Escape to New York

By

Lori Goodman

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917-207-7160

[lhgboyd@gmail.com](mailto:lhgboyd@gmail.com)

CHARACTERS

JOHANNA - Twenties -early thirties. Generationally, economically poor. She is smart but beaten down by the world in which she lives. She works several jobs to maintain her meager existence. Sex partner of Tad.

TAD – Sex partner of Johanna, of similar age and economic situation. He does not have her smarts which helps him to be more adaptable to the world.

DR. SWANN – Head doctor of Floral Gardens. Genial with a restrained, contemptuous undertone.

NURSE COLE – Quiet and attentive. She is a badass by night.

PHILIP – Receptionist at Floral Gardens. Overly helpful and always smiling.

SETTING:

NEW AMERICA. A collection of former states that formed when the United States split into different countries and territories.

TIME:

About five years after Roe v Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court

AT RISE: Darkened room. We can almost make out a lump of two people on a broken- down couch and a lamp on the floor.

TAD VOICE (quietly)

Oh shiiit.

JOANNA VOICE  
Oh shit what?

TAD VOICE

Um..I think it broke.

JOANNA VIOCE  
What broke?

TAD VOICE

Um..the condom?

JOANNA VOICE  
Is that a question?

TAD VOICE

No?

JOANNA VOICE  
Then GET OFF ME!

Johanna pushes Tad hard, causing a loud THUMP.

TAD VOICE

Aah. Hell, Johanna.

Johanna turns on light. She is on the beat-up couch. Tad is on the floor.

TAD

I don’t think you know your own strength.

JOHANNA

You said they were reliable.

TAD

They were. I mean I thought they were. It’s hard to tell with these recycled ones.

JOHANNA  
Recycled? You said you were going to get new.

TAD

I said I would try to get new. But all my usual guys have been busted. I had to go off brand. I don’t have money for the real things.

JOHANNA

Well, what are we going to do!?

TAD

Um..

JOHANNA

Does your cousin still work for the pharmacy?

TAD

Uh, no. He got caught up in the “Morning After” raids. Cleared out the whole stock of pills.

JOHANNA  
What the hell are we going to do? I can’t be pregnant. I just can’t.

TAD

Maybe you’re not. We just have to chill for a couple of weeks and then take a test.

JOHANNA

Chill? Are you kidding me? Where are we gonna get a home test? Only the clinics have them. If it’s positive, they’ll put a tracker on me.

TAD

Yeah, that would be bad. I know a guy I think can hook us up.

JOHANNA

He hasn’t been busted?

TAD  
Not yet. I’ll give him a call.

Tad stretches out to relax.

JOHANNA  
Call him now Tad.

TAD  
Oh, yeah, sure.

Tad looks for his phone.

Uh, my mom will be home soon so you should maybe…

JOHANNA (sarcastically)  
And just when I was starting to chill.

Johanna dresses. Tad dials his phone.

BLACK OUT

LIGHTS UP: TWO WEEKS LATER: Same broken down couch. Johanna and Tad look at a pregnancy stick.

JOHANNA (upset)  
Oh man.

TAD

Yea, that’s bad. Maybe this one’s defective.

JOHANNA

Well, it’s the only one we’ve got. Can your guy get us another one?

TAD

Nah, he just got busted

JOHANNA  
Damnit. What the hell am I gonna do?

TAD

I guess there’s only one thing to do.

He gets down on one knee.

Johanna Elizabeth Wilson, will you do me the honor of--

JOHANNA

--Get up you idiot.

BLACK OUT

FOUR WEEKS LATER: LIGHTS UP on the lobby of Floral Gardens, a luxurious resort. There is a concierge desk where PHILIP sits. He has a perpetual smile on his face.

Johanna enters. She goes to the front desk. Philip smiles widely.

PHILIP

Hello. You must be Johanna. Did you enjoy the free pick-up service?

JOHANNA  
Uh, yea, I guess. I’ve never been in such a fancy car before.

PHILIP

At Floral Gardens we strive to make every part of your experience with us a luxurious delight. We know you have your choice of supportive retreats, and we’re thrilled you chose us. You have an appointment with Dr. Swann, I believe.

JOHANNA

Uh, yes.

