

**UNDER A POWDER  
BLUE MOON**

**BY**

**Patrick McLaughlin**

# UNDER A POWDER BLUE MOON

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UNDER A POWDER BLUE MOON

*For anyone still waiting for their happily ever after.*

## UNDER A POWDER BLUE MOON

*Under A Powder Blue Moon* was originally produced at The Rear Window Listening Room in Ganado, TX by Townhall Players, featuring the following cast:

Maintenance Man/Bobby.....Jeff Sabedra  
Jannelle.....Geraldine Tobola  
Alvin.....Virgil Knowlton  
Louise.....Jessica Coleman  
Marcy..... Sarah Tupa  
Detective Harlan.....Clinton Tegeler  
Lonnie.....Patrick McLaughlin

*Under A Powder Blue Moon* received its 2<sup>nd</sup> production at Tyler Civic Theatre in Tyler, TX, with the following cast:

Maintenance Man/Bobby.....James Burns  
Jannelle.....Beryl Thompson  
Alvin.....Alan Oliver  
Louise.....Jacquelyn Suzette Petocz  
Marcy..... Kayla Christiansen  
Detective Harlan.....Calvin Sheffield  
Lonnie.....Holden Guinn  
Police Officer.....Larry Olive

### **CAST: 3M 3M 1M or F**

Maintenance Man/Bobby	Attractive, late 40's to 50ish
Jannelle Brewster	Bank teller, Late 40's to 50ish
Alvin Lumpkins	Security Guard, elderly and slow
Louise Franklin	30s – 40's, a little wild
Marcy Jefferson	Head Teller, smart and conscientious
Detective Harlan	Local Police Detective, 40 -50
Police officer	Male or female

TIME: Present

PLACE: A mini bank in Ridgewood, TX

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## ACT I SCENE I

*Lights up in the lobby of the First United Bank at Ridgewood. It is a small branch bank in tiny Ridgewood, TX. It is just before 9am and the bank is not yet open. Seated near the only door is ALVIN, an elderly security guard. MARCY, the head teller is on the phone in a small office stage right. A MAINTENANCE MAN is standing on a ladder working on one of the security cameras. He climbs down and addresses JANNELLE, a teller.*

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** I see the problem. I gotta go get somethin' from the back. I'll be right back. *(He exits.)*

**JANNELLE.** Well you better hurry. It's almost nine o'clock. If we aren't open at nine sharp we're all gonna be in big time trouble.

**ALVIN.** *(Rising.)* Nine o'clock sharp, huh? I ain't gonna open that door if he ain't through tinkerin' with them cameras. Security first, Jannelle. We got to take safety and security very seriously.

**JANNELE.** What do we need security cameras for, anyway?

**ALVIN.** I swore an oath that I'd protect this bank and you ladies from any harm. Those cameras are an important part of my overall security plan.

**JANNELE.** Security plan? Alvin, you don't even carry a gun. You just sit in that chair over by the door all day.

**ALVIN.** That's right. If anybody tries to get away with anything in here, they gotta get through me. *(He tries to pull his nightstick out of its holder and has great difficulty doing so. He finally gets control of the stick and holds it as if he is going to hit someone.)* Alvin Lumpkins, Jr., bonded security officer. *(He "holsters" the night stick and leans back to sit down. After a mighty struggle, he plops in the chair.)*

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**JANNELLE.** Wow, Alvin! I have never felt so safe and been so turned on all at the same time. Whew!

**ALVIN.** You stop it. You know I'm a married man.

**JANNELLE.** Lighten up. I'm just playin' with you.

**ALVIN.** So you say. But it's out of our control, you know?

**JANNELLE.** What do you mean? What's out of our control?

**ALVIN.** The Lumpkins men have always been cursed. We call it the Lumpkins Lust. A woman will look at a Lumpkins man and be friendly with him for years without having a single lustful thought. Then one day...WHOOBAM! The Lumpkins Lust takes over and she has no control. All she can think about and all she wants from this world is the love of that Lumpkins man!

**JANNELLE.** Really? Well I promise to control myself as best I can.

**ALVIN.** You see that you do. Being a Lumpkins man, I can't be held accountable for what might happen. It's a frightening power that I have yet to harness. (*LOUISE FRANKLIN rushes in from the back of the bank. She is hastily putting on earrings.*)

**LOUISE.** I'm sorry I'm late. I overslept. I was up all night thinking of ways to improve customer service and I just didn't hear my alarm so...

**JANNELLE.** Relax. Mr. Brock ain't here.

**LOUISE.** Oh good. I can save that excuse and use it again.

**JANNELLE.** Why don't you just try and get here on time?

**LOUISE.** I woulda been here on time but I really did oversleep. I was out all night with Lonnie Dupree. So technically, since Lonnie has an account here, I was serving a customer.

**ALVIN.** See? She's not a liar.

**LOUISE.** Exactly.

**ALVIN.** She's a whore. That's a whole different level of sin.

**LOUISE.** Alvin! Shame on you.

**JANNELLE.** Why? He's not a liar.

**LOUISE.** Why do I stay around here and take this abuse? Why?

**JANNELLE.** Because Helen Davis fired you from the Mini-Mart.

**ALVIN.** That's right. For whorin' around with her husband Ray.

**LOUISE.** That is not true!

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**JANNELLE.** It is so and the whole town knows it. Louise, you're my friend and I don't judge you. But the truth is the truth.

**ALVIN.** Shoot! The way I heard it, Helen took a broom handle and chased you and Ray out of the storeroom half naked. Then I heard she chased you two all through the store. She grabbed cans of pork-n-beans right off the shelf and threw them at you until you both ran out the front door and jumped in his pick-up.

**LOUISE.** That is a fabrication. No such thing ever happened, and I resent the fact that you insist on spreading rumors and lies. And that is all it is...rumors and lies.

**ALVIN.** Rumors and lies, huh?

**LOUISE.** People start rumors about me because they're jealous of me.

**JANNELLE.** I know I'm gonna regret asking this, but why are people jealous of you?

**LOUISE.** I live a very free and fulfilled life. I am not repressed...you know...sexually. People try to live vicariously through me. They make up stories and project their sordid fantasies onto me. And sometimes, I must confess, the pressure is more than I can bear.

**ALVIN.** You can call it rumors and lies all you want. You can say it never it happened. That's fine. I won't say nothin' against you.

**LOUISE.** Thank you, Alvin.

**ALVIN.** I won't say you're a liar.

**LOUISE.** I appreciate that.

**ALVIN.** All I know is, the next day Helen had dented cans of pork and beans on sale, two for a dollar.

**JANNELLE.** Okay. You've made your point.

**ALVIN.** I'm just sayin'.

**JANNELLE.** Can we change the subject?

**LOUISE.** Yes. Let's talk about anything else.

**JANNELLE.** Like bank business and when we might actually open up this morning to do some of it.

**ALVIN.** We've done talked about this. I will not open this bank until those cameras are workin'.

**LOUISE.** What's wrong with the cameras?

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**ALVIN.** Don't know. That fella came in here this mornin' with a work order. Said he needed to take a look at 'em.

**LOUISE.** What fella?

**JANNELLE.** There's a guy here working on them. He needed to go get something from the back.

**LOUISE.** Oh! Is that who that is? I passed him on my way in. Girl, he's cute.

**JANNELLE.** Cute? How could you tell? He's wearing those dark glasses and got that cap pulled way down.

**LOUISE.** That's just it. He was all dark and mysterious. And I couldn't help but notice the way his coveralls seemed to cradle his cute little backside. You know I can't resist a man in coveralls.

**ALVIN.** You can't resist a man *at* all.

**JANNELLE.** Let it go, Alvin.

**LOUISE.** Come on, Jannelle. You had to notice.

**JANNELLE.** I didn't stare at him if that's what you mean. To be honest, I didn't get a good look at him at all. Alvin let him in. He was already working when I got here.

**LOUISE.** Are you sayin' you didn't sneak a peek when he climbed up on his ladder? You didn't notice that little butt...like two scoops of vanilla ice cream. (*She is beginning to get lost in the fantasy.*) Two scoops of ice cream floating down from the heavens. Two *round* scoops...

**JANNELLE.** We get it, Louise.

**ALVIN.** What is Marcy doin' in there? She's been locked up in that office since she got here this mornin'. That phone's been glued to her face.

**LOUISE.** She looks awful serious. You don't think somethin's wrong, do you?

**JANNELLE.** I'm sure it's just routine business. I wouldn't worry about it.

**LOUISE.** I don't know. The last time she looked all serious like that was when First Independent Bank was gonna move to town and we thought we were all gonna lose our jobs. This might be bad.

**JANNELLE.** I'm sure it's nothing.

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**ALVIN.** We're gonna find out soon enough. Here she comes. (*Marcy enters from the office.*)

**MARCY.** Listen up, everybody. I'm afraid we have a bit of a situation.

**LOUISE.** I KNEW IT! WE'RE ALL LOSIN' OUR JOBS!

**MARCY.** Calm down. No one is losing their job.

**JANNELLE.** Then what is it?

**ALVIN.** Yeah. What's goin' on?

**MARCY.** I'm afraid we will be without the services of Mr. Brock-

**LOUISE.** OH MY GOD! MR. BROCK IS DEAD!

**MARCY.** For a few days.

**ALVIN.** Honey, if Mr. Brock is dead, he's gonna be gone for more than a few days.

**MARCY.** No! Listen to me. Mr. Brock is not dead. He's just gonna be out for a few days. That means we're all gonna have to pick up the slack. We're all gonna have to take on some extra responsibility until he gets back.

**JANNELLE.** What happened? Is he okay?

**MARCY.** He's fine. He's gonna be out of town for a few days.

**LOUISE.** Where is he?

**MARCY.** Las Vegas.

**ALVIN.** What in the world?

**JANNELLE.** Las Vegas?

**LOUISE.** What the hell is he doin' in Vegas?

**MARCY.** It doesn't matter. He has appointed me acting manager. We are just going carry on like normal until he gets back.

**LOUISE.** Doesn't matter, my ass! You better spill it.

**JANNELLE.** Yeah. What's going on, Marcy?

**MARCY.** Girls, please.

**ALVIN.** Miss Marcy, somethin's wrong. It's written all over your face. As head of security, I insist-

**MARCY.** Fine. But you have to promise that you won't say anything.

**JANNELLE.** Fine.

**ALVIN.** Scout's honor.

**MARCY.** Louise?

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**LOUISE.** I am offended that you would even ask. As someone who has been the victim of malicious gossip and rumors, I would never do unto others as they have done unto me. ...Now dish.

**MARCY.** Well... he and his brother-in-law went to Las Vegas to play in a golf tournament.

**JANNELLE.** And?

**MARCY.** Well it seems they didn't make the cut and got eliminated after the first round. So...they decided they would see what else Las Vegas has to offer. Which apparently, is a lot. You know, casinos and buffets and shows.

**LOUISE.** Get to the point.

**MARCY.** It would appear that Mr. Brock went to one of the shows and met a...performer. They hit it off and after a few cocktails, Mr. Brock decided it would be a good idea to...to...

**LOUISE.** OH MY GOD! MR. BROCK WENT AND MARRIED A STRIPPER!

**MARCY.** Dancer! She is a dancer. I never said stripper.

**ALVIN.** You didn't have to.

**MARCY.** Oh, my Lord!

**JANNELLE.** So, when do we get to meet the blushing bride?

**MARCY.** We don't. That's why he's staying out there for a few days. He's trying to make the *new* Mrs. Brock become the *ex*-Mrs. Brock.

**LOUISE.** I don't know if I'm impressed or jealous.

**ALVIN.** You know, I've always wanted to go to Las Vegas.

**LOUISE.** Why don't you?

**ALVIN.** It's way too risky.

**JANNELLE.** What's risky?

**ALVIN.** I can't unleash the Lumpkins Lust on a town like that. It'd be worse than Sodom and Gomorrah.

**MARCY.** Can we stop this, please? We have a bank to run. It's almost nine o'clock. We gotta get ready to open. Girls, you go count your tills. Alvin...carry on.

**ALVIN.** I'm afraid them cameras ain't rollin'. I can't open this bank until all the proper security measures are in place. I don't mean to undermine your authority Miss Marcy, but that's the way it is.

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**MARCY.** What's wrong with the security cameras? They were working fine yesterday.

**ALVIN.** I figured you knew. That fella showed up with a work order to fix the cameras.

**MARCY.** I didn't call for a repairman.

**LOUISE.** I bet Mr. Brock did it before he left.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(Returning with a pair of wire cutters.)* Found them. We'll be ready to go in no time.

**MARCY.** You have to hurry. It's almost nine.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(Climbing up the ladder.)* I'm working as fast as I can, ma'am.

**LOUISE.** *(Walking around to get a better look.)* Let's not rush him, Marcy. You just take your time, fella.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** There. I think we're ready.

**ALVIN.** What are you talkin' about? We ain't ready. You just disconnected that camera. And it's pointed down. *(Alvin looks around the room and notices all the cameras are in the same condition.)* Hey! They're all pointed straight down. Son, I don't know how much you know about hi-tech security networks, but those cameras ain't gonna catch anybody doin' anything in here.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Yeah. I thought that same thing.

**ALVIN.** Well you better snap to it, Junior. *(He pulls out his nightstick and points it at the man.)* If you don't get those cameras up and running we ain't gonna open this bank at all.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Yeah, I know. *(He pulls a gun from his tool bag.)* That's kinda the plan.

**ALVIN.** *(He puts the nightstick on the floor and slides it over to the man. He raises his arms in the air.)* Well as long as you got it thought out.

**MARCY.** Oh my God. Girls come over here with me.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** You heard her girls. Get over there. NOW!

**MARCY.** Do what he says!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(He pulls a large canvas bag out of his tool bag and opens it.)* Alright. First things first. Deputy dog, gimme that belt. I want the cuffs, the pepper spray, everything. Put in this bag.

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**ALVIN.** I can't do that, fella.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(He points the gun at Alvin.)* I beg to differ.

**ALVIN.** You can beg all you want. I still can't do it.

**MARCY.** Alvin, please just cooperate.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What's your problem, old timer?

**ALVIN.** I got no problem and I can't cooperate.

**MARCY.** Alvin, please.

**ALVIN.** I can't give him what I ain't got, Miss Marcy. I don't carry pepper spray no more. Not since I got it confused with my under arm deodorant. That's somethin' you only do once. I spent two days walkin' around with my arms straight out at my sides. Ever'body in town thought I was a scarecrow. It ain't no fun at all. You gotta walk through every door sideways til you get so dizzy that-

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** SHUT IT! Just put your gear in the bag. And your wallet.

**MARCY.** Alvin, just do as he says. *(Alvin does as he is told.)*

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Now we're getting somewhere. Oh, and I wanna thank whoever put those cheap lockers in the breakroom. They were the easiest things in the world to crack open. Not that it did much good. I didn't find much. You broads don't carry anything good with you, do you?

**JANNELLE.** You went through our purses?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** That's right. And I'm not gonna say what I *did* find, but whichever one of you owns that pink purse with the flamingo on it...should be ashamed of yourself. *(Marcy, Jannelle and Alvin all stare at Louise.)*

**LOUISE.** I don't know why you are all lookin' at me. I have no idea what he could be talkin' about.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(He points the gun at her.)* Would you like me to elaborate?

**LOUISE.** No! You are mean and cruel and I take back everything I said about your butt. Your cute, perfect, round, little butt.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Okay, this is how this is gonna play out. Who's in charge?

**MARCY.** I'm the acting manager.

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**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Listen up acting manager. *(He takes a large rope out of his tool bag and throws it to her.)* I want you to tie up Dudley Do-Right and his girlfriends over here. Tie them up and sit them down in front of the counter. NOW!

**MARCY.** Please don't hurt anyone. We are going to cooperate. We'll do whatever you want. Just don't hurt us.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What I want is for you to shut your mouth and tie these three up. RIGHT NOW! AND DON'T MAKE ME TELL YOU AGAIN! NOW MOVE!

