

SIDE 4- JULIE/CHUCK

Black out

(GRACE and TONY leave the stage, TONY taking the gun from CHUCK, in a beat, lights on CHUCK as he turns to the audience quickly.)

CHUCK: Today is a real shitty day. Started shitty and just got...shittier. There was a brief moment of sunshine...*hope* I guess it was...then just...well clearly things went from bad to worse. How did I end up with a gun! *(beat)* How did things get so fucked up??? *(beat)* God damn. *(beat)* Man this has been a *really* shitty day.

(Lights down on Chuck and the living room.)

(Lights up on the side set. It is a stylish bistro, but clearly closed and under renovations. Two or three small round bistro tables are centred, two of which have chairs stacked on top, one has chairs for sitting. There are table cloths folded and strewn over the tables and chairs. A bar or side bar is behind. CHUCK enters into the area looking around, he is unsure of where he is exactly)

CHUCK: *(calling out hesitantly)* Jules?

(JULIE enters from the opposite direction.)

CHUCK: I thought we were meeting for breakfast

JULIE: Yes we are

CHUCK: This place is closed

JULIE: Yes it is

CHUCK: So...

(JULIE hands him and coffee in a take out cup and a breakfast sandwich in a fast food wrapping.)

JULIE: Voila, breakfast

(CHUCK looks at the sandwich and coffee)

CHUCK: I don't understand

JULIE: It's French

SIDE 4- JULIE/CHUCK

CHUCK: Cute. Should we even be here?

JULIE: Absolutely *(enthusiastically)* Okay...Picture new tables, or keep these for now but definitely change the chairs, over there one big circular booth for groups. The bar here, kind of the way they had it but bigger and I'm thinking marble...white and black...mostly white...with a giant wine rack behind it, not taps..I don't want any taps.

CHUCK: Okay let's start with...what the hell are you talking about?

JULIE: Maybe just one or two taps, but at the bar, it's all about lighting

CHUCK: Jules?

JULIE: *(She presents the space)* This is it!

CHUCK: This is what?

JULIE: Café d'Alsace

CHUCK: Café d'Alsace?

(JULIE corrects him on the pronunciation.)

JULIE: d'Alsace... Café d'Alsace

CHUCK: It's early Jules, Just —

(JULIE holds up a set of keys. There is a slight pause as it sinks in with CHUCK.)

CHUCK: Are you telling me...that you...

JULIE: I put a deposit down last week, got the keys this morning...surprise!

(CHUCK is silent as it sinks in.)

JULIE: Well? Aren't you surprised?

CHUCK: Just let me reserve the surprise..ness for a moment...you put a deposit down?

JULIE: *(Proud, excited)* Yes. Last week

CHUCK: Last week?

SIDE 4- JULIE/CHUCK

JULIE: Yes

CHUCK: (*Looking around*) You didn't say anything

JULIE: No I didn't

CHUCK: Why didn't you say anything

JULIE: I told you, I wanted to surprise you

CHUCK: How much?

JULIE: The lease or the business?

CHUCK: You signed a lease?

JULIE: Yes...so, the business is mine but I had to sign a lease. (*beat*) This is what we've been talking about, I mean look at this place!

CHUCK: We have?

JULIE: We have what?

CHUCK: Talked about this?

JULIE: Yes

CHUCK: When?

JULIE: Are you fucking kidding me?

CHUCK: Julie we talk about lots of things, we talked about going to Cuba this winter...I didn't immediately go out and book flights

JULIE: Okay, listen, I get it, it's a big step

CHUCK: Yes. Yes it is Julie, it's a big step

JULIE: But if I didn't do it now...then when?

CHUCK: Jesus

SIDE 4- JULIE/CHUCK

JULIE: With Ellie old enough now that I don't need to be home..it just seemed like the perfect time, this came up and ...I jumped on it. God, my hand was shaking signing the lease!

(CHUCK looks around the room.)

CHUCK: *(sinking in)* You signed a lease

JULIE: Yes Chuck I signed a lease!

CHUCK: I'm afraid to ask how —

JULIE: Eight thousand a month

CHUCK: Okay, that's a lot of money

(JULIE picks some papers up from the table and goes over them with CHUCK.)

JULIE: Are you kidding me? That is awesome for this area. Look these are the numbers from the last two years, so after taxes *(beat)* Obviously it's slower in the winter, but —

CHUCK: *(making sense of it)* But —

JULIE: What?

CHUCK: — You gotta think about Salaries, taxes...stuff....produce...

JULIE: I did. I have. It's all here Chuck

(JULIE is prepared, she hands him a spread sheet, he quickly looks it over as JULIE looks around.)

CHUCK: Even if you do keep staffing down..I mean what do you know about doing a payroll... you have shifts that need —

JULIE: —I can work a lot of them! Look I've got a schedule all worked out *(shows another sheet of paper)*

CHUCK: When did you do all this?

JULIE: Uh let's see...at night when you aren't home, which is pretty much every night

(Pause.)