PHILIP  
I’ll let the doctor know you’re here. In the meantime, please relax and enjoy the surroundings, listen to music

He hands Johanna wireless ear buds.

Music is piped in through wifi. Can I get you something to eat or drink while you wait?

JOHANNA  
Uh, yea, sure. What do you—

Before she can finish, he hands her a menu. She looks at it.

Wow, this is quite—

PHILIP

--Extensive, I know. Only the best for our little incubators.

JOHANNA

What?

PHILIP

I said only the best for our valued guests.

JOHANNA  
I’ll just wait over there until my appointment.

Johanna looks around the place. A SOFT CHIME RINGS over the loudspeaker.

MELLIFLUOUS VOICE

Yoga with Melody in the Lilac Garden starts in five minutes. Yoga with Melody in five.

SOFT CHIME RINGS. DR. SWANN enters. He wears a white linen suit and matching loafers. He carries a clipboard and has the same perpetual smile as Philip. He approaches Johanna.

DR. SWANN

Johanna?

JOHANNA  
Yes?

DR. SWANN

I’m Dr. Swann. Welcome. Will you come with me, please?

JOHANNA

Uh, sure.

He takes her to a room with two comfy chairs and a side table.

JOHANNA

I’m kinda nervous.

DR. SWANN

No need. We’ve helped many young women in your situation. But first things first. We must confirm you are in the blooming process.

He pulls a phone out of his pocket and types. NURSE COLE enters. She wears a lovely pastel pink linen pants outfit. She carries a tray with syringe, etc. as well as an iced drink with a slice of orange on the edge. She hands the drink to Johanna then gets the syringe ready.

JOHANNA

(To Nurse Cole) Oh, thank you. (To doctor) Blooming process?

DR. SWANN

We need to confirm you are pregnant. This is Nurse Cole. She’s going to take some blood.

Johanna takes a sip of the drink.

JOHANNA

This is delicious.

The nurse takes blood from Johanna.

DR. SWANN

That’s our Welcome to The Garden smoothie. It’s made with a variety of fruits, vegetables and essential vitamins. Thank you, Nurse Cole.

Nurse Cole nods and leaves.

We should have your results in a few minutes.

JOHANNA  
So if it comes back positive, which it will, what are my options?

DR. SWANN

Oh, there are many. But let’s first see the results.

They look at each other a moment. He smiles condescendingly. She is uncomfortable. A TEXT CHIMES, and he looks at his phone.

DR. SWANN

Okay, we are confirmed.

He types into his phone, takes the marketing folder from his clipboard and hands it to Johanna.

Here is some information on Floral Gardens. As you can see, there are a range of amenities provided.

Nurse Cole enters with a tray of food and places it on the table. She hands a sandwich to Johanna.

JOHANNA

Thank you.

Johanna takes a bite.

Oh my God. This is amazing too.

She eats the food and drinks her smoothie throughout the scene.

DR. SWANN

Everything we serve is made with the highest quality ingredients and prepared to perfection by our in-house master chefs. Several of the restaurants on campus are Michelin starred. You’ll have an opportunity to try them all during your stay. There’s a list on page ten of the brochure.

JOHANNA  
My stay? How long is the process?

DR. SWANN

Until your little blossom emerges. We consider our young women fertile flowers miraculously creating new life.

JOHANNA

Wait. I thought..(in a whisper) I thought you could help me..you know..end the preg..

DR. SWANN

--Where did you hear that? You know it’s illegal in New America to end a pregnancy. I could report you for even suggesting such a thing.

Nurse Cole quietly exits the room.

JOHANNA  
No, no. I’m sorry. My boyfriend must have misunderstood.

DR. SWANN

I should say so. You don’t know how blessed you are young lady. You are carrying the future of the country in that womb. Our only hope against China. It’s an awesome responsibility. That’s why the Floral Gardens chain of supportive retreats provides everything you need for a luxurious, stress-free journey.

JOHANNA

So, I would live here?

DR. SWANN

Yes, for the duration. Have you not heard of us? We’ve been all over the news for our innovative approaches to pre-natal, birthing and childcare.

JOHANNA  
I don’t keep up with the news what with my jobs and such. I have three. There’s just no time.

DR. SWANN

At yet you seemed to find time to get pregnant, didn’t you?

JOHANNA

What?

