

SCRIPT TITLE

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EXT. TITLE CARD "SEE AND BE SEEN: SARATOGA"

NARRATOR V.O.

During the summer of 1858 everyone, who was anyone, flocked to Saratoga Springs where they could "See and be Seen." Bankers, religious leaders, industrialists, politicians and social reformers descended on the village. The foremost stayed at the States Hotel. Like magnets, those of distinction attracted dowagers, con-men, gamblers and "pretenders. What better place to see America? Some years even the President was in the village.

Man and woman are being driven in a horse drawn carriage.

A carriage pulls up in front of a grand hotel. A servant opens the carriage door. The couple leave the carriage and ascend the steps to the hotel. When they enter they see a line of honored guests waiting to go into the ballroom.

END TITLE  
SEQUENCE.

INT. JAIL CELL EVENING

The cell has two cots. FRANK BAUCUS is dressed in wool pants, suspenders, band collar shirt buttoned to the top.

Frank is sitting on one of the cots with his back against the wall his head is held down, legs drawn up, and hands hanging over his knees, making him appear almost in a ball.

George, dressed in the same clothes he wore to the Cook's house is carrying a valise.

George enters the cell. The jailor closes the door and locks the door behind him. The jailor slowly walks away.

George places valise on empty cot offers Frank his hand, which is taken.

GEORGE

Frank, it is good to see you again;  
I believe it has been at least two  
years.

Frank does not respond - George sits formally on the edge of the second cot.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
How are you holding up?

Frank remains in the ball like position.

As George continues to speak, Frank slowly sits up.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
I am here on behalf of Mr. Beach.  
He told me to tell you that it is imperative that you do not speak to anyone until you meet with your mother or him.

FRANK  
Have you spoken to my mother?

GEORGE  
No, but by now I am certain that Mr. Beach has met with her. I would not be surprised if they are on the next train down.

Frank is absent of emotion.

FRANK  
You know I did it.  
(Pause)  
My mother had suffered enough. I was not going to allow him to ever hurt her again.

George looks around to be sure Frank has not been heard.

GEORGE  
Frank, you should not talk; not even to me. You have to understand the other prisoners or one of the guards can be listening and they can be called to testify.

FRANK  
What difference does it make? As soon as I saw him fall I walked to the precinct house and turned myself in. I confessed.

GEORGE  
Frank, for your mother's sake  
(lowers voice)  
(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
 if not for your own, stop talking  
 about what happened.

FRANK  
 You have no idea how hard it was to  
 live with an insane man hanging  
 around; the constant threats.

George appears nervous as he again looks around.

GEORGE  
 Frank, I have to insist you stop  
 talking.

The two go silent as they hear the guard walk by banging his  
 club on the bars of the cell.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
 The guard told me you have been  
 arraigned already. How much is  
 bail?

FRANK  
 The judge said something about no  
 bail; something to do with an  
 imminent danger to society.

GEORGE  
 I am sure Mr. Beach can get that  
 straightened out as soon as he gets  
 here. Do you need anything - food,  
 water?

FRANK  
 No, they have treated me fine.

GEORGE  
 You look tired; you should try to  
 get some rest.

FRANK  
 I suppose I can lie down but I  
 doubt that I will sleep. What  
 hotel will you be at? Just in case  
 I need you.

GEORGE  
 No hotel. I will be spending the  
 night right here. I need to be  
 sure you do not talk to anyone.

George fiddles with the latch to his valise.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
How about a game of chess?

George rises and takes off his suit jacket. He looks at the makeshift cot with disdain. He sits down and takes out a chess board and pieces.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CONGRESS SPRING MORNING

It appears that everyone in the village is present gathered in small groups buzzing with rumors.

Jacob is standing near the post where George and he usually stand.

Walter is near the servants on the perimeter.

The Dowagers are near the main sidewalk to the hotels buzzing and pointing about all who pass.

Catharine stands off by herself.

Sarah, Cora, and Sadie walk into the area of the spring; eventually they stop by one of the posts. Todd runs ahead.

CORA  
Remember we are ladies of the south. We do not engage in the idle gossip that will be flying around; just listen.

SARAH  
Do we know either of them?

SADIE  
I honestly do not remember them.

CORA  
The son is very quiet, he appears painfully shy. I would doubt either of you would remember him.  
(Pause)  
His father attended a couple of the dances last year and was at the grand ball.

The girls show no signs of remembering either of the men.

CORA (CONT'D)  
The father had a thick mustache and was loud, boisterous and a bit of a philanderer.

SARAH

Sounds like most of the older men who were at the grand ball. I am sorry but I cannot place him.

SADIE

That is only because he is not in the top ten best looking or wealthiest men in the village.

CORA

(Sternly)

Ladies!

Walter walks by the Stiles women on his way to Jacob.

Walter smiles in Sadie's direction but does not get a response.

WALTER

I never would have thought Frank capable of using a gun. He hated his father; everyone knew that, but to shoot him.

JACOB

All people have a side they try to conceal from others.

WALTER

I heard that Mr. Beach sent George to Troy. He must have earned his trust very quickly.

JACOB

George makes an impression.

Walter looks at Sadie as he speaks.

WALTER

That he does it; I admit I am jealous.

JACOB

No need to be, George has his sights set on another target. You must excuse me; duty calls.

Jacob walks over to Catharine.

JACOB (CONT'D)

He obviously impressed Mr. Beach if he was sent on such an important mission.

CATHARINE

And good morning to you Jacob Marvin. I am not familiar with whom or what you are talking about.

JACOB

I am sorry. I understood that Mr. George Sherman Batcheller was to be at your house last evening when he was snatched away by the demands of Mr. Beach and the errors of one of the finest sons of Saratoga, Mr. Frank Baucus.

CATHARINE

I believe you are correct; Mr. Batcheller was to have met with my father last evening. I do not believe I was included in their plans.

JACOB

You did hear what happened?

CATHARINE

All one has to do is listen for a few minutes to know that Frank Baucus shot his father. What does that have to do with Mr. Batcheller?

Catherine emphasizes her point by looking around.

JACOB

In the heat of the moment, with all options open, Mr. Beach chose young Mr. Batcheller to go down to Troy to handle the situation until he could get there.

Miss Strong passes Catharine and Jacob on her way to join the coven.

Mrs. Brewster has placed herself in the center of the crescent of dowagers.

MRS. BREWSTER

Patricide; deliberately taking of one's own father's life must never be tolerated. Remember the good book says "Honor thy mother and thy father."

Each of the dowagers takes a sip of water when she finishes speaking.

MRS. JACKSON

I believe it is "Honor thy father  
and thy mother."

MRS. BREWSTER

Trivial!

MRS. BROWN

He will be hung for sure. If only  
women could be on juries, crimes  
like this would end forever!

MRS. JACKSON

I disagree. I do not think that  
fine ladies should be exposed to  
the language that is common in  
trials. Just imagine for a moment  
hearing the dreadful details of a  
murder or the tales of what happens  
in a disorderly house.

MRS. BROWN

(Anxiously)

I heard he was defending his mother  
and that his father fired two shots  
before young Frank fired the first  
one.

MRS. BREWSTER

I know my source well and she is  
much more connected than any other.  
She told me that all the father  
did was attempt to pull a  
handkerchief out of this pocket.  
There was no gun.

MISS PLACE

No, I heard on the piazza that Mr.  
Mansfield had a gun. It just  
misfired.

MISS STRONG

I disagree. The woman who cleans my  
room told me that the poor father  
never pulled the revolver from his  
pocket.

MISS LEE

All this violence and only thirty  
miles away; I fear father will  
order me home for sure.

MRS. BREWSTER

Fiddle faddle, there is no reason for anyone to go home. Just because something like this would never have happened in Hartford is no reason for your father to call you home.

MISS LEE

And I am sure it would not have happened,  
(stress)  
if the senior Mr. Marvin was still with us.

Miss Lee and Mrs. Brewster glare at one another.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALLWAY IN JAIL.

George and Beach stand across from each other in the hall outside a meeting room. The hallway is dimly lit by gas. The walls are wainscoted. The upper portion of each office door is glass.

Beach's valise is on the floor. George is holding his.

BEACH

We will give Frank and his mother a few more minutes before we talk strategies with them.  
(pauses / smiles)  
You spent the night in the cell?

GEORGE

He was brooding. I felt it was in his best interest that he not be left alone and create witnesses.

BEACH

You have worked for me for less than a week and already you have spent a night in jail. I would say you are off to a rather auspicious start.

