

Gilbert

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - FIRST FLOOR ROOM - NIGHT - (1854)

Lightning crashes in the night sky. A man in his late 50s dismounts from a horse and walks up into a Southerner plantation home. ANDREW MONTEGUT colonial walks down a hallway in the house to a door and pushes it open a crack. Candlelight illuminates a black woman QUASHEBA leaning over a dark haired mixed race woman CLARET LACY GILBERT in the throws of a contraction. Quesheba discretely fondles a flannel bag at her throat. Claret has a black eye and a scar on her left cheek as if someone took a fish hook to her face. Another scream pierces the silence. A new born cries as Claret screams again. Claret smiles. Thunder claps over head. Andrew stands at the now open door. He pours a drink from a decanter. He rushes toward Claret and suffocates her with a pillow. Quesheba rushes from the room with the child and out into the night.

EXT: WOODS - NIGHT

A wood fire burns. The newborn cries, wrapped in a blanket in a basket. Quesheba holds a snake and performs voodoo rights over the child. A driver with a cart drives up. Claret's body is in the back. Driver hops down. Quesheba climbs up with the baby.

EXT: WOODS - NIGHT - LATER

Quesheba drives the horse lead cart. The newborn sits in the basket next to her. She drives up to a colonial cottage. A colonial farmer exits, RAYMOND GILBERT Caucasian late 40s. Quesheba points to the back. Raymond lifts a blanket revealing the body of Claret.

INT: COTTAGE - NIGHT

Quesheba sits holding the new born. Raymond paces in front of a burning fireplace. He fingers an old bible on the mantel, holds it to his forehead, then turns to Quesheba.

RAYMOND

I should take a whip to that...

QUESHEBA

Then they'll hang you. Even if a free man. Montegut wants it dead so dead it must be.

RAYMOND

What do you suggest?

(CONTINUED)

QUESHEBA

Leave and take the child with you.
Montegut's fate is sealed. His sons
will not out live their mothers.

Raymond takes the bible. Opens it and writes "Claret Lacey Gilbert died June 23, 1854." He skims the page and sees a name Gunther. He writes "Gunther Gilbert born June 23, 1854." Raymond closes the bible and returns it to the mantel.

RAYMOND

My grandson's name is Gunther.

Quesheba hands the child to Raymond and exits.

INT: PARKER'S CAR - LATE AFTERNOON - TODAY

PARKER GILBERT drives on a country road. She turns off onto property marked with a sign that reads "Montegut Estates." She passes a small cottage and continues to drive up to the main house, the plantation house from the beginning. Cell phone RINGS. Parker hits speaker.

EXT: PLANTATION HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON - TODAY

Movers unload the last boxes into the house. MARIS GILBERT O'NEILL 30s pregnant stands at the door of the Plantation. KEVIN O'NEILL sweaty tall dark hair carries a box past her into the house. MARIS opens a cell phone and dials.

MARIS

Hey Parker my lovely where are you?

PARKER (VO)

Lovely? I have not had coffee yet
so I probably look like death.
Sorry I had some reports left to
fill out at the station. I am
incoming look up.

MARIS looks in the direction of Parker's incoming car.
Parker drives up, parks and gets out.

MARIS

You look fine Sis.

PARKER (VO)

(whispering into phone.)
For someone who has had their
apartment burgled and boyfriend
dump them.

(CONTINUED)

MARIS

I'm as big as a house.

PARKER

Feels like old times. My doll house is smaller. Thanks.

Parker clicks off the phone and walks over to Maris. The Moving truck drives away.

MARIS

Kevin is just putting the last of the boxes inside.

PARKER

I have great timing.

Maris and Parker enter the plantation house and close the door. In the window of the front room for a brief second a shadow appears and vanishes.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - INNER FOYER - DAY

CELESTIN MONTEGUT (40s) stands with her son, JEFFREY (17.) They unload a box of blankets.

MARIS

This is Celestin and her son Jeffery. Celestin lives in the cottage below.

Celestin turns to the camera revealing a long scar down one side of her face.

CELESTIN

Pleased to meet you. Parker right? Maris has told us about you.

PARKER

Don't believe any of it.

CELESTIN

Accident years ago.

PARKER

Jeffrey doesn't live with you.

JEFFREY

(quietly)
The house....

(CONTINUED)

CELESTIN

My son lives with our cousins' in town. At his age it is easier for him rather than being shut out here with me.

JEFFREY

Mother...

CELESTIN

Jeffery I know we should go. Right.

JEFFERY

Yes. Ok.

A door suddenly slams upstairs and Jeffery and Maris both react with a bit of fear. Parker laughs.

MARIS

Sounds like Kevin is testing out the doors.

CELESTIN

We should go. I need to get Jeffrey into town before dark.

MARIS

Thanks for the help.

CELESTIN

Our pleasure. You need anything just give me a ring.

Jeffery and Celestin exit.

EXT: PLANTATION HOUSE PORCH - DAY

Celestin and Jeffery walking out and down the drive.

JEFFREY

I think they need to know.

CELESTIN

That story your grandmother told you is a story.

JEFFREY

But Grandfather died in that house and so did Father and...

(CONTINUED)

CELESTIN

People die and dying in ones own home does not mean the place is cursed.

JEFFREY

Then why did we move out?

CELESTIN

If the house is haunted you want to live there? We've been through this..

JEFFREY

But?

CELESTIN

This is their home now. Your grandmother wanted it this way and so do I. That young mother does not need to be terrified by old bed time stories.

Celestin and Jeffrey continue down the drive to the cottage.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

MARIS and Parker are busy putting away kitchen utensils and supplies.

PARKER

Ok. I am impressed.

MARIS

It was either be organized or starve.

PARKER

The baby made you do it. At this rate both of you will be eating in an hour.

MARIS

Put that in the fridge.

Parker opens fridge to reveal it is full with pizza boxes and condiments.

PARKER

Anchovies craving.

(CONTINUED)

MARIS

Grab a slice. Kevin needs to go get some supplies. He is washing up.

Parker grabs a slice. Finds a tray to heat it in the oven. Maris pulls up a sleeve to wash her hands. On her wrist is a nasty bruise. The pipes knock fiercely.

PARKER

How did you get that?

MARIS

Nothing. I probably just banged it on a box. I'm OK. Better than our plumbing.

Maris pulls down her shirt sleeve to cover the bruise. She grabs a slice of cold pizza and immediately starts devouring it. Parker eyes her.

MARIS

Hungry. Stop.

PARKER

Ok. But wow.

Kevin O'Neil freshly showered walks in from the back of the house.

KEVIN

Parker. I thought...

MARIS

She surprised me too...

PARKER

I figured Mommy could use me as her body is kind of busy.

Kevin goes over to a pile of moving boxes and grabs a box marked paint. He opens it. Inside hidden sits a bottle of alcohol. He closes the box and picks it up.

KEVIN

Don't want this stuff near the food or baby. I'll put it away.

Kevin exits.

MARIS

Stop.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

What?

MARIS

Your only staying for two days, and already I see that you and Kevin are going to implode. Why can't you just be with each other.

PARKER

Be? What? He started it.

MARIS

So you have to finish it. Neither of you are perfect Parker.

PARKER

I am perfect.

MARIS

His sponsor came over before we left.

PARKER

He started drinking again?

MARIS

Wow. that is not the reaction I expected from my loving I want to see my sister happy sister.

PARKER(VO)

Joke! If I were his sponsor I would purposefully drive him to drink.

MARIS

He is OK. Ok.

PARKER

If you say so...

MARIS

This is going to be a fun two days.

Kevin walks in holding his wallet.

KEVIN

Going to get food. Be back in an hour.

(CONTINUED)

MARIS

Ok

PARKER

(whispers)

Me cave man. You Jane.

Kevin leaves.

MARIS

Look do not send out that kind of
vibe. He is fine. You are fine.
Or is there something I should
know.

PARKER

I came here to look after you.

MARIS

To be honest I am grateful, but can
you just find a way to forgive my
husband. Are you sure that there
isn't something else?

PARKER

Stop with the new age
psychoanalysis. My horoscope said
a trip would do me good.

MARIS

You read your horoscope?

Parker pulls out some chocolate bars out of a moving box.

MARIS

Give me that or die.

PARKER

What?

MARIS

Sorry but my baby demands that
every night. So hand it over.

Parker hands the bars to Maris who stashes them in the back
of a drawer. Parker pulls out some marshmallows.

MARIS

I think we should have a sleep over
tomorrow before I leave.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

You planned this all along.

MARIS

Nostalgia. How often do we get to be alone together like old times. And well once the baby comes....

PARKER

wow.

MARIS

Then you are ok with it. We can see about getting the fireplace going and have a girl's night. But for now, give me those.

Parker and Maris appear to be having a mock tug of war over the marshmallow bag laughing as the sun sets.

EXT: GROCERY STORE - EARLY EVENING

Kevin is packing the car with groceries. Town guy, JACK, in flannel and jeans approaches. JACK (30s) built, stops and helps.

JACK

Hey. You the guy that bought the big house right?

KEVIN

Yeah.

JACK

Brave man. Place has been empty for ten years.

KEVIN

What? It looks....

JACK

Fixed up. Yeah. Good work right.

KEVIN

Yeah.

JACK

After Thomas Montegut died his wife I think got spooked. Didn't think the old witch would sell the place.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

We inherited it. I guess we are distant cousins.

JACK

I am Jack. I own the bar the Bull's eye. I am also the local fix up guy. Construction. Pipes. Here is my info. I did the renovations on the house. That was five years ago. Probably needs some work. And if you need a drink swing by the Bull on me.

KEVIN

Sure.

Kevin takes Jack's contact information and drives away.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - KITCHEN -EARLY EVENING

PARKER and MARIS drink coffee and tea at a table well lit by the late afternoon sun. KEVIN walks into the kitchen. Kevin embraces his wife sitting in her chair from behind. Pours himself some coffee.

KEVIN

Maris. You Ok.

MARIS

Yep.

KEVIN

Parker.

PARKER

Kevin.

MARIS

Please.

KEVIN

How long are you planning on staying Parker?

PARKER

When is the baby due?

KEVIN

What? A month? You've got to be...

(CONTINUED)

PARKER(VO)

Kidding. Though considering your response I might just... two days tops.

MARIS

The doctor told me to keep it easy. Please... just breathe...

A large CRASH is heard from upstairs.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - UPSTAIRS NURSERY

Kevin enters a small room followed by Parker. Maris is in the hallway behind them. There are paint supplies on one wall. An unmade crib lies in a pile. A small fallen chandelier lies on top of the crib with plaster scattered on the floor.

KEVIN

Great. I was almost done with that. Ugly old chunk of glass.

MARIS

(just climbing up the stairs)
What is it?

PARKER

Chandelier. Could have been worse.

MARIS

Can it be fixed?

KEVIN

I need to asses the damage. Make sure it did not bring down part of the roof too. Go back downstairs. I'll handle this.

Maris turns on the stairs and makes her way back down.

PARKER

Looks like that thing has been here since the house was built.

KEVIN

Yeah. Apparently when they put in electricity they decided to not bother removing the old fixtures. Idiots.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Probably makes this place more valuable.

KEVIN

Or dangerous. Give me modern tech any time.

PARKER

Then why did you take the place.

KEVIN

You know I really do not need to play 20 questions with you. My wife says she needed you here, go be with her.

PARKER

You know your attitude is not healthy for the baby or Maris and never has been.

KEVIN

You do not know a thing about my attitude or my relationship with my wife. And what I....

PARKER

You what?

KEVIN

I do not want you here.

PARKER

I could take you down even when we were both drunk Kevin. Back off.

At that moment a piece of plaster falls onto the floor missing Kevin by inches. Kevin steps back out of the room allowing for a mirror behind him to be in view. Kevin eyes the ceiling for damage. While Kevin is looking up, an image of a woman dressed in period clothes appears to Parker for a second in the mirror. Parker blinks and the image is gone. There is a coat rack in the corner in its place.

PARKER

Great.

KEVIN

What?

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Nothing. I'm going back down.
Unless you think the roof is going
to cave in next.

KEVIN

Why so you can watch it cave in on
me?

PARKER

No. So that we can consider not
staying.

KEVIN

I think it is going to be OK and
you should leave. After what you
did....

PARKER

What I did? it takes two. Might do
you good if more of the plaster
fell on your head.

Parker leaves Kevin to continue his inspection.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

MARIS sits at a table drinking water. Parker enters.

MARIS

You Ok.

PARKER

Tired.

MARIS

Let's just breathe.

PARKER

Your answer to everything. My
sister the new age guru. Still
have the Ouija board. Maybe we can
vanquish anything from this
place.(Pause.) You do have it don't
you.

MARIS

Probably in one of the boxes.

PARKER

What? Wait... you really did plan
a sleep over.

(CONTINUED)

MARIS

Aww. Does my sister love me?

PARKER

Annoying voice you do. Lets have a party.

Kevin walks in from upstairs.

KEVIN

Great. Parker getting drunk. Be like old times. Is that why you came? Bit of AA.

PARKER

I am doing fine now. I am here for Maris.

KEVIN

We do not need a party.

PARKER

You don't? Your acting like you did when we drank before and... I mean..

MARIS

Ok. Enough. We are all tired. Please. Let us go to bed. Kevin. Parker and I are going to have a ladies night tomorrow night. We can both stay in the guest room. I agree you are acting like before we got married and I do not like it. You said I changed you. Then love me and let me have the next 24 hours with my sister and peace.

KEVIN

Fine.

MARIS

I'll show Parker where she is staying and be up soon.

Kevin leaves and goes back upstairs.

PARKER

Are you sure he is not drinking again. Maybe I should stay.

(CONTINUED)

MARIS

He is not the man you knew anymore.
OK. Let me show you the guest room
down here.

Parker and Maris head to the back of the house.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL CUPBOARD - NIGHT

Kevin pulls out a bottle of liquor stashed in the top shelf
of the cabinet. Looks at it. Then puts it back and shuts
the door.

INT: PLANTATION - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Parker sleeps restlessly.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - NIGHT - 1854 (DREAM)

Andrew raises his fist to Claret pregnant. He hits her. She
falls. Andrew holds a knife and pushes past Samuel and
slashes Claret's cheek.

INT: PLANTATION - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT - TODAY

Parker wakes up. Looks around.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - DINNING ROOM - MORNING

A modern looking wooden table and chairs set up for three.
Parker enters carrying a tray with food. Maris enters with
a pitcher of coffee. Kevin comes downstairs starts piling
food on a plate and sits. They eat in silence.

PARKER

What about the nursery?

KEVIN

Going to try to clean up the mess
but I can't fix the ceiling on my
own.

PARKER

Can we call someone?

KEVIN

I met a guy last night in town,
says he fixes up houses.

MARIS

What do you know about him?

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

Local looking for work. Says he did the renovations. Can't hurt.

PARKER

Maybe you can ask Celestin?

KEVIN

Why? Don't trust my judgment.

MARIS

Ok. It is what time? I think maybe you and me Parker should go into town. Call this guy Kevin, though maybe call Celestin too.

KEVIN

Fine.

Kevin Maris and Parker continue eating.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Parker and Maris shop. Racks of last decades clothes surround them. Parker pushes a shopping cart with some jeans and a few baby items.

MARIS

Think it would traumatize my child if he wore this?

PARKER

Wow. What decade is that from? I think you should get this. I hear the 70s are coming back in.

MARIS

I hated polyester.

PARKER

Tube tops and roller skates.

MARIS

OK. Maybe I should shop on line while here, but I am glad we did this.

PARKER

Me too.

Parker pushes the cart to the shopping counter to purchase.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER
On me. My gift to my nephew.

MARIS
No.

PARKER
Yes. You can then blame any future
damage from this on me.

MARIS
Ok.

The STORE CLERK stares at Maris and Parker.

PARKER
What? Do we look that out of
place?

STORE CLERK
Your the woman who lives out at
Montegut.

MARIS
Yes. How?

STORE CLERK
And your pregnant? Wow. Balls
girl. Balls.

MARIS
Excuse me.

STORE CLERK
I'd not want to stay the night in
that place if you paid me a
million.

STORE CLERK 2 enters from back storage room.

STORE CLERK 2
That is an easy million to make.

PARKER
Agreed.

STORE CLERK 2
Kelly thinks the place is haunted.

STORE CLERK
It is. The owner...

STORE CLERK 2
Was a drunk and fell down the
stairs.

STORE CLERK
Some say his wife helped.

STORE CLERK 2
If Celestin did then the ghost did
not kill him.

MARIS
Your kidding.

STORE CLERK
The grandfather died right after
his son was born and he was only
35. Say they found him looking
like he had been scared to death.

STORE CLERK 2
(mouths)
Heart attack.

PARKER
How did Celestin get her scar.

STORE CLERK
The ghost. They say the house is
haunted by some old witch who died
there.

STORE CLERK 2
Celestin had an accident the night
her husband died. I knew them
both. Went to their wedding. They
were doing work on their baby's
nursery. She told me it was an old
nail. Pretty nasty.

Store Clerk finishes ringing up their items.

STORE CLERK
Seventy five twenty five please.