DR. SWANN

Pardon me. That was inappropriate. Of course, you are free to spend your time as you like. Had you been able to “keep up” with the news, you would know that we are at the vanguard of a great social experiment.

JOHANNA  
Social experiment?

DR. SWANN

Yes. We understand how difficult, almost impossible really, it is to raise a child when you are, how should I put it, disadvantaged, and barely have the means to take care of yourself?

JOHANNA  
I’ve been taking care of myself since I’m sixteen.

DR. SWANN

Yes. Working three jobs, none, I imagine, that offer health insurance or career advancement.

JOHANNA  
What’s your point?

DR. SWANN

My point is that right now you have no options. We are here to offer you one.

JOHANNA  
And what is that? I mean, I’m having this baby. I have no choice.

DR. SWANN

Yes, but with us, that journey will be filled with first class luxurious comfort and top-notch prenatal health care. You will not find another birthing resort with a more comprehensive package.

JOHANNA

Why?

DR. SWANN  
Why what?

JOHANNA  
Why would you do all this for me? For people like me?

DR. SWANN

Well, as you know, since the great migration two years ago, women of child-bearing age have become scarce. We feel a responsibility and patriotic duty to pamper and celebrate those of you who have remained to repopulate New America.

JOHANNA

Even if it isn’t my choice?

DR. SWANN

I’m afraid your choices out there ended when you spread your legs for your boyfriend. Luckily, you have us.

JOHANNA

What’s going to happen to me?

DR. SWANN

Well, once you deliver, you are free to return to your life as it was before, and we take the child off your hands.

JOHANNA

Off my hands.

DR. SWANN

Yes. We provide everything he or she will need to become a happy, productive member of society.

Johanna is starting to feel a little woozy*.*

This is our third year of operation and so far, we think we have a winning strategy for success. Of course, we won’t know for sure until our charges reach productive age, but we are encouraged by our projections.

JOHANNA

I don’t understand.

DR. SWANN

Well, so far, the limited experience we have of our unique approach of assessment and focused education of our young wards are very positive. If this trend holds, we anticipate that New America will become the most prosperous nation in the world.

JOHANNA  
That sounds very—

DR. SWANN

--Pragmatic? It’s genius really.

JOHANNA

I was going to say creepy.

DR. SWANN

Creepier than ripping a fledgling life from its mother’s womb? I think not.

A SOFT CHIME RINGS.

MELLIFLUOUS VOICE

Afternoon tea and snacks are now being served on the Rose Veranda.

CHIME RINGS.

DR. SWANN

Did I mention our comprehensive medical and dental plan? We can even arrange for you to get that snaggle tooth of yours fixed.

Johanna self-consciously covers her mouth.

Why don’t you stay as our guest tonight? Experience what awaits you if you join our floral community. Take a walk through the gardens, sit by one of the pools, get a massage. When was the last time you had a professional massage?

JOHANNA  
Uh, never.

DR. SWANN

We can meet again in the morning and discuss the details of your stay.

JOHANNA  
But I need to get back to work. I’ve been gone too long already.

DR. SWANN

We’ve already called your employers, great patriots all, and they’re happy to give you the entire time off.

JOHANNA  
Nine months off? How did you arrange that?

DR. SWANN

We must all do our part to nurture and tend to the blooming flower within…you. Within you.

JOHANNA  
And, I have to stay here.

DR. SWANN

You don’t *have to* do anything. You’re free to return to your home, such as it is. But I’m afraid your jobs are on hold until after your baby is born.

JOHANNA

You had no right to do that.

DR. SWANN

Of course we did. This is America now.

JOHANNA

So, I have nothing. You’ve left me with nothing.

DR. SWANN

You have everything…if you stay with us.

JOHANNA  
I can’t believe this is happening.

DR. SWANN

I’d think you’d be thrilled that your little patriotic donation will have the best head start money can buy.

JOHANNA  
I don’t feel good…I’m..

DR. SWANN

Why don’t we get you to your suite so you can rest and we’ll pick this up again

tomorrow.

JOHANNA  
I don’t even have a change of clothes.

DR. SWANN

Everything you need is in your suite. And if we’ve missed something, just contact the concierge desk, available 24 hours a day.

JOHANNA  
I don’t know what that means.

DR. SWANN

Concierge? Think of it as a fairy god parent. Anything your heart desires, just ask. You need a foot rub in the middle of the night? The concierge will arrange for a masseuse to come to your suite. You don’t like the pajamas we supplied; they’ll bring you a new set. It's all explained in the brochure..page fifteen.

JOHANNA  
I think I’m going to throw up.

Dr. Swann types in his phone.

DR. SWANN

If you can hold on for one minute, you can throw up on your spa bathroom.

Nurse Cole enters.

DR. SWANN

Would you please take Johanna to the Marigold Suite? Quickly?

NURSE COLE

Of course, doctor.

She escorts Johanna out of the room. Dr. Swann scribbles something on his clipboard. His PHONE DINGS. He stands, puts on his smile and heads out of the room. He greets the next patient

DR. SWANN’S VOICE  
Linette? Welcome, I’m doctor Swann. Will you please come with me?

BLACK OUT

LIGHTS UP on a luxurious suite room. There is a surveillance camera above the door pointed into the room as well as a comfy chair and a side table There is a house phone and drink on the table.

We hear Johanna vomiting in the bathroom. Nurse Cole drapes a pair of fresh silk pajamas over the chair, then adjusts the camera. Johanna shuffles slowly out of the bathroom.

NURSE COLE  
Feeling better?

JOHANNA  
Uhhh.

Nurse Cole hands Johanna the drink.

NURSE COLE

Drink this. It’ll help

JOHANNA  
I can’t. I’m too sick. It’ll just come up.

NURSE COLE

Try.

Johanna hesitantly takes the glass and drinks.

JOHANNA (queezily)

That’s delicious.

NURSE COLE  
Feel better?

JOHANNA  
Actually, yes. Thank you.

NURSE COLE  
I’ll leave you to get some rest. There are clean pajamas here if you’d like to change. The bedroom is through that door.

Nurse Cole moves to the balcony and opens the door.

The fresh air will do you good.

She exits the room glancing up at the camera as she leaves. Johanna picks up the pajamas. They are very soft. She collapses in the chair. Her PHONE RINGS. She sees who it is and picks up.

JOHANNA

What the hell did you do?

Tad is on the other end of the phone.

TAD

What? You don’t like it?

JOHANNA  
It’s beautiful but..who told you they would help me get a..you know.

TAD

That’s what the flyer said.

JOHANNA  
What flyer?

TAD

The one hanging outside Bev Beaver’s Market. I have it here.

He pulls out a rumpled piece of paper and smooths it out.

It says “In trouble”..question mark. “Feeling trapped” question mark,” Nowhere to turn” question—

JOHANNA

--You don’t have to read the punctuation Tad.

TAD

Oh. Okay Well, let’s see ah (mumbles) in trouble, feeling..nowhere to oh, here,“ We can help” exclamation point. I mean “We can help!”

JOHANNA  
That’s it?

TAD

No, then it goes on to say how they have an innovative plan to help you with an unwanted pregnancy..and they give a phone number. They were super nice when I called.

JOHANNA  
Jesus Tad.

TAD

What? You asked me to take care of it. I took care of it.

JOHANNA  
Well, they’re not what they seem from that flyer..It’s a whole..I mean I feel like I’m in a science fiction movie.

TAD

Cool.

JOHANNA  
No Tad, not cool. They got me laid off from my jobs.

TAD

That’s just till after, you know.

JOHANNA  
How did you know that?

TAD

I mean, I guess that’s what they’d do.

JOHANNA  
How did you know they put my work on hold?

TAD

They may have told me when I called?

JOHANNA  
Is that a question Tad?!

TAD

Uh..

JOHANNA  
You knew what this place was, and you didn’t tell me?

TAD

They made it sound so nice and..when I asked about..well, you know, taking care of the problem, they threatened to have me arrested. I can’t go to jail again. My mom would kill me.

JOHANNA  
You Private Rights Acted me, turned me in? You son of a bitch!

TAD

I had no choice. I knew they wouldn’t do anything to you. You’re carrying the future. But they’d throw away the key on me.

JOHANNA  
Did they pay you to do this? Did you get money to turn me in?

TAD

What?! Hey. I was gonna marry you. This is my kid too you know.

JOHANNA  
So, you want this baby? Is that what you’re saying?

TAD

Well, no.