**MARCY.** OKAY! *(She begins to tie the others up but the man doesn't like what he sees.)*

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Tighter! Are you kidding me with this? Tighter! We don't want anybody slipping out. We want a nice tight group. You're all friends here, right? It's time to bond. Make it tighter!

**JANNELLE.** *(As Marcy tightens the ropes, the girls scream in pain. After a second, Alvin has a look of relief on his face. The girls react to an awful smell.)* Lord in heaven! What is that?

**LOUISE.** It smells like somebody died. Alvin, did you-

**ALVIN.** It wasn't my fault. She pulled on the rope and squeezed it out of me.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Enough! Tie it tight. Good strong knots.

**MARCY.** *(She does as she's told.)* Okay. It's done.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Very nice. You may get out of this alive after all, Acting Manager Marcy.

**MARCY.** Just don't hurt anyone.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** I'm not makin' any promises.

**LOUISE.** Sir? If I may? We've done everything you've asked. Now I know we aren't in any position to make demands. I just wanna say that...I don't know what you have in mind...but...I just want you to know that...well...I am willing to...sacrifice myself for everyone else.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What are you talking about?

**LOUISE.** *(She tries to appear sexy. She winks and shrugs her eyebrows. During the conversation, Marcy reaches back into one of the cash drawers and triggers a silent alarm.)* I'm just saying that if you

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should...lose control...and need to “workout” your...frustrations...I am willing to...take one for the team...you know?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** No, I don’t know. And what’s going on with your face? Are you having some kind of attack? What is wrong with you?

**ALVIN.** She’s unclean.

**LOUISE.** Alvin!

**ALVIN.** Not a Christian woman at all.

**LOUISE.** You take that back!

**ALVIN.** A downright Jezebel.

**LOUISE.** *(She begins squirming and trying to get loose.)* You’re just lucky I can’t get a hand free or I swear to the Almighty I’d beat you more senile than you already are.

**ALVIN.** Well then it’s too bad he didn’t tie us up with your brassiere. You never have *any* trouble gettin’ out of that.

**JANNELLE.** Stop it!

**LOUISE.** Alvin Lumpkins, you take that back!

**JANNELLE.** Please! He looks mad.

**ALVIN.** I will do no such thing. It’s the truth and you know it. *O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me.* So sayeth the Psalms.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(He fires a warning shot and everybody screams.)* Shut your mouths if you want to get outta here alive. So sayeth the man with the gun.

**MARCY.** *(She closes the last cash drawer and hands the Maintenance Man a bag.)* Alright, this is it. This is everything. Now please just go and leave us alone.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Everything? Do you think I’m stupid? Huh? Is that what you think? Do you think I was born yesterday?

**MARCY.** Of course not.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Then stop lying to me.

**MARCY.** I’m not lying. I gave you all the money. I gave you everything.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Sure. Everything out here. This is chicken feed. I want the vault.

**MARCY.** The vault?

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**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Yeah. The vault. Let's go.

**MARCY.** I can't.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(He points the gun at her.)* Acting Manager Marcy, believe me when I say that this is no time to play hero.

**MARCY.** You don't understand. I really can't. *(She looks at her watch.)* It's only five minutes 'til nine. The vault is on a time lock. It can't be opened until nine o'clock.

**ALVIN.** She's tellin' the truth. It can't be opened before nine or after five.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** In case you haven't noticed, I don't like to wait. I'm kind of in a hurry.

**MARCY.** Sir, there is nothing I can do until nine o'clock.

**LONNIE.** *(Banging on the front door.)* Louise! Girl, I know you're in there. Let me in. I wanna talk to you.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Who is that and what does he want?

**LOUISE.** Oh my God! It's Lonnie.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Who's Lonnie?

**LOUISE.** He's my friend. If we ignore him, he'll just go away.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** I am running out of patience with you people. I want this guy gone!

**LONNIE.** LOUISE! If you don't unlock this door and let me in, I'm gonna come crashin' through! ...LOUISE!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Get rid of him! I'm not gonna tell you again!

**LOUISE.** Okay, okay, okay! Help me get to the door.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** No! You open that door and I open fire.

**LOUISE.** No. Just help me get to the door so I can talk to him.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Get there yourself.

**LOUISE.** How am I supposed to do that all tied up?

**LONNIE.** LOUISE!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Figure it out! Now!

**JANNELLE.** Let's try to stand. *(After two failed attempts, they are nearing success when Jannelle screams in pain and they all fall back to the floor.)* OUCH! My leg is cramping! Oh, it hurts! I have to sit.

**LONNIE.** LOUISE! THIS IS IT, GIRL! THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'M TELLIN' YOU!

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**MAINTENANCE MAN.** This is the last time *I'm* tellin' *you*. Get rid of him!

**JANNELLE.** I can't stand up. My leg is gonna start crampin' again.

**ALVIN.** We gotta do somethin'.

**LOUISE.** I know. Scooch.

**JANNELLE.** What do you mean, scooch?

**LOUISE.** Let's all just scooch over towards the door. Just slide over on your bottom. Come on.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** (*Watching their uncoordinated attempt at scooching.*) HURRY UP!

**ALVIN.** Mister, you can holler at me to hurry up all you want. But the fact is, one of my hips has arthritis and the other is titanium. They're gonna move at whatever pace they damn well want to.

**JANNELLE.** We're almost there.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Let's go!

**LONNIE.** ALRIGHT! YOU ASKED FOR IT!

**LOUISE.** (*The group is finally close enough to the door for Louise to communicate with Lonnie.*) Calm down, Lonnie!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Don't do anything stupid. Don't let on that anything is wrong.

