

CAT HOUSE
Just How Carefree Are the Carefree College Days
Half-Hour Pilot

by
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FADE IN:

TEASER

EXT. APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS - DAY

From a panoramic view of the mountains the camera slowly zooms in on a patch of wild flowers. A butterfly goes from flower to flower. The camera follows the butterfly as she travels the countryside until she comes to a small college town.

INT. FAMILY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It's busy. Not a vacant table in sight. RUTH (19) hurries out of the kitchen, balancing a large serving tray above her head. The RING TONE OF ROCKY TOP plays loudly from her pocket. Ruth tenses up as she weaves towards her table. She can't stop to turn it off. Patrons look around to find the offending cell phone.

THREE GUYS wearing camouflage vests and John Deere caps stand up from their table. The RING TONE continues.

THREE GUYS

(singing)

Rocky Top, you'll always be home,
sweet home to me. Good ole rocky
Rocky top. Rocky top Tennessee.

Ruth tries to ignore the trio as she reaches for the tray stand. All six people at her table focus on Ruth as she kicks open the stand. The RING TONE continues. Ruth looks over and sees her Supervisor frowning.

Ruth stabilizes the tray on the stand. She exhales in frustration and fumbles behind her apron searching for her pocket. The phone stops ringing. Ruth gives a weak smile as she makes eye contact with the people at her table.

Ruth places a dinner on the table. The RING TONE OF ROCKY TOP plays again. Shit! Ruth hurriedly finds and turns off her cell. A MOM senses Ruth's embarrassment.

MOM

At least it was a pleasant ring tone.

A YOUNG BOY (11) becomes inspired. He takes out his Android.

YOUNG BOY
Yeah. Check this out.

The ring tone is from Grand Theft Auto - CARS SCREECHING,
POLICE SIRENS, CAR CRASHES.

The Boy's FATHER reaches across the table, snatching the
Droid.

FATHER
Give me that damn thing.

The EAR-PIERCING RING TONE continues. The Father taps
feverishly at the device. He can't turn it off. Their table
becomes the focal point of interest for the entire restaurant.

The Father puts the device on the table and pounds it with
his fist. The thing won't die. The RING TONE continues.

Angry and frustrated the Father shoves the Droid in his water
glass. Water splashes out. The Droid GURGLES and drowns.

The silence is deafening. All eyes go to Ruth.

INT. LADIES ROOM - NIGHT

Ruth leans her back against the wall as she taps a number on
her cell. Her demeanor is that of a snorting bull.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Hello.

RUTH
How many times have I told everyone
never, NEVER call me at work. Send
me a text.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
I did. An hour ago.

Ruth looks guilty.

RUTH
Oh. It's been hectic tonight.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
We've got a problem. A big problem.

RUTH
I'm listening.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
We've got a leak.

RUTH
Put a pot under it.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
It's a really big leak. It's coming
from the bathroom upstairs. And
it's leaking from the light.

Ruth takes a deep breath.

RUTH
Turn off the light.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Then it will be too dark.

Ruth runs her fingers through her hair.

RUTH
O.K. Turn on a table lamp. Then
turn off the overhead light. Then
go upstairs and turn off the water.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
The water isn't on. It's coming
from the bathtub. It's emptying
into the den.

RUTH
Put the plastic bucket under it.
When the bucket fills up, empty it
in the toilet.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Which toilet?

RUTH
The toilet not occupied.

Ruth shakes her head, rolls her eyes.

ACT ONE

EXT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - NIGHT

A classic Victorian home needing some repairs but overall in pretty good condition. There are swings on both ends of the covered porch.

INT. DEN - DAY

A large room with a fish tank and a large screen TV. Water from the overhead light drips at a constant rate into plastic pail on the floor.

JANE (19), overweight with a pretty face, sits on the sectional couch watching television. At the other end of the couch sits HEATHER (18) typing on her laptop.

As the program breaks for a commercial, Jane switches her attention to Ruth.

JANE
The bucket is full. You need to
empty it.

Ruth stops what she is doing, looks over at Jane.

RUTH
Is that what they teach in poli sci?
See a problem, complain about it,
sit on your butt and do nothing?

JANE
Yes. I'm going to be a congresswoman.

ALLISON (18) svelte and fashionable, glides into the den, stops abruptly and backs up.

ALLISON
Ugh! What's that?

RUTH
A leak coming from the bathroom.

ALLISON
Sewage! O.M.G. Sewage!

RUTH
No, it's not. It's from the bathtub.

JANE
She's right, Ruth. Someone's ass
was sitting in that tub. It's sewage.

KRISTA (18) with purple spiked hair and multiple face
piercings, dances into the den.

KRISTA
I just LOVE hot baths.

Everyone looks at her with revulsion.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

It's late 1970s decor - vinyl wallpaper, laminate countertops,
stove/oven combination, a small microwave on the counter,
no dishwasher and a kitchen table and chairs which sit in
the middle of the room.

OPAL (18), a young Dolly Patron country girl, flips some
fried pies from a frying pan onto a plate. She looks over
at LORRIE (19), in her monogrammed lab coat, who takes a
sheet of unappetizing baked 'fried pies' from the oven.

OPAL
Those pies are starvin' pies. You
only eat them if you were starvin'.

LORRIE
And yours are unhealthy, greasy,
killing pies.

OPAL
Yes, Ma'am. Pies to die for!

Opal cuts the pies in half and places them on a serving plate
with cards identifying them as "A" or "B". The "A" pie
sections are ugly pies. Jane comes into the kitchen, sniffing
the air.

JANE
Something smells good.

Jane sits at the table. A smiling Heather joins her.

HEATHER
I met the cutest guy at the Gamma
house.

JANE

We've all heard that before. Another one night stand?

Heather loses her smile.

HEATHER

I hope not. I think he really liked me.

Opal rubs Heather's shoulders.

OPAL

Maybe you should take your time and see if he likes you and if you like him before you get too friendly like. My Daddy used to say, "Why buy a cow if you can get the milk for free?" Some guys just want to steal the milk.

Heather give Opal an understanding smile. Lorrie puts the pies on the table.

LORRIE

Here are two versions of fried pies. A healthy version and an unhealthy version. Try them and see what you think.

Heather takes a bite of an "A" pie, then one of the "B" pie. Jane takes two of the "B" pies.

Lorrie shoots daggers at Jane.

LORRIE

No. You have to take a A pie and a B pie and compare them.

Jane munches on the pie.

JANE

No, I don't. The A's are crappy looking. If I have a choice, I avoid crap.

LORRIE

All you eat is crap. That's why you're obese.

JANE

And you're an arrogant bitch. You need to see a psychia-proctologist and get your head out of your ass.

At a loss for a come back, Lorrie sticks out her tongue at Jane.

JANE

You're so childish. Let me amend my statement. You need to see a pediatric psychia-proctologist.

Allison enters and takes a bottle of water from the refrigerator.

HEATHER

Allison, try Opal's pies.

ALLISON

Heavens no. I'm watching my weight.

OPAL

You could use a little meat on those bones. If you swallowed a grape whole, you'd look six months pregnant.

Everyone laughs, including Allison. Ruth enters the kitchen and observes the scene.

RUTH

This has to be first. Four of you in a good mood and all in the same room.

JANE

It doesn't feel right, does it?

OPAL

Jane, you need to enjoy a sunny day instead of thinking the rain will be comin' soon.

Krista enters the kitchen.

JANE

And here comes the rain.

Krista scowls at Jane.

KRISTA
I don't know what you've been yapping
about, but same to you, Bitch.

RUTH
Chill, the two of you.

KRISTA
Yes, Mother.

Krista sniffs the air. Lorrie offers the pies to Krista.

