

ASK FOR JANE

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Based on a concept by Cait Johnston

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5           **INT. STUDENT CENTER MEETING ROOM - EVENING**

5

GARY, 20, student radical with a rock star attitude, lectures a meeting of perhaps TWENTY STUDENTS.

**The University of Chicago -**

**Students for a Democratic Society**

GARY

You can't have a comfortable, middle class life if you want to change things. Can't happen, okay? You have to be willing to be arrested. You have to sit in the jail cells next to the oppressed. You have to take action.

Applause, murmurs of agreement --

GARY (CONT'D)

So tonight I need you to put your minds together and come up with ideas of how to dismantle the wall of oppression brick by brick.

He scans the room.

GARY (CONT'D)

Hey, Rose?

ROSE, 21, very sweet, perks up:

ROSE

Yes, Gary?

GARY

Can you go get us some coffee?

ROSE

Sure.

Rose rises and leaves, but not without a flicker of frustration on her face.

6           **EXT. CITY STREET OUTSIDE U. CHICAGO - DAY**

6

CLOSE ON: A Camera taking a photo. It's being operated by a MAN IN A TRENCH COAT. He doesn't need a badge -- his whole demeanor tells us his job. He's taking photos of:

A SMALL STUDENT PROTEST. JANICE, 21, very assertive, is holding a sign saying: "U.S. OUT OF VIETNAM."

She spies the man with the camera and walks over.

JANICE  
You taking my photo?

MAN IN TRENCH COAT  
Uh...

JANICE  
Who do you work for? The FBI?

MAN IN TRENCH COAT  
Nobody.

JANICE  
You want my name? I'm Janice, I'm  
from New York, I'm five foot six --  
you want my social security number?

MAN IN TRENCH COAT  
Uh --

JANICE  
You want my phone number? (beat)  
Jesus, you guys are such assholes.

He is silent, stunned. She turns her back to return to the protest and he takes her photo again, just as she gives him the finger.

Freeze on the photo of her.

7

**EXT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WOMEN'S DORM - EVENING**

7

Rose walks into the dorm building. Janice, smoking on the front porch, looks at her.

ROSE  
How was the protest?

Janice shrugs.

JANICE  
How was the meeting? Did Gary make  
you get coffee again?

ROSE  
Yeah...

JANICE  
Doesn't that piss you off? Don't  
you want to tell that bastard to  
get his own goddamn coffee?

ROSE

Well, you know... somebody's got to get the coffee.

JANICE

But it's always a woman, you notice that? We march so they don't have to go to Vietnam, and what do they do for us?

ROSE

I just think there are more important things to worry about right now. We can work on women's rights once we get Civil Rights sorted out.

Rose starts to walk inside as Janice watches.

8           **INT. ROSE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT**

8

Rose, in her pajamas, sits in the small bedroom. There are books piled everywhere.

Rose glances over at some feminist books: Simone de Beauvoir, Betty Friedan. She turns out the light.

Her phone rings. She picks it up.

ROSE

Hello? (beat) Oh, hey Mom, yes, I'm up. How's your headache doing? Good. Good. Yeah, I'm studying. I had a lot of work today... No, I still don't have a boyfriend. (beat) Why does that always make you happy? I'm not going to stop studying just because I have a boyfriend...

9           **INT. ROSE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)**

9

The same night. Rose is in bed asleep. The sound of furniture banging wakes her. Then sobbing.

She gets up and rushes to her doorway.

10           **INT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WOMEN'S DORM / HALLWAY - NIGHT** 10

Rose follows a commotion up the stairs to the next floor.

11 INT. PATTY'S ROOM - NIGHT

11

Rose enters the doorway to see four OTHER YOUNG WOMEN, including Janice, gathered around PATTY, 20, who is sobbing on the floor. A cabinet has been tilted over.

ROSE  
What happened?

Patty looks up, trying to fake calm.

PATTY  
Can everyone just go? This is embarrassing.

Another young woman, Patty's roommate CINDY, speaks up.

CINDY  
I was lying in bed and I saw her take a razor from my drawer.

PATTY  
I needed a razor.

CINDY  
At five in the morning?

JANICE  
What happened? What's wrong, Pat?

Patty shrugs.

CINDY  
She's upset because she has to drop out.

PATTY  
(warning)  
Cindy --

ROSE  
Why does she have to drop out?

Silence that is itself the answer.

PATTY  
My family is really religious. I can't go home like this.

JANICE  
So don't go home.

PATTY

Where am I going to go, Janice?  
They'll kick me out of the dorms.

JANICE

So get an abortion.

The innocent MARIE speaks up.

MARIE

Don't. I heard about this one girl  
who wanted an abortion and the guy  
doing it raped her before he did  
it.

JANICE

Marie --

CINDY

I heard the mob charges like three  
thousand dollars. My cousin got one  
and she almost died.

PATTY

I just always thought I was going  
to go live in New York, be a  
journalist. Now that's over.

ROSE

It's not over. If you love each  
other....

PATTY

Oh, Jesus Christ, Rose.

ROSE

I'm sorry.

PATTY

Can everyone just go? Please?

CINDY

It's fine, everyone. I've got it.  
I'll keep an eye on her.

Everyone files out.

12

**EXT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WOMEN'S DORM / HALLWAY - NIGHT 12**

Rose looks back over her shoulder as Cindy closes the door.

She and Janice exchange a glance.

13

**INT. SMALL APARTMENT - NIGHT**

13

BARB, 21, is sitting in a chair staring at the door of a small apartment, the results of a pregnancy test in front of her.

**Evanston, IL**

A young man, TIM, 25, paces back and forth in front of her.

TIM

You did this on purpose.

BARB

You really think I --

TIM

Women do that stuff. They want a guy to marry them, they'll do anything.

BARB

Why the hell would I want to marry you?

TIM

Well, fuck you, Barb. Can't you just give it up for adoption?

BARB

That would kill my mother.

TIM

Don't tell her.

BARB

What do you want me to do, not see her for six months?

TIM

So get an abortion.

BARB

You think I have an abortion doctor's number just lying around?

TIM

I'm not going to marry you, okay? That's the one thing I'm sure as hell not going to do.

Barb says nothing, silent.

14

INT. ROSE'S DORM ROOM - DAY

14

Rose sits in her room reading. There's a knock on her door.

She opens it. It is Patty.

ROSE

Hi, Patty. How are you doing?

PATTY

Fine. I just wanted to say I'm sorry I yelled at you.

ROSE

That's okay.

PATTY

I talked to my mom, so -- I'm going home. They're going to take in the baby but they aren't paying for college anymore. So this is -- I'm saying good-bye to everyone.

ROSE

Oh, no. Patty...

PATTY

It's fine. It's life, right?

They fall silent.

ROSE

Are you sure you want to go home? You could stay.

PATTY

College was supposed to be my way out of there, but -- there's no way out for me. There's just no way out.

ROSE

You're not going to try anything when you get home, are you?

PATTY

(not hearing)  
What?

Rose looks at her for a long moment. She looks at Patty's wrist, which has a razor mark across it.

PATTY (CONT'D)

What'd you say?





CINDY

It could be someone else's and he just sneaks in here...

JANICE

Stop it.

The door opens. Dr. Fredrickson leads Patty out. She is calm.

DR. FREDRICKSON

I want all of you to hear this. Sometime in the next two days she's going to have heavier than normal flow, which is the miscarriage. Any fever, any infection, call me. Now, you young women need to start keeping your legs together, this wild behavior just gets you in trouble.

They nod, anxious to seem polite.

JANICE

Doctor, if we had any other friends who needed this, could we have them call you?

DR. FREDRICKSON

I don't want to see any of you ever again.

PATTY

Okay. Thank you, Doctor.

The young women gather themselves to go.

DR. FREDRICKSON

Stop. The back door is that way.

21

**EXT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE, BACK DOOR - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)** 21

Patty, Rose, Janice and Cindy exit through the back door into a small alleyway.

CINDY

Are you okay?

PATTY

I don't know. I think so.

JANICE

That's good. Now where the hell can we get a cab?

Two TEENAGE GIRLS sit on a bed: HELEN and IRMA. They are 16 but seem younger.

**Lake Forest, IL**

Helen has a small cup in her hand.

IRMA

How do you know this will work?

HELEN

I read about it.

Helen holds up a trashy pulp novel.

HELEN (CONT'D)

There's this girl in this book who gets pregnant and she's supposed to take rat poison to kill the baby but she takes too much and dies.

IRMA

How do you know you won't die?

HELEN

Because in the book, she was only supposed to take a quarter cup, but she took a whole cup. I'm just taking a quarter cup.

IRMA

This is scary, Helen.

HELEN

You can watch me and make sure nothing bad happens, okay? Otherwise, I'll do this on my own. But I want you here. Please? It'll be fine if you're here.

IRMA

Okay.

HELEN

Will you tell my parents what happened if I die? (beat) Actually, will you tell them that I had cancer?

Irma nods.

Helen picks up the cup and starts to drink it.

23           **EXT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO STUDENT CENTER - EVENING**           23

Rose is walking up the steps with two large hot pots of coffee and paper cups.

A young man, BILL, earnest, runs up next to her.

BILL  
Let me help you with those...

ROSE  
Thanks.

Bill takes a pot and opens the door for her.

24           **INT. STUDENT CENTER HALLWAY - EVENING**           24

Bill walks with Rose.

BILL  
I saw you at the meeting last week.  
I'm a first year law student but I  
heard you undergrads were pretty  
active so I wanted to check it out.

ROSE  
Gary's pretty passionate.

BILL  
He makes some good points, but I  
don't think we're going to get  
anywhere burning things down.

ROSE  
It doesn't seem practical.

BILL  
I'm Bill, by the way. O'Brien. I'm  
at the law school.

ROSE  
Rose. History. History major. I  
want to be a teacher.

BILL  
Hey...Do you want to maybe get  
coffee sometime?

She holds up the coffee pot ironically.

BILL (CONT'D)  
I mean, uh -- it doesn't -- it  
doesn't have to be coffee.

She smiles.

25      **EXT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WOMEN'S DORM - DAY**      25

A bright, sunny day.

26      **INT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WOMEN'S DORM / HALLWAY - DAY**      26

Rose, Cindy, and Janice sit outside a bathroom, waiting.

Patty exits. She is pale.

ROSE

Are you okay?

PATTY

Yeah. Not pregnant. It took two days for it to happen like the doctor said.

Cindy walks to Patty and hugs her. Patty starts shaking.

CINDY

It's okay.

PATTY

No, it's just -- I -- I can't believe I have my life back.

Rose and Janice look at each other, proud but unsure what comes next.

27      **INT. ROSE'S DORM ROOM - DAY**      27

Rose is reading in her dorm room. A knock. She turns.

Janice enters.

JANICE

I need the number.

ROSE

What number?

JANICE

For the doctor. I've decided to give it to all the women in the dorm, so they have it if they need it.



DONNA (CONT'D)

Our kids aren't getting the basic information they need.

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY

Such as what, exactly? What basic information does someone need at fifteen?

DONNA

Birth control? We had a student die last week from drinking rat poison.

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY

We don't know whether she was pregnant --

DONNA

Her friend said --

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY

I know what her friend said. I also know that Sister Ann-Marie has been doing our health education program for thirty years, and in that entire time we have not gotten one complaint from parents. Not one complaint.

Donna falls silent.

30

**EXT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WOMEN'S DORM - NIGHT**

30

Rose and Bill are kissing on the front steps. Janice walks out.

JANICE

You guys coming?

BILL

Yeah. I mean, no, we're organizing a walkout at the law school tonight.

ROSE

(still kissing him)  
Yeah?

BILL

Yeah.

JANICE

So I'll see you there, Rose?

ROSE  
I'm coming...

31      **EXT. SIDEWALK NEAR U. CHICAGO - NIGHT**

31

Janice and Rose walk together.

JANICE  
Good thing you have that abortion  
doctor's number.

ROSE  
For Bill? He's Catholic...

JANICE  
How Catholic?

ROSE  
I don't know. We've only been on  
three dates.

JANICE  
You two are going to get married  
and move to the suburbs and have  
babies, aren't you?

ROSE  
No. Maybe.

Rose is silent, walking.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
What if I did it from my room?

JANICE  
Had sex?

ROSE  
No. What if I had people call my  
dorm room for an abortion, we give  
out my phone number. And we could  
tell them to -- to ask for Jane. So  
my name wouldn't be attached to it.  
No one in the dorm is named Jane,  
right? It would be anonymous.

JANICE  
Like Jane Doe.

ROSE  
And then I could explain about the  
doctor, and what to do, and stuff.

JANICE

You'd do that out of your dorm room?

ROSE

I mean, just for other students. It would only be a couple of calls a year, right?

JANICE

What would your Catholic boyfriend say about this?

Rose says nothing.

32           **INT. DONNA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

32

Donna is furiously cooking a spaghetti dinner as her partner, MAGGIE, sweet and quiet, watches.

DONNA

So the first thing Sister Ann-Marie does is separate the boys from the girls. And then she talks to the girls about how they have to protect their virtue so they can save the boys' souls. And then she moves on to cleanliness during your period. I just want to...

She slams down a spoon.

MAGGIE

You should hide a pamphlet about birth control in the school library.

Donna smiles, then shakes her head.

DONNA

It's hard enough hiding you.

33           **INT. ROSE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT**

33

Rose is lying in bed asleep. Her phone rings.

ROSE

Hello? (beat) This is Jane. Let me get you the number. (beat) What? Well, if you don't know if you want to go through with it, just call me back when you decide. (beat) Hello?

Rose looks at the phone. Rose hangs up the phone.

She sits back in bed, exhausted. The phone rings again.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Hello? Hi. (beat) I -- yeah, I can talk. (beat) Oh, well, I'm actually a virgin, I don't really know much about -- yeah -- But I can give you the number of the doctor.

Rose fumbles around for the number, turns on the light.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Here, you want the doctor's...

Rose looks at the phone.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Hello?

Rose lies down again. She turns off the light. The phone rings again.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Hello?

Rose sighs, resigned.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Sure. Sure. You can tell me what happened with your boyfriend. Go ahead.

34

**INT. HARRIET'S HOUSE - DAY**

34

HARRIET, 22, lies in bed next to her husband, MORT, 22.

**North Kenwood, Chicago**

Mort leans over to kiss Harriet.

HARRIET

You're unemployed.

MORT

So you're not going to have sex with me again until I get a job?

HARRIET

I just think we ought to use some kind of protection if we know we can't afford another baby.

Mort sighs. He gets up and begins digging through a drawer, furiously. He pulls out an ancient condom.

HARRIET (CONT'D)  
How old is that? It looks like it's from before Wally was born.

MORT  
You're hurting my feelings here.  
Come on.

Mort approaches the bed with a romantic smile.

MORT (CONT'D)  
Come on. Come on...

35 INT. ROSE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

35

Rose and Bill are kissing passionately. Then she pulls away.

ROSE  
You have to go, you're not supposed to be here.

BILL  
I have to go, I'm not supposed to be here.

They kiss again.

BILL (CONT'D)  
Can I drive you home for Christmas? I could cut through on my way to the east coast, meet your mom.

ROSE  
That's a long way out of your way.

BILL  
I don't mind. Hey, I was thinking -- maybe you and I ought to get married sometime.

ROSE  
We've only been dating for a few months.

BILL  
I know. I just thought I'd ask. Just in case you met some cute farmer over winter break.

There's a moment of silence.

BILL (CONT'D)  
You can say no.

ROSE  
How cute is this farmer?

Bill gives her a look.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
Okay, okay, maybe. Just don't tell  
my mom about this, okay? It'll be  
just between us?

BILL  
Why? I'm respectable.

She kisses him. Her phone rings. She picks it up.

ROSE  
Hello?

She looks at Bill.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
Yes, this is. Hold on. (to Bill)  
You have to go. I'm sorry, this is  
private.

BILL  
Right now?

ROSE  
I'm sorry. You really have to go.

BILL  
Rose...

He gets up, shrugs, and leaves.

ROSE  
This is Jane.

36

**EXT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DORM - DAY**

36

Various YOUNG WOMEN are loading up cars, leaving for winter  
break.

JANICE (PRELAP)  
You have to tell him.

37      **INT. ROSE'S DORM ROOM - DAY**

37

Rose is talking to Janice as she packs.

ROSE

No, I don't. I'll graduate in four months and hand it off to someone else.

JANICE

Who?

Janice's mother BEVERLY, a very dominant magazine editor in big glasses and long beads, walks in the door.

BEVERLY

Janice? Where are your bags? We have to go if we want to beat the traffic to the airport.

JANICE

Just a sec, Mom.

BEVERLY

Is that what you're wearing for the trip? Let me see your hair. You cut it yourself or something?

ROSE

Have a good break.

JANICE

Kill me now.

Janice grabs a bag and walks out with her mother.

38      **EXT. ROSE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY**

38

Rose and Bill pull up to a small house in a tiny town in Indiana.

BILL

This looks like a movie set from 1920.

ROSE

That's pretty much what it's like to live here.

BILL

Hey Rose -- over break -- how would you feel if I picked up some kind of birth control? Condoms, or... I don't want to pressure you...

ROSE

Me? You're the Catholic one.

BILL

We're engaged. Close enough, right? I just thought --

ROSE

I mean, I can, too -- I can look into finding some kind of --

BILL

There's your mom.

Rose's mother ADA runs out the front door. She is small, earnest, and sweet.

Rose gets out of the car and Ada throws her arms around Rose.

ADA

You're home, you're home.

She sees Bill.

ADA (CONT'D)

And is this the young man who gave you a ride?

ROSE

Yes, Mom, this is Bill.

ADA

Well, come on in, we'll get you a cup of coffee. Where are you headed?

BILL

Pittsburgh area.

ADA

Well, we won't keep you for long, then.

She pats Rose's hand and walks with her into the house.

39      **INT. ROSE'S CHILDHOOD HOME / DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

39

Rose sits alone at a dining room table with her mother having a simple dinner.

ROSE

You could have invited him to stay for dinner.

ADA

If I invited him to dinner, I would have had to invite him to stay the night, and I am not having him stay under the same roof as my unmarried daughter.

ROSE

It's almost 1969...

ADA

I know, and he seems like a very nice young man. I would have no problem if you married him at some point. But you know how these things go.

ROSE

No, Mom, how do they go?

ADA

You marry and have children and the last thing on your mind will be your own career. And I want you to be able to support yourself. When your father died I had a very tough time. You can postpone this as long as possible.

ROSE

I'm engaged, Mom.

Ada sighs and returns to her meal.

40      **EXT. SMALL DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY**

40

Rose walks up to a small local doctor's office. She hesitates, then walks inside.

41      **INT. DR. JOHNSON'S EXAMINING ROOM - DAY**

41

Rose sits in a chair opposite DR. JOHNSON, a middle-aged, conservative doctor.

ROSE  
So I've gotten engaged.

DR. JOHNSON  
Congratulations.

ROSE  
And I was just wondering if you would be willing to write me a prescription for birth control pills.

DR. JOHNSON  
I see. Well, I appreciate your honesty, but until you're actually married, I'm afraid I wouldn't feel comfortable doing that.

ROSE  
But -- we haven't done anything. I'm just trying to be careful.

DR. JOHNSON  
I think the best thing for you to do is to pray. And if you really can't help yourselves, then you can move up the date of the wedding.

ROSE  
I know, but I wanted to become a teacher before I have children. I mean, I want children. Just not right now.

DR. JOHNSON  
Well, these things work in mysterious ways. You may change your feelings about that.

ROSE  
I just -- Dr. Johnson, I'm twenty-two years old. That's older than my mom was when she married my dad.

DR. JOHNSON  
So?

ROSE  
So if I was married and asked for the pill, would you give it to me?

DR. JOHNSON  
I would if you had your husband's permission.



Barb's father approaches her and gives her a hug, whispers as he looks at her pregnant belly:

BARB'S FATHER

If I'd known what was going on, I would have had you move up the date of the wedding.

Barb smiles a pained smile.

BARB

Sorry, Dad.

Barb's father walks over to Tim, attempting cheer.

BARB'S FATHER

Tim. Let's get a photo of the ladies, shall we?

Barb's mother approaches. She gives Barb a hug and then speaks hurriedly in her ear:

BARB'S MOTHER

If I'd known what was going on I would have helped you get an abortion.

Barb stands frozen in shock at this. She glances over at Tim, who is still standing, looking off into the distance.

BARB'S FATHER

Turn this way, there you go! Smile now!

Barb and her mother force smiles for a painful photo.

45      **INT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WOMEN'S DORM / HALLWAY - DAY**      45

Rose is walking upstairs. Marie approaches.

MARIE

Hey Rose? Someone called the dorm asking for you.

ROSE

Who?

MARIE

It's the doctor... He sounds mad.

Rose blanches.

46           **INT. JANICE'S DORM ROOM - EVENING**

46

Rose and Janice are talking.

JANICE

Fuck him. He won't do it anymore,  
we'll find someone else. He was an  
asshole to women, anyway.

ROSE

He yelled at me for half an hour.  
He said he could get me kicked out  
of school.

JANICE

Who told him it was us?

ROSE

It doesn't matter. I just don't  
know what I'm going to do if anyone  
else calls me.

JANICE

Can we find another doctor?

ROSE

How?

JANICE

Same way we found the first one?

Rose nods.

JANICE (CONT'D)

I'll make some calls. I got  
arrested once with a med school  
guy.

47           **INT. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY**

47

Donna sneaks through a library hallway. She places a pamphlet  
on a shelf: "Methods of Birth Control." She keeps walking.

48           **EXT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WOMEN'S DORM - DAY**

48

Janice, Patty and Cindy are in caps and gowns, standing for  
photos. A banner reads: Class of 1969.

Ada and Beverly chat.

ADA

I'm just glad they made it out in one piece. All the riots and the Democratic convention last year. I wouldn't want to be anywhere near a city right now.

BEVERLY

I started a little savings account for Janice in case she needs bail.

Ada smiles weakly.

PATTY

Where's Rose?

JANICE

I'll get her.

PATTY

Tell her she's the reason I'm graduating.

ADA

Why's that?

Patty just smiles.

49

**INT. ROSE'S DORM ROOM - DAY**

49

Rose is in her cap and gown on the phone when Janice enters.

JANICE

Rose. Rose.

ROSE

Yes. I know it's a lot. Sometimes they'll do it for less but you have to give him a sad story when you get there. Just bring as much money as you have and --

JANICE

Rose.

ROSE

And I'm going to follow up afterward, okay? If he's a jerk to you, or gives you a hard time, I'll take him from the list of doctors. Okay, I have to go.

(MORE)

ROSE (CONT'D)

I have to go graduate from college but I'll check in with you afterwards. Okay, let me know how it goes.

Rose hangs up the phone.

JANICE

Did you find someone to take this over for you?

ROSE

I don't know. I mean, I'm sometimes getting three calls a night. Who can I hand that off to? It isn't even just students anymore. I'd feel guilty giving it to someone. It's practically a full-time job.

JANICE

You know who we should ask?

50

**INT. STUDENT CENTER MEETING ROOM - EVENING**

50

Another SDS meeting. Gary has written on a large poster board: "Summer Actions." He is scribbling on it, revising.

GARY

So we're going to say, "Apathy is trained into the citizenry to make them passive. We will fight it with... what was it?"

A STUDENT

Love and belief in a better tomorrow.

GARY

I can dig that. I want us to get active this summer. It's time to put some concrete stuff into action.

Gary writes it down.

JANICE

Hey, Gary?

GARY

Yeah.

JANICE

Rose had a suggestion for that.

ROSE

We were thinking we should put abortion on the platform.

GARY

Yeah, that's -- I mean, our focus right now is shit like Vietnam and the police state. Stuff where people are literally dying, you know.

JANICE

People die from abortions.

ROSE

The thing is -- I've been helping women from my dorm room, giving out the phone number of an abortion doctor, but I thought that now that I'm graduating, maybe this group could help take it over.

GARY

Take it over how?

JANICE

You want ways to do direct action, this is it.

GARY

All right. We'll think about it. I'll put it on the agenda.

Gary looks over. He deliberately moves all the way to the bottom of the sheet of paper. At the very bottom, he writes: "Abortion."

51

**EXT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO STUDENT CENTER - NIGHT**

51

Janice and Rose run down the steps. Janice is fuming.

JANICE

Fuck him. Fuck him.

Rose is silent.

JANICE (CONT'D)

You know, if that room was full of women, and we had a tough female leader in charge, that wouldn't have happened. You know that right?

Rose shrugs.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Why are you being quiet? Aren't you upset?

ROSE

Where are we going to find a tough female leader who takes no bullshit from anyone?

Janice, struck into silence, watches as Rose smirks and walks away.

JANICE

Me? No. I get in trouble all the time.

Rose smiles.

ROSE

I don't.

52           **INT. JANICE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT**

52

Janice holds up a sheet of paper: "A MEETING ABOUT ABORTION SERVICES." Rose takes it from her hands, rewrites:

"A MEETING TO HELP WOMEN."

Janice rejects this.

Rose holds up a sign: "A WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING."

Janice takes it and changes it to:

53           **EXT. CHICAGO CITY STREET - NIGHT**

53

Donna is walking down the street. She sees a sign: "A WOMEN'S LIBERATION MEETING. Tonight at 8 p.m."

54           **INT. COFFEE HOUSE - EVENING**

54

Barb is walking past with her BABY. She stops and looks at the sign. She pulls it off the wall.

55           **INT. BILL'S ROOM - NIGHT**

55

Bill and Rose are in bed together after they've had sex. He is holding her tightly.

BILL  
How're you doing? Was that okay?

ROSE  
It was good.

A moment passes.

BILL  
What is it?

ROSE  
How do you feel about abortion?

BILL  
Why? I mean -- if you got pregnant,  
I mean -- we could get married  
sooner...

ROSE  
No. I meant that's what -- the  
phone calls to my room in college.  
It was women looking for an  
abortion. I have the number of an  
abortion doctor. I knew you were  
Catholic so I was afraid to tell  
you.

BILL  
Why? Did you have one?

ROSE  
Me? No. I found someone for a  
friend. But -- I've decided not to  
stop being involved with that. I  
thought I would stop but --

BILL  
You can get in trouble for this.

ROSE  
Possibly.

BILL  
Rose. I love you, and I respect  
that you're trying to help people,  
but this is your whole life you're  
putting at risk.

ROSE  
I know, I just -- I feel like it's  
my responsibility to help.

BILL  
Can you promise me you'll quit when  
we get married?

ROSE  
I don't know.

BILL  
I mean, I want to run for office,  
Rose. This is a team effort, here.  
You and me.

ROSE  
Okay. Okay, I'll quit once they are  
able to do stuff without me.

He takes a deep breath and sighs, holding her.

56        **EXT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - DAY**        56

Establishing. A small apartment building, Chicago. A sign  
taped to the door: Women's Meeting Third Floor.

57        **INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - DAY**        57

Janice's off-campus apartment. Rose is putting out coffee.

JANICE  
It's entirely possible no one will  
come.

ROSE  
I know.

JANICE  
And on the other hand, if there are  
more than three people here tonight  
and we're discussing abortion,  
that's conspiracy to commit murder.

Rose nods.

ROSE  
I know.

They sit there in silence for a moment.

58        **INT. BARB'S APARTMENT - EVENING**        58

Barb walks into a small living room. She looks at Tim.

BARB

Baby's asleep, I'm going out for a bit.

TIM

No, you're not, I'm going out.

BARB

I'll be back soon. I haven't been out in two months.

TIM

I said you're not going out. Hey!

Barb grabs her coat.

BARB

You'll wake the baby.

Barb walks out the door.

TIM

Hey! Barb!

He throws something at the door. A baby starts crying.

59

**INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - EVENING**

59

Rose, Janice, Barb, Donna, and Donna's partner Maggie sit in a circle.

Rose looks around at the group of faces and is suddenly nervous.

ROSE

So. So hi. We uh -- we called this meeting because we want to get organized.

JANICE

We believe in Women's Liberation and we think that women are never going to be liberated unless they can control whether and when they get pregnant.

ROSE

So -- a few months ago, we had to help a friend find a doctor to give her an abortion, and we eventually did, but we thought -- why should it be that hard?

JANICE

So if you don't like the idea of abortion, you better leave now, because that's what this meeting is about.

Silence. The young women look around.

MAGGIE

We're going to do abortions?

ROSE

No. No.

JANICE

We want to make a service. A service where any woman who needs an abortion can get it.

ROSE

We want to compile a list of doctors.

JANICE

And if any of the doctors on our list give people a hard time, or don't treat them well, they get struck from the list.

BARB

Won't we get in big trouble for this?

JANICE

Yes, potentially.

ROSE

So as long as you're doing anything for this organization, you will be referred to as Jane. There are no Janes in the room, right?

DONNA

So how do you guys know for sure you're going to find real doctors?

ROSE

We'll hold interviews. But right now I've only got two names, so we need you guys to collect every name you can. From every friend. Do any of you know anyone who has had an abortion?



DAVID

Yes. But abortions are illegal and -  
- technically you can get one if  
your life is at risk, but it's hard  
to talk to them, they don't want  
the risk --

JOYCE

(to the doctors)

Excuse me. Excuse me. I want you to  
do it. I used to be a nurse, and I  
understand I'll lose this pregnancy  
but I have two other kids and I  
need to be there for them. Please.  
I want to see my kids grow up.  
Please just operate. Please? I  
understand the risks, but I want  
you to --

One of the Doctors looks over.

DOCTOR

We'd like to talk to your husband  
outside.

All three men walk out of the room. Joyce lies there,  
frustrated.

62

**INT. DONNA'S APARTMENT - EVENING**

62

Donna and Maggie are eating dinner.

MAGGIE

What do you think?

DONNA

I think it's illegal.

MAGGIE

You could lose your job.

DONNA

Yeah. I mean, if I go around asking  
everyone for the name of a good  
abortion doctor.

MAGGIE

So you don't want to help them?  
Because I want to help.

DONNA

Do you really think it's a good  
idea --

MAGGIE

Because I had one. Once. I was  
seventeen. And the guy, he -- he  
took all the money I had and  
then...

DONNA

Then what?

MAGGIE

I almost died from the infection  
and now I don't know if I can have  
kids, and I mean, I don't even know  
if I want kids, but... that guy  
took that from me, you know?

Donna looks at Maggie in silence.

63

**INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - EVENING**

63

Janice and Rose are sitting together, organizing a notebook.

Donna knocks and enters, hands them a sheet of paper. She is  
followed by Maggie.

DONNA

Here you go. Literally everyone I  
know thinks I'm pregnant right now.

ROSE

Thank you.

Barb walks in and hands over a sheet of paper.

BARB

Here's mine.

ROSE

Thanks, Barb. Six names. You think  
that's enough to start?

64

**EXT. MEDICAL BUILDING - NIGHT**

64

Janice and Rose stand looking up at a building. They are  
standing next to a park bench.

A MAN who appears to be a doctor walks out in a white coat  
and walks up to them.

INTERVIEWEE #1

You're Jane?

JANICE  
We're both Jane. Have a seat.

INTERVIEWEE #1  
I'm not really comfortable...

JANICE  
Do you have your medical license  
with you?

INTERVIEWEE #1  
This is not... I'm the one who  
interviews the girls, they don't  
interview me, you understand?

ROSE  
Yes, but --

INTERVIEWEE #1  
I take you or I don't. And I charge  
what I want. That's the way I do  
things.

JANICE  
Then you're not the right person  
for us.

65      **EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT**

65

Janice and Rose exit a car and walk up to a motel room door.  
They look at each other, nervous.  
The door creaks open.

66      **INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT**

66

A sleazy man, INTERVIEWEE #2, is sitting on the bed with some  
equipment as Janice and Rose face him.

INTERVIEWEE #2  
I haven't lost a patient yet. Not  
one.

ROSE  
That's good.

INTERVIEWEE #2  
And if anyone does tell you  
somebody died under my care,  
they're lying.

Janice and Rose give each other a suspicious look. Rose rises.

ROSE

Thank you. We'll keep you in mind.  
We don't have anyone lined up yet,  
but...

INTERVIEWEE #2

Wait a minute here, are you wasting  
my time? Which one of you is  
pregnant?

JANICE

Like I said on the phone --

He starts to get angry and rises.

INTERVIEWEE #2

What is this, are you working for  
the police?

ROSE

No.

The man rises and Janice and Rose hurry to the door.

INTERVIEWEE #2

I will fuckin' kill you, you turn  
me in, I will come to your house...  
I will fuckin' kill you. You hear  
me?

They rush out the door.

67

**EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT**

67

Rose and Janice race to the car, get in. Their Interviewee  
chases them out the door and stands behind the car.

INTERVIEWEE #2

You report me and I will kill you.  
I got mob connections, they'll kill  
you. Get out of the car!

They can't drive away because he's behind them...

JANICE

Go away!

INTERVIEWEE #2

Get out of the car!

Rose starts to beep the horn until a light pops on in another motel room. She yells out the window:

ROSE  
 You don't like police? Someone's  
 going to call the police if you  
 don't get the hell away!

She beeps again furiously. Seeing this, the man bangs one more time, angrily, and heads inside.

Rose and Janice look at each other.

68 **INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

68

Rose stands at the window of Janice's apartment while Janice watches. Rose cautiously looks out from behind the curtains.

JANICE  
 He didn't follow us.

ROSE  
 He could call and try to track the  
 phone number. Find out where we  
 were calling from....

JANICE  
 Rose, I'm from New York, okay?  
 People who make big threats like  
 that, it's because they can't do  
 anything. People who have the power  
 to hurt you don't need to talk like  
 that.

Rose nods. She sits down.

ROSE  
 I'm scared.

JANICE  
 Me too.

69 **INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

69

Donna and Maggie are interviewing an ANGRY DOCTOR.

ANGRY DOCTOR  
 I am not comfortable with the idea  
 that you are going to use me so you  
 can go out and get pregnant.

MAGGIE

Oh, no, no, no. It's not for us.

ANGRY DOCTOR

Abortion is a serious procedure, and it's a crime. Why would you look for a doctor before you're even pregnant?

DONNA

We're not planning to get pregnant.

ANGRY DOCTOR

Who is?

MAGGIE

Nobody. Nobody is.

ANGRY DOCTOR

I've had enough of this.

The doctor gets up to leave.

DONNA

But if someone didn't plan on getting pregnant and their birth control failed, isn't it better they come in right away, instead of delaying months and then trying it at home, alone, with a coat hanger?

The doctor turns.

ANGRY DOCTOR

That's why I agree to do these, because I've had to stitch up women who almost died, do you understand?

MAGGIE

We understand.

DONNA

So can we add your name to our list?

He is hesitant, but looks like he may agree...

70

**INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

70

Rose sits with Janice, Donna, Maggie, and Barb.

JANICE  
Three possible doctors. What are  
their prices again?

ROSE  
One thousand, eight hundred, and  
seven fifty.

JANICE  
That's a year's rent.

DONNA  
It's extortion.

Rose sits back, considering.

71

**EXT. PARK BENCH - NIGHT**

71

Rose and Janice are sitting on a park bench by the lake.

A POLICE OFFICER walks by and Rose and Janice look down,  
anxiously.

POLICE OFFICER  
You girls okay?

ROSE  
Yes, thank you.

He walks off.

Then a very handsome man, CHARLIE, approaches. He has the  
smooth moves of a born pick-up artist.

CHARLIE  
How you beautiful ladies doing  
tonight?

JANICE  
We're not interested.

CHARLIE  
Not interested in what?

JANICE  
Whatever it is you're selling.

CHARLIE  
(very amused)  
Is one of you Jane?

JANICE  
You're the doctor?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

ROSE

You're the doctor. You.

CHARLIE

Brought my medical license and everything.

He takes it out of a bag and hands it to Janice. She looks it over, then looks up at him, stunned.

72

**EXT. PARK BENCH - NIGHT**

72

Moments later, Charlie is seated for an interview:

CHARLIE

I've been doing a lot of these since I had my doctor's office shut down, so --

JANICE

Why'd it get shut down?

CHARLIE

'Cause I was doing a lot of these.

ROSE

How did you get into this?

CHARLIE

The money was good. I was in a town where my regular practice wasn't enough to keep a roof over my head. So -- I did a few of these, got busted. I'm better at keeping it secret now.

JANICE

And how much would you charge, Mister --

CHARLIE

Charlie. Doctor Charlie.

JANICE

Because we can't pay high prices.

CHARLIE

How many girls are we talking about here? A couple a month?

ROSE

We're not sure, but it could be as high as two or three a week.

CHARLIE

A week? In that case I'd do it for five hundred.

ROSE

Five hundred.

CHARLIE

You girls seem awful organized. You hookers?

ROSE

No. We just believe it's the right thing to do.

CHARLIE

You women's libbers or something?

JANICE

Yeah. You got a problem with that?

CHARLIE

(flirtatious)

I don't have a problem with anything you do.

73           **EXT. HIGHLAND PARK MANOR HOUSE - EVENING**           73

A fancy car is parked by the side of the road.

**Highland Park, IL**

74           **INT. CAR - EVENING**           74

SAM, late 20s, sits next to LINDA, mid-20s.

She is in a formal dress, white gloves, but her hair is in disarray and her dress ripped. He is dressed in a suit.

SAM

You want to break up with me,  
that's what happens when you break  
up with me.

Linda says nothing, silent. She looks out the window.

SAM (CONT'D)

What, you're not going to talk to me now?

LINDA

Take me home.

He starts up the car.

SAM

I just want you to know that I still consider you my girlfriend.

He begins to drive.

75

**INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

75

A meeting of the Abortion Service. Maggie, Donna, Barb, Rose, and Janice stand around a large device.

MAGGIE

What is it?

JANICE

Since I'm working at a bookstore during the day, I can't always be here so -- I got a second phone line put in my apartment. This is called an answering machine, and people call in, there's a a voice saying to leave a message, and they talk.

MAGGIE

A voice?

Janice walks up and plays a button. Rose's voice comes from the old-fashioned answering machine.

ROSE (V.O.)

Hi. You've reached Jane, at Women's Liberation. Please leave a phone number where you can be reached, along with good times to call and any other instructions or information we might need to know, immediately following this message.

There is a beep.

MAGGIE

That's spooky.

76           **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

76

Janice and Rose sit in Rose's apartment.

JANICE

If we're doing something illegal,  
we need to think like criminals.  
Like mob guys. How do they do it?

ROSE

I have no idea. You know who might?

Rose dials the phone.

77           **INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY**

77

Charlie is on the phone in a small bedroom.

CHARLIE

I mean, I don't know any mob guys  
or anything, but here's how they  
would probably do it...

78           **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

78

Rose looks at Janice, covers the phone, excited.

ROSE

He knows mob guys.

79           **INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - EVENING**

79

Another meeting with Janice, Rose, Maggie, Donna and Barb.

JANICE

We'll have two locations. A front  
and a place for the abortions.  
Women may show up with friends,  
family --

ROSE

Kids...

JANICE

Everyone but the woman can wait at  
the Front. And then a driver will  
drive them to the place.



ROSE

Yes.

BILL

Right now?

ROSE

It's a meeting for the Service.

BILL

You said you were quitting.

ROSE

I am.

She gets up and leaves.

83

**INT. JANICE'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING**

83

Janice hands a bunch of cards to Rose, who flips through them. Barb, Donna and Maggie are watching.

ROSE

We got fifteen calls this week.

DONNA

That's a lot.

ROSE

So I was thinking, instead of me calling them all back, we could divide them up. Each of us could counsel them, make sure they want to go through with it, and set up the appointment.

Rose hands out the cards. Maggie stares at hers.

MAGGIE

What do we say to them?

84

**INT. DONNA'S APARTMENT - EVENING**

84

Maggie and Donna sit looking at their respective cards.

DONNA

Thirty year old mother of four, six weeks pregnant.

MAGGIE

I got a twenty year old college student, three weeks.

DONNA  
Yours is easier.

MAGGIE  
Maybe.

DONNA  
What do I say to a mother of four?  
I mean, I've never been a mother.

MAGGIE  
I don't know.

DONNA  
I hate phone calls to strangers.

Donna picks up the phone and dials.

85      **INT. HARRIET'S HOUSE / KITCHEN - DAY**

85

Harriet walks around the kitchen cooking with a TODDLER on her hip. A BABY is in a high chair at the table. In the distance, a television and the screams of children.

The phone rings. She looks at it.

HARRIET  
Hello?

DONNA (O.S.)  
Hello, this is Jane calling.

Harriet hangs up the phone. She looks around, takes a deep breath.

Then she looks up as if in prayer.

HARRIET  
Please call back, please call back,  
please call back...

86      **INT. DONNA'S APARTMENT - EVENING**

86

Donna looks at Maggie.

MAGGIE  
Maybe it was a bad time.

DONNA  
Should I call back?

Maggie shrugs. Donna looks at the phone.



LINDA (O.S.)  
 Hello? This is um -- can I not say  
 my name? Can I just leave my  
 number? I'm going to call back.

Janice sighs. She pushes the button again.

LINDA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Hi, it's me again. I just -- my  
 family is really well-connected and  
 I was trying to get the money to go  
 to Europe for this, but now my  
 father got suspicious and he wants  
 me to marry the guy who -- so -- so  
 let me leave you my number. I'm in  
 Highland Park.

91           **INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

91

A weekly meeting. Rose, Janice, Donna, Maggie, and Barb sit  
 in a circle. Janice has a pile of notecards in her hand. She  
 holds up one.

JANICE  
 I can't take this one. Super-  
 snobby. Highland Park.

ROSE  
 I'll take her.

JANICE  
 And we've got a nineteen year old  
 who says she's not even sure she's  
 pregnant.

BARB  
 I'll take that one.

Janice hands Barb the card.

92           **INT. BARB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

92

Barb is sitting at a table with DINAH, 19, slightly hippie.  
 Barb is more confident than before -- she has come into her  
 own.

BARB  
 We do a procedure called a D & C.  
 It's basically where we open up the  
 uterus and scrape it out.

Dinah looks around, barely listening.

DINAH

I went to this doctor and he told me I had to marry the dad, right? He basically told me I was a slut and I had to marry the dad.

BARB

Yeah. That's not always a good idea.

DINAH

You want to guess where the dad is?

BARB

Vietnam?

DINAH

Prison.

BARB

Look, I have a pamphlet all about the procedure. So you know exactly what to expect. You should read it. I wish I'd had this kind of information when I was younger.

Dinah takes it, looks it over.

DINAH

This is your actual house and everything.

BARB

Yeah. We want to treat women like human beings.

DINAH

And that's your actual kid and everything?

BARB

Yeah.

DINAH

Far out.

Rose enters and walks up to Janice.

ROSE

Hey. I know you're officially off duty tonight, but Bill just told me that his parents are in town. Could you possibly be there for the girl I was supposed to help with?

JANICE

Which one is that?

ROSE

Highland Park. Super-snobby.

JANICE

Oh, man.

Janice sighs.

94

**INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

94

Janice opens the door to Linda. There are TWO OTHER YOUNG WOMEN sitting in chairs reading magazines.

JANICE

Welcome to the Service. Your normal counsellor had to skip tonight so I'm gonna be helping you.

LINDA

Oh. Okay.

JANICE

This is our waiting area. I'll be taking you from here in a car to where we'll have the procedure done. You'll be seeing Doctor Charlie tonight. Do you have your pregnancy test?

LINDA

You have donuts.

JANICE

Yeah. It may be about an hour before anyone can help you, but we have a pamphlet about the procedure.

Linda looks around, stunned.

A YOUNG WOMAN FROM DOWNSTAIRS (African-American) enters and speaks to Janice.

YOUNG WOMAN FROM DOWNSTAIRS.  
 Hey. I saw a cop hanging out in  
 front of the building, you guys  
 should watch out, okay?

JANICE  
 Thanks so much.

YOUNG WOMAN FROM DOWNSTAIRS.  
 I'm home downstairs if you need  
 anything.

JANICE  
 (to Linda)  
 Let's take the back way.

95

**INT. CAR - NIGHT**

95

Janice is driving Linda in a car. She pulls over.

JANICE  
 I'm going to have to ask you for  
 the money. We ask people to give as  
 much as they can, on the assumption  
 that other people may not have as  
 much as you.

LINDA  
 I don't have very much.