**LONNIE.** Are you gonna let me in or do I gotta get mad?

**LOUISE.** I can't open the door. The bank ain't open yet. Lonnie...what do you want, sweetie?

**LONNIE.** I want to talk to you face to face.

**LOUISE.** I'm at work. Can we do this later?

**LONNIE.** No! We're gonna do this right now!

**LOUISE.** I can't open that door. So, if you wanna talk, talk.

**LONNIE.** It's personal. I don't wanna make a big scene out of it.

**LOUISE.** Sugarbug, you either gotta spit it out right now or just go on home. In fact, why don't you just go home? We can talk later on.

**LONNIE.** Fine!

**JANNELLE.** Thank God!

**LONNIE.** (*After an awkward moment passes.*) OKAY, here's the deal.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Are you kidding me?

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**LONNIE.** I was down at Burl's gettin' a haircut this mornin' and I heard some things. Some things about you. I gotta know if they're true. If they are, you and me is finished!

**LOUISE.** Lonnie, sweetheart, what are you talkin' about?

**LONNIE.** Ernest Timmins is tellin' things about you.

**LOUISE.** Ernest Timmons is nothing but a lazy good for nothin' drunk. You can't believe anything he says.

**LONNIE.** I don't know. He was pretty convincin'. Billy Ray Todd and Frank Elmer even backed him up.

**LOUISE.** What, exactly, is he accusing me of?

**LONNIE.** I'm glad you asked. Ernest, Billy Ray and Frank all said that you screwed around with Ray Davis over at the Mini-Mart. And Billy Ray said that Ray said, that you two are still screwin' around! So my question is, are you or are you not screwin' around with Ray Davis?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Get rid of him!

**LOUISE.** I'M TRYIN'!

**LONNIE.** What do you mean you're tryin'? So, you're not screwin' around with him, but you're tryin' to?

**LOUISE.** No! I wasn't talkin' to you, Lonnie.

**LONNIE.** Who else are you talkin' to? Wait a minute. You got Ray Davis in there with you, ain'tcha? THAT'S IT! LET ME IN THERE RIGHT NOW! I'M GONNA GET HOLD A THAT MANGY SUMBITCH AND BEAT THE DOGSHIT OUT OF HIM! CAUSE I LOVE YOU!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** You got thirty seconds before I start shooting!

**LOUISE.** NO! DON'T SHOOT!

**LONNIE.** I AIN'T GONNA SHOOT! I DON'T NEED NO GUN. I'M GONNA USE MY BARE HANDS! *(Suddenly, police sirens are heard.)*

**LOUISE!** DID YOU CALL THE COPS ON ME? I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T HAVE NO DAMNED GUN! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME, LOUISE? THAT'S IT! I'M OUTTA HERE. BUT YOU LISTEN UP! THIS AIN'T OVER! YOU HEAR ME? THIS AIN'T OVER! CAUSE I LOVE YOU!!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** I can't believe this.

**LOUISE.** I know. Did you hear that? Lonnie loves me!

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**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What's goin' on? How did ya'll call the cops?

**ALVIN.** Don't look at us. We been steppin' and fetchin' to keep you happy. Even scooch'd our hind ends across the floor like a wormy dog on your say so.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Don't play around with me, grandpa! Who called the cops? *(After getting no response, he points the gun at Alvin's head.)* I'm not gonna ask again.

**MARCY.** Stop! It was me. Don't hurt him. I did it.

**JANNELLE.** Marcy, what are you doing?

**MARCY.** I did it when I emptied the cash drawers.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Look at me. *(He gets no response.)* LOOK AT ME! What did you do?

**JANNELLE.** The cash drawers!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What is she talking about? WHAT DID YOU DO?

**MARCY.** Okay! Each one of the cash drawers has a mechanism that's supposed to set off a silent alarm. I wasn't even sure they worked because we've never had to use them. I just-

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** You just had to try it. You had to be a hero. *(He goes to a window near the door and peaks through the blinds.)* Oh my God! This wasn't supposed to happen like this. It was supposed to be easy. Get in and get out. Why? Why? Why? What the hell am I gonna do now?

**MARCY.** This doesn't have to get any worse. Sir, please hear me out. This can be over right now. Just let us go and end this. Turn yourself in and maybe they'll go easy on you. Everybody makes mistakes. I mean, you haven't really hurt anyone yet. And you don't have to.

**ALVIN.** She's right, son.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** No. I've gone too far to stop now.

**MARCY.** No, you haven't. It's never too late to do the right thing.

**JANNELLE.** She's right.

**LOUISE.** Please!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** STOP! I need to think. *(He begins pacing furiously. As he does so, the phone begins ringing.)* What am I gonna

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do? What in the world am I gonna do? This wasn't supposed to go down like this. I am so screwed!

**ALVIN.** You gonna answer that phone?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** No questions!

**MARCY.** Please! This is over!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** NO! I say when it's over. Me! Not you or anybody else. Got it? I say when it's over!

**DETECTIVE HARLAN.** *(Over a bullhorn.)* It's all over, mister! This is Detective Harlan. We can do this the hard way or the easy way. It's up to you. Now I really want to talk to you. We just want to get you on the phone to talk to us, okay. In a second, we are going to call back. I really need you to answer and talk to me.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Oh my God! What do they want from me?