JOHANNA  
I didn’t think so. So, no skin off you but I’m screwed.

TAD

Don’t look at it that way. You’re in a beautiful place, they’re going to take care of you, like amazingly. Why don’t you think of it as a –(whispering) you know what- that you have after nine months. Either way, you get rid of a baby you don’t want.

JOHANNA

You..are..such..an..ass!

She hangs up on him, furious, defeated. She picks up the PJs and heads to the bedroom.

LIGHTS DIM low to almost black.

LATER THAT NIGHT: A shadowy figure ninja-like enters through the balcony door. She has a small satchel strapped across her back. She stays low to the ground and positions herself just under the camera to be out of its view. Johanna sleepily emerges from the bedroom in lovely silk pajamas and matching robe. She heads to the bathroom. When she comes out, she flops in the chair then picks up to the hotel phone.

JOHANNA  
Yes, hello. Can I get some food? Oh, great. Um I don’t have a menu so..oh, anything? Wow..okay, I guess I’d like a burger with..what’s Kobe? Oh, okay, yea a Kobe burger with lettuce, tomatoe, pickles and do you have any kind of special sauce?..I don’t know what that is but it sounds good. Fries and a milkshake..vanilla..French vanilla? Uh, sure...great, thank you.

She hangs up.

I guess I could maybe get used to this.

NURSE COLE

That’s what they’re counting on.

Johanna, startled, jumps out of the chair.

JOHANNA  
Ahhh. Who are you? What are you doing here?

Nurse Cole reveals herself but doesn’t move.

NURSE COLE

Sssh. I’m here to help.

JOHANNA (whispering)  
Nurse Cole? Why are you standing over there?

Nurse Cole points to the camera.

NURSE COLE  
They’re watching.

JOHANNA  
Who?

NURSE COLE  
Don’t look at me. Pretend I’m not here. We don’t have much time.

JOHANNA  
Time? For what?

NURSE COLE  
I’ve come to break you out, but we must hurry.

JOHANNA  
But I just ordered a burger.

NURSE COLE  
What’s more important food or freedom?

JOHANNA  
It’s Kobe beef.

NURSE COLE  
Come on, let’s go.

JOHANNA  
Go where? What is this?

NURSE COLE

You want an abortion, right?

JOHANNA  
I didn’t say that. I never said that word. Are you here to turn me in?

NURSE COLE

I didn’t climb through the window to turn you in. I’m here to get you to the DCR.

JOHANNA

The DCR? You’re going to take me to the Democratic Coastal Republic? Yeah right. Wait. Did Tad put you up to this?

NURSE COLE

Who’s Tad?

JOHANNA

He’s such an idiot. Everyone knows the border to the DCR’S been closed for almost 2 years.

NURSE COLE

What?

JOHANNA  
So jokes over. You can go now.

NURSE COLE

This is no joke.

JOHANNA (laughing)  
Sure, if you say so.

Nurse Cole, unhumorously, waits for Johanna to understand.

You’re for real?

NURSE COLE

Very.

JOHANNA

I don’t understand.

NURSE COLE

It’s simple really. Are you going to let the state force you to have a baby you don’t want?

JOHANNA  
It’s that or jail, isn’t it?

NURSE COLE  
Or come with us.

JOHANNA  
--Who’s us?

NURSE COLE  
WORF.

JOHANNA  
Am I supposed to know what that is?

NURSE COLE  
Women for Reproductive Freedom. Have you really not heard of us?

JOHANNA  
No. I never heard of WORF, like I never heard of Floral Gardens. I don’t need you to remind me I’m stupid.

NURSE COLE  
You’re not stupid. You’re in an untenable situation and we can help but we don’t have a lot of time. The caravan leaves tonight.

JOHANNA  
What caravan?

NURSE COLE  
The one to the New York sector.

JOHANNA  
But I just got settled in. My food’s coming.

NURSE COLE

The next caravan isn’t until next week to the Isle of Illinois. By then you’ll be dug in and tagged. You have to go before they tag you.

JOHANNA  
Tag me?

NURSE COLE  
So they can track if you’re staying with the plan.

JOHANNA  
God damnit. Why is everything so hard? I was just getting used to having something nice for a change.

NURSE COLE

Yes, I know. Let’s go.

