"The Happy Life"

Written by

Ron Koslow

Directed by

Victor Lob1

WITT/THOMAS PRODUCTIONS 956 North Seward Street Hollywood, CA 90038 (213) 856-0589 (213) 856-4994

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"The Happy Life"

CONTRACTOR SERVICE CONTRACTOR SERVICES

## CHARACTERS

VINCENT CATHERINE

FATHER PASCAL

JOE MAXWELL

CHARLES CHANDLER KAY

DR. NEWMARK

NANCY TUCKER
JEFF TUCKER
JEREMY
JENNY
REBECCA
BUDDY

**PATROLMAN** 

## BITS

PIANIST YOUNG CATHERINE MRS. CHANDLER

"A Happy Life"

## SETS

INTERIOR	EXTERIOR
THE TUCKER HOUSE -Kitchen -Den -Dining Room -Guest Bedroom	THE TUCKER HOUSE -Front (D,N) -Back Yard (D) WESTPORT STREET (N)
DR. NEWMARK'S OFFICE -Office Hallway -Waiting Room -Inner Office	ALLEY -Middle of Alley (N) -Mouth of Alley (N)
THE RECITAL HALL -Lobby -The Auditorium	DREAM SEQUENCE -Wooded Path (D) -Grassy Slope (D)
THE RESTAURANT	CENTRAL PARK (N)
YOUNG CATHY'S BEDROOM (Flashback)	CENTRAL PARK STREET (N)
THE TAXI	RECITAL HALL STREET (N)
CATHY'S CAR	·
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S -Office -Joe Maxwell's office	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
CATHY'S APARTMENT -Bedroom	

-Living Room -Terrace

THE UNDERGROUND
-Vincent's Chamber
-Tunnel Junction

-Chamber of the Falls (NEW MATTE)

"The Happy Life"

### ACT ONE

FADE IN:

FLASHBACK -- TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO -- THROUGH MEMORY'S HAZE...

A LITTLE GIRL - (SIX YEAR OLD CATHY CHANDLER)

She sits on the floor with her dolls and some toy cups and saucers -- having a tea party. She's thoroughly engrossed... Now she looks up INTO CAMERA and breaks into a happy smile...

2 CATHY'S POV - HER MOTHER

> A lovely woman in her early 30's. She stands above her beaming down lovingly. She wears a fur coat, a suitcase is nearby, as if she's just returned from a trip. Cathy rushes to her, they embrace, joyfully -- her mother covering her with kisses. Cathy burrows deep in the

> > DISSOLVE TO:

3 INT. CATHY'S BEDROOM - MORNING (PRESENT DAY)

safety of her mother's arms...

Her eyes open to the grey morning light... She lies there for a moment, motionless, staring at the ceiling... She starts to climb out of bed, changes her mind and falls back to the pillow. Now she begins to quietly weep...

After a few beats, she pulls herself together, blows her nose, then reaches for the phone. She dials...

CATHERINE

(into phone)

... It's Cathy Chandler... Would you tell Joe I probably won't be in today.

(beat)

Yeah, it must be that flu. Thanks...

She hangs up. Then, continues to lie there, staring at the ceiling, looking disconsolate...

CUT TO:

1

2

3

## 4 INT. CATHY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

She sits on the sofa, still in her robe, having tea with her father, CHARLES CHANDLER. He has an arm around her, comforting her.

#### CHARLES

... Every year when this day comes around, it brings something different.

(beat)

... I can't believe it's been twenty years.

#### CATHERINE

The strange thing is, it hit me this morning like it's never hit me before. It just came crashing down -- the loss of her, and what it meant...

(starts to tear up again)

All these years I thought it was behind me...

### CHARLES

(moved) ·

I don't think the loss of a mother, or a wife is ever behind you.

### CATHERINE

I just felt her so strongly this morning -- her memory... All the things we never got to share -- Wondering what she'd think of me now...

#### CHARLES

She very much wanted you to have a happy life. Your mother didn't have a lot of happiness as a child. She wanted that for you.

#### CATHERINE

#### CHARLES

(softly)

Come on... Get dressed, I'll take you to lunch...

4 CONTINUED:

CATHERINE

I promised to meet Nancy Tucker. She's in from Westport...

CHARLES

How's she doing?

CATHERINE

Haven't seen her for a while. She's up there raising kids...

She puts an arm around her father, appreciatively.

CATHERINE

(wistful)

I'll find out if she's having a happy life.

(gives him a hug)
Thanks for coming over...

CUT TO:

## 5 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

A trendy place for lunch -- airy, open. Cathy sits with NANCY TUCKER, her friend since childhood. Nancy is warm and down-to-earth -- and genuinely happy to see Cathy...

NANCY

(handing Cathy a snapshot)

complete terror, non-stop. One thing I can count on -- I know when I get home tonight something will be broken. It's just a matter of what...

CATHY

(studying a photo)
He's adorable...

NANCY

And he knows it...

(handing over another

picture)

Jill is the exact opposite. She's a perfect lady. She's eighteen months and wants to eat with a knife and fork...

(CONTINUED)

5

CATHY

(looking at photo)
She looks so much like you -- it's uncanny. Nancy, they look like great kids...

NANCY

(smiles)

Hard to believe, huh?

CATHY

I guess it is. The last time I saw you, I think you were going to Paris to study photography...

NANCY

I never got there. Jeff proposed and I realized he was serious.

CATHY

How is Jeff?

NANCY

I think he's pretty happy. He and his brother have their own software consulting business...

(beat)

And what about you?

CATHY

(smiles)

What about me?

NANCY

Talk about surprises... You're working for the D.A..?

CATHY

I'm an investigator -- working
my way up...

NANCY

(teasing)

Well you may have lost touch, but all the rumors keep you in our hearts.

CATHY

(amused)

What kind of rumors?

NANCY

You wouldn't believe, I've heard everything: You're working as an undercover cop... You single-handedly stopped the development of Burch Tower... You gave all your money to the homeless -- Want me to go on?

CATHY

I think that's enough.

NANCY

Well..? What is going on?