Parker runs her card.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - NURSERY - DAY

Kevin and Jack are hard at work clearing out the debris from the chandelier falling.

KEVIN
Thanks for this.

JACK
Fate. Other than this. Anything else with the house you need help with?

KEVIN
Hopefully not. The pipes knock.

JACK
The pipes were redone five years ago.

KEVIN
I thought the place was empty..

JACK
Old madame Montegut wanted the banging to stop. Said she wanted a ghost out.

KEVIN
It hasn't.

JACK
I can check, but I am guessing that can not be fixed.

KEVIN
Great did I buy a lemon.

JACK
I thought you said you inherited it.

KEVIN
Figure of speech. Let's get this done.

Kevin and Jack get to work on setting up the supplies to plaster the ceiling.

EXT: GROCERY STORE - MID DAY

Parker and Maris are loading the car with some groceries.

PARKER

I think we over did it.

MARIS

With you leaving tomorrow and me as big as I am. Kevin...

PARKER

If you are worried about getting him mad why?

MARIS

I am stressed. OK. I just want to nest. Pregnant. Baby on board.

PARKER

You sure he is going to be OK with this.

Celestin walks up with a bag of groceries in hand

CELESTIN

So how is it? Settled in?

MARIS

Fine. Though we had an accident last night.

CELESTIN

You all right.

PARKER

A chandelier upstairs fell.

CELESTIN

The small one in the first room on the right?

MARIS

Yeah.

Celestin freezes in place.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - ROOM - 1854

The broken chandelier is lite and hanging from the ceiling.
Claret is in a bed with a young white MAN making love.
There is a sound downstairs.

CLARET
I need to leave.

MAN
No.

CLARET
Your father finds us he will whip
us both.

MAN
I am leaving tomorrow Claret. West
point.

CLARET
Your going to school. Not to war.

MAN
Military school. I could get shot
in an exercise or blown up in a
freak accident.

CLARET
Now your scaring me.

MAN
I love you.

There is a banging on the door.

EXT: GROCERY STORE - MID DAY

Celestin stands silent. Parker and Maris stand looking at
her.

PARKER
You Ok.

CELESTIN
Sorry. Just thinking. I have not
eaten lunch yet.

MARIS
Well we will let you go.

(CONTINUED)

CELESTIN

If you need help. I know someone.

MARIS

Actually Kevin met a guy in town,
Jack.

CELESTIN

Jack. Honest but manipulative when
he wants something.

PARKER

Manipulative?

CELESTIN

I doubt Jack just ran into your
husband. He wanted your husband to
know who to call if there was
something broke. He is harmless,
though crafty.

MARIS

You still look a little peaked.
Stop by the house later for dinner.
Say 6.

CELESTIN

I wouldn't want to trouble you.

PARKER

I leave tomorrow. May not be back
for a while.

MARIS

And your are our only neighbor. So
let's be neighborly.

CELESTIN

Sure. As long as I can bring a
dish.

MARIS

Fine.

Maris and Parker climb into their car and drive away.
Celestin walks toward hers.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - NURSERY -LATE AFTERNOON

Kevin and Jack plastering the ceiling.

KEVIN

I wonder if this place is worth this.

JACK

I tried to buy this place once. I wanted to raise it or rebuild it and open a bed and breakfast.

KEVIN

Yeah.

JACK

Crazy idea of my wife. She makes the best pancakes in town. We would make a killing on just her cooking. You should think about it.

KEVIN

I got a baby on the way and well....

JACK

I get it. Think about it.

KEVIN

Let you know later.

Jack plasters the ceiling. Kevin exits the room.

INT: COTTAGE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Celestin talks on the phone.

CELESTIN

It has started.... No the house. There was an accident.... The upstairs chandelier. No... No one was hurt. I do not know cousin. How is Jeffrey.... Ok. I am going to have supper up at the house... I should be OK. It is my son I am worried about. Good night.. Yes I will call you when I come home. Bye.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

Maris puts food away. Parker cooks. Kevin enters.

MARIS
Parker is making pasta.

KEVIN
Doesn't smell bad. Jack and I are just finishing up.

PARKER
Celestin is joining us. Farewell supper on me.

KEVIN
Really. Why? I mean Celestin.

PARKER
I'm leaving tomorrow.

KEVIN
Yeah but...

MARIS
That tray of lemonade is for you and Jack. Ask Jack to dinner? Least we can do.

Kevin exits taking the tray up stairs.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - NURSERY - LATE AFTERNOON

Jack is inspecting their plaster work. Kevin enters with the tray.

JACK
Liquid of the gods. Wow this is good.

KEVIN
Yep.

Jack takes out a flask from his pocket and pours a clear liquid into his lemonade. He splashes some into Kevin's.

KEVIN
Hey. Did i ask?

JACK
No. But don't get into a bunch. It is just a little pick up. Can't kill you. Come on. We did a good
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACK (cont'd)
job here. All you need to do is
wait till it dries and paint. Come
on how about a little more.

Kevin hesitates then nods.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE -DINNING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Parker Maris Celestin Kevin and Jack sit at the dinning
table passing plates and having supper. Jack appears not
intoxicated. Kevin appears on the edge of being drunk.

MARIS
Your casserole smells wonderful
Celestin. You really did not have
to do this.

CELESTIN
This is nothing. My pleasure. I
love to cook. You have two to
feed. I was never not hungry and he
was never asleep.

PARKER
Not asleep?

CELESTIN
I thought I was giving birth to a
football team.

MARIS
And were you right?

CELESTIN
Soccer. He plays at school. His
little league team won three years
in a row.

PARKER
What is with the wicked grin Kevin?

JACK
We did a fantastic job up stairs is
what is UP.

Jack slaps Kevin on the back.

CELESTIN
That chandelier was here when the
house was built.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

Yeah well it didn't break. Only the ceiling did. Jack says it is salvageable.