GEORGE

I also had to miss a meeting with one of your most important clients.

BEACH

Oh yes, let us not forget that you stood up Mr. Cook.

Beach smiles.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK OF STATES HOTEL

The morning concert is being performed by a string quartette. The park is full of people gathered in small clusters. People set up to paint or write; however, they are ignoring the music to engage in gossip about the Baucus affair.

Morrissey walks up to Marvin. The two look at the crowd rather than each other as they speak.

MORRISSEY

Would you be so kind as to thank your associate for becoming my silent partner?

MARVIN

You just did.

MORRISSEY

I assumed as much.

MARVIN

I would have expected nothing less. Are you ready to open tonight?

MORRISSEY

The faro and roulette tables are set up and I have arranged for tables for card games. Next week we will begin accepting bets on special events.

(Pause)

We will open the doors at 5:00.

MARVIN

That early?

MORRISSEY

I would expect that it will be closer to 9:00 before the real action gets underway.

MARVIN

When will you be closing?

MORRISSEY

This being the first night we will remain open all night.

MARVIN

I am not sure anyone told you, the Sabbath is always respected in Saratoga. Saturday nights you should close by 4 in the morning and not open at all on Sunday evenings.

MORRISSEY

However, if I were the only place where entertainment was available; I should be very busy.

MARVIN

For one week. By the time you opened on Monday the sheriff would be closing you down. This is Saratoga, not Brooklyn. Here the Sabbath is sacred. Although we have an afternoon concert to 'sooth the soul', I do not have the band play in the evening.

MORRISSEY

Thank you for the advice. In one way that is better, all my workers can have the same night off.

MARVIN

All things happen for a reason.

MORRISSEY

There is one problem that I have not resolved. I have not been able to find a person from the community who is willing to stand on the porch to assure that locals do not enter.

MARVIN

What happened when you asked the priest for recommendations?

MORRISSEY

He felt there was enough animosity toward Catholics without one being considered a snitch.

MARVIN

Interesting. Have you asked the police?

MORRISSEY

For help?

MARVIN

The rule in Saratoga is simple. If the police do not see a problem or no one files a complaint there is no problem. You could hire a policeman to stand on the porch. As long as he did not see what was transpiring inside he would take no action.

MORRISSEY

Convenient. But what about a complaint?

MARVIN

Anyone who files a complaint against a gambling or a disorderly house has to have witnessed the illegal activity, which means they were inside. The local newspapers always publish the name of the complainant.

Marvin takes a drag on his cigar

MARVIN (CONT'D)

Tends to make their lives rather uncomfortable.

MORRISSEY

That would serve as a deterrent.

MARVIN

Indeed it has in the past.

MORRISSEY

So now I am off to hire two off duty police officers.

Morrissey walks off toward the back entrance to the hotel passing the dowagers who are sitting on benches.

MRS. BREWSTER

A little bird told me that that Mr. Morrissey is opening a clubhouse just a few doors from the hotel.

MISS PLACE

The same little bird chirped in my ear.

MISS LEE

This is why my father dislikes me going to Saratoga alone, he knows the type of happenings that transpire.

MRS. JACKSON

I am sure that gambling is not the only sin that Saratoga will host this season.

Sarah holds Jacob's arm they walk past the dowagers.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BROADWAY AFTERNOON COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Morrissey approaches a police officer, SMILEY (35), only identifiable by the badge on his vest.

Occasionally a pedestrian walks by as they talk.

MORRISSEY

Excuse me sir, my name is John Morrissey.

Morrissey waits for a response, none is forthcoming.

MORRISSEY (CONT'D)

And you are?

OFFICER /SMILEY

Deputy Smiley.

MORRISSEY

Of course you are.

Morrissey cannot restrain a smile.

MORRISSEY (CONT'D)

Mr. Smiley, I am opening a business on the Square. It is in the building formerly occupied by Mrs. Quinn.

SMILEY

Are yuh goin' into the same business?

MORRISSEY

No, but I would like my business to be assured a quiet presence.

(MORE)

MORRISSEY (CONT'D)

Would you be interested in working  
nights after you finish your shift?

SMILEY

What would yuh be payin'?

MORRISSEY

How much are you making as a  
deputy?

SMILEY

(Bragging)

A dollar fifty a day.

MORRISSEY

Then I think you should make two  
dollars fifty a night.

SMILEY

I can be there. What kin' of  
business you runnin'?

MORRISSEY

That is irrelevant. I would like a  
second officer; can you make a  
suggestion?

SMILEY

If'n it's okay with you, I can  
brin' one with me tonight.

MORRISSEY

That would be fine.

As Smiley watches, Morrissey walks toward the States

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM JAIL

AMANDA BAUCUS (39) is sitting at the far end of the  
conference table, Frank along the side as Beach and George  
enter.

Before he sits down Beach takes notepaper out of his valise.

Beach sits at one end of the table; George sits across from  
Frank.

BEACH

Amanda, Frank, you both need to  
understand that this will be an  
uphill battle.

(MORE)  
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BEACH (CONT'D)

We are not in Saratoga where everyone knew Mansfield and what he was like.

(Pause)

To a jury in Troy made up of Democrats, we are outspoken Republicans from Saratoga. That will not make us popular. And the fact that two aldermen from Troy were convicted of embezzlement in Saratoga last year will only add to the desire for vengeance.

Beach pauses allowing them to digest the side issues.

BEACH (CONT'D)

The district attorney will consider it a feather in his cap if he were able to bring down the grandson of one of the most prominent families in Saratoga.

AMANDA

But Frank only acted out of fear for his own safety.

Beach ignores Amanda turns to Frank.

BEACH

Is that what you told the officers when you were arrested?

FRANK

Not exactly.

BEACH

What exactly did you say?

FRANK

The truth.

EXT. STREET IN TROY AFTERNOON - V.O.

Frank on a street in Troy carrying a small valise. He appears nervous as he looks for the sign for the Mansion house. Finding it he enters.

FRANK

I told them that I arrived in Troy the afternoon before and checked into the Mansion Hotel.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A DIFFERENT STREET IN TROY AFTERNOON - VO

Frank walks along the street with an envelope in his hand he stops and approaches a large brick house. He knocks on the door.

FRANK

After I placed my suitcase in the room, I walked to my father's boarding house. Like I expected, his landlady told me he was not in. So I left the note requesting that he visit me.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM IN MANSION HOUSE AFTERNOON VOICE OVER ACTION

Frank is sitting in a chair fidgeting with a pistol. He puts it in his pocket then takes it out and then returns it to the pocket.

FRANK

He never came that evening. It was not unusual for father to be out all night.

(Pauses)

I barely slept. I just sat in a chair with my pistol in my hand waiting for him. For fear I would miss him, I never even took meals the whole day.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM IN MANSION HOUSE - EVENING

Frank has fallen asleep sitting up.

There is a knock on the door.

Before Frank can answer it Mansfield opens the door on his own.

FRANK

About 6:00 he finally knocked on the door, then entered before I opened the door. When he came into the room, I asked him if he had written to mother again.

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

He just smiled and said 'and what are you going to do about it, tell my father?'

FRANK (CONT'D)

That is when he reached in his coat pocket and I shot him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE JAIL AFTERNOON

Beach takes notepaper out of his valise.

Beach sits at one end of the table; George sits across from Frank along the side.

BEACH

Is that all you told the police?

FRANK

They wrote it all down; you can read it for yourself.

BEACH

I will.

(Turns to Amanda)

I need to start working on bail so Frank does not have to spend the weekend here. Assuming arrangements can be made, I doubt they will allow Frank to leave the county. Do you know of a respectable family he can stay with?

AMANDA

You get him out of this God awful place. I will get the two of us rooms. Assure the judge that he will be under my care and supervision.

BEACH

Who was the judge who arraigned you?

FRANK

Judge Tremain.

BEACH

(To Amanda)

I will defend Frank but knowing the politics of this city, I suggest we have a second attorney. And yes I think it should be a Democrat. How do you feel about Levi Smith or Martin Townsend?

AMANDA

They are both good men. Either would be fine.

BEACH

Very well for now; we need to get started.

Beach begins to pack his case

BEACH (CONT'D)

Mr. Batcheller and I are going to leave you at this time. I will go see Judge Tremain about setting bail, then engage either Smith or Townsend. Mr. Batcheller is going back to Saratoga to start researching possible defenses. Amanda, do you need him to do anything for you when he gets back?

