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SCRIPT SAMPLE

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KILLERS
By Werner Treischmann

Cast

MARY ANN

SID

CAROL

Place

Various locations and Sid's kitchen

Time

Present

Setting

At center is a pretty kitchen table with three pretty chairs. Fresh pretty roses sit prettily at the center of the table.

Note

The play is about the emotional split of these three characters. These aspects – the violent side and the domestic side – are not incompatible or to be played in a cartoonish manner. Both are real parts of their personalities and hopefully should come across that way.

One

Lights down.

There is a loud, insistent knocking at a door. If the sound can resemble quick gunshots, all the better.

Lights up.

SID, wearing a bright yellow femme fatale wig, fire engine red lipstick and dark sunglasses, walks in with a brown paper sack. SHE puts the sack on the table.

SID

(Calling out)

Jarred?! Jarred?! Julian?!

More knocking on the door. SID walks off.

MARY ANN

(Off stage, calling out)

Real estate! Real estate!

SID comes back with a bassinet and a steaming cup of coffee. She puts the bassinet down on the table (with the back facing the audience). She then stands and sips the coffee while, from time to time, glancing down at sack.

MARY ANN walks in and stands in a pool of light stage right. Dressed in a smart, conservative business suit with a prominent real estate pin on her lapel, she holds a clipboard in her hand and speaks directly to the audience.

MARY ANN

Go ahead and look around. I'll be here. Sure, this is a small place. I think I warned you on the way over. The ceilings are low. But it sure is cozy, isn't it? The water heater? Let me see. It's...it's, a, 4 years old. Which isn't old. My daughter is 4.

CAROL walks in and sits in a chair placed stage left. CAROL is driving. SHE checks her watch.

CAROL

OK. Cushions, grocery, meeting.

SID puts down her coffee and reaches in the sack. SHE pulls out a large gun. SHE puts it down on the table and then picks it up and examines it.

MARY ANN

It's 1400 square feet. That doesn't include the back porch off the kitchen.

CAROL

C'mon. C'mon, c'mon, c'mon.

MARY ANN

What? I don't know why there's black hair in the sink. But it's a sweet house, don't you think? It's cozy.

CAROL snaps forward in her car.

CAROL

Cocksucker!

SID walks to the back of the table and looks at her baby.

SID

Hey, doll. Hey.

CAROL

Jesus! Turn signal! Use your damn turn signal, you invalid!

SID

Go back to sleep.

CAROL

Go back to rehab.

MARY ANN

The security bars on the windows can be unlocked from the inside.

CAROL

Don't just sit there, hunchback! Turn!

SID

Don't fuss.

MARY ANN

You know, I don't know that you notice those bars.

CAROL

Go, go, go. You hunchbacked jug head! Blind wombat!

SID

Don't fuss, doll.

CAROL

Somebody ought to cram that peace bumper sticker right up your ass!

MARY ANN

All the houses in this neighborhood have them.

CAROL

Turn now, turn now, turn now.

MARY ANN

I've just had them put on my house. I think you have to nowadays. Uh huh. Security. What everybody wants.

SID

It's mother. It's your mother.

CAROL

(A huge scream)

JESUS H! HELP ME!

SID

Mother bought a gun. See. Shiny.

CAROL looks at her watch.

CAROL

OK. All right, can't get the cushions. Fuck the fuckin' cushions. Go to the grocery and then the meeting. Now c'mon. Let me out of the lane.

SID

(Taking the gun away from the child)

No. Mother needs that for protection.

CAROL

I can't...get out.

SID puts the gun in her mouth.

MARY ANN

Oh, this is an adorable house. I think it is, especially for a young family. They put a new roof on last March. That's something. The black hair will come out with a rag. What? My husband? Isn't my husband anymore.

SID takes the gun out her mouth and takes sip of coffee and then puts the gun back in her mouth.

CAROL

Let me out of this...LANE!

MARY ANN

You feel claustrophobic? Really? Oh, I wouldn't call it a coffin. The house isn't a coffin, it's a house.

SID takes the gun out of her mouth and puts it back on the table.

SID

I can do it.

MARY ANN

You adjust to the space. You're feeling claustrophobic because you just walked in. That will pass. If you don't panic, the closed in feeling will pass. You just have to let your mind wander. Let it roam out beyond your own feeling of being trapped. Because you aren't confined.

You know I saw that movie, one of those very disturbing movies that put me off TV and film for a while. It's rotten what they allow on the screen and I believe that even though I used to be very wild myself and sort of a late hippie though I did bathe and didn't believe in free love because that's what men wanted. So, you know. One night after the end of very long week of houses that did not sell and family problems you wouldn't believe if you saw them on a talk, I decided to rent a movie. Escape in the form of video cassette. So I stumbled into the store and picked something off the shelf and stumbled out again. I don't even ask those pock-marked clerks behind the desk because I don't want to be in the video store on a Friday night all by myself one minute more than absolutely necessary. And why they have the brightest lights in those stores, I have no idea. It's like walking into the middle of a circus ring and you're the Chinese baboon with the bright orange ass.

So, you know. As it happens, I've rented this movie where this woman is buried alive. While I can identify, I don't want to see it in full color and blaring at me on the screen. We get the picture of her trapped in a coffin and banging on the coffin lid, which was all because she was nice to this man at a truck stop, which was her first mistake and you should never make eye contact at those places and everybody is well aware of that. That's a fact of modern life. Truck stops will get you killed.

MARY ANN rubs her eyes.

MARY ANN
My eyes.

So. What do you think of the house?

Blackout.

Two

SID is sitting at her kitchen table and drinking a cup of steaming coffee. The bassinet and gun are gone. SID is wearing the same clothes and lipstick, but her wig is off. SHE stares straight. MARY ANN, wearing the same suit from the first scene, walks in.

SID
You're early.

MARY ANN
Yeah.

SID
You don't look great.

MARY ANN
Really?

SID
The eyes. Kinda dim.

MARY ANN
Carol?

SID
Coming.

MARY ANN
OK. You look all right.

SID
I make very strong coffee. It's like formaldehyde. Keeps me fresh.

MARY ANN
Well. Your lipstick is sure...lively.

SID

(Had forgotten about it)
Oh. Right. Just trying something new.

MARY ANN
Josh asleep?

SID
In the den.

MARY ANN
What's he, six months now?

SID
Uh-huh. He's a quiet one. We're convinced he isn't ours.

MARY ANN
Please tell me that getting this together is as hard for you. I need to know I'm not the only one.

SID
You're not, Mary Ann.

MARY ANN
I believe in the group, Sid. I do.

SID
Sure.

MARY ANN
And God knows I need a political aspect to my life. You know? I need a fight and a cause. Otherwise, it's just groceries and houses and driving. From morning to night, I'm in the car. I feel like I'm part of it, like the carburetor.

SID
Nobody has time, Mary Ann.

MARY ANN
I know.

SID
I really hate the way everybody is whining about time lately. I say be a grown up, for Christ's sake.

MARY ANN
Sidney.

SID

In every conversation, you've got to block out this time so each person can talk about how tired they are. It's ridiculous.

MARY ANN

Well, I didn't mean to cause this –

SID

You're like one of my kids, Mary Ann. Besides, you made a pledge to us months ago.

MARY ANN

I'm here.

SID

Did you talk to your father yet?

MARY ANN

No, not yet. But even you must feel overwhelmed. You have three kids and I have one. You know I'm showing this house this afternoon – I think it's my tenth house of the day – and I'm into some impossibly long speech about claustrophobia. I can hear myself talking and I don't even know how I got to talking about claustrophobia. I think one of the clients said something about being buried alive. Anyway, I was chattering on about this and, suddenly, my eyes feel like red, hot cinders and I wanted to lay down in the middle of the empty living room and never get up.

SID

Coffee?

MARY ANN

No.

SID

You aren't going to bail on us? Right?

MARY ANN

Oh. I have killer gossip.

SID

Killer?

MARY ANN

I have gossip to die for.

SID

So Mary Ann. I'm dying.

MARY ANN

You know Carol's family project that's kept her from the meetings? You know that mysterious family project, the one that suddenly cropped up last month.

SID

Oh. Divorce?

MARY ANN

No.

SID

DWI?

MARY ANN

Are you kidding? With Johnny being a judge that plans to run for Mayor. She'd slit her wrists.

SID

No, stick her head in the oven.

MARY ANN

No, her stove is electric. I see her as something very clean. Anal. Cyanide.

SID

True. Where would she find it?

MARY ANN

Any Lawn and Garden department. Look at the pesticides next time.

SID

Yeah, Julian drowns our roses in toxins to kills the bugs.

MARY ANN

You're roses are amazing!

SID

Well, they do brighten up the room.

MARY ANN

They sure do.

Small pause.

SID

I'd go for the gun in the mouth. Shoot my brains all over this kitchen.

MARY ANN

You'd have to buy the gun first.

SID

Right.

MARY ANN

I figure I'll hang myself from the oak tree on the lawn. That way the neighbors could see me turn blue and my eyes buy out. Maybe I could print up a listing for my house and put it around my neck. Or, no! Maybe pin a long To Do list on my sweater. All of them would be crossed off except for the last one, which would be "kill myself." Much more satisfying than cyanide.

SID

Wait a minute. Carol didn't try....?

MARY ANN

Oh gosh no. She had an abortion.

SID

Thank God.

MARY ANN

A friend works part-time in the clinic. She said Carol has the procedure last week.

SID

She told me she didn't want any more kids.

MARY ANN

I guess she's lucky. In a couple of years it might not be legal.

SID

God Mary Ann, don't make me more depressed.

MARY ANN

You heard about the doctor they shot in Florida.

SID

Yes. I saw the interviews with him on TV. Interviews that were taped before the shooting.

MARY ANN

I can't watch TV anymore.