**ALVIN.** He wants you to answer the damn phone. Ain't you been listening?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Stuff it, old Man. I gotta think.

**MARCY.** Please. We've done everything you've asked of us. Just let us go.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What? No. I can't do that. *(The phone begins ringing again.)* You're the only leverage I've got. You're all I have to bargain with.

**LOUISE.** Bargain for what?

**JANNELLE.** Please, mister. We're scared.

**MARCY.** Wait! I'm the head teller and the acting manager. Let them go and I'll stay. I'll be your hostage. Just let Alvin and the girls go.

**LOUISE.** No! We're not leavin' you.

**ALVIN.** Um...son?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** WHAT?

**ALVIN.** You gonna answer that phone? I'm pretty sure it's for you.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Okay. Everybody stay quiet. *(He goes to the phone and starts to pick up but doesn't.)* Hey! Miss Acting Manager?

**MARCY.** What?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Get over here and answer the phone.

**MARCY.** Why me?

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**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Just do it. Get over here and talk to them. NOW!

**MARCY.** *(She does as she is told and answers the phone.)* Hello. This is Marcy Jefferson. I'm not really sure. Hold on. *(She tries to hand him the phone.)* They want to talk to you.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** No. You're gonna talk for me. Tell them.

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone.)* He says I'm supposed to talk for him. Yes. Yes. No. Nobody's hurt. As far as I know, just a pistol.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What's that? What is he asking you?

**MARCY.** He asked if you were armed and with what. I told him you just had a pistol.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Why did you tell him that? They can't know that. They're gonna know they've got me outgunned. Dammit! What else is gonna go wrong? Uh...okay...Tell them that the whole building is wired with explosives. Tell them if they try to get in, they're gonna blow us all to bits. Tell them that.

**MARCY.** Explosives? Are you serious? I don't see anything like that in here. What kind of explosives?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** The kind...that...they're like...you know...they're...SHIT! I don't know. The blowey-uppy kind! Just tell him!

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone.)* Detective? He said to tell you that the building is wired with explosives. If you try to come in, you'll blow us all up. Apparently the...*blowey-uppy* kind. I don't know. Please help us! Yes. Right. I got it. Okay. How long? Redial, got it. I'll tell him. *(She hangs up.)*

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What did he say?

**MARCY.** He wants you to stay calm. He promises they aren't going to try to rush in unless you start hurting people. They want to negotiate with you. They want a quick, peaceful resolution to this. But it's up to you. You have to tell them how that can happen. He also said he is going to call back in a few minutes. The phone line has been secured and routed directly to him. If you want to talk to him before then or at any time, just hit redial.

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**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Okay. We bought a little time. I can still do this. Maybe I can find a way out of here after all. Alright, listen up. Are there any more little silent alarms or other surprises?

**MARCY.** Nothing.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Acting Manager Marcy...you better be telling the truth. If you're lying to me I'm gonna exercise the one option I still have. *(He waves the gun.)*

**MARCY.** I swear. That's all.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Old timer? Besides this main entrance and the employee entrance in the back, is there another way in or out that I haven't seen?

**ALVIN.** No sir. That's it.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** You wouldn't be trying to trick me now, would you? Huh? There isn't some side door or back window that slipped your mind?

**ALVIN.** Son, nobody knows the ins and outs of this institution better than yours truly. Now, unless you wanna go to the restroom and try to flush yourself to freedom, them two doors is it.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Fair enough, old man. Fair enough. Alright. You three get away from the door. Get back to the counter.

**JANNELLE.** Again? Oh my lord my butt's gonna be sore for days.

**LOUISE.** Come on. Let's scooch.

**ALVIN.** *(As they begin their journey across the floor, Alvin suddenly stops.)* Dadgummit, girls! I already told that fella that my hips ain't gonna move like that. Ain't nothin' changed since the last scoochin' we done. You're just gonna have to work with me.

**JANNELLE.** Just try, Alvin.

**LOUISE.** Yeah, Alvin. Just do what we do. Rock and slide. Rock and slide.

**ALVIN.** My rock is fine. It's my slide that's broke.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Cut the chit chat and move. *(He turns to Marcy.)* As for you?

**MARCY.** *(Heading toward the others.)* I'm going.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Wrong. You stay put. You and me are gonna make a little phone call. They wanna negotiate? We'll negotiate.

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**LOUISE.** Does that mean you're gonna let us go soon?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Time will tell, baby. Time will tell. *(To Marcy.)* Get something to write with, acting manager.

**MARCY.** *(She retrieves a pen and a pad from the counter.)* Okay. I got it.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Write down what I tell you. Exactly how I say it.

**MARCY.** Yes sir.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Okay. First, if any more cops show up, I'm gonna kill one of you as punishment.

**MARCY.** Oh my God.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Second, I want a car. No, wait. ...a motorcycle. No! An RV. I want a large RV with a full tank of gas. And I want it stocked with food. Enough food for a week. And beer. Lots of beer.

**MARCY.** What else?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Protection. I want two bullet proof vests.

**MARCY.** Two?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** That's right. Two. One for me and one for my driver.

**MARCY.** You want a driver, too?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Nope. I already got one.

**MARCY.** Who?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(Pointing at Louise.)* Her.

**LOUISE.** ME! Why me? I don't wanna go anywhere with you!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** I ain't askin'. I'm tellin'.

**LOUISE.** You don't want me. I'm a terrible driver. One time I was drivin' to work and while I was putting on my make-up, I sideswiped a bread truck and wiped out a whole row of mailboxes. I don't even *like* to drive.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(Flashing the gun.)* Do you like bein' dead?

