

THE GOLDEN GIRLS
PILOT

FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

WRITTEN BY SUSAN HARRIS
DIRECTED BY JAY SANDRICH
PRODUCED BY PAUL JUNGER WITT AND TONY THOMAS

WITT/THOMAS/HARRIS PRODUCTIONS

FINAL DRAFT APRIL 12, 1985

CAST

DOROTHY

- BEA ARTHUR

ROSE

- BETTY WHITE

BLANCHE

- RUE McCLANAHAN

SOPHIA

- ESTELLE GETTY

COCO

- CHARLES LEVIN

HARRY

- not yet casted

MINISTER

- F. WILLIAM PARKER

COP

- MESHACH TAYLOR

ACT ONE

Scene 1: INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Scene 2: INT. BLANCHE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Scene 3: INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Scene 4: EXT. LANAI - VERY LATE THAT NIGHT

Scene 5: INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION

ACT TWO

Scene 1: INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Scene 2: INT. BLANCHE'S BEDROOM - SOME DAYS LATER

Scene 4: INT. LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Scene 5: EXT. LANAI - THREE WEEKS LATER - EVENING

THE GOLDEN GIRLS

ACT ONE / Scene 1
(FADE IN:)

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING (DAY ONE)

(Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, Coco)
(DOROTHY ENTERS, CROSSES THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM, EXITS)

INT. KITCHEN
(COCO IS COOKING. DOROTHY ENTERS)

DOROTHY
I taught a class today -- the finest school in Dada County -- two girls had shaved heads and three boys had green hair.

COCO
They're expressing themselves.

DOROTHY
And I expressed myself. I told them to leave; they were too ugly to look at. Now the parents are mad. A father came in in a three piece suit and defended Tiffany, a bald girl with a nose ring.
(SHE LOOKS AT POT)
What is this?

COCO
Enchiladas Rancheros.

DOROTHY
Why don't you just shoot me.

(ROSE ENTERS)

ROSE
Hello.

COCO / DOROTHY
Hello, Rose.

ROSE
What a day. I had the saddest clients.

DOROTHY
Rose, you work at grief counseling.
What do you expect, comedians?

(ROSE THINKS A MINUTE)

ROSE
Well, they have grief. You think Bob Hope's happy when they don't laugh.

BLANCHE (O. S.)
Coco -

COCO
Yes, Blanche.

(BLANCHE ENTERS)

BLANCHE

Can I borrow your mink stole?

COCO

It's Miami in June. Only cats are wearing fur. Are you going out?

DOROTHY

No. she's going to sit here where it's a hundred and twelve degrees and eat enchiladas.

BLANCHE

I need some cucumbers to put on my eyes.

DOROTHY

You'll have trouble seeing, Blanche

BLANCHE

It's very good. It reduces puffiness.

ROSE

Does it work on thighs?

BLANCHE

I don't know. I don't need it on my thighs. (SHE EXITS)

ROSE

Who is she going out with?

COCO

Harry, again.

(COCO EXITS)

DOROTHY

Who is this Harry?

ROSE

All Blanche said was he still has his teeth and his hair.

DOROTHY

It's wonderful dating in Miami. All the single men under eighty are cocaine smugglers.

ROSE

I'd kill to be twenty again.

DOROTHY

I'd kill to be forty again. You know, I got the shock of my life today. I was in the teacher's lounge talking to some girls in their twenties. They were so pretty. At that age you don't even have to be pretty and you're pretty. Anyway, we were all talking and laughing together and I completely forgot I was older. I just became one of the girls. And I had such a good time, too. Then I got into my car and caught a glimpse of myself in the rearview mirror and almost had a heart attack. This old woman was in the mirror; I didn't recognize her.

ROSE

Who was it?

DOROTHY

It was me.

ROSE

Oh.

DOROTHY

I had felt so young, so like those girls, that I was totally unprepared for my face.

(COCO ENTERS)

ROSE

I know. It's shocking. Every time I look down, I see my mother's legs.

COCO

My legