

REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS ON WAIHEKE

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1 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE- DAY 1

The housekeeper (in uniform) walks through a beautiful house and as she walks, we see the sea, from various large patio doors/french windows. The housekeeper comes into the study with a cup of tea on a tray. She traverses the room until she gets to near the desk. She suddenly looks at the floor, gasps, and drops the tray, putting her hand over her mouth and looking shocked.

2 INT. MONICA'S HOUSE/BATHROOM - DAY 2

It is a very old Hollywood glamorous bathroom, but verging on the cluttered. Puccini is playing in the background. We look around the room seeing big fluffy towels, tons of various products, books and an old radio. The shower stops and a hand grabs one of the big fluffy towels.

CUT TO

3 INT. BEDROOM - DAY 3

Polly (a late middle-aged, but still pretty woman) is running around wearing ugly flannelette pyjamas with a towel on her head, picking up dirty washing, trying to put on a face mask, and tidying up the rooms. She looks an untidy flustered mess.

PAN TO

4 INT. KITCHEN/ LOUNGE - DAY 4

Puccini playing in the background, we see the brown, shaved, slim legs of a woman in a kimono float past carrying a radio, we follow the radio onto a surface. It is joined by a glass and a bottle of expensive wine.

CUT TO

5 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/ KITCHEN - DAY 5

One corner of kitchen is perfectly neat and tidy and has a professional looking chef in it calmly skinning prawns we pan over to the other side of the kitchen which is a mess. There is food everywhere. We see a very stressed looking young man attempting to copy the cook, but making a terrible mess of it.

6 EXT. GARDEN - DAY 6

We see a large, but short, late middle-aged woman bending and straining to hang washing.

She finds it difficult to pick up the washing and the line is just slightly too high up for her. She is wearing a very dull maid uniform and is very uncomfortable. We can almost hear her corsetry creaking.

FADE TO

7 INT. POLLY'S KITCHEN - DAY 7

The very stressed young man is trying to cut onions while rubbing his eyes which of course is making his crying worse, we pan along the table to the cook who's is cutting onions. With an almost mechanical precision and wearing full gas mask almost.

8 INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - DAY 8

We never fully see all of the woman, but she puts a dark red lip stick on and luxuriantly slides stockings on, while sipping her wine. Puccini is still playing.

9 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY 9

Polly is trying to stuff herself into a little black dress that was designed for someone with a different shape to her, while hopping around the room.

10 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE 10

We follow the worried young man cooking, as he realizes the time, panics, and runs through the house past all the sombre party decorations. He bolts into the room while desperately removing his tie and fighting with his shoe laces.

11 INT. MONICA'S HOUSE - DAY 11

Monica grabs her keys off a nice little table and we pan up to see her pull on a a large dramatic hat. She twitches it to a charming position, smiles in the mirror and leaves the house.

12 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE /SITTING ROOM - DAY 12

About forty guests are milling around with drinks and finger food. There is a big buffet and people are formally dressed (suits and dark/black dresses/jackets).

A handsome woman in her late fifties and full black comes up to the widow who is dabbing her eyes. She air kisses her and says

MONICA

Polly! What can I say? I'm so sorry poor George is passed on! If there is anything I can do to help with arrangements, and that sort of thing, do let me know, my dear.

Polly gesticulates to the young, Indian man standing by her side

POLLY

(Sniffs) Thanks, Monica. Thank goodness we have Ravid, my nephew here

Ravid smiles and nods

POLLY (CONT'D)

You know he has come over for support and to help with the arrangements, etc....but I will give you a shout if there's anything that you can help with, Monica...thank you, love.

The maid is circulating with the canapes.

Monica is pouring a drink for herself and watching Polly who is staring at a tall, good looking, commanding looking woman in her late forties. Polly goes up to the woman

POLLY (CONT'D)

I don't remember inviting you, Svetlana!

SVETLANA

Just popping in to give my respects, Polly. I am so sorry.

POLLY

Well, thanks anyway, Svetlana

A man comes over with his hand held out to shake hands and to offer his condolences.

Monica goes over to a sofa where Ravid is sitting and joins him. He is drinking an orange juice and he gets courteously to his feet. He is an intelligent, respectful and rather shy young Indian man.

MONICA

Hi, Ravid. How are you finding New Zealand?

RAVID

Er, rather different, but, there again, I have been so busy with Polly and Phil.

MONICA

Hum...I don't expect that you found her son of much use?

RAVID

Hummm...

MONICA

I think that he was overdoing things...for his age, you know

RAVID

What? Phillip?

Monica looks mystified

MONICA

No! George...your uncle!

RAVID

Looks confused

What "things" was he overdoing?

MONICA

Well, between you, me and the bedpost, I think it was 'women',.... but don't say anything to your aunt, obviously!

RAVID

No, no!.....Who?

MONICA

Well, he did have an eye for the maid..

RAVID

What? Jenny?

MONICA

Look! I'm not saying anything further. (Getting up and putting her glass down). You are to come over and visit me, Ravid. I am just next door, and, being an amateur artist,...just a humble, New World one, I want to hear about your own tastes,as I hear you have been studying Art for years, now.

RAVID

Oh, I am an Art historian, not a painter, I am afraid. My painting efforts look like a spider on caffeine.

Monica laughs and leaves.

13

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

13

Seated around the dining table are Polly; Phillip, her son; Jenny, the maid; Ravid and Svetlana, as well as the family solicitor.

Fade in upon the solicitor's droning voice

SOLICITOR

.....Finally (looking up from his papers)and, of course, in addition to the standard, aforementioned familial bequests, I come to a few codicils. Perhaps you were wondering, Polly, why I invited Jenny and Svetlana to sit in upon this hearing...this is because they are the subjects of these codicils, along with Ravid.

POLLY

Hum...very nice!

SOLICITOR

(Returning to his papers and reading aloud)
In codicil to the aforementioned bequests to my family, I, George Littleton, being of sound mind, do add these three codicils to my will.

To my nephew, Ravid, I leave \$20,000. To Jenny Tuuta, I leave \$50,000, in memory of her many kindnesses to me. To Svetlana Lugenko, I leave my collection of vintage wines for her being a good neighbour to me.

POLLY

Huh! I don't remember that much neighbourliness....George obviously got more than me!

Svetlana, at the other end of the table leans forward to catch what Polly is saying.

RAVID

Aunt Polly! The lady is hearing you!

POLLY

And she's not that much of a lady, either!

SOLICITOR

(Hurriedly and placatingly)

Umm, I hope you happy with the terms of this will, Polly?

POLLY

Well, "happy" doesn't come to mind. It's certainly "strange"!

She looks accusingly at Jenny and then Svetlana, who gets up and says

SVETLANA

Well, I must go, now. What do I do about collection, Mr. Hargreaves?

Polly looks disgustedly at the solicitor

SOLICITOR

Well, after the inventory has been taken..... (fade out)

14

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/STAIRCASE - DAY

14

Ravid is coming down the stairs carrying some papers and is about to go into the kitchen when he overhears Polly talking to a man. Ravid hangs about uncertainly outside of the kitchen.

(Camera through the half opened door)

POLLY

It's very kind of you, Mark! It was good of you to come to the funeral, as well. It is important that Phil realizes the good that his father did in the community and people's appreciation of that.

MARK

.....And of George's importance to us of the island's vintners' association. George was one of our oldest and most experienced members. His Phyloxera-proof cultivars are some of the best known in the wine-making world. Ours is a sad loss!

POLLY

Thanks, Mark...

MARK

(Intensely) Polly, I want you to know that you can call upon me for anything, you know!

POLLY

Oh, it's....

MARK

I know how much you must be
suffering and can empathize with
you.

He grabs her hand across the kitchen table and squeezes it
Betty, of course did not pass on,
but her leaving me for...for, you
know, it's still a sort of
bereavement...and I feel for you!

Polly attempting, embarrassedly to regain her hand

POLLY

Oh, I shall kee.....

Ravid turns away into the sitting room, in disgust at Mark's
importunity.

15 EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE (NEXT DOOR TO POLLY'S)/GARDEN - DAY 15

Monica, in big glamorous hat, smock and jodhpurs is standing
painting at an easel when Ravid walks by.

MONICA

Waves and calls

Hi, Ravid!....Off to the shops?

RAVID

Well, yes....well, no...well...I
just thought I would have a word,
if..... if that's OK?

He gestures at her painting

MONICA

Airily, walking over to the gate and beckoning Ravid in,
leading him over to a couple of sun loungers, on the terrace.
Oh, yes, yes,.... this stuff ain't
going anywhere, but you're not to
look, as my humble efforts may just
shock your Art Historian tastes..

RAVID

Monica! If you had seen my own
pathetic daubs, you would not say
this!

MONICA

Pouring out two orange juices and passing one over to Ravid

(MORE)

MONICA (CONT'D)

Soooo, tell me more! What is this "word", then? Oh, maybe it's nothing, but I don't think that my Uncle George just died!

MONICA (CONT'D)

What? Are you saying that George did away with himself?

RAVID

No! I am saying that I think he was murdered!

MONICA

Good heavens, man, wherever did you get this notion?!

RAVID

...because, because there was nothing wrong with him. His GP at the funeral said that he was very healthy with no heart disease, and, as he wasn't doing anything strenuous with himself, why did he suddenly have a heart attack?

MONICA

Seriously, Ravid, these things happen.

RAVID

Well, I'm going to find out!....I have been thinking that, as I don't know this island, perhaps you would help me...? I can't risk upsetting Polly and ask her!

MONICA

Ravid, I will excuse your mistaken enthusiasm for that of a young boy who doesn't know better. As a young man, however, I can think of better things that you and I could be doing, on this lovely afternoon....?

RAVID

Ah, you mean sunbathing!

MONICA

Well, certainly horizontal, but perhaps a little more active...?

RAVID

Looks confused

Oh! You mean!...You mean...,er, Madam, I am betrothed!

MONICA

Not a bit 'put out'
Oh, lovely, you have a fiance! When
are you marrying?

RAVID

That is a bit uncertain

MONICA

Well, you just set a date! How long
have you been engaged?

RAVID

Eight years, now.

MONICA

Gosh, you don't seem keen!

RAVID

Oh, yes I am. But we await my
mother's permission for a date

MONICA

Tell the old bag to go stick it!

RAVID

Drawing himself up
Monica, where I come from one's
parents are venerated!

MONICA

Toasting him with her orange juice
Looks like you've got a long wait
then, buster!

16

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

16

Polly is cutting some flowers and putting them in a vase of
water, while talking to a man standing nearby.

POLLY

...Look, I'm sorry, Bjork, but I
just can't pay you at the moment.

BJORK

Well, I wouldn't bother you at a
time last this, but you have had my
two sculptures for eight months,
now and

POLLY

Well, you can take the wretched
things back. I didn't want them in
the first place!

BJORK

That's all very well to say, but it would probably cost the same again to get their cement housing removed and to reconvey over four tons of statuary back to my workshop....never mind the interest you would owe me for their absence!I could have sold them to someone else, you know!

POLLY

Look, Bjork, if you wou....

(Adult female voice off, in the hall)

FEMALE

Yoo, hoo! Anyone there?

POLLY

(Calling out)In here! Who is it?

Svetlana appears in the doorway

SVETLANA

It's only little me, dahlink!Oh!
You're that sculptor gentleman,
aren't you?

BJORK

Standing by the window

(Mumbles embarrassedly)Um...yeh...

SVETLANA

Polly, darlink, I've just come to collect those few bottles.

POLLY

What, you mean half of George's private cellar?

SVETLANA

Reeeeally? So many?

Polly steps to the doorway and calls

POLLY

Ravid! Can you come and give Svetlana a hand with these bottles, please?!

Polly glares at Svetlana, who simpers, affectedly, back at her.

17

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE/GARDEN - EARLY MORNING

17

RAVID

(Calls out) Er...Monica, are you
there?

Ravid comes into view and sees Monica standing in her kitchen doorway in a scanty dressing gown only, laughingly kissing a young man and patting him lightly on the cheek, waving him away with her fingers, sending him in his way. Young man goes.

RAVID (CONT'D)

(Looking horrified) Oh!
I...Oh...er, I...I..I was just
going....yes...

Ravid turns to go, but Monica looks around and up at Ravid

MONICA

Oh, darling! How nice to see
you!...No! Don't go!...David's just
finished...haven't you, Davey?

MONICA (CONT'D)

Well? What news?

Monica grabs Ravid's arm

Ravid hangs around next to the door, embarrassedly and desperately looking at anything apart from Monica

RAVID

Oh, it was just that, well...just
that, I thought, well...

MONICA

Well! Spit it out, man!

RAVID

The maid's husband was jealous and
HE killed my uncle!

MONICA

Who, Bill?!

RAVID

I don't know...Bill, Bert..? You
see he probably killed Uncle George
because he found out his wife was
having an affair with my uncle!

MONICA

You can't prove anything like that,
Ravid..

RAVID

YOU told me he was having an
affair..

MONICA

Only POSSIBLY! You can't go around saying that!

RAVID

So you won't help me to find out?

MONICA

Ravid, you really have a most overheated imagination!.....(Irritatedly)Oh, I suppose that we could discuss things, later!.....(She ogles him, suddenly) You can either come in, and watch me put my underwear on....

she starts to peel off the scanty negligee
...or you can

Ravid flees, in horror, from the doorway.

18

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

18

Sam, the pool boy (shorts, only), is cleaning the pool by raking the leaves out and Ravid (shirts and polo shirt) is writing letters on the sun lounger, nearby. Phillip strolls out with a glass of liquid.

PHILLIP

Soooo, writing to our fiance, are we?

RAVID

Oh, hello, Philip. No, just sorting some papers.

PHILLIP

Sitting down in a lounger
What...looking for a job,
then?...Hi, Sam!

Sam waves from across the pool, as he is working his way up towards them.

RAVID

I WILL be looking for a job, when I go back..

PHILLIP

Mum said you've been engaged for five years...you're kidding, right?

RAVID

No! Where I come from ladies are...

PHILLIP
..Yo....for sleeping with!

RAVID
I was going to say..

PHILLIP
...OK..for kissing?

Phillip makes kissy moue actions. Sam, by now has reached the men's end of the pool

SAM
Perhaps Ravid happens to think that women are humans, too, Phil?

Phil lies back and closes his eyes

PHILLIP
Ugh, you're both boring!

19

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN, ELSEWHERE - DAY

19

Near some shrubs, Bill, the gardener, is gesticulating with his secateurs and talking excitedly to Polly.

BILL
.....and another thing, I can't be expected to keep this garden looking even half OK when your friends keep walking across my lawns with high heels on, leaving gates open for every cat to come in and defecate here, and then, to make matter worse, picking my best blooms on their way out. They must think that I'm operating a ruddy flower shop!

POLLY
A I said, Bill, I'm sorry, I really am, but they don't seem to listen. I'll have anothe word with them again, though...Is that OK?

Bill turns sulkily back to his hedge

BILL
Yeh, yeh.

Polly returns to the house and Jenny comes out, somewhat conspiratorially

JENNY
Bill! I heard you!..From the kitchen!

BILL

So?!

JENNY

You shouldn't talk to Polly like that! Beside she's our employer, think of what she has gone through!

BILL

Just 'cos she's a widow, doesn't mean she can give me a tough time!

JENNY

What on EARTH are you talking about...tough time?

BILL

Look, just piss off and leave me alone, will you?!

Jenny looks sad, and leaves.

20

INT. VINEYARD CAFE/TERRACE - DAY

20

Sam is waiting on tables and Monica, who is having a glass of wine, is ogling him, especially, his rear end as he bends to the tables. Ravid comes in and gives Sam some money, as Sam makes for the bar.

RAVID

Sam, Polly asked me to drop this off with you for the pool. She says she is sorry that sh..

MONICA

...Yoo, ooo! Ravid!

RAVID

Oh! (to Sam) excuse me, Sam.....oh, can I have a wine, as well(walking away)...white!

Ravid strolls over to Monica.

RAVID (CONT'D)

Soooo, have you rethought my request?

MONICA

What? To play "sleuth"?

RAVID

Don't you want to know who killed my uncle, or are you too busy with your toyboys?

MONICA

I dooo like a person with
enthusiasms, but, really, Ravid,
you are quite ridiculous!

Sam arrives with Ravid's wine.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Sam! Lovely to see you! Have you
come to marry me and take me away
from all of this, then?

Sam rolls his eyes and smiles

SAM

Haven't you got quite enough to
keep you busy, Monica?

He returns to the bar and Ravid looks 'boot-faced ' with
disapproval.

21

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

21

Jenny is polishing a table and Ravid comes in

RAVID

Have you seen my watch, Jenny? I'm
sure I left it in here!

JENNY

I wouldn't leave valuables lying
around, if I was you, Ravid.

RAVID

Why?

JENNY

Well...(looks a bit embarrassed)
they might not stay there..

RAVID

What, somebody takes them!....Who?!

JENNY

Well, some of Polly's stuff went
missing she found them in Phil's
room.....he's got bad gambling
debts, apparently.

RAVID

So the man steals people's
possessions?!

JENNY

His dad had the most awful row over
Phil's debts, before he died

Voice off:

POLLY
Jenny!

JENNY
Sorry!

She hastily leaves.

22 EXT. BEACH NEAR POLLY'S HOUSE - DAY

22

Monica is jogging down the beach and Sam comes wading out of the water, ahead of her (camera slows down as Sam wipes his hair from his face and sees her). He smiles. Monica slows and runs on the spot.

MONICA
Ahhh, my Botticelli!

SAM

Stepping forward and picking up his towel
Huh? You can't see my ass!

MONICA
Still don't want to be made an
honest man of?

SAM
(Smiles)
It's supposed to be men who do the
asking, Monica and I'm not planning
on marriage, yet.

He jogs off

Monica shrugs and jogs off

MONICA
(To herself, sighing)Shaaaaaame!

23 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - EVENING

23

Polly, Phillip, Ravid, Monica and Mark (the Presdt. of the Vintners) are having dinner and Jenny is waiting on them. Jenny is clearing the serving dishes from the main course.

MARK
Well, Polly, that was a lovely
meal. Your Jenny, here, is a real
treasure!

Mark smiles at Jenny, who nods, offhandedly

MARK (CONT'D)

And now I must return the favour
and invite you, your family and
Monica, whose hubby was one of
us, to a memorial dinner of the
Vintners' Association, in honour of
your husband!

POLLY

Oh, that would be very nice! Thank
you. It would be lovely to see our
kind neighbours and colleagues,
wouldn't it Phillip?

PHILLIP

Idly fingering his glass and looking sulkily away from the
table

What? Oh, yeh...yeh.

MONICA

Thanks, Mark, I would very much
like to come. I haven't seen any if
you for quite a while, now, since
selling off Richard's vines and
atelier..

PHILLIP

...Can I bring a girlfriend?

MARK

Er, yes! Yes, you do that, Phillip

To Polly

Can't have the young people getting
bored with our old fogey talk!

MONICA

Speak for yourself, darling! I
never have problems TALKING with
young people...

Ravid rolls his eyes.

24

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN, OTHE SIDE OF SHRUBS FROM MONICA'S
GARDEN - DAY

Jenny and Bill are talking in the garden, while Bill is
watering some plants.

JENNY

...Yes! I've just come off the
phone with him! Jack says that if I
don't lend him a another \$500 he
will kill himself...and he's my
only brother, Bill!

BILL

Thank goodness! If there were two of them, you and I would be bankrupt by now!

JENNY

Appealingly

He says it's just to get himself back in his feet...

BILL

Yeh, so that he can get off them, again, with some more drugs...whatever he takes

JENNY

No, he's been off that amphetamine stuff for a month, or so, now..

BILL

Jenny (exasperatedly) they never come off them, really...you know that! I told you to tell him that I said he can't have any more money...

JENNY

Yes (starting to sniff, upsetedly) but he started shouting.... and then...then he slammed the phone down!

Bill, drops the hose and puts his arm around Jenny, pecking her on the cheek

BILL

Never mind, love. Come on, let's have a cup of tea.

They go into the building

Camera pans around the shrubs and we see Monica painting At her easel, having heard them. She has her eyebrows raised in interest.

25

INT. THE LOCAL PUB - DAY

25

Polly is sitting at a table and Mark is coming back from the bar with two drinks.

POLLY

This is kind of you to meet me, Mark.

(MORE)

POLLY (CONT'D)

It's just that I couldn't really broach the subject at dinner the other day...and one can't say these sort of things to a friend...you know, in a letter

MARK

What's the problem Polly?

Reaching out across the table and taking her hand, which she awkwardly removes.

POLLY

Oh, there's no problem, really...it's just that I'm having a little downturn type thing with business and would really like it if you could reimburse me with that loan that George made to you, last year, Mark.

MARK

That loan has another year to run, Polly!

POLLY

Oh, I wouldn't charge interest for this year,....for, for ... the inconvenience of having to repay, now! George did ask you several times before he died, Mark...

MARK

...Yes! And I did say that I couldn't repay earlier, just because he fancied having his money back, Polly! I had budgeted for returning George's loan three years ahead: not half way through the second year. I have already spent the loan on land acquisition and plant up!

POLLY

Well, maybe we can come to some other arrangement.....I suppose...

Mark getting up and heading for the bar.

MARK

Look, I'll get the menus....

Monica running on the beach. Sam comes towards her running the other way. They pass.

Thirty seconds later, Monica, turns around and runs back to catch Sam up and, running alongside, obviously asks him something. He shakes his head, gently and smiles and she turns again and continues the way she was going.

27

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/ GARAGE - DAY

27

Ravid looking around for Jenny and arriving at the threshold of the garage

RAVID

You there, Jenny?

Jenny is standing on a low stool getting something off a higher shelf. She looks round, sees Ravid, loses her balance, grabs at the shelf, dislodges some things from the shelf and falls backwards to the ground. Ravid rushes to her aid and picks her up. She is unharmed, but brushes herself off and goes to pick the things up.

Ravid, eager to help, also bends down and sees that there is a leather whip, handcuffs and a letter to Madame, written in large curly writing and starting "I am yours! Take me! Take me!"

Before he can help himself, he picks it up and reads it aloud

RAVID (CONT'D)

I am yours! Take me! Take me!??!
This is uncle's writing! And WHO is
Madame? Are you hiding these things
in here? Are YOU Madame?

JEN

Oh, perlease, Ravid! No, I am NOT
but when I accidentally found
these, George asked me not to tell
Polly, so now I have to ask you not
to....We don't want to upset
her...especially now!

RAVID

Well, I suppose uncle was a bit old
and stupid! Sorry, Jenny, no, of
course I won't say anything.....I
just came to ask if you knew where
the iron was.

JENNY

Exiting the garage
I'll show you.

28

INT. THE LOCAL PUB - DAY

28

Monica, Svetlana and Bjork come in at the door. Bjork goes to the bar to buy the drinks and Monica and Svetlana sit down.

MONICA

I don't know why Beatrice is still running the Artists' Association when she is nearly ninety! The poor old bat is as deaf as a post so the general meetings take ages!

SVETLANA

Yes, but her husband WAS Ingrams who was one of the most famous NZ artists ever.

MONICA

That hardly entitles her to tyrannise over us for over half a century, especially when she still hasn't got the hang of committee protocol, so doesn't give any of us a chance to speak out..

SVETLANA

..You mean you, Monica

MONICA

Well I don't see YOU speaking up for us on sales representation for our work. I mean, it doesn't matter for me, as my hubbies left me OK, but some of the members are quite desperate for income and only have this yearly exhibition to rely on.

SVETLANA

(Mysteriously)

Me, I have a few personal clients

Bjork returns with the drinks and arranges them on the table.

BJORK

Well, maybe they pay you more promptly than some of my clients, Svetlana! Polly is using her widow's prerogative to avoid paying any of her debts.

MONICA

Now don't be horrible about my friend, Bjork. Just because she can't pay you, doesn't mean to say she isn't paying her debts, generally.

BJORK

Oh, it's just me being singled out
for bad treatment is it?

Monica rolls her eyes.

29

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

29

Phillip is sitting slouched on a chair at the side of the garden, near the cliff edge, in front of the sea. Monica is standing in front of him with her easel, painting him.

PHILLIP

(Exaggerated sigh)

How long will I have to sit here?

MONICA

Until I have a painting for your mother!

PHILLIP

Can't you just take a ruddy photograph?

MONICA

(Irritatedly polite, yet firm)

No...If I were to paint you from a dead photograph, you would end up looking even deader.

PHILLIP

Hummm.....I didn't want Pops to croak, but..... now that he is dead, I must say, things will be easier with me.

MONICA

How can things be easier with one's father gone, you ingrate?

PHILLIP

Well....(nods modestly) I'm not exactly "great", but I'm going to DO things with my inheritance, now.

MONICA

(With heavy irony)
What, develop and patent a wondrous medical prototype?

PHILLIP

No.....I'm going to buy an 'in yer face' fast car...probably a Lamborghini, and get rid of my debts.....oh, and there's girls...

MONICA

(With disgust)

What, going to buy a few of those,
as well, are we?

30

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY NEAR GATE - DAY

30

Ravid is walking slowly towards the gate while talking on his mobile phone.

Vyoma! You know that you are the
stars in my eyes...my
only...my.....I know, I know! If
we could be married tomorrow, I
would, but then Mamaji would be so
upset as she wants me to start a
profession, first and then get
ahead and....

By now, Ravid has reached the gateway, so he turns and sets
back up the drive

save some monies, and.....oh, yes,
my beloved, but...

There is a sudden loud car horn honk, and the rev of an engine
behind Ravid, so he dives, alarmedly, headfirst onto the
lawn, as Phillip, in a flashy sports car, roars past him and
arrives outside the house door, where he stops with a
handbrake skid. Phillip gets out of the car, pats it, and goes
into the house. Ravid gets up off the lawn furiously.

31

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

31

Phillip is sitting slouched, idly thumbing through a
magazine, when Ravid comes in, sees him, and angrily turns to
go.

PHILLIP

Heh! Ravid bro!

RAVID

Don't talk THAT rubbish! I'm NOT
your brother and why did you try
and ruddy well kill me, just then?!

PHILLIP

Heh! It's cool! You're not dead!

RAVID

It's NOT cool, trying to kill
someone..... and my still be alive
is no thanks to you!

PHILLIP

Now, Ravy Wavy wouldn't be jealous
of my car, would he?

RAVID
It's "envy", you idiot

PHILLIP
Course it's not a Humvee! Don't you
know a Porsche, when you see one?

RAVID
Jealousy is what you feel when a
third person is involved!

PHILLIP
Yeh! You, me, and the car! Come on!
I'll run you down the pub and then
the other dudes can be jealous of
me, when I pose outside!

RAVID

Turns to go
Ughhhhhh

32 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY

32

Polly and Monica. Monica is standing next to two big piles of
clothes, neatly folding those of one pile and putting the
neatly folded clothes onto a pile on the bed. Polly is on her
knees rummaging in the bottom of the wardrobe, throwing out
shoes.

POLLY
Well, I think that's the last of
his.....oh, what's this?

She sits back on her legs and is reading a previously screwed
up note:

POLLY (CONT'D)
"I look forward to this evening,
Madame!!?" George never called me
"Madame"!.....oh, Monica!

She turns to Monica
He had a lover!

Polly looks horrified and puts her hand over her mouth.

MONICA
It might not be his!

POLLY
It's his handwriting!

MONICA
It might be someone he was meeting
an age ago.

POLLY

No! This is that funny papyrus look
paper I bought last
year...oh.....I bet it's Jenny!

MONICA

Now you don't

Polly breaks down, puts her hands over her eyes and cries
loudly, while Monica tries to console her.

33

EXT. BEACH - DAY

33

Monica is next to a small pile of clothes, painting with her
easel and talking to Ravid who has removed his trousers, to
reveal trunks. Ravid is about to remove his shirt when he
looks up at what Monica is staring at. Sam is wading out of
the surf with his arms up, wiping away the hair off his
face. (Slomo with sexy music. Sam is exceptionally well
muscled, tanned, etc.). Sam wrinkles up his eyes to see them
against the sun and walks towards his clothes.

You two planning on stealing my
jeans or painting them?

Sam is rebuttoning up his shirt

RAVID

Just popping in for a swim

He sets off for the water

SAM

Calling after him

What, with your shirt on?

Ravid waves backwards and Sam wraps a towel around his waist
before removing his trunks and then struggling into his jeans
under the towel. Monica has taken a step away from her canvas,
ostensibly weighing up her work. she cannot stop herself
taking the odd peek at Sam's manoeuvres. Sam, reaches down to
the sand for his tee-shirt and suddenly darts a look up at
her.

MONICA

Whaa!? Did I say a word? Anyway,
where are you this afternoon?

SAM

Taking mum up to chapel.

MONICA

You not going?

SAM

I went this morning!

Walking off
Bye, pretty lady!

RAVID

Jogging briskly back up the beach, with only his legs wet
It's FReEZInG in there...no way!

He starts towelling his legs

MONICA

Polly and I found a love letter
from George to someone else!

RAVID

I found some in the garage. Jenny
says they're not to her.

MONICA

Well, she WOULD say that wouldn't
she? And THANKS for telling me,
Ravid!

RAVID

Why should I be telling you?! You
say there is no murder and you will
not help me find out!....So what is
the problem?

Monica irritably hands him her brushes and palette

MONICA

Oh, just make yourself useful and
carry these. I'm going in!

34

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

34

Ravid is sitting sorting out papers. Phillip breezes in and
plonks himself down in an armchair with an opened beer bottle
which he proceeds to guzzle without offering Ravid any. He
then gives a big lip smacking sigh.

PHILLIP

What's them papers for ?

RAVID

They're your mother's

PHILLIP

What you doing with her papers,
then?

RAVID

Helping my aunt with them.

PHILLIP
 (Belligerently)
 Oh, yeh? Nosing in our money, then?
 What is it?!

RAVID
 (Irritadely and rapidly)
 I'm inspecting the exponential
 growth of sales projections for
 Polly's vineyards and correlating
 these inputs against the outputs
 from the last two years' balance
 sheets!

Phillip slowly nods his head in a wise and completely thick manner

PHILLIP
 Ughhh.....So why'd
 the old man leave you some of our
 dosh, then, egh?

RAVID
 "Our dosh"?

Phillip shrugs, insolently

PHILLIP
 Anyway, what do you live on,
 huh?...Besides our money.

RAVID
 Well, the kindly, but small legacy
 my uncle left me will pay for my
 holiday out here, just while I help
 my aunt with her business
 difficulties. Uncle George
 presumably knew about my first
 degree in commerce and hoped I
 would help.

Ravid gets up, grasping his papers in disgust
 When I return, I will naturally be
 seeking employment.....unlike
 others.

Ravid goes out.

35

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/SERVANT'S QUARTERS - DAY

35

Jack is leaning over the kitchen surface near the ironing
 board where Jenny is ironing her black dress.

JACK
 Go on, Jens....just a couple of
 hundred...that would just set me
 up, huh?

JENNY

I GAVE you a couple of hundred,
only a few weeks ago!

JACK

That was a whole month ago!

JENNY

Two and a half weeks is NOT a
month!

JACK

I'll pay it back next month...I
WILL!

JENNY

Jack, you have never paid anything
back....You are just extorting from
me and I work every hour god sends
to keep you. I'm married now and
this is also Bill's money!

JACK

What about your nice little
windfall, then?

JENNY

That is the deposit on a little
house of our own....not yours to
just stick in your arm, or snort up
your nose, Jack!

Jack comes around the kitchen surface and sticks his face in
Jenny's, and says menacingly

JACK

I know that Georgie Porgy left you
his money because you were his
luuuver!

JENNY

Slams the iron down and shouts
Get out! Get out! Before I get
Bill!.....Out!! Now!!

Jack backs out of the door.

36

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN -LATER THE SAME DAY

36

Polly and Bjork standing in the kitchen arguing

BJORK

(Loudly)
This is the eight time I have had
to come to this house, Polly!
(MORE)

BJORK (CONT'D)

You leave me no choice, but I will
have to sue for my wretched money!

Jenny comes in, bends down and starts rootling in one of the
lower cupboards

POLLY

Bjork, there have been large sums
of money going out of the business
and I don't know where to. Ravid is
trying to find out and if we can
find it, I will be able to pay
you....

BJORK

...yes, yes, and George had lots of
excuses, too!

POLLY

I've had enough!

She walks out into the garden.

BJORK

Oh, fine! Leave me here! (To
himself) She's probably gone to
admire my sculptures!

He sets off around the table to go out of the kitchen door
back into the hallway, for the front door. Unfortunately, he
doesn't see Jenny and trips over her, falling and cracking
his knee on the floor.

BJORK (CONT'D)

Agh! Ow!!..... Oh, for heavens
sake!! What on earth are you doing
there, woman? Are you hiding there
just to kill people, huh? Are you
stupid, or something?!(Picking
himself up)

JENNY

No, Sir! Sorry Sir! Shall I put
some...

She attempts to help him up and looks concernedly at him
rubbing his knee

BJORK

Get off!Get off! Take your hands
off me!

He storms out of the kitchen

BILL

Have you see my secateurs, love?

JENNY

No, and no, I haven't had a good afternoon!

Jenny sniffs and stirs the saucepan. Bill plonks down into a chair.

BILL

Sooooo.....I take it you didn't have a good afternoon, then?

JENNY

First Jack came round, after lunch when you'd gone to the shops for that horti fleece, and then I got an earful from that sculptor guy!

BILL

What?! That parasite's been here again?! Right, that's it! I'm going to the police with his drug taking and dealing. He'll be a thief, you know. That cocaine stuff costs thousands and the only way you can get that sort of money, on the dole, is to steal it!

He gets up and fetches a bottle of beer from the fridge and then sitting down again

JENNY

Well, I got rid of him, in the end. I've really had enough of him. though....and then the sculptor guy, well!

BILL

What?! He wants money now, as well?!

JENNY

No, silly!.....He wants it off Polly.

BILL

George didn't pay him for those two sculptures?

JENNY

No, and he's really getting mad, but then he tripped over me!

BILL

What, when he was asking for the money?

Jenny comes and sits in his knee and ruffles his hair

JENNY

He tripped over me after....when I
was in the cupboard

38

INT. THE LOCAL PUB - DAY

38

Only three people in an almost empty pub. Monica is sitting in a corner finishing lunch with a pile of shopping by her. Ravid comes into the pub. Monica looks up

MONICA

(She is a bit typsy)
Darling! Come and have the
'special' and I shall have some
cheese and biccies.

RAVID

Uh...OK

MONICA

Monica puts her hand up, signals the bartender and calls out

MONICA (CONT'D)

Cooee! Eric! Can Ravid have another
of your lovely specials, please and
could I have the cheese and
biccies, too? Thanks a lot!...oh,
oh, and another two Chardonnays,
pleasy wheezy woo?

She turns and smiles brightly at Ravid

MONICA (CONT'D)

Now, don't go off on your hobby
horse about murder, but tell me
about yourself and your distant
fiance.

RAVID

Oh, we're very boring.....are you
divorced, Monica?

MONICA

(A bit slurred)
Er, somewhat! You could really
say.....multiply. You could
certainly say that I must be the
world's worst chooser of men.
.....I mean, I can't complain,
because they seem to have left
me...well...almost embarrassingly
well off.

(MORE)

MONICA (CONT'D)

.....It's just that I always seem to get the (leaning toward Ravid and saying in a vey deep voice)Lotharios. You know, the ones who can't...er...stick with just one woman!

RAVID

Oh, just one woman would be very nice for me!

MONICA

Then why don't you marry your fiance, when you go back? I mean five years is ridiculous!

RAVID

It's not so easy! Where I come from....

MONICA

(Puzzled)
Where DO you come fro....

Door opens and Polly comes in and sees them

POLLY

Calling from the door
Monica! Hello, you two! I hope you haven't eaten everything....I'm starving!

She heads towards them

39

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN CORRIDOR - DAY

39

Jenny is walking down the corridor with a full wash basket. Then Phillip appears behind her, hurrying.

PHILLIP

(Irritatedly)

Can I....will you!.....oh, just

Phillip shoves past her, rudely knocking her washing onto the floor.

JENNY

Oh!

She bends down to pick it all up and we see Polly, who has appeared ahead of her in the passage, as Phillip pushes past Jenny and then Polly.

POLLY
 Phillip! Oh, really! Sorry
 Jenny...he really is a pain!

But Polly doesn't offer to help pick up the washing, and gazes a bit contemptuously upon Jenny as she picks up the washing.

40

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

40

Ravid is sitting up to the table with a pile of papers around him. He is texting furiously. Monica walks in with yoga mat and bag under her arm.

MONICA
 Polly ready yet?

RAVID
 Last time I saw her she was asking
 if I'd seen her yoga mat.

MONICA
 You still doing Polly's books and
 stuff? Furiously texting Polly's
 creditors, then?

RAVID
 Just taking a rest and texting
 Vyoma.

MONICA
 Hum!I don't know why you go
 to all of the work...I mean, you
 let yourself be bullied into not
 marrying and then, you don't even
 get the 'extra-marital' pleasures,
 either!

RAVID
 Yes, but where I come fr....

Polly sticks her head round the door

POLLY
 Oh, THERE you are, Monica! Quick!
 Quick! We're going to be late!

Monica and her run off.

41

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

41

Jenny is in the garden, hanging up the clothes in a clothes line, near the cliff edge, facing out to sea. POV of approaching person. Jenny, hearing the approacher, starts to turn her head when she is pushed violently from behind, straight over the cliff.

We then see the pusher's POV, from the top of the cliff of Jenny lying, still, spread-eagled on the beach below: presumably dead.

42 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY

42

Knock on the door. Polly answers it to two policeman.

INSPECTOR

Good Morning, Madam. I am Inspector Jones from the local station, here, and this is Constable Newark. I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but we have reason to believe that your maid has fallen from your garden edge. She is now dead and a local dog walker has tentatively ID'd her as your employee. Would you be so kind as to take us to her husband, please?

POLLY

Oh! Jenny? Oh! This is awful! Poor Jenny! Oh, I knew I should have put that fence up, but George did want his views uninterrupted! Now look what's happened.... Oh, No! Poor Bill! Yes, yes! I..I'll take you now.

(Polly pushes past the police to go outside)
This way! This way!

Phillip and Ravid have come into the hallway, and they remain there, looking shocked.

43 EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE - DAY

43

Ravid runs down through garden and hammers on Monica's door, out of breath. Monica answers and looks bemused at Ravid's breathlessness.

MONICA

Ravid!? You're rather early! What's the ma...

RAVID

It's Jenny! She's dead....off the cliff!

MONICA

Jenny? What, now?

RAVID

I don't know when...they have just found her! It's another murder!
(MORE)

RAVID (CONT'D)

I know it! She was pushed! There is a murderer!

MONICA

Ravid! Come in! Come in, dear....you're hysterical. It'll be an accident! These things DO happen, you know!

RAVID

No! I KNOW it! You MUST help me find out who did it! This is getting worse!

MONICA

Ravid! Just come in and have a stiff drink to calm your nerves. These wild surmises won't help Polly, you know...

RAVID

No! I am going back! If you won't help me, now, there is no use for it! I'll sort it out by myself! Just me! I'll sort it out!

He turns and runs off.

44 EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

44

The two policemen are looking over the top of the small cliff at the garden's edge.

INSPECTOR

Well, it's obvious what happened. The young lady stepped back, forgetting about the proximity of the edge.I think, however, that her husband may have a claim on the employer for Health and Safety infringements. That's not our affair, though. Our work's over.

They walk away. (Camera goes off the cliff, down to the beach and then out to the sea beyond).

45 INT. MONICA'S HOUSE/HALLWAY -DAY

45

Knock on door and Monica opens it to Ravid, who looks rather sheepish and depressed.

MONICA

You! Come in! Come in!

Ravid steps in and Monica leads him into the kitchen
 I didn't call round, as I didn't
 think Polly would want visitors
 with all of her worries! How is
 she?

RAVID

She's coping. It's been a terrible
 shock to us all and poor Bill is
 distraught. He is blaming Polly for
 not putting a fence up.

MONICA

Pouring coffee out of a drip jug
 Well, I can see his point. What do
 the police say?

RAVID

Yeh, you were right, Monica. The
 police say that it was an
 accident. Sorry to have troubled
 you.

MONICA

It's no trouble. I was just sitting
 there thinking of being 'over the
 hill'.

RAVID

Oh, never 'over the hill' with your
 beautiful cheek bones!

MONICA

Darling! Do I have cheek bones?

RAVID

(Gruffly)..An...And the rest of you
 isn't so bad either...you
 know,....for an older woman..

MONICA

(Arching her brow and looking
 doubtful)oh! Er, thank you, Ravid.

RAVID

So did you have two husband's,
 then, and have you got any
 children.

MONICA

Four husband's and one son.

RAVID

Perhaps you will soon be a grandmother?

MONICA

Fat chance...Michael just beds 'em, then dumps 'em. He seems to be just the same as all of my ex-husbands.

RAVID

Oh, that is a pity, because he does not get chance to discover the true nature of the lady underneath.

MONICA

Oh, I suspect that most of them are gold diggers, as Michael is his father's heir and John owns the biggest accounting firm in Chicago. Michael is very serious about business, but unfortunately, he is not interested in much else and thinks that I am flippant.

RAVID

I don't know about that, but your coffee is flippn' good!

He smiles and holds out his cup for more. Monica smiles and takes it.

46

EXT. CHURCHYARD OF EXTREMELY SMALL CHURCH - DAY

46

Polly, Phillip, Ravid, Monica and Jenny's brother step away from the graves, onto the path. They are dressed in black and stand about awkwardly, trying to make a little conversation.

Then we see the priest over amongst the graves with Bill, who shakes his hand and says thankyou, etc.

The music is sad and the whole scene is really rather small and pathetic:a real contrast with George's funeral.

47

EXT. BEACH -DAY

47

Sam is running down the beach, towards Monica who is painting, looking particularly fetching in blue jeans, and a tiny white camisole, under a loosely knotted blue denim shirt. Sam stops, smiles, inspecting her painting.

SAM

Hi, Monica! What are you painting, today?

MONICA

Well, I can't decide whether it's a seascape with some land, or a landscape with some sea!

SAM

Isn't lots of sea pictures rather boring?

MONICA

You obviously haven't seen any Corots, my dear.....You know, if you married me, I could show you lots of them.....in the Prado, in the Uffizi...in the Met..

SAM

Laughs

Tempting!.....as well as you.....
in that camisole..

Sam runs off

48

EXT.LANE UP TO MONICA'S AND POLLY'S HOUSE - EVENING

48

Monica is plodding along, singing softly to herself, a little tipsyly. Ravid comes up behind her

RAVID

Hi, Monica.

MONICA

You weren't in the wine bar!

RAVID

No, the pub....Couldn't be bothered to cook. We haven't got a cook, now.

MONICA

Ahh! I was in the wine bar...hoping to see Sam....not his shift....unrequited love, you see.....We're BOTH unrequited love, aren't we?

RAVID

No, indeed! Mine is unconsummated.

MONICA

Well, when you go home. Set a date, and wed her.....then it won't be!

They arrive at Monica's house. Ravid opens the gate and shepherds her in.

RAVID
Never mind wed....it's bed!.....

He steps away to go to Polly's house, calling back
Night, Monica!

49

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/POOL-SIDE

49

Polly and Monica are sunbathing on the loungers and Sam is
cleaning the pool down at the far end.

MONICA
Have you seen him swim? He sure has
a lot of "BOYancy!"

POLLY
Monica! Our sons are his
age!....Anyway, I can't think of
other men with George only just
gone!

MONICA
Sorry, Polly.....It's just that
with George passing on, and then
Jenny so quickly....it does seem a
bit strange...

POLLY
What do you mean, "strange"?

Polly bursts into tears
Everybody's dying! What IS this? A
house of death?

Storm of tears. Monica gets up and comes up to Polly getting
her out of the lounge and helping her into the house.

50

INT. PUB - EVENING

50

Monica is collecting her handbag and getting up from the
table, a bit drunk, leaving a young man behind.

MONICA
No, not tonight, my angel. I have a
bit of a headache and want early
bobbies, darling. You can give me a
phone later on, in the week, if you
wa....

She looks up across the pub to see Polly coming in with Mark
the Presdt. of the Vintners Assoctn. Mark is squiring Polly,
solicitously, taking her jacket and leaning close to her to
ask what she wants at the bar.

See you love...no, no, stay there!
Mwah!

She walks, a bit unsteadily out of the pub.

51 EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - EVENING 51

Monica is plunging around in the dark, feeling at the hedge.

MONICA

(Muttering) Short, cut! Short cut!

She finds a gap in the hedge and goes through, into Monica's garden and walks past the pool.

(Giggling a little drunkenly to herself)

Sushhhh...don't wake Ravid!

Shushhhhhh..don't wake Phillip!

Monica sees a large, dark object in Polly's pool, floating up alongside the edge.

Wassat?!....Halloooo!..... Too late
to swim!.....I SAID it's too
late....uh, gotta say to his FACE

She goes around the pool to the other side where the object is, and she bends down to talk to what turns out to be a fully clothed dead male.

I SAID

She looks into his face

AGHhhhhhhhhh!

52 EXT. BEACH - DAY 52

Monica is running down the beach when she passes Sam wading out of the sea towards his clothes.

MONICA

Sam! Have you heard? There's been another death at Polly's and this time, the police say they suspect it was murder!

SAM

Picking his towel up and wrapping it around himself
Who?!

MONICA

Jenny's brother! Polly recognised him from seeing him hanging round the garden a few times...

SAM

He picks his jeans up

That's it!

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

There's been two muggings in the last month, in this place, and the last one was a policeman! Three "deaths" at Polly's place....sounds to me like there's a serial murderer on the loose. I'll take me old Mam down to her sister's, in the South Island and I think I'll stay down there a while and see what work I can get.

MONICA

What?!.....Leave?

SAM

Yeh, just for a few months till they catch him. My mum was getting really frightened with these muggings, as it was...I'll have to take her, now!.....She'll have a fit when she hears of a third death, at Polly's!

He holds out his jeans, questioningly, i.e. he wants to put them on

MONICA

Realising that he wants a little privacy
Oh! Sorry!

She looks up the beach, towards Polly's house and sets off in that direction, shouting back over her shoulder
See you, Sam!

53

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

53

Monica runs into the garden, straight from seeing Sam, at the beach. She meets Ravid, arriving back, on foot, from the village.

MONICA

Oh, Ravid! Just the person I wanted to see!.....Ummmmmm, I've decided to help you, with your sleuthing!

RAVID

Ravid plonks his two pieces of shopping down and sits on a lounger, on the terrace

What's brought about this change of heart?!

MONICA

Well, now the police think that Jack has been murdered, it does make the other two deaths look a bit iffy, doesn't it?

RAVID

You didn't think they were being iffy before, though, did you?

MONICA

No, but, there are other people to think of, as well! People who don't immediately seem so intimately connected with events....

RAVID

(Suspiciously)
...Like?

MONICA

Oh, like....Sam's mother!

RAVID

Annnnd....?

MONICA

Things like this are very scary to old ladies and she wants to get away to somewhere safe and, and..

RAVID

...and take her son, SAM, with her...oh, hoh! I SEE, now!....This is not being entirely disinterested, is it?

MONICA

There's no reason to take that attitude you know Ravid! Everyone has different reasons for doing things.....We'll have to have a meeting! We'll draw up a list of suspects! Need to examine if all three have, indeed been murdered....and then we need to get to work with investigations!

RAVID

Phew! So.....we can shift, if we have reason, egh?

MONICA

(Sniffs) I'll look at my diary and get back to you!

RAVID
 (Still staring with provoking
 incredulity)
 Yes, Missy Sahib!

54 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

54

Inspector and constable interviewing Polly, seated around the dining room.

INSPECTOR
 ...So you are certain that the pool
 was empty when you left

POLLY
 Yes! I told you! I went out to
 clear some things off the loungers
 and the pool was as normal...no
 people in it.

INSPECTOR
 Well, thank you, for your time.
 Could you please send your son in,
 on your way out?

POLLY
 Certainly, inspector

She leaves

INSPECTOR
 You realise, don't you, that we are
 going to have to have another look
 at the first two deaths, in the
 light of this one! Drat! All that
 paperwork!

55 EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN -DAY

55

Monica and Ravid are having a talk and are sitting around the garden table

RAVID
 I rang, because Polly is out at the
 shops and I thought we could get
 together and sort out our approach
 before she gets back.

MONICA
 Sensible! We don't want to upset
 her, by having her think that
 George was killed...or Jenny,
 before we can actually prove it.

RAVID

I have been thinking that the obvious killer of Jenny is Bill....her husband.

MONICA

Why?

RAVID

Well, it was YOU who said that Uncle was having an affair with Jenny..

MONICA

Not necessarily with Je....

RAVID

Herm, hugh,nhugh, hugh!

Ravid suddenly coughs and swivels his eyes towards Bill, across the garden who is seen coming out of the servants' quarters and looking shiftily around, before locking the door and going out, in the direction away from them.

MONICA

(Loudly)It's SO kind of you to give me the name of that artist. I shall look him up!

She stares after Bill, to check that he has, indeed, departed.

(Hissing again)People just don't go shoving their spouses off cliffs in broad daylight, Ravid!

RAVID

Well, I think that we should be taking the opportunity of his absence to search Bill's house for clues.

MONICA

Oh, wel....go on! I'll keep a look out.

They go across the lawn and Ravid finds an open window around the side, which he struggles through.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Put your foot ON the window ledge!(Hissing) No, NOT like that! Put it on the other way!

RAVID

I am trying with the feet, but your running comments are putting me off!

He manages to get inside, and Monica hisses at him from outside.

MONICA
Look in his desk!..... No, not
THAT one!

RAVID
I'm looking! I'm looking!.....Ow!
The lid has bitten my finger!

MONICA
Don't be a baby and go and see what
is in the bedroom!

RAVID
OK! OK! I'm going!

Sounds of falling over
Agh! Ow, ow, ow!

MONICA
What are you doing, now?!

RAVID
Coming back through into the kitchen and hissing at Monica
I am tripping over the wellingtons
and the tool thing!!.....
How can I do the job when I have to
keep coming back to report to
you?!

MONICA
Well, hurray up! Go and look!

RAVID
Oh!...I can hear a noise! I am
thinking that Phillip is still
inside the house!...Quick! I am
coming out!

MONICA
(Irritatedly) oh, for goodness
sake!

56 INT. THE LOCAL POLICE STATION - DAY

56

INSPECTOR
...But you can't just ask for
exhumation just like
that, Mr. Marshall!

RAVID
Why ever not, if a man has been
killed?

INSPECTOR

That is just it. We do not have any reason to believe that he has been killed. The GP issued the death certificate as being of natural causes!

RAVID

Inspector! It is not natural for three people, in the same house, to die within weeks of each other from different causes and two of them being young, as well!

INSPECTOR

Well...to be frank, Mr. Marshall, we have decided to go back and re-examine Mrs. Tuuta's death, in the light of this, her brother's murder.

RAVID

Oh, good! Well that is something, anyway.

57

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY

57

Ravid is just walking along, about to go out, when he hears raised voices coming from the kitchen, and, so he stops to listen

BJORK

.....this is the last time I will ask for this, Polly! After this, things are out of my hands! My solicitor will be handling this and you are going to go to court!

POLLY

But, Bjork, I was only widowed a few weeks ago! I have only just begun to find out how badly the vineyard has been run!

BJORK

Well then, how about selling some of your many properties on the island...never mind your other many properties in Auckland!

POLLY

These thing take...(fade out)

Ravid leaves the hall and goes out, tippy toes.

58

EXT. POLLY'S VINEYARD - DAY

58

Monica and Ravid are walking along a track between the rows of vines.

RAVID

So, even 'the plod' are beginning to admit that it all looks a little fishy and...

MONICA

.....Yes, and I suspect Mark of bumping him off because George was asking for his mortgage back.

RAVID

Yes, and HE killed Jenny because she knew something!

MONICA

Er...well, I don't know if he killed the others, but I think he's a strong contender, for George. Mark generally takes Polly out most evenings, at the moment...I think he is trying to buy her off, re. his debt, so let's go over there, this evening and look for clues!

RAVID

What?

MONICA

I don't know...just clues!

59

EXT. MARK'S GARDEN - EVENING

59

Through the study window, we see Mark who is sitting at his desk at ninety degrees to the window and a little away from it, so that you can't easily see him from the garden. He happens to look up at a movement, and he/we sees Monica and Ravid skulking across his garden and attempting to enter his garage.

Monica is rattling the lock, savagely and Ravid is looking around to the side wondering if there is a window to enter.

Suddenly, Mark comes upon them, from across the garden, and there is obviously great embarrassment as he asks them what they are doing and they tell him. He is then angry that they think he is a murderer and sends them away, in disgust. They creep away. Mark stands there looking at them with his hands on his hips and a scowl on his face.

60

EXT. OUTSIDE OF VILLAGE HALL - DAY

60

Two ladies come out carrying yoga mats and then Monica and Polly come out with mats, too.

MONICA

I am glad that you are starting to get out more, Polly...and you have to keep your health up, you know, my dear.

POLLY

Oh, well, there are only so many hours that you can stare at the wall without going mad. I'm sure George wouldn't have wanted me to immure myself...

MONICA

Oh, no! That was just what I was thinking! In fact I was going to ask if you wanted to go over to Auckland with me, as I feel like a shopping spree.

POLLY

That's nice of you, Monica, but really, I can't. The vineyard is in a bad way and if I go, I just know that I'll spend and then feel bad about it, as the credit card bills come in...thanks all the same. I'll just drop off for some groceries on my way home.

She heads towards the car park and calls out
Thanks all the same! See you soon!

61

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/RAVID'S BEDROOM - DAY

61

Ravid is lying on his bed, talking on his mobile

RAVID

....Yes! Yes! As I said, the police think that Jenny might have been murdered, now that her brother has been found murdered, as well!.....Um.....Um....Well, I think so...umm.....Oh, I think I will be coming home in a few weeks, when I have sorted poor Aunt Polly's books out, Mamaji.....Yes, of course I will!.....I intend to look for work in a fine art auction house, and then, when I have a job, I can perhaps propose to Vyoma?.....No?! Why?!.....But I have waited nearly five years, and.....no!.....I WILL ask her! You never liked Vyoma! You were just playing for time, Mamaji!.....Well! There was no nee.....

He removes the mobile from his ear and regards it
Humph!

62

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

62

Ravid is swimming laps, in the pool. Phillip comes into the garden, in swimming shorts carrying a half drunk glass of beer which he deposits on a table, before lowering himself gingerly and fussily into the cool water. He then pathetically doggy paddles around for a while. As Ravid swims near to him, at his end of the pool, Phillip accosts Ravid.

PHILLIP

(A bit drunkenly)'Lo, Bro!

RAVID

Swimming past
Hi!

PHILLIP

Heh, don't.....

As Ravid swims away
Ravid!.....Ravid!!

Ravid rolls over, regards Phillip and calls

RAVID

What?

Phillip doggy paddles over to where Ravid is, in the shallow end.

PHILLIP

Heh, Maan! What's the hurry?!

RAVID

I'm not hurrying: I'm excersizing!
What do you want?

PHILLIP

Just wondered if you could spare
some change, bro...

RAVID

I'm not your bro and why do you
need change with all that money you
just inherited?!

PHILLIP

It went, br..dude! You know...car,
chicks, debts...

RAVID

Oh, so now you want a starving ex-
student to support your gambling
habit...is that it?

PHILLIP

Look, dude! We are paying for your
food, here!

Ravid starts to move away to swim again

RAVID

You make me sick!

63

EXT. A TRACK ALONG A CLIFF WITH LARGE ADJACENT SCULPTURES -63
DAY

MONICA

Gesturing at the nearest sculpture

No, but don't you think that this
calls to mind "percipience"? As in
seeing what is really there?

RAVID

Ah, if we are going to talk about
what is really there...well, it's
concrete!

MONICA

Don't be such as Philistine! I know
you did History of Art, so I know
that you have an appreciation of
these things, Ravid!

RAVID

Er, yes...of Renaissance art...not Modern!This stuff leaves me cold! I'm afraid that I have found the vast majority of Modern Art to be "all fur coat and no knickers".....if you will excuse me! I think these sort of sculptors have frighteningly little skill, but a great deal of nerve....asking what they do!

MONICA

Talking about "asking", I found out that that Bjork guy is demanding a ginormous sum from Polly....for those two lumps of concrete!!

RAVID

Good grief! The man has got a cheek!

MONICA

Heh! Maybe Bjork killed George in the hope that Polly would pay him?!

Camera POV is now from the rear, as they walk away from camera.

RAVID

Clutching at straws!

MONICA

Chipping at rocks!

RAVID

Looking out to sea
Throwing bread on water

MONICA

Staring at Ravid
Casting pearls before swine

RAVID

Hahaha!

FADE OUT.

64

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

64

Ravid is sitting at the table surrounded by lots of papers and files and looking harassed. Phillip breezes in.

PHILLIP

Yo, bro!

RAVID

Umph!

PHILLIP

You doing those books again? You must be money obsessed!

RAVID

It's not MY money...or lack of!

PHILLIP

Look! I'll take you clubbing and we'll pick up some girls!

RAVID

I do not need any girls!

PHILLIP

Leering

Maybe not!....But you WANT some, don't you!

RAVID

Want them for WHAT?!

PHILLIP

Wo, bro!...Ravid the Virgin!...Got a girl who can cure that, you know!

RAVID

I don't want to chase women because I have a love of my own!

PHILLIP

Yeh, but the Virgin thingy!...you know....(winking)Some thing should be done!

RAVID

Phillip, where I come from, ladies are.....

Phillip's phone rings and he gets it out, puts it to his ear and wanders out of the dining room.

PHILLIP

Yeh!?...Oh, Valerie! Niiiiice to hear you....

FADE OUT.

65

EXT. BEACH - DAY

65

Monica is in usual glamorous jodphurs, boots, artist's smock, cartwheel hat, sunglasses, etc, painting at her easel, while Ravid stands near her, fidgetting.

RAVID

.....yes, but why do you have to
drag me out here, to discuss
strategy? We can equally talk ab...

MONICA

Peering around her canvas, down the beach
...Er!.....Just a

Sam comes into view, wearing shorts, only, sprinting like a golden god. Monica goes spooney-eyed and wolf whistles at him. Sam looks up, smiles and waves as he sprints past, about 30 metres away. Monica sighs, sopply. Ravid rolls his eyes and sighs, too.

66

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

66

Monica is pacing up and down, while using the telephone.

MONICA

....It's so lovely to hear from
you, Graham! I've
bee.....what?....Yes, of course:
you mean my Bay of Island's house?
I think it might be rented out.
You'll have to ask the agent. I'll
send you his number, love. It's
still so nice to.....what? Stock
it? Me? But it's miles away,
darling and I'm out on
Waiheke!.....why do....oh,
Michelle!..... I thought your
girlfriend was Sandra?.....Oh.
Well, look, lovey, how's your
father?.....How can you not know?
You work with him?yes, but
after his waterworks operation,
he.....yes.....I suppose so. And
you, love? How are
you?.....oh, on the TV,
yes...well, goodbye, then, Graham.
Do pop out to see me, when you've a
day free, won't you,
dear?.....Graham?!

Graham has put the phone down on Monica and she looks at it
and then slowly replaces it in its cradle.

Goodbye, my son.

Monica goes out.

67

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

67

Monica is finishing off sticking a photo on a collage affair on the easel, and Ravid is sitting in the armchair, drinking tea (tray of tea, with biscuits, etc). She steps back and surveys her handiwork.

MONICA

There!

RAVID

Why do we need this mood board thingy, anyway?

Monica sits down and pours herself some tea. Then she sits up with teapot in hand

MONICA

Tea?

RAVID

Well, just one more.

He hands his cup over, leans over the tray and takes another biscuit and talks with his mouth full

Theshe're nische!

MONICA

Pretending to simper and 'make eyes' at him
I have my hidden skills, you know,
and cooky making is one of them

RAVID

(Abruptly swallowing) Yeh,
well.....anyway, what do we do with
the thing?

MONICA

We frequently regard it and
subconsciously, the facts and faces
start to sink in and...have you
never seen any TV crime mysteries?!
They do this all the time!

RAVID

No! I watch the natural history
programmes.

MONICA

Fat lot of use YOU are! Look! All
of these deaths occurred at Polly's
house and so I have put lines from
Polly to our different suspects.

Ravid points

RAVID

What? Phillip?! He couldn't murder a fly! Not because he wouldn't want to, but because he is too stupid!

MONICA

Yes, but he is part of Monica's household and....

RAVID

..but so am I, so why aren't I on there?

MONICA

Becoming irritated

Don't be an idiot, Ravid! Obviously you didn't do it, because it was YOU who wanted to investigate George and, as a stranger, you had no motives for wanting to kill Jenny and her brother!

RAVID

(Tired and a bit resignedly)
So WHAT do you want me to DO, then?

MONICA

Find out exactly how bad Polly's vineyard business is going, and exactly how much Polly owes to the sculptor.

RAVID

How will these things help us?

MONICA

Look! Just do the plod work and leave the strategising to me! OK?

RAVID

(Ironically) Yaaas, Baaaasss!

68

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

68

Polly is on the sofa, watching t.v. and Ravid comes in with a sandwich and glass of water. He sits in the armchair.

RAVID

You sure you didn't want one, Aunty Polly?

POLLY

Yup, no sandwich, and purleez, Ravid, no "Aunty"?
(MORE)

POLLY (CONT'D)

I do keep asking you! It makes me feel around ninety and feel that I should go round with a walking cane, braying at everybody!

RAVID

Sorry, Au.....Polly! As long as you do not feel me rude!

POLLY

Absorbed in the tv

Um...? No, of course not!

RAVID

Eating his sandwich

Polly.....

POLLY

Still absorbed

Humm?

RAVID

How much did the sculptor charge for those two statues?

POLLY

Why ever do you ask that?

RAVID

Oh! Nothing!

POLLY

No! Come on! There must be some reason why you want to know!

RAVID

I just happened to be in the hal...

POLLY

Ah! Yes, just overhearing! That's the problem with family! They think that they have a right to stick their noses in, because they are in your house!

RAVID

No! No! Aun..er, Polly, it was NOT like....

POLLY

Did my brother send you over to.....

RAVID

No! DAD didn't send m.....you ASKED
me to come! Don't yo.....

POLLY

Getting up off the sofa

.....Yes! Well, with all my
debts...which you know about
anyway, as you are sorting the
books, Bjork's is very low down on
the list!

Polly goes out, displeased, and Ravid disconsolately looks at
his sandwich.

69

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

69

Monica (usual glamorous hat, with jodphurs, boots, artist's
smock, etc, is setting up her easel and putting a half
painted picture of a face, on it. Ravid comes out struggling
with lots of papers and files.

RAVID

Oh, hi, Monica! I didn't know you
were here, today.

MONICA

Hi, Ravid...yesssss. Got to draw
'The Wretched Phillip'...your
deeeeeeah cousin!

RAVID

Sitting on a lounge and wrestling with his files
He is NOT being dear to
me!.....Er, Monica? Will you
help me buy a present for my
girlfriend, this afternoon?

MONICA

Yes, OK.....I think I will
just fill in the background first,
before the ordeal of the sitting!

Monica starts putting greens and yellow on her pallet and
daubing at it with her brush. Ravid commences writing and
they are quiet for a minute.

Suddenly

RAVID

Tss!!

Monica continues painting in blithe unawareness of Ravid

RAVID (CONT'D)

TSSS!

Monica remains unaware

RAVID (CONT'D)

(In a hissing undertone) Monica!

MONICA

(Returning abruptly to awareness)
Huh?

RAVID

(Hissing whisper and gesticulating
with his head)) Bill is crying!

MONICA

Who?!

Looks round and sees Bill over by a bush, pruning and crying
Oh, the poor thing!

She gets up and goes over, followed by Ravid.
Bill! You mustn't come into work
when you are still feeling bad! I
know Polly was expecting you to
take a few weeks off, until you
felt a little better!

BILL

(Sniffs and wipes nose) Yeh,
but....

RAVID

I suppose the police with all their
questions about Jenny's death...

MONICA

...YES, Ravid! Bill, you go in and
have a cup of tea.

BILL

Thanks, Monica. I just seem...

RAVID

I know! There are so many questions
remaining unanswered!

BILL

And just WHAT does that bloody well
mean?!

Phillip comes into the garden

PHILLIP

Calling out and smoothing his hair.
Where's that painter who is going
to make me look a hunk?!

Bill storms off back to his flat

MONICA

Bill! Ravid didn't mea.....Look, (to
Ravid) you stupid idiot! Now you've
upset him!

RAVID

I just thought that, as you said,
if he HAS done it, I could catch
him while..

MONICA

...Never mind!()

She heaves a sig and looks at Phillip coming towards her.No,
stand over THERE, Phillip!

She gestures. Phillip complies and Ravid grabs his papers and
exits quickly.

70

EXT. VILLAGE/HIGH STREET - DAY

70

MONICA

We'll go down here. The shop at the
bottom has some really pretty
little pieces, just right for a
young woman!

RAVID

Thank you for this, Monica. While
we are together, you must tell me
what you have come up with, since
our meeting.

MONICA

Yes, I have almost got things
straight in my head. I suspect that
SOMEONE...Mark? Bjork?....killed
George..... and then Jenny,
because she saw him do it.....
and then Jenny's brother,
Jack.....um.....because Jenny told
him, before she died!

Nods her head and looks pleased with herself.

RAVID

No! We know that Uncle George was
having an affair.
(MORE)

RAVID (CONT'D)
Perhaps his lover killed him and
then Jenny, cos she knew!

MONICA
....and Jack?

RAVID
Oh, that is something different!

MONICA
Really, Ravid! You have a strangely
half-baked way of looking at
things!....Look!

She points
There's the shop! Across the road!

She sets off with Ravid scurrying after her.

71

EXT. LOCAL VINEYARD'S CAFE/TERRACE - DAY

71

Monica and Ravid come out and take a table. Monica is reading
a menu, as she walks.

RAVID
....but I really can't keep coming
here. I am living on my savings,
until I find a job. Uncle's money
just covered my flights and
expenses....I mustn't get into
debt...

MONICA
I could pay for us both to eat here
the year round and it wouldn't even
make a dent in my income, darling,
so stop feeling guilty, as I am
paying.

RAVID
The fish and chip cafe would be
cheaper, or maybe the pub....

Monica ogles Sam's behind as he is bending to remove plates
from the tables

MONICA
(Absently) ummm, but the scenery
here is SO much better!

Ravid looks in the direction she is looking, rolls his eyes
exasperatedly and sighs. They sit down and look over the
countryside view.

MONICA (CONT'D)

So! Dish of the day...besides
Sam....is bouillabaise! You happy
with that?

RAVID

Bou hoo?

MONICA

Rock cod, mullet, scorpion fish,
tons of garlic, saffron, bay
leaves, oodles of wine, blah,
blah....having some with me?

RAVID

Oh! Fish!

MONICA

Monica rolls her eyes
Oh! Phillistine!

RAVID

The waiter comes up to their table
No. I am not liking the fish.

Addresses the waiter

I will have the macaronic cheese..

MONICA

...and I will have the
bouillabaise. I know a bargain when
I see it!....Oh, and a couple of
Chardonnays, please.

The waiter walks off and Monica is straining around to see
Sam.

RAVID

(Humbly) Thank you for this,
Monica...and for helping to detect
who killed my uncle...

MONICA

...AND poor Jenny and her brother!

RAVID

I am now thinking that Bill killed
Jenny because she was having an
affair...maybe with my uncle, and
then he killed Jenny's brother
because Jack got wind of the
murder.

MONICA

And George?

RAVID

Ugh, well, maybe Bill killed him too...and he is a serial killer and is planning.....

MONICA

...to kill us all, during his next wasp purge!

RAVID

Yes, but...

MONICA

Eat your bread stick, Ravid

Ravid complies"

RAVID

(Speaking with his mouth full).....
.And, being a gardener, he could bury....

MONICA

Shaking her head, pityingly
...Eat your bread stick!

72

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

72

Monica and Polly on sun loungers, by the pool, sunbathing in swimsuits, hats, sarongs, etc. Silence, then

POLLY

Had the coconut oil, darling?

MONICA

Um....ta.....Want a peek at my Vogue?

POLLY

Um....seen it,
ta.....Monica?

MONICA

Ummm?

POLLY

Can you see my garden from your place?

MONICA

What.... from my kitchen?

POLLY

Anywhere!

MONICA
Umm.....don't think so...why?

POLLY
No particular reason.

73 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

73

Polly making pathetic efforts to iron her frock. Phillip comes in

PHILLIP
Mum? Can you lend me a few hundred?

POLLY
Few hundred what?

PHILLIP
Taking a bottle of be out of the fridge and drinking it
Dollars!...Duh!

POLLY
Where did your inheritance go?!

PHILLIP
Oh, yunno....wine, women...song

POLLY
Phillip, you know I am hard up.....

PHILLIP
Yeh, yeh....and your first born can
go to hell...I know!

He slams out of the door

POLLY
Calling after him
Phil! I.....

She puts the iron down and looks disconsolately, out of the window.

74 EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - EVENING

74

Ravid comes out onto the terrace to view the evening sky, carrying a glass of juice. He sees Bill off to one side, putting papers on a small bonfire. Ravid strolls over to Bill, and nods at him.

RAVID
Hi

BILL

Looks up and nods off-handedly
Right

RAVID
Makes a change from burning leaves,
huh?

BILL
Yeh...well...they're some of my
wife's old letters.....Got the
day off, tomorrow...going over to
the cemetery.

RAVID
I am so very sorry that this has
happened to you, Bill...that Jenny
was...you know, but, but they're
they're looking into it, you know!

BILL
Why should you apologize? YOU
haven't done it...

Looks sideways at Ravid
...HAVE you?

Ravid looks shocked and confused

RAVID
What?! Me? ...No, not me!...I just
meant that I was grieved that this
had happened to you.

Bill nods his head and moves off back into the servants'
quarters building

BILL
Oh..right....well, yeh.....

75

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/RAVID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

75

Ravid is lying on the bed talking into his phone.

RAVID
...so he said that they were his
wife's letters! I mean that if your
beloved husband had died, in tragic
circumstances, you'd want to keep
souvenirs of her, wouldn't you?

MONICA
My dear! None of my husbands were
beloved, but if any of them had had
the nouse to fall off a cliff, the
only tragedy would have been that
it wasn't I who pushed 'em,.....
or, that I hadn't done it sooner!

RAVID

Now, Monica! That is being foolish,
because you know what I am
meaning. I think this burning is
suspicious...

MONICA

..OK, OK.....We'll attack the place
again, but this time, don't chicken
out!

RAVID

Indignantly looking into the phone
I am being no chicken! Anyway,
tomorrow will be good because
Phillip and Polly are going to
visit their aunt.

76

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

76

Monica is standing outside the window of the servants'
quarters and she is avidly reading letters, while Ravid is
clumsily, bottom first, trying to get out of the window

MONICA

Listen to this bit...it is from her
brother and he says that Jenny's
mother told Jenny to look after
him, because he, Jack, is younger
than..

Ravid is nearly falling out and clumsily holding onto the
window frame

RAVID

(Testily) Yes, yes, but what is
there that is being incriminating?

MONICA

Incriminating of who?

RAVID

Of WHOM!

MONICA

Of whom what?

Ravid has now relievedly managed to get down into the ground.

RAVID

Never mind!.....

Dusting himself off

(MORE)

RAVID (CONT'D)

He has got a whole book shelf
about serial killers!

MONICA

Well, I have one full of Agatha
Christies!.....Doesn't mean I'm a
killer!

She stuffs the letters back into his hands.
Now put them back before HE gets
back!

Ravid looks up, agonisedly, at the window, again.

77

EXT. VINEYARD CAFE/ TERRACE, UNDER PERGOLA - DAY

77

A C-table (three tables: one 'High table' and two attached at
90 degrees) full of casually, but well dressed people (about
30 of them). Most of these people are middle aged, or older
and are Waiheke Island's vintners. The table cloth is red
gingham and there are plenty of decanters and bottles of
wine, on it.

We see Polly, Monica, Ravid and Phillip seated alongside each
other. The diners are finishing their pudding course. Mark the
President of the Waiheke Vintners' Association stands up and
raps on his glass with his knife. The diners become quiet and
look at him.

MARK

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like
to thank you all for coming to this
memorial lunch for George, today. I
would just like to propose a toast
to our deceased colleague. Please
raise your glasses to George.

Everyone raises their glasses

LUNCHERS

To George!

They all drink and then sit down

Monica leans over towards Polly, who is sitting next to her.
She is a bit drunk.

MONICA

Poor George! You are a very brave
lady, Polly!

POLLY

(Looking uncomfortable) Umm!

MONICA

After all you have been shrew! I
know what you have suffered!
(MORE)

MONICA (CONT'D)

Anyone would have been upset!....I
KNOW this!

POLLY

(Looks even more
uncomfortable) Thanks, Monica.

MONICA

I KNOW a shing, or two...I am
getting to the bottoms..

POLLY

Leaning over Monica, to address Ravid
You're driving, aren't you, Ravid?
Can we go, please?

Polly and Ravid start to stand up and Ravid helps Monica with
her shawl.

78

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE/FRONT DRIVE - DAY

78

Ravid is trying to help Monica out of the car and she is
being unhelpfully resistant.

MONICA

Gerrof! Am fine!

RAVID

No! You have to get out of the car,
Monica!

He gets hold under her arm and tries to pull her out.

MONICA

I'll get out when I want, you
little brat!

RAVID

I'm trying to help you, Monica!

MONICA

If I want any of YOUR help, I'll
ask for it!..... Geddoff my boob!

RAVID

I am not handling any boobs! I am
just trying to help you!

MONICA

Finally getting out of the car and fumbling in her bag for
her keys

Oh, yesh! I forgot! You don't
handle boobs...you're a Mummy's
boy...

RAVID

Madam! Just because I respect the ladies, does not mean that I am a homosexual! Do not think that your pathetic repeated chasing and bedding of men young enough to be your son is the normal way of things!..... I do not judge you! Why should you repeatedly judge me?!

Ravid snatches Monica's keys out of her hand, opens her front door and watches her go through.

Anyway!These boys! They laugh at you, you know!.....Good day, Madam!

He goes around to the other, driver's side of the car.

ACT 3

79

EXT. VINYARD CAFE/TERRACE - MORNING

79

Monica is sitting at her usual table, but she ignores Sam as he moves between the tables setting them up. At one point, he starts to raise his hand and say hello, but she turns pointedly away from him. Sam looks concerned at her withdrawal. Ravid comes in and looks at the tables. Monica sees Ravid and pointedly gets up and leaves, hurriedly. Ravid, looking embarrassed, and sits at a table. Sam comes up to him.

SAM

Holding up a coffee jug
Coffee?

RAVID

Looking up, out of his brown study
Um?...Oh...yes.

SAM

Anything the matter?

RAVID

What?

SAM

With Monica?

RAVID

Er, dunno (shrugs) have you got any of those muffins?

Sam walks puzzledly away.

80

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN - DAY

80

Monica is at her easel, by the hedge, near the lane. She looks a punk mess: no hat, little make up; mascara panda eyes; hair a tangled mess with a couple of pencils stuck in it; 'fat pants; filthy, torn tee shirt; old slippers. Sam walks past having just got out of his van with his pool cleaning stuff over his shoulders. Sam is surprised to see Monica looking such a mess. He raises his hand in salute, as he walks past.

SAM

Hi, Monica!

Monica pointedly turns away and paints, furiously. Sam looks a bit pained And he calls:

Just dropping this stuff off for
cleaning Polly's pool, tomorrow!

Monica does not respond, so Sam shrugs and walks on.

81

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - EVENING

81

Polly, Phillip and Ravid are trying to eat a horrible burnt dinner.

PHILLIP

This is shit! I'm not eating this!
Why are you paying the cook to make
this mess, Ma? We should sack her!

POLLY

Phillip! She's dead!

PHILLIP

What? Jenny? She was the maid!

POLLY

AND the housekeeper! And now I am
having to do everything myself!

RAVID

I do realize, Aunt Polly that I am
adding to your work and I must be
off, soon, anyway.