CATHY

(a beat; matter of fact)
... I had an accident. And I had
to change my life.

NANCY

Did you have to leave your old friends behind?

CATHY

(with clarity)
Nancy, at the time things were
changing so fast, it was all I
could do just to hang on myself.

NANCY

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said that.

CATHY

(lightly)

Anyway, here we are -- past and present converged over shrimp salad.

(warmly)

It's good to see you...

NANCY

I want you to come up to Westport
-- spend some time with us.
Rebecca and Bill moved up last
year, they live three blocks from
us.

CATHY

Sounds great.

5 CONTINUED: (3)

5

NANCY

Bring somebody if you want. Is there a man in your life? You in love?

Cathy hesitates, what can she possibly say?

NANCY

That's a very enigmatic look...

CATHY

It's a little complicated.

NANCY

It always was with you. The guys you ended up with never understood you.

CATHY

... This one does.

NANCY

What's the problem? Is he married?

CATHY

No...

NANCY

(half-joking)

... Gay?

Cathy shakes her head, has to smile...

CATHY

... No.

NANCY

Unemployed? Behind Bars? Let's see, what's left..?

CATHY

It's nothing like that. We can talk about it another time...

NANCY

Does it make you happy? 'Cause that's all that matters, Cath... Are you happy?

HOLD ON CATHY'S FACE as she sits there, unable to answer...

CUT TO:

6 FLASHBACK -- TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

CLOSE-UP -- HER MOTHER'S FACE

Smiling down on her, as she tucks Cathy in for the night.

DISSOLVE TO:

7 EXT. CATHY'S TERRACE - NIGHT

7

6

CLOSE-UP -- CATHY

She gazes out at the city, lost in a reverie...

CATHY

(a beat)

... I didn't know that she'd been sick for a long time... I was ten when she died.

VINCENT

(0.S.)

The sadness must have been overwhelming.

8 ANGLE

8

Vincent, also on the terrace, now moves closer...

CATHY

(nods)

It was... But what I felt this morning, what I'm feeling now, is deeper and more terrifying than anything I felt then.

VINCENT

I could feel your grief...

CATHY

Loss... A terrible feeling of loss
-- not just my mother, but a part
of my life -- a safety, a
simplicity. Something I've never
been able to know, ever...

(a beat)

I saw an old friend today. I looked at her and I knew that she had that simplicity, that safety. I was happy for her... But it made me sad.

VINCENT

Perhaps these feelings and memories are calling out -- to remind you.

CATHY

Of what?

VINCENT Of something you need.

CATHY

I don't know any more...

VINCENT

Of what you long for...

CATHY

(overwhelmed)

My life is full of complications and risks. I don't know how to have a simple life.

VINCENT

(steadfast)

Catherine, your mother's memory reminds you -- of your aloneness...

She looks at him, struck by his words...

VINCENT

(with compassion)
It reminds you of the family you lost when she died... Of all the people you left behind when our paths crossed...

CATHY

My life had to change. I couldn't go back...

VINCENT

(seering into her soul)
... Because the secret you carry
now, our secret set you apart from
your past, your friends -- even
from the family you are yet to
have -- the children waiting to
be born. Catherine, the burden
you bear with that secret is your
aloneness...

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

9

CATHY

What are you saying?? What am I supposed to do??

VINCENT

Know... that our bond, our dream
exists at the cost of all your
other dreams... Know that,
Catherine.

HOLD ON CATHERINE as she faces this truth.

CATHY

(uncertain)

... I know that it's worth it.

Aware of her doubt, he gives her a look of deep understanding... As he gives her a consoling embrace, we SEE his eyes are filled with trepidation...

CUT TO:

## 9 INT. D.A.'S OFFICE - DAY

Cathy enters. The office humming, lots of activity. She makes her way to her desk -- she moves somewhat distractedly, still out of sorts... As she reaches her desk, Joe intercepts her...

JOE

Hey Radcliffe, you alright?

CATHY

Fine... Why?

JOE

Charlene said you got hit by that flu.

CATHY

(remembering)

No, I'm okay. I'm fine...

JOE

Good -- you're gonna need your strength. The Omansky case just got remanded back for a new trial.

CATHY

(depressed)

Oh God... They threw out the partner's confession...

9 CONTINUED:

9

JOE

(nods)

... Now, we've gotta go back to square one, build a case independent of the confession.

CATHY

(disgusted)

Great...

She sits there suddenly looking exhausted...

JOE

Go down to the vaults, bring it all back up. Go through everything -- Police reports, witness interviews, evidence files and all the transcripts...

She nods.

JOE

And we gotta move. They're gonna be pushing us. They know we're at a disadvantage.

CATHY

(weary)

Okay...

She picks up her briefcase and moves back out...

CUT TO:

10 INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

10

Catherine comes upon a door which reads: "James Newmark M.D., Psychiatry." She opens the door and enters...

11 INT. WAITING ROOM

11

She enters the small tastefully funished waiting room -she looks around. Before she can have a seat, the door
to the inner office opens and DR. NEWMARK is standing
there. He is a gentle looking man in his early 40's.
He wears a cardigan sweater and button down shirt. His
eyes are kind and his voice soft...

DR. NEWMARK

Ms. Chandler ..?

11 CONTINUED:

11

CATHY

(a bit nervous)

Yes...

DR. NEWMARK

Come in...

FOLLOW as he leads her into his comfortable inner office...

### 12 INT. INNER OFFICE

12

She glances around, SEES the legendary analytic couch. He gestures her toward a wonderful wing-back chair...

DR. NEWMARK

... Please, have a seat.

She sits. He sits in a chair opposite her. A long beat... cordial smiles are exhanged...

DR. NEWMARK

(finally)

... How can I help you?

CATHY

I'm not sure... I'm not sure you can.

DR. NEWMARK

(calmly)

Give me a chance...

CATHY

I'm not even sure why I'm here. I've never done anything like this...

DR. NEWMARK

On the phone you mentioned the anniversary of your mother's death...

CATHY

(nods)

On Monday... Twenty years... It hit me very hard -- very unexpectedly. I've been feeling pretty bad ever since.