PARKER

Salvageable?

KEVIN

I said that. It may be worth something.

MARIS

Are you ok Kevin?

KEVIN

Yes.

PARKER

Your drunk.

MARIS

This is really good pasta Parker.

CELESTIN

I agree.

KEVIN

I am fine and your the drunk. The cheat. The liar. The horrible sister....

MARIS

Kevin!

PARKER

One day here. You could not last here one day.

KEVIN

Yeah you being here is why I am drunk. It is an accident. A good one, but an accident. Won't happen again.

PARKER

Right. That is what AA is. Addiction is not an accident. It is a sinking ship waiting to sink with you on it. I don't want Maris sinking with you.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

She is my wife. this is my house.
You should leave...

CELESTIN

Maybe Jack and I should leave.

PARKER

I do not believe you.

KEVIN

I am fine.

MARIS

Please. Kevin maybe you should
drink some water honey OK.

KEVIN

No.

Kevin stands. Pushes Maris away violently. Parker
approaches.

PARKER

Kevin your wife is pregnant. Stop.

KEVIN

I can see her pregnancy she is as
big as a whale.

PARKER

He does not know what he is saying
Maris.

KEVIN

Yes I do. That child is not mine.

Kevin laughs hysterically.

MARIS

Kevin....

PARKER

Yes it is. She is your wife.

KEVIN

And you are my whore.

PARKER

He does not know what he is saying.
OK. Get back Maris.

Parker slaps Kevin. Kevin moves to try to choke hold Parker

(CONTINUED)

but she gets the upper hand and pins him to the floor. they struggle. Parker knocks him out cold.

MARIS

Parker?

PARKER

He is just unconscious.

MARIS

Let me get him some ice.

PARKER

He is drunk and you have a baby.
Let me take care of your husband.

JACK

Wow.

PARKER

Jack can you help me get him upstairs.

JACK

Yeah.

PARKER

Sorry Celestin.

MARIS

Yeah sorry.

CELESTIN

It is OK. At least no one was hurt. I think maybe I should go. It is getting late.

MARIS

Thank you for everything Celestin. I am truly sorry.

CELESTIN

No apologies for what you can not control.

Celestin exits.

PARKER

Go to my room. And lock the door.

Jack and Parker carry Kevin upstairs. Maris leaves and goes toward the back of the house.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - UPPER BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING.

Parker and Jack place the unconscious Kevin on the bed. They walk out and Parker locks the door.

PARKER
Thanks Jack.

JACK
Kevin forgot to pay me so I'll be
by tomorrow. Addict huh?

PARKER
Yeah.

JACK
Damn.

Jack and Parker head downstairs.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Maria is lying on Parker's bed. Parker enters.

MARIS
Is he ok?

PARKER
Unconscious. He will probably have
a hang over in the morning.

MARIS
Oh.

PARKER
Didn't you want a sleep over?

MARIS
Your kidding.

PARKER
Well not to state the obvious, but
you are not sleeping up in your
room tonight. And....

Parker pulls a bag out from behind her.

PARKER
I have here the marshmallows and
the chocolate and I found graham
crackers. I even found the Ouija
board. Let's get the fireplace
going and ...

(CONTINUED)

MARIS

Ok.

Parker and Maris move toward the fireplace. Parker puts some wood in and starts to light the fire.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE- GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

A fire is blazing and a marshmallow is cooking on a stick.

MARIS

Maybe I should call Kevin's sponsor...

PARKER

Stop. Tomorrow. Ok.

MARIS

Normally I am the voice of sanity.

PARKER

You have the best excuse.

Maris and Parker make s'mores.

MARIS

How about Ouija?

PARKER

I was kidding you know. That scared you as a kid.

MARIS

No you scared me pretending that it was moving on its own.

PARKER

I am good at that trick.

Parker and Maris move to set up ouija board.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Parker and Maris sit at a table near the fireplace.. A classic Ouija board lies on the table in front of them. A Planchette rests in the center.

MARIS

So what question should we ask the ghost in the house?

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Really?

MARIS

Hey. It may just be a story, but why not have some fun with it.

PARKER

Ok. You first.

MARIS

Baby on board. I say you go.

PARKER

You are still scared.

MARIS

Are you afraid?

PARKER

Bring it.

Parker puts her fingers on the Planchette. Nothing happens at first. She takes her hands off and it moves by itself to "hello."

MARIS

How did you do that?

PARKER

I did nothing.

Parker moves to put her fingers on the Planchette again.

PARKER

Who are you?

MARIS

What are you?

The Planchette moves to the letters spelling out "C.L.A.R.E.T." one letter at a time.

MARIS

Ok. Now I am scared. Maybe we should stop.

The Planchette moves to the word. "No." The Planchette spells out "H.E.L.P."

PARKER

Who?

The Planchette spells "M.Y. C.H.I.L.D."

(CONTINUED)

MARIS
What? Whose child?

PARKER
Well...

MARIS
That makes no sense. And this baby
is mine.

PARKER
Whose child?

The Planchette again spells out "M.Y. C.H.I.L.D."

PARKER
Maybe the ghost lost their child or
it died here? Did your child die?

The Planchette moves to "No."

MARIS
Are you the mother?

The Planchetter does not move.

MARIS
Well they do not seem to like me.

PARKER
Are you the mother or the father?

MARIS
Better pick one.

PARKER
Are you the mother?

The Planchette moves to "yes."

MARIS
Ask about the father?

PARKER
What about why she is here?

A loud pounding is heard upstairs. Parker gets up and moves toward the exit, gestures to Maris to stay put.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE -UPPER HALL WAY - NIGHT

Parker stands outside the master bedroom. Kevin POUNDS on the door from the inside.

KEVIN

Let me out

PARKER

You tried to kill me and you could have hurt Maris.

KEVIN

I am fine.

PARKER

No. Your drunk.

KEVIN

Not my fault.

PARKER

You need to sleep on it. For your own good.

KEVIN

You...

PARKER

You are staying right in there for the night. We will come let you out in the morning.

KEVIN

But..

PARKER

Your lucky Maris does not leave with me tomorrow. Go to bed.

Kevin is heard moving away from the door. Parker walks down the stairs.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Maris is lying on the bed. Parker knocks on the door.

PARKER

It's me.

Maris opens the door and lets Parker in. She is carrying a tray with tea.

(CONTINUED)

MARIS
Wow. Thanks.

PARKER
This is for me.

MARIS
How is Kevin?

PARKER
Sleeping it off. We both should be
asleep.

Maris breaks down.

MARIS
I thought we were going to be OK.

PARKER
Call his sponsor tomorrow.

MARIS
Yeah.

PARKER
Maybe I should stay another day.

MARIS
Would you?

PARKER
Enough said. Let's get to bed.

Maris climbs into bed. Parker switches off light and climbs
in next to her.

MARIS
Parker?

PARKER
Yeah.

MARIS
I'm sorry and thank you.

PARKER
To steal a new age line from you.
All is forgiven. Night.

Parker and Maris get comfortable and go to sleep.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE -UPPER HALL WAY - MORNING

Maris stands outside the master bedroom. Maris has a pitcher of ice water and a bottle of aspirin on a tray. She puts it down on a side table. Parker stands at a distance behind her. Kevin is heard knocking within.

KEVIN

Ok I hear you. Parker. Please let me out.

MARIS

It is not Parker.

KEVIN

Maris I....

MARIS

Kevin I need to know if you are OK?

KEVIN

Yes.

MARIS

No I mean truly truly OK. You promised no more. You promised for the baby and for me.

KEVIN

I slipped. OK. I Jack..

MARIS

Do not blame this on Jack. Did he forced you to take the first drink?

KEVIN

Well... um. Look. I will not drink again. Jack now knows I should not. Please. I am sorry. Ok.

MARIS

I love you. And I need you to be strong. You are not being strong you are scary drunk and that is not safe for our baby.

KEVIN

Ok. No more. Now please can you open up enough to at least get me some food or something for my headache. It hurts.

Maris opens the door and hands Kevin the tray. He takes it. He moves to embrace her. She gestures no. Kevin sees Parker and backs into the bedroom. Maris and Parker walk downstairs.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE -KITCHEN - DAY

Maris searches the kitchen. Parker sits drinking tea.

PARKER

For what are you looking for?

MARIS

Alka seltzers and tomatoes.
Hangover cures.

PARKER

I can go get some. I used all the tomatoes last night.

MARIS

Can you take back Celestin's plate for me too.

PARKER

Yeah. I want to play 20 question with Celestin and find out about the ghost.

MARIS

I think Kevin and I need a little time to talk.

PARKER

Yeah. You sure.

MARIS

He is sober now. I want him to stay sober.

Parker exits. Maris cleans up.

INT: COTTAGE -KITCHEN - DAY

Celestin is putting away dishes. Parker knocks on the kitchen side door. Celestin answers. Parker has the plate in front of her.

CELESTIN

I was going to come by today and get it. Is everyone alright?

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Kevin has a hangover. Maris is fine. And I have a few questions for you. About the house. Can we talk?

CELESTIN

I am not sure.

PARKER

I do not want to bring up bad memories, but this may sound insane but Maris and I think we talked to a ghost last night. Claret.

CELESTIN

Claret Lacey...

PARKER

Lacey?

CELESTIN

Come in and I will show you.

INT: COTTAGE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Celestin and Parker sit next to each other on a couch. On the table in front of them is the old bible from the 1800s.

PARKER

The ghost said her name was Claret. That she was worried for her child.

CELESTIN

Oh. I think I need to show you this.

Celestin opens the bible to the page with the names Claret Lacy Gilbert and her date of death and Gunther Gilbert and his date of birth.

PARKER

Gilbert is my last name and Maris's maiden names. Where did this come from?

CELESTIN

It was found hidden in the floor of this cottage. My son's grandfather was obsessed with it according to his wife.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Who left the house to Kevin?

CELESTIN

Yes.

CELESTIN

His father had died young. No man of the Montegut's has lived more than a year after the birth of their first born son.

PARKER

Genetics?

CELESTIN

Possibly but the local superstitious say a voodoo queen cursed my husband's family for killing the daughter of one of theirs.

PARKER

One of their's.

CELESTIN

Claret's mother's name was Annikaya, African for "Sweet Face." Claret was engaged to Jason Montegut.

PARKER

Did they marry?

CELESTIN

No.

PARKER

So does that mean Gunther is .. is he our ancestor?

CELESTIN

No one knows for sure what happened to Gunther. But there is no record of a Gunther Gilbert or any Gilberts dying in this county after Claret.

PARKER

Wow.

(CONTINUED)

CELESTIN

The old dear was crazy. Fearful...
She said she saw the ghost when she
was pregnant with my husband.

PARKER

Maris can't see her.

CELESTIN

But you do?

PARKER

Wait so what does this mean? Is the
ghost going to kill one of us?

CELESTIN

No. Just a crazy story.

PARKER

Why didn't you tell my sister and
her husband?

CELESTIN

Would you have believed it? Plus
either way, the house is theirs.
Though at least for now...

PARKER

What?

CELESTIN

The old fool under the will the
property does not belong to Kevin
unless he or his close relatives
stay for a year.

PARKER

Oh.

Celestin closes the bible.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - KITCHEN -LATE AFTERNOON

Parker walks in with a small bag. Maris and Kevin are
sitting deep in conversation.

PARKER

Everything Ok?

MARIS

Yep.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Did you call your sponsor?

KEVIN

Yeah. Look..

MARIS

Did you get the alka seltzer.