JOHANNA  
Wait a minute. This afternoon you were giving me special drinks and working for the doctor. I don’t even know you. How can I trust you?

NURSE COLE

It’s more important I trust you. They’re starting to suspect there’s a mole here at the clinic. You could be a plant. But when you said you didn’t want this child.

JOHANNA

I never said that directly.

NURSE COLE

Well, I believed you. You were brave. I think you’re brave enough for the perilous journey and the consequences if you’re caught.

JOHANNA

Consequences?

NURSE COLE

You’ll be travelling underground, literally. And if you’re caught, you’ll have that baby in jail. One with not so many frills as here.

JOHANNA  
If you’re supposed to be selling me on this idea, you’re doing a lousy job.

NURSE COLE

Come with us and you can end this pregnancy or have the baby, the choice is yours, you’ll be supported either way. WORF offers classes, work opportunities, childcare, and a place to stay until you’re on your feet.

JOHANNA

Do you have a spa and pool?

NURSE COLE

No. And we don’t serve smoothies or Kobe beef if that’s where you’re going.

JOHANNA  
So, I make this dangerous trip, where I could maybe get caught, and if I do, I’m even worse off than I am now.

NURSE COLE

The reward is freedom to decide your own future. Don’t you think it’s worth it, that you’re worth it?

Johanna looks around her suite and hugs her silky pajamas.

JOHANNA  
Freedom. What would I know from that? I’m poor and unconnected. Maybe this here is good enough. I mean, they’ll probably take better care of my baby than I could.

NURSE COLE  
And what do you think happens after? When they let you go?

JOHANNA  
I go back to my life, I guess. Not great but I know it.

NURSE COLE

Your body full of hormones and breast milk. You’ll be marked as a “Careless One” and tracked for more accidental pregnancies. They’ll enslave your child to work in a factory and brainwash her to believe it’s a good, patriotic life. Jesus, when did young women become so lazy?

JOHANNA

Hey.

NURSE COLE

All that work we did to make abortion legal and now they’ve snatched it away. Doesn’t that make you angry?

JOHANNA

I don’t have that luxury. I just deal with the shit as it gets thrown.

NURSE COLE

So, you’re just another sucker for empty promises and a pair of silk pajamas?

JOHANNA  
Who are you to judge me. You don’t know my life. You don’t know how hard I have to work every day just to have a place to sleep and a little bit to eat. Don’t I deserve someone taking care of me for a change?

NURSE COLE

Yes. But not like this. This is a smokescreen. We have to deprive this government of the right to do what they want with our bodies, with our futures. You must see that.

There’s a KNOCK at the door.

PHILIP’S VOICE

Room service.

NURSE COLE

My mother died when I was three because abortion was illegal. We can’t go back there.

JOHANNA

I’m sorry.

NURSE COLE

Don’t be sorry. Be brave.

KNOCK.

JOHANNA  
Just a minute.

Nurse Cole takes out a black outfit and a small satchel.

NURSE COLE

We’re meeting at the Hyacinth Gate down past the pool. Stay along the perimeter of the building to get there. Wear this. It’s not silk but it will keep you hidden in the dark. Bring only essential items in the satchel. We’ll provide the rest.

She hands the items to Johanna. Another KNOCK on the door.

PHILIP’S VOICE

Everything okay in there?

JOHANNA  
Coming.

NURSE COLE  
We leave at midnight.

Nurse Cole exits to balcony as quietly as she entered. Johanna puts the clothes on the chair, goes to the door and lets in Philip. He has a large tray and puts it on the table. He notices the dark clothes.

PHILIP

I was starting to worry.

JOHANNA  
Why?

Philip looks around the room.

PHILIP

Most ladies are anxious to get food when it comes. Eating for two and all. Who were you talking to?

JOHANNA

Nobody. I don’t know anyone.

PHILIP

My mistake, sorry.

He reveals the meal.

Here is your Kobe burger, truffle oil fries and French vanilla milkshake.

JOHANNA

It looks great.

She takes a bite of burger.

Oh my God. This is, oh my God.

PHILIP

I know, right. Ideally, it should be warmer, but it took so long for you to answer the door.

JOHANNA

It’s perfect, thanks.

PHILIP

Well then, I’ll leave you to your meal. Oh..