AMANDA

Mr. Batcheller, first let me say thank you for staying the night with Frank, I wonder who else would have done that.

(Pause)

When you get to Saratoga, if you would be so kind as to stop by the manor and tell Frank's sisters and grandfather how he is doing. Tell them that I am staying on. I have clothes enough for now but tell Clara that I want her to pack a trunk in case I need it.

GEORGE

It would be my privilege.

George and Beach stand to leave. Beach keeps papers in his hand.

BEACH

Frank, just in case I have a problem getting the judge to set bail, remember do not talk to anyone about your father; what happened; or your plans.

George and Beach exit to the hall.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE ROOM

George and Beach stand across from each other in the hall.

Beach's valise is on the floor. George holds his.

BEACH

Thank you again for staying with Frank. If you had not, he would have been accused of saying things that he might, or might not, have said. With you there, those from the jail cannot be enticed to provide manufactured evidence.

GEORGE

I thought it was the best course of action.

BEACH hands George paper to write notes. George begins scribbling.

BEACH

When you get to Saratoga stop by the Manor and tell the Judge what is going on. Then I want you to go to the office; tell Lawrence that I want him to research all cases on momentary insanity; tell William that he is to research all cases on the use of a gun for self-defense - tell him to focus on cases where the victim did not have, or show, a weapon. Tell James to research cases where the Judge refused to set bail; tell him to focus on cases where the person who, until that time, had been a responsible citizen.

GEORGE

What do you want me to research?

BEACH

We are going to need character witnesses on both Frank and his father. Start interviewing people in Saratoga who knew them; now on your way.

George, holding the paper, walks out in the direction of the train station.

Beach starts down the hall when Amanda comes out of the conference room and calls.

AMANDA

Mr. Beach, a moment.

Instinctively George also turns. He realizes Amanda wants to talk to Beach alone and continues on his way.

BEACH turns and walks in her direction

AMANDA (CONT'D)

I do not condone what my son has done, but you must understand his father made the entire family's life hell on earth.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FOYER OF BAUCUS MANOR - FLASHBACK

THE TITLE CARD SAYS SEVEN YEARS BEFORE.

The foyer is lit by a single candle.

As Amanda, the JUDGE (61) and MRS. SMITH (53) (former slave now free) enter each carries a candle, adding to the light.

There is a loud bang as Mansfield enters the house and knocks over a metal vase containing cut flowers. Although he begins to pick up he is not trying to hide the effects of the alcohol.

Amanda enters the foyer from the parlor. She is dressed in her night clothes. She is obviously pregnant.

AMANDA

Oh Mansfield not again.

MANSFIELD struggles to stand straight and waves his hand in an attempt to point. His words are slurred.

MANSFIELD

Damn right again. Anyone married to you has every right to drink. Hell I believe it may even be considered a requirement.

AMANDA

Mansfield, remember the children.

MANSFIELD

How can I forget the little bastards? Are any of them mine?

AMANDA

Keep your voice down; you will awaken the entire household.

MANSFIELD

Nag, nag, all you ever do is nag. Nag is a good name for you. You are nothing but a worn out horse.

Amanda approaches Mansfield arms are open to console him.

He pushes her away.

Amanda crying but fears the children will hear so she approaches once more.

Mansfield's eyes fixate on her; punches her squarely in the cheek.

A muffled scream as she falls her stomach hits the floor. She tips over the cane rack.

Judge Baucus enters from his office.

JUDGE BAUCUS

That will be enough of that. Get out of this house.

Mansfield opens the door to leave.

MANSFIELD

Take her side. Take anyone's side except your own son's.

Mansfield slams the door.

The Judge approaches Amanda and sees blood on her skirt.

JUDGE BAUCUS

Mrs. Smith come immediately.

An African American servant (Smith) enters from the kitchen and begins to help.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FOYER OF BAUCUS MANOR TOP OF STAIRS NIGHT

At the top of the stairs Frank (12) crouched in a ball cowering against the railing.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT OF BAUCUS MANOR - MORNING

The sounds of the train pulling out of the station can be heard.

George reaches the porch of Baucus Manor; he climbs the steps to the door.

Before George can knock Judge Baucus opens door from the inside. The Judge is slightly stooped and appears to have aged overnight.

GEORGE

Good afternoon Judge. Apparently  
you heard the train.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FOYER OF BAUCUS MANOR

George enters the foyer. The door is held by the Judge.

JUDGE BAUCUS

All of them since last night. We  
knew Amanda would be sending word  
as soon as she could.

GEORGE looks up at the top of the stairs where the four children have gathered.

GEORGE

Do you want to speak here or would  
you prefer we go into the parlor?

The Judge looks over his shoulder at the children.

JUDGE BAUCUS

Excuse me; I am so anxious that I  
forgot about the little ears.  
Please join me in my office.

The two men move to the judge's office adjacent to the foyer.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JUDGE BAUCUS' OFFICE

One of the rooms is set up like a small courtroom. The judge has a large desk at which he can sit on a stool or stand behind. It is in this room that a decade before the judge heard appeals.

George finds himself looking around.

GEORGE

Mr. Beach is working on getting Frank released on bail. He is sure that the judge will not allow Frank to leave Rensselaer County so Mrs. Amanda is taking rooms. She and Frank will be staying there until this is over.

JUDGE BAUCUS

(Distracted)

Mr. Beach is one of the best trial lawyers in the state. I am sure that is why he represents Mr. Vanderbilt. He will do what he can.

GEORGE

Mr. Beach anticipates that there will be as many political aspects to the trial as factual and that is why he is engaging a lawyer from Troy to assist.

JUDGE BAUCUS

Mr. Beach is correct.

(Pause)

How is Frank?

GEORGE

Given the situation, he is all right. The entire affair has made him very quiet. So that you know, he made a full confession before I arrived.

The Judge is staring at the spot on the floor where George is standing. It is like he is in a different time.

JUDGE BAUCUS

Daniel Webster stood in that exact spot when he argued a case before me. May you go on to have such an impact on this country.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK OF THE STATES HOTEL - AFTERNOON

Six of the dowagers; Mrs. Brewster, Miss Strong, Miss Brown, Mrs. Jackson, Miss Place and Mrs. Dillon are clustered together on two benches. Each dowager is putting away her knitting or writing implements, book or writing paper.

The band is packing up from their afternoon performance.

Jacob and Sarah can be seen strolling arm in arm in the background.

A man nearing forty, PETER ELLIS (38), walks by the dowagers and stares as he tips his hat at Miss Strong.

MRS. BREWSTER

Well I never. Miss Strong have you been properly introduced to that man?

MISS STRONG

No.

MRS. BREWSTER

Such boldness. Looking directly at a lady to whom he has not been properly introduced.

(To Miss Strong)

I certainly hope you did not acknowledge his advances.

MRS. BROWN

Millicent would never encourage such behavior.

MRS. BREWSTER

Well I certainly hope not. Has he been introduced to any of you?

The dowagers all shake their heads.

MRS. BREWSTER (CONT'D)

Then he must be an upstart or Mr. Marvin would have introduced him to at least one of us. Such a season; it would not have been like that when the senior Mr. Marvin was running the hotel.

Mrs. Brown touches Miss Strong's hand then whispers.

MRS. BROWN

I will endeavor to ascertain who he is.

MISS STRONG

(smiles and whispers)  
Thank you.

The dowagers turn to Jacob and Sarah who are sitting alone on a bench.

MISS PLACE

It does appear that they are becoming a set.

MRS. BROWN

It would seem perfectly natural. She wants money and he will inherit this hotel and neither has a lick of sense.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DINING ROOM STATES HOTEL - AFTERNOON

The room is over 2/3 full with people dressed for dinner.

Bennett and Edith are sitting at the opposite end of a long table where Morrissey had been seated.

Marvin and Jacob are both circulating among the guests.

Edith flirts with Marvin while they talk.

MARVIN

Mr. Bennett, how have your excursions to the springs been each morning?

Bennett speaks with a mouth full of food.

BENNETT

No, never go. I certainly woul'n't wanna get a reputation fer wakin' up with no damn roosters.

MARVIN

Miss Edith?

EDITH

I have not yet been but I understand it is quite the daily social event.

MARVIN

Like all of Saratoga, it is the place to See and be Seen; however in the case of the springs it is a morning ritual. Of late, in the afternoon, more and more of our young people are engaging carriages to visit the springs and the geysers south of town.

EDITH

What of your lake?

