

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

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Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

EXT. TITLE CARD "JUNE 5TH 1858" NIGHT

NARRATOR V.O.

During the summer of 1858 everyone, who was anyone in America, flocked to Saratoga Springs. Their primary purpose was to "See and be Seen." For the preceding decade America's; bankers, industrialists, plantation owners religious leaders, politicians, and social reformers had descended on the village each season. The foremost stayed at the States Hotel. Like magnets, those of distinction attracted dowagers, con-men, gamblers and "pretenders. Then as now Saratoga was the best place in America to "see and be seen."

Image of a gentleman riding in a horse drawn carriage in Franklin Square, with the period houses in the background. The carriage stops in front of a Georgian House. The man gets out waves to the driver and walks up the steps to the house. The door is opened for him by SMILEY. The man enters and witnesses a throng of men gambling in a casino. The gentle clumping of the horses' hoofs can be heard in the background.

Everyone is well dressed projecting a feeling that Saratoga is the best place to be and where everyone is expected to be on their best behavior.

The door to the Casino shuts.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION - NOON

JAMES MARVIN (48), has the appearance of an executive, is approached from behind by light hearted JACOB MARVIN (nephew 22). Both are fashionably dressed in gray frock coats, white shirts and ties. The States Hotel, one short block away, is in the background.

JACOB

So another season begins.

MARVIN

(Turns to see Jacob)
What brings you here?

JACOB

George and his family are supposed to arrive on this train.

MARVIN

From Cambridge? I am surprised they are able to arrive so early.

JACOB

Uncle, you know Mr. Batcheller; he inevitably feels that the day is already a total wasted.

They both smile and nod.

JACOB (CONT'D)

So what will the season bring?

The whistle of the northbound noon train signals that it has come to a complete stop. There is the sound of people's voices as they begin unloading.

MARVIN

As the summer social capital of the country, I have the feeling that this will be a season loaded with political tension, rumors, romance, the occasional robbery and, in general, intrigue.

JACOB

How will that make it different than last season?

MARVIN

I did not say it would be different.

(Pause)

I believe that the times being what they are, there will be a greater intensity this season.

THE PEOPLE AS THEY DISEMBARK.

There is no platform so the passengers climb down the steps between the cars. The narrow steps of the train are a problem for the women passengers, who are in hoop skirts wider than the steps. The more sophisticated women place one hand on the front of their skirt holding it down.

The station bustles with people greeting each other; porters moving trunks; hack drivers trying to grab bags and trunks; arriving guests trying to find their trunks.

Marvin looks toward the back (first class section) and recognizes the Stiles family. TODD STILES (10) jumps from the second step. THOMAS STILES (47) is slightly overweight, CORA (38) is perfectly proportioned has a natural presence. Their two daughters SARAH (18) and SADIE (17) are both attractive. The daughters are the same height and weight. Thomas gets off first and holds up his hand for the women to hold as they step down. Cora, Sarah and Sadie are all wearing dresses with a hoop skirts. Sadie the last to disembark does not hold down the front of her skirt and as she goes down the steps her ankles show. Sarah frowns at her sister's gaffe.

Once on the platform, the Stiles are joined by three well-dressed African Americans who traveled third class (near front of train). The male servant, BENJAMIN (45), is wearing a red livery jacket that shows off his strong build. Benjamin waves acknowledgement to Thomas then moves to the baggage car (front car) to collect the family's baggage. The women servants, JOSEY (45) and MISSEY (20), very attractive, are wearing plain black dresses; both women are carrying their carpet satchels as they join the Stiles women. The women servants put their bags down at the feet of the Stiles women then go to help Benjamin.

Among those in the first class section is one tall, powerfully built man, JOHN MORRISSEY(30) whose rugged face and immense size make him stand out from the crowd. Although well dressed in frock coat and tie, he fidgets as if the clothes make him uncomfortable. Morrissey looks around, taking in each building and each person in the crowd.

A thin demur young woman, CATHARINE COOK (19) is extremely well dressed in a hoop skirt, shawl and carries a parasol. Catharine is accompanied by her stern father RANSOM COOK (55). Having no luggage, the father and daughter depart quickly. Catharine opens her parasol as soon as she gets in the sunlight then takes her father's arm as they walk away.

The Batchellers: GEORGE(20) thin intelligent looking, his sister, HELEN (22), and his father SHERMAN (58) a man who worked hard his entire life, are the final group of note in the first- class section. Helen's dress is fashionable. George and his father each have on frock coats that are a little worn.

In the second class area are MRS. BREWSTER (55) and MRS. JACKSON (45). They are both dressed in clothes that are a couple of years old. They appear unhappy as they mill about looking for their trunks.

Marvin turns away from Jacob and moves to greet the Stiles family.

MARVIN (CONT'D)
 (Softly almost to himself)
 Now the season begins.

Marvin takes care by starting by shaking Thomas' hand. He turns to each member in the family as he speaks. Benjamin is seen in the background piling the family's trunks as the women servants pick up the ladies' suitcases and hat boxes and place them in the pile with the trunks.

MARVIN (CONT'D)
 (Politely tips his hat)
 A pleasure to see you Thomas; I
 hope your trip was pleasant. Cora
 you look as charming as ever.

Marvin holds Cora's hand a moment longer than necessary.

MARVIN (CONT'D)
 Sarah, Sadie, how pretty you both
 look even after your long trip.
 (brushing Todd's hair)
 Did you get sick on the boat this
 year?
 (Todd shakes his head no.)
 That's good.
 (He looks at Cora)

A group of eight colorfully dressed women rush in; they are desperately trying to board the train before it departs. The women are all between the ages of 18 and 25. Their dresses are a little shorter and brighter colored than everyone else. They are not concerned about anyone seeing their legs as they climb the steps to the train. One of them flirtatiously squeezes Benjamin's strong arms as she passes.

PROSTITUTE 1
 (To Benjamin)
 Where have you been all winter?

Prostitute 2 grabs prostitute 1's arm pulling her toward the train.

PROSTITUTE 2
 Hurry up. The judge said fifteen
 minutes.

PROSTITUTE 1
 (While laughing)
 We still gots five minutes in
 Saratoga. That's time 'nough to
 earn a dollar.

The two prostitutes board the train. Prostitute 1 takes out a hanky and begins a mocking wave to those at the station. Everyone does their best to ignore her.

Jacob approaches the Batchellers who are near the unloaded luggage. Jacob breaks tradition and shakes George's hand first.

JACOB

George, my dearest companion; how was the year at Harvard?

Before George can answer, Jacob realizes his mistake and turns to Sherman Batcheller offering his hand.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Mr. Batcheller, how was the graduation?

MR. BATCHELLER

If it were not for George's speech, it would have been singularly unimpressive.

GEORGE

(Defensively)

Harvard is a collection of America's best; both those of proven intellect and those who are our future leaders.

JACOB

(Sarcastically)

I think Yale and Dartmouth would question that claim.

GEORGE

And they would be wrong.

JACOB

(Turning to Helen)

Helen, you deserve credit for tolerating these two on such a long journey.

HELEN

Their constant banter was a challenge. I am not sure that even the opportunity to shop in Boston made it worthwhile.

JACOB

I do not question that they were constantly endeavoring one-upmanship.

Sadie watches while in the background a poorly dressed white man in working clothes deliberately bumps into Benjamin, then stares at him defying Benjamin to act. Benjamin continues his work. The man smiles and walks and bumps Benjamin again. Benjamin remains calm and signals for a wagon to be brought to transport the Stile's family's numerous trunks. The man is about to elbow Benjamin a third time when he notices Morrissey's glare. The man slinks away.

George gives Helen a brotherly hug then shakes his father's hand. Sherman holds Helen's hand as she steps into a humble carriage that has been sent to pick them up.

Jacob and George begin walking toward George's boarding house. Each has a suitcase in their outside hand and they have George's trunk suspended between them. The States Hotel can be seen in the background.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Have you confirmed arrangements on where you will board?

GEORGE

I will be staying at Mrs. Webb's boarding house.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOBBY STATES - NOON CONTINUOUS

The lobby is alive with people who just arrived on the train all trying to check in; porters are grabbing bags, a few people are sitting in the overstuffed chairs. The women are all waving their fans.

The room has tall windows to allow as much light as possible. Between the windows are twelve foot tall framed mirrors. Sarah and Sadie are examining themselves in one of the mirrors.

Marvin is talking to Cora, Thomas looks on. Morrissey is waiting in the background for an opportunity to talk to Marvin.

Cora is more familiar with Marvin than a married woman should be.

MARVIN

May I prevail upon you to volunteer to be on the entertainment committee again this year?

CORA

I will consider the committee; however, there was not always accord last year and - Mr. Marvin - volunteer is hardly the correct word.

MARVIN

(Smiling)

I must insist. This year's grand ball is to be the most magnificent ever; one that the children will be talking of to their grandchildren.

Cora waves her fan over dramatically and smiles at Marvin.

CORA

Thank you for your confidence. Do you have a theme in mind?

MARVIN

That would be the committee's decision.

CORA

It would be presumptuous of me to believe I could speak on behalf of the committee but I think a masked ball could be interesting.

MARVIN

And I agree.

Marvin smiles at Cora then hands the cottage key to Thomas.

Thomas is looking at the various ladies in the lobby.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

I have arranged for a bottle of bourbon to be sent to your cottage.

The Stiles family start toward the door to the park.

Marvin walks toward the desk, Morrissey cuts off his path.

MORRISSEY

(Slight Irish accent)

Mr. Marvin, allow me to introduce myself; I am John Morrissey.

MARVIN

The same John Morrissey who was in the village last summer I presume?

MORRISSEY

Yes sir. Finances required that I stay at the Congress last year. However, this has been an excellent year and I have engaged rooms in your fine establishment for the season.

MARVIN

I assume the rooms will not be used for business.

MORRISSEY

Absolutely not, they are for my family. I was wondering, however, if you might know of a building I could rent for my business.

MARVIN

I am sorry but I do not.

(Pause)

Why do you seek a place in Saratoga?

MORRISSEY

(Disappointed)

Because it is Saratoga and everyone who is anyone will be here during the season.

(Pause)

Surely Mr. Marvin you will admit the rich deserve the best and Saratoga is the summer habitat of the rich.

MARVIN

(Changes topic)

All of my properties are already leased and I believe most of the others suitable to your needs are also gone.

MORRISSEY

I am sure I will find one somewhere, bigger obstacles have been put in my way.

MARVIN
(Insincerely)
I am confident you will find
something.

Marvin turns to the front desk.

Morrissey watches Marvin walk away then walks out the front door.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BORDELLO TROY - NIGHT

A red light shines above a wooden stairway.

Screen says "Twelve Years Before."

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ENTRANCE HALL ROW HOUSE - NIGHT

Two interior doorways from the foyer are covered in burgundy drapes.

The sounds of a piano can be heard along with background voices both male and female occasional laughter.

Morrissey sits on hard wooden chair reading a book at bottom of the staircase just inside the entrance.

A PETITE PROSTITUTE (25) dressed in her bloomers and corset comes down the stairs; pulls a hand rolled cigarette from case in Morrissey's shirt pocket; lights cigarette from gas light.

Prostitute sits on the arm of Morrissey's chair.

PETITE PROSTITUTE
So how's it goin'?

MORRISSEY
Quiet night; only ten guests so far.

PETITE PROSTITUTE
And two of those were my Tuesday night regulars. Well at least it's givin' you a chance to work on your readin'.

MORRISSEY
 (Opening the book)
 What does con-tem-pla-tion mean?

PETITE PROSTITUTE
 It means to think about. That was
 a really long word for you to get
 through - good job John.

She brushes his hair like he was a little kid.

MORRISSEY
 I been meanin' to ask, why did ya
 ever leave teachin'? Yus good at
 it.

Waving her arms in a mocking gesture

PETITE PROSTITUTE
 'Cause this life looked so
 attractive.

MORRISSEY
 Ain't yus the one who's always
 tellin' me not to use sarcasm?

PETITE PROSTITUTE
 (Smiling)
 The word is 'aren't', or better yet
 'are not'; not ain't, and yes that
 is my role - yours is learnin' to
 read.