Philip picks up the clothes from the chair.

I can take these clothes for cleaning.

Johanna grabs them from him.

JOHANNA

Oh, no that’s okay. They’re not dirty.

PHILIP

They’re not government issue, I mean not from our designer collection.

JOHANNA  
Well, I may be leaving so, I may need them.

PHILIP

Leaving?

JOHANNA  
Maybe. I haven’t decided yet.

PHILIP

Is something not to your satisfaction? Did we not meet your every need?

JOHANNA  
No, it’s nice. I just..don’t know yet.

PHILIP

Would you like a better room?

JOHANNA  
There’s a better room than this?

PHILIP

Tell me the problem and we’ll fix it.

JOHANNA  
There’s no problem. I just don’t know if I want to stay here.

Philip takes out his phone and texts.

JOHANNA  
What are you doing?

PHILIP

I’m just letting Dr. Swann know that you’re not happy.

JOHANNA

I never said I was unhappy.

PHILIP

No one has ever wanted to leave Floral Gardens early. No one.

Dr. Swann enters with his master key. He wears a silk bathrobe.

DR. SWANN  
Good evening. What seems to be the problem?

PHILIP

She wants to leave.

JOHANNA  
I never said that. I just..wait. Do you live here?

DR. SWANN  
Of course. How else would we provide 24-hour care? Now why don’t you tell me what the problem is, and we’ll fix it.

JOHANNA  
Jeez. There’s no problem. You said I could try it out and we’d talk in the morning. It’s not even morning yet.

Dr. Swann looks at his watch.

DR. SWANN  
It will be in about 10 minutes.

PHILIP

She was talking to someone.

JOHANNA  
No I wasn’t.

Philip picks up the clothes on the chair.

PHILIP

And she had this.

Dr. Swann takes the clothes and inspects them.

DR. SWANN

I see. Where did you get these?

JOHANNA

I uh, had them with me.

DR. SWANN  
Try again.

JOHANNA  
I don’t have to tell you anything.

DR. SWANN  
You know Johanna, we’re giving you an opportunity to experience pregnancy in a way that would otherwise not be available to someone with such limited means. And all we ask in return is a little appreciation and for you to do your patriotic duty. I know where you got these clothes, I just don’t know from whom.

JOHANNA

I’m sorry I can’t help you.

DR. SWANN

Oh, I think you will.

JOHANNA  
You can’t make me talk.

DR. SWANN

Maybe not, but we can keep you from leaving. Philip, hold her.

Philip pushes Johanna down onto the chair and holds her down. Dr. Swann pulls a syringe out of his robe pocket.

JOHANNA  
What are you doing?

DR. SWANN

Well, first I’m going to sedate you. Then I’m going to insert this chip in your neck. When you wake up, which should be in about 12 hours, we’ll have our chat. While you sleep, we’ll check the surveillance video to see if we can figure out who gave you these clothes.

Johanna struggles to get free.

JOHANNA

Why are you doing this to me? I just want to live my life.

DR. SWANN  
Yeah, well, I’m afraid that option is off the table.

PHILIP

Stop struggling..you stupid bitch.

Dr. Swann approaches.

JOHANNA (screams)

AAAAHHH!! GET OFF ME!!

Johanna manages to push Philip away. He flies back and smashes into Dr. Swann who falls back, hits his head and blacks out. Philip gets up and tries to run for the door, but Johanna lunges for the syringe and jabs it into Philip’s neck. He passes out. Johanna gets up and runs into the bedroom. She returns with a large sheet and a pair of socks. She rolls up the sheet and ties the two men to each other. Once they are tied up tight, she checks the time on Dr. Swann’s watch. She takes off her robe then starts tounbutton the pajamas but decides to put the dark clothes over them instead. Dr. Swann rouses awake. He tries to break free.

DR. SWANN

You’ll never get away with this.

JOHANNA  
I’m pretty sure I will.

DR. SWANN  
You’re kidding yourself if you think it’s better in the DCR.

She looks around the luxurious room.

JOHANNA  
Yeah well, I can’t imagine it’s worse.

She shoves the socks in Dr. Swann’s mouth. Then she grabs the hamburger and takes a bite.

This is so damned good.

She grabs the French fries, shoves them in her satchel, and exits out the balcony.

END OF PLAY