LORRIE
Opal and I made some fried pies.
Compare them.

Krista evaluates the pies, takes a B pie.

KRISTA
I'll have one of Opal's pies.

LORRIE
How did you know which one was Opal's?

Krista give Lorrie a you-got-to-be-kidding look.

LORRIE
Well?

KRISTA
Yours looks like a failed experiment,
Professor.

Lorrie looks crushed. Opal puts her arm around Lorrie's
waist.

OPAL
Jest keep on tryin'. Doesn't
experiment mean to try something new
until you find something that works?

LORRIE
You're right. Paul Ehrlich discovered
the cure for syphilis on his 606th
try. Arsenic 606. I'm going to go
upstairs and think.

With new resolve, Lorrie leaves the kitchen. All the women
look at Opal.

RUTH
Only six hundred and five more
experiments to go!

INT. CARL'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

A short countertop extension divides the kitchen from the living area. Ruth and CARL (20 cute and clean cut, feverishly work on their respective tablets. Ruth finishes first, looks over at Carl.

RUTH
What did you get?

Ruth relaxes into her chair as she waits for Carl to finish.

CARL
Sixty seven point five three joules.

RUTH
Good. You might want to go for the
third decimal place. You know Almadi.

CARL
Right. How about we reward ourselves
for such a productive evening?

Carl gives her a playful seductive look.

RUTH
I need to get to bed early. I want
to fire on all eight cylinders for
tomorrow's test.

CARL
Would you consider an Eco friendly
suggestion of firing on only four
cylinders and redirecting the saved
energy into ...

Carl grins as he stares into Ruth's eyes. Her resolve is melting.

RUTH
I really need an "A".

CARL
You only need a 90 for an "A". You
could do that in a coma.

RUTH
Seriously, I have to aim for a 100.
If I miss it, I'll still hit the
90s. But if I aim for a 90 and miss
it, it's a "B".

CARL
A "B" is the new "F"?

Ruth has to laugh.

RUTH
You know the pressure I'm under.

CARL
Exactly. And I have the valve to
release some of that pressure.

Carl nuzzles Ruth's neck. She's hooked.

INT. CARL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's Spartan with a double bed, a night table with a lamp
and a chest of drawers. No photos on the wall.

Carl kisses Ruth on her neck, slowly he moves to her ear and
then her mouth. Ruth responds. The sweet gentle kiss grows
into a passionate one. Ruth moves both hands down Carl's
back, pulling him tighter to her.

Their breathing becomes faster and faster. Carl kisses Ruth
passionately on the mouth. He kisses her along her neck,
then pauses.

CARL
Will you marry me?

Ruth freezes. Her body tenses up. She gets up from the bed
and begins dressing.

Carl is confused, hurt.

CARL
Ruth, I just asked you to marry me.

RUTH
I heard you.

CARL
Well?

Ruth continues dressing.

RUTH
No. I can't.

Carl puts on his shorts, walks over and grabs Ruth by her shoulders.

CARL
What! Don't you love me?

RUTH
That's not the issue.

CARL
Then what is?

Ruth takes his hands from her shoulders.

RUTH
I don't want to talk about it.

Carl's arms fall limp. Ruth leaves.

ACT TWO

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ruth cradles a cup of coffee in her hands. She has barely touched her breakfast. Heather, Lorrie and Opal put their plates on the table and join Ruth.

HEATHER

What's the problem, Ruth? Did you fail your test?

RUTH

No. I made a 100.

OPAL

If this is how you look making a 100, I sure as shootin' don't want to see how'd you'd look if you make a 70.

HEATHER

Did somebody die?

RUTH

Carl and I broke up.

OPAL

What happened?

RUTH

He was getting too serious.

HEATHER

I wish I had your problem.

OPAL

I have to agree with Heather. That's not a problem. That's a good thing.

RUTH

But not for me. I can't let anything or any one distract me from getting my degree. I need to succeed for my family.

