

JACK

Scene 1

40.

She finds something folded several times; she unfolds it.

AMELIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I'm cleaning out our rent house, I find Jack's medical records from back in the day.

RESUME - INT. RV - NIGHT (TRAVELING)

DARRYL

Vasectomy.

AMELIA

Two years before we laid eyes. Had two kids I didn't know about.

DARRYL

Should've left him.

AMELIA

Really? And gone where, Mr. Tripp?

DARRYL

Nurse shortage. Guatemala. Snake bite kit. No ties.

AMELIA

Think that's pretty appealing -- no ties?

DARRYL

Long run, no. Intolerable. What'd you do when you found out?

FLASHBACK - INT. RENT HOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

Amelia holds that unfolded piece of paper. Jack in his pastor's garb, complete with collar and pompadoured wig.

JACK

Figured I told you, you'd leave me.

AMELIA

It's fraud, Jack, what you did.

JACK

I couldn't not have you, Pooh.

AMELIA

And you couldn't've bought that property without my savings and our combined...

Refuge

1/5

JACK

Scene 1

41.

JACK

You suggesting Pastor Jack Philips --

AMELIA

...salaries and my great good will.

JACK

I am a Christian, Ame, and you must not accuse me of that sorta chicanery, for that is not possible. Now, you ask me in the name of Christ Jesus to forgive you those thoughts.

He hovers, hulks, the threat altogether formidable. Stunned by it, she has no words...

JACK (CONT'D)

Ask me to forgive you, Amelia. Now!

AMELIA

Forgive me, Jack.

JACK

Of course, darlin'.

He hooks a forefinger into her bra and yanks her to him, waiting for her to kiss him. After a moment, she takes the cue and leans to his lips. He takes hers between his teeth and bites not quite hard enough to draw blood.

RESUME - INT. RV - DAY (TRAVELING)

Sun sets. Radio on.

AMELIA

I love the ocean. Take him there.

DARRYL

Which ocean?

AMELIA

Brownsville.

DARRYL

Texas?

AMELIA

Mm.

DARRYL

Not to confuse matters, but Brownsville is the Gulf, and from where we started, the Pacific would've been closer.

— Refuge —

2/5

JACK

43.

Scene 2

AMELIA

But it was me too. More maybe, me. She loved me best. And I... Strikes me at this moment that...

DARRYL

What?

AMELIA

...she embarrassed me, trying to ingratiate herself with... Mmph. She knew, didn't she?

DARRYL

That?

AMELIA

That I didn't esteem her, despite all her efforts. Because she put up with an abusive man. How could she be so shallow? Yep. There are diseases we call virulent, Mr. Tripp. I'm one.

He glances at her, far away. He drives. Then asks...

DARRYL

Did you murder your husband?

AMELIA

Not sure. Tell you this for certain, though: I chose him,

FLASHBACK - INT. COUNTRY BAR - NIGHT

Jack in basketball uniform ("Hoopsters For Jesus"). MUSIC throbs from a COUNTRY BAND in the b.g.; COUPLES dance at their backs. She looks fabulous.

JACK

Well, Miss Amelia, you're just gonna have to come to the court pret'near immediately and play me one on one, 10 buckets, make-it-take-it.

AMELIA

Oh now, I don't know. I hear tell you're a hoops hustler, Pastor Philips.

JACK

Oh now, not a hustler, miss, surely. Just a man knows what he can do.

He strikes a mighty man pose and gives her quite a smile.

Refuge -

start

3/5

JACK

44.

Scene 2

AMELIA
I'm bowled over, sir.

JACK
But not in love yet?

AMELIA
Close, but then we've only just met.

JACK
I come dribblin' in here, behold you
dancin' with some three-footed doofus.

AMELIA
Actually, pastor, he's an orthopedist.

JACK
Now, is that contagious mouth to mouth,
or is that just folks talkin'?

She laughs a lovely laugh.

JACK (CONT'D)
So, I was to dance ya up, I wouldn't be
in some grave danger of catchin' nothin'.

AMELIA
Certainly not so long as you didn't put
your mouth on me.

JACK
What if I did.

AMELIA
Don't.

The ORTHOPEDIST approaches with drinks and SEES...

...Amelia take Jack's hand...

THE DANCE FLOOR

He leads her onto the floor, turning her once, twice
under her arm and into both of his. It's slow western
style and his left/her right hand lock behind her back.

JACK
I apologize if I smell all manly and
handsome...

He glides her around the floor. He can dance and, more,
she can follow. But she's seen something and...

...pulls their locked hands out so she can display his.

Refuge

4/5

JACK

45.

Scene 2

AMELIA

Married man of God oughta wear a ring.

JACK

No, now, can't wear it when I play
b'ball. Jam that finger, get swole up,
explode! Congregation think I'm
Beelzebub.

She is no longer amused. He fesses.

JACK (CONT'D)

I am married but I'm not attached.

AMELIA

I won't break up another woman's
marriage.

JACK

It's broken. Papers been served. Now,
we're dancin'. We're havin' a dance.

He spins her out again, twirls her and twirls
her...before he reels her back in tight to his chest,
their mouths the width of a piece of typing paper apart.

STOP

RESUME - INT. RV - DAY (TRAVELING)

They drive.

AMELIA

Why do we fall for that lie? That the
way it starts will be the way it lives?

On his engagement eve, he chews the question. Drives.

DARRYL

You know what burial at sea involves?

AMELIA

Figure I need water and a boat for
starters.

DARRYL

Have to wrap and tape the deceased in
canvas or plastic. Weight him with lead
or iron. You'll have to stake a claim,
mine the ore, rent a forge. Whereas, a
dumpster back of a Wal-Mart...

AMELIA

Now I've put pressure on you to make me
laugh.

Refuge

5/5