MORRISSEY
 So why did ya leave?

PETITE PROSTITUTE
 Because I was fool enough to
 believe the superintendent when he
 told me his wife was dyin' and he
 was goin' to marry me as soon as
 she passed into the next world.

Morrissey stares at her waitings for her to finish

PETITE PROSTITUTE (CONT'D)
 Seems a ruined woman is not fit to
 be around children but a defiler
 can go to church, ask forgiveness,
 and go ahead with his life. And,
 just so you know, his wife
 miraculously got well.

Scream followed by the scraping of furniture upstairs.

Morrissey hurdles the banister and leaps up the stairs two steps at a time.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PROSTITUTES BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Morrissey opens door and finds PROSTITUTE naked to the waist, kneeling on the bed holding hone of her CLIENT's wrist as he pulls her hair.

The client's free arm is drawn back getting ready to punch her.

Morrissey hooks the man's arm and puts him in a half nelson.

Morrissey literally lifts the man off his feet.

Morrissey pulls the man through the doorway into the hall.

MORRISSEY

That will be enough of that.

CLIENT

Get your hands off me. That bitch bit me.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ENTRANCE HALL ROW HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Morrissey puts client in a full nelson and wrestles him down the stairs.

Petite prostitute opens the door to the outside.

MORRISSEY

If she bit ya, she had a damn good reason.

CLIENT

I'll kill her for this!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BORDELLO TROY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Morrissey carries the client down the outside steps.

Client keeps shouting.

CLIENT

I want my money back!

Morrissey finally puts the man down but hold the back of his shirt.

CLIENT (CONT'D)

I'm gonna' go to the police to file a complaint.

While Morrissey turns client around. Holds him off the ground by his vest.

Client continues to call out.

CLIENT (CONT'D)

I'm goin' to get my friends and we'll be back.

Morrissey and client's faces are inches apart.

Client's pants hang on his thighs.

MORRISSEY

Yus goin' home. Yus goin' straight home and if'n ya ever come near this place 'gain, I will personally break every finger on your hand,

Morrissey takes a breath gently puts client back on his feet

MORRISSEY (CONT'D)

Then how will ya take dictation at the courthouse?

Morrissey watches as client pulls up his pants and starts to walk down the street.

Morrissey climbs the steps to the bordello where he is met by the petite prostitute holding his book.

PETITE PROSTITUTE

Needed a break from your readin'?

MORRISSEY

Sarcasm!

PETITE PROSTITUTE

By the way it is 'you' not 'ya.'

Morrissey takes the book from her hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. PIAZZA STATES HOTEL - AFTERNOON

The dowagers, all dressed conservatively, are sitting in rocking chairs arranged in a crescent shape so all the women can see the front steps and sidewalk.

Mrs. Brewster and Mrs. Jackson are knitting. MISS STRONG (late 20s and attractive in a quiet way) has a book on her lap and MRS. BROWN (late 30s) is busy darning a glove. All four women look unhappy. They are dressed in simple dresses with little flounce.

Morrissey walks out the door onto the piazza.

MRS. BREWSTER

He may be dressed in the best clothes but he does not look appear to be a true gentleman.

MISS STRONG

I understand he is a sporting man who has his own clubhouses in New York City and Troy.

MRS. BREWSTER

I have heard the same.

(Scowls)

If that is the case, why does Mr. Marvin keep his company? The senior Mr. Marvin never would have allowed such a man to stay at the States.

MRS. JACKSON

Mr. Marvin may be an innkeeper but he is also a man. What man does not want the company of others who enjoy the sporting life?

Pauses to be sure that all are listening.

MRS. JACKSON (CONT'D)

I understand that Mr. Marvin was once quite the rider.

The other women nod assurances.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jacob is sitting in the only chair in second story room, running his hand up and down the curtain examining the material.

George in unloading trunk places clothes in the lone dresser.

Both men have hung their coats on a stand, they are wearing their vests.

Jacob sarcastically swings his free hand

JACOB

This room will definitely impress the girls you smuggle in. Of course, getting past Mrs. Webb will be a challenge.

George continues to unpack.

GEORGE

There will be no sneaking in of anyone. I intend on being accepted at the bar by autumn and will need all my time to prepare.

Jacob expression shows disbelief.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I anticipate being in the office every day by 9:00; I will allow myself an hour for dinner at 1:00, then back to the office until 5:00. I know that will be much more time than anyone else, but I plan to prove my worth.

JACOB

George, George, George, whatever am I going to do with you? This is the season. Mornings at the springs; afternoon strolls on Broadway; evening walks beneath the stars; a hop or a ball every night. George this is the time to flirt, the time to live a life that makes poets jealous.

GEORGE

(Sarcastically)

Jacob, Jacob, Jacob, whatever am I going to do with you?

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

This is the time of America's needs, a time of action, a time for doing. Despite the Dred Scott decision, or maybe because of it, slavery has to end. It is our time; to make our marks.

Jacob shakes his head.

JACOB

George did you ever think that you are too political? There is nothing wrong with a summer's attraction and a winter of action.

George joins Jacob at the window.

EXT. PORCH COOK'S HOUSE AFTERNOON

Jacob and George gaze down on Catharine dressed as she was at the station. Catharine is on the porch of the grand house across the street. She is sitting on the swing reading. They watch as her father comes out of the house onto the porch.

Jacob and George continue to watch as REVEREND BEECHER (30) walk up the steps of the Cook's porch.

EXT. COOK'S PORCH - AFTERNOON

Catherine holds a book whose title is in French while she gently pushes herself in the swing.

Cook, dressed in frock coat, comes out carrying a thin stick with a flame from which he lights his pipe.

COOK

Lovely afternoon. Are you going for an after dinner stroll?

CATHARINE

Broadway will be there tomorrow. Today is for the pleasure of this gentle breeze.

COOK

Catherine you constantly confuse verse with life. Life is not what one reads about; it is what one experiences.

CATHARINE

Is that why you are going to the Sheehan's this evening? Because you know that the widow, Mrs. Putnam, will be there? Should I consider her one of your experiences?

COOK

Although its better days may be over, my life is still going. Yours has yet to start.

Catherine doesn't answer.

She gazes up at the window where she sees the two men looking at her. Neither moves to get out of her gaze.

The REVEREND BEECHER (30) thin, academic looking walks up the steps.

REVEREND

How good it is to see you both out enjoying this fine afternoon.

COOK

To what do we own the honor of this visit?

REVEREND

I was walking by and merely wanted to say hello and ask one more time if Miss Catharine would be willing to sing in the choir.

CATHARINE

Reverend Beecher, I have told you many times that my voice was meant to be heard when I was reading, not singing.

Reverend Beecher bows slightly

REVEREND

I think your voice charming under any circumstances.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

JACOB

George, that is out of your league. Last season she was the hostess at her father's dinner for President Buchanan. Her father would not let her consider a lowly college graduate who only owns three jackets, and

Jacob points at one of the coats

JACOB (CONT'D)

one of those has a hole in the elbow.

George looks at the elbow of the coat - it is worn but there is no hole.

GEORGE

Don Quixote had his windmills; maybe it is time for me to have mine. You were the one who implied I was too stoic.

JACOB

That is as it may be, but do not expect me to be your Sancho Panza.

George does not answer and returns to unpacking his trunk.

George talks again after a short pause.

GEORGE

I must finish unpacking. Tomorrow I begin work at Mr. Beach's office.

JACOB

Tomorrow you become a mole; today we have time for a stroll.

Jacob tosses George his hat coat to put on.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SARAH AND SADIE'S ROOM

The room has two single beds, a single dresser and a washstand. Two trunks are standing on their ends serving as makeshift dressers. Dresses are hanging from a rope that has been hung across the room to increase storage.

CORA helps the older servant, JOSEY, unpack the girls' clothes.

Josey puts the girls' undergarments in the lone dresser.

Cora holds up a series of her daughters' evening dresses as she speaks.

Cora has an acquired souther accent.

CORA

This will be the summer of my girls. Sarah is eighteen already and Sadie barely seventeen. I will be busy chaperoning them every evening gathering stories to tell their daughters.

JOSEY

(colloquial)

It will be some kind of summer. Pretty as she is the gentlemen will be a callin' on Miss Sarah all the time and her dance card will be full for every evening.

Josey looks a Cora

JOSEY (CONT'D)

There ain't no need to concern yourself about Miss Sadie though, that's unless there's some young minister sulkin' about. And you don't have to worry about that, no young minister can afford the States, they're all down at the Union.

CORA

Five fancy dresses for each and six dances a week; we will be spending all our afternoons sewing flounce so that they are the best dressed young ladies here.

Cora shakes her head

CORA (CONT'D)

I simply hate the unwritten rule that a lady never wears the same outfit twice.

JOSEY

(colloquial)

It will be worth it Mrs. Stiles. I remember when I stayed in one of these same cottages and sewed and sewed and sewed the flounce for you.

Cora places her hands on her hips

CORA

It wasn't so bad was it?

JOSEY

(colloquial)

It wasn't bad then and it surely won't be bad now. The good lord willin', I will be sewin' for Miss Sarah's daughter someday.

CORA

I am sure you will be. Now I insist you must tell me if you see either of the girls visiting with men in the park. And whatever you do be sure to get the names of the men. I know these northerners will be hovering around like vultures.

JOSEY

(colloquial)

I could save myself time and just gets the names of all the men at the hotel now, 'cuz they will all be a hangin' around Miss Sarah.

Todd, runs into the room.

TODD

Mother, they have added an archery range to the park. I was practicing and I will be the best shot by the match at the end of the summer!

CORA

I am sure you will be.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NEWSPAPER OFFICE AFTERNOON

Morrissey enters, a bell, attached to the top of the door, rings signals the door is opening.

A young clerk/reporter, WALTER PRATT (20) leans on his elbows on stand up desk reading a proof of the weekly paper. He looks up at Morrissey.

MORRISSEY

Good afternoon. I was wonderin', do you have a list of available storefronts or buildings that might be for rent?

WALTER

At the beginning of the season, I am sure we do not. Everything worth renting has been hired for weeks. I believe that even most of the undesirable buildings have been leased.

MORRISSEY

What about a school buildin' or barn?

WALTER

None, I am sure.

MORRISSEY

Are there any large houses for rent?

WALTER

This is going to be a big season. Everything I know of has been rented for weeks. This is Saratoga Springs.

Walter stares at Morrissey

WALTER (CONT'D)

You may want to try the Lester Brothers, they have opened a new real estate office on Broadway. They are specializing in renting properties for the season.

MORRISSEY

Where on Broadway?

WALTER

Above Steinbeck's Dry Goods Store,
you enter on the right.

MORRISSEY

Thank you, you have been most
helpful.

Morrissey turns and walks out the door. The bell rings.

WALTER

(Under his breath)
Irish, no chance

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BROADWAY - AFTERNOON

Todd is well ahead as Cora, Sarah and Sadie stroll on the sidewalk. The women have parasols but because they are on the shaded side of the street, their parasols are closed and being used as walking sticks.

Morrissey in the background looking up at the spaces on the second and third floors.

SARAH

Mother, why did we have to get here
so early? The dances don't start
until Friday and that is merely a
hop.

CORA

And in Savannah, yellow fever
breakouts start the first week of
June.

SARAH

Looks like all the same stores to
me.

Sadie uses her parasol as a pointer.

SADIE

That fancy goods store is new and
so is that sweet shop.

SARAH

Are you proud of yourself, you
found the only two new stores in
the village? Why do you always
have to correct me?

SADIE

I don't. I only correct you when you are wrong. It is hardly my fault if that is frequent.

SARAH

Mother do we have to take her every time we stroll? I would rather stay in the cottage with Todd than deal with her.

CORA

We will stroll each day. And we will behave like fine Southern ladies.

Sadie uses her parasol again.

SADIE

That jewelry store is new. I am amazed you didn't see that one first!

CORA

Ladies!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JEWELRY STORE - AFTERNOON

Morrissey enters as the Stiles women pass by the window.