Janice looks annoyed.

JANICE  
 Excuse me, and I don't usually do  
 this to people, but aren't you from  
 Highland Park? And you're telling  
 me you couldn't come up with five  
 hundred dollars?

LINDA  
 I'm not living in Highland Park  
 right now.

JANICE  
 Well, wherever you're living, I'm  
 going to send you home to get the  
 money because we have enough  
 trouble helping women who are  
 legitimately poor, okay?

LINDA

I got raped. So I'm not living at home anymore. My parents kicked me out. I mean, ever since then he's been coming over to my house, befriending my parents, saying he wants to marry me, and they want me to give him a chance. So -- but -- I got together what I could and I can pay more later. I promise. Just -- please?

Linda pulls out a coin jar and hands it to Janice, who looks at it. Janice feels guilty.

Janice hands her a blindfold.

JANICE

When we get there, put this on.

98           **EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING / "THE PLACE" - NIGHT**

98

The car is parked behind a large apartment building. Janice leads in a blindfolded Linda.

LINDA

I'm scared.

JANICE

This way.

99           **INT. APARTMENT BUILDING / "THE PLACE" - NIGHT**

99

Charlie is sitting in the room getting equipment ready as Janice leads in Linda.

CHARLIE

Hi, how you doing tonight?

LINDA

Okay.

He takes out a syringe.

CHARLIE

Don't you worry about a thing. How far along are you?

LINDA

Four weeks.

CHARLIE

You sure?

LINDA

Yeah.

He takes in her nerves.

CHARLIE

Hey, you're gonna do great. If I hurt you, these girls are going to bust me and take me to the police, isn't that right?

JANICE

That's right.

CHARLIE

See, you're in good hands.

He starts to do the procedure.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

We use a local anesthetic, so it won't be so bad...

Janice looks at Linda's hand and then reaches over.

Linda cries out in pain.

JANICE

Hey, I'm going to hold your hand, okay? I'm going to be right here and I'm going to hold your hand.

100

**EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING / "THE PLACE" - NIGHT**

100

Janice leads Linda outside.

JANICE

You have the antibiotics? And he gave you the ergotrate shot, right, that should keep the bleeding from being too bad. Just follow whatever he said.

Linda nods.

JANICE (CONT'D)

You can take the blindfold off.

Linda removes it. She looks bewildered.

JANICE (CONT'D)  
Are you doing okay?

Linda shrugs.

JANICE (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry I yelled at you before. I just -- you know --- when you called, you reminded me of my mom. She works for Vogue.

LINDA  
I love Vogue.

JANICE  
I hate Vogue. But -- I didn't mean to take that out on you.

LINDA  
Can I ask you a question?

JANICE  
Sure.

LINDA  
Do you need any volunteers?

101 **INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

101

A meeting. Janice hands Rose the notecards as Linda watches.

JANICE  
This is Linda, everybody, she's going to be helping out, maybe joining up. Uh -- so I've got the cards because I'm callback Jane. I handle the messages. And I take them and hand them to our Big Jane...

ROSE  
That's me right now.

JANICE  
She figures out which woman should be assigned to which counsellors.

ROSE  
We've got a woman who's seven months along. Anyone?

DONNA  
I'll take it.

LINDA  
You do them that late?

DONNA  
Nothing after the second trimester.  
But we have to talk to her anyway.  
Make sure she gets counseling so  
she doesn't try to take things into  
her own hands.

ROSE  
We've got a twenty-three year old,  
two months.

Maggie raises her hand.

LINDA  
Do I have to take somebody?

JANICE  
You can just hang out for this  
week, see how it works. When you're  
first getting started, we usually  
have you at the Front, just talking  
to people. You ready for that?

LINDA  
I think so.

102      **INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

102

Linda sits next to a YOUNG COLLEGE WOMAN as Janice sits in  
the background at the phone organizing things.

YOUNG COLLEGE WOMAN  
We were using a condom. And then --  
when I told him I needed money for  
this, he said he can't because he's  
saving up for a boat.

LINDA  
A boat?

YOUNG COLLEGE WOMAN  
He sails. He was saving up for a  
sailboat this summer.

LINDA  
I hope you said what I would have  
said.

Later, Linda speaks to another YOUNG WOMAN. She has a bruise  
on her cheek.

## VERY YOUNG WOMAN

My dad punched me in the face when he found out, so I'm going to tell him that it made me lose the baby, because that's the only way to stop him from killing me.

Later, another Young Woman, JUDY, who seems particularly frail.

## JUDY

My doctor used to prescribe me the pill but then he found out I split up with my fiance so he refused to do it anymore.

## LINDA

Wow.

## JUDY

I didn't have much money so I tried to do it myself with a knitting needle, so -- I've got a tampon in or I'd be bleeding.

## LINDA

I don't think you should have a tampon in. Maybe a pad.

Judy stands up. She is visibly bleeding through the back of her skirt.

## LINDA (CONT'D)

Okay, honey --

Janice sees this and rises. The young woman now has blood dripping down her leg.

## JANICE

You have to go to the emergency room. We cannot see you in that condition.

## JUDY

No, but I can't!

## JANICE

You could die -- we cannot help you -- you have to go to the emergency room. I'll have someone drive you...

## JUDY

They'll arrest me.

JANICE

Just play dumb! Pretend you had an accident. They will stitch you up and you can come back here another time.

JUDY

I can't. I'll kill myself first, do you understand me? If you take me to the hospital and my mom finds out about this, I will literally kill myself!

JANICE

Okay, okay. I'll see if our doctor can stitch you up, but if you do not get medical help you could die. Where's a driver?

Maggie comes in as Janice hands the young woman a napkin.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Get her to the doctor, now.

Maggie nods.

Linda watches this, stunned.

Maggie and Judy leave. Janice looks at Linda.

1970.

103      **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**      103

Rose is trying on a wedding dress.

104      **INT. BARB'S APARTMENT - DAY**      104

Barb is sitting alone at her dining room table. She looks exhausted, perhaps smoking, like she's just had a big fight.

Tim walks through the room behind her with a suitcase. He stands looking at her for a moment.

Then he walks out the front door, slamming it hard, so that a picture falls off the wall.

Barbara reacts to the slam, exhausted, sad, very slightly relieved.



CONNIE

Well, I think it's wrong, and I wanted to let you know that I'm going to report you to the police.

The caller hangs up.

JANICE

Fuck fuck fuck.

Janice looks at the machine. She unplugs it from the wall.

She picks up her other phone, dials.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Rose? We have to talk. We're in trouble.

109 **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

109

Rose enters carrying something heavy. She puts it down.

There's a knock. She turns, terrified. She takes a deep breath, walks to the door, opens it.

It is Bill. He holds out a wedding invitation.

BILL

I didn't expect that I'd be the one picking out the wedding invitations.

ROSE

I'm sorry. I just -- I'm -- I've been busy.

BILL

What is that?

Rose removes the covering to reveal: the answering machine.

ROSE

I'm hiding it here for Janice. But I may -- I may keep it here for a while.

BILL

What is that, Rose?

110 **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - EVENING**

110

Rose and Bill are talking.

BILL

So you weren't arrested yet...

ROSE

Anytime in the next week. I don't know how I'll tell my mom. She doesn't know anything...

BILL

Can you say that you didn't know these women, can you say you had nothing to do with it?

ROSE

But it's -- I really feel that it's the right thing to do.

BILL

But what about the rest of your life? I mean, I'm running for office. If this comes out about you... I'm running in a Catholic neighborhood.

ROSE

I know.

BILL

I just don't understand why you're willing to give up your whole life for this, when all you have to do is quit --

ROSE

I can't leave all those other women to take the blame when it was my idea.

BILL

Your idea. What do you mean, your idea?

She is silent.

BILL (CONT'D)

Oh, God, Rose. Jesus Christ, the newspapers are going to have a field day.

ROSE

I don't know what's going to happen. Maybe nothing.

BILL

Rose, I'm so sorry, but I -- we can't be married and have this hanging over us...This is our whole future on the line. You say I'm not sticking with you, but you're the one not sticking with me. You have to say you're not involved.

ROSE

I have to stick by everyone else.

BILL

I can't do this, I'm sorry. You chose this. Without asking me. You could have asked me first. You're supposed to be my wife.

She takes his hands in hers, holds them.

ROSE

I love you.

BILL

I know. I'm sorry. I can't do this with you.

He rises. He goes to the door, then turns to look at her.

BILL (CONT'D)

Rose. (beat) If you do get arrested, say nothing. Just -- wait for a lawyer.

He leaves.

Rose collapses and starts crying.

111 **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

111

Rose, Janice, Barb, Linda, Donna and Maggie are seated in a circle.

ROSE

Maybe it's time we get out of the shadows. Announce that we're here.

JANICE

Now?

ROSE

What do we have to lose? I'm not scared.

JANICE

Are you sure that serves the needs  
of the women who come to us?

ROSE

You've been saying it for months.  
People need to know this exists. So  
we'll tell them.

JANICE

I said the long-term goal should be  
changing public opinion.

ROSE

They are holding a big protest this  
weekend. So we'll join in. Hold up  
a sign. "An Abortion Service."

DONNA

Okay, so you hold up a sign and if  
you get arrested it's a statement,  
but for the women who come to us  
it's real life, okay?

ROSE

I'm not saying everyone has to do  
it. Is anyone willing to do it?

She looks around the room. No one. Then after a moment, Barb  
raises her hand.

BARB

What the hell? I'll bring my kid.

112 OMITTED

112

113 **EXT. A PROTEST - DAY**

113

Barb is carrying her TODDLER as she and Rose march with a  
sign: "JANE: Chicago Women's Abortion Service."

Some WOMEN walk by and look at them, startled.

ROSE

If you want a pamphlet, let us  
know.

BARB

Yeah, don't end up like me!

A POLICE OFFICER watches walk by.

POLICE OFFICER  
Hi, Jane. Hey, Jane.

But Rose looks nervous.

1971

114

**INT. JOYCE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

114

Joyce's husband David walks into the kitchen.

DAVID  
How're you feeling?

JOYCE  
I'm okay. I'm okay.

Joyce leans back. She is pregnant.

DAVID  
I'm so paranoid after last time. It was so hard to get the doctors to give you the abortion. I don't want you to go through that again.

She is reading an alternative newspaper.

JOYCE  
Huh, that's funny.

DAVID  
What's funny?

She points to an ad: "PREGNANT? DON'T WANT TO BE? CALL JANE."

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Right there in the paper.

JOYCE  
I want to help them.

David nods. He considers carefully.

DAVID  
Okay.

115

**INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

115

A CROWD waits in Rose's apartment, "the Front." Rose sits with Joyce.

ROSE

We're up to thirty women a week. A lot of them are poor. Abortion was legalized in New York State last year. People who have three hundred bucks take a bus to New York. So we're left with the people who can't afford that.

There is a knock on the door. Rose opens it.

A POLICE OFFICER is standing there. The room falls utterly silent.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Can I help you?

He walks in.

POLICE OFFICER #2

I uh -- I found a jumper on Michigan Avenue Bridge, thought I'd bring her here.

A YOUNG WOMAN steps into the room after him. She looks shaken and very young, a teenager.

POLICE OFFICER #2 (CONT'D)

Listen, a few of us know what you do here. And we don't really have a problem with it, most of us. But you can't keep going with this forever. My advice to you is to lay low.

ROSE

Lay low.

POLICE OFFICER #2

You stick your head out and give us any chance to arrest you, my Lieutenant's looking for that. You understand me?

ROSE

Yes.

POLICE OFFICER #2

This is Laura. She's fourteen. I'm leaving her, okay?

Everyone looks at the girl as the police officer leaves.

ROSE

Hi, Laura.

116 **INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY**

116

Donna steps into the principal's office.

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY

Come on in, Donna.

Donna enters in silence.

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY (CONT'D)

Sit down. I have something pretty serious to discuss with you.

DONNA

Okay.

Donna prepares for the worst. She sits down.

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY

We are a Catholic community.

DONNA

I understand that.

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY

And I understand you've been doing something that is not in the spirit of a Catholic community.

DONNA

Can you clarify what I did?

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY

A student said there's some kind of rumor that students who want this book can just go to you and get it.

He puts a pamphlet in front of him that reads: "Our Bodies, Ourselves."

DONNA

Oh, that. Yeah. Well, at least it's accurate information.

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY

You don't understand what I'm telling you, here. You're fired.

DONNA

Excuse me?

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY

You are not --

DONNA

No, no. Listen. In the last ten years before I started here, we were losing five or six girls a year to dropping out -- or -- or going mysteriously to Europe or to a home somewhere -- for lack of this really basic information that they're not allowed to have until -- when? When they're married, not when it's a life and death issue the way it is when they're fifteen? You must have noticed that in the last two years we've only had two girls get pregnant. That means that -- that maybe eight or nine girls' lives were saved by just knowing basic facts about their own bodies.

PRINCIPAL RAFFERTY

We got a parental complaint, Miss Lisnewski. So if you have some kind of radical agenda, I'm afraid you're going to have to take it elsewhere. We don't want those kind of ideas in Lake Forest.

117      **EXT. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY**

117

Donna stands at the door of the high school library, motionless, in shock.

She glances over to the wall. A small memorial for the student who died of rat poisoning is there. She looks at it in silence.

She turns to go.

118      **INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY**

118

A radical bookstore. Linda is stocking copies on the shelf. Her father, GENE, late 40s, enters in a suit.

GENE

Linda.

Linda turns. She is dressed considerably more like a hippie than she ever has been.

GENE (CONT'D)

You weren't returning our calls.  
Your mother's worried sick.

LINDA

I didn't want to talk to you.

GENE

I'd like to know what happened to  
the baby.

LINDA

I lost it.

GENE

This is not how we do things in our  
family. This is not acceptable.

Linda goes back to stocking books.

GENE (CONT'D)

Turn around when I speak to you.

LINDA

I was raped, Dad.

GENE

A lot of misunderstandings happen  
between good people.

LINDA

He's not a good person.

GENE

He's been coming by the house. He's  
very sorry. If you would just sit  
down and talk to him --

LINDA

You want to know something? I'm  
happy. And if you loved me, you'd  
be happy that I'm happy.

GENE

I will be happy when I see you  
settled down.

LINDA

This is not the eighteenth century,  
you don't have to marry me off to  
some bachelor. I am happy right  
here, right now. With my life. And  
I may never get married.

GENE

And then what? What do you do with yourself?

LINDA

Have a life? Have a career? You and mom have spent your whole lives doing exactly what's expected of you. And now you hate that I'm free and I don't have to listen to you. I have control of my life. And I like it.

GENE

That's always what people say right before they ruin their lives.

LINDA

Go. Please.

Gene looks at her, then turns to leave.

119

**INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

119

Rose sits in a room with a GROUP of about eight people: FIVE WOMEN, two BOYFRIENDS, and a little girl of about eight. They are a diverse group, including a COUPLE speaking Polish.

Janice enters and walks up to Rose.

JANICE

Who do we have working tonight?  
This is crazy.

ROSE

Just Doctor Charlie.

JANICE

What happened to the other doctors?  
We don't use anyone else anymore?

ROSE

Nobody could match his price.

Joyce enters.

JANICE

Aren't you supposed to be at The Place tonight? I thought it was your first time there.

JOYCE

I'm done. But -- I need to talk to you. Tonight.

120      **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - EVENING**

120

Joyce is speaking to Rose and Janice.

JOYCE

I told you I used to work as a nurse, right?

A FLASHBACK:

121      **INT. APARTMENT BUILDING / "THE PLACE" - NIGHT**

121

Joyce stands by as Charlie does the procedure.

JOYCE

You could inject it in the thigh, it's sometimes more effective.

Charlie glances over, gives her a look.

CHARLIE

Don't worry, princess. I know what I'm doing.

JOYCE

When did you graduate from med school?

CHARLIE

1951.

JOYCE

So how old are you?

CHARLIE

Thirty-eight. How old are you?

JOYCE

You graduated when you were nineteen?

CHARLIE

Did I say 1951, I meant 1955...

122      **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

122

Joyce finishes her story as Rose and Janice absorb it.

JOYCE

He gave me this look that my dad used to give when he was lying about having a drink on the way home from work.

JANICE

He's not a doctor?

JOYCE

I mean, if he's doing the procedure okay, maybe it doesn't matter.

JANICE

He's not a fucking doctor?

123

**INT. APARTMENT BUILDING / "THE PLACE" - NIGHT**

123

Janice barges into the room, followed by Rose and Joyce.

CHARLIE

What's going -- oh, here we go.

JANICE

You lied to me.

CHARLIE

I knew this was -- (to Joyce) I knew you were going to say something.

JANICE

You're not a doctor?

CHARLIE

I am better than most doctors, because I do this all the time. Okay?

JANICE

You lied to us, and you are out of your mind if you think that we are bringing a single goddamned woman to you ever again.

CHARLIE

Hey, hey, wait a second. You girls came to me, okay? And have I ever hurt anybody? Have I lost a single patient? I'm not like most of these guys out there --

JANICE

You're here to make money, you said it yourself.

CHARLIE

So I'm not in on your cause, is that what this is about? I make money 'cause I need to eat. And I'll tell you another thing, I've been threatened for this. The mob guys don't like that I undersell their rates, and I've been threatened with a bullet for what I do, so I would like a little more goddamned respect here.

JANICE

Look at you, you can't even admit you did anything wrong!

CHARLIE

Because I didn't do anything wrong. We're all criminals here. That includes all of you.

JANICE

Let's go. We're leaving.

Janice leaves.

ROSE

Janice...

124 **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

124

Janice, Rose and Joyce sit together.

JOYCE

We can find somebody else.

JANICE

For his price? Not likely.

ROSE

Janice --

JANICE

Anyone we find will probably also be a fucking liar.

Rose is silent.

JOYCE

He didn't actually hurt anybody,  
right?

JANICE

We lied to all those women. We told them we were different -- that they were safe with us. And instead we took them to some -- some back alley con artist. He showed up with a fake medical license? And we trusted that? (Beat) You know I was sexually molested when I was thirteen. This thirty-five year old man from my synagogue, and I was thirteen, and he -- And my mom, she got him kicked out of the synagogue because she's this tough Jewish woman and I always respected her for that -- but then when I wanted to talk with her about it, she made me swear never to tell anyone. Because she knew I was going to be treated differently -- I mean, that's bullshit. Why is it men do this stuff to us and then we have to deal with the consequences?

There's a knock on the door. Rose walks over and opens it.

Charlie comes in.

CHARLIE

Give me a minute, here, all right?

JANICE

Why?

CHARLIE

Because I'm going to tell you the truth, okay?

A long moment.

125

**INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

125

Later. Charlie is talking to Janice, Joyce and Rose.

CHARLIE

I never had a normal job. I've always done something illegal. By the time I was fourteen I was working for a bookie, you know.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And uh -- you know, I learned abortions from the mob guys in Los Angeles. They had a system for their hookers. But this -- this is the first time I ever did something bigger than me.

Rose looks at Janice. Janice nods.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I lied, but honestly, I could make more money working for someone else. But... I liked being part of this.

Janice looks down, still angry but relenting somewhat.

ROSE

You're telling us you were able to do all of that without a medical license?

CHARLIE

Yeah, it's not that hard if you know what you're doing.

ROSE

So can you teach it to us?

Janice looks up, stunned.

CHARLIE

What?

ROSE

To all of us in the group.

CHARLIE

Are you out of your mind? Do you know what kind of penalties you're facing, what kind of jail time you're facing if you do that?

ROSE

If you teach us, then we can do all the simple ones. And you can do the hard stuff.

CHARLIE

Why would you even want to do that to yourself?

ROSE

There are women who can't afford five hundred dollars. We're getting thirty a week now? So if you take the tough cases, we'll take the rest. And we can do it for a lot less money.

CHARLIE

But you'll need to buy equipment, you'll need some medical gear, anesthetics...

Rose picks up a notepad.

JANICE

I want to be first.

126

**INT. APARTMENT BUILDING / "THE PLACE" - NIGHT**

126

Charlie is explaining his process using a syringe and other equipment to Janice.

A YOUNG WOMAN lies on the table.

CHARLIE

Basically the job is to get access so we can tear the amniotic sac. So you sterilize the equipment. Then you start with a shot of ergotrate to keep them from hemorrhaging afterwards. Four shots of Zylocaine to dull the pain. This is a curette. Looks like a spoon, right?

Janice nods, slowly.

JANICE

Yeah.

126a

**INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

126a

Janice sits in silence, looking out the window. She turns to look at Rose.

ROSE

What's it like?

Janice shrugs.

JANICE

I don't know... My whole life, I went to male doctors, I never really -- women's bodies are always in men's hands. This is like -- this is us, doing it for us. All of the sudden I know how it all works in there.

Rose nods.

ROSE

You know what's funny? Midwives have probably done this stuff for thousands of years. They just didn't talk about it.

JANICE

Well, they should have, because how come women have to keep figuring this stuff out for themselves?

ROSE

I want to learn next.

126B     **INT. APARTMENT BUILDING / "THE PLACE" - NIGHT**

126B

Details of:

Syringes. Alcohol. A curette. A textbook open to a picture of a uterus.

Rose looks at Charlie, holding a syringe, silent. Then, unexpectedly, she smiles.

130     **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

130

Rose and Janice speak to Barb, Donna, Maggie, Linda and Joyce.

ROSE

If we're going to get serious about this, we have to find a new "place" and a new "front." We can't use our apartments anymore. It isn't safe.

MAGGIE

How do we pay for that?

JANICE

We can charge the women something, maybe twenty or thirty dollars.

(MORE)

JANICE (CONT'D)

Just to pay for the apartments and supplies.

DONNA

Do we pay ourselves?

ROSE

Like as employees?

DONNA

I mean, this is work. I got fired from my job and I was already spending as much time here as there. So -- if you guys gave me a salary...

BARB

No.

MAGGIE

Women's work is always undervalued. We're expected to do things for free.

BARB

This is crazy. No. If we pay ourselves, we're not counsellors. We're abortionists.

JANICE

That's already going to be the case.

DONNA

We don't have to make a profit. I'm not talking about --

BARB

Do you know how much jail time we'd be facing?

DONNA

We're already facing jail time.

JOYCE

I think you're just saying that because you're unemployed.

DONNA

And what about you? You're pregnant.

JOYCE

So?

DONNA

Have you considered how that makes women feel, to show up here and look at a pregnant lady?

ROSE

I think that shows that we're inclusive of all women.

JANICE

I actually agree that pregnant women shouldn't work in the service.

JOYCE

Why am I hearing this now?

BARB

We're hearing a lot of things now. Why didn't we know Charlie wasn't a doctor? How long have you known about that?

ROSE

Not that long.

BARB

Not that long? How long? You guys know all this stuff and you don't tell us and we're risking everything to do this. (beat) Forget it. If you guys do this -- if you start doing it and paying yourselves, I'm out. I have a kid and I'm a single mom. I can't risk having her grow up without Mommy because you guys wanted to do this for money.

Barb looks around. Then she gets up and leaves.

JOYCE

I want to stay.

Janice nods, silent.

131

**EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT**

131

A dark night in Chicago.

1972.



CONNIE

I still -- I just -- I still don't believe in abortion, but this is different.

Rose nods.

ROSE

They all are.

135

**INT. "THE FRONT" APARTMENT - NIGHT**

135

Janice is sitting talking to a very young woman, BRENDA.

BRENDA

That really wasn't so bad.

JANICE

You just have to look out for any sign of infection and go to the emergency room if you have any symptoms. And take the antibiotics all the way to the end.

BRENDA

I thought you would put a knife in me and just slice around everywhere.

JANICE

Uh -- no...

BRENDA

That's what I heard. I shouldn't tell my aunt about this, she's really religious, but I just feel like I was tricked, I mean, he told me he wasn't going to have sex with me and then suddenly he was inside me and he said, "I slipped."

JANICE

So he raped you.

BRENDA

I wouldn't call it a rape, I mean, maybe he did slip, because he says he feels really bad about it. He wants to see me again. I really shouldn't tell my aunt about this, she's really religious...

JANICE

Okay. When I get off work, you and I are going to have a long talk.

136      **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

136

Rose is checking the answering machine.

She then picks up her phone.

She hears a click. Sounds from another room. She waits.

ROSE

Is that -- is someone tapping my phone? Okay, well, if this is the FBI, I'd just like to say something, you know? I mean, I was -- I know a lot of you guys were probably raised going to church, and -- so was I, and -- and in church they made everything sound so easy, you know? But it's not black and white. And anyway, if anyone's listening... just want to say, if the sermons had been more like real life -- I might be able to take them seriously, you know? But as it is, we're all just doing the best we can, here, okay?

She hangs up the phone.

137      **EXT. CHICAGO SIDEWALK - DAY**

137

Janice and Rose walk together.

JANICE

What were you thinking?

ROSE

I know. Don't -- don't tell the other women, okay? I just -- it made me so angry. Because they could have been listening for weeks. And they're listening to people talking about the most intimate details of their lives, you know. I just got so angry.

JANICE

Oh my God.

ROSE

What?

JANICE

You're turning into me.

138 **INT. "THE FRONT" APARTMENT - DAY**

138

The office is packed with about fifteen diverse WOMEN and their BOYFRIENDS and KIDS.

Donna is walking Harriet through the space.

DONNA

So what you could do, since you're first starting, is just work at the Front. Talk to people, make sure they have what they need, help watch the kids of any moms.

HARRIET

You said there's pay, right?

DONNA

Not much, you know, but something.

Janice is talking to another woman, AMY.

AMY

I have to get home to my daughter. She's in the hospital today for surgery.

JANICE

I can drive you there.

A thud on the door. Rose and Janice look at each other.

They open the door.

FOUR POLICE OFFICERS, very tall, stand at the entrance. The leader, OFFICER BERCIK, strides in.

OFFICER BERCIK

This is the police. Everyone stay where you are. Do not attempt to leave. You are all under arrest.

Rose rises, looks at the room:

ROSE  
 Everyone, listen to me. Say  
 nothing. Say absolutely nothing  
 until you see a lawyer.

The officers enter the room.

AMY  
 Oh, Jesus, oh, Jesus. My daughter's  
 in the hospital.

ROSE  
 Say nothing.

The first officer looks at Rose.

OFFICER BERCIK  
 Start with her.

139 **INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE "THE FRONT" - NIGHT**

139

Janice, Rose, Harriet, and Donna are lined up together.

The young women and their families are dragged down the  
 hallway past them.

YOUNG MAN #3  
 (to the police)  
 I told her she'd get in trouble if  
 she tried this, I told her it was  
 illegal, this isn't my fault...

Janice and Rose glance at each other.

Officer Bercik walks up to them.

OFFICER BERCIK  
 Where is he? Where the hell is he?

ROSE  
 I'm not sure what you mean.

OFFICER BERCIK  
 Yeah, sure.

Officer Bercik walks away. Janice smiles.

JANICE  
 They were looking for the doctor.  
 That's why he's trying to find a  
 man.

ROSE

Do you think they found the other  
apartment and the Driver Jane?

Janice doesn't look optimistic.

140 **INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT**

140

A YOUNG POLICE OFFICER stands in the elevator with Amy, who  
is handcuffed and weeping.

AMY

My daughter's in the hospital  
getting surgery. Can I just call my  
husband and tell him that I -- that  
I can't make it to see her? This  
was just supposed to take a couple  
of hours. Please? I just want to  
tell my daughter I'm sorry.

The elevator door opens. The Young Officer looks at her. He  
looks around, left and right. He removes her handcuffs.

YOUNG POLICE OFFICER

Just -- go.

She looks at him, stunned, nods -- and starts to run.

141 **INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT**

141

Rose, Janice, Donna and Harriet sit in a row on a bench.

Maggie, Joyce, and Linda are brought in and placed next to  
them.

ROSE

Are you okay?

JOYCE

They got the drivers. They got  
everyone who was working.

MAGGIE

They kept asking about our doctors  
but I didn't tell them anything.

HARRIET

My first night.

DONNA

I know, I'm sorry.

HARRIET

Oh my kids, my kids, my kids...

JOYCE

I know.

A POLICE OFFICER walks over.

POLICE OFFICER #3

Sorry about all this, you know. I mean, to be honest, you've helped out a couple of wives and girlfriends of the guys here. But somebody called in a complaint.

JANICE

Who was it who called it in?

ROSE

Was it the FBI? Were they bugging my phone?

POLICE OFFICER #3

Uh, somebody's aunt or something?

JANICE

Brenda? Brenda's aunt?

POLICE OFFICER #3

That sounds right...

JANICE

"I better not tell my aunt about this, she's really religious?" I talked to that girl for forty-five minutes. We had a whole heart to heart about her sleazy boyfriend...

POLICE OFFICER #3

I guess she changed her mind.

The Officer walks away.

JANICE

I'm going to kill her. I'm going to go to her house and I'm going to kill her.

ROSE

Janice --

JANICE

No, I'm going to kill that girl, I mean it, Rose. She cried on me.

MAGGIE

Look. They're treating the patients worse than us.

ANOTHER OFFICER is herding the YOUNG WOMEN and their families like cattle.

POLICE OFFICER #4

This way, people, you know how to walk...

ROSE

Those are pregnant women.

MAGGIE

Yeah. And we're college-educated white girls.

142

**INT. INTERVIEW ROOM AT THE JAIL - NIGHT**

142

Donna sits opposite the YOUNG OFFICER. He looks through her file.

YOUNG POLICE OFFICER

You used to be a teacher. So did I.

DONNA

What subject?

YOUNG POLICE OFFICER

Biology.

DONNA

I was history.

YOUNG POLICE OFFICER

Where did you go wrong?

DONNA

Where did you?

He smiles grimly.

143

**INT. INTERVIEW ROOM AT THE JAIL - NIGHT**

143

Police Officer #4 is interviewing Janice.

POLICE OFFICER #4

You're looking at a hundred and ten years.

JANICE

What?

POLICE OFFICER #4

One hundred and ten years. Would you like to make a signed statement?

JANICE

No, asshole. I'd like to call my mom.

POLICE OFFICER #4

Excuse me? What did you say to me?

Janice takes a deep breath, calms herself down.

JANICE

Nothing.

144 **INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT**

144

Rose, Maggie, Linda, and Janice are pushed into a cell.

LINDA

That can't be right, can it? I thought it was five years maximum.

JANICE

It's five years times the number of counts.

LINDA

Oh God.

They look around at the TWO OTHER INMATES who are watching them, skeptical.

145 **INT. ANOTHER JAIL CELL - NIGHT**

145

Harriet, Joyce, and Donna enter another cell. It is filthy.

Joyce walks over to the small sink, looks into it.

JOYCE

Excuse me, my breasts are full, I have to -- I have to express some milk, okay?

DONNA

Sure.

HARRIET  
Oh God, my kids...

Joyce walks over to the sink. She looks into it. It is filthy. She starts to cry. Then she starts to unbutton her shirt.

146      **INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT**      146

The Inmates examine Rose, Maggie, Linda, and Janice.

JAIL INMATE #1  
What are you guys in for?

ROSE  
Abortion.

JAIL INMATE #1  
I got one of those one time and the  
guy kept asking for my number.

Rose nods, silent. Linda is weeping.

147      **INT. JAIL CELL - MORNING**      147

Rose wakes up to the sound of a jail cell opening.

POLICE OFFICER  
Hey! Hey! Abortion ladies.

She sits up, sees Maggie, Linda, and Janice around her.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)  
Your lawyer's here.

148      **INT. MEETING ROOM AT THE JAIL - DAY**      148

Rose, Janice, Harriet, Joyce, Maggie, Donna, and Linda sit in a room together around a table.

MAGGIE  
(to Rose)  
Did you call your mom?

ROSE  
Not yet. I don't know how to tell  
her about this. She's not -- she  
doesn't know.

JANICE

This lawyer is a friend of my mom's, so she's probably going to be annoying as hell.

Into the room comes MARY FRATTINI, 40ish, a firm and assertive lawyer with Chicago roots and Chicago attitude.

MARY FRATTINI

I love you, I love you all.

The young women are stunned. Mary sits down.

MARY FRATTINI (CONT'D)

Everybody talks too much. You guys didn't say a goddamn word to the police. Not one goddamn word. You are my favorite clients ever. Now let's talk posting bail, okay?

149 **EXT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

149

Rose walks up to her door. She has come straight from the jail and is dirty and exhausted.

150 **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

150

Rose unlocks her door to find that her mother Ada is sitting there.

ADA

I didn't hear from you for two weeks. I thought you were dead. I had to call your ex-boyfriend.

ROSE

I'm sorry. I didn't want to worry you.

ADA

He had to let me in. Said he hadn't seen you in months. You're some kind of -- abortionist?

Rose nods.

ADA (CONT'D)

Nobody's going to hire you to be a teacher now. You know that. I don't know how you're going to be hired for anything.

(MORE)

ADA (CONT'D)

I wanted you to be an independent woman but now you're going to have to depend on a husband because you won't be able to earn a living. And I don't know who would marry you, to be quite honest.

ROSE

Mom, stop it.

ADA

No, I won't stop. You don't know how tough life can be but you're about to find out. And I'm sorry for that, because you did it to yourself.