Parker hands Maris Alka Seltzer. Maris makes it and puts it in front of Kevin. Parker cuts some tomatoes.

PARKER

I'm going to make my hangover special. Very raw virgin hair of the dog.

KEVIN

Look about the other night. I was just pissed. Everything is ok. I just..

Jack knocks at the door. Parker lets him in.

JACK

Hi. Look I just wanted to... I didn't know Kevin would.. um... Can I get paid?

KEVIN

Paid?

JACK

Hey man look, I was just having fun. I did not know spiking your lemonade would lead to an all out cat fight.

MARIS

You spiked his lemonade?

JACK

Yeah I put a little kick in it before he drank it.

MARIS

Oh.

JACK

He was so thirsty he gulped half of it before he realized and...

(CONTINUED)

PARKER
The worm bit him.

JACK
Yeah... it was tequila. Good
stuff. Um Sorry.... Will you still
pay me? We did good work. Nothing
was damaged and well you do owe me.

Maris pulls out a check book and writes.

MARIS
How much?

JACK
\$500

KEVIN
Really?

JACK
Hey good craftsman ship is hard to
come by and I normally would want a
grand. Ok \$400

Maris writes him a check.

JACK
And I meant it Kevin. You get
tired of this place. I'll take it
off your hands.

Kevin gives Jack a look. Jack exits.

PARKER
You can't sell the house.

MARIS
Yeah. Despite everything so far. I
like this place.

KEVIN
Yeah. Jack actually did many of
the renovations. I..

PARKER
Can't sell the house because you do
not own it yet?

KEVIN
How?

PARKER
Celestin told me. You have to live
here for a year huh?

MARIS
What else did she say?

PARKER
Not much.

MARIS
Yeah... what about?

PARKER
I am staying one more night.

KEVIN
Come on...

MARIS
I have not spent this much time
with Parker since the wedding.

KEVIN
But..

MARIS
I do not get why you hate my
sister. But after what happened
last night. No. She stays.

KEVIN
Fine. I'm going to go work in the
nursery.

Kevin exits.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - DINNING ROOM - EVENING

Parker, Maris, and Kevin eat dinner.

MARIS
How is the nursery coming?

KEVIN
I want to paint the walls again and
ceiling. You should stay out of it
for a few days.

PARKER
what are you two planning for the
baby?

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

What do you mean?

PARKER

I mean, how far is the nearest hospital?

MARIS

We hired a mid wife. She is coming in two weeks.

KEVIN

She will be staying in your room. Just so you know.

PARKER

As I said I will be gone tomorrow, but look Maris...

KEVIN

We will be fine without you.

MARIS

Kevin please?

PARKER

It is OK. I get it. But if you need me too I can come back.

MARIS

Kevin your only one man.

PARKER

I've seen father's fall apart over babies. Remember my old neighbor Clark holding his new baby.

MARIS

He looked like he thought he was holding a dangerous snake.

KEVIN

I may be an only child, but I am Catholic. Remember.

PARKER

Not practicing.

KEVIN

Don't.

BANG like the sound of a door being swung open. Something rolls and drops suddenly. Parker bolts upstairs. Kevin follows.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE -UPPER HALL WAY - NIGHT

Parker reaches the upper hall way. The bottle of liquor Kevin hid on the first day lies against the wall. The hall closet door lies unbolted and open. Parker grabs the bottle and hurries back downstairs past Kevin.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - DINNING ROOM -EVENING

Parker places the bottle on the kitchen table.

KEVIN

Maris I can explain.

PARKER

Really. I used to keep a bottle in case of emergencies under the sink.

MARIS

I...

KEVIN

I was holding it for...

PARKER

What Jack? Doesn't he run the town bar?

KEVIN

I'm done with it. OK. Maris I am.

PARKER

I'm an addict too. And this is not done.

KEVIN

You made a lousy interventionist.

MARIS

Stop both of you.

Maris leaves to the back of the house. Door SLAMS and LOCKS.

KEVIN

Great.

Kevin grabs the liquor bottle and heads upstairs.

PARKER

What do you think you are doing?

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN
(VO from upstairs)
None of your God damn business.

Door upstairs SLAMS shut. Parker moves to the kitchen.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE -GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Maris is pacing. A KNOCK on the door.

MARIS
Who is it?

PARKER
Me.

Maris opens the door. Parker walks in with a tray with tea and left over chocolate and marshmallows from the night before.

PARKER
Thought you could use something to
calm your nerves.

Parker pours Maris a cup.

MARIS
How is he?

PARKER
Don't know. He stormed upstairs. He
is either contemplating drinking or
not.

MARIS
But...

PARKER
After last night I do not think
either of us are safe upstairs. We
should just lock ourselves in here.

MARIS
Great what if I need to go or brush
my teeth.

PARKER
Hall bathroom and we can pretend we
are clubbing.

Parker and Maris set up to drink tea and eat. Ouija board still sits on the table.

(CONTINUED)

MARIS
So what else did Celestin say?

PARKER
The ghost may be a woman named
Claret Gilbert.

MARIS
Wait. Gilbert?

PARKER
Yeah.

MARIS
How? I mean. Am I? Are you?
Related.

PARKER
We could ask?

MARIS
No. Now I am really scared.

Thunder CLAPS in the distance.

MARIS
Great.

The planchette moves on its own.

MARIS
Parker?

PARKER
Claret?

The planchette moves to "yes." Then spells out
"G.I.L.B.E.R.T." Thunder CLAPS again.

MARIS
Oh this is too much.

Maris collapses onto the bed.

The planchette spells out "D.A.N.G.E.R." Another CLAP of
thunder this time closer. the board flies off the table.

MARIS
Parker! The baby.

A large water stain forms on Maris' lower legs and bed.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

Parker frantic. Opens drawers and cabinets. Phone RINGS.

PARKER
Hello. Oh Hi

CELESTIN
(VO)
Is everything Ok?