Man is painting the name of the store on the window.

The store has only two display counters and the shelves are only half full of bric-a-brac.

The clerk DAVID PRATT (25) is examining newly arrived jewelry.

DAVID

I'm sorry sir; we are not open for business.

David looks at the empty display cases

DAVID (CONT'D)

It will be at least another week before we officially open our doors. I suppose I could show you something if you know exactly what you want.

MORRISSEY

I am not a customer at this time.

DAVID

Then how may I help you?

MORRISSEY

It is I who hope to help you.
Since you are not open, how would
you like to rent this store space
to me for the season? I will pay
you more than you would make all
season and you may have the
building back in September.

DAVID

My shelves and goods are due in
this week. I will be open in
plenty of time for the true season.

MORRISSEY

That is as it may be; however, I
need a place for my business. I am
willin' to pay you \$3,000 for the
season. That has to be at least
twice what you are anticipatin'
earning. Think of it, a profit
before you open the door and you do
not have to work for it.

DAVID

That is an attractive offer.
However, like everyone else in the
village, I need the season to pay
for the year.

MORRISSEY

I am offering you what you would
make for the year; paid in advance.

DAVID

What type of store would you put in
that makes you so sure that you can
make enough to pay me such a
generous amount?

MORRISSEY

My business is providing what the
public seeks.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DINING ROOM SH - AFTERNOON

The dining room is less than a third full.

People are clustered in family groups, couples and the rare single male.

The four dowagers are sitting together.

Morrissey is eating alone at one end of a long table.

Marvin stands across the table from him.

MARVIN

Mr. Morrissey, I hope your search went well.

MORRISSEY

It is too soon to be sure. I was able to put in a bid on a storefront this afternoon. It is on Broadway, which would prove ideal.

MARVIN

So you have a place.

MORRISSEY

The young merchant told me he needed the night to think about it. I am confident he will see the merits of my offer.

MARVIN

I thought I saw on the reservation that your wife was joining you.

MORRISSEY

She will be here within the next few days. I wanted some time to make my business arrangements before she arrived.

MARVIN

Wives are such a comfort. "Nieces" can cause such a distraction.

MORRISSEY

I have no need or desire for a "niece." When you see my wife you will understand.

Marvin smiles, nods and walks to another table.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CONGRESS SPRING - MORNING

George and Jacob stand at one of the pillars.

Jacob has a glass of water in one hand, George does not.

There are about forty people present.

A woman, sitting on a folding chair, plays the violin.

A dipper boy fills the glass of anyone who comes up to the rail.

The two Stiles girls, dressed in white dresses, stand at a second pillar. Todd runs around.

As if by requirement, the servants stand further back than the guests with the slaves and free blacks even further to the exterior.

Walter Pratt stands among the slaves drinking a glass of water and mingling.

Mrs. Brewster and Miss Strong stand near the walkway used to go to the hotels, the two examine everyone with a critical eye.

James Cook finishes his glass of water and leaves.

Jacob looks at the Stiles sisters raises glass in a mock salute.

JACOB

Now that is why people come to
Saratoga for the season.

GEORGE

Jacob, you never change. Last year
you were madly in love with one of
Vanderbilt's daughters and this
year you are ready to fall in love
the first week of the season.

JACOB

And, with any luck, I will fall in
love each week of the season.
Oh no, that would mean I could only
fall in love 10 times before fall.
That simply will not do.

GEORGE

I am with your uncle on this. We will be delighted if you only fall in love 10 times this summer.

(Exasperated)

Are you ready for breakfast?

JACOB

Not before I say hello to those lovely southern belles. "Belles," I like that term. I think I will go ring them.

Jacob pats George on the back, walks toward Sarah and Sadie.

George shakes his head and moves toward boarding house passing Mrs. Brewster and Miss Strong.

MISS STRONG

Strangest custom I have ever experienced, walking to the springs for a tumbler of water before breakfast; yet everyone seems to partake.

MRS. BREWSTER

It is not the waters one seeks here, it is the news.

MISS STRONG

News?

MRS. BREWSTER

You know, who danced with whom; who was caught talking to whom; and who is no longer speaking to whom.

MISS STRONG

I so loathe gossip.

MRS. BREWSTER

(With a smile)

Oh me too; me too.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEACH'S OFFICE (SECRETARY'S) - MORNING

The bell in the village hall rings nine times.

The office has dark wainscoting with all the furniture made of wood. There are book shelves on two walls filled with law books.

The windows to the street below are open; gentle street noises can be heard including the clumping of horse's hooves.

George is standing before the desk of the overbearing male secretary, DEXTER (late 30s).

The secretary's desk is very neat, appears unused.

GEORGE

My name is George Batcheller. I am here to begin reading for the law under Mr. Beach.

DEXTER

Of course you are. Please be seated.

Dexter points to a set of chairs along the wall.

George takes a seat in a stiff wooden chair looks at the clock.

LAWRENCE (24), FRANK (22), JAMES (24) enter together.

Lawrence, Frank and James each examine George as they pick up folders at Dexter's desk.

Folders in hand Lawrence, Frank and James enter a room off Dexter's office.

INT. STATES HOTEL GENTLEMEN'S PARLOR - MORNING

Marvin and Thomas Stiles are sitting in leather wing-back chairs. Each is smoking a cigar.

THOMAS

My dear Marvin, there is no question but that it is a difficult issue. What those in the north fail to understand is that to southerners our peculiar institution is both a social and economic necessity. Congress will never make it illegal and we will never give it up.

Marvin does not answer.

Thomas continues after he takes a long drag on his cigar.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

There is a prevailing belief that the Negro is inferior to those of European descent. Preachers, in all the churches in Savannah, site verses from the Bible where slavery is practiced. It is the belief throughout the south that it is the white man's duty to protect and train those of color.

MARVIN

As a hotel owner catering to a worldly clientele, I have learned to avoid political discussions; however, I would point out to you that here in the Springs, with fourteen churches, you will find but one minister who will defend what you call a 'peculiar institution.'

THOMAS

There is also the issue of what would happen if those in bondage were suddenly freed. In Savannah those of color outnumber the white population and the issue is even graver in Charleston.

MARVIN

Among many of our guests, regardless of where they are from, you will find that they believe that the Dred Scott decision will lead to war. You will forgive my bluntness but though it is your legal right, I wish you had not brought slaves with you.

THOMAS

I only brought two, my wife's and my daughters' ladies. My father freed Benjamin years ago. My wife treats her lady as well as any servant is treated in the hotel and my daughters and Missey would be lost without each other.

MARVIN

I will be spending my entire summer trying to squelch conversations on slavery. As a friend I would suggest you do the same.

(MORE)

MARVIN (CONT'D)

Rare is the person who changes his
view to embrace the institution.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEACH'S OFFICE:

The church bell rings eleven times there is the sound of
Beach's boots on the stairs.

BEACH (late 40s) tall and fit, enters looks the room over
noticing George.

Beach speaks in a courtroom voice extends his hand to George

BEACH

Ah. Mr. Batcheller I presume. Good
to have you join our firm.

George rises Beach grabs his hand firmly and gives it a hard,
almost painful, shake.

BEACH (CONT'D)

You might as well get started.
James Cook has asked that some
mortgages be reviewed. Do you know
Mr. Cook?

GEORGE

Yes, before his wife became ill, he
used to stay at our house when he
went hunting in the Adirondacks.

Beach walks to Dexter's desk and picks up notes.

BEACH

So your father was a Whig?

GEORGE

Yes, and like Mr. Cook he is now a
Republican.

BEACH

Dexter, give Mr. Batcheller the
Bank mortgages sent over for Mr.
Cook.

Beach turns to George

BEACH (CONT'D)

When you are finished take them
over to the Cook's house. It is on
Phila Street.

GEORGE

Will you want to see my notes
before I take them to Mr. Cook?

BEACH

Mr. Batcheller, Ransom Cook never
makes a mistake; your review is
perfunctory, that is why I gave it
to you.

Beach holding the notes enters his office.

George walks to Dexter's desk.

Dexter hands George a thick manila folder.

Dexter points in the direction of the office where the three
men had entered previously.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLERK'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

George enters the office assigned to the clerks. He finds
Lawrence, Frank, James sitting at small wooden desks. Books
are piled irregularly. Each man is busy either writing or
researching.

There is no desk for George so he sits at the long library
table.

Not one of the men speaks to him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PARLOR STILES COTTAGE

Josey and Missey clean Mrs. Stile's room.

JOSEY

(colloquial)

We's gets so much done when they's
in the park list'n to the music.

MISSEY

(colloquial)

Wouldn it be nice to jus list'n to
the music and not have to work?

JOSEY
 (colloquial)
 There's you go's agin think'n high
 thoughts and get'n all rightous.

MISSEY
 (colloquial)
 I wasn't sayin' we was doin' it, I
 jus said it would be nice.

JOSEY
 (colloquial)
 An' I thin' it would be real nice
 if you done your share of the work.

MISSEY
 (hiding a secret)
 I have more expected of me then yus
 ever will.

JOSEY
 (Starring coldly)
 But no more'n use'd to be asked of
 me.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK STATES - MORNING

A piano player is playing period music on the back Piazza.

There are about fifty people reading, writing letters,
 painting and wandering the paths.

Sarah gathers her watercolors and walks across the hotel's
 park. She enters the family's cottage.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SARAH AND SADIE'S ROOM - MORNING

Sarah can be heard climbing the stairs.

Sadie moves quickly from her chair by the window and places a
 book under her pillow and returns to her chair where she
 picks up needle point.

Sarah calls out to the room she shares with her sister.

SARAH
 Sadie!

Sarah enters.

SARAH (CONT'D)
What are you hiding?

SADIE
Nothing.

Sarah stares.

SADIE (CONT'D)
Just a book.

SARAH
You were reading again? We are here among the best possible beaux in the country and you sit alone reading a book.

SADIE
Just because they are present does not mean they are interesting.

Sarah walks around the room.

SARAH
Interesting, what is interesting?

Getting more sarcastic with each word

SARAH (CONT'D)
The sons of planters only want to hunt, ride and brag about their fine thoroughbred horses. Oh yes, and to complain about the quality of the bourbon. When they get older, they add lounging on the veranda and sleeping to their busy itineraries.

Sadie is unimpressed

SARAH (CONT'D)
That is why I am here. I am going to marry a man from the north; a professional man who goes to his office each day, his clubs in the evening and dances every dance at the ball on Saturday evenings.

SADIE
A man like Jacob Marvin I assume. What about his friend, what is his name, George Sherman Batcheller?

SARAH

Mr. Batcheller is way too consumed with himself; too serious by a mile. He may be smarter than Jacob but he is not as handsome and I doubt if he can dance a lick.

SADIE

And with Mr. Jacob Marvin what will you talk about over dinner?

SARAH

I said a man like Jacob; I did not say that Jacob was the man. We will talk about his clients or his store. We will discuss where the children will go to school and (giggling) what we will do with mother and father when they are too old to live alone. I will suggest with you.

SADIE

That may be, but I am going to find a man who wants to discuss ideas, who brings me flowers each day, who reads me poetry in the evening.

Sarah walks around the small room.

SARAH

Then you are also going to marry a man from the north. If you are going to impress a southern man you must always avoid topics of literacy. If not, you will make him run from you as if you had the plague.

SADIE

Sarah you are the sparkling dilettante of the family. Despite what you may think, it is not all about good looks and companionship. My beaux will provide bright conversation at the dinner table and in the evening.

SARAH

I could have holiday dinners with a brother-in-law who is all you want, as long as he is not a solitary thinker. Who could possibly be attracted to a writer or painter?

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

They are too conceited and self-centered.

Sarah quickly reaches under her sister's pillow and pulls out the book Twelve Years a Slave.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Oh Sadie, how could you. Mother and father would kill you if they found this. If you were not sent to Gran-ma-ma's you would be banned from the dances all season; then who will I sit with? Not that I plan to sit at all.

SADIE

If you tried to read it you would see it is a classic example of the author trying to find the extreme example. Father and everyone we know would never treat our slaves like they describe in the book.