OPAL

But you need to think of yourself, too. Carl's a good man. And he's good for you. Now he's out of the picture and look how miserable you are.

A SCREAM is heard o.s. Everyone freezes.

Allison rushes into the kitchen. She wears a bathrobe and her hair is full of shampoo.

ALLISON

I was shampooing my hair in the shower and the water stopped.

Allison rushes to the sink, turns on the faucet. Water sputters out, then stops.

ALLISON

O.M.G. What am I going to do?

A KNOCK on the kitchen door. Opal opens it. The LANDLORD, JOHN LANGFORD, stands in the doorway.

LANDLORD

The water will be off for about an hour while I fix the leak.

The landlord cuts across the kitchen.

LORRIE

It's so maddening. That man has to fix or almost fix everything himself.

RUTH

We need a fund for repairs. I know John doesn't have any money. This house is his retirement.

OPAL

Did ya'll see the fliers around campus about the contest? The prize is one thousand dollars.

HEATHER

Is it a talent contest?

OPAL
No, Ma'am. It's called "What College Means to Me." Anyone or any group can enter.

RUTH
I'll look into it.

Allison stamps her foot.

ALLISON
Hey, guys. What about me? I need water. I need to get the shampoo off my hair.

LORRIE
You could flush your head in the toilet.

Everyone laughs except Allison.

ALLISON
Guys, this is serious. My class is in forty-five minutes.

OPAL
I'll help you, Darlin'.

Opal goes to the refrigerator and takes out three bottles of Allison's expensive water, uncaps one.

Opal leads Allison to the sink and pours the water on her head.

Allison's eyes and mouth open wide as the cold water hits her head.

ALLISON
Aaaah!!!

INT. COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Ruth rotates a three dimensional motor 90 degrees on the screen. Carl peers into the lab and goes over to Ruth.

CARL
I've got to talk with you.

RUTH
I'm busy.

CARL
You're always busy.

Ruth saves the work on a thumb drive and collects her books.

RUTH
Let's go outside.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Ruth and Carl walk across campus.

CARL
Don't you think you owe me some sort
of an explanation.

RUTH
I didn't want to get serious.

CARL
Sleeping with me isn't serious?

RUTH
No. Yes. I felt boxed in.

CARL
I'll give you all the space you want.

RUTH
Carl, I've another year and half of
school. I'm five thousand dollars
in debt. At this point in my life I
can't consider marriage.

CARL
Other people do it.

Ruth stops walking and faces Carl.

RUTH
I'm not other people.

CARL
How about living with me?

RUTH
I can't handle complications in my
life right now. I think it best if
we don't see each other.

Ruth turns around and walks back in the direction of the computer building.

Carl watches her sadly.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

A backyard cook out. Opal readies the grill. Ruth flicks some leaves off the picnic table. Jane places a bowl of baked beans on the table then goes over to the swing.

JANE
Opal, your Aggies are coming.

OPAL
Our burger meat is coming.

BEN, wearing an aggie's uniform of John Deere cat cap, flannel shirt and cowboy boots, brings a plate of meat patties over to Opal. Three other AGGIES follow Ben.

BEN
Woman, get cooking. I'm starving.

Opal slams the patties on the grill. Ben grins.

BEN
Now that's a thing of beauty, a woman cooking.

OPAL
What's a sight more beautiful, is a man cooking.

Opal thrusts the hamburger flipper into Ben's hand.

BEN
Whoa, Babe. I'm only kidding.

Ben looks repentantly over at Opal, who has her arms crossed in front of her chest.

BEN
But I'll cook if you want me to.

OPAL
Give me that thing.

Opal takes back the flipper.

Two groups of men come into the backyard.

HAROLD, a science nerd, has his calculator in a holster hanging off his belt. Two other Nerds are with him. They head in Lorrie's direction.