MARVIN

It is an excellent way to pass an afternoon. If you go be sure to do two things; take a ride on the paddle wheeler and be sure to have some Saratoga Chips out at Moon's Lake House.

EDITH

I have heard they are excellent.

MARVIN

They are quite the new fashion; a plateful for only 22 cents. The only problem is that you will not be hungry for supper.

BENNETT

I 'ear there's a new club'ouse.

MARVIN

So I have been led to believe.

BENNETT

Yuh don't 'ave to wear no damn jacket on a ho' nigh' like tonigh' do yuh?

(MORE)

BENNETT (CONT'D)

You don't have to wear no damn jacket on a hot night like tonight do you?

MARVIN

I am not aware of the dress code.

Marvin moves slowly on to the Morrisseys who are at the table by the band.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

Mr. Morrissey, Mrs. Morrissey.

SUSIE

Mr. Marvin, I would prefer to be called Susie. Mrs. Morrissey makes me sound old.

MARVIN

Calling a lady by her first name is somewhat foreign to my tongue but I shall endeavor to comply with your wish. Mr. Morrissey, if I might see you for a minute before you leave?

MORRISSEY

Susie, will you excuse me for just a moment?

MARVIN

It can wait until you are finished.

MORRISSEY takes Marvin's arm and leads him away from the table.

MORRISSEY

Mr. Marvin you are too busy a man to have to await me.

MARVIN

Excuse us Mrs. Morrissey...Susie.

Marvin and Morrissey move to a more private area.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

It has just come to my attention that requiring your patrons to wear coats and ties to enter would add a rare sense of respectability to your establishment.

MORRISSEY

An excellent idea; I shall post one of the men at the door to insure the code is followed. Do not be surprised if some of your guests come back to the hotel in search of a coat.

MARVIN

I assure you that word of the dress code will be out by the time the third man returns to the hotel.

Jacob is talking quietly to Miss Strong, the youngest member of the dowagers.

JACOB

It would be my pleasure. I will do it tomorrow either at the spring or in the park.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LADIES' PARLOR STATES HOTEL AFTERNOON

Present are MARY VANDERBILT (age 24); MRS. ASTOR (38), MRS. VANDERBILT OSGOOD (40), along with MRS. CORNING (58) and Cora Stiles. Each woman is dressed in the dress she wore to dinner and seated in a comfortable padded chair.

CORA

Ladies, it has been suggested that the hotel host a reception in honor of the President's upcoming visit.

MRS. ASTOR

I would think that there could be no question but that a reception would be given. However, before we proceed I believe the first question should be who is going to chair the Committee for the summer. I suggest Mrs. Osgood.

MRS. OSGOOD

Thank you for your support. My daughter will be coming out in the fall and I will be much too busy planning her ball to serve as chairperson. I suggest Mrs. Corning do the honors.

MRS. CORNING

That is simply impossible. My heart is too weak and it will be all I can do to attend the functions. There is no way I could preside. I guess the chair will fall to Miss Mary Vanderbilt.

Cora sits with her hands clutched in her lap as she tries to hide her look of disappointment at not being considered.

MISS MARY

I will have to adjust my plans. I was not planning on spending the entire summer in Saratoga, but given this responsibility I shall make whatever changes are required. How do we hold a reception for a single man? I mean has anyone ever done so?

The women all look at each other unsure of the protocols.

MRS. CORNING

I know that when Russell Sage was a widower, there was at least one dinner held in his honor. It was just like any other dinner. I believe his niece served as the stand in.

Mrs. Davidson (28) enters; she is somewhat younger than the rest, with the exception of Miss Mary Vanderbilt.

MRS. DAVIDSON

It was Sage's sister-in-law who stood in.

(pauses)

Who serves as hostess at the Executive Mansion?

MRS. OSGOOD

It is Buchanan's orphaned niece, a Miss Harriet Lane. Will she be coming with him?

MRS. CORNING

A niece in Saratoga, who really is a relative, how novel; that being the case, I suggest we make it a dress ball.

MRS. ASTOR

Since it is the President, I suggest we decorate the room in red, white and blue; and encourage all the ladies who attend to wear one or all of those colors; after all at this point we are still a union.

The women all look at Cora.

MISS MARY

Then we are in agreement. I would ask Mrs. Corning to make arrangements for the flowers and to ask Mr. Marvin if he could arrange for the fourth of July flags and bunting to adorn the ballroom. Mrs. Astor would you please arrange the music with the band; Mrs. Davidson would you please see to the food table; and Mrs. Stiles if you could arrange for the sale of tickets. If any of you need additional support, feel free to ask non-members to contribute.

Mrs. Osgood, Miss Mary Vanderbilt and Mrs. Astor remain seated while the other three women get up to leave.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPOUTER SPRING - AFTERNOON

Jacob, Sadie, and Sarah standing at the railing at Spouter Spring. One of the hotel's carriages is in the background. The girls are dressed for an afternoon ride. Jacob is dressed in his usual frock coat and tie.

SADIE

Oh isn't this romantic. I am so glad you invited me along.

JACOB

This place is romantic in the evening, definitely by moonlight. In the afternoon, it is merely a tourist attraction.

SADIE

So you say, but I doubt you asked my sister here because you wanted to make her feel like a tourist.

SARAH

Sadie, you truly are the evil sister constantly trying to weave falsehoods into innocent gestures. With your tongue it is a wonder I have any friends left; but  
(Sarcastically)  
it explains why you do not have any.

JACOB

Sadie, do you deny that this is a unique site?

SADIE

No.

JACOB

Then as a proud Saratogian, why should I not want to show it to you and your sister?

SADIE

Are you going to show this spring to that dreadful group of ladies who gather on the piazza every day?

JACOB

Probably not, but as the future owner of the hotel, if asked, I would take them.

SADIE

But you admit that you would not ask them as you did Sarah.

JACOB

I asked you and Sarah; after I asked your father if it would be acceptable.

SADIE

You may remember this excursion any way you want, I know the truth.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE PORCH OF THE CASINO

Smiley and the man from the Mason Lodge arrive at the entrance to Morrissey's. They knock on the door.

The door is opened by RICHARDS (30), a man even larger than Morrissey.

SMILEY

We are looking for Mr. Morrissey.

RICHARDS

Wait here.

Richards closes the door leaving the men on the porch.

Morrissey opens the door and joins the two other men on the porch.

MORRISSEY

Ah, Mr. Smiley, and who do we have here?

SMILEY

Dis here is Chief Harrison, I told you I was gunna tuh bring along anodder man.

(To Harrison)

Dis here is Mr. Morrissey.

Morrissey and Harrison stare at each other and eventually shake hands.

MORRISSEY

So we meet again. What can I do for you chief?

HARRISON

I understand you're looking for off duty police officers.

MORRISSEY

I desire to run a quiet business and to keep the locals out. Hiring an off duty officer seemed like a good idea.

HARRISON

Oh the idea is most excellent; it's just that I would rather select the officers myself. That way the right men get the additional money.

MORRISSEY

Chief Harrison, I apologize for not coming to you first. In my rush to open I forgot to follow protocol. You making the selection is suitable to me.

MORRISSEY (CONT'D)

(pause)

Your men do not come inside and they insist that those who wish to enter have a hotel room key. Anything that happens inside my men will handle.

HARRISON

That sounds fine to me.

SMILEY

Does dat mean I don't got's no's extra work?

MORRISSEY

That depends on the chief. However, for tonight I would like you to stay on.

HARRISON

Mr. Morrissey, it appears we have reached a suitable arrangement. I just want to be sure our job here is just to insure no locals go inside, correct?

MORRISSEY

Correct.

HARRISON

In the event I allow all of my men to have a night off, I will be filling in, what will my salary be?

MORRISSEY

Since your men will be making 2.50, I think it only appropriate that you make 3.50.

HARRISON

I was thinking five dollars.

MORRISSEY

But of course.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK OF STATES HOTEL - AFTERNOON

Marvin greets the Stiles women as they walk across the park.

Cora and Marvin begin to talk; the sisters move slightly to the side.

MARVIN

Mrs. Stiles, I understand that the committee is planning a ball in honor of the President.

CORA

That was the decision of the group.

MARVIN

I understand that they failed to select you as chair. I am disappointed; I was looking forward to our working closely.

CORA

One has the feeling that one has to be from the north to chair a committee.

MARVIN

That is too bad. But also probably true. I will add some members from the south.

Cora touches Marvin's arm.

CORA

That would be most kind of you.

Marvin turns and walks back to the hotel.

The Stiles women walk in the direction of their cottage.