**LOUISE.** That thing got GPS?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(To Marcy.)* That's a good idea. GPS. Write that down.

**MARCY.** G...P...S. Okay now- *(The phone rings.)*

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**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Answer it.

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone.)* Hello?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Tell him not to call anymore.

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone.)* He says not to call anymore.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** I'm in control. Not him. Say it!

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone.)* He's in control. Not you.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** And...and also...he's a dirty son-of-a-bitch.  
Say it!

**MARCY.** I will say no such thing.

**LOUISE.** I'll say it. Gimme the phone.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** You stow it. *(To Marcy.)* Say it!

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone.)* Detective Harlan? You're a...a son of a bitch.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Dirty! Dirty son of a bitch!

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone but looking at the maintenance man.)*

**YOU'RE A DIRTY SON-OF-A-BITCH!**

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Tell him I'll be in touch when I'm ready to talk.

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone.)* He said he'll be in touch when he's ready to talk. *(She hangs up.)*

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(Everyone is silent. The maintenance man walks around the room and surveys the situation. Again, he briefly peeks through the blinds. He sees the flashing red and blue lights and gets nervous.)* Okay. I'm ready to talk. Get him on the phone.

**MARCY.** *(Doing as she is told.)* Detective Harlan? He's ready to talk.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Read him my list of demands.

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone.)* Detective Harlan? Here is his list of demands. First, he said if any more cops show up, he's gonna kill one of us. Second, he wants an RV. It needs a full tank of gas and a week's worth of food. Oh! And it needs one of those GPS things and a bunch of beer. And the last thing he wants is two bulletproof vests. That's right, two. One for him and one for the driver. No, he's got his own driver. Louise Franklin. Yes, she told him about the mailboxes but he wants her anyway.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Night vision goggles.

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**MARCY.** Huh?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** I want some night vision goggles.

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone.)* He also wants some night vision goggles.

**ALVIN.** What's wrong with you? You're gonna be drivin' off in broad daylight in a Winnebago. What the hell do you need night vision for?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Don't worry about that, old timer.

**JANNELLE.** Alvin, don't make him mad.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Yeah, Alvin. Don't make him mad. *(To Marcy.)* Tell him he has two hours to get my stuff, or else.

**MARCY.** Or else what?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(Flashing the gun.)* Or else things are gonna take a tragic turn.

**MARCY.** *(Into the phone.)* He says you have two hours to get the stuff or else. Right. *(She hangs up.)*

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Are they gonna get my stuff?

**MARCY.** He's gonna work on it.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Yeah? That's good. You do very good work, Marcy the Acting Manager.

**MARCY.** Now what?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Now we wait. We wait and see if these people actually care what happens to you or not. I'm gonna be real honest. I really don't want to hurt any of you. I don't have a beef with anybody here. So let's just hope they don't put me in a position where I...yeah. Let's just hope it doesn't go that way.

**LOUISE.** I can't just sit here knowing that I might die if you don't get beer and night goggles. I can't do it. I just can't.

**JANNELLE.** Hey now. Don't get all excited. We're gonna get through this.

**LOUISE.** Maybe!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** That's enough. I want quiet. I want everybody to stay quiet. I need to think and I can't do it with a bunch of people runnin' off at the mouth. So shut it! *(He paces around the room and peaks through the blinds again. The gravity of the situation begins to set in. He closes his eyes, almost in prayer. After a moment, he is jolted from his solitude by a familiar voice.)*

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**ALVIN.** Mister?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Sweet Jesus! You scared the shit outta me! I thought I told you people to be quiet.

**ALVIN.** Yes sir. You did that. I don't wanna be no trouble, but...I have a situation.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** A what?

**ALVIN.** A situation.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What is it? What's your situation?

**ALVIN.** I don't wanna be a bother. It's just that ...well...I gotta go.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** You ain't goin' no place, gramps!

**ALVIN.** I'm tryin' to ask you nice. Now, I'm tellin' you. I...gotta...go.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** You mean you gotta pee?

**ALVIN.** Believe me, I'm as surprised as you are.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** You're just gonna have to hold it.

**ALVIN.** I ain't askin' to be untied. Just help us up and let me go to the restroom. I'll take the girls with me.

**LOUISE.** I am not going to pee with you.

**JANNELLE.** Yeah. That is just gross.

**ALVIN.** Girls, in about a minute and a half, I'm gonna pee. Now we either do it in there or right here. Either way, I'm gonna pee.

**JANNELLE.** *(Louise and Jannelle look at each other and then turn to the robber.)* Please let him pee!

**LOUISE.** Please!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Alright! Go. But I'm not untying you. If you can get to the restroom, go. Ladies, you're just gonna have to cover your eyes. That's the deal. Take it or leave it.

**ALVIN.** We'll take it. Come on, girls.

**LOUISE.** Why didn't I call in sick?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(Alvin and the girls try several times to get to their feet. but fail every time. They try rolling to no avail. Finally, the maintenance man has had enough.)* Oh my God, just stop. *(To Marcy.)* Get over here and help them up.

**MARCY.** *(Marcy comes around the counter and tries to help pull the trio up from the floor.)* We're almost there. *(As she finally gets them to their feet, she loses her grip and falls backwards crashing into the*

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*maintenance man. As they both fall to the floor, he drops the gun and the two of them scramble madly for it. Marcy gets to it first and points it right at him.)* I GOT IT! I GOT THE GUN!

**JANNELLE.** THANK YOU JESUS! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

**ALVIN.** I don't care about that gun. I STILL GOTTA PEE!

**LOUISE.** Untie us!

**MARCY.** Okay, mister! Untie my friends. NOW! *(Defeated, he does so.)*

**JANNELLE.** You did it, Marcy! You did it!

**ALVIN.** Mister, you take those glasses and that hat off. I want to see who's been terrorizin' us. *(He does so. Jannelle stares in disbelief.)*

**LOUISE.** That ain't good enough. Drop those coveralls. We're gonna need a better look at that hind end.

**MARCY.** Louise!

**LOUISE.** I just want to be able to give a proper identification.

**ALVIN.** Have you no shame woman? *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.* Galatians 5:16.

**MARCY.** This is no time for sermons, Alvin. And somebody please take this gun. I don't like it. I hate guns.

**LOUISE.** I'll take it.

**JANNELLE.** No. *(She has not taken her eyes of the Maintenance Man.)* Give it to me. *(Marcy hands her the gun.)*

**MARCY.** Alvin, for the love of God, unlock that door and let's get out of here.

**ALVIN.** Amen to that *(Alvin unlocks the door and he, Louise and Marcy exit the bank He pushes way past the girls.)* I still gotta pee.

**JANNELLE.** *(To the Maintenance Man.)* Not you. Close the door. Lock it.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Huh?

**JANNELLE.** You heard me. Close the door and lock it. NOW!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(He does as he is told.)* Look lady, it's over. You got the gun. Don't do anything foolish. I give up, okay?

**JANNELLE.** Nothing is over. In fact, I think we've only just begun here. Oh my God. I can't believe it's you. It's really you.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What are you talking about?

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**JANNELLE.** You don't recognize me?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Should I?

**JANNELLE.** I was hoping you might. You really don't remember me, do you?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** No. Look, if we've met before, I'm sorry.

**JANNELLE.** Well, it *was* over thirty years ago. I'll give you that. But I am a little hurt. I guess we'll have to see if we can jog your memory  
*(She points the gun at him.)*

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Who are you?

**JANNELLE.** Think about it. I don't look the least bit familiar to you?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** No. How many damn times do I have to tell you? I don't know you. Listen...

**JANNELLE.** No! You listen. I have waited more than thirty years for this. I am not gonna let you do this to me again.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Again? Lady, what are you talking about?

**DETECTIVE HARLAN.** *(On the bullhorn.)* Alright. What's going on in there? These folks said you got the gun away from him. Is something wrong? Why aren't you two coming out?

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** I'd like to know that, too.

**JANNELLE.** Shut up! I need to think. I can make this work. Oh God. I must be crazy. I have got to be out of mind to even consider this.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Consider what?

**JANNELLE.** I said to shut up! *(The phone rings. Jannelle jumps and accidentally fires a shot into the air.)*

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What are you doin'? What's wrong with you?

**JANNELLE.** I didn't mean that! It was an accident.

**DETECTIVE HARLAN.** *(On the bullhorn.)* Is everyone okay in there? We heard a shot. Somebody better answer that phone or we are going to have no choice but to come in after you, explosives or not. You have thirty seconds.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** For the love of God, answer the damn phone!

**JANNELLE.** Don't tell me what to do. Now shut up so I can answer the damn phone.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** You are out of your mind!

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**JANNELLE.** *(She finally answers the phone.)* Hello. We're okay. No. We can't. We just can't. I don't know why. It's just... *(She looks at the Maintenance Man.)* It's him. He grabbed the gun as we were walking out. He has the gun again. I'm his prisoner.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** What are you talking about? That's a lie! I'm your prisoner.

**JANNELLE.** *(Into the phone.)* He says that he changed his mind. He said he'll be in touch very shortly with a different set of demands. What? No. He said he won't talk to anyone. I have to talk for him.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *He didn't say shit! (Jannelle fires a warning shot and he falls to his knees.)* What the hell are you doing?

**JANNELLE.** Okay then, bye-bye now. *(She hangs up.)* Okay, first things first. Where is that bag? The one you put all of Alvin's stuff in. Where is it? *(He points to it on the floor.)* Good. Get his handcuffs out and put them on. Grab that chair over there and sit. Handcuff yourself through the arm of the chair.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Now wait a min-

**JANNELLE.** DO IT!

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(He digs for the cuffs and retrieves them. He then cuffs his hands to the chair and shows Jannelle.)* There. You happy? Now what?

**JANNELLE.** Now we try to jog that memory of yours.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** For the last time...what am I supposed to remember? I don't know you. I have no memory of you. I never met you before I came in here this morning.

**JANNELLE.** Yes, you have. Think.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** *(To himself.)* Why didn't I just hit a liquor store? No. I had to be greedy and go for a bank. Listen, I'm sorry but I'm drawing a blank. I don't know you. You are obviously confusing me with somebody else. Now if you-

**JANNELLE.** I am not confusing you with anyone. We know each other.

**MAINTENANCE MAN.** Then why don't I recognize you? How come I can't remember you?

**JANNELLE.** We're gonna fix that. I don't care if we have to sit here all day and all night. I have spent more than thirty years trying to forget you

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and no matter what I do...I can't. So, by God, I am going to make you remember me. Do you know why? Because you owe me. Don't you? ...Bobby. *(He snaps his head up to face her.)*

**END OF ACT I**

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