The Gamma fraternity contingent. FRANKLIN in Ivy casual clothes walks in the direction of Allison and Krista. LARRY pretends not to see a smiling Heather waving at him and goes over to the drinks. Heather quickly loses her smile.

Lorrie, Harold and the Nerds line up for the hamburgers.

HAROLD
Did you start the calc problems?

LORRIE
Not yet.

HAROLD
We could do them this weekend at my place.

LORRIE
Sounds good.

Lorrie and the Nerds take their hamburgers and walk away. Heather walks over towards Larry.

HEATHER
Glad you could make it.

LARRY
I forgot you lived here.

Heather lowers her eyes, forces a smile.

HEATHER
See you around.

Heather walks to Jane sitting alone on the swing.

HEATHER
Jane, let's get a hamburger.

Franklin, Allison, Krista and Ruth eat and talk at one end of the picnic table. Allison has only three radishes and half a brownie on her plate. She nibbles on a radish while the others wolf down their food.

FRANKLIN
Are you girls going to enter the contest?

RUTH

I think so.

Ruth walks away from the table and waves her hands for attention.

RUTH

Listen up. We are going to enter to the What College Means to Me Contest. Since Lorrie and Krista are our most creative thinkers, they will decide on the theme.

Lorrie and Krista look at each other, neither pleased, but both nod in agreement.

RUTH

The rest of us will use our individual talents to execute that theme. Any questions?

JANE

We're not a club or sorority. What will we call ourselves?

RUTH

We'll have to think about that one. Any other questions?

HEATHER

What did Opal do to the hamburgers? They taste funny.

Heather looks down at her hamburger. Others examine their burgers also. All eyes go to Opal for the response.

OPAL

It's deer meat.

Jane gags. Except for the Aggies, everyone else looks ill.

HEATHER

I've just eaten Bambi.

KRISTA

Put some jockey shorts on it and you'll enjoy it.

Heather throws her burger at Krista.

Opal throws a hamburger at Krista.

OPAL
You eat with such a dirty mouth,
it's a wonder anything tastes good.

Krista throws noodle salad back at Opal, misses and hits Jane.

JANE
What?

Angrily, Jane brushes off the salad.

The men move out of the way and circle the fight.

Jane and Lorrie hurl food at Krista. Allison gets hit.

ALLISON
Oooooo.

Allison throws her radishes at Jane.

Jane retaliates against Allison and throws some at Ruth while she's at it.

RUTH
So you want to fight.

Ruth grabs a hamburger and hurls it at Jane. Jane and Ruth go at each other.

Lorrie positions herself at the potato salad, makes potato salad snow balls, and hurls them at Krista.

LORRIE
Intercontinental ballistic potato
balls. Fire one!

Krista scoops up two handfuls of baked beans, walks up to Lorrie and smears them over front of her lab coat, then puts the other handful in Lorrie's pocket and smashes it.

KRISTA
Intercontinental ballistic farting
beans counter attack.

Lorrie grabs a handful of the potato salad and smacks it into Krista's face.

LORRIE
Guerrilla warfare for a gorilla brain.

Most of the women have made their way to the table for more ammunition. Lorrie and Opal take out bottles of carbonated drinks and shake them vigorously. They let Krista have it with both bottles.

Everyone is so angry and frustrated, the fight loses its individual targets and whoever is closest to whomever is throwing, gets it.

There is no more food to throw.

The men move back in.

FRANKLIN

You've got your name - Cat House.

The women look at each other and the mess they've made and laugh.

ACT THREE

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Carl sits alone at a table reading his notes. JAKE pulls up a chair and joins him.

JAKE
Why so glum?

CARL
Ruth broke up with me.

JAKE
Bummer. Why don't you come over to the house Saturday for a while? It'll take your mind off her.

INT. LORRIE'S ROOM - DAY

A periodic chart of the elements is on a wall. A Brad Paisley poster is on another wall. Lorrie and Krista sit at a desk.