DR. NEWMARK

(gently)

Feeling like how ..?

CATHY

(struggling)

Like -- like my life is impossible. Like I'll never be able to find happiness...

(beat)

Everything just seems -- hopeless.

DR. NEWMARK

... What seems hopeless?

CATHY

Everything -- my life... What used to make me happy suddenly feels painful -- tragic...

DR. NEWMARK

(measured)

... Do you think these feelings might have anything to do with what happened when you were attacked last year?

CATHY

(off-balance)

How do you know about that?

DR. NEWMARK

It was in the papers.

CATHY

... I guess it was.

DR. NEWMARK

As I remember, a lot of the circumstances were left unresolved.

CATHY

That's not why I'm here.

DR. NEWMARK

Why are you here?

CATHY

... I suppose, to reconcile with my mother's death.

DR. NEWMARK

(direct)

I don't think so...

She looks at him, taken aback...

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

DR. NEWMARK

I don't think that's the real issue...

CATHY

(defensive)

Alright, why don't you tell me.

DR. NEWMARK

I wish I could...

(beat)

First, I think you have to tell yourself...

A long psychiatric beat... As they both wait for the curtains to part, and the inner drama to begin to play itself out...

CATHY

(finally, after great

struggle)

It's a relationship I'm involved in...

DR. NEWMARK

(a beat)

Yes...

CATHY

A relationship I've never talked about to anyone.

Another charged pause. Dr. Newmark looks at her with compassion. Then...

CATHY

(painfully)

... If what I'm about to tell you sounds strange -- I guess it's because -- it is...

FADE OUT

### END OF ACT ONE

### ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 INT. DR. NEWMARK'S OFFICE - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

13

Dr. Newmark maintains his gentle demeanor as he struggles to employ all of his experience and technique in order to fathom Cathy's veiled terms...

DR. NEWMARK
I'm not sure I understand...

CATHY

(not surprised)
Why should you?

DR. NEWMARK
You've never introduced Vincent
to any of your friends, or
family..?

CATHY

No.

DR. NEWMARK
Is it that he doesn't want to take part in your life? Or you don't want him to..?

CATHY

He can't...

DR. NEWMARK

Why not?

CATHY

It's not possible. He's not able to... He has to live separate and apart from me -- from my life.

Dr. Newmark starts to say something, then thinks better...

CATHY

... For reasons I'm not able to go into.

A beat. Dr. Newmark considers...

DR. NEWMARK ... Do you want to end it?

CATHY

No -- I don't.

DR. NEWMARK What do you think you're getting out of this relationship?

CATHY

Everything... He gives me everything. All the things I never had before.

DR. NEWMARK
Then -- what's the problem?

CATHY

(thinking out loud)
Part of me wants to go with him,
be with him -- live in his
world... And part of me is just
a woman living in New York -- who
wants to be happy...

DR. NEWMARK A d it feels impossible...

CATHY

... It is impossible.

Dr. Newmark takes a deep breath. He has a feeling that he's finally met his "problematic case"...

CUT TO:

14 EXT. CATHY'S TERRACE - NIGHT

14

She stands on the terrace in her robe, sipping a cup of tea... The phone RINGS. FOLLOW as she moves into the bedroom to get it...

CATHY

(into phone)

Hello ..?

15 INT. NANCY TUCKER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

15

Nancy sits in her country kitchen, talking to Cathy as her little boy, JEREMY whacks at the kitchen table and everything else with a plastic bat...

15 CONTINUED:

15

NANCY

(into phone)

Hi! It's Nancy...

### 16 INTERCUT AS NEEDED:

16

CATHY

(into phone)

That's so funny -- I was just thinking about you.

NANCY

(into phone)

Thinking about coming up for a visit?

CATHY

Nothing that specific ...

NANCY

Well, next Friday's Rebecca's birthday. A bunch of us are getting together and I thought it might be a way to get you up here.

CATHY

I'd love to Nancy, but I've got a load of work, just a lot of loose ends...

NANCY

Come on, no excuses. Jenny Aronson's coming, you can ride up with her.

CATHY

I'll give you a call next week...

NANCY

(a beat, teasing)

Rebecca's big brother, Buddy'll be there.

CATHY

(giggling)

You'll stoop to anything, won't you?

16 CONTINUED:

16

NANCY

To get you up here? Damn right... (throaty)

He's still a fox... Be there, Chandler.

CATHY

I'll do my best.

NANCY

You better...

Nancy hangs up just in time to save the cookie jar from decimation at the hands of Jeremy.

17 INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

17

She hangs up, smiling for the first time in several days...

CUT TO:

18 INT. VINCENT'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

18

TIGHT CLOSE-UP - VINCENT

He gazes off into the distance lost in thought...

FATHER (O.S.)

... Vincent?

Vincent doesn't appear to respond...

FATHER (O.S.)

Vincent..?

Vincent now turns... PULL BACK to reveal Vincent and Father seated across from each other over a game of chess...

FATHER

(looking puzzled)

... Your move, Vincent.

Vincent glances down at the chess board, then back at Father...

VINCENT

(apologetically)

... Perhaps, we should continue this game another day.

**FATHER** 

(with irony)

With all due respect, Vincent -- I think perhaps we should.

VINCENT

(smiles sadly)

I'm sure you've played better games against yourself.

FATHER

Well, certainly more lively...

(a beat, gently)

What is it? What's distracting you so?

Vincent looks at Father... A shared moment between Father and Son... And Father knows the answer.

**FATHER** 

(softly)

As if I had to ask...

VINCENT

She's in great turmoil...

Father gives Vincent a look of profound sympathy...

VINCENT

Don't worry yourself about me, Father...

**FATHER** 

Sometimes it feels as though I'm standing on the banks, watching you swim across a raging river... How can I not worry? I'd be a fool...

(tenderly)

Yet, at the same time, Vincent -- I marvel at your courage...

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

19

#### VINCENT

... Father, I treasure your love and concern -- but Catherine swims across that river, as well. she faces the same dangers, she shows the same courage. And in many ways, the toll on her is even greater.

FATHER You think that's so?

VINCENT

(nods)

... On <u>her</u> side of the river, there is no one standing on the banks watching, no one praying for her safe passage... Father, on her side of the river there is no one but Catherine.

Father locks eyes with Vincent. He clasps Vincent's hands.

**FATHER** 

(from his heart)

... Then I shall stand watch, and pray, for both of you...

CUT TO:

19 INT. D.A.'S OFFICE - DAY

Cathy sits at her desk trying to concentrate on a volume of trial transcripts... NOW, Joe Maxwell comes hurriedly over...

JOE

(impatiently)

Have you finished that breakdown of the neighbor's testimony?

CATHY

I just put it on your desk...

JOE

... When?

CATHY

Half an hour ago...

JOE

That was the building manager's testimony. I asked you to breakdown the neighbor's testimony...

CATHY

(picking up another
 volume, looking)
I thought... Damn! I'm sorry,
Joe... I got it mixed up. I don't
know how I did that. I'll have
it by the end of the day...

JOE

(controlled)

We really gotta stay on top of this one...

CATHY

(embarrassed)

I know...

He nods, moves off, leaving her looking distressed...

CUT TO:

20 INT. DR. NEWMARK'S OFFICE - DAY

20.

The late afternoon light paints the office in warm tones and shadows... A session is in progress...

CATHY

... He's overcome tremendous hardship. He's suffered great pain -- he has the most beautiful spirit, the most generous heart of anyone I've ever known...

DR. NEWMARK

(quietly)

And yet, you say it's impossible.

CATHY

We can never have a life together...

DR. NEWMARK

(gently)

... How can it possibly fulfill you?

CATHY

It fulfills me in ways I never knew existed.

(beat)

It's the rest of my life that doesn't seem to fit...

DR. NEWMARK

(patiently)

Then -- how do you hope to find the happiness you say you want?

Silence... Cathy looks away. She has no answer...

DR. NEWMARK

... You do want to be happy?

She gives him an impatient look...

DR. NEWMARK

... I'm just wondering if you're not using this impossible, problematic situation with Vincent to avoid a committment to the real thing.

CATHY

That's the problem... It <u>is</u> the real thing.

A beat... Dr. Newmark attempts to marshall his forces and regroup...

DR. NEWMARK

(dismayed)

... I think, if I'm going to help you at all, I'm going to need more to work with, more information.

CATHY

Like what?

DR. NEWMARK

... Why is the relationship a secret?

She looks away -- no response. Then, simply shakes her head...

DR. NEWMARK

(with compassion) What makes it impossible?

Cathy looks away again -- tears begin to fill her eyes...

DR. NEWMARK
... Is he a fugitive? Are you concerned about his safety?

CATHY

... In a way.

DR. NEWMARK

(reassuring)
You're an attorney. You must know that whatever you tell me is always kept confidential.

A beat. She struggles with her burden...

CATHY

I made a promise... I'm sorry...

A beat. Dr. Newmark struggles to find solid ground as it slips away...

DR. NEWMARK (innocently)
... Why are you here?

CATHY

(touched by him, vulnerable)

... I'm not sure -- I guess, I just needed to talk about it to someone. To let someone else know...

DR. NEWMARK (touched by her struggle)
Then, why don't you..?

She looks away, now -- out the window -- fighting back the tears...

CATHY

(shaking her head with
 finality)
... I can't...

HOLD on her, now painfully aware that the only one able to help her, is herself.

CUT TO:

Joe is rapidly flipping through a fat file folder, searching for a particular document. He looks up, FINDS Cathy standing over him...

JOE

What's up?

CATHY

(calmly)

Joe, I'm going to have to take some time off...

JOE

What ..?

CATHY

I need to get away for awhile.

JOE

(off-guard)

When?

CATHY

Right away...

JOE

You gotta be kidding!

CATHY

You know I wouldn't ask if...

JOE

(upset)

You can't leave! The Omansky case is a mess, I got ten other fires to put out. I can't let you go -- I can't believe you're even asking!

CATHY

(quietly)

... Then, I'll have to quit.

He looks at her, stunned. He knows she's dead serious...

JOE

(shaken)

... Cathy, what's going on?

CATHY

I'm having some personal problems.

JOE

What ..?

CATHY

I can't go into it. As you always say, trust me -- for my sake, and the sake of the work, I need a break.

JOE

(worried)

... You okay? Is it your health?

CATHY

I'll be okay.

JOE

Don't worry, take some time off. I'll get Ellis and one of the interns to help out.

CATHY

I appreciate it.

JOE

(guilty)

You work yourself too hard, and I take advantage of it.

CATHY

We all work too hard.

JOE

But I pushed. I knew you were trying to prove yourself...

CATHY

(smiles)

And you gave me the chance to.

Joe stands, comes around the desk...

JOE

(heartfelt)

I owe you, a lot. If there's anything I can do...

CATHY

I won't hesitate.

He embraces her...

JOE

You got a friend here.

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

CATHY (squeezes him)

I know that...

CUT TO:

22 INT. RECITAL HALL - LOBBY - NIGHT

22

An elegant looking crowd moves through the lobby, making its way into the auditorium as the recital is about to begin... We COME UPON Charles Chandler and his "lady friend" KAY, a handsome woman in her early 50's. They seem to be searching the crowd...

CHARLES

There she is...
(raising a hand)
Catherine..!

23 ANGLE - CATHY

23

She makes her way through the lobby. She looks smashing, and smiles as though a cloud has lifted... She joins her father and Kay...

CATHY

Hi dad... Hi Kay...
 (exchanging kisses)
Sorry I'm late...

KAY

(warmly)

Nice to see you...
(with concern)

How are you..?

CATHY

(honestly)

... I'm actually pretty good.

CHARLES

(quietly knowing)

... Are you?

CATHY

(nods)

.. I am.

The lobby seems to be emptying...

KAY

We'd better get to our seats...
(to Cathy)
I was so happy you could join
us...

As they move off, into the auditorium...

CHARLES

(to Kay)
Where're the proceeds going? I
can never keep track...

CUT TO:

## 24 INT. AUDITORIUM

Mr. Chandler sits flanked by Cathy on one side and Kay on the other. As they wait for the recital to begin...

CATHY

(quietly, to her father)
... I'm taking some time off work.

CHARLES

Good -- good idea. Have you got any plans?

CATHY

On Friday, I'm going to visit Nancy Tucker up in Westport... Then, I may just rent a car and take a long drive through New England.

KAY

It's a great time of year...

**CHARLES** 

(in earnest)
I can't tell you how glad I am
you're doing that.

CATHY

(smiles at him)

... Me too.

We now hear APPLAUSE. They turn their attention toward the stage...

DISSOLVE TO:

25	THE PIANISTS HANDS	25
	moving through the opening bars of the Rachmaninoff Concerto #2.	·
	DISSOLVE TO:	
26	CATHY'S FACE	26
	She looks stricken	
	DISSOLVE TO:	
27	THE PIANIST	27
	He plays as if transported as he executes the passionate adagio section	
	DISSOLVE TO:	
28	CATHY	28
	She's fighting back the tears Her father glances over at her. She catches his glace and forces a smile	
	CATHY (whispering) Forgot how sad it was.	
	He smiles and squeezes her hand reassuringly. This only makes it worse	
	CATHY (catching a tear) I'm going to get some tissues	
	She gets up and moves to the aisle	
	FOLLOW as she moves up the aisle of the auditorium with the MUSIC PLAYING and the tears now flowing	
	CUT TO:	
29	INT. LOBBY	29
	Cathy, still weeping, crosses the empty lobby, heading for the door. She exits	
	רווי יירי	

30 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

She crosses the street and heads into Central Park...

CUT TO:

31 EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

31

VARIOUS ANGLES -- MOVING with Cathy as she traverses the park -- with RACHMANINOFF POUNDING...

CUT TO:

32 EXT. PARK - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

32

She approaches the tunnel entrance and enters, disappearing...

CUT TO:

33 INT. TUNNEL JUNCTION - NIGHT

33

She reaches down, picks up a rock and moves to tap a message on a nearby pipe... Suddenly Vincent's hand is on her shoulder. She turns, he's standing there...

VINCENT

I'm here...

She throws her arms around him and lets it all go, all of her pain.

VINCENT Catherine... Tell me...

CATHERINE

(sobbing)

... Tonight I went to a piano recital. I was actually feeling okay... I sat down and they started to play Rachmaninoff... (looking at him)
Concerto #2, the one we heard from the park that night...

VINCENT Was it beautiful?

She steps away now, gathers herself...

CATHERINE

Yes, it was beautiful -- but I remembered how much you loved it. And I wanted you to be there with me so badly -- it became unbearable to me, almost physically painful. I had to run. I actually ran from it...

(in torment)
Vincent, what am I supposed to
do?? I'm so frightened... We've
got to do something before there's
nothing left for either of us...

VINCENT

(grim)

This was the risk we faced...

CATHERINE

And now ..?

VINCENT
Now -- perhaps we awaken from our dream, and return to our lives.

CATHERINE

No...

(in earnest)
Let me come below. Let me stay
in your world...

Vincent slowly shakes his head...

CATHERINE

Let me try...

VINCENT

Catherine, you have a life above. You have the power to do great good... To leave that now, would be to turn your back on who you are, on who you are to become. That, you must never do...

CATHERINE

Then what am I to do?

Vincent has no response. He simply looks at her, his eyes refelecting her sadness...

VINCENT

... If only I knew...

She girds herself for what she must now do...

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

是是有多数的,我们就是不是一个,我们也不是一个是一个是一个,也是一个是一个是一个的,也是一个是一个的,也是一个是一个的,也是一个是一个,也是一个是一个,也可以是

34

CATHERINE

(dreading)

... Vincent, I'm going to have to go away for awhile...

He nods sadly...

CATHERINE

I don't want to -- I don't know what else to do...

He tries to speak but can't...

CATHERINE

(choked)

I-I'm not sure I have the strength to continue...

VINCENT

... You're in great pain, I know... So you mustn't continue.

She reaches out to touch him -- he reacts as is withstanding pain...

CATHERINE

(dragging away)

I wish... Vincent, I'm sorry...

I wish I was stronger...

She turns away from him and quickly walks away -- without turning back...

FOLLOW as Vincent now turns, enters his tunnel and releases the secret door... As it slides shut, he slowly raises his fist and brings it crashing down in anger and frustration on a steam pipe. The pipe breaks and pressurized steam shoots out, billowing around Vincent as he HOWLS...

### END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

35 INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

35

Stands talking on the phone. There is an urgency in her voice.

CATHY

Well, I can catch a train tonight... Okay -- see you soon...

She hangs up, pulls a suitcase out of her closet and starts to quickly pack...

CUT TO:

36 EXT. ALLEY NIGHT

36

MOVING with Vincent as he stalks down an alley, hugging the wall -- hiding in shadows. On his face is an expression we've never seen before -- tortured, dangerous...

CUT TO:

37 INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

37

As she exits with her suitcase. She flicks off the lights and shuts the door...

CUT TO:

38 VINCENT'S POV - NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE ALLEY

38

a YOUNG HOOKER is being terrorized by TWO PUNKS. They taunt her and physically abuse her. When she tires to break free they knock her to the ground and dump a garbage can on her, laughing... Suddenly we are MOVING AT GREAT SPEED... As the punks turn INTO CAMERA, shocked...

