register, her soft shoes SQUEAK. Jerome approaches.

JEROME

That was a wonderful song, Sister. You have a lovely singing voice.

DEIDRA

(fighting back tears)

Oh. Well. Not really...

JEROME

The only thing better than singing is more singing.

DEIDRA

Excuse me.

Deidra grabs the Cosmo Quiz and gets to work.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

(mumbling)

'A' Filet Mignon.

(more mumbling)

'C' Tahiti. 'A' Scarlet Red.

(more mumbling)

(MORE)

DEIDRA (CONT'D)
'C' Charlton Heston.
One, two, three, four - 'A's. So, what's that?

She scans the quiz and stops on her 'fortune.'

DEIDRA (CONT'D)
*"You're hot off the charts, look out, he could be
obsessed. Push him too far and he might just snap.
Stalker Alert!"*

She drops the quiz and looks up toward Mehrdad. He sits behind the pharmacy counter and stares off toward Linda.

Linda dances like an idiot. Sexy and self-aware.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)
Well. Sheesh.

Linda looks toward Mehrdad.

LINDA
Hey, Mehrdad. You want to go see "Kiss of the
Spider Woman" tonight?

Mehrdad flushes red.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Colleen and I are thinking about going. Heard it's,
like, red hot.

Linda dances seductively.

LINDA (CONT'D)
(to Deidra)
Maybe a little too hot for you, Deidra. Think you
can handle a sexy film like that?

Jerome addresses Deidra.

JEROME
Don't pay her any attention, Sister.

COLLEEN
(quiet like a mouse)
William Hurt is such a hunk.

LINDA

But I hear he's a faggot in that film. Deidra's into faggots. Aren't you, Deidra?

(shifting attention)

Hiya, Jerome!

Deidra face falls; Jerome turns and walks out of the store.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - EVENING

Deidra sits motionless in her car in front of her house. A pink, MACRAME OWL hangs from her rear view mirror. She snaps to reality, SIGHS and gets out of her car.

She grabs the mail from the mailbox and walks up toward her door.

From across the street, her neighbor, STEPHANIE DULLARD (11), pudgy in the middle with sun-kissed, curly hair, runs up to Deidra.

STEPHANIE

Ms. Deidra!

DEIDRA

Hi, Stephanie. How are you? Everything all right with Mother while I was gone?

STEPHANIE

She's fine, I checked on her twice. Both times she'd dropped the remote. Can I show you something?

Stephanie pushes play on a BOOMBOX. Madonna's 'LIKE A VIRGIN' blares out of the crappy speakers.

Stephanie gets ready to dance, but...

DEIDRA

(checking her watch)

Not right now, Stephanie.

RUTH (O.S.)

Deidra? Is that you?

DEIDRA

Maybe later?

Stephanie stops the tape.

STEPHANIE

Okay, later.

DEIDRA

Yes. I want to see it. All right?

Deidra turns and rushes toward her own house.

INT. DEIDRA'S HOME - EVENING

Deidra walks through the door.

DEIDRA

Mother, I'm home.

RUTH (O.S.)

Deidra, is that you?

DEIDRA

(under her breath)

Yes, it's me. Who else calls you 'Mother?'

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ruth is propped up against a pillow. Deidra marches in, goes straight for the portable toilet. She's on autopilot. She lowers the lid, pulls the tray and takes it to the adjacent bathroom.

RUTH

Deidra, I'm hungry.

The LEAN CUISINE meal is overturned on the carpet.

DEIDRA

Oh, Mother, what happened?

RUTH

I don't want chicken.

DEIDRA

But why throw it down? Now I have to scrub the carpet.

RUTH

I don't want chicken. I want pork.

Deidra scoops up the mess of a meal back into the its tray.

INT. DEIDRA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Deidra drops what's left of the LEAN CUISINE meal on the counter and SIGHS.

She opens the freezer and looks through all the possible meals. No pork. In frustration, she slams the freezer door closed.

DEIDRA

(under her breath)

Where am I supposed to find pork? You're just gonna shit it out. And I'll have to clean that up too.

She looks back at the hideous piece of chicken on the counter.

She grabs a paper towel, wipes the sauce off the chicken, and plops the unpalatable meat onto a fresh plate.

She takes down a CAN of mashed potatoes and opens it. Nothing could be more disgusting than a can of mashed potatoes. She drops the mush over the cold chicken. The mass retaining the shape of the can, complete with grooves.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks back into her mother's room.

DEIDRA

Here you go, pork.

She places the plate on Ruth's lap. Deidra cuts into the chicken and stabs it with the fork.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Here, try it, you're gonna love it.

Ruth takes a bite.

RUTH

It's cold.

DEIDRA

Do you want me to microwave it?

RUTH

No, it's fine.

Ruth chews. The 'pork' passes the test.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I just don't want any more chicken.

DEIDRA

All right. I'll get you the pork from now on.

(beat)

You okay with the TV?

RUTH

No, turn it off.

Deidra turns off the TV then adjusts the FAN toward Ruth.

DEIDRA

How's that?

RUTH

Awful. It's hot.

DEIDRA

That's what the fan is for.

RUTH

Well, it doesn't do much.

DEIDRA

Do you want me to turn it off?

RUTH

No.

Time crawls. The FAN swivels. Ruth eats slowly.

Deidra fans herself with a copy of READER'S DIGEST.

DEIDRA

I think I'm going to the theater.

RUTH

You just got home.

DEIDRA

I know, but...

RUTH

You don't want to spend time with your mother?
Fine. I'm not going to stop you.

DEIDRA

Mother, stop. It's hot. The theater has a swamp
cooler.

The FAN blows air across Ruth's face. Her brittle white hair flutters in the breeze.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Do you want to come? I could get the wheelchair
out.

RUTH

No.

Deidra stands up and picks up her purse and keys. The doorbell RINGS.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Who's that?

DEIDRA

I don't know, I'm in here with you.

INT. DEIDRA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Deidra opens the front door and Stephanie is standing there.

STEPHANIE

Can I show you now?

DEIDRA

Oh, Stephanie. I'm sorry, can it wait until
tomorrow? I was just heading out.

STEPHANIE

Where are you going?

DEIDRA

To the movie theater.

STEPHANIE

Now?

DEIDRA

Yes.

(toward Ruth)

I'm heading out, Mother.

RUTH (O.S.)

Who is it?

DEIDRA

It's Stephanie.

RUTH (O.S.)

What does she want?

DEIDRA

Nothing.

Deidra steps out of the house and closes the door behind her.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Deidra turns and walks down the walkway toward her car.

STEPHANIE

But, Ms. Deidra, there's a killer out on the streets.
You shouldn't go out.

DEIDRA

What? Who told you about that?

STEPHANIE

My mom. She said there's a madman out, killing
women. He buludgin, buludgeen, bludgeoned a
woman.

(whispering)

And raped her. And stole her jewelry.

DEIDRA

(shocked)

Stephanie! Did your mother tell you these things?

STEPHANIE

No. I read them in the paper. I know what rape
means.

DEIDRA

Stephanie!

STEPHANIE

And he attacks women, like you.

DEIDRA

What do you mean, like me?

STEPHANIE

I know you're 52. I remember your birthday cake from last April. And the woman he bludgeoned and raped was 52.

DEIDRA

Stephanie, I don't think you should read the paper anymore.

STEPHANIE

But it's not safe outside.

DEIDRA

I'll be fine. Goodbye.

STEPHANIE

But Ms. Deidra. My mom said he attacks pink houses.

DEIDRA

What?

STEPHANIE

Like yours.

DEIDRA

My house is coral.

STEPHANIE

It looks pink.

DEIDRA

And if that's true, then it's a good thing I'm leaving.

STEPHANIE

But what about your mom?

DEIDRA

Good night.

Deidra gets in her car and starts the engine.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The hanging MACRAME OWL stares blankly at Deidra. She puts the car in reverse and pulls out of the driveway. Her headlights sweep across Stephanie, like a curtain closing on a performance.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER BOX OFFICE - NIGHT

Deidra walks up to an acne-faced KID in a burgundy vest selling tickets from the box office.

KID

Can I help you?

DEIDRA

One for "Kiss of the Spider Woman" please.

The kid gives her the eye, up and down.

KID

You know what that's about, right?

DEIDRA

Yes.

KID

Three dollars, please.

Deidra pays.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

The theater is already dark and KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN flickers on the screen.

Deidra hugs a tub of popcorn and scoots down an aisle of seats. She sits and gets comfortable. The light from the film floods over her.

Deidra looks around, scanning the theater. On screen, Raul Julia converses with William Hurt, who is dressed in drag.

A woman GIGGLES in the corner of the theater. Deidra turns toward the laughter and notices it's Linda. Her focus shifts from the movie to Linda.

Deidra watches Linda. Mehrdad is next to her. He slips down onto the ground and disappears up Linda's skirt as she spreads her legs open for him.

Deidra wipes the sweat from her brow as the film flickers across her face. Deidra can't look away from the real show.

A man who looks like the Night Stalker sits a few seats down from Deidra, blocking her line of vision. He catches her eye, turns to see what has Deidra transfixed.

Linda fakes an orgasm.

The Night Stalker gets out of his seat and moves next to Deidra. Deidra swallows a handful of popcorn and continues to look toward Linda and Mehrdad.

NIGHT STALKER

You into that?

Deidra looks at the Night Stalker.

DEIDRA

Excuse me?

NIGHT STALKER

You like that?

A woman SHUSHES them.

NIGHT STALKER (CONT'D)

Shush yourself!

Deidra is taken aback.

NIGHT STALKER (CONT'D)

It's a free country. Cunt.

Deidra is frozen in place. She turns back to the screen: William Hurt gestures and moves like a woman.

NIGHT STALKER (CONT'D)

Would you fuck that man?

(continues)

You into faggots or real men?

DEIDRA

I don't know...