KRISTA
How do you want to do this?

Lorrie hands several sheets of paper to Krista.

LORRIE
Here's a list of the girls and their abilities. So when we toss ideas about, we can see who can do what.

KRISTA
Shit. Writing what we already know. This isn't going to work.

LORRIE
Look at it again. I've divided the house into two groups, the artistic and the practical. When we get our idea, you work with the artistic ones and I'll work with the practical ones.

KRISTA
O.K.

Lorrie takes out a flurry of clean sheets of paper. Krista rolls her eyes.

LORRIE
What does college mean to you?

KRISTA
Grade thirteen of high school.

LORRIE
Be serious.

KRISTA
I am serious. I'm artistic.
Remember?

Lorrie ignores Krista and begins writing.

LORRIE
Careers. Scientists, physicians,
nurses, lawyers...

KRISTA
College is more than careers.

Lorrie looks up and tries to suppress her smile.

LORRIE
Really? Like what?

KRISTA
Friends. Happy times. Sad times.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ruth sits at her desk. Lorrie spreads out a piece of paper.

RUTH
You two really outdid yourselves.
What do you want me to do?

LORRIE
We want it to move.

Ruth studies the sheet.

RUTH
Simple motors should do it

INT. MUSIC LAB - DAY

Heather plays a classical melody on a piano. Krista walks over and sits next to Heather on the bench. Heather stops playing.

KRISTA
Here's our plan for Cat House. Would
you do the background music for our
exhibit?

Krista hands Heather a sheet of paper. Heather looks it
over.

HEATHER
Classical, contemporary, or original?

KRISTA
Your baby. Your call.

HEATHER
Original.

Heather plunks a few keys, looking for a melody.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Lorrie hammers a small train track on a piece of plywood on
the kitchen floor. Opal has another section of train track
ready. Krista comes into the kitchen carrying a box of
artificial flowers. Allison places some cutting shears on
the table. Ruth fiddles with a small motor on the table.
Jane looks over at the box of flowers.

JANE
Where did you get all the flowers?

KRISTA
From the cemetery.

JANE
You robbed the graves?

KRISTA
No. At every grave I asked the
occupant if it was O.K. for me to
take some. Nobody objected.

Ruth looks up and shakes her head in frustration.

Krista takes out a green silk tube and a thin Slinky.

KRISTA
Eight inches should do it.

Krista slips the Slinky in the green tube and pulls it
through.

KRISTA
Eight inch schlong coming up.

Krista wriggles the tube like an erection forming.

RUTH
Now we know what college means to
Krista.

KRISTA
Damn straight.

The women laugh.

INT. FRATERNITY HOUSE - NIGHT

The band plays a slow number. Allison dances with Franklin.

Heather comes down the stairs with a fraternity brother.
Franklin watches as Heather and 'date' join two other another
fraternity brothers. Heather and the three men enjoy a joke.

The song ends. Franklin and Allison go to the bar. Franklin
hands a glass of ice water to Allison.

ALLISON
Thank you.

Franklin serves himself a draft beer and looks over at
Heather. Heather has her arm around Larry. They head up
the stairs.

FRANKLIN
I don't understand Heather.

ALLISON
With the right clothes and makeup,
she wouldn't need to grovel.

FRANKLIN
It's deeper than that.

ALLISON
At least she doesn't bring them to
the house.

FRANKLIN
She'd never have half a chance with
housemother Ruth, the resident
Gestapo. No 'toms' allowed in the
'cat house' beds!

Carl enters the room, looks around, waves to Jake. He walks over to the ice bucket, helps himself to a beer. IZZIE, an attractive blonde joins Carl.

IZZIE
Hey, I'm Izzie. I haven't seen you here before.

CARL
I'm not a member. Jake invited me to drop in.

IZZIE
Do you have a name?

CARL
Sorry. I'm Carl, Carl Griffin. Is Izzie your real name?