A SERIES OF RAPID CUTS

39	a) VINCENT tears into the Punks with frightening ferocitty, venting his rage on them	39
40	b) THE YOUNG HOOKER looks on as if she's hallucinating this nightmare	40
41	c) THE PUNKS are slammed to the ground in unconscious heaps	41
42	ANGLE - PATROLMAN	42
	Out of nowhere, a Patrolman is standing at the mouth of the alley FOR A SPLIT SECOND, he and Vincent lock eyes The Patrolman momentarily freezes, stunned. Vincent takes off	
	PATROLMAN (uncertainly) Hey! (drawing his gun) Come back! <u>Halt</u> !	
	The Patrolman runs down the alley after Vincent. He turns the bend. No one is there He looks around, warily then holsters his gun and hurries off, spooked	
	CUT TO:	
43	INT. TAXI - NIGHT	43
	Cathy opens the door and slides into the back seat	
	CATHY Grand Central	
	The cab driver nods, flips his meter and takes off	
	CUT TO:	
44	INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT	44
	FAVORING THE FRENCH DOORS TO TERRACE	
	HOLD several beats in the empty, darkened apartment all is still. Then, we SEE a SHADOW moving about outside on the terrace Suddenly the french doors BURST OPEN and Vincent is standing there	
	He steps into the apartment, standing in the darkness She's gone.	

44 CONTINUED:

44

He slowly moves back outside to the terrace...

45 EXT. TERRACE - NIGHT

45

Vincent stands on the terrace, distraught... He glances around this hallowed place... EVERYWHERE HE LOOKS, FLASH BACK IMAGES OF THE TWO OF THEM ON THE BALCONY COME FLOODING BACK...

Vincent seems to buckle under the weight of these memories... He grasps the railing for support. As he stands on the darkened terrace alone...

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

46 EXT. TUCKER HOUSE - WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT - DAY

46

A wonderful white clapboard, New England house, nestled in the trees. The front yard is bordered by a picke fence...

CUT TO:

47 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

47

Pre-party preparations. Nancy is using a melon baller to cut up marble-sized balls of cantaloupe, depositing them one by one into the carved cut watermelon. Cathy looks on fascinated. Nancy's husband, JEFF is at the sink washing vegetables.

CATHY

(re: melon baller) What is that thing?

NANCY

A melon baller...

JEFF

Life ouldn't be the same without it...

CATHY

(amused)

... A melon baller.

NANCY

Stick around, and you'll learn all the secrets...

Beat.

**JEFF** 

So Nance, who's coming tonight anyway?

NANCY

Don't worry, honey, nobody you don't like.

**JEFF** 

Name names...

NANCY

Let's see. Rebecca and Bill, of course. Her brother, Buddy.

On "Buddy," a look passes between Nancy and Cathy that Jeff misses.

NANCY

(continuing)

Jenny said she might bring a date, she's not sure. And then Hilary and her husband... and Amy. That's all.

CATHY

(incredulous)

Hilary Fowler, and her <u>husband?</u>
Not the...?

NANCY

(finishing)

Lifeguard...

CATHY

(laughing)

You've got to be kidding. Not the same one?

NANCY

(nodding)

The same one: Matt.

CATHY

(to Jeff)

This is the guy we drove all the way down to West Hampton for...

NANCY

... everyday of the summer...

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

CATHY

... but never had the guts to go up and talk to.

As they laugh, we hear an EXTENDED CRASH (O.S.). Nancy winces.

NANCY

Just another nuclear accident...
(offering Cathy the melon baller)

Take over here, will you?

Nancy exits, leaving Cathy holding the instrument, like it's a rock from the moon.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. TUCKER HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

48

Spring is busting out all over. MOVING with Jill, who's running stiff-legged across the laws, as if trying to keep up to the O.S. giggling of Cathy and Jeremy. Then: PANNING past Jill... to Cathy, who's letting Jeremy "win" a race to a nearby tree. Catching up, Cathy swoops over Jeremy, and lifts him high into the air.

**JEREMY** 

Hey!

CATHY

You're too fast for me.

She sets him gently on the grass, and, breathing a little hard herself, plunks down on the lawn. Jeremy continues to stand.

CATHY

Don't forget, I'm an old lady.

**JEREMY** 

How old..?

CATHY

Same age as your mom.

**JEREMY** 

(serious)

That's old...

48 CONTINUED:

48

Cathy smiles and looks back at Jill, who stopped a few yards behind them to pick a dandelion from the ground. For a long beat, Cathy watches her wistfully. The scene, this moment, affects her on a visceral level. Now the little girl runs to her, hands her the flower, and plops into her lap...

CUT TO:

49 INT. TUCKER HOUSE - DEN - DAY

49

Cathy, Jenny, Nancy, and Rebecca sit on the floor, sitting on oversized pillows, eating popcorn, drinking wine. Jenny tells the story as if astounded and amused anew.

**JENNY** 

Talk about compulsive men over thirty-five, I mean, he made me take off my shoes before I walked into his apartment.

REBECCA So what'd you do?

Jenny shrugs broadly; what-else-could-I-do?

**JENNY** 

I took off my shoes!

The women laugh, and in the wake of their laughter.

CATHY

You are a truly disturbed woman, do you know that?

As Jenny with mock-indignation, tosses a lap pillow at Cathy, who swats it away, laughing.

CUT TO:

50 A BIRTHDAY CAKE

50

with thirty-two brightly burning candles...

CATHY

(0.5.)

Don't forget to make a wish...

And we are:

as Rebecca blows out the candles with a single breath, and everyone at the dinner table -- including HILARY, NANCY, AMY, MATT, AND BUDDY (35, good-looking, casually well-dressed, with an open, intelligent face) -- breaks into raucous applause and assorted cheers. There's really good feeling all around, and a couple of people start to yell "Speech." BILL stands beside Rebecca as she smiles and straightens, dramatically pressing her hands to her chest as if she's about to have a heart attack.

REBECCA

I think I just lost another year.

BUDDY

I'm telling you, sis: they get shorter and shorter.

REBECCA

Shut up, you!

NANCY

Speech!

Rebecca regards the assembled group, emotions welling.

REBECCA

I don't know... I don't know what to say except that having all of you here... now... is the greatest birthday gift I could ever ask for. Can you believe it? All of us here? Even Cathy... It's been too long.

(then; checking her
welling emotions with
a shrug)

Thank you for using my birthday as an excuse.

Bill embraces her fully, and they kiss, sparking another wave of cheers and applause.

## 52 FAVOR CATHY

52

smiling sweetly, at once happy to be part of this and just a little envious. Buddy is looking at her from across the table. She senses him, turns, almost catching him -- just as he looks away and covers by lifting his glass of champagne in a toast to his sister. But Cathy knows he was looking... and can't help but feel flattered by it.

DISSOLVE TO:

Cathy and Rebecca's brother buddy are working on a pile of dirty dishes at the sink. Cathy rinses them, Buddy loads them into the dishwasher... he seems like a genuinely nice guy, and his genuineness is his charm -- not to mention that he's great looking...

CATHY (laughing) ... I don't believe it.

BUDDY I swear, it's true...

CATHY
How come you never asked me?

BUDDY
I don't know, I guess because you were Rebecca's friend.

CATHY
... and you didn't want to
jeopardize your sister's social
life by dating and dumping one
of her friends.

BUDDY
(smiles)
I think it was more like, I didn't
want Becky in a position to know
everything I was doing...

CATHY (a beat)
She seems really happy.

BUDDY

(nods)
... At least one of us was smart
enough to go for the real thing.

CATHY
(lightly)
... Buddy, it's not exactly too late for you.

BUDDY
(self-effacing)
For a long time I was preoccupied with making my mark, making money
-- and making myself crazy... Now, I guess, my priorities have changed. Listen to me...

CATHY

What?

BUDDY

Just that I've talked more about myself in the last five minutes than I have in the last five months.

CATHY

That's okay.

BUDDY

Well what about you?

CATHY

What about me?

BUDDY

(a little frustrated at her reticence)
Anything. Everything.

Cathy smiles, but offers no answer...

CATHY

It's a long story. I'm sure you've heard some of it...

BUDDY

Listen: how long will you be in Westport?

CATHY

Through the weekend.

BUDDY

Do you think maybe we could spend some time... say, tomorrow?

(off her silent

consideration)

I'd really like that.

Cathy regards him at once disturbed by what she's beginning to feel and unable to deny it. She finds herself syaing:

CATHY

How 'bout if we talk in the morning...

CUT TO:

Vincent goes about selecting a few books to take with him on a journey. There is a peace and tranquility about him as if he's come to terms with his loss...

Now he notices Pascal standing in the entryway looking very tentative...

VINCENT

Pascal...

PASCAL Am I disturbing you?

VINCENT
(beckoning him in)
No... What brings you? Who's lokking after the pipe chamber?

PASCAL

Kipper...

VINCENT So you found an apprentice...

PASCAL

(nods)
My father started teaching me when
I was his age.

VINCENT

(whistful)
I remember... We were jealous.
We all wanted to play in that
chamber, to drum on those pipes
-- and listen to the messages as
they came in...

PASCAL (noticing Vincent's bag) Where're you going?

VINCENT
To a place I sometimes go -- a quiet place...

A beat. Pascal now manages to say what he came to say...

PASCAL

(awkward)

... Vincent, I'm sorry, about...

Vincent reacts, touched...

A CONTROL OF STATE OF

Vincent goes about selecting a few books to take with him on a journey. There is a peace and tranquility about him as if he's come to terms with his loss...

Now he notices Pascal standing in the entryway looking very tentative...

VINCENT

Pascal...

PASCAL Am I disturbing you?

VINCENT
(beckoning him in)
No... What brings you? Who's lokking after the pipe chamber?

PASCAL

Kipper...

VINCENT So you found an apprentice...

PASCAL

(nods)

My father started teaching me when I was his age.

VINCENT

(whistful)

I remember... We were jealous. We all wanted to play in that chamber, to drum on those pipes -- and listen to the messages as they came in...

**PASCAL** 

(noticing Vincent's bag)
Where're you going?

VINCENT

To a place I sometimes go -- a quiet place...

A beat. Pascal now manages to say what he came to say...

PASCAL

(awkward)

... Vincent, I'm sorry, about...

Vincent reacts, touched...

55

PASCAL

I hope that -- that she'll...

VINCENT

Don't be sorry, Pascal. All is well with me...

**PASCAL** 

Really?

VINCENT

... Yes.

(a beat)
How did you hear?

PASCAL

(sheepish)
On the pipes.

Vincent nods, slighltly amused.

**PASCAL** 

Will she come back ..?

VINCENT

(stoic)

I don't know... and even if she doesn't, she'll never be lost to me. I'll still have all she's given me -- all I've gained from knowing her, and loving her... (softly)

That can never change...

He clasps Pascal's shoulder...

VINCENT

(reassuring)

Don't worry, Pascal -- all is well...

CUT TO:

55 INT. NANCY'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

The house is quiet now -- the lights are out. Cathy drifts into sleep...

THE DREAM

Cathy and Vincent stand on a lush wooded path in dappled sunlight. They are surrounded by great natural beauty...

CATHY

(overjoyed)

Vincent... Look at us..!

VINCENT

(staring at her,

awestruck)

Your hair -- the sunlight on you hair... So beautiful...

Catherine...

(looking around)

The colors... It's like another world.

CATHY

I feel like I'm seeing it for the first time, too.

They walk, intoxicated by this dream...

VINCENT

Where shall we go?

CATHY

Everywhere... I want to show you everything.

VINCENT

(now hesitant)

... And can we go together?

CATHY

Yes, together.

VINCENT

Catherine, how can this be??

CATHY

(lovingly)

It's what I wished for more than anything...

As they walk on in joyful amazement...

DISSOLVE TO:

Cathy and Vincent sit at the foot of a grassy slope, under a tree... A blanket has been spread and they are lounging over an exquisite picnic lunch. In the distance, further up the slope near the horizon line, we can SEE another couple relaxing on the grass. Even further away on the horizon, we can SEE two children playing...

(Production Note: There should be a surreal sense of balance and perspective to the composition of this scene.)

AS WE SLOWLY MOVE IN, Cathy and Vincent turn to each other, gazing ecstatically into each other's eyes, sharing this pristine moment...

VINCENT

(with loving gratitude)
... Catherine, I've never known
such beauty. I've never felt such
peace...