Sarah throws the book on the bed and walks toward the door.

SARAH

(Exasperated)

If you must read, bring a book out into the park

(Pause)

and make it poetry.

Sarah picks up her writing materials walks leaving Sadie alone.

Sadie picks up the book, sits back in her chair and returns to her reading.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BACK OF COTTAGES MORNING

Benjamin is smoking a cigarette he rolled for himself while Josey hangs out the family's clothes to air.

BENJAMIN

(colloquial)

They buy you the best servants' clothes to show that slaves are treated better than white servants.

JOSEY
 (colloquial)
 That shows how little yus know Benjamin Stiles. They buys us the best clothes to show how well off they is.

BENJAMIN
 (colloquial)
 Yus can say it anyway yus want but the honest truth is that they brought us up here to show that slavery isn't evil.

JOSEY
 (colloquial)
 That's easy for you to say; yus free. But Missey and me we's got to mind our p's and q's.

BENJAMIN
 (colloquial)
 I's agree you do. I's not so sure about Missey.

JOSEY
 (colloquial)
 What's yus mean by that?

Benjamin throws the butt on the ground, steps on it and walks back into the cottage.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COOK'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

George, dressed in his newest frock coat, walks up the steps, rings the bell and waits.

BUTLER(65) very proper opens the door.

GEORGE
 I have a package for Mr. Cook.

BUTLER
 Mr. Cook is not here, you may leave it in my care.

GEORGE
 Thank you, but I think it will be better if I come back later, when is he expected.

Catharine appears from the parlor door holding the book she has been reading. Her finger between the pages marks her place.

CATHARINE

I am Catharine, Mr. Cook's daughter. Would you be allowed to leave the package with me?

GEORGE

I am quite certain that would be permissible. I am sure you do not remember me but I am George Sherman Batcheller. Our fathers visited each other often before our mothers became ill.

CATHARINE

I remember. You are from Batchellerville; how is your family?

GEORGE

Like you, my mother passed. The others are well. My sister is engaged and will marry this summer. My father is the same as always.

CATHARINE

What do you mean when you say 'the same as always?'

GEORGE

My father runs his woodworking business with an iron fist; and his family the same way.

CATHARINE

Mr. Batcheller, excuse my familiarity but I have always wondered why you constantly use your middle name.

George explanation sounds like a recording.

GEORGE

My family is very proud of their connection to Roger Sherman, the only man to sign the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution.

CATHARINE

That sounds rehearsed, although it
does show deep roots.

GEORGE

Humble lives of late.

George notices that the book is entitled Notre Dame de Paris
by Victor Hugo. He speaks first in French. As the languages
change the English version appears as a subscript.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Appréciez vous le livre
Are you enjoying the book?

CATHARINE

Il a besoin d'un développement de
la personnalité, mais l'intrigue
est intéressante.
It needs some character development
but the story line is interesting.

She switches to Latin.

Have vos legere librum?
Have you read it?

GEORGE

Non, sed nunc quod classes sunt
super sum frui relegere of
avunculus Tom scriptor Cameram.
No, but now that classes are over I
am enjoying a reread of Uncle Tom's
cabin.

He switches to Spanish.

Lo ha leído?
Have you read it?

CATHARINE

Sí, por supuesto. Me parece que
siempre es mejor para leer a los
clásicos en su lengua materna.
Yes of course. I find it is always
best to read the classics in their
native language.

She switches to German.

Haben Sie das Kommunistische
Manifest von Karl Marx?
Have you read the communist
manifesto by Karl Marx?

GEORGE

I am sorry but my German is weak.
I did read a translation of Marx's
work. As we all know, "Language is
the armory of the human mind, and
at once contains the trophies of
its past and the weapons of its
future conquests."

CATHARINE

Ah, and People of humor are always
in some degree people of genius.

GEORGE

My compliments, you know your
Coleridge as well as your
languages.

CATHARINE

So you do not give a lady a warning
before you give her a test?

GEORGE

My apologies if my words appeared
as a test; although, if it were a
test, you would have received an
'A.'

George bows slightly as he hands the thick folder to
Catharine.

George turns to leave.

Catherine speaks and he turns back.

CATHARINE

When shall I tell my father that
you will be back to collect the
papers?

GEORGE

There is no need, they are in final
form.

George again turns to leave.

CATHARINE

Since you are working with Mr.
Beach, perhaps you might call some
time to meet my father.

George again turns to face her.

GEORGE

I would like that very much;
perhaps later in the week?

CATHARINE

Let us say Thursday. Father is
usually home by 5:00. I will tell
him to expect you.

Catharine turns and reenters the house.

George leaves the porch a proud smile appears.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LESTER BROTHERS' OFFICE - AFTERNOON

There are two wooden roll top desks facing the wall with a table that can be used for meetings in the center of the room. Lester's coat is hanging on a rack and he is in a tie and vest. Seated at one desk is WILLARD LESTER (40) reading the newspaper.

The windows are open street sounds can be heard.

A bell rings as Morrissey opens the door and enters.

MORRISSEY

Mr. Lester?

Lester rises and offers his hand.

LESTER

Good afternoon. Willard Lester,
how may I help you?

MORRISSEY

My name is John Morrissey. I am
looking for a suitable site to open
a business. They told me at the
newspaper office that you were the
man to see.

LESTER

Perhaps, if you had been here a
week ago, or better yet a month
ago, that would have been true. At
this point everything has been
rented. I only wish I had more
listings, I could fill any and all
in a day.

MORRISSEY

What about a stable or livery?

LESTER

A stable, what kind of business are you opening?

MORRISSEY

It will be for entertainment.

LESTER

In a livery? You must forgive my confusion.

MORRISSEY

A livery would be the last option. What I need is a space near the hotels.

LESTER

Mr. Morrissey, I can assure you there is nothing available in the village, let alone near the hotels.

Morrissey turns to leave.

LESTER (CONT'D)

Then, Mr. Morrissey, I assume you will not be opening a business this season.

MORRISSEY

Oh, I will be opening a business within the week; when I set my mind to a mission, I succeed.

Morrissey exits. After Morrissey leaves

LESTER

Irish.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIVE CORNERS NYC NIGHT

Over Screen "Five Points 12 years before."

Morrissey and seven other gang members are standing at one of the corners.

There is an open fire in the middle of the street.

A crowd of over a hundred has gathered at various fires to keep warm.

Those gathered are also waiting for a fight that inevitably happens each night.

Each person in the crowd is dressed in rags worse than the person next to them.

GANG MEMBER 1

John yus know it's goin'na happen,
yus might as well finish it now.
McCann ain't goin' 'way on his own.

MORRISSEY

If-fen he's smart enough to avoid
me, why should I go pushin' a
fight?

GANG MEMBER 2

There ain't no respect to be gott'n
in walkin' 'way.

Gang member 2 looks over Morrissey's shoulder.

GANG MEMBER 2 (CONT'D)

Don't look now but he is coming.

Morrissey keeps his back turned to McCANN.

McCann, spurred on by his fellow gang members begins to shout as he approaches Morrissey from behind.

MCCANN

Morrissey, I 'ear you thin' you're
tough. Well let's just see 'ow
tough yuh really is.

Gang member 2 raises his eyebrows just slightly. Morrissey turns around and punches McCann square in the nose.

McCann staggers back but maintains his footing. Although slightly dazed, McCann pulls up his fists into the classic boxer's stance.

McCann takes a wide swing with his right arm aimed at Morrissey's head.

Morrissey ducks the blow and lands an uppercut under McCann's chin.

McCann staggers, backs up to regroup.

The crowd is aware what is happening and becomes incensed.

CROWD

Get him! Don't let him rest! Hit
him now!

McCann takes a few seconds to let his head clear then moves back into the fight.

McCann hits Morrissey with a left jab.

Morrissey tries to swing the next blow McCann hooks his arm, puts his leg behind Morrissey's leg and flips him onto the coals at the edge of the fire.

Morrissey jumps to his feet, the back of his shirt is on fire.

Morrissey starts pummeling McCann's face with one blow after another.

One of Morrissey's gang members runs to the well in the middle of the street to get a bucket of water.

Under a rain of punches, McCann's face becomes a bloody pulp.

Morrissey's gang member throws the bucket of water on Morrissey back.

Most of the fire is extinguished but a combination of steam and smoke rise from the shirt.

Morrissey lands a powerful right.
As McCann starts to drop, two of his compatriots call out;

COMPATRIOTS

Enough!

McCann's men try to pull McCann out of the fray.

Another of Morrissey's gang has brought yet a second bucket of water which he pours over Morrissey's back. The last of the fire goes out.

Two of Morrissey's own gang members grab him and hold him back from McCann.

Morrissey's men call out as they try to pull the burnt shirt from Morrissey's body.

GANG MEMBER 1

Yuh beat him good.

GANG MEMBER 2

(Laughing)

Yuh kept on even when yus're on
fire.

GANG MEMBER 1

From now on i'lls be callin' yus
"Ol' Smoke."

General laughter and excitement.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PIAZZA SH - AFTERNOON

Mrs. Brewster, Mrs. Brown, Miss Strong, MISS LEE (35), AND
MISS PLACE (31) sit in rocking chairs arranged in a crescent
shape. Each woman is wearing a hoop dress and watching those
who walk by on the street.

Each of the Ladies except Mrs. Brewster have books, but none
are reading. Mrs. Brewster has knitting.

Marvin, mingling, nods to each dowager as he says her name.

MARVIN

Good afternoon Mrs. Brewster, Mrs.
Brown, Miss Lee, Miss Strong, Miss
Place. It is so good to see you
all again this season. I certainly
hope that you had a healthy winter
season and took in several plays.

The women all talk to Marvin then look to each other for
assurance.

Mrs. Brewster attempts to flirt with Marvin.

MRS. BREWSTER

Mr. Marvin, you know I only attend
the opera; theatricals attract such
a disreputable element, both on the
stage and in the audience.

MRS. BROWN

There were several Shakespearian
plays in Philadelphia. My former
husband had a box each season and I
have continued to subscribe ever
since his untimely death.

MISS LEE

The most interesting performance in Hartford was "Our American Cousin." You simply must see it.

MARVIN

When it plays in Albany or Troy I will make a point of going to a performance. Ladies, have a good day.

Marvin tips his hat, walks to greet others on the porch.

MISS STRONG

I should be going to my room to lay down for a brief rest. The excursion yesterday was such a strain. Do you believe they misplaced one of my trunks?

MRS. BROWN

One, only one; they told me two of mine will not get here until today.

MISS LEE

(To Miss Strong)

I will escort you. A short nap would be good for me also.

Mrs. Brown waves her kerchief as if hailing a hack.

MRS. BROWN

Please hold on my dears, I could use a rest myself.

Miss Strong, Miss Lee and Mrs. Brown rise and walk into the hotel.

The Dowagers continue in hushed tones.

MRS. BREWSTER

Untimely death, my, my; the only thing untimely about her husband's death was that he did not have time enough to put his pants on before he passed! You do know that is why she imagines that every un-escorted woman in the hotel is someone's niece. It makes her such a shrew.

MISS LEE

I never noticed. Under the circumstances Mrs. Brown always seems very pleasant to me.

MRS. BREWSTER

Pleasant, I am the pleasant one. She is an argument waiting to happen, and that Miss Strong, despite her wealth, if she does not find a man this season she shall have to accept the role of spinster.

MISS LEE

Twenty-four is not that old.

MRS. BREWSTER

Twenty-four! She's twenty-seven if she is a day.

(Recoups)

I suppose with all her money she will be able to buy a husband someday.

(Under her breath)

Or one will find her.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MASONIC LODGE - AFTERNOON

Morrissey enters the second floor Masonic Lodge.

There are chairs around the perimeter all facing in.

The grand Marshal's chair and two assistants' chairs are on a raised dais.

There is single member present, HARRISON (41); he is putting glasses away in a cabinet.

HARRISON / MASON

Good afternoon, how may I help you?

MORRISSEY

I am a Mason from the Brooklyn Lodge, although I spend almost as much time in the Troy Lodge.

HARRISON

Welcome to our fair village.

MORRISSEY

My name is John Morrissey. I am interested in renting a space for the season.

HARRISON

If you are looking for lodging, the major hotels should still have rooms. Mr. Marvin at The States is a fellow Mason; remind him of that and he should be able to help. There is also Mrs. Webb's boarding house if you are staying for the entire season.

MORRISSEY

I have engaged rooms. What I need is a commercial space where I can operate a business.

HARRISON

I am sorry, I cannot think of a single space that is available.

Morrissey is examining the room.

MORRISSEY

What about the lodge hall? I would pay handsomely.

HARRISON

We have meetings all season. It is a time for our fellow members, from around the country, to come and to share.

MORRISSEY

Wouldn't the lodge be better off renting this floor and holding meetings on the next floor?

HARRISON

What is the nature of your business?

MORRISSEY

I am goin' to establish a gentlemen's clubhouse, a place with an honest reputation and a fair game.

HARRISON

If you are a fellow Mason, then you would know that we would never allow our lodge to be used in such a manner.

MORRISSEY

I am a Mason, and the lodges I attend offer such activities.

Morrissey leaves, as he closes the door the Harrison's jacket opens and his police badge shows.

HARRISON

Damn Irish, who started letting them in?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PIAZZA STATES - AFTERNOON

Morrissey climbs the steps and walks through the door.

In the background are four of the dowagers. Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Brewster, Miss Lee and Mrs. Jackson who are sitting in rocking chairs.

Two men are sitting in the chairs usually occupied by the dowagers.

The day has warmed up and most of the women have fancy fans to cool themselves.

MRS. BROWN

It is not going to be a good season; not good at all. Any season that starts with this much discord is bound to become dreadful. The hack drivers are more obnoxious than ever, and

Mrs. Brown points with her collapsed fan.

MRS. BROWN (CONT'D)

those men are sitting in our chairs.

MRS. BREWSTER

Everyone knows that those chairs are ours. Those have been our chairs for many seasons.

(MORE)

MRS. BREWSTER (CONT'D)

I swear, when the senior Mr. Marvin was operating this establishment he would have walked right up to those men and told them to move.

MISS LEE

Rude, it is simply rude, for men to assume that they can sit in any old seat. If etiquette keeps declining at this rate, in no time at all men will be drinking hard alcohol on the piazza.

MRS. BROWN

That is as it may be. I will not see it twice! If I ever see a man having a drink on the piazza I will check out that very morning and go to one of those Methodist institutes.

MRS. BREWSTER

Did you see the dress on that Miss Sarah Stiles wore to breakfast? I swear if it was cut any lower it would be illegal; so much for Southern modesty.

MISS LEE

In Hartford the minister would banish her from church and no lady of character would have called on her mother. I assume none of you will be calling on Mrs. Stiles.

Sarah Wearing a low cut dress walks out of the hotel with the Reverend Mr. Beecher.

Beecher tips his hat to the four dowagers.

Sarah smiles in the direction of the dowagers. Sarah and the Reverend, turn and walk in the direction of the Baptist Church.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

There is a new organ behind the alter.

REVEREND BEECHER
 Isn't it marvelous. It was a gift
 from one of our seasonal
 parishioners.

SARAH
 It is beautiful. May I play?

REVEREND BEECHER
 That is the reason I brought you
 here. I so look forward to hearing
 you play on Sunday mornings.

SARAH
 You flatter me Reverend Beecher, I
 am not nearly good enough to play
 at services.

The Reverend watches appreciatively as Sarah walks to the organ.

REVEREND BEECHER
 You have been blessed by God with
 many aspects of natural beauty.

Uncomfortable with the remark, Sarah sits on the bench and proves that she is talented.

Reverend Beecher looks down at the low cut dress.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TAVERN - AFTERNOON

A relatively small neighborhood tavern. The bartender is talking to two locals. Four men are playing cards at a table in the back.

The railroad station in the background.

Morrissey enters, small suitcase in hand.

Morrissey puts the satchel at his feet and rests his arm on the bar.

MORRISSEY
 You look like a man who knows his
 community. Could you tell me of
 any buildings that are for rent?

BARTENDER
 I can help you get a drink, some
 crackers and maybe even a room.
 (MORE)

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

This time of year, for a building
you would have to ask at the
newspaper office.

MORRISSEY

I'll have a beer; make that a
boilermaker.

(Pause)

I've already tried the newspaper
office.

The bartender pulls the beer and pours whiskey into a shot
glass.

BARTENDER

My father owns the warehouse across
the street from the station. Last
time I talked to him there was
still space available. What do you
want the building for?

Bartender drops the shot glass into the beer.

Morrissey looks at the four men playing cards.

MORRISSEY

I am going to open a clubhouse; a
place for gentlemen to wager in an
honest game.

BARTENDER

No need to ask my father, he would
never allow gambling in one of his
buildings.

Morrissey turns his eyes toward the ceiling.

MORRISSEY

What about your second floor?

BARTENDER

Not interested.

MORRISSEY

Two thousand for the season; paid
in advance.

Morrissey opens the case so that the bartender can see the
cash inside.

The bartender dries a glass for a moment then silently
continues cleaning up.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SERVANTS' HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Thomas Stiles peeks out as he opens the door. Sure no one is coming, he slips out. The bare back of Missey, the younger slave, can be seen reclining on the bed. Her lower body is covered by a sheet. Thomas exits, closes the door and adjust his belt slithers away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK STATES HOTEL - AFTERNOON

A crowd of over a hundred is present. A string quartette is playing in the background.

Sarah is painting in watercolors

Sadie is reading a book of poetry.

Todd can be seen in the background at the archery range.

Jacob approaches the Stiles sisters.

JACOB

Miss Sarah Stiles I assume?

SARAH

There is no need to be coy Jacob. A couple of the dowagers saw you speaking to me at the springs this morning and by now an alarm has been spread throughout the hotel.

JACOB

Miss Sadie Stiles I presume?

SADIE

Thank you for trying to bring me into your little tryst but I am not interested.

JACOB

Sarah, apparently we are having a tryst. I thought that it was simply a chance meeting of a southern belle and a true gentleman from the north.

SARAH

Excuse my sister, she has an over developed imagination.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

Sadie sees devils in every bush and those who would assault the flower of a good woman hiding behind every tree.

SADIE

I see only what is visible.

JACOB

Since I did not appear from behind a tree or even a bush, what do you see when I talk with your sister?

SADIE

A potential brother-in-law.

Sarah becomes stern.

SARAH

Sadie how dare you.

Sarah turns to Jacob.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I apologize for the impertinence of my sister.

JACOB

No need to apologize. Perhaps she really does see what is visible.

Cora approaches carrying a wrapped bundle.

CORA

Good afternoon Mr. Marvin. Saratoga has certainly provided us with some beautiful weather. I was wondering if I may prevail upon you to introduce some of the young men at the hotel to my daughters.

Sarah and Sadie speak in unison.

SARAH AND SADIE

Mother how could you!

CORA

I believe that Sadie in particular would like to meet young Mr. Walter Pratt. The word around the hotel is that he has quite a future as a writer.

SADIE

Mother!

Sarah smiles.

JACOB

Like Miss Sarah and Miss Sadie, he is usually at the springs in the morning. I will be glad to oblige the next time he is there or, for that matter, I will do proper introductions when any of the other fine single men, who are spending the season, are at the spring.

Cora looks up at the cloudless sky.

CORA

The weather looks good for tomorrow. They will be at the Congress about 8:00. Girls, it is time to get ready for supper.

The Stiles women gather their possessions.

Sarah takes a little too long and bends a little too far over to pick up her paints. Her hoop skirt goes up slightly in the back; Jacob has a clear view of her ankles.

After Sarah has finally gathered her painting supplies she turns to be sure Jacob noticed.

The Stiles women walk toward their cottage.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Morrissey is sitting at the same long table where he was ate the previous evening.

There is a couple at the other end of the table. The man, OSCAR BENNETT (60) is significantly older than the woman, EDITH (mid 20s).

Marvin approaches the table with an envelope in his hand.

Marvin greets Bennett with a firm handshake.

MARVIN

Mr. Bennett, how good to see you.
I see you brought along another of
your nieces this year.

Bennett talks with his mouth full and points with his fork.

BENNETT

Yes, yes, this is Edith. She's,
she's
(Remembering)
my sister's daughter. She is also
from Pittsburgh.

MARVIN

I hope you enjoy your stay. Will
you be with us for the entire
season or will one of your
'cousins' be joining you later?

EDITH

I plan to be here for the entire
season, although

Edith raises her eyebrows.

EDITH (CONT'D)

it might be interesting if one of
my cousins or even my aunt did join
us.

MARVIN

If that should happen I am sure you
will be quite happy. Whatever you
do, be sure to enjoy our hops and
balls, they start Friday evening.

(Pause)

Have you two met Mr. Morrissey?

Marvin turns to introduce Morrissey.

Mr. Oscar Bennett, Miss Edith let
me introduce you to Mr. John
Morrissey. Mr. John Morrissey, let
me introduce you to Mr. Oscar
Bennett and his niece Miss Edith.
Now when you should meet in the
hotel or park, you may speak.

Marvin walks to Morrissey.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

So has your search been successful?

MORRISSEY

Not at this point. It appears that every convenient facility has been engaged for the summer.

MARVIN

As I expected, even the hotel's advanced bookings are up from last year. So you have given up?

MORRISSEY

I am not in the practice of givin' up. At this point I am considerin' rentin' a large tent for the season.

MARVIN

A tent would require a space to set it and it would get terribly hot under a canvass tent in the summer.

MORRISSEY

I could always raise the sides to let in a night breeze but that would take away some much needed privacy.

MARVIN

You are facing a dilemma. By the way this came for you.

Marvin hands Morrissey the envelope.

Morrissey watches Marvin go to another table before he opens the telegram.

P.O.V OVER MORRISSEY'S SHOULDER IT READS:

"Equipment packed and ready to ship. Should leave by Friday."

Morrissey crumbles the note.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE TRAIN STATION - AFTERNOON

The crowd is intense.

The last car is a private Pullman.

Morrissey and his very attractive wife, SUSIE (24) are standing near the baggage car. She is holding his arm.

Morrissey gathers her two trunks and three suitcases. Everyone gives him space.

A young woman moves in close to a mature couple. She is a pickpocket trying to move next to the man. She notices Morrissey glaring at her and leaves.

Moderately attractive MARY (28), stands back from the pack watching for her own trunk.

SUSIE

Lil' John will enjoy being with my mother for a few days. I wanted time to settle in; besides mother loves doting over him.

MORRISSEY

And she will spoil him. You know she lets him eat all the sweets he wants and when he gets here he will be sick for two days.

SUSIE

A grandmother's right. How has your search gone?

MORRISSEY

(Exasperated)
Not well.

SUSIE

You were unable to work out an arrangement with Mr. Marvin? You were so sure he would see the value in your proposal.

MORRISSEY

He made it clear he was not interested. I think he wants to let the private games go on but nothin' too public.

SUSIE

John, you cannot blame him, he does have the reputation of the hotel to maintain.

Door to second baggage car opens three women; PAULINE (21), ANTOINETTE (23), JANET (18) and one very large black man, BOB (45), rush out. The three women hold up the fronts of their well worn skirts to run faster. Holes can be seen in their stockings. Bob's run is more of a lumber.

PAULINE
Run, run yus fools

JANET
Dont calls me no fool, I knows when
to run.

Antoinette just laughs.

As Morrissey watches, the women and the man make a successful getaway.

A couple JOHN and ETHEL, both about fifty, thin and poorly dressed get off the third class car. They have two dirty children under the age of five with them.

John and Ethel hold two bags apiece, the children are each carrying what appear to be sacks.

John takes a sip from his flask then hands it to Ethel who also takes a sip.

John watches as Pauline, Antoinette, Janet and Bob make their escape.

JOHN
I know'd they'd make it jus' fine.

ETHEL
Shut's up and carry the bags. Yus
thin' yus know'd everythin'.

The two struggle with the bags.

Morrissey smiles at the show to which he was just treated.