NIGHT STALKER

Come on? A sexy lady like you. Would you fuck a man like that? He wouldn't know what to do with your pussy.

Deidra is like a deer in headlights. The Night Stalker touches himself.

NIGHT STALKER (CONT'D)

I'd know how to fuck you right.

(touching her thigh)

You'd like that, wouldn't you?

Another patron SHUSHES him.

The Night Stalker stands up, enraged.

NIGHT STALKER (CONT'D)

Fuck off!

He shoves the popcorn out of the patron's hand and gets in her face.

NIGHT STALKER (CONT'D)

Boo! Fucking cunt!

He storms out of the theater. Deidra looks after him. Wow. What just happened?

Linda and Mehrdad look toward Deidra. She hides behind her popcorn.

A moment passes.

Deidra rises and leaves the theater.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - NIGHT

Deidra's car pulls into her driveway.

She sits in her car for a moment then finally stumbles out of her car and goes inside.

Across the street, Stephanie stands in her window looking out at Deidra. Relief. Deidra is home safe. Stephanie releases the curtains.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Deidra checks on Ruth. Hears only the HUM of the fan as it sweeps the room in its limited motion, moving warm air in a dank room. Deidra wipes sweat from her brow.

INT. DEIDRA'S ROOM - NIGHT.

Deidra's in bed wearing her same practical nightgown. She rests her head, curlers in place, back on her pillow.

Police SIRENS sweep the city. Finally, she whispers.

DEIDRA

I'd know how to fuck you right.

She slips her hand under her nightgown.

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS - NIGHT

The city settles into slumber to the song of POLICE SIRENS.

1. A neon sign for an adult theater is illuminated.
2. A newspaper, 'NIGHT STALKER' headline, clings to a gutter.
3. A bus drives along a lonely street. It's empty.
4. A homeless man pisses along a chain link fence.
5. A stray dog sprints up an abandoned alley.

INT. UNIDETIFIABLE KITCHEN - NIGHT

The Night Stalker opens the fridge, takes out a JAR OF OLIVES. He plops one in his mouth. Leaves the fridge door wide open, it's light floods a segment of the kitchen.

A white, Persian CAT approaches the refrigerator. It MEOWS and claws at the shelves of food.

The Night Stalker opens a kitchen drawer, then another. Finds the drawer full of KNIVES. He spits out the olive pit and grabs a knife.

He returns to the refrigerator. Takes a carton of MILK and pours it directly onto the linoleum floor. He exits the kitchen, leaving a trail of milk behind him.

The Cat laps up the milk with it's delicate tongue.

A woman SCREAMS in another part of the house. The Cat is startled. The SCREAMS are horrible. The Cat turns back to her milk.

INT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - DAY

Deidra mans the register. Jerome wanders over to her.

JEROME

How are you this fine day, Sister?

DEIDRA

I'm well, Jerome. How are you?

JEROME

Beautiful day. Glorious day. Don't let it get away.

Linda approaches.

LINDA

So, Deidra, are you, like, gonna do another dance for us?

DEIDRA

Shut it, Linda.

LINDA

What did you say to me?

DEIDRA

Shut it.

LINDA

Like, oh my God. Like, who do you think you are?

DEIDRA

I don't think I'm anyone. Now go away.

LINDA

You're gonna, like, regret talking to me like that.

(whispering to Deidra)

I saw you at the theater yesterday. Checking us out.

You are, like, so fucking pathetic.

Linda grabs the newspaper from next to the register.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Oh, look. Your boyfriend's in the paper again,
Deidra.

Linda drops the newspaper with the artist's sketch of the Night Stalker on Deidra's counter and walks off.

Deidra folds the newspaper and slips it into her pocket.

INT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - LATER

The day passes slowly.

Mehrdad fills prescription bottles with tiny pills. He counts, recounts.

Jerome walks the aisles, a double scoop of Chocolate Malted Crunch in his hand.

Deidra tries a new lipstick, WET 'N' WILD hot pink. She wipes it off with the back of her hand and tries another.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - EVENING

Deidra puts a LEAN CUISINE in front of Ruth. Same as yesterday with the canned mashed potatoes.

DEIDRA

Pork, your favorite.

RUTH

Thank you.

DEIDRA

I'm going to the movies.

RUTH

Again!

Deidra walks away.

DEIDRA

Yes.

INT. MOVIE THEATHER - NIGHT

Deidra settles into her seat. She eats popcorn and looks around for the man from the previous night. Nothing.

She scans the whole theater. Disappointment grows.

Suddenly, the Night Stalker stands up in front of the theater and walks to the center aisle.

He gets in Deidra's face almost like he's going to kiss her.

NIGHT STALKER

Boo!

He LAUGHS and walks out.

Deidra flushes red, raises her hand to her neck.

She stands up, drops her popcorn on the floor and goes after the man.

EXT. MOVIE THEATHER - NIGHT

Deidra runs out, scans the parking lot, notices the Night Stalker walking away, turning into a residential street.

She jumps into her car.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - NIGHT

Deidra puts the key in the ignition. The engine stalls.

DEIDRA

Come on!

Deidra peels out of the parking lot and after the Night Stalker.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

The Night Stalker disappears behind a bush into a house as Deidra pulls her car along the curb. She's only a few moments behind him.

She rolls to a stop. Kills the lights.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - NIGHT

Deidra strains to see what's happening behind the bush.

She leans forward to get a better look but leans a little too far and suddenly, her car HORN blares. She startles.

DEIDRA

Oh my God!

A dog starts BARKING, followed by another dog.

Deidra ducks down in the driver's seat.

The dogs will not stop barking.

Slowly, she emerges from her hiding place.

DEIDRA'S POV

A screen door swings open, the Night Stalker saunters out of the house. He turns around and makes eye contact. He smiles and makes an obscene gesture with his tongue.

Deidra GASPS. Yeah, that's what he'd be doing to your pussy.

A light comes on inside the house. A woman steps out in her robe, looking around. She goes back inside her house.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra puts the car in drive and gets out of there.

She turns onto a main street.

One hand on the wheel, she reaches her other hand down toward her crotch. She wrestles with the zipper on her pants.

She looks down to undo a clasp. She reaches her hand into her panties and SMASH! She slams into a parked car. Her head crashes into the visor.

The MACRAME OWL swings wildly on the rear view mirror and blood streams from her brow.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Fluid leaks out of Deidra's car but the other car looks even worse.

Deidra stumbles out of the car, distraught, blood across her forehead.

DEIDRA

Oh God.

She jumps back into her car and drives off. The car makes UNNATURAL SOUNDS. In its wake: a smashed parked car.

The street settles as the pink Cadillac leaves the scene. A street light BUZZES.

INT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - DAY

Deidra stands at her cashier. She stares off toward Mehrdad.

DEIDRA

(under her breath)

I'd know how to fuck you right.

JEROME

What did you say, Sister?

Deidra comes out of her daze.

DEIDRA

Humm?

JEROME

Are you feeling okay, Sister? You look like you have a nasty bump on your head there.

Deidra touches her forehead, a bloodied scab runs across it.

Linda comes around the corner.

LINDA

So, did you have a good time the other night?

DEIDRA

Leave me alone.

LINDA

(whisering)

Did you get turned on? Watching me suck his dick? Oh, wait, you left before that part. You are, like, so fucking pathetic.

DEIDRA

Go away please.

Linda takes TIC TACS off the shelf, opens them and drops a few into her mouth.

LINDA

Have you ever sucked a dick?

Deidra looks to Jerome. Help! But what can he do.

JEROME

Sister Deidra, could I get scoop of Chocolate Malted
Crunch, please?

Linda pulls at Deidra's uniform, like an owner pulling her dog back by its collar. Linda
whispers into Deidra's ear.

LINDA

Maybe if you don't charge him for that scoop, he'll
like, let you suck his dick?

Linda looks at Jerome, then back at Deidra. More TIC TACS go into her mouth.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Better make it a double scoop.

Deidra pulls free and goes to serve Jerome. Linda follows her.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Here, Jerome. Let me help you.

Linda cuts Deidra off, leans seductively over the tubs of ice cream and scoops a lumpy
scoop of Chocolate Malted Crunch onto a cake cone. As she works, the torment continues.

LINDA (CONT'D)

(loudly)

So, Deidra. What did you say your boyfriend's
name was?

Jerome looks hurt.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Jerome, I'm like, messing around.
Deidra doesn't have a boyfriend. Isn't that right,
Deidra? I mean, maybe with a make-over. A sexy
top and, like, some killer shoes.

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

(beat)

Probably not.

Linda takes a sexy lick of the Chocolate Malted Crunch and passes the cone to Jerome. He takes it, wondering what to do with it as he waits for Deidra's response.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Bye, Jerome.

Linda walks off, into the aisle of school supplies rattling her TIC TACS like a maraca.

Deidra puts on a brave face.

JEROME

(staring at his cone)

You know, Sister, they say beauty is only skin deep
but that girl's ugly goes clean to the bone.

DEIDRA

Let me get you a fresh cone.

Jerome drops the ice cream in the waste basket.

INT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - LATER

Deidra stops in front of the mirror in the cosmetics aisle. She examines her face. Then looks up.

DEIDRA'S POV

Across the store, Linda leans over the pharmacist's counter and takes a pill from Mehrdad's tray. She pours some TIC TACS to replace what she's taking.

She places the pill on her tongue and seductively licks her lips, ingesting the pill as Mehrdad playfully protests, fishes out the TIC TACS with small forceps.

Linda blows him a kiss. Muah.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra looks at her own lips in the plastic mirror. She smacks her lips.

She takes a lumpy tissue out from her pocket and wipes the coral lipstick from the morning routine.

She scans the lipstick choices: WET 'N' WILD tubes line the shelf.

DEIDRA
(reading label)
Bare it All.

She tests the lipstick against her hand. Not a good color.

She puts the tube back and looks back toward Linda.

CLOSE UP ON

Linda's pink lips.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra scans tubes of lipstick; stops on a bright pink one.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)
(reading label)
Don't Blink Pink.

She tests the new color on her hand. Much better.

She sweeps the lipstick across her lips. Smack. She checks the plastic mirror. Not bad. She smears some lipstick on her cheeks and rubs the unnatural pink into place.

She checks her hair and touches the gash along her forehead.

INT. THRIFTY PHARMACY - LATER

Mehrdad counts pills. Deidra approaches, she's teased her hair, wears powder blue eye shadow and 'Don't Blink Pink' on her lips. She looks like a ridiculous version of Linda.

DEIDRA
Hello, Mehrdad.

Mehrdad does a double take.

MEHRDAD
Deidra. What happened to your face?

Deidra reaches for the gash.

DEIDRA

(coyly)

Oh, this old bump. I'm afraid I can't tell you.

No, that's not what he meant. Never mind. An awkward silence creeps in as Deidra tries and fails at leaning seductively over the counter.

MEHRDAD

Is there something I can help you with?

DEIDRA

Oh, no, I was just walking over here. Thought I'd stop and see how your day was going.

MEHRDAD

Just fine, thanks.

Mehrdad looks down, counts more pills in his tray.

DEIDRA

You know, I saw you at the theater the other night.

Mehrdad flushes red.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

I was there with my boyfriend.

MEHRDAD

Oh.

Deidra laughs, tries to act seductive.

DEIDRA

We love going to the movies. Maybe we'll see you there again.

She walks away, without waiting for Mehrdad to answer.

Mehrdad looks after her, somewhat stunned.

Linda approaches, catches him looking after Deidra.

LINDA

Like, what are you looking at?

MEHRDAD

Deidra was at the movie theater the other night.

LINDA

So?

MEHRDAD

She said she was on a date.

Linda GIGGLES.

LINDA

Yeah, right. Like, that old hag? No way.

MEHRDAD

She said she saw me there.

LINDA

So? She said the same thing to me. Like who cares?

MEHRDAD

She said she saw you? That means she saw us!

(upset)

Together!

LINDA

She's a pathetic, fat, ugly, old... pathetic, fat hag.
She's, like, totally lying about being on a date. She's
probably never seen a dick up close.

MEHRDAD

(whispering)

Shhh. Keep your voice down.

LINDA

You know, Mehrdad. You are, like, totally getting on
my nerves. Remember, I let you put your dick in my
mouth.

MEHRDAD

(whispering still)

Linda, please.

Linda pulls herself up onto the counter and gets up close into his face.

LINDA

(whispering)

Please what? You want to, like, fuck my face?

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)
Behind this counter? Are you hard? Pull it out.
Show me.

Mehrdad is stunned.

LINDA (CONT'D)
(whispering)
I'm not fucking joking. Like, take out your dick
right now.

Mehrdad stalls.

LINDA (CONT'D)
(aggressive)
Take out your dick, right now or we are done.

Mehrdad unzips his pants reluctantly.

LINDA (CONT'D)
(seductively)
Now take it out.

He pulls out his dick.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Good. You want me?

MEHRDAD
(resigned)
Yes.

LINDA
Can you do something for me?

MEHRDAD
What?

LINDA
Ask Deidra out on a date.

Mehrdad tucks his dick back in and pulls his zipper up.

MEHRDAD
No.

LINDA

Who said you could put your dick away? Take it out. Now.

Mehrdad complies. He looks nervously toward the rest of the store. The workers are all minding their own business. He unzips his pants. Pulls out his dick. Pathetic.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Ask her on a date. And I'll let you fuck my face.

Linda slips back off the counter. Mehrdad reaches for his fly.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Ah, no, no. Leave it there. Don't put it away until I'm across the store.

She slowly walks backwards, further and further from Mehrdad, who remains obediently frozen.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I'm still watching you.

Linda rounds the corner of the aisle and disappears. Mehrdad can finally put his dick away.

Deidra aims her scanner toward a box of condoms. A man in a suit waits for her to ring him up.

Linda comes up next to her.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Hiya, Deidra. Mehrdad wants to talk to you.

DEIDRA

What?

LINDA

You look so hot. Did you, like, do something new with your face?

Linda notices the box of condoms.

LINDA (CONT'D)

You might need to buy a box for yourself. You dirty slut.

Deidra blushes. Bags the condoms for the customer.

DEIDRA
(to customer)
That'll be \$7.67 please.

She makes change and casually looks toward Mehrdad at the pharmacy counter.

INT. THRIFTY PHARMACY - LATER

Deidra walks up to Mehrdad.

DEIDRA
Hi again.

MEHRDAD
Hello, Deidra.

Awkward silence.

DEIDRA
Linda said you wanted to talk to me.

Mehrdad looks out into the store toward Linda who stocks cans of cat food on the shelf. Her bangles RATTLE as she moves. She gestures a blow job for Mehrdad's benefit.

MEHRDAD
Yes. You look... nice.

DEIDRA
Don't Blink Pink.

MEHRDAD
What?

DEIDRA
That's what this color is called.

MEHRDAD
Color?

DEIDRA
Lipstick.

MEHRDAD
Oh.

(beat)
Uhm, I was thinking since you like the movies,
maybe we could go. But you have a boyfriend, so...

DEIDRA

Oh. Well. He's not really my boyfriend. It was just a date. A casual date.

MEHRDAD

Oh.

DEIDRA

So, when do you want to go?

MEHRDAD

What?

DEIDRA

To the movies. When do you want to go?

MEHRDAD

I don't know. Uhm...

DEIDRA

I can meet you there tonight.

MEHRDAD

I can't tonight.

DEIDRA

How about tomorrow?

Mehrdad looks up toward Linda. She eggs him on.

MEHRDAD

Tonight is fine.

Delight sweeps over Deidra's face.

DEIDRA

Wonderful. Okay. I'm going to get back to work.

She turns to walk away then turns back but bumps into a CAGE full of bouncy balls.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Oops.

(back to Mehrdad)

Oh, and you look nice too.

Deidra walks back to her register. Ricky sweeps next to her.

RICKY

Hey Deidra, did you crash your car or something?

DEIDRA

Oh. Uhhh...

RICKY

The pink Cadillac, right? It's smashed up pretty bad.

He points to the gash on her forehead.

RICKY (CONT'D)

Bangover?

DEIDRA

Oh, this, it's nothing really.

RICKY

You're hard core, Deidra. Rock on.

DEIDRA

Thanks.

Ricky sweeps the waxed floors, moving past Deidra.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - EVENING

Deidra pulls up into her driveway, terrible SCREECHING SOUNDS emerge from her car.

Deidra gets out of her car. The hood is warped from the crash and the fender rattles when she closes the door.

Stephanie runs up to her.

STEPHANIE

Hi Ms. Deidra. What happened to your car?

DEIDRA

Oh, nothing. Just a little fender bender.

STEPHANIE

Are you okay? Was it the Night Stalker.

Deidra stops dead in her tracks.

DEIDRA

What?

STEPHANIE

Did he chase you or something?

DEIDRA

No, why would you say that?

STEPHANIE

Well, he likes pink houses. Maybe he likes pink cars too. And he stole a woman's car at gunpoint.

DEIDRA

No, it's nothing like that. Please, stop reading the paper.

STEPHANIE

I think I want a purple car when I'm old enough to drive. Did you always want a pink car?

DEIDRA

No. It's Mother's car.

STEPHANIE

Did she always want a pink car?

DEIDRA

She wanted to be envied. And her husband wanted to make her happy, so he got her a pink car.

STEPHANIE

Oh. Your Dad bought the pink car?

DEIDRA

No. She had two husbands. My Dad was her first husband.

(beat)

Some people have more than one and some people have none. Look, I have to run.

(whispering)

I have a hot date.

Stephanie stops along the grass as Deidra turns the key and disappears inside.

INT. DEIDRA'S ROOM - EVENING

Deidra sets the clipping with the artist's sketch of the Night Stalker on her vanity.

RUTH (O.S.)

Deidra! Is that you?

DEIDRA

Yes! Just a minute.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra plops down a Lean Cuisine meal.

Robotically, Deidra changes the channel until the show "Dallas" comes on.

RUTH

I don't want chicken...

DEIDRA

(interrupting)

It's pork.

Deidra adjusts the fan and walks out of the room.

DEIDRA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I have to get ready.

Ruth calls after her.

RUTH

Ready for what?

Ruth pushes the 'PORK' around on her plate, she mumbles under her breath.

RUTH (CONT'D)

And this is chicken.

She shoves the plate to the floor and stares up at the TV.

INT. DEIDRA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deirda applies the WET 'N' WILD lipstick and carefully places the tube next to the rows of MARY KAY lipsticks.

She checks herself out in the mirror. She looks like she's put some effort into her look. She wears a dress and pats her hair into place.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks in to check on Ruth, the Lean Cuisine is overturned on the carpet.

DEIDRA

Why do you keep doing that?

RUTH

(staring at the TV)

Ready for what?

DEIDRA

I'm sorry but that was your dinner, and I don't have time to clean it up right now. I'm going to be late.

RUTH

Late for what?

DEIDRA

I have a date.

Ruth looks up at Deidra. Stares for a moment then looks back to the TV.

RUTH

I don't like that color on you. Take it off.

DEIDRA

Enjoy, Dallas.

(walking away)

I'll be home late, don't wait up.

RUTH

(calling after Deidra)

Did you hear me?

No response.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Deidra!

Still nothing.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Deidra, don't you walk away from me!

Deidra is gone. Ruth gives up and goes back to her TV show.

The FAN swivels left then right.

A FLY lands on the overturned meal on the carpet.

INT. MOVIE THEATER LOBBY - NIGHT

Deidra waits in the lobby. There is no sign of Mehrdad.

She checks her reflection in the glass door. He's late. She turns to the concessions stand.

DEIDRA

Large popcorn please.

She takes her popcorn and looks around nervously. He's not coming. Her face falls.

She walks into the theater.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

Deidra sits down. Damned if she's going to let this ruin her night.

She stuffs a handful of popcorn into her mouth, smears her lipstick.

Mehrdad sits down next to her.

MEHRDAD

Sorry, I was looking for parking.

She swallows her popcorn.

DEIDRA

Oh, I parked in the lot.

The lights from the projector bounce off the screen and flicker onto their faces.

Mehrdad slinks down into his seat. He looks like he'd rather be anywhere but here.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

(whispering)

This is my third time watching this movie.

Mehrdad has nothing to offer so Deidra continues.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

But I haven't seen the ending yet.

MEHRDAD

(whispering)

Hum. Maybe we should just watch then?

DEIDRA

Right.

Deidra eats some popcorn, her lipstick smears even more. She looks down at Mehrdad's leg as he taps it nervously.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

(referring to movie)

Some people think he's not a real man, wouldn't know what to do with pussy.

MEHRDAD

(whispering)

Deidra! What are you saying?

DEIDRA

(louder)

I said, some people think he's...

MEHRDAD

(interrupting)

No, I heard you. I just...

DEIDRA

(leaning in)

I'd know how to fuck you right.

MEHRDAD

What?

DEIDRA

(whispering slowly for clarity)

I said, I'd know how to fuck you right.

MEHRDAD

(incredulous)

Stop. I don't have a hearing problem. Are you crazy? I'm not interested in fucking you.

DEIDRA

I thought you found me attractive.

Deidra hears a familiar GIGGLE in the theater.

She looks back. There is Linda.

LINDA

Hey, Deidra.

A PATRON SHUSHES them.

Linda leans in.

LINDA (CONT'D)

(whispering)

You look so sexy.

Then she GIGGLES some more.

Deidra gets up from her seat and walks out of the theater.

EXT. THEATER PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks toward her car; she stumbles in her pumps.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Deidra looks at herself in the mirror. She fights back tears.

Her lipstick is smeared. She carefully wipes the smudge and reapplies the WET 'N' WILD.

From the corner of her eye, she catches a man who might be the Night Stalker walking out of the parking lot into the same street as the night before.

She turns the key in the ignition. It engine chokes then roars to life. An unnatural SCREECHING SOUND erupts and Deidra cringes, wishing the car was quieter. She turns the engine off and gets out of the car.

EXT. THEATER PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Deidra follows the Night Stalker on foot.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

The Night Stalker disappears down a street, into the dark.

Deidra follows after him. Her pumps get in her way, so she takes them off and goes barefoot.

All the houses look asleep until she hears a SCREEN DOOR and whips her head around toward the sound.

There in front of her is a PINK HOUSE.

She walks up to the front door and tries it. It opens.

INT. PINK HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks into the house. She's is quiet and slow but her BREATH is labored, adrenaline is pumping.

She walks through the house, running her HAND along the curtains.

She stops and looks into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

She walks through this strange house and peers into the first room she sees.

DEIDRA'S POV

The bedroom of a teenager. The boy, BRAD (17), is naked, having sex with his GIRL (16). He's scrawny and the sex act is spastic and ungraceful. These are two horny teens exploring each other.

GIRL
(moaning)
Brad, Oh, Brad!

BRAD
You want me to go faster? Slower?

GIRL

Just don't stop.

(beat)

Go deeper, Brad.

She MOANS some more.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra can't take her eyes off the scene.

Deidra pushes the door open further. It CREAKS as it does. She slips her hand under her dress.

DEIDRA

(whispering)

Go deeper, Brad.

GIRL (O.S.)

(moaning)

I'm gonna cum.

DEIDRA

(moaning)

I'm gonna cum.

BRAD (O.S.)

Shhhhh, my Mom's next door.

The Girl SQUEALS in ecstasy.

DEIDRA'S POV

Brad places his hand over the Girl's mouth as she orgasms.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Did you finish?

GIRL

Yeah.

BRAD

Is it okay if I cum?

GIRL

Yeah. But pull out.

Brad GROANS acknowledgement. He fucks hard, the bed SQUEAKS, he pulls out, and finishes. He collapses on top of the Girl.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra is interrupted by Brad's mother, BARBARA (40), who appears in the hallway.

BARBARA
Who the hell are you?

Deidra pulls her hand out of her panties.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
Bradley!

BRAD (O.S)
Shit.

BARBARA
(to Deidra)
Answer me, who the hell are you? Bradley!
Bradley, baby, are you ok?

Deidra runs out of the house as a naked Brad and his Girl come stumbling into the hallway to meet his Mother's wrath.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - CONTINUOUS

Deidra runs out of the house and rounds the corner.

A dog BARKS.

EXT. THEATER PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Deidra runs into her car.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Deidra crouches in her car. She BREATHES heavily.

She puts the key in the ignition. This time, the car doesn't hesitate. It SCREAMS to life as the engine RATTLES and SCREECHES.

Deidra drives straight out of the parking lot and into the night.

INT. DEIDRA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Deidra undresses and wipes the make-up from her face.

Her face is clean.

She takes a deep breath, watching her soft breasts rise and fall in the mirror. She repeats. Holds her breath and pulls her nightgown lightly around her breasts, checking herself out.

She smiles. Pulls the WET 'N' WILD lipstick out and reapplies a thick pink smear across her lips. She puckers for the mirror.

Next to her, is the newspaper clipping.

She looks down.

INSERT: the newspaper with the artist's sketch of the NIGHT STALKER.

Deidra lies in bed, her head against the pillow, a smile across her lips and she touches her breasts.

DEIDRA

(whispering)

Go deeper, Brad.

A THUMPING sound comes from another part of the house. Deidra's concentration is broken. She lifts her head off the pillow.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

(calling out)

Mother?

Nothing.

She puts her head back down on the pillow. Stillness.

INT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - DAY

Deidra struts down the cosmetics aisle.

She twirls right past Linda and Colleen.

LINDA

Oh my God, like, what a freak.

Colleen smiles politely, she shoves her heavy glasses back up her small nose.

INT. THRIFTY PHARMACY - DAY

Deidra walks past the pharmacy and Mehrdad with the same spring in her step. Mehrdad looks up.

MEHRDAD

Deidra?

Deidra stops and turns to Mehrdad.

DEIDRA

Oh, hi Mehrdad, I didn't see you standing there.

MEHRDAD

Are you all right?

DEIDRA

Never better.

MEHRDAD

Look, about last night. I hope you weren't upset or anything.

DEIDRA

Upset? Why would I be upset?

MEHRDAD

You seemed upset. You left the theater.

DEIDRA

Oh, I had to meet my boyfriend.

MEHRDAD

Your boyfriend?

DEIDRA

(whispering)

We had hot sex.

Mehrdad is stunned.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Well, I have to run. Bye.

Deidra dances down another aisle. Linda appears. Off Mehrdad's stunned look.

LINDA
Like, what's with you?

Mehrdad is pulled out from under the spell.

MEHRDAD
Huh?
(beat)
Oh, nothing.

LINDA
What did Deidra want?

MEHRDAD
She just told me she had hot sex last night.

LINDA
Yeah right, for sure.

They both look toward Deidra.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Lying whore.

MEHRDAD
How can she be a lying whore?

LINDA
What?

MEHRDAD
Well, she's either lying. Or she's a whore.

LINDA
Well I say she's a lying whore. God, Mehrdad,
you're, like, getting on my last nerve.

Linda walks away from Mehrdad.

EXT. LOADING DOCK - DAY

Deidra and Ricky stand around the industrial size garbage bins.

Ricky smokes and Deidra wears his headphones, listening to some thrasher music. Some of the music bleeds out of the headphones. She turns to Ricky.

RICKY

Killer, right?

He thrashes his head.

DEIDRA

(loudly over the music)

Killer!

Together they thrash their heads.

Linda comes to join them.

LINDA

Breaks over, Ricky.

Deidra takes the headphones off and gives them back to Ricky.

RICKY

Rock on, Deidra.

He gestures the sign of the horn and goes inside.

LINDA

So, Deidra.

(beat)

I, like, heard something really weird.

DEIDRA

Oh?

LINDA

Yeah, something about hot sex.

Deidra gets it. She turns to go inside.

LINDA (CONT'D)

You're a lying whore.

INT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - DAY

Deidra tags inflatable swimming POOLS with fluorescent green price TAGS.

Jerome appears behind her, holding a rainbow pinwheel to his mouth. He blows, the pinwheel spins.

JEROME

Good day, Sister.

DEIDRA

Hi Jerome.

He extends the spinning pinwheel to Deidra who smiles.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Thanks, Jerome.

JEROME

Is something the matter, Sister?

Deidra looks toward the cashier, sees Linda help a customer with their purchase.

Jerome looks in the same direction.

JEROME (CONT'D)

You know, when life gives you lemons...

DEIDRA

Make lemonade?

JEROME

No, squeeze them in that bitch's eye.

EXT. THRIFTY PARKING LOT - EVENING

Deidra's parked car faces the store.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - EVENING

Deidra looks out toward the doors to the Thrifty.

DEIDRA'S POV

Linda comes out and struts toward her car. Sexy and self-aware.

Linda gets in her car and drives away.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra starts her car, the engine SCREECHES to life. She pulls out of the parking lot, follows Linda.

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS - EVENING

Deidra's car follows Linda's car through the neighborhood.

There is commotion on the block as commuter bus comes to a SCREECHING stop.

The Night Stalker runs in front of the bus and down the street.

An ANGRY MOB chases him.

People in the mob SCREAM at the man.

MOB 1

Get that mother fucker!

MOB 2

That's the killer! The Night Stalker!

MOB 3

Get him!

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - EVENING

Deidra watches the MOB. A few people bang up against her car as they run after the man.

Ahead of her, Linda's car turns right on a street.

Deidra waits for the MOB to clear the path ahead of her, then follows after Linda.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - EVENING

Linda parks her car and climbs out of the car.

Deidra pulls up several cars behind Linda's.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - EVENING

Deidra watches Linda.

DEIDRA'S POV

Linda walks up the stairs to the second floor of her small apartment complex.

She puts the key in the door and goes in.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra sits back in the driver's seat and turns off the engine.

Sweat beads on her forehead. She wipes it then gets out of the car.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - EVENING

Deidra walks up to Linda's car. She opens her purse and takes out some lipstick.

She writes across Linda's windshield in pink block letters - LYING...

The lipstick runs out. She pulls another from her purse and continues with her scrawl. She steps back to reveal the words - LYING WHORE written in hot pink and powder pink.

Her job here is done, she turns to leave. A small POODLE, bites her ankle.

The poodle GROWLS and pulls at her pants, ripping her slacks.

Through the wall of her apartment, Linda calls for her dog.

LINDA (O.S.)

Cha-Cha! Come back, baby.

Deidra turns toward Linda's apartment. Linda is nowhere to be seen. Deidra quickly walks away with the poodle at her heel. She tries to shake it off. The dog won't budge.

LINDA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Cha-Cha!

Deidra ducks down behind the nearest car. Cha-Cha GROWLS and rips more of her pants.

Deidra pushes Cha-Cha's face away from her. Cha-Cha bites her hand, drawing blood.

DEIDRA

Ouch!

Deidra slaps Cha-Cha's face.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Bad dog.

LINDA (O.S.)

Cha-Cha! Where are you, baby?

Deidra grabs Cha-Cha before she barks and holds her snout shut.

DEIDRA

Shush!

Deidra looks up toward Linda's apartment.

DEIDRA'S POV

Linda stops at the bottom of the stairs, looks left then right. She walks up the block away from Deidra.

BACK TO SCENE

LINDA

(singsongy)

Cha-Cha! Where are you?

Deidra crawls toward her car, Cha-Cha pinned against her chest. She gets in the car.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - EVENING

Deidra watches for Linda.

DEIDRA'S POV

Linda disappears up the block.

BACK TO SCENE

DEIDRA

(to Cha-Cha)

I'm going to let go. Don't bite!

Deidra releases the dog's snout.

Cha-Cha WHINES and cowers.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Good girl.

She starts the engine. The car SCREECHES to life. Deidra cringes then quickly makes a U-turn and disappears down the street.

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS - NIGHT

Deidra's car moves through the streets. She stops in an alley and opens the passenger door.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - NIGHT

Deidra looks at Cha-Cha.

DEIDRA

Go on. Get.

Cha-Cha does not budge.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Go!

Deidra gives up. She closes the door.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Oh, fine. But Mother is not going to like this.

The Night Stalker comes racing down the alley. The angry MOB in close pursuit.

The Night Stalker slams into Deidra's car. He bangs on the driver's side window.

NIGHT STALKER

Open the door you fucking bitch!

Cha-Cha jumps into Deidra's lap and Deidra holds onto the dog for dear life.

NIGHT STALKER (CONT'D)

Open up, you cunt!

Deidra moves her hand toward the door handle.

The MOB catches up to the Night Stalker. They drag him away from the car.

NIGHT STALKER (CONT'D)

Get the fuck off me.

MOB 1

Shut the fuck up.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Deidra, cradling Cha-Cha, steps out of the car. She walks up to the tangled mass of people.

Someone punches the Night Stalker in the face. The Night Stalker goes down as the MOB descends on top of him.

MOB 2

Hold him down! Hold that asshole down.

MOB 3

Grab his leg!

MOB 4

Call the cops!

A few members of the MOB take off towards a corner pay phone.

NIGHT STALKER

Fuck off, get the fuck off me.

More punches land on his face as do some kicks.

Deidra stares at the bloodied face of the Night Stalker against the pavement. She cocks her neck sideways to get a better look.

MOB 4

Stay down, asshole!

Deidra backs up and gets back in her car.

She drops Cha-Cha in her lap and drives off, add the SCREECHING SOUNDS of her car to the chaos of the MOB.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - ESTABLISHING

Deidra's car sits in the driveway. She hugs Cha-Cha close.

Together, the pair exit the car.

INT. DEIDRA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Deidra enters her home. She gently drops Cha-Cha on the floor.

DEIDRA

Don't pee in the house, okay?

(beat)

Mother will have a fit. Wait here.

Deidra goes to another room. Cha-Cha sits, wagging her tail and WHINES.

Deidra returns with a newspaper. She spreads the newspaper along a corner of the room. The mugshot of the Night Stalker stares up at her. She flips it over so the photo is not facing up.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

There. That's where you pee.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Deidra comes into Ruth's room. Ruth sleeps in a sitting position, her mouth open.

Deidra picks up the overturned chicken off the ground.

Cha-Cha follows her, goes straight for the chicken gravy on the carpet and licks it up.

DEIDRA

Mother, you must stop throwing these fits.

(no response from Ruth)

I can't have you wasting food like this.

Deidra sees Cha-Cha cleaning the carpet for her.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Good girl.

(to Ruth)

I'll be right back.

INT. DEIDRA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

The lights come on in the kitchen.

Deidra carries the disgusting chicken to the sink. She washes the meat and pats it dry. She places it back into the plastic tray.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Deidra returns the chicken and places it in front of Ruth.

DEIDRA

Here is your dinner. I'm not going to give you anything new to eat until you finish your plate.

Ruth is motionless.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Are you ignoring me?

Deidra collects the remote control off Ruth's lap.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Are you asleep, Mother?

A fly BUZZES around Ruth's gaping mouth. She looks dead.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

I'm going to turn the TV off.

Deidra turns off the TV and tucks a blanket around Ruth.

She walks out of the room. Cha-Cha follows, having finished her meal off the carpet.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

(to Cha-Cha)

You stay.

Cha-Cha sits, her tail between her legs.

Deidra walks out of the room.

The fly lands on Ruth's wrinkled flesh. It walks across her lips. Cha-Cha WHINES.

DEIDRA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I'm going out, I've had a rough day. Don't wait up
for me.

EXT. THEATER PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Deidra's smashed-up, pink car is parked in the lot.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Deidra sits with a tub of popcorn in her lap. Her hand is hidden in her pants. The tub of popcorn shakes. She's touching herself.

Deidra climaxes. It's awkwardly natural. She SIGHS and closes her eyes.

She opens her eyes and readjusts herself in the seat. She eats some popcorn.

Deidra sits there, trying to watch the film but looks around for familiar faces. Nothing.

Her popcorn keeps her company as William Hurt speaks on screen.

INT. MOVIE THEATHER - LATER

Deidra wakes up. The film is over and the patrons are walking out of the theater.

She gets up. Her fly is open. She pulls the zipper up, grabs her leftover popcorn and stumbles out of the theater.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - NIGHT

PARAMEDICS and POLICE CARS are parked in front of Deidra's house. Red and blue lights bounce off the house.

Deidra's car pulls in.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - NIGHT

Deidra looks at the officers standing on her lawn.

DEIDRA

What on Earth...

She quickly parks the car and gets out.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - NIGHT

Deidra approaches an OFFICER.

DEIDRA

What is going on?

OFFICER

Are you Deidra Stoffer?

DEIDRA

Yes.

(beat)

Why?

OFFICER

Ma'am, I'm afraid we have some bad news.

Deidra scans the scene. Stephanie's mother, SUE DULLARD (38) holds Stephanie in her arms. Sue wears her hair in a tight Librarian's braid and looks the part except for her nails. Her nails extend like two-inch sorceress claws from her hands painted with purple, sparkling nailpolish. The mother-daughter pair sit together on Deidra's front step.

DEIDRA

What?

OFFICER

I'm afraid it's your mother.

DEIDRA

Mother?

OFFICER

I'm afraid she's dead. I'm terribly sorry.

Deidra stumbles toward Stephanie and Sue.

SUE

Deidra. Oh, my Gosh. I am so sorry.

DEIDRA

What happened?

SUE

Stephanie was at the door and there was no response. So we called the police.

DEIDRA

Why would you do that?

SUE

Well, we were worried, Deidra. I am truly sorry. The good Lord has taken your mother into his everlasting paradise.

DEIDRA

I'm in charge of Mother. She was fine. She just didn't want the chicken. What is all this fuss?

SUE

Deidra, she's been dead a while.

DEIDRA

That's impossible.

SUE

I'm sorry. But, be comforted that she's with the Lord All Mighty now.

INT. DEIDRA'S HOME - NIGHT

Deidra sits in Ruth's room. A DETECTIVE stands above her, notepad in hand.

DETECTIVE

You're sure she was responsive?

DEIDRA

I'm in charge of Mother. She likes Cream of Wheat in the morning.

DETECTIVE

Yes, but did she eat any of the food you left out.

DEIDRA

And chicken. No, pork. She likes pork.

DETECTIVE

Ms. Stoffer. I'm very sorry to ask all these questions.

DEIDRA

She watches Dallas. She just loves JR. I don't much care for JR. But Mother, she loves him.

DETECTIVE

I understand.

The detective extends a card.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)

This is my card.

Deidra takes the card.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)

Like I said, I am sorry for your loss.

DEIDRA

And the car, Mother's car.

DETECTIVE

You don't have to make any decisions about her belongings right now. Please, try to get some rest Ms. Stoffer.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - NIGHT

Sue and Stephanie disappear behind their front door.

The PARAMEDICS and POLICE vehicles pull out of the neighborhood.

As they leave, the red and blue lights disappear.

INT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - DAY

Mehrdad counts pills behind his counter.

Linda storms into the pharmacy.

LINDA

Where is that bitch?

MEHRDAD

Who?