CATHY

(tenderly)
It's all perfect... This moment
-- right here, right now...
Vincent, I've never been so
happy...

VINCENT (bittersweet)
If only it could last forever...

CATHY
It can... It will... I love you so much.

Their faces are now only inches apart... She closes her eyes and leans forward to kiss him.

58 VINCENT 58

moves to recieve her kiss...

59 CATHY 59

as her lips are about to meet Vincent's, she opens her eyes and reacts in shock...

60 · BUDDY (REBECCA'S BROTHER) 60

He's seated opposite her in Vincent's place. It appears he was about to kiss her...

60 CONTINUED:

60

BUDDY

(reacting to her confusion)

What..? What's wrong? Why are you looking at me like that?

61 ANGLE - LOOKING PAST BUDDY

61

In the distance, we can see Vincent walking AWAY FROM CAMERA, toward the horizon.

CATHY

(unable to find her

voice)

... Vincent...

Vincent continues walking away...

CATHY

(hoarsely calling)

. Vincent..!

END OF DREAM SEQUENCE

CUT TO:

62 INT. GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

62

Cathy wakes with a start...

CATHY

... Vincent!

She fumbles for the bedside lamp and knocks it over with a CRASH... As she fumbles in the dark, the door opens and Nancy comes in...

NANCY

Cathy..! Are you alright?

CATHY

(disoriented)

No...

Nancy sits on the bed, beside her. Cathy puts her arms around her friend and begins to weep...

FADE OUT

# END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

63 INT. GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

63

Cathy sits propped up in bed. Nancy in her robe, sits on the bed, opposite her. They've been talking the only way old friends can talk at four a.m.

CATHY

(emotional)

What a night... Nancy, I'm sorry...

NANCY

Don't be silly.

CATHY

It just tears me apart knowing we can never share a life together...

NANCY

... You're sure it can never be anything more?

CATHY

... I'm sure.

NANCY

Maybe it's enough.

CATHY

... Part of me longs for a home, like this -- for children, for a family. It's sad knowing it may never be possible...

NANCY

(sincere)

We all make our tough choices... Don't you think there are days, and nights when I regret not having gone to Paris to study? Not ever doing something with my photography? I was good...

CATHY

You were terrific...

### NANCY

(resigned)

But I'll never know where I could've taken it... Cath, I love my life, I love being a mother -- but it's not the only path. It was a hard adjustment... and Jeff and I have gone through some shakey times. Don't think I don't have my doubts

## CATHY

... I guess the anniversary of my mom's death reminded me of all those choices. In a way it forced me to look at myself, to wonder... What would she think of me? Would she be proud..? Does my life honor her memory? All those things... I don't know...

#### NANCY

I know... I know what she'd think, because I know what I think. Cathy, of all of us -- you're the one who's come the greatest distance, and gone the farthest. I mean, when you were in law school we used to joke about you majoring in fashion law...

They laugh...

### NANCY

You overcame a terrible accident, you changed your life -- Now, your helping others... And you've got this extraordinary relationship.

Nancy clasps Cathy's hand...

### NANCY

You should be so proud of yourself. We're all so proud... And to hell with what anyone else thinks about what you should or shouldn't do! I mean, when all's said and done, you've got to follow you heart. It's the only thing you can count on.

CATHY

(softly)

That's what Vincent says...

Nancy smiles at her. It feels like they've weathered the storm...

NANCY

Will we ever meet him?

CATHY

(shrugs, smiles)
... I'm beginning to believe anything's possible.

They share a warm moment...

CATHY

(getting out of bed)
... I think I'm going to head back
to New York...

NANCY

Right now??

CATHY

(nods)

... yeah.

NANCY

It's four a.m.!

Cathy throws on her robe -- goes to the closet...

CATHY

... I need to get back.

NANCY

There's not a train until fivetwenty...

CATHY

(turning)

Can I borrow your car?

Nancy looks at her in amazement...

NANCY

You're serious...

CATHY

(smiles)

You said follow your heart...

(beat)

It won't wait...

63 CONTINUED: (3)

63

NANCY

(laughs)

Take the car. Jeff can pick it up on Monday...

Cathy embraces her...

CATHY

Thanks -- for everything. I'm one lucky person to have you for a friend...

CUT TO:

64 INT. CHAMBER OF THE FALLS - (MATTE)

64

Vincent sits perched on a high ledge overlooking this deep cavern where waterfalls cascade down sheer rock walls, filling the air with a fine mist. As Vincent ruminates, we HEAR:

VINCENT (V.O.)

(Aproximately 3/4 page of stream-of-consciousness)

CUT TO:

65 INT. GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

65

Cathy hurriedly packs her suitcase...

CUT TO:

66 INT. CHAMBER OF THE FALLS

66

Vincent senses Catherine's return and rushes to meet her...

CUT TO:

67 EXT. NANCY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

67

As Nancy watches from the front door, Cathy pulls out of the driveway and drives off...

CUT TO:

68	INT. CHAMBER OF THE WINDS (MATTE LIBRAR	Y)	68
	Vincent dashes up the staircase of the	chamber	
:	INTERCUT	•.	
	CATHY		
69	a) DRIVING to meet Vincent (Process)		69
70	b) Her HEADLIGHTS slicing through the night.		70
71	c) HER CAR, driving down the city's deserted streets		71
72	WITH VINCENT		72
	Traveling through the best of our matte and tunnel library		
		CUT TO:	
73	EXT. STREET - NIGHT		73
	Cathy jumps out of her car and hurries a to the park	cross the street	
	•	CUT TO:	•
74	EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT		74
	VARIOUS ANGLES following Cathy as she rupark	shes across the	
		CUT TO:	
75	EXT. CENTRAL PARK - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NI	GHT	75
	HER POV - RUNNING		
	As she draws closer to the warm glow ematunnel entrance. Sudddenly Vincent's appears at the mouth of the tunnel	nating from the silhouette	•
76	CATHY AND VINCENT		76
	As she runs into his arms		
	(Aproximately one page of dialogue)		

76

76 CONTINUED:

They kiss...

FADE OUT:

THE END