A team of four beautiful white horses pulls up to the station. Two footmen jump off the back of the carriage; one crosses the station and opens the door to the Pullman car.

The second opens door to the carriage. A tall, thin, regal woman, MADAM JUMEL (looks 40s actually much older) gracefully exits the Pullman and walks to the carriage.

Those in crowd watch Madam Jumel climb into the carriage and carried away.

Morrissey signals a hack to take his wife's luggage to the hotel. The hack driver appears only too happy to be carrying Morrissey's luggage.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CONGRESS SPRING

George and Jacob are standing next to each other near one of the pillars. Jacob has a glass of water, George does not.

The crowd has grown to well over sixty.

A woman seated playing a flute.

Among those in the crowd are Sarah, Sadie and Cora. Sarah and Cora have on cotton dresses. They do not have on a hoop skirt. It looks as if Sadie has simply pulled her dressing gown over her night dress. All three women have tumblers of water.

Todd is admiring the fine horse tied to the hitching post.

Walter Pratt, holding a glass of water, is among the servants. He is wearing the same suit jacket that he has worn all week.

The entire dowager coven Mrs. Brewster, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Jackson, Miss Lee and Miss Strong stand off in a corner near the path to the hotels.

Madam Jumel looks better than women half her age. Everyone looks on with jealousy. She is well dressed with leather gloves and a scarf. Her glass is crystal.

George and Jacob stare at Madam Jumel.

GEORGE

She's back for another season.

JACOB

I doubt she would ever miss and the springs would not be the same without her.

GEORGE

No matter what has happened to her, she holds her head high and looks askance at her detractors. To me she epitomizes elegance.

JACOB

Sometimes I wish I had gone to Harvard. If I could talk like that I would be

Jacob fakes a French accent

JACOB (CONT'D)

Le beaux extraordinary.

GEORGE

You do well enough now filling your dance card, and furthermore Harvard would disavow any connection.

JACOB

As the hotel owner's nephew, I have a duty to perform.

George looks questionably at Jacob.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Whenever one of the guests wants an introduction, it is my responsibility. Do you think this antiquated rule of never speaking to anyone without a formal introduction will ever end?

GEORGE

I would certainly hope not. Can you imagine life if a man could approach a woman, to whom he had not been introduced, in a grocery or library? With such behavior polite society would collapse in a single generation.

Jacob walks over to Walter, George remains.

JACOB

Walter, I think we have guests who you would like to meet.

WALTER

Jacob, how good to see you.

Jacob takes Walter's arm and leads him to the three Stiles women.

Jacob points to each woman as she is introduced.

JACOB

Walter, I would like to introduce you to Mrs. Cora Stiles and her daughters, Sarah and Sadie. Ladies, this is Walter Pratt. Walter is one of our village's aspiring authors. He writes for the Press.

(MORE)

JACOB (CONT'D)

Walter, I am sure that you must agree that we are to be grateful to the unpleasant climate in Southern cities each summer, as it causes them to send their finest lilies north to enjoy our resplendent atmosphere.

Walter politely takes each woman's hand as they are introduced.

WALTER

Mrs. Stiles, Miss Sarah, Miss Sadie it is indeed a pleasure to meet you. How long will you be with us?

Walter attempts to hold Sadie's hand for a second longer than normal. Sadie pulls it away.

CORA

It is nice to meet you; we have engaged a cottage at the States for the season. Who is that lady in the green dress?

JACOB

That is Madam Jumel.

WALTER

The widow of Steven Jumel and the former wife of Vice President Aaron Burr. She has climbed a very long way.

JACOB

That is not proven. What we do know is that she is one of the classic beauties of our times and that she honors our springs each year with her presence. I would like to think that our mineral waters have helped contribute to her lasting beauty.

CORA

She is as beautiful as they say. I have heard of her but never expected her to look so stately.

WALTER

Just wait until you see her in her four horse carriage this afternoon.

JACOB

Her beauty pales beside yours and
your daughters.

CORA

Jacob you are becoming too bold.
Girls, shall we go to breakfast?

WALTER

It was a pleasure meeting you. I
hope to see you another morning.

The girls wave but don't answer.

As she walks away, Sadie drops a handkerchief.

Walter hesitates for a minute then picks up the handkerchief
noticing the embroidery. He starts to call after her but
puts it in his pocket.

Madam Jumel who is talking quietly to a bald man who is much
shorter than she.

Walter and Jacob can be seen trying to listen in to what
Madam Jumel is saying.

Jacob returns to George.

MRS. BREWSTER

Look at that woman; so overdressed
for this hour. I would wager she
never went home last evening.

MRS. JACKSON

That is the infamous Madam Jumel.

MRS. BREWSTER

Now there is a woman with a
checkered past. I would never be
seen in public if I had lived a
life such as hers.

The other four dowagers gather closer.

MRS. BREWSTER (CONT'D)

You know they say her mother was a
fallen woman and, some say, that
she fell into the same fate when
she was young.

MRS. JACKSON

I have heard the same, but, I have
also heard that the story was
created by people who were jealous.

MRS. BREWSTER

Well, you can be sure I am not
jealous of her.

MRS. JACKSON

I would not imply that you were,
only that that was what some say
was the source of the story. We do
know that she was married to Mr.
Jumel and that he was a fabulously
wealthy man and after he passed she
married a Vice President.

MRS. BREWSTER

The first was much older and
'French.' The second was tried for
treason. That is hardly a record
marriage anyone should endeavor to
replicate.

MRS. JACKSON

Perhaps not, but you do know who
that little man who is talking to
her?

MRS. BREWSTER

Probably some pretender after her
supposed wealth.

MRS. JACKSON

No, that is our former President,
the honorable Martin Van Buren.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PIAZZA - AFTERNOON

Five of the dowagers Mrs. Brewster, Brown, Jackson, and
Misses Lee and Strong, are sitting in their regular rocking
chairs.

A slight man (35) is standing near the bottom of the steps of
the hotel. He has a silver tooth pick in his mouth.

A man is walking up and down the piazza in search of a seat.

Bennett, looking thrown together, and Edith, dressed very
well, are sitting in rocking chairs near the entrance.

Marvin and Thomas Stiles sit in chairs at the end of the
Piazza.

MRS. BREWSTER

You do know why that man is standing at the bottom of the steps?

MRS. BROWN

Of course; he may think he is fooling people but everyone knows that he is trying to catch a glimpse of a lady's ankle as she ascends the stairs.

MRS. BREWSTER

I shall have to call over one of the waiters and have him removed. Back in the day, when the senior Mr. Marvin was operating the hotel, a man like that would have already been sent on his way.

MISS LEE

It is just disgusting the behavior and boldness of the men this season. The poor innocent young ladies who climb those steps would never suspect that there was a man leering. A thing like that would never happen in Hartford.

MISS PLACE

Oh my, I was just thinking he was standing there when I came back from the springs. I certainly hope he did not see my stockings.

MRS. BREWSTER

Miss Place, I do not think you have to worry. I am sure it was the younger ladies that were capturing his attention.

MISS PLACE

I think he would look at any well-turned ankle.

MRS. BREWSTER

Then we shall have to have him removed.

She signals a waiter.

The waiter comes to Mrs. Brewster

Mrs. Brewster points her parasol at the man at the bottom of the stairs.

MRS. BROWN

When I was downtown, I could not help noticing those young Stiles girls shopping in the fancy goods store. The way they spend money, they better marry for it.

MRS. BREWSTER

There is no question but that that is exactly their intention. That is why they stay at the States, is this not where all the money and politicians stay?

MISS STRONG

If they are not to have a good season when they are young, when will it be their season? Each piece of fruit is ripe for such a short period.

MRS. JACKSON

You talk as if your time is over. Miss Strong, you will have your day and I would guess it will be this very season.

The waiter talks to the man at the bottom of the stairs. The man glares at the dowagers then reluctantly walks away.

There are open seats, the man who has been walking up and down the piazza is still on patrol.

Thomas and Marvin watch from chairs at the end of the piazza.

THOMAS

Do you think he will ever land?

MARVIN

Not for a while, he is too busy showing off his new silver handled cane.

THOMAS

To whom?

MARVIN

He is an example of kowing the difference between seeking and deserving attention;
(MORE)

MARVIN (CONT'D)
 seeking is from everyone, deserving
 is from someone.

Bennett and Edith are in chairs.

BENNETT
 Damnest place I ever stayed. Even
 if man's first he can be ask'd to
 move fer someon' else.

EDITH
 Now Oscar my darling you promised
 not to make a scene.

BENNETT
 I ain't make'n no scene, I jus'
 make'n a point.

EDITH
 Well now we know that that table is
 reserved for Mr. Vanderbilt; we
 won't be taking it again.

BENNETT
 I don't care. I's there first.

Morrissey and Susie walk up the steps and enter the hotel.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOBBY SH - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Morrisseys enter a young porter is yelling.

PORTER
 Telegram for Mr. Morrissey;
 telegram for Mr. John Morrissey.

With all the activity in the lobby, people barely notice the
 porter. Morrissey raises his hand.

PORTER (CONT'D)
 Mr. Morrissey?

Morrissey reaches in his pocket pulls out a silver coin which
 he gives to the porter.

The porter looks at the coin, then smiles acknowledging it is
 a much larger tip than normal.

The porter walks away,

SUSIE

John you should not show off.
Humility, remember humility.

MORRISSEY

He needs it much more than I do.

Morrissey opens the envelope and reads the telegram.

Susie studies Morrissey face for clues about the telegram.

SUSIE

Good news?

MORRISSEY

Under different circumstances.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COOK'S PORCH - AFTERNOON

Catharine Cook is sitting in a tall wicker chair reading.

The chair is arranged so that her back is in the direction
George is walking.

George passes on the other side of the street. He does not
see Catherine. She watches him over the top of her book.

Reverend Beecher approaches on her side of the street.

Beecher removes hat as he climbs stairs to porch.

BEECHER

(Taking off his hat)
Good afternoon Catherine. May I
join you?

CATHARINE

Reverend Beecher, what a pleasant
surprise.

He climbs the final step.

BEECHER

It was such a beautiful afternoon,
I felt compelled to take a break
from preparing this week's sermon
and take the opportunity to stroll
among God's creations.

CATHARINE

The weather is most pleasant.

BEECHER

May I have a seat?

CATHARINE

My father is not at home and I fear that some may get the wrong idea.

BEECHER

Even on the front porch in the afternoon?

CATHARINE

I would not want anyone to make insinuations

BEECHER

Then I will have to ask your father for permission to join you in his absence.

The Reverend turns and walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MORRISSEYS' ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Morrissey and Susie are sitting in the parlor of their suite looking over the gardens of the hotel.

Susie is in a silk dressing gown sipping a glass of water.

Morrissey is smoking a cigar and still dressed in his coat.

The windows are open and a light breeze is blowing the curtains.

SUSIE

What was in the telegram?

MORRISSEY

It was from Richards. He told me the equipment is already on the way. He assumed I would need it by Friday.

SUSIE

So they rushed to ship it?

MORRISSEY

Yes, it should be here in two days. Without an address, he sent it to my attention, so I will have to meet each train.

(MORE)

MORRISSEY (CONT'D)

Today's telegram told me the
croupiers are on their way.

SUSIE

Do you think that the space is
suddenly rented because you are
Irish?

MORRISSEY

That probably closed some of the
doors but not all.

SUSIE

So you have tried the newspaper
office, the real estate office,
major land owners; have you tried
the priest?

MORRISSEY

Susie, my business is not one that
God is known for supportin'.

SUSIE

Not God; the local priest. Promise
him jobs for his parishioners and
see where it goes.

Morrissey takes a puff on his cigar. He looks appreciatively
at Susie.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

Mr. Marvin seems like a very nice
gentleman.

MORRISSEY

He is a very successful businessman
and everyone seems to respect him.

SUSIE

You always say that every man has
either a vice or an anvil. What is
Mr. Marvin's?

MORRISSEY

I don't know
(Pause)
Yet.

Morrissey stares out the window.

Susie stands and pulls up her dressing gown.

SUSIE

Now what do you say we appreciate
the fact that Lil' John is not
here.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CONGRESS SPRING - MORNING

The crowd has grown to about 70. The violinist is back.

Cora, dressed for the day, Sarah and Sadie are wearing
elegant night-coats tied at the waist. Todd is chasing a
duck into the pond.

The younger women are all wearing night-coats instead of
dresses.

The dowagers; Mrs. Brewster, Brown, Jackson, and Misses Lee
and Strong are gathered by one post.

Walter appears nervous as he leaves the servants area and
moves to the spring.

Madam Jumel and Van Buren are near the rail.

George and Jacob are at their usual post. Jacob is looking
appreciatively at the Stiles sisters.

George looks at Madam Jumel and Van Buren.

GEORGE

They are back. Can you just
imagine what they are talking
about?

JACOB

It does not matter; however, what
does matter is what the Stiles
girls are talking about.

Jacob gives George a gentle nudge.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Oh, watch this.

Walter has Sadie's handkerchief in his hand as he approaches
her.

WALTER

Miss Stiles, I believe you must
have dropped this yesterday.

SADIE

Why, thank you. You are Mr. Pratt, I believe. How did you know it was mine?

WALTER

Please call me Walter. I thought I saw it fall from your hand, by the time I recovered it you were gone.

Sadie unfolds the handkerchief which has been washed and ironed.

WALTER (CONT'D)

I could not help but notice the initials. The embroidery is excellent; my compliments.

SADIE

Thank you Mr. Pratt; and thank your mother for washing and ironing it for me.

CORA

Sadie, I think it is time we should be leaving.

Sadie smiles at Walter as she joins her mother and Sister.

JACOB

(Quietly to George)

My call is he will try his best and fail miserably.

Jacob raises his voice as he talks to the Stiles women.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Mrs. Stiles, Sadie, Sarah may I have the honor of your company on the way back to the hotel?

CORA

Jacob, you have mastered the ability to make one wonder whether you are being polite or sarcastic. We will accept your offer as if it were a courteous gesture.

Walter watches for any special recognition from Sadie (none happens) Jacob holds out his arm for Cora.

CORA (CONT'D)

Todd, come along now.

Todd joins them and the five exit in the direction of the hotel.

Josey, Missey stand with other servants and slaves stand on the perimeter. There are many more servants than slaves.

SERVANT 1

You may dress better than we do but
you are still a slave and we's
free.

JOSEY

I may be a slave but I's eat
better'n, dress better'n, and live
better'n than yus ever will.

SERVANT 1

Can you go to the church on yur
own? Does you have any money of yus
own? Can you decide not to work a
day if'n you don't wants to?

MISSEY

We can go tos any church we want we
jus wans to go to the same one as
the masters.

SERVANT 1

Call it what yus like, you can be
beaten and sold without no justice.

MISSEY

And you can be fired and go hungry
jus fur bein lazy; howz duz you
keep a job anyhow?

General snicker among the servants and slaves.

Walter approaches and they all go silent.

George moves as close to Madam Jumel and Van Buren as he can get without being too obvious.

MADAM JUMEL

Will you be going to his reception?

VAN BUREN

To watch such a simple man try to
show pomp, I could not and would
not miss the opportunity; after
all, to dine with the President.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PRIEST'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

The PRIEST (45) in black robes. He already has pure white hair and a red nose.

The room is decorated as a business office with dark woods. A picture of Jesus, a second of the Virgin Mary and a crucifix provide the religious overtones.

Both men take a seat on hard wooden chairs that are at a conference table.

The priest has a heavy Irish accent.

PRIEST

And what can I do for you my son?

MORRISSEY

Father, this is my second season in Saratoga. Perhaps you have heard of me?

PRIEST

I don't recognize you from your attendance at services but I do recognize the name.

MORRISSEY

My wife attends services regularly and gives generously to the causes of the church.

(pause)

Father, I have come to Saratoga to establish a business. It is a business I have been engaged in for some time and have done very well.

PRIEST

I remember her. She has a lovely voice.

MORRISSEY

Father, I run an honest business, even if the business itself is not within the frameworks of the law. Unfortunately, here in Saratoga I have met with nothing but closed doors.

PRIEST

Because you are Irish, Catholic, or because of the nature of your business?

MORRISSEY

Probably some of each; it could be worse, I could be black.

The Priest nods assurance.

MORRISSEY (CONT'D)

Everyone knows that there are many private games in town. Last year there were at least two public clubhouses; one in a livery stable and one over a local tavern. Everyone knows that my clubhouses in New York and Troy are successful and that I run an honest game.

The priest leans back in his chair.

PRIEST

I may be able to help. Recently all of the young ladies, who were boarding at Mrs. Quinn's house, were given the fifteen minute rule. There is no way she will be able to replace so much talent before the season. I suspect her house may be available.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION - FLASHBACK AFTERNOON

The eight ladies rush to board the train the day Morrissey arrived.

MORRISSEY (V.O.)

I think I saw them at the station.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PRIEST'S OFFICE

PRIEST

(The hint of a smile)

Judge Baucus is a tough man. I have been told that they ran when he ordered that they had fifteen minutes to be out of town or fifteen days in jail. I am glad to hear they made it.

MORRISSEY

Where is Mrs. Quinn's house?

PRIEST

It is the big white one across the tracks and kind of in back of the States Hotel. It is the one with four round pillars.

MORRISSEY

I know the place. Do you think she would rent to me?

PRIEST

Rent, no; but I do think you could buy the house. I am sure Mrs. Quinn would like the money to open another establishment in another community and to be rid of Saratoga.

MORRISSEY

You know my business. Do you think I will have trouble with the neighbors?

PRIEST

I think that for one season they will be glad to have a business such as yours rather than one similar to Mrs. Quinn's. After all, sins of the pocketbook are forgiven far quicker than sins of the body.

MORRISSEY

Thank you father, you have been a big help.

Morrissey rises.

PRIEST

There are two more things.

Morrissey sits back down.

Morrissey looks but does not answer.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

You need to come up with a way to assure everyone that locals will not be allowed in your establishment.

(MORE)

PRIEST (CONT'D)

That restriction alone will cut the condemnation of the community in half. It is okay for the guests of our village to lose their money; it is not okay for the fathers of our working families to lose their hard earned wages.

MORRISSEY

That can be arranged.

Morrissey starts to rise again.

PRIEST

I said two things.

Morrissey sits again.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

I expect to see you at services.

MORRISSEY

My wife will be here. As you said she has a beautiful voice and, I might add, a generous purse.

Morrissey rises and walks toward the door without looking back.

PRIEST

Mr. Morrissey

Morrissey stops but does not turn around.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

I assume that none of my congregates will be involved in your endeavor.

Morrissey opens the door and leaves.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BROADWAY - AFTERNOON

Morrissey catches up to Susie who holds a bag with purchases.

Several people can be seen walking on the other side of the street.

SUSIE

How was your meeting with the priest?

MORRISSEY

Fantastic! I think there may be an answer.

SUSIE

Is it all resolved or can I help?

MORRISSEY

The priest says that I need to be able to assure that no one from Saratoga enters the clubhouse.

Susie looks in the window of the jewelry store as she thinks. She turns to Morrissey.

SUSIE

There are two ways to solve that problem; require a hotel room key to enter or hire a local who knows everyone in the village.

MORRISSEY

Better yet - both! You are the woman behind the man.

SUSIE

And Mr. John Morrissey, don't you ever forget it.

Morrissey smiles as he hustles off in the direction of the hotel. Susie continues shopping.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GENTLEMEN'S PARLOR - AFTERNOON

Marvin and Thomas are sitting in leather chairs; through the doorway Morrissey is at the desk where the clerk is handing him the valise he had with him at the tavern earlier. During the conversation between Thomas and Marvin, Morrissey takes the bag and exits.

THOMAS

If it keeps up like this, it will be a very hot summer.

MARVIN

I feel you are correct. A hot summer increases the number of guests and the numbers at the balls. What have you decided regarding your slaves?

THOMAS

I did not realize that I was expected to decide anything.

(Pause)

As I said, the ladies of my family would so miss their ladies. I could never send them home.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CASINO PORCH - AFTERNOON

Morrissey climbs the few steps to a Greek Revival house rings the bell.

A huge black BOUNCER (40) bouncer answers the door.

MORRISSEY

Is Mrs. Quinn in?

BOUNCER

Who may I say is calling?

MORRISSEY

Mr. John Morrissey.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CASINO - AFTERNOON

Bouncer allows Morrissey to enter the foyer.

There is heavy stuffed furniture and paintings of naked women on the walls.

BOUNCER

Wait here. I will see if she will receive you.

Bouncer enters a door near the back of the foyer. Morrissey paces, looking at paintings that adorn the walls. A door near the front of the foyer opens revealing MRS. QUINN (40s).

MRS. QUINN

Mr. Morrissey I presume.

Morrissey extends his hand graciously.

MORRISSEY

Mrs. Quinn. You must excuse me. I heard about your troubles and want to be of some assistance.

MRS. QUINN

I have a sudden commodity shortage;
do you have a supply?

MORRISSEY

No. But I am in a position to
offer you cash for this fine house.

MRS. QUINN

Mr. Morrissey I doubt that you have
the amount that I would expect.

MORRISSEY

And what would that amount be?

MRS. QUINN

You know what they say about
location. I am three buildings
from the States, a long block from
both the Union and the Congress and
yet this house cannot be seen from
any of them; a useful option for
those with suspicious wives or
jealous nieces.

MORRISSEY

That is true; but it is not a
price.

MRS. QUINN

I am afraid I would have to have at
least eight thousand dollars and
that would have to be in cash.

MORRISSEY

Is there a lean or mortgage on the
property?

MRS. QUINN

I am not in a business where people
would lend to me. The house is
paid in full.

MORRISSEY

I only have four thousand with me
today; getting the rest will take
some doing. You can rest assured I
can raise the funds. I will meet
you at 10:00 tomorrow morning at
your lawyer's office to draw up the
necessary documents.

MRS. QUINN
 (Offering her hand)
 The office of Mr. Beach; it is
 across the square.

MORRISSEY
 I will see you there.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT LOBBY - AFTERNOON

Morrissey descends the stairs with a small black book and
 walks up to the desk clerk.

MORRISSEY
 Where is the telegraph office?

Before the clerk can answer Marvin approaches.

MARVIN
 I understand you had a successful
 afternoon Mr. Morrissey; my
 congratulations.

Marvin takes Morrissey by the arm and leads him to a corner
 of the lobby.

MORRISSEY
 Thank you. I would like you to
 know that we have made arrangements
 that should make our presence
 suitable to those who live in the
 village.

MR. MARVIN
 How so?

MORRISSEY
 We will only be open to guests of
 the village, no locals will be
 allowed inside. We will have our
 own men handle any situations, so
 that we will not be a burden on the
 local constabulary.

MARVIN
 Those are excellent ideas. How
 will you live up to those promises?

MORRISSEY

Those who enter will have to show a room key. And I will have one local man stand watch on the porch.

MARVIN

Excellent; might I impose on you to tell me if any of my guests seem to be losing more than they can afford?

MORRISSEY

That would not be an imposition. You will excuse me, I need to make some financial arrangements.

MARVIN

I thought you had the matter resolved.

MORRISSEY

It is close, I need additional funds which I am sure I can raise with one or two telegrams.

MR. MARVIN

How much do you need?

MORRISSEY

Do you know someone who might have access to several thousand dollars? I would pay 50% interest payable at the end of the season.

MARVIN

Those are very generous terms. The person I know thinks long term. He would want joint interest in the business, not just one season's revenue.

MORRISSEY

If I could operate the business under my terms, that might prove acceptable.

MARVIN

The person I know would not want his name associated with the enterprise. As long as the business was run honestly he would not interfere. How much do you need and by when?

MORRISSEY
Five thousand by 9:00 tomorrow
morning.

Marvin offers his hand.

MARVIN
Consider it done.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION - MORNING

Morrissey watches as eleven men get off. One is small with large wire rim glasses RINGER (42); looks like he has successfully avoided the sun for years. The others are all large, not the type one wants to make angry. One man RICHARDS (30) is huge. Morrissey moves to greet them. The freight car door opens and the men begin moving crates onto a waiting wagon.

MORRISSEY
Is it all here?

RICHARDS
By the looks of the number of
crates, I think that someone added
a few extra.

General laughter among those unloading the crates.

MORRISSEY
Are the important ones here?

Richards does a quick count of the crates.

RICHARDS
There should be five marked with
red circles and three with blue
squares.
(Pause)
They're here.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TENEMENT APARTMENT

The room has a wooden table with two wooden chairs. There is a wood stove. There is a full size bed in the room and a mattress on the floor. The pieces do not match.

The three worn sisters from the train; ANTOINETTE, PAULINE, and JANET, their step-father, JOHN, and the women he lives with ETHEL. There are also two children under the age of 5 and Bob.

ANTOINETTE and PAULINE are sifting through a small pile of stockings on the old table trying to find any without holes. When they find the best of the lot, they put them on. No one demonstrates any modesty.

AS THOSE PRESENT TALK, THE WORDS IN RED APPEAR ON THE SCREEN.

JOHN

Where's yuse goin' to be workin'
t'night?
Where are you going to be working
tonight?

JANET

I can't work t'night, I's got my
curse.
I cannot work tonight. I have my
curse.

JOHN

Yuse always got da curse ans yuse
probly gots a sore throats too. I
know'd we shu'da left yo in Albany -
let yuse starve.
You always have the curse and you
probably have a sore throat too. I
knew we should have left you in
Albany - let you starve.

JANET

Wish yo'ad.
Wish you had.

PAULINE

I here'd on da porch that dey's
open'n a gen'lemen's club ove' on
da square. We sh'uld be able to
make rent money dere.
I heard on the porch that they are
opening a gentlemen's club over on
the square. We should be able to
make rent money there.

ETHEL

Da Square? Dey will bust yo sur' s
shoot'n dere. It's too close to da
States.

(MORE)

ETHEL (CONT'D)

We ain't got bail money so don't go
gett'n yuse sel'se in trouble bys
gettin' greedy.

The Square? They will bust you
sure as shooting there. It is too
close to the States. We ain't got
bail money so do not go getting
yourselves in trouble by getting
greedy.

PAULINE

D'at may be, but we's always better
off'n we's follow da money.
That may be but we are always
better off when we follow the
money.

ANTOINETTE

I dink's we ough' take a night off
to scope da village - see where
it's safe and were s'not.
I think we ought to take a night
off to scope the village to see
where it's safe and where it is
not.

JOHN

There ain't no nights off'n
Saratoga. We's needs to make money
while we can.
There are no nights off in
Saratoga. We need to make money
while we can.

ANTOINETTE

It don't make no difference tonight
- the club aint open anywho
It does not make a difference
tonight, the club isn't open
anyhow.

DISSOLVE TO:

GEORGE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jacob, rocking back in a chair feet up on the bed, watches as
George is putting on his best jacket and checking himself in
the mirror.

JACOB

So today you meet the father. How does someone from Harvard tell the refined lady's father that he is scheming to embrace his daughter before the season is over?

GEORGE

One does not. What a Harvard man does is show respect for the daughter and interest in the father's ideas. Handled with diplomacy, the father hopes that the Harvard man will be embracing his daughter. Furthermore, I don't scheme.

JACOB

You may not think of it as scheming but I can assure you, that the father of your victim will see it that way.

George slaps Jacob's legs off the bed making his sit upright.

GEORGE

That is because in your case the term fits. In mine, it is inappropriate.

JACOB

Really
(long pause)
Will you be taking her to the dance on Saturday?

George walks out the door leaving Jacob in the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT MARY'S ROOM - EVENING

MARY (25) is staying in a small hotel with a room overlooking the front porch of the States.

She closes the curtains.

Mary walks over to the wash stand and pours a bowl of water to wash with. She takes off the top of her dress, chemise and corset. Only her back is visible as She uses a cloth to wash her face, under her arms and the front of her body.

MARY

(Looking into the mirror)
Well Miss Mary you made it to
Saratoga, now the question is do
you have what it takes to do it?

She continues to wash off.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY HOTEL - TROY - EVENING

The Lobby of one of the best hotels in Troy is decorated with dark heavy woods. There is an open staircase leading to the second floor.

NOLAN, desk clerk (35) is talking to the PORTER (60). Suddenly there is what sounds like a gun shoot.

NOLAN

What the hell was that.

Two more gun shots in quick secession. Nolan and the desk clerk look at each other, then look upstairs.

NOLAN (CONT'D)

Sounded like gun shots to me.

PORTER

Me too.

There is the sound of a door slamming.

Nolan and the Porter look at each other.

As Nolan rushes around the main desk he yells to the porter.

NOLAN

Go get help!

There is the sound of another gun shot.

FRANK BAUCUS causally appears at the top of the stairs his hand takes the railing and walks down the stairs.

Nolan starts up the stairs and passes Frank. The two do not acknowledge each other.

Frank walks out the front door.

Nolan walks down the hall.

INT. HALLWAY HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Nolan comes to a door that is slightly ajar. Cautiously
Nolan opens the door

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MANSFIELD BAUCUS is lying on the floor in a puddle of blood.
Nolan rushes to his side and attempts to intervene.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Frank walks along the street until he finds a police officer.
Frank walks up to the officer and hands him a pistol.

EXT FRONT OF COOKS' HOUSE - EVENING

As George reaches the steps a MESSENGER (14) from the
telegraph office catches him.

MESSENGER

You're Mr. George Batcheller?

GEORGE

Yes.

MESSENGER

Mr. Beach sent me to get you. He
said it is imperative you come to
his office immediately.

GEORGE

Tell him I will be there presently.
I need to stop here for a minute.

MESSENGER

He said immediately.

GEORGE

And I said after I deliver a
message.

As the messenger starts fearfully running down the street,
George walks up the steps and rings the bell.

BUTLER
Mr. Batcheller, Mr. Cook is
expecting you, do come in.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COOK'S FOYER - NIGHT

GEORGE
I must speak to Mr. Cook. It is
important.

BUTLER
I will see if he is ready to
receive you.

George waits patiently until Cook enters the foyer from the
library.

COOK
I thought this was to be a social
call. What is so important?

GEORGE
I wish I knew. A messenger from
the office just told me that Mr.
Beach needs to see me immediately.
I must apologize for having to
leave so abruptly.

COOK
Mr. Beach would not send a
messenger unless he felt it was
essential. Be on your way.

George turns to exit.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT SECOND FLOOR COOKS HOUSE - EVENING

Catharine can be seen standing just out of site where she has
been listening to the conversation. She has on one of her
best dresses.

As George closes the front door she turns and goes back to
her room.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COOK'S PORCH - EVENING

The Reverend Beecher stops walking and watches as George walks down the street. He then climbs the steps to the Cook's house and rings the bell.

BEECHER

Is Mr. Cook accepting callers?

BUTLER

I will see. Please wait here for a moment.

The Butler turns and walks away without offering to let the Reverend enter the house.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COOK'S FOYER

Cook, walking from the library door, opens the front door, gesturing for the Reverend to enter the foyer

COOK

Reverend, to what do I owe the honor of this unanticipated visit.

The reverend removes his hat upon entering and fidgets with it during the remainder of his visit.

BEECHER

How nice it is to see you. I was wondering...I was wondering...I was wondering...if I might ask your permission to call on Catharine and to sit with her on the porch?

COOK

Reverend Beecher, I am sure, that if you truly know my daughter that you know she is very strong willed. She and she alone will determine who will be welcomed to call.

BEECHER

When I called earlier she implied that I would need your permission before I could sit with her.

COOK

Then you have your answer. Good evening Reverend.

Cook turns and returns to his study leaving Reverend Beecher looking totally confused.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT STATE'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

The guests are gathering for supper. When Morrissey and Susie reach the door the maître d steps aside and Mr. Marvin takes his place. Marvin escorts them to a small table near the musicians.

MORRISSEY

Mr. Marvin, why don't you drop down tomorrow to see my new building? I would like you to feel comfortable suggesting my establishment to men of quality.

MARVIN

That is a very generous offer. Shall we say noon? That way I can be back for dinner at 2:00.

MORRISSEY

Noon it shall be. May I provide somethin' to eat or drink in your honor?

MARVIN

You will be busy enough getting established. Please, I would prefer that you do not go out of your way on my account.

The two men shake hands. The wine steward appears with a bottle of wine.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

Until tomorrow, I assume the wine will suit your taste; my compliments.

Marvin moves on to the Stiles family.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

I hope you are all enjoying your stay. Cora, I have just been notified that President Buchanan will be arriving next week. He will be staying for two weeks.

(MORE)

MARVIN (CONT'D)

I think it only fitting that the hotel hosts a reception in his honor. I have taken the liberty of reserving the Ladies' Parlor tomorrow at 3:00 for the Entertainment Committee to meet.

CORA

Who else is going to be on the committee?

MARVIN

I have contacted the Commodore and he has agreed to send Mary (24); Mrs. Astor is here and Mrs. Osgood (another Vanderbilt) will be arriving in the morning. I have not heard from Mrs. Corning or Mrs. Davidson, but I believe they will make every effort to attend.

CORA

No other southern ladies?

MARVIN

Is that a problem?

CORA

There did seem to be an under representation from the south last year.

MARVIN

I will see what I can do to correct the imbalance.

DISSOLVE TO:

CARD SAYS BREWSTER PLANTATION 2 WEEKS BEFORE - MORNING

Mrs. Brewster is boarding her carriage. The back of the carriage has three trunks and two bags strapped down. There are two dozen slaves gather to see her off including Nate (33) Jezebel (27) ADAM (5), EVE (2) and Nanny (60).

The overseer helps Mrs. Brewster get comfortable.

OVERSEER

Now you have a nice time in Saratoga

MRS. BREWSTER

You take care of the plantation and let me worry about myself.

OVERSEER

It looks like a good crop this year so don't go worrying about how much you spend.

MRS. BREWSTER

And you mind yourself. I don't expect to hear any issues with the slave women when I get back.

The overseer looks at Jezebel.

OVERSEER

Oh, you won't hear of no problems.

The carriage starts down the dirt road.

BEACH'S PERSONAL OFFICE

The office is large with two leather chairs facing the desk. There is also a conference table with six wooden chairs. There are law books along one wall.

Beach is seated as George enters.

BEACH

I said I needed to see you immediately.

GEORGE

I assumed you would not want one of your best clients to be stood up when an explanation was simple to provide.

BEACH

Have you heard the news about Judge Baucus' son?

GEORGE

Mansfield or Charles?

BEACH

Then you have not heard. Mansfield was shot dead in Troy less than an hour ago.

George is too stunned to respond.

BEACH (CONT'D)

I always expected he would be shot by a jealous husband not by his own son. Do you know Frank?

GEORGE

We have met. He was a year behind me at the Fort Edward Academy.

BEACH

I need you to go to Troy on the next train. Be sure that Frank Baucus does not talk. It is your job to keep him quiet until I get there.

(Brief pause)

I will go to the manor and meet with his grandfather and his mother. Send me a telegram after you have met with young Frank.

(Brief pause)

Pay any bail required; tell the judge that you are from my office and I guarantee the money. Do everything you can to get him out of jail and away from witnesses.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CASINO - AFTERNOON

Marvin and Morrissey are on the porch exiting the casino. Marvin is preparing to leave.

MARVIN

Mr. Morrissey, my compliments. You have done an excellent job.

MORRISSEY

Thank you.

MARVIN

I meant to ask one more favor. In the event one of my guests should over indulge would you please send a man so one of my porters can escort him safely to the hotel?

MORRISSEY

No need, if one of your guests needs an escort, I will provide it. Neither of us wants to see a dissatisfied customer.

MARVIN

Thank you and good luck.

Marvin walks back in the direction of his hotel while Morrissey leans against one of the pillars and lights a cigar watching Marvin leave.

MORRISSEY

(almost to himself)

Successful is the man who provides what men need. Wealthy is the man who provides what men want.

END