12/12/7A

Draft 1.3

INT. HALLWAY OF PRAIRIE FARMHOUSE. 1938 LATE NIGHT

NATALIE, (16), still in her wedding dress, goes to the window looking out for her bridegroom WALTER to return in a taxi. The wind has picked up and a storm is now howling outside. BEN, (18) wedding musician, sits waiting for his taxi at one end of a sofa. The two of them are surrounded by the leftover mess of the raucous wedding celebration.

Natalie shivers and moves away from the window to stand at the other end of the sofa, rubbing her arms to keep warm. Feeling uncomfortably alone with the young bride, Ben nervously beats out drum beats on his legs.

Ben looks at all the wrapped wedding presents.

BEN

You got a good haul!

(looking at basket full of money)

Looks like a downpayment on a house!

Natalie is silent. She smooths down her wedding dress.

BEN (CONT'D)

You must be very happy.

Ben picks up one of the wrapped presents and presents it to Natalie. She turns away. He awkwardly puts it back.

NATALIE

Happy..

Not exactly...

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(lightly)

Not enough loot for you?

NATALIE

It's not that..

Natalie hesitates. Ben seems like he might be genuinely interested so she decides to continue. She sits down at the far end of the sofa.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Walter's one of my father's suppliers. I only agreed to work for him after school because we needed the money. He really seemed to need me and

(pauses)

I felt sorry for him..

BEN

You fell in love with him?

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Oh no..nothing like that. He was so old and pathetic and he wouldn't take no for an answer. I felt like I didn't have any choice.

Ben looks nervously over to the window to see if his taxi is there. It's not.

BEN

So now..?

NATALIE

I got myself into this situation and I have to deal with it.

BEN

Situation?

NATALIE

You know...

NATALIE points to her belly.

BEN

(surprised, light bulb
goes off)

Oh! You mean he...

Natalie looks down nodding, teary-eyed. She's ashamed. Ben is angry at Walter and sorry for her at the same time.

BEN (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Bastard..

NATALIE

(recovering)

I'll be okay. I'll have my kids and a comfortable home.

BEN

But will you be happy?

NATALIE

Look at me. I'm poor, I'm plain, and I'm pregnant. When do girls like me get to be happy?

Feeling like there's nothing more he can offer, Ben starts to get up.

You know, I don't think my taxi is coming...maybe I'd better walk.

Natalie suddenly pulls him back down.

NATALIE

NO! Don't go!...I mean...your drums...you can't carry them.

Ben ends up sitting very close to her. Their faces are almost touching. They look into each other's eyes. Both are very surprised at what they are beginning to feel. They kiss. The innocent kiss turns passionate and they hold each other very tightly.

Natalie stands, beckoning Ben. He hesitates.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
Don't worry...my parents sleep
through anything..

Ben tentatively follows Natalie.

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