PARKER
No.

CELESTIN
(VO)
I called because of the storm. The shutters should be shut. Is there something else wrong?

PARKER
Maris. Her water broke. The baby. We could use some help. We are in the back first floor bedroom.

CELESTIN
(VO)
I'll come...

The line dies.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE- GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Parker walks in with towels, a pair of scissors, thread and a bottle of hydrogen peroxide. Maris breathes heavily.

PARKER
You ok.

MARIS
This is not supposed to be happening. Make it stop.

PARKER
I wish I could. Hey. You're the strongest woman I know.

MARIS
Me. I cry at weddings and get freaked out by ghosts.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

But your going to be a Mom.

MARIS

Who was on the phone?

PARKER

Celest. I think she is on her way.

MARIS

You think. Ahhh.

Maris CRIES in pain from a contraction.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - MASTER BED ROOM - NIGHT

Kevin paces, bottle of liquor in hand. He opens it. Closes it. Opens it. Looks for a glass. Throws things from off of the dresser onto the floor. Grabs the bottle again. Opens it. Drinks and sinks onto the bed.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE -GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Maris CRIES from pain.

PARKER

Push.

MARIS

I don't think I do that yet. Can you see the baby.

Parker looks under sheets and blankets draped over Maris's lower half.

PARKER

No. I think it is too soon.

MARIS

Well I wish it would hurry up.

A KNOCK is heard on the door.

PARKER

Who is it?

CELESTIN

Celestin.

Parker lets Celestin in and locks the door behind her.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Kevin is upstairs not well.

CELESTIN

Oh. How are you Maris?

MARIS

Have you given birth to a baby before?

CELESTIN

I have a son remember? Your going to be ok. Do me a favor Parker and sit next to her and rub her back. This is going to be awhile.

Parker and Celestin both sit with Maris. She CRIES again in pain.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - MASTER BED ROOM - NIGHT

Kevin sits with the now half empty bottle. He takes a gulp. Eyes red. He takes another drink. Paces. Yanks a lamp from the side table and throws it against the wall.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Maris writhing on bed in pain. Parker holds her hand. Celestin is at her feet. BANG

CELESTIN

What was that?

PARKER

Don't know.

MARIS

Please please please let this be over.

CELESTIN

Your doing fine.

MARIS

Ha.

POUNGING on the bedroom door from the outside

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - GUEST ROOM OUTER HALL - NIGHT

Kevin POUNDS on the door with his fists.

KEVIN

Let me in! Let me in! Let me in
Bitch!

Kevin rams the door with his body

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Maris breathes heavily. Celestin at her feet propped up to deliver a baby. Parker stands feet from the inside bedroom door.

PARKER

Kevin. Maris is giving birth NOW.
Stop.

Parker steps toward the door.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - GUEST ROOM OUTER HALL - NIGHT

Kevin yells at the door.

KEVIN

You don't tell me to stop you
whore.

PARKER

(VO)

Be reasonable Kevin. Your wife is
giving birth.

KEVIN

I don't want you touching my baby.
It is enough you fucked me.

Kevin pounds on door again.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Parker moves back to Maris.

PARKER

He does not know what he is saying?

KEVIN

(VO)

Yes I do whore.

Maris breathing heavy. SCREAMS from contraction. Yanks Parker's hand.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Ouch!

MARIS

Sorry. It hurts.

PARKER

I'm sorry.

MARIS

I know.

PARKER

What?

MARIS

(as she contracts)

I know. I know you two happened.
It was over. The past.

PARKER

How long?

MARIS

Before the wedding. I got past it.
So should both of you.

PARKER

Wow.

MARIS

Pays to be new age. Or maybe
having this baby. Love is
important. Not...

PARKER

Addictions and desires.

MARIS

Yeah. Maybe you need to get
pregnant.

PARKER

Hey. Let's get your Gilbert
O'Neill out into the world first.

Suddenly BANG at the door. It starts to give.

MARIS

Kevin Stop!

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

No!

MARIS

Please.

Silence. Then CRASH. Thunder also crashes.

MARIS

What was that. AHHH!

PARKER

Kevin.(pause) Kevin.

MARIS

Kevin? Is he hurt? My baby!

PARKER

I'll go check.

CELESTIN

Be careful.

Parker opens the door. Exits. Celestin locks the door behind her.

INT: PLANTATION HOUSE -DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Kevin pushes a shelf off his lower body. Broken plates and glass everywhere.

KEVIN

Stupid.

PARKER

Kevin you need to get help.

KEVIN

No. Your going to need help.

PARKER

Kevin.

Kevin grabs Parker. Kevin yanks her up the stairs. Parker resists. The liquor bottle sits at the top of the stairs. He grabs it. Shoves it toward Parker's mouth. She pushes. Her face narrowly misses a nail protruding from the stair well. Parker pushes Kevin and he falls over the banister. Kevin's body lies motionless below. A baby CRIES.

EXT: COTTAGE - DAY - WEEK LATER

Parker Maris and Celestin stand around a baby, GUNTHER, in a baby carriage on the front porch.

CELESTIN
Just look at him. He is adorable.

MARIS
He has his father's eyes.

Parker puts her arms around Maris.

CELESTIN
I'm sorry for your loss.

PARKER
It is going to be OK. Group hug.

Celestin, Parker, and Maris move to embrace.

CELESTIN
Do you know if there was a ghost?

MARIS
If?

CELESTIN
I think this is what she wanted.

All three women look at the baby from one side of the table. Celestin and Maris give each other a hug.

CELESTIN
I think we are family. You should consider keeping the house. Stay.
Y

Maris and Celestin hug. Parker moves toward GUNTHER. Pauses. A figure can be seen in the reflection of the window. A woman in colonial dress leaning in to kiss GUNTHER on the forehead. She vanishes. Parker alone sees. She smiles. The baby laughs.