ROSE

I'm sorry if this upsets you --

ADA

Why, Rose? For some women who -- who weren't responsible enough to take care of themselves? I feel like I lost my daughter when these radicals brainwashed you. Was it that girl Janice? From New York?

ROSE

It was my idea. You raised me to be strong and practical. And strong midwestern women do not ask people to solve their problems. They do it themselves.

ADA

I hope you are strong, because you're going to need it, Rose. You're going to need it. I can't be there for you for this.

Ada gets up and leaves. Rose stands up, walks to the window, and watches as:

151      **EXT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - DAY**      151

Ada walks away.

152      **EXT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**      152

Janice walks up the steps. She sees Charlie sitting on the steps of her building.

CHARLIE

Hi.

JANICE

We didn't say a word about you.

CHARLIE

Yeah, well -- I appreciate that. But I'm still splitting town for a while, figured I'd come say good-bye. You can tell 'em about me if you want, they won't find me.

JANICE

We won't tell them anything.

Charlie smiles. He walks up to Janice, shakes her hand.

CHARLIE

I'll see ya around. Wish 'em all luck for me.

She smiles.

JANICE

You know, I don't even know your last name.

CHARLIE

(amused)  
It's Jane.

Charlie smiles and turns to go.

153      **INT. "THE FRONT" APARTMENT - NIGHT**

153

Rose, Janice, Joyce, Maggie, Donna, and Linda (but not Harriet) are in a meeting.

Janice puts down a newspaper.

JANICE

Apparently, we're "The Abortion Seven."

LINDA

That's kind of cool.

DONNA

It's not cool. We shouldn't even be in here.

JOYCE

Does our lawyer know that we're meeting like this?

Janice shakes her head.

ROSE

No. But we were supposed to handle twenty women that night. Half of them are still pregnant. I think we owe it to them to find them other places. I thought we could make some calls.

DONNA

I just don't feel safe. I don't feel good about this. We're facing one hundred and ten years.

JANICE

No one is forcing anyone to do anything. But it's not just those ten women. Mary says she can postpone the trial for a few months, maybe longer. There's talk about a case making it to the Supreme Court. But in the meantime, that phone is ringing.

DONNA

(seeing where this is headed)

Oh, no. No way.

JANICE

All I'm asking is whether anyone would be willing to continue providing the same resources we did before. While we wait for trial.

DONNA

This is crazy. The police know about us.

ROSE

The police knew about us before! We helped their wives and girlfriends, remember?

JOYCE

This will directly affect sentencing, though.

(MORE)

JOYCE (CONT'D)

We're supposed to show that we've changed our minds and feel guilty for our actions.

JANICE

But we haven't. This is a political statement. It shouldn't be illegal at all. If we stop our work now, we imply that it should!

JOYCE

I'm sorry. I have kids. I am not going to spend an extra five years in jail because you want to make a political statement.

Joyce rises.

JANICE

That's fine. I understand not everyone is willing to do this. So I'll tell you what. If you're willing to continue, let me know. And I won't judge anyone who doesn't. I swear.

DONNA

You always judge everyone.

JANICE

I won't. Not this time. Rose?

ROSE

I'm in.

LINDA

I'll keep helping.

DONNA

I'm sorry, but -- I feel like this whole time we've been pretending that -- that we can just ignore the system and we'll never get caught or -- or punished. But when you fight the system, they catch you and they fire you and I can't play this game of pretending that's not going to happen anymore. I can't afford to pretend anymore.

Donna rises. She looks at Maggie, then leaves.

JOYCE

I have a baby to take care of.

JANICE  
I understand.

MAGGIE  
I want to stay.

ROSE  
This is stupid, but I never really  
thought we'd be caught. And then  
when I was sitting there in jail,  
it was like a wake-up call, I  
realized, this is my life now, and  
I kept waiting to regret  
everything. But I didn't.

154      **INT. DONNA'S APARTMENT - DAY**

154

Maggie sits at her phone. After a moment, she picks it up and dials.

MAGGIE  
Hi. Hi. I'm calling from -- I'm  
calling from the Chicago Women's  
Liberation -- yes. The Abortion  
Seven yes. We were wondering -- we  
have some women who still need help  
and we wanted to see if anyone  
would donate a van and some money  
to get them to New York? You would?  
Just -- let me leave you my number,  
and when you call back, you can ask  
for Jane.

154a      **EXT. CITY PARK - DAY**

154a

ROBERTA, 24, African-American, is comforting her friend  
ANGIE, 22, on a park bench. Roberta is well-dressed in a  
suit, assertive, probably works in an office.

**1973**

ROBERTA  
Yeah, the same ones from the news.  
I heard they're still doing it. I  
mean they're white girls but they  
do a good job, and they don't take  
all your money, either.

Angie takes a long moment, shaking her head .

ANGIE

I'm just going to sit here shaking  
my head for a while.

ROBERTA

That's alright. You're allowed.

154b **INT. "THE FRONT" APARTMENT - NIGHT**

154b

Roberta paces in a nice suit. Most of the WOMEN in the room are black. Roberta exchanges a look with one of them and picks up a magazine.

Roberta points to Maggie and Rose, who is at the desk.

Roberta sits down.

Maggie and Rose are chatting.

ROSE

Why didn't you tell me you guys  
broke up?

MAGGIE

I don't know. Just the stress of  
the whole thing, you know? She's  
the only person I've ever dated, so  
-- I guess I have to figure out how  
to date now, you know?

ROSE

I'm sorry.

Roberta walks over.

ROBERTA

Excuse me, I don't want to be rude,  
but you guys maybe should hire more  
black women here because -- a lot  
of the women coming here are black.

ROSE

Yeah, I know. We thought about  
that.

ROBERTA

You thought about that....?

Roberta leaves her words hanging.

ROSE

It -- when abortion got legalized in New York, the women who could afford to travel started going there, so we ended up with the women who can't afford it, and -- and I think we recognize we should have more black women involved. We talked about it.

ROBERTA

You talked about it.

MAGGIE

I think we felt bad recruiting people who are really broke -- which is most of the women coming in right now.

ROSE

And we felt that -- if the police arrested us, they might be harder on black women, so...

ROBERTA

Alright. I'm just saying.

Just then, Angie walks back in and Roberta turns.

ANGIE

Hey.

ROBERTA

Hey, how'd it go?

ANGIE

It went okay. Hurt a little but not too bad.

Roberta gives her a hug.

ROBERTA

Let's get you home. (beat)  
Actually, could you just -- hold on a second?

Roberta turns and walks straight to Rose and Maggie.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)

If you need volunteers... You guys can call me, okay?

Rose smiles, nods. Roberta writes down her number.

ROSE

Thank you.

155      **INT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - DAY**      155

Janice, Rose, and Maggie watch on television:

**Four months later. January, 1973.**

156      **EXT. U.S. SUPREME COURT - DAY**      156

A REPORTER speaks in front of a courthouse:

REPORTER #1

The Roe V. Wade case, which was decided today, uses the argument that privacy rights protect a woman's right to an abortion.

157      **INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - DAY**      157

Janice, Rose and Maggie celebrate.

ROSE

I can't believe it. So many women can finally get help.

MAGGIE

So this is good, right? This means they'll have to free us.

JANICE

It may not mean anything. Not for our case. We'll see what Mary says.

158      **EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY**      158

Rose and the other accused women walk up the steps together.

A SMALL CLUSTER OF PROTESTERS hold signs: "FREE THE ABORTION SEVEN."

Janice, walking with her mother Beverly, glances over.

JANICE

They're protesting for us.

BEVERLY

I'm proud of you, you know that.

Janice turns and hugs her mother.

Mary approaches.

MARY FRATTINI

Girls, this way, there's press over there, I don't want you talking to them until we get our result.

ROSE

You're confident?

MARY FRATTINI

I'm always confident. How are you?

ROSE

Terrified.

MARY FRATTINI

Come on. There's a hallway where I have my clients wait for me, it's far from the bathrooms so it's always quiet. We'll hide out there.

Rose and Janice glance up at the courthouse as they go in with the rest of the accused women.

159

**INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY**

159

A long, isolated hallway. Mary has the young women seated on a bench.

MARY FRATTINI

I'll be back, you stay here a minute.

Mary leaves.

Rose turns and looks at the women.

ROSE

So one hundred and ten years.

Janice nods in silence.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I think that would be enough time to do some very good organizing in prison.

Janice smiles, then starts to laugh.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
No, but really. We could do a  
literacy program --

JANICE  
Crafts collective.

MAGGIE  
Job training.

DONNA  
Or we get raped and murdered.

ROSE  
Rape. What do you suppose abortion  
services are like in prison?

Rose laughs. They all start laughing, helpless. Even Donna  
laughs.

DONNA  
Crafts collective...

Mary steps out of a doorway.

MARY FRATTINI  
Come on inside.

160 **INT. COURT ROOM - DAY**

160

The Women of the Abortion Service sit together behind Mary,  
acting as their lawyer.

The Judge looks from them to the PROSECUTOR, a man in his  
60s.

He flips through the pages. He turns to the prosecutor.

JUDGE  
This behavior does not reflect what  
I would consider the decent values  
of the city of Chicago. All of you  
young women have been behaving in a  
way that I think any decent person  
would disapprove of. Now, where are  
the pregnant women who were brought  
in that night?

A FEW WOMEN stand up.

JUDGE (CONT'D)  
Those are the women? Have they had  
the babies?

PROSECUTOR

Uh -- none of them have had babies,  
your honor.

JUDGE

How did that come to be?

PROSECUTOR

We're not really sure, your honor.

JUDGE

And are these women willing to  
testify against this group?

PROSECUTOR

Not at this time, your honor.

JUDGE

Not one.

PROSECUTOR

Not at this time.

JUDGE

Is there any proof of which one of  
them actually committed the  
abortions?

PROSECUTOR

Not definite proof, no. We have the  
equipment.

Rose looks at the WOMEN who were arrested, who are lined up,  
silent.

The Judge looks at the accused women.

JUDGE

Well, given that the Supreme Court  
case of Roe V. Wade determined that  
this procedure is no longer a  
crime, and given that the evidence  
against you appears to be  
exceedingly thin, I am sorry to say  
that I am going to have to dismiss  
the case and all charges against  
you. You are free to go.

He slams down his gavel. The women jump up and hug each other  
as their lawyer Mary cheers.

Joyce and Harriet hug their husbands. Their children are  
there.

There are tears and laughter. They are a unified group.

161 **EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY**

161

Rose, Janice, Mary and the other women walk outside the courthouse.

A REPORTER rushes over.

REPORTER #2

I heard that all the charges were dismissed. Can you comment?

MARY FRATTINI

These young ladies did nothing wrong and I think the court determined that today.

REPORTER #2

And how about you? What are you going to do now that abortion's no longer illegal?

ROSE

I think we feel that abortions have been going on for thousands of years, whether they were legal or not. So our feeling is, it's great that they're legal, but if they were ever illegal again, if we have to -- women are ready to do this for each other again.

Fade to black, and over black:

**The Women of Jane provided over 10,000 women with illegal abortions between 1968 and 1973.**

**Many of Jane's members continued to provide abortion services while awaiting trial.**

**All charges against them were eventually dismissed.**

**Some of the women of Jane went on to found the Emma Goldman Health Center, which became the Chicago Women's Health Center and still operates today.**

FADE OUT.