LINDA

Don't, like, fucking defend her. That lying, fucking, whore. Deidra.

Linda turns to the whole store and screams.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Deidra!

Patrons stop mid-browse.

Jerome licks his Chocolate Malted Crunch cone and leans in to talk to Colleen.

JEROME

What is she hollering about?

COLLEEN

She's looking for Deidra.

JEROME

Yes, I can hear. What does she want from Sister Deidra?

Linda walks through the store.

LINDA

Deidra, where are you hiding? I am, like, so going to kick your ass.

Mehrdad comes around the counter and runs up to Linda.

MEHRDAD

Linda, calm down. You're causing a scene.

LINDA

(in Mehrdad's face)

Listen, dickhead. That pathetic hag, took my dog. She vandalized my car and, like, took my dog.

(she starts to tear up)

Deidra!

MEHRDAD

Hold on, why would Deidra take your dog?

LINDA

Fuck off, Mehrdad.

(screaming into the air)

Deidra!

Right on cue, Deidra walks in through the front door. She's in a daze.

DEIDRA

Good morning, Jerome.

Jerome drops his cone.

JEROME

Sister, what is...

Reveal, Deidra is not wearing any pants. She wears her uniform on top, buttons done perfectly all the way to the top but her pants are missing. Instead, we see her floral panties.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Sister Deidra, are you feeling well?

DEIDRA

Thank you, Jerome. I'm just fine.

Linda sees Deidra and runs in her direction.

LINDA
Deidra, you cunt!

Linda sees the bottomless-Deidra and stops in her tracks.

Jerome tries to intervene.

JEROME
(to Linda)
Can't you see something is wrong? Stop harassing her.

LINDA
Listen, retard. Maybe you're turned on by her, like, fat ugly ass, I don't give a shit. I want my dog.
(to Deidra)
Where is Cha-Cha? I know you took her. If you hurt her.
(tearing up)
I will, like, rip your heart out.

DEIDRA
Mother never cared for dogs.

Linda lunges at Deidra and smacks her in the face.

LINDA
Bitch!

Linda is hysterical. Jerome pulls her off Deidra who falls to the ground. Her purse spills open. She starts to gather her things.

Mehrad arrives at the scene and grabs Linda.

MEHRDAD
What are you doing? You can't attack people in the store.

Linda tries to kick at Deidra.

LINDA
Listen, bitch, you're not fooling anyone. Where is my fucking dog!?

Deidra slowly puts her things back in her purse.

DEIDRA

Mother always said a real lady only carries four things in her purse. She would be so disappointed at this sight.

LINDA

Where is my baby? What did you do to her you crazy hag!

Linda starts crying uncontrollably. Mehrdad pulls her away. Jerome assists Deidra.

JEROME

Sister, let me help you up.
(to Ricky)
Get me a towel.

DEIDRA

A pocketbook, a handkerchief...

RICKY

Where am I supposed to get a towel from?

JEROME

Aisle 7, seasonal. Move, Brother.

DEIDRA

Pressed powder and a fresh pair of stockings should you get a run.

Jerome helps Deidra rise to her feet as she replaces the last of her purse contents.

Mehrdad forcefully removes Linda from the store as she kicks and screams and cries.

LINDA

I hate you, Deidra!
(weeping)
My Cha-Cha. Where is my Cha-Cha? Where is she?

JEROME

Sister, you're missing your pants.

DEIDRA

Oh, it's ok. Mother's dead. She won't care.

JEROME

Your mother is dead?

DEIDRA

Yes. She passed.

JEROME

Sister, you're not well. Let me help you.

Ricky arrives with a neon green towel from the seasonal aisle and hands it to Jerome.

RICKY

Here.

Jerome takes the towel and covers Deidra's lower body.

DEIDRA

Jerome, I think I'd like to go home now.

JEROME

That's fine, Sister. Let Jerome help you. Let me get you home.

DEIDRA

(whispering)

If Mother was alive, she would not be too happy about a man coming home with me.

JEROME

I'm sorry about your mother.

Jerome and Deidra leave the store.

Ricky stands empty handed near the checkout.

COLLEEN

What just happened?

Ricky looks around.

RICKY

Looks like we're in charge of the store.

(beat)

Killer.

EXT. THRIFTY PARKING LOT - DAY

Jerome helps Deidra into his car and then gets in the driver's seat.

INT. JEROME'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

He leans over and pulls her seat belt over her body and straps her in.

JEROME

You're gonna be just fine, Sister. Jerome is gonna take care of you.

Deidra looks around inside his car. The backseat is stuffed with organized stacks and stacks of books.

DEIDRA

That's a lot of books.

JEROME

Mother and Father were avid readers.

Jerome puts the car in drive.

EXT. THRIFTY PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Jerome's car leaves the parking lot.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - DAY

Jerome's car pulls up next to Deidra's in the driveway.

Jerome quickly gets out of the car and runs around to Deidra's side. He opens the door for her. Deidra steps out.

She looks down at her legs.

DEIDRA

This isn't my towel.

JEROME

It's from the store. Come on, Sister, let's get you inside.

INT. DEIDRA'S HOME - DAY

Cha-Cha barks at the door as Deidra unlocks it. She and Jerome walk in, Cha-Cha jumps to greet them.

DEIDRA

Hi, girl.

Jerome looks around, taking in the surroundings.

JEROME

You have a dog?

DEIDRA

Yes. You know, I always wanted a dog, but Mother was allergic.

(beat)

I mean, that's what she said. She always said she was allergic to things she just didn't like.

JEROME

(re. the dog)

Maybe she's hungry or thirsty?

Cha-Cha wags her short tail and WHINES.

JEROME (CONT'D)

(to Deidra)

Which way is the kitchen, Sister?

Deidra points toward the kitchen.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Sister, I'm going to make some tea, do you have tea?

(looking at her towel)

Perhaps you should put some clothes on.

DEIDRA

I have a box of Celestial Seasonings.

JEROME

Very good.

Jerome turns and walks toward the kitchen.

Cha-Cha follows him.

BEGIN INTERCUT

INT. DEIDRA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks into her room. She flips on the light at the vanity. She looks at herself in the mirror.

Pulls the neon green towel off.

She glides her hands up the sides of her thighs, over her floral panties and up to her breasts. She takes a deep breath in, puffing out her chest.

DEIDRA
Something more comfortable.

She opens her closet.

INT. DEIDRA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jerome opens a cupboard. Inside, CANS and CANS of mashed potatoes.

He goes to another cupboard. Inside, two mugs. One with 'Deidra' written on it. He pulls the mugs from the cupboard.

More cupboards open, he finds the Celestial Seasonings tea.

He goes to the stove, and begins opening more cupboards, but can not seem to locate a kettle. No luck.

He runs the tap, fills a small bowl with water and lowers it to the ground for Cha-Cha.

He then fills the two mugs with water and places them in the microwave.

INT. DEIDRA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra stands at her closet. She wears a beige, practical bra.

She pulls out a dress, lays it on her bed.

She catches her reflection in the vanity mirror. These panties won't do. She pulls off her underwear and rummages through a drawer half naked. Comes up with nothing.

She walks out of her room and into Ruth's.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra opens the drawer to Ruth's dresser.

She recovers a black, lacy pair of panties and slips them on.

INT. DEIDRA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She takes the gown on the bed and carefully removes it from the hanger. She holds it up against her body.

INT. DEIDRA'S KITCHEN - DAY

The microwave BEEPS. Jerome removes the mugs and makes the tea.

Cha-Cha looks up at him expectantly.

JEROME

Hungry?

He begins to rummage again. Doesn't find any dog food. He pulls a CAN of mashed potatoes from the cupboard.

He opens the can and drops a can-shaped lump of mashed potatoes into a bowl for the dog.

The sound of TAP SHOES against linoleum.

DEIDRA (O.S.)

Hi there.

Jerome is startled. He looks up and sees Deidra. She wears a satin, dancing gown, tap shoes and fresh makeup.

Cha-Cha sniffs the mashed potatoes and GROWLS.

JEROME

Sister, Deidra.

DEIDRA

This is much more comfortable than the towel.

Deidra confidently walks over to the tea and takes her mug.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

You know, this tea needs a little something extra.

She turns and walks out of the kitchen, leaving Jerome stunned.

DEIDRA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I know where Mother kept the sherry.

Jerome stares after her. Looks down at Cha-Cha who pleads with her eyes. The mashed potatoes are too revolting even for a dog to eat.

Jerome takes his mug and follows after Deidra.

INT. DEIDRA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Deidra unlocks a liquor cabinet and pulls down a bottle. She shows the bottle to Jerome.

DEIDRA

Would you like a little splash?

JEROME

Sister, you're not acting like yourself.

Deidra pours the sherry and seductively saunters over to Jerome.

DEIDRA

I feel like myself.

She pours some sherry into his mug. He pulls the mug up to stop the liquid from overflowing.

JEROME

That's enough. Thank you.

Deidra drinks from her mug. She holds it up toward Jerome.

DEIDRA

Cheers!

They CLINK mugs. Not sexy, but a seduction non-the-less.

Jerome takes a drink.

Deidra approaches Jerome and plants a wet kiss on his lips. She looks like she's eating his chin.

Jerome is frozen. He starts to kiss her back then suddenly stops and pulls back. He stares at her.

JEROME

Wait. You're not well.

He takes the mugs and places them on the coffee table.

DEIDRA

I feel fine.

She dives in again for a kiss. This time, her aim is better.

Jerome hesitates. He tries hard not to kiss her back.

JEROME

Fuck it.

He grabs her and starts to kiss her passionately.

They fall onto the couch. It's like two high-school kids making out for the first time. It's uncoordinated and spastic.

Jerome pulls her hair, exposing her neck. He kisses her down into her cleavage. He grabs at her breasts through her clothes. Deidra MOANS.

He reaches down, lifts her skirt revealing the black panties.

He tugs at the panties and reaches in.

Deidra MOANS.

DEIDRA

Oh, Brad, go deeper.

Jerome stops.

JEROME

What?

Deidra pulls his head to her cleavage again.

DEIDRA

Don't stop.

Jerome stops again.

JEROME

It's Jerome, sister. Who's Brad?

DEIDRA

Don't worry, Mother is dead, she's not going to walk in on us.

JEROME

I'm not Brad.

He gets up, flustered.

JEROME (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Sister. This was wrong.

He tugs at his erection and walks quickly toward the door.

Deidra chases after him as Cha-Cha runs to nip at Jerome's ankle.

DEIDRA

Wait.

JEROME

I hope you feel better, Sister.

He opens the door, looks back at Deidra and Cha-Cha.

JEROME (CONT'D)

(to Deidra)

And best to return that dog to Linda.

He closes the door behind him.

Deidra and Cha-Cha stand at the door, abandoned.

Deidra looks down at Cha-Cha.

DEIDRA

Look what you did.

Deidra picks Cha-Cha up.

She opens the door.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - DAY

Jerome gets into his car.

INT. JEROME'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jerome looks up toward the house.

Deidra stands in her dancing gown with Cha-Cha in her arms.

He turns the key in the ignition and reverses the car.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Jerome's car disappears down the street.

Deidra retreats back into the house.

Hold on the calm, exterior of her house.

Stephanie approaches with Sue who carries a CASSEROLE DISH. Her PURPLE CLAWS scrape against the PYREX.

Before Stephanie and Sue can knock on the door, Deidra emerges with her purse in one hand and Cha-Cha in the other.

SUE

Deidra. We were just coming to see how you're doing. I made an extra tuna casserole with a little hamburger helper for flavor. Thought you might need a little nourishment.

STEPHANIE

It's Chicken of the Sea.

DEIDRA

Oh, Mother doesn't like chicken. Excuse me.

Deidra walks right past them, gets in her car and reverses out of her driveway.

Sue and Stephanie stand there, stunned.

STEPHANIE

It's with tuna not chicken. Right, Mom?

The SCREECHING SOUNDS disappear down the street.

EXT. LINDA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

The SCREECHING SOUNDS rise as Deidra pulls up and parks in front of Linda's apartment.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - EVENING

She looks at Cha-Cha. Cha-Cha looks back at Deidra.

DEIDRA

I'm sorry, but I think I'm allergic to dogs.

Cha-Cha whines.

Deidra opens the passenger side door.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Go on. This is your home.

Cha-Cha does not budge.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

Go on now.

(beat)

Oh, for Christ's sake.

She closes the passenger door, grabs Cha-Cha and exits.

EXT. LINDA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Cha-Cha wiggles in excitement. Deidra grabs her snout and smothers the dog against her chest.

DEIDRA

Shush now.

Deidra climbs up the stairs. Her tap shoes CLICK and CLACK with each step. She approaches the door and raises her hand to knock on the door.

MEHRDAD (O.S.)

Does that feel good?

Deidra stops before her hand makes contact with the door.

LINDA (O.S.)

Stop talking.

Linda MOANS. Deidra moves to the window and looks in.

DEIDRA'S POV

Linda is on her couch, legs spread. Mehrdad's balding head is buried in her crotch. She guides his head with her hands. Her bangles CLINK as she drags her NEON LEE PRESS-ON NAILS across his greasy head.

Linda MOANS again.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra is frozen. Cha-Cha whines. Deidra snaps her snout shut.

DEIDRA

(whispering)

Shush.

Disaster averted. Linda didn't hear a thing. Linda continues with her MOANS.

LINDA

God, you Latin men.

She MOANS even louder.

Mehrdad stops. He removes a pubic hair from his teeth.

MEHRDAD

I'm Iranian.

LINDA

Whatever.

Linda shoves his head back into her crotch.

Mehrdad gets back to it. His arms circle around Linda's thighs.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Yeah. Just like that.

Linda squeezes Mehrdad's head with her knees and SCREAMS.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Fuck, yeah!

She climaxes.

Mehrdad lifts his head.

MEHRDAD

You like that?

Mehrdad dives back in but Linda stops him.

LINDA
Stop, don't move. I need a sec.

She breathes.

MEHRDAD
Did that feel good?

LINDA
Yes, God, stop talking.

Linda pulls down her skirt. Mehrdad sits on the couch and begins to unbuckle his belt.

Deidra wipes the sweat from her brow, releasing Cha-Cha's snout.

Cha-Cha BARKS.

Linda stands up.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Cha-Cha!

Deidra releases Cha-Cha and ducks under the window behind a potted plant. Cha-Cha races around to the door just as Linda opens it. The pair are reunited.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Baby! Oh, Cha-Cha!

Linda goes back inside.

Deidra hides behind the potted plant.

LINDA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Oh my God! Cha-Cha, where were you?

MEHRDAD (O.S.)
Hey, look who's back. I told you not to worry.

LINDA (O.S.)
(ignoring Mehrdad)
Where were you, baby? Are you hurt? Did you run away from that cunt?

Deidra slowly slinks out of her hiding spot and toward the stairs. Her tap shoes CLICK and CLACK. She pauses. Removes the shoes and continues the rest of the way barefoot.

MEHRDAD (O.S.)
She looks fine. Come back over here.

LINDA (O.S.)
Put your dick away, I'm, like, not in the mood
anymore.
(to Cha-Cha)
You want some din-din baby?

Deidra gets to the bottom of the stairs and races down the block toward her car. She jumps in.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Deidra closes the door and ducks low in her seat.

She looks out toward the stairs.

DEIDRA'S POV

Mehrdad storms down the stairs.

He stops at the bottom of the stairs, yells back toward Linda's apartment.

MEHRDAD
Maybe I'll just ask Deidra out again.

No response from Linda.

Mehrdad fumes. He turns away and gets in his car.

Mehrdad's car ROARS to life and he peels out.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra cranes her neck watching his car go.

She sits up, starts the engine and SCREECHES after Mehrdad.

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS - NIGHT

Deidra follows Mehrdad through the suburban wasteland that is the San Fernando Valley. Strip malls and strip clubs. Cheap Chinese food restaurants, donut shops and concrete parking lot landscapes.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - NIGHT

Deidra grabs LIPSTICK from her purse and reapplies. The MACRAME OWL swings hanging from the rearview mirror.

EXT. LOS ANGELES SUBURB - NIGHT

A brash mansion in Woodland Hills. A multi-tiered fountain dribbles water from one level onto the next. The HUM of the motor drowns out the sounds of flowing water.

Deidra sits in her car.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - NIGHT

Deidra grabs an old tub of POPCORN from the passenger seat, she eats her stale popcorn and watches the drama unfold before her eyes.

Through the window, Mehrdad and his wife fight.

DEIRDRE'S POV

Mehrdad sits alone at a table, eating. His wife, BAHAR (45), an exotic beauty with a thick layer of make-up and a chignon hairdo yells at him in Farsi.

BAHAR

Darya bought one. Darya. And she's married to a taxi driver. What is this?

MEHRDAD

What does it matter if Darya bought one?

BAHAR

What does anything matter? These are our friends.

MEHRDAD

They're not my friends.

BAHAR

You don't like to socialize. I do. I'm a social creature. You want me to look small in front of my friends?

Mehrdad chews his food.

BAHAR (CONT'D)

You have nothing to say?

MEHRDAD

What's left to say? You're going to spend money we don't have so you can save face.

BAHAR

Are you speaking to me like I'm an idiot? I'll remind you, my father was the Shah's physician. Do you think he's happy I married a pharmacist?

MEHRDAD

No.

BAHAR

That's right. He's not.

Mehrdad chews.

BAHAR (CONT'D)

I could have married Hassan Abbas. Doctor Hassan Abbas. You forget he was in love with me.

MEHRDAD

I haven't forgotten.

Bahar turns and walks out of the living room.

BAHAR (O.S.)

And don't leave any dirty dishes in the sink, the maid won't be here tomorrow.

Mehrdad takes some pills out of a prescription bottle. He drops a few in his hand, tosses them back and drinks some water.

He finishes his meal, picks up his plate and retreats into another part of the house.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra finishes her popcorn and gets out of her car.

EXT. LOS ANGELES SUBURB - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks barefoot across the street.

She approaches a window, tries to get a clearer view of the inside of the house, but can't see around corners or into hallways. She comes to the front of the house. She tries the door. It's locked. She lifts up the Welcome mat, looks for a key. Nothing.

She walks around the house, tries the garden gate. It's open.

EXT. MEHRDAD'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks through the backyard. She sees a staircase rising up to a balcony where a light is on.

She climbs the stairs to the balcony.

EXT. MEHRDAD'S BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks toward the sliding, glass double door. Interior light floods the balcony.

She stops on the edge of the door and looks inside.

DEIDRA'S POV

A canopy bed in an overly decorated room. Persian artwork consisting of ten-fold rosette patterns in turquoise and gold adorn the walls. Mehrdad's wife moves from the bedroom into the adjoining bathroom.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra gently checks the door. Also locked.

She moves back toward the stairs then freezes.

DEIDRA'S POV

Bahar returns to her bedroom. She sits at the foot of her bed. She takes some prescription medication of her own. Drink some water.

Next, she slathers some cream on her neck and face. She makes deliberate circles around her eyes. This is her evening routine.

Finally she removes her robe, climbs into bed and turns off the light.

BACK TO SCENE

Deidra slowly backs down the stairs.

EXT. MEHRDAD'S GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks along the side of the house, spots an open window. She pulls a patio chair to gain access, slides the window open and pulls herself into the house. She's sweaty and uncoordinated, but manages.

INT. GUEST BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra crawls through the window onto the bathroom vanity. A small night light is plugged in next to the mirror.

She walks through the bathroom into Mehrdad's home.

INT. MEHRDAD'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Deidra wanders through the kitchen.

She peeks in the kitchen sink. Nothing there. Mehrdad's single serving plate and silverware rest on the drying rack.

Deidra continues to roam.

INT. MEHRDAD'S DEN - CONTINUOUS

She walks into the den. A large TV takes up a good portion of the room. A long couch faces the TV.

She tiptoes into the room. Then freezes.

Mehrdad is on the couch, a sheet covers him as his head rests on a pillow.

Deidra comes around the couch and stands over Mehrdad, watching him.

She moves slowly to the edge of the couch near his legs.

His sleep is restless and new.

Deidra watches him.

She kneels down next to his legs. He slowly lifts the sheet up over his body and touches his boxers.

Mehrdad stirs slightly.

Deidra continues, she watches his face. He's in a half sleep but doesn't stop her. He EXHALES loudly.

She continues to touch him.

She tugs at his boxers, stopping every few seconds as Mehrdad stirs. She doesn't want to wake him.

Finally, she exposes his penis. She stares then pulls down her panties and climbs on top of him.

Just as she sits down on him, Mehrdad opens his eyes.

MEHRDAD

Huh?

He struggles and violently pushes her off him.

He grabs his glasses and stands up in one swift movement.

He pulls up his boxers.

MEHRDAD (CONT'D)

Deidra! What are you doing here?

(beat)

God, Deidra. Are you crazy?

DEIDRA

I thought you wanted to see me again.

A light turns on at the top of the staircase. Bahar calls down to Mehrdad in Farsi.

BAHAR (O.S.)

Mehrdad? What's happening?

MEHRDAD

Nothing.

(to Deidra)

You need to go... now!

He grabs Deidra by the arm and drags her toward the front door.

BAHAR (O.S.)

Who's there?

MEHRDAD

No one.
(to Deidra)
Get out. Right now!

Mehrdad shoves Deidra out the door and SLAM.

EXT. MEHRDAD'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Deidra stands on the doormat, it reads 'WELCOME.'

Inside the house, Bahar and Mehrdad get into it. They argue in Farsi. Deidra slowly backs down the driveway to her car.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Deidra gets in her car. In front of her, the drama between Mehrdad and Bahar unfolds. MUFFLED ARGUMENT spills out into the neighborhood.

Deidra turns the key, SCREECHES off into the night.

EXT. DEIDRA'S HOME - NIGHT

Deidra pulls into her driveway. One headlight beams, the other is busted.

INT. DEIDRA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Deidra idles behind the wheel. She reaches into the tub of popcorn, SCRAPES for some kernels.

She puts the car in reverse and leaves again.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

Deidra's SCREECHING car comes to a stop in front of the PINK HOUSE from the previous night. She kills the engine.

EXT. PINK HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks up to the front door and turns the door handle. This time it's locked. She checks under the doormat and finds a key. She unlocks the door and enters.

INT. PINK HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Deidra walks through the house. She runs her hands along the walls in the hallway and approaches a familiar door. She swings the door open and enters.

INT. BRAD'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra approaches the twin bed. Brad, the teenager from before sleeps under a thin sheet.

Deidra pulls the sheet off him and slowly pulls off his underwear.

Brad stirs, his flaccid, teenage dick exposed.

Deidra reaches for his dick with the curiosity of a child.

Brad GROANS. Deidra strokes him until he's erect.

She climbs on top of him and quietly rapes him.

Brad GROANS, unconsciously, he reaches around and grabs Deidra's ass.

DEIDRA

Go deeper, Brad.

Brad stirs, he's confused.

BRAD

Heather?

DEIDRA

No, Deidra.

BRAD

What the fuck!?!

He shoves her off him. Deidra crashes to the floor.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Jesus!

BARBARA (O.S.)

Bradley?

BRAD

Oh, fuck! Fuck!

He checks his dick. Pulls on his underwear.

BARBARA

Bradley?!

BRAD

Get the fuck out of here you psycho bitch!

Deidra gets off the floor and bolts for the door. She crashes into Barbara at the doorway.

BARBARA

Oh my God!

Deidra pushes Barbara to the ground and takes off.

BRAD

Mom!

BARBARA

Bradley, dial 9-1-1!

EXT. PINK HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Deidra runs for her car. She climbs in and turns the key. The car doesn't turn on.

She tries again. Nothing. She gets out of the car and takes off on foot. She runs down the street and out of the neighborhood just as SIRENS blare in the far distance.

Hold on Deidra's abandoned, smashed, PINK CADILLAC.

INT. DEIDRA'S BATHROOM - EARLY MORNING

Deidra stands under the steaming shower. Her wet hair clings to her body. She scrubs her filthy feet. Soot runs down the drain.

INT. DEIDRA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra buttons her uniform, she misses a few buttons.

Her ALARM goes off. The digital display reads 4:00 AM - she automatically turns it off.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deidra stands in her mother's room. It looks much like before, except Ruth isn't there.

Deidra grabs the air freshener, sprays the room and walks out.

INT. THRIFTY DRUGSTORE - DAY

Mehrdad counts pills; looks up at Deidra, then looks away.

Deidra stocks the newspapers at the register. The headlines read “ANGRY MOB CATCHES THE NIGHT STALKER.” She reads.

Linda stands in front of Deidra.

LINDA

So, you, like, have some nerve.

Deidra ignores her.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Cha-Cha is back.

Deidra still doesn't respond. She rises, moves to another register and stocks the newspapers there.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Did you hear me?

Still no response from Deidra.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Don't pretend, like, you don't hear me. I know it was you.

Bahar huffs into the store. She marches up to Linda, interrupting her conversation with Deidra.

Bahar throws Deidra's panties into Linda's face.

BAHAR

You left these behind. Whore!

Linda grabs the panties, confused.

LINDA

What?

Mehrdad appears out of nowhere, yelling in Farsi.

MEHRDAD

(to Bahar)

What are you doing?

BAHAR

What am I doing? What are you doing? You're sleeping with this little whore?

MEHRDAD

No!

BAHAR

And in my own house?

LINDA

Like, oh my God, did you just throw these dirty panties at me?

BAHAR

(to Linda)

Shut up!

Bahar lunges for Linda, scratches her across the face and pulls her hair. She holds onto Linda's Aqua-Net bangs and does not let go. Linda SCREAMS bloody murder!

MEHRDAD

(to Bahar)

What are you doing? Have you gone mad? I work here. This is my place of business.

Bahar continues to pull Linda's bangs but responds to Mehrdad.

BAHAR

Don't talk to me. What business? I could have married a doctor. Not a cheating, pathetic pharmacist.

Amid this chaos, Deidra recovers her panties from the ground. The other regulars, Jerome, Colleen, Ricky draw near the cat fight.

LINDA

She's pulling out my hair!

MEHRDAD

(to Bahar)

Let go! You're crazy!

DEIDRA

(regarding the panties)

These are mine. Well, they're Mother's but she never let me have any of her things.

Bahar yanks out a tuft of Aqua-Net bangs.

Linda falls to the ground, CRYING.

LINDA

My hair!

Mehrdad grabs Bahar's hands and pulls her aside.

BAHAR

(to Mehrdad)

You're sleeping with that old woman?

MEHRDAD

No!

At that moment, two POLICE OFFICERS walk into the Thrifty. They quickly assess the chaos and take control. Their hands are on their holsters, ready to draw their guns.

POLICE #1

Everyone settle down!

The store turns to look at the Police Officers.

POLICE #2

Deidra Stoffer?

Deidra turns toward the Police Officers, she pulls the panties toward her protectively.

The Police Officers react. They draw their guns.

POLICE #1

Show me your hands!

Deidra freezes. Ricky drops the handle to the broom he's holding and raises his hands.

POLICE #2

Hands in the air, right now.

Everyone raises their hands.

JEROME

Sister, I think they are talking to you.

POLICE #2

Quiet! I said get your hands in the air.

Deidra lifts her hands, revealing the lacy panties.

The Police Officers close in.

They place Deidra's hands behind her back. Cuff her and begin reading her rights.

JEROME

What's going on?

The Police Officers take Deidra out of the store. Everyone else stands around dumbfounded.

Jerome looks to Linda who tries to reattach her Aqua-Net bangs.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Did you call the cops?

Linda CRIES.

LINDA

My hair.

JEROME

Listen, you mean bitch, did you rat her out over that stupid-ass dog?

(beat)

She didn't mean any harm.

Jerome looks up.

JEROME'S POV

Outside, the Police Officers lower Deidra into the backseat of the PATROL CAR.

BACK TO SCENE

JEROME (CONT'D)

It always rains hardest on the people who deserve sunshine.

EXT. 77TH PRECINCT - DAY

Deidra sits on a long bench. POLICE OFFICERS and DETECTIVES mill about.

DETECTIVE

The Mother says her son was raped.

POLICE OFFICER

How do you rape a man?

DETECTIVE

Beats me. I'm just telling you what I heard.

Just then, a GROUP of armed POLICE OFFICERS come through, they drag in THE NIGHT STALKER with them.

Deidra looks up and makes eye contact with the killer.

The Night Stalker makes a lewd gesture with his tongue. Yeah, he'd know how to fuck you right, Deidra.

Deidra blushes and looks down.

The Night Stalker is moved down a hallway. All the attention goes with him. Deidra sits in the deserted precinct. Only the GUARD at the front desk remains.

DEIDRA

(to Guard)

Excuse me. Who is that?

GUARD

That's the Night Stalker.

Deidra strains to look after the killer who is now deep inside the building.

DEIDRA

Really?

GUARD

Really.

DEIDRA

What's his name?

GUARD

I don't know. Have you been read your rights?

DEIDRA

Yes. He looks like a Bradley.

Deidra sits back and smiles.

DEIDRA (CONT'D)

(under her breath)

I'd know how to fuck you right.