Mrs. Stiles glances over her shoulder at Marvin.

SARAH

Mother, is it true what they say about Mrs. Marvin?

CORA

That depends on what it is that you have heard.

SARAH

They say that she is never seen. Some say that she locked away in a room of his house, others say she had to be put in an institution.

CORA

I have heard similar stories; but remember we are southern ladies and we do not take part in idle gossip.

SADIE

Mother, if there were no gossip in Savannah, no one would have a thing to say.

At the cottage door Cora turns to look back at Marvin.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARY'S HOTEL ROOM

The room is furnished with a washstand, single bed, dresser; a trunk is being used as the closet and there is a single wooden chair.

MARY struggles to tighten her own corset. When it is tight she ties it and pulls on her large hooped dress. There is nothing noteworthy about her. One has the impression she is trying to look plain. She looks into the mirror.

MARY

Saratoga I am here.

Mary brushes down the front of her skirt with her hands and goes out the door.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MORRISSEY'S CASINO

There are groups of men at the roulette tables, crap tables, and playing faro.

The men are all dressed for an evening out. Morrissey is standing prominently in the middle of the main room.

Richards approaches Morrissey.

RICHARDS

My congratulations! Opening night and we are full; even the rooms upstairs are all engaged with private games.

MORRISSEY

Saratoga needed a quality clubhouse.

(Slight pause)

We may have tonight but before the season is over, I fear, we will have competition.

RICHARDS

With all the trouble you had  
finding this place, where will  
anyone else open?

MORRISSEY

In one of the cheaper hotels or in  
the back-room of a tavern; there  
are always people who can smell  
money and will chase that odor.

RICHARDS

If you are right, what can we do?

MORRISSEY

We need to be the best there is. I  
have decided to model myself after  
Mr. Marvin and the casino after the  
States.

Morrissey notices the questioning look on Richards.

MORRISSEY (CONT'D)

Marvin is an artist. He plays  
people like they were musical  
instruments. He remembers the name  
of everyone he ever met and makes  
each person feel special.

RICHARDS

That is a very high compliment.

MORRISSEY

He deserves it. I will spend every  
evening circulating; and like Mr.  
Marvin I will know every guest;  
what he drinks; and how much he can  
afford to lose. Richards, we are  
going to set a new standard in  
gaming, even higher than our clubs  
in New York and Brooklyn.

RICHARDS

If anyone can do it, it is you.

MORRISSEY

Let us hope for a big winner this  
week. Nothing draws a crowd like  
the idea the house can lose.

Morrissey moves to the roulette table and starts talking to a  
recent winner.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CONGRESS SPRING - MORNING

It appears that everyone in the village is present.  
There is a constant buzz of rumors.

George and Jacob are at their usual post.

Walter, Sarah, Cora, Sadie and the Dowagers are present.

Catharine walks up to the spring with Clara Baucus (16).  
Clara has a black band around her arm and a black bonnet.  
After getting water they walk to the perimeter.

CATHARINE

Thank you for coming Clara, it took  
a lot of courage.

CLARA

They are all staring. Don't they  
understand it was my brother, not  
me. Why should a family be judged  
for the actions of one member?

CATHARINE

They are looking not staring. They  
will judge you by your decorum this  
morning.

Catharine takes Clara's elbow

CATHARINE (CONT'D)

Show the world how strong you are.

CLARA

Right now I do not feel very  
strong.

CATHARINE

Just being here took courage, more  
than anyone else here could have  
mustered.

CLARA

Except you.

George and Jacob tip their hats as Catharine and Clara  
approach.

GEORGE

Good morning ladies.

JACOB

Good morning.

## CATHARINE AND CLARA

(In unison)

Good Morning.

## CLARA

Mr. Batcheller, my grandfather told me you spent the night in the cell with my brother. I would like to express my gratitude. He would have been very much frightened alone.

## GEORGE

He did not appear so. Your family must feel better now that Mr. Beach was able to arrange bail. Will your mother stay with Frank or will your Uncle Charles go to Troy?

## CLARA

I can assure you my mother will never allow Uncle Charles to be alone with Frank. Mother does not appreciate his evangelical ideas.

## GEORGE

I have not seen your uncle in several years. I assume his views on God and right have not changed.

## CLARA

Oh they have changed, they have gotten sorrier.

## GEORGE

Miss Cook, it is nice to see you. Avez-vous fini le livre? Did you finish the book?

## CATHARINE

Oui, il ya quelque temps. Quid legis? Yes some time ago. What are you reading?

## GEORGE

Hic lectio omnium librorum iuris. At this point all my reading is of law books.

## JACOB

Clara, did you realize there were so many foreigners in the village?

CLARA

(The hint of a smile)  
No Jacob, I had no idea that I  
would be exposed to so many  
languages before breakfast.

JACOB

Although it has been a couple of  
years, I think I heard some Latin  
which means that some of our guests  
have even transcended time.

Those gathered at the spring have learned Clara's identity  
and are taking turns looking at her.

MRS. BREWSTER

In my day a family living through  
such a scandal would never be seen  
in public. Not a single member.  
They would not have even attended  
church; they would have had the  
minister come to the house.

Mrs. Brown flips her fan ever faster.

MRS. BROWN

Times are changing too fast. We  
are losing all decorum. A  
confessed murderer's sister at the  
springs in the morning; it is all  
too much.

MRS. BREWSTER

She should be in mourning; I mean  
her father died just days ago.

MISS STRONG

I thought that one of the curative  
powers of the spring was for people  
in mourning.

MRS. BREWSTER

I heard that the son who murdered  
him will be one of the pallbearers.

MISS STRONG

I doubt he will be a pallbearer.  
That is probably the conjecture of  
some evil mind. From whom did you  
hear it?

MRS. BREWSTER

I do not recall. I am sure it was  
someone in the park.

MISS LEE

I do not know if I will be back at the spring tomorrow.

(Furiously waving her fan)

To witness such behavior is just so offensive.

MRS. BREWSTER

Oh, you will be back. You could not stand to miss seeing the show.

Jacob approaches the coven with ELLIS the same man who tipped his hat at Miss Strong in the park days before.

JACOB

Ladies, I would like to introduce you to Mr. Peter Ellis. Mr. Ellis is spending the next three weeks with us.

Ellis nods to each lady as they are introduced.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Mr. Ellis this is Mrs. Brewster, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Jackson, Miss Lee, Miss Strong, Miss Place.

ELLIS

It is indeed a pleasure to meet you all. I am from Philadelphia. Are any of you fair ladies from the city of brotherly love?

MRS. BROWN

I am also from the city where the country was founded.

Mrs. Jackson jumps in before Ellis can answer.

MRS. JACKSON

I am from Lancaster. The home of the President, who I understand, will be joining us forthwith.

ELLIS

Then we are near neighbors. Do you know Mr. Nicholas Biddle? He is one of my neighbors.

MRS. JACKSON

The banker? I have not had the pleasure.

(MORE)

MRS. JACKSON (CONT'D)

Perhaps when we are back in  
Pennsylvania in the fall you could  
drop by, if you venture to  
Lancaster.

ELLIS

Perhaps.

JACOB AND ELLIS

(In unison)

Good day ladies

Ellis smiles at Miss Strong as he and Jacob leave.

MRS. JACKSON

A neighbor of one of the wealthiest  
men in the country; he must be  
substantial. Who knows anyone from  
Philadelphia? We must check up on  
this Mr. Ellis.

MRS. BROWN

I have a cousin who lives in  
Philadelphia. She knows everyone.

MISS PLACE

I do believe I have an Aunt and  
Uncle residing there.

MRS. JACKSON

Then we will be sending inquiries  
this very morning. We will write  
letters while we are in the park  
for the concert.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK OF THE STATES HOTEL

The morning concert, a quartet, is underway.

The dowagers are gathered on two benches; each woman is busy  
writing a letter.

Other hotel guests are painting, reading or just listening to  
the music.

One of the hotel's messengers approaches Sadie and Sarah.

The messenger does not know the names of the girls.

MESSENGER

Miss Sadie Stiles?

SADIE

Yes.

Messenger hands Sadie an envelope which she opens. She is so excited that she forgets to tip the messenger.

Sarah takes out a coin and gives it to the messenger.

SARAH

Excuse my young sister, she rarely carries money.

The messenger walks away.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Who is it from?

SADIE opens the envelope and silently reads the short poem inside. She turns the paper over and checks the envelope looking for a name.

SADIE

I don't know, it is not signed.