IZZIE
It's Isabel. When kids are little, people put a cutsie ending on names. Like Robbie, Betty, Johnny. Mine stuck.

CARL
I guess I'm lucky not to be called Carly.

IZZIE
So what's your major?

CARL
Mechanical engineering.

IZZIE
You are a brainiac. Engineers are so smart. Not too many women become mechanical engineers.

A touch of sadness fills Carl's eyes.

IZZIE
Did I say something wrong?

Carl refocuses on Izzie.

CARL
No. What's your major, Izzie?

IZZIE

General curriculum. I need to declare a major this year, but I haven't the slightest idea of what it's going to be.

INT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - DAY

It is a bustle of activity with people. Fraternities and sororities move around in groups. Excitement is in the air.

Displays are lined up around the perimeter of the room. A stage with curtain closed is in the front of the room.

The women from Cat House all wear matching pink shirts. They each have CAT HOUSE on the back. On the front is a kitten swatting at a butterfly. Above the butterfly is each woman's name.

An energized Opal grabs Heather's and Allison's hands.

OPAL

We're in the finals.

They jump up and down holding hands squealing.

RUTH

Come on. We want to get seats together.

They hurry down the aisle and find an empty row and take seats.

The PRESIDENT of the university walks to the center of the stage. He carries a piece of paper. The room becomes quiet.

PRESIDENT

This is the most enjoyable thing I have done as President of Middleton University. I'm proud of you and the efforts you have put forth.

The crowd applauds.

PRESIDENT

On stage are the five finalists as determined by our judges.

The curtain parts revealing the five finalists.

Opal closes her eyes and prays. Krista has her fingers crossed on both hands.

Allison reaches over and clasps Heather's hand. Heather clasps Jane. Slowly one by one all the women grab each other's hands.

PRESIDENT

In third place goes to A.S.M.E. the mechanical engineering club.

The crowd APPLAUDS.

ENGINEERS' EXHIBIT

Two mannequins in lab coats stand next to a bench. On the bench is a laser machine. The machine turns on and a green laser light goes across the bench cutting a hole through a piece of metal.

APPLAUSE.

PRESIDENT

In second place the Music and Theater Club.

The crowd APPLAUDS.

MUSIC EXHIBIT

A gauze cloud hangs from above. Cutouts of students sit on the grass, looking up at the cloud. Middleton U's anthem PLAYS. The cloud gives a color display in time and in intensity with the music.

PRESIDENT

And now the one you all have been waiting for.

The women grab each other's hands in anticipation.

PRESIDENT

The winning exhibit is one of harmony. Harmony of science with the beauty of life.

The room is silent in anticipation.

The women freeze up, holding their breaths.

PRESIDENT

The winner of the What College Means
to Me is
(beat)
Cat House.

The crowd APPLAUDS loudly. The women jump up and down and hug each other. Excitedly the women make their way on the stage.

CAT HOUSE EXHIBIT

Grass and flowers. A caterpillar is at the base of a milk weed plant.

HEATHER'S THEME PLAYS as the caterpillar slowly moves up the plant to a branch.

The caterpillar disappears behind the branch and a chrysalis falls into view.

As the chrysalis hangs there, the MUSIC IS THAT OF TURMOIL.

Slowly the chrysalis opens up.

THE MUSIC CHANGES TO A BEAUTIFUL MELODY.

A butterfly emerges and flies around the exhibit.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

It's a celebration. MUSIC BLASTS. Some dance. Others stand around in clusters talking excitedly.

The trophy sits atop the cover of the fish tank.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM - NIGHT

The MUSIC PERMEATES the room. Ruth slowly opens her eyes, stares at the ceiling, takes a deep breath. She straightens up, takes another deep breath. She walks over to her purse, takes out small pharmacy bag, leaves the room.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ruth stands at the sink, holding a plastic container with urine. She takes the dip stick and places it in the urine, closes her eyes.

FADE OUT: