

Pregnant Barbara.

18.

headband, and-

BARBARA, early 30s, very PREGNANT, and pretty, wearing glasses--and a bright pink BOWLING SHIRT with--

THE BUCKEROETTES -- All Cowgirl Bowling Team

Across the back--and over the pocket. Barbara is MEL'S DAUGHTER. The

ROOM

Around them hints at Melanie's avocation. There are ABSTRACT PAINTINGS and DRAWINGS on the walls.

And in a CORNER of the room--A CELLO is propped against a chair with a music stand.

MEL

Sips a martini.

ARLENE AND BARBARA

Drink ice tea. Light "MUZAK" plays in the background.

DESI

Concentrates on her hand. All of the

GIRLS

Play in silence, shuffling, etc.

Barbara hums along with the Muzak, pokes through a box of chocolates, then offers some to the other girls.

Mel shakes her head no.

Arlene finds a chocolate, munches on it, checks her hand.

BARBARA

So, Mom...

MEL

Yeah.

BARBARA

Did they email you the schedule for the tournament?

—Desdemona—

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Pregnant Barbara

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MEL

Yeah...

BARBARA (CONT'D)

And...?

MEL

We bowl the team from the reservation first.

They all look at each. Oh, shit.

Beat.

DESI

This music is depressing.

BARBARA

I like it. It's cheery.

Desi stares at her.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

What is it, Desi?

Desi glances at the CELLO in the corner, then:

DESI

Nothing. Just that I would have guessed that you'd have better taste in music...being a cellist ...

BARBARA

An unemployed, knocked-up cellist.

MEL

Desi.

Desi shrugs.

Barbara considers Desi:

BARBARA

It can't all be Shostakovich now, can it?

DESI

Who?...

Desdemona...

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Pregnant Barbara 20.

MEL

A Russian composer...

DESI

Oh.

Out of nowhere, Barbara starts to SOB, almost hysterical:

BARBARA

He fought with Stalin all his life!...

ARLENE

Oh, now, I'm sure they're friends now..

MEL

They're dead...

ARLENE

Oh.

Barbara lumbers to her feet, looks at the others, wipes the tears, then waddles out of the room.

Mel, Arlene and Desi continue playing in silence, until:

MEL

She's been like this for a couple weeks.

DESI

I was like that for months.

ARLENE

Me too.

They play silently again.

Desi slaps her cards down:

DESI

I can't help it. I feel like I'm at J.C. Penney's!

Mel leaps up, turns OFF the CD player:

MEL

Happy?

Desdemona . . .

3/7

Pregnant Barbara 22.

DESI

Whom, then! Chrissakes. It's pitiful. Isn't it? We're nothing but horny old broads. Pitiful.

MEL

There's a reason for that, Desi, dear. Shit. Jack hated Canasta.

DESI

So did Howard.

Suddenly, there is a loud DOG SQUEAL--from another part of the house:

DOG (O.S.)

REEE-OOOW!

The girls look at each other.

MEL

She's been kicking the dog too.

Arlene and Desi nod concern.

MEL (CONT'D)

You see, boys stay boys until the day they die. Girls, well, girls eventually get to be...old broads. And boys, well, boys don't like old broads. They like em young. That's just the way it is. And, unless you're willing to go out with guys like...

DESI & MEL & ARLENE

Gilbert...

MEL

...so we talk trash about who's doing it to...whom.

Barbara comes back into the room:

BARBARA

I think Gilbert's kind of cute.

The other girls stare at her.

Desdemona . . .

4/7

Pregnant Barbara

23.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Well, I do. I think older men are hot.

ARLENE

See?

Arlene and Desi look surprised at Barbara.

BARBARA

So, shoot me.

Mel finishes her cigarette, steps back into the living room, takes a big swig of her martini, flops at the card table. Barbara considers the others, then:

ARLENE

You know, girls. I'm okay with the way things are. It's not so bad. I get to do whatever I want when I want. I can eat whatever I want, whenever I want.

DESI

Jesus, Arlene.

MEL

What is your problem?

DESI

Bitch.

MEL

Gimp.

ARLENE

Girls. Stop. Just stop.

Desi slaps her cards down, wheels around, heads for the door, slamming it open. She sweeps out in the wheelchair.

MEL

Does this mean you're quitting the bowling team?

Barbara and Arlene scowl at Mel, who shrugs. Arlene stands, follows Desi out the door.

Desi slaps her cards down

5/7

*pregnant
Barbara*

58.

BARBARA
Hey!

MEL
Hola.

DESI (O.S.)
Hello, girls. How did the match go
with the Apache team?

BARBARA
We got our butts kicked. We need
you back.

ARLENE
So? How's it going? I mean three
weeks and not a peep...?

103 EXT. PORCH-RANCH HOUSE - DAY 103

Desi watches Charlie move a horse from the barn, talks into
the cell:

DESI
Okay, I guess. My legs are feeling
a little better. And...

104 INT. KITCHEN-MEL'S HOUSE -- DAY 104

ARLENE
And...?

DESI (O.S.)
Well.

The girls look at each other knowingly.

ARLENE
Oh, no! You met a guy?

105 EXT. PORCH-RANCH HOUSE -- DAY 105

Desi eyes Charlie as he saddles a horse near the barn, talks
into the cell:

6/7

Desdemona

Pregnant Barbara

60.

ARLENE

You had to say something, didn't you?

BARBARA

That wasn't cool, Mom.

MEL

What the hell is she doing? You said yourself, Arlene...

ARLENE

Mel, you know Desi. She's going to do what she's going to do...

Mel stands, crosses to the back door, opens it, lights a cigarette:

MEL

She's not dealing with reality.

ARLENE

And you are?

Mel holds up the martini, then the cigarette:

BARBARA

I don't blame Desi. I hate reality too.

MEL

Barbara!

BARBARA

Well, I do.

Mel holds up the martini-and the cigarette:

MEL

See these? These are real. I can drink it. I can smoke it. They get me through the day. They're right here. Real.

BARBARA

Great, Mom. So you're proposing that Desi come home and get drunk?

Mel pours herself another martini:

Desi demon... —

7/7