SARAH

Well what does it say?

SADIE

I won't tell.

SARAH

Why ever not?

SADIE

Because you will tease me unmercifully,

Sadie reads the note a second time.

SADIE (CONT'D)

And then you will tell mother and father.

SARAH

No matter what I will tease you unmercifully; however, Miss Sadie Stiles, if you do not let me read it, then I will tell mother and father.

Sadie reluctantly hands Sarah the note

SADIE

You must promise to give it back.

Sarah smiles as she reads the note

SARAH

*Lovely Sadie, Maiden Fair  
Shall I Confess? Oh, Do I Dare?  
You're more than just a lovely  
face,  
I so admire your style and grace.  
My little sister has an admirer.  
Congratulations, you are becoming a  
woman.*

SADIE

Having a young man interested does  
not make me a woman, if it did I  
would have been a woman at nine  
when Wesley Coates pulled my hair  
in church.

SARAH

That is as it may be but no one  
ever sent you an original poem.  
Who do you think it is from?

SADIE

Just for this one afternoon I do  
not want to guess. I want to look  
at every young man and imagine it  
is him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PARLOR OF STILES COTTAGE

Thomas is alone at his cottage with Missey.

MISSEY

(colloquial)  
Mr. Stiles dis just ain't right.  
Da family's right out dere in the  
park. They could's walk in  
anytime.

THOMAS

They will stay until the music  
ends.

MISSEY

(colloquial)  
But dat don't make it right.

THOMAS

Remember, I could have brought one of the other girls, everyone wants to be out of Savannah in the summer.

MISSEY pulls up the back of her skirt and bends over the arm of the chair. Stiles walks up behind her and unbuttons his pants.

MISSEY

(colloquial)

At least let me keep an eye out da window, I don't want us'n to get caught'.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STATES PARK

The music suddenly stops and the leader of the quartet stands up.

LEADER

We have just received word the President's train is due at the station in fifteen minutes; the concert is ending at this time so that the band can remove to the piazza to play in his honor.

Everyone in the park starts packing up.

As they begin to walk toward the hotel, Mrs. Brewster moves next to Miss Place.

MRS. JACKSON

Did you write to your Aunt?

MISS PLACE

Yes I did. I will post the letter this very afternoon.

MRS. JACKSON

Good we need to find out about this Mr. Ellis.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SARATOGA TRAIN STATION - AFTERNOON

A large crowd watches the train unload.

People are gathered in small groups along the sidewalk on the block from the station to the hotel.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PIAZZA OF THE STATES HOTEL  
The Piazza is full.

Marvin is standing in front of the door with Van Buren, Mr. Cook, three governors, four senators, a Supreme Court Justice, and numerous congressmen; each looks like a politician.

COOK walks up behind Marvin and speaks.

COOK  
So he is back.

MARVIN  
With all the pomp and grandeur of an office he may not deserve.

COOK  
So how will you handle his visit?

MARVIN  
With all pomp and grandeur he may not deserve; this is the States Hotel, there can be nothing less.

COOK  
So it is.

President BUCHANNAN, his niece HARRIET (25) carrying a parasol and two men in the uniforms of generals walk down the center of the street. The crowd applauds and cheers.

When Buchannan and company near the hotel, the band starts playing a patriotic song.

When Buchannan reaches the top of the stairs he turns and waves humbly to the throng that has gathered in his honor.

After a respectable time he turns to the hotel.

EXT. PIAZZA OF THE STATES HOTEL

MARVIN  
Mr. President, a pleasure to see you again.

After shaking Marvin's hand the President moves along the line of elected officials each introduces the man next to him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SARAH AND SADIE'S ROOM

Sadie sits by the window in the lone chair reading the poem.

Sarah enters upset with her sister.

SARAH

You missed it.

(Louder and animated)

You missed the President's arrival.

SADIE

I will see him at dinner and again at supper, and tomorrow at breakfast and dinner and again at supper and...

SARAH

We are staying in the same hotel as the President of the United States all Savannah will be envious! And you sit in our room.

SADIE

I sincerely doubt that those in Savannah would care.

(Pause)

Who do you really think wrote the poem?

SARAH

Mr. George Batcheller, it would take a Harvard man to make up a limerick as clever as that one.

SADIE

I suppose you are right but I have never seen him looking at me. There are several young men in the hotel who stare but not Mr. Batcheller.

(pause)

Why do they call him Mr. Batcheller and Jacob and Walter are called by their first names?

Sarah counts the reasons on her fingers as she says them.

SARAH

It is out of respect. He is not a George he is a mister. He has yet to reach 21 and already he is a lawyer and assisting one of the most famous lawyers in the state if not the country. He is involved in the most notorious case that is going on this season.

(Pauses)

Whenever I am around him, he makes me want to call him Mr. Batcheller.

SADIE

Yes, I suppose that explains it. But can you just imagine what it would be like to be on a picnic and to always feel you have to call your beaux Mister?

The girls laugh.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LADIES PARLOR - AFTERNOON

Mary Vanderbilt; Mrs. Astor, Mrs. Osgood, Mrs. Corning, Mrs. Davidson, and Cora Stiles are seated in stuffed chairs checking last minute plans.

Marvin enters with MRS. CORDOZO AND MRS. DEVEREUX.

MARVIN

Ladies, I know how much work there is being on the entertainment committee.

Marvin points to each lady as he introduces her.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

Mrs. Cardozo, from Havana, and Mrs. Devereux, from Mobile have agreed to help by joining the Entertainment Committee.

The committee members look on politely but one can sense that they are suspicious as Marvin sets up two more chairs then leaves.

MRS. DAVIDSON

I was late for the first meeting, did anyone bring up raising money for the Relief Fund?

(MORE)

MRS. DAVIDSON (CONT'D)

I know that by the end of last season, the fund was nearly depleted.

MRS. CORNING

Are you suggesting using the reception for the President as a fund raiser?

MRS. ASTOR

That would be inappropriate.

MRS. DAVIDSON

I am not suggesting anything. I am simply raising the question. We are all going to want to help when there is an emergency; we should take all appropriate opportunities to raise funds.

MISS MARY

Does anyone have any suggestions?

MRS. ASTOR

We had a dance at our church where the men paid for the privilege of dancing with the ladies. They raised several hundred dollars.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - AFTERNOON

Reverend Beecher is standing at the head of a casket. Twenty people are present for Mansfield's funeral: Judge Baucus, CLARENCE BAUCUS (55) CLARA BAUCUS (16), her brother MANSFIELD Jr.(5) and sisters (2); Marvin, George, and Jacob. The men are all holding their hats.

REVEREND BEECHER

His life was a struggle. It is our belief that through his death, Mansfield Baucus has finally gained the peace that so alluded him in life. Amen.

Each family member picks up a handful of dirt and throws it on the casket, then walks toward the carriages.

Clarence approaches his father.

CLARENCE

You could not even let me preside  
at my brother's funeral.

JUDGE BAUCUS

It was not my decision; however,  
had it been I would have asked  
Reverend Beecher to preside.

CLARENCE

Cold father; cold.

Judge Baucus stares down his son.

JUDGE BAUCUS

Understand why we needed someone  
forgiving to help us say goodbye.

The Judge walks with the children to his carriage.

EXT. PIAZZA OF STATES - AFTERNOON

The coven has convened on the piazza, Mrs. Brewster, Miss  
Lee, Miss Place, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Jackson are present.

MRS. BREWSTER

Did you hear that at the Reception  
for the President, to dance the men  
have to contribute to the Emergency  
Fund? To me it is like they have  
decided to sell off our innocent  
young flowers; petal by petal.

MISS LEE

Do the women have any choice or are  
they simply up for sale like a  
slave in Charleston?

MISS PLACE

I am sure; I am sure. Are there  
different prices for different  
women like fine linen or the same  
price for all women?

MRS. BROWN

If a lady cannot say no, how will  
they deal with men who take  
liberties, or who have failed to  
bathe?

MRS. BREWSTER

Well I am not for sale. I may be a widow but no strange man is going to touch my hand even with his gloves on. By the by has anyone seen Miss Strong?

MISS LEE

She told me she was feeling rather faint and was either going for some mineral water or to lie down.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CONGRESS SPRING PARK - AFTERNOON

In Congress Park Mr. Ellis and Miss Strong are strolling side-by-side along the path by the pond.

MISS STRONG

My father always loved summers in Saratoga. It is too bad he is not well enough to make the journey. He always said it was the coal mines he owns that gave him such an awful cough.