POLLY

Oh, no, Ravid, you are still
sorting out the books and records!

RAVID

Don't worry, Aunty. I have nearly
finished them.

PHILLIP

Oh, good! I can move Sharon into
his room, then!

POLLY

What the hell do you mean and who
on earth is Sharon?

PHILLIP

She works down the Dirty Duck and
is my new girlfriend!

POLLY

Oh, yes! I can really see that! Your
father hardly dead in the ground
and you are already moving in your
latest floozy!

Ravid gets quietly up and tiptoes out
Well, not in my house! Not while I
live here!

82 INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/RAVID'S BEDROOM -EVENING

82

Ravid is sitting in his bed, running his hand agitatedly
through his hair, while talking on the mobile. You can hear
the row downstairs between Phillip and his mother. This row
eventually stops with Phillip slamming out of the house.

RAVID

...but, Mamji, Vyoma and I love
each o.....Yes,
but,.....I WILL support
her!.....Yes, yes! I can get a
job in an Art auction house! Or I
have my business skills. Maybe I
ca.....Mamaji! Don't
say that!...Mama...

83 EXT. BEACH - DAY

83

Sam, in usual shorts, is running, barefoot along the beach.
He looks to the place where Monica is usually painting, but
she is not there. Sam look around a bit, as he runs along,
and seems a bit down.

84 EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

84

Polly is setting up her canvas of Phillip on the easel and
her back is to the house. She calls over her shoulders up to
the first floor.

MONICA

Dressed rather scruffily, with just a baseball cap, instead
of glamorous hat, as well as baggy track bottoms, etc.

Phillip! WILL you come out NOW?!

(MORE)

MONICA (CONT'D)

I have to get this painting
finished for your mother and I'm
going out later on.

Monica starts filling in the background, in her canvas, when, suddenly, she is obviously hit on the head. Camera on her face as we 'feel' and hear the blow. As she blacks out, she is pushed, by an invisible (because of camera angles) assailant, into the pool. Shot of her floating face up in the pool, as she slowly sinks.

A sudden flash of movement and we see Sam leap in the pool and grab Monica. He tows her to the side, and, walking up the ladders, he drags her onto the pool surround.

Ravid emerges from the house. He sees Monica and Sam.

RAVID

What the...?

SAM

I think she's been knocked out!

Ravid suddenly sees a figure moving in the bushes on the other side of the garden from the cliff and charges off after it.

85 EXT. ADJOINING VINEYARD - DAY

85

Ravid chases the black clad, hooded figure along between the rows of vines, but eventually loses it. Ravid stops, looks around, and retraces his steps to return to the house.

86 EXT. HIGHSTREET - DAY

86

Ravid is just about to go into a shop, when Sam comes up and stops him.

SAM

Ravid!

Sam hurries and catches Ravid up.
How is she?!

RAVID

She's concussed and the hospital
want to keep her in for a few days
to keep an eye in her. They don't
want visitors, but she has asked
especially for a few words with
me, only.

SAM

Oh...maybe it's who coshed her and
shoved her in!

RAVID
Maybe she just slipped...

SAM
Oh, yeh? With all those deaths that
have been going on, at your place?
It's not safe for her to live near
there...

RAVID
What about me?

SAM
You're not a lady!.....Tell her my
mam says that she is having some
prayers said at chapel for her,
and...

RAVID
Yeh, yeh...well, gotta go, Sam.
Take care!

Ravid goes into the shop

87 INT. HOSPITAL/SINGLE ROOM - DAY

87

Monica is sitting up in bed, with a hospital gown and a
bandage around her head. She looks delicate, older and
sadder. There is a knock and Ravid comes in, smothered by a
big bunch of flowers.

RAVID
Hello, is it OK?

MONICA
Oh, hello! Yes, of course, Ravid! I
asked you to come! Sit, sit...

Ravid fidgets, uncomfortably

RAVID
Look, Monica, I'm so sorry I said
what I did! I had had some wine and
I never normal...

MONICA
....No! No! Really! It was my
fault! You were giving me a lift
and I was rude to you and....

RAVID
Holding out his flowers, awkwardly (lovely bunch!)
These are for you.....still
friends?

MONICA

Oh, they're lovely! Put them on there, please, then I can smell them when you are gone.

Signals the bedside locker.

RAVID

Monica, what happened? You were muttering to me in ED that you were pushed...were you?

MONICA

I was, Ravid....and I have a horrible suspicion it was....it was Polly!

RAVID

Aunt Polly?! Surely not! It can't be!

MONICA

Holding her head and looking distressed
I know! It can't be...right? I didn't actually see her, but I thought I smelt her perfume, before I hit the water...it's jus....

RAVID

Oh, well..... Aunt Polly LIVES there!

MONICA

I feel so bad thinking this about a friend.

RAVID

Sam asked about you...they are praying for your recovery and.....

MONICA

Awkwardly and abruptly
.....Yeh, well, as you said, he's too young for me...silly OLD me!

RAVID

Do you think that we had better...

MONICA

...Sorry, Ravid..my headache is getting bad. We'll catch up when I'm out in a couple of days, huh? Thanks for coming....and thanks for the lovely flowers...you're a good friend, really!

Ravid gets up and smiles

88 INT. MONICA'S SITTING ROOM - DAY

88

Monica (without bandage) and Ravid are drinking tea.

MONICA

Well, if it wasn't Polly, then
could it have been Phillip? Phillip
needed the money from his dad and
perhaps Jenny saw him and told
Jack, so Phillip had to get rid of
both of them.

RAVID

So you think Phillip coshed you and
shoved you in the pool?

MONICA

Maybe, huh?

RAVID

Why?

MONICA

Maybe he thought I knew about
him?...Or maybe he just doesn't
like me...?

RAVID

If one went around killing people
one didn't like, the cemeteries
would be a lot fuller than the high
streets!

Polly holds up the tea pot

MONICA

Tea?

89 EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

89

Polly and Monica come out into the garden, heading towards
the cliff edge, near the washing rotatory hanger.

POLLY

It's so good to see you back on
your feet, dear. I just wanted your
opinion, 'though, about this cliff
edge.

They arrive at the edge

Look, I thought I would put a
hedge, here, for safety, and to
stop that fierce wind you can get.
(MORE)

POLLY (CONT'D)

But I don't want to lose the view,
so I wondered....what do you think
about a 'Clair Vue'...you know, a
window-in-the-hedge idea?

MONICA

Ummm...that's certainly one idea.
But where would you put the
'window'?

POLLY

Well, you tell me! Do you think on
this end, looking out that way?

She gestures

Or do think more over
here, looking out there?...Have a
look!

Polly steps back behind Monica, who steps forward and peers
out. Polly comes up behind monica and shoves her forward
towards the edge of the cliff

MONICA

Agh!

Monica manages to dig in, twist around and grapple with
Polly. Polly seems to be getting the better of Monica when
suddenly, Ravid appears on the scene. He shouts as he runs
towards them

RAVID

Monica! Polly!

He runs up and grabs Polly, pulling her down to the floor and
he and Monica manage to sit ontop of Polly with Polly on her
front. Ravid is sitting on her legs and Monica is astride her
pelvis holding her shoulders down while Polly thrashes
violently.

POLLY

Bloody get off me! Get OFF me!

RAVID

We've had enough of bloody things
and bloody bodies and other bloody
stuff! You are staying here, Aunty
Polly! I saw you trying to kill
Monica!...Monica, go phone 111 for
the police, now!

MONICA

Can you manage her?

RAVID

Yes, yes...I'm tougher than I look!

90 EXT. BEACH - DAY

90

Sam wades his way out of the surf and looks around for Monica. She is not there. He somewhat sadly picks up his clothes and wanders off the beach, inland.

91 INT. POLICE STATION/INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

91

There is the inspector at the main table, and a constable seated against the wall. There are also Polly, Monica and Ravid up to the table.

INSPECTOR

Addressing Polly

So, to recap, you tried to murder Monica because you thought she saw you murdering Jenny?

POLLY

My killing Jenny wasn't a crime because the vixen killed my husband for her legacy!

INSPECTOR

Madam, in view of the murder of Jenny, the Home Office granted permission for the exhumation of the body of your husband which was then reautopsied, two days ago. His heart gave out. Your husband's was a natural death, Madam. Jenny's death was murder.

MONICA

Serial murder, because she killed Jack!

POLLY

I had nothing to do with Jack! Why should I kill him? I only killed Jenny cos I thought she murdered George!

She starts crying

...and she didn't...she didn't
!.....

INSPECTOR

Turning to Monica and Ravid

Sir, Madam, we'll need your official affidavits, if you please. Could you come next door?

The inspector, Ravid and Monica get up and leave Polly weeping in her chair.

92

INT. POLLY'S HOUSE/SERVANTS' QUARTERS - DAY

92

Monica and Ravid come into the living room following Bill in. They sit down.

MONICA

I told the Inspector that I would tell you, Bill, as we are neighbours and Ravid is family. I am afraid that it was Polly who killed your wife.

BILL

Polly!!? Killed Jenny?! No! That CAN'T be right! NO!

He is shouting, now.

What do you bloody mean?!
Her druggy brother killed her!

RAVID

I am afraid that Aunt Polly has just confessed down at the police station!

BILL

Then I killed him for nothing!

RAVID

Who?! Uncle George?

BILL

No! Jack! Bloody Jack!

Monica and Ravid look horrified.

93

EXT. POLLY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

93

Sam is cleaning the pool and Ravid is just coming off the phone. Monica comes out with a glass of orange for Ravid.

MONICA

You can have yours, Sam, when you've finished!

SAM

Thanks, Monica.

He is cleaning nearby the two of them. Monica sits down on the lounge next to Ravid.

RAVID

Well! I've sorted it! I am going home to study for the bar and I am going to propose, set a date and marry Vyoma....If Mamaji doesn't like it, when I tell her at home, she can lump it!

MONICA

And is home...Delhi?

SAM

Or Karachi?

Ravid looks surprisedly at the two of them

RAVID

No!.....Hampstead!

He gets up and ambles happily indoors.

There is an embarrassing pause, then Sam comes and sits in Ravid's lounge.

SAM

I've missed you, Monica

MONICA

(Can't resist it) I told you you would, I'm very missable

SAM

Did you miss me?

MONICA

Fidgeting with her drink, is being way over dramatic to hide her true feeling

Yes daaarling! I missed you like the sun misses the moon, an accountant misses his tax returns..

SAM

Oh do shut up!

He grabs her and kisses her he is very embarrassed and has obviously been screwing up the courage to do it

MONICA

What the?.....

SAM

There I said it!

MONICA

Said what!

SAM

You know!

He is now dying of embarrassment

MONICA

What?! What did you say! Im not
fluent in panicked young man

SAM

ARG!! I LOVE YOU AND PLEASE WILL
YOU MARRY ME!

MONICA

OH!! FINALLY!

She tackles him and he falls off screen yelling

94

EPILOGUE INT. SVETLANA'S STUDY - DAY

94

Svetlana is answering various letters in different
handwritings, all addressed Dear Madame. She smiles
complacently and rubs an expensive-looking diamond ring.