ELLIS

I thought people came to Saratoga for cures for illnesses such as coughs.

MISS STRONG

He said he was too weak to make the trip, but with me being his only child, I truly think he stays home because he does not have anyone he can trust to load his trains.

ELLIS

Owning one's own business can be a burden. My father is always busy maintaining the house where he lives; it has twenty eight rooms.

MISS STRONG

And do you dress for dinner every day?

ELLIS

Yes we are into all the trappings;  
we dress for dinner and even wear  
jackets to supper.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PORCH OF CASINO - NIGHT

It is very dark; the only light on the street comes from the gas street lamps. The porch of the casino has a gas chandelier.

Two patrons exit Morrissey's.

From down the street there comes the sound of two women walking in heels and giggling. Bob can be seen in the background.

The two patrons are attracted to the noise. The patrons try to look down the dark street and realize that the women are walking in their direction.

One man nudges the other. As they clear the bottom step they turn to go down the street in the direction of the women.

Harrison steps out from behind a cedar tree in front of the men. The two men immediately turn around and head in the direction of the major hotels.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRANKLIN STREET SOUTH

Harrison walks toward the two women stumbling slightly as if he is trying to hide the fact that he drank too much, he did not, it is an act.

PAULINE

I believe yuse goin' da wron' way.  
I believe you are going the wrong  
way.

Harrison smiles to himself and just keeps stumbling toward the two women.

PAULINE (CONT'D)

If'n you want, we can help ya back  
to yo'rn 'otel.  
If you want we can help you back to  
your hotel.

HARRISON opens his coat showing his badge.

HARRISON

If I ever see you in this neighborhood again it will be me helping you to where you will be spending the night. Now back to Congress Street where you belong.

Pauline and Antoinette turn and walk away, Bob waits for them to pass then follows.

ANTOINETTE

Dat was too close. I told yus we was a need'n a nigh' to scope out the city.  
That was too close. I told you we were needing a night to scope out the city.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRANKLIN STREET NORTH - EVENING

Harrison turns and starts walking the half block in the direction of the casino. At the far end of the square he sees what appears to be an un-escorted woman, Mary.

She looks around as if she is lost then heads back in the direction of the hotels.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DIVISION STREET EAST

Mary gets out of Harrison's sight, appears to step incorrectly and twists her ankle. She walks in the direction of the hotels struggling with each step.

JOHN

Excuse me miss, are you alright?

Mary ignores him and limps down the street.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Excuse me miss, are you alright?  
It looks like you sprained your ankle or something.

MARY

Are you addressing me?

JOHN

Excuse me but you appear to be in pain. I was just about to offer to help.

MARY

I never speak to a man to whom I have not been properly introduced.

JOHN

If that be the case, then let me introduce myself. I am John Anderson and I am out this fine evening to aid a fair damsel in distress.

MARY

Well Mr. John Anderson I am just trying to reach the States.

JOHN

May I escort you?

MARY

No, but you can walk near me in case I should fall.

He walks 10 feet behind her watching the sway of her skirt until they reach the States.

MARY (CONT'D)

Are you a guest here?

JOHN

Yes.

MARY

I think before I try to negotiate the stairs to my room I should like to sit in the park for a few minutes.

JOHN

May I sit with you?

MARY

No, but you may sit across from me if you like.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOBBY OF STATES - EVENING

A porter in uniform and the night clerk watch as Mary and Anderson walk across the lobby of the hotel and exit to the park.

PORTER

I think I am getting this - they  
are couple

CLERK

How can you tell?

PORTER

She is not colorfully dressed - a  
wife not a niece.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CONGRESS SPRING - MORNING

At the rail Van Buren and Madam Jumel are visiting with Buchanan and his niece.

George has gotten as close to the dignitaries as he can by standing in line for a glass of water. Catharine is standing alone.

Jacob and all the Dowagers are there.

Sadie and Sarah are standing near the pathway speaking in a loud whisper.

SARAH

I am wearing the red dress.

SADIE

No, I am. You wore it to the cotillion; it is my turn.

SARAH

This is the President's reception and as the eldest, I get to wear the fanciest dress.

SADIE

Very well, I am wearing the white silk dress.

SARAH

You better tell Missey so she can find the lace insert.

Sadie smiles to herself.

SADIE

Oh I will.

George, glass in hand, up to Catharine who has a crystal glass in her gloved hand.

GEORGE

How many glasses of water do you have each day?

CATHARINE

Only one.

GEORGE looks over his shoulder to see if anyone is watching, pours the water onto the grass.

GEORGE

That is one more than I.  
I do not know why anyone would drink water a thirsty horse would stick his nose up at.

CATHARINE

Mr. George Batcheller talk like that is considered treasonous in Saratoga.

GEORGE

Then go ahead and hang me but do not bathe my body in this water. I want to meet my maker smelling acceptably. If you look around everyone has a glass but almost no one is actually drinking this abysmal mixture.

CATHARINE

Mr. George Batcheller, keep it up and you will surely be hung this very day.

GEORGE

Watch for yourself.

Catharine looks at the crowd

No one is drinking.

CATHARINE

You are right, they are all holding glasses but no one is drinking. So why do they come to the springs each morning?

George looks at the crowd as he speaks.

GEORGE

Democracy; people are not supposed to enter a hotel where they are not registered. Each hotel has its own park and band so guests don't see anyone all day except the people from their hotel. From the most humble boarding house to the States, everyone is welcome at the springs. The springs of Saratoga are the great equalizer.

CATHARINE

Interesting; I shall take your observation under advisement.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOBBY STATES HOTEL - MORNING  
The lobby is occupied but not busy.

Sadie and Sarah are walking across the lobby when a messenger cuts them off.

MESSENGER

A message for you, Miss Sadie Stiles.

Sadie takes the envelope and tips messenger.

SARAH

Well open it!

SADIE

I will; in the privacy of our room.

Sadie clutches the envelope as the two continue through the lobby and into the park.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STATES HOTEL PARK - MOMENTS LATER  
Guests are writing, painting and visiting throughout the park.

The Stiles sisters pass Mary.

Mary is painting a picture of Ellis talking respectfully to Miss Strong. Miss Strong is seated on one of the benches.

Marvin walks up to Mary.

MARVIN

Lovely painting; I am the innkeeper, I thought I knew every one of our guests by name, but somehow I have missed the opportunity to meet you.

MARY

I am not a guest. I am staying at the Marvin House. They told me it was permissible to use this park.

MARVIN

They told you correctly, we allow those at my cousin's hotel to use our park. I am James Marvin.

MARY

I am Miss Mary Barden, of Boston.

MARVIN

(Eyeing her suspiciously)  
Very nice to meet you, Miss Barden; perhaps you would like to have dinner at the hotel today.

MARY

I would like that very much.

MARVIN

It will be at 2:00; you can hear the bell from your hotel; just tell the maître d you are my guest.

Mary watches as Marvin walks away.

ELLIS

I was raised to believe it was the man's role to provide for his family and the woman's to keep a suitable house.

MISS STRONG

I was raised in a similar fashion, until I attended Mrs. Willard's Seminary in Troy. She taught her students the arts and literature. We were trained to engage in a lively conversation and to be hostesses at great galas.

ELLIS

I do not see the two as necessarily separate. I believe a woman can be a successful mother, keeper of the house, and contributor to a conversation.

MISS STRONG

You are the enlightened man, Mr. Ellis. What have you been reading this summer?

ELLIS

I read the financial pages each morning and try to read a book a week.

MISS STRONG

What book are you reading this week?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM STILES SISTERS - AFTERNOON

SARAH

Open it, open it!

Sadie slowly opens the envelope then takes out the folded piece of paper.

Sarah grabs the note from her sister's hand turns away to prevent Sadie from taking it back and reads the note aloud.

SARAH (CONT'D)

*I will gaze tonight from afar,  
Upon your beauty like a star,  
Unseen now, unnoticed then  
Unknown for now, I wonder when.*

SADIE

How could you?

Sarah hands the note back.

SARAH

Not Mr. George Batcheller, he would never consider himself unseen.

SADIE

So again I can imagine it is every  
young man who asks me to dance  
tonight.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DINING ROOM STATES HOTEL - AFTERNOON

The President walks in the dining room, accompanied by Senator Toombs and former Pres. Van Buren. They move to a table in the center of the room that has become a head table by being turned sideways.

Among those at the table are; GEN. WINFIELD SCOTT (72), GOV. JOHN KING of New York (68) GOV. WILLIAM PACKER of Penn (51) a friend of Buchanan, GOV. JOSEPH BROWN of Georgia (38) Gov. ISHAM HARRIS Tenn. (40). As each speaks, his name and position appear in text.

Marvin moves to a seat at the far end.

BUCHANAN

(lightly as he sits down)  
There is only one requirement to  
being allowed to sit at this table;  
there will be no politics  
discussed.

GOVERNOR PACKER

My good friend, I would not think  
of troubling you with politics  
while we are in Saratoga; by the  
way, do you think the country could  
spare a little money to widen the  
canals?

There is general laughter among those at the table.

GENERAL SCOTT

Any and all extra money is needed  
by the military to squelch  
rebellions by those feisty Indians.

There is a little less laughter.

GOV. BROWN

(strong southern accent)  
Any additional moneys should be  
given back to the states. It is  
the states that matter most to the  
people.

(No laughter)

MARVIN

Gentlemen, as host I am forced to insist that any further political comments will be met with a dollar fine, imposed by me and not subject to nullification, seceding or appeal.

General laughter among the group

MARVIN (CONT'D)

I suggest we talk about something far more important to each of us; such as how much we are going to be paying for the dresses our daughters and wives will be wearing to Saturday evening's ball.

Laughter followed by private conversations.

A waiter walks to a table that consists of the wives and daughters of those at the head table.

MRS. BROWN

It will be a special pleasure to wear the most delightful dress to the ball. It was made by my eldest daughter. She is so talented.

MRS. KING

After all my years I still look forward to the balls in Saratoga.

(Whispers)

I mean I would if it was not for those dreadful corsets.

General laughter of agreement.

MRS. STILES

It is making sure my daughters sit properly in a hoop skirt that causes me the greatest concern.

MRS. BROWN

Mrs. Stiles will tell you that recently a daughter of one of Savannah's best families was wearing a hoop skirt. Well any way, she fell getting out of a carriage and everyone on the street saw way too much white.

General laughter and assurances of other such happenings.

MRS. HARRIS

With two daughters, I will be  
sewing flounce from now until the  
dance.

CORA

(To Mrs. King)

Who does Mr. Marvin usually bring?

MRS. KING

That is a question that is never  
asked.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STILES PARLOR - AFTERNOON

Missey, Josey, Cora, Sarah and Sadie are all working on  
making alterations to the dresses the women will be wearing  
to the ball.

JOSEY

(colloquial)

Dis takes me back twenty years to  
when I was working on your momma's  
dress.

CORA

Josey do not remind me how old I  
have gotten

JOSEY

(colloquial)

Miss Cora, yus ain't got older yus  
gotten wiser. An listen up you two  
girls yus mother knows what yus  
wants to happen this evening.

CORA

Missey, make sure that the collar  
of the dress buttons securely on to  
Sadie's dress.

JOSEY

(Looking at the girls)

I told you she knows wha's best.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK OF STATES HOTEL- AFTERNOON

Miss Strong and Ellis are walking around the perimeter of the park.

The quartet s playing; Cora is sitting near the band.

Marvin walks up behind Cora. Sarah and Sadie are sitting on a blanket off to the side.

MARVIN

Will the new members of the committee provide the appropriate affect?

Cora looks back over her shoulder at Marvin.

CORA

Mr. Marvin, you surprised me. Yes I believe they will.

MARVIN

Those from the north can be so colloquial.

CORA

As can those from the south.

(Pause)

I am quite over any feelings I may have had. The way my daughters are behaving, I will be quite busy watching over them for the summer.

MARVIN

I understand your concerns. I have a nephew to watch.

Their smile to each other is longer than usual.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOBBY STATES HOTEL

A tall thin man is checking in.

CLERK

How may I help you?

ELLIS 2

I have a reservation, my name is Peter Ellis.

Clerk begins looking through the list of reservations.

CLERK  
Of Philadelphia?

ELLIS 2  
The same.

CLERK  
I have your reservation right here.  
We were not expecting you until the  
middle of next week.

ELLIS 2  
The heat was oppressive in  
Philadelphia; I simply had to get  
away.

CLERK  
Luckily your usual room is open, we  
will not have to move you mid week.  
So you know we have another Mr.  
Peter Ellis with us at this time.  
How unusual.

ELLIS 2  
How unusual indeed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT SLAVE CABIN - NIGHT

The main house seen in the background is badly in need of paint. NATE (32) dressed in the well worn clothes of a field hand is using a cut log to sit on in front of one of the four slave cabins. JEZEBEL (28) dressed as an in house slave approaches from the main house.

NATE  
Yus late.

Jezebel without speaking walks by him and enters the one room cabin.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SLAVE CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Jezebel goes over to the bed where ADAM (5) and EVE (2) are both asleep, laying end to end on a shared bed. She kneels down and gently rubs both of their heads taking care not to wake them.

Jezebel stands and exits the cabin.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT SLAVE CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

NATE  
Happened again didn't it.

Jezebel sits on the other log for several seconds.

JEZEBEL  
It won't end till the season's over  
uppin Saratoga and the misses gets  
back.

Nate looks at the ground defeated. Eventually he speaks.

NATE  
We's gots to leave fore I do sompen  
the Lord don't like.

JEZEBEL  
We can't leave Nanny.

NATE  
Den we wont.

Jezebel is silent.

CUT TO:

INT. END OF LOBBY NEAR ENTRANCE TO BALLROOM

The program for the President's Reception is on a music stand.

The band is warming up in the background.

INT. FRANK'S ROOM AT THE HOTEL IN TROY  
Frank is sitting in a chair reading a book.

Frank stands up from the chair and walks to get himself a glass of water. As he passes the door that connects his room to his mother's she is seen at her desk writing. There are several sealed envelopes on the side of her desk.

DISSOLVE TO:

## INT. MRS. BREWSTER'S ROOM

Mrs. Brewster adjusts her hat one more time then turns to the door where the rest of the dowagers are waiting. They all have their dance cards hanging from their wrists.

DISSOLVE TO:

## INT. WALTER'S ROOM AT HIS HOME

Humble room in family home; desk, dresser, bed and one chair.

Walter puts on his only jacket, he takes out his pad and looks over the notes of what he is to be sure to cover for the newspaper.

DISSOLVE TO:

## INT. GEORGE'S ROOM

George puts on his second cuff link. He pulls on his best frock coat and checks himself in the mirror. He opens the door and leaves the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

## INT. THE SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY OR COOK'S HOUSE

A door opens and Catharine walks into the hall where she takes her father's arm. Her dance card is hanging from her wrist. She smiles as she takes her father's arm.

DISSOLVE TO:

## INT. ROOM SHARED BY MR. AND MRS. STILES

Thomas Stiles extends his arm and Benjamin adjusts his cuff links, then helps him into his coat. Benjamin brushes the coat off one more time before handing Mr. Stiles his hat.

DISSOLVE TO:

## INT. SARAH'S AND SADIE'S ROOM

Cora, Missey and Josey help Sadie and Sarah with their dresses.

Cora buttons the black lace collar that fits as an insert covering Sadie's bodice in her white silk dress.

CORA  
(To Sadie)  
You are becoming a woman so fast.

Sadie adjusts her dance card.

SADIE  
I already am a lady.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT END OF HALLWAY LEADING TO BALLROOM

THE SCENE IS IN THE HALLWAY ONLY.  
There is the line of dignitaries set to walk through a doorway and into the ballroom.  
The line consists of the members of the Entertainment Committee, their families and, of course, the President and his attractive blond niece.  
The Stiles are near the front of the line.

SADIE  
Excuse me for just a second.

Sadie disappears into the ladies' parlor

CORA  
(whisper)  
Where is your sister going?

SARAH  
I have no idea.

Voice from the ballroom.

BAND DIRECTOR  
Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of  
the States Hotel I present the  
members of the Entertainment  
Committee

The line begins to move forward.

BAND DIRECTOR (CONT'D)  
and the President of the United  
States, Mr. James Buchannan  
accompanying his niece Miss Harriet  
Lane.

The music for the grand entrance begins to play,

Sadie reemerges and slips in line next to her sister; the lace collar has been removed and the top of her cleavage is showing.

The line continues to move toward the doorway.

CORA

You will be banished to your room  
for a week over this young lady.

The line moves forward. Harriet Lane turns, removes her scarf; her dress is cut even lower than Sadie's.

SADIE

(whispers)  
Modesty holds affection,  
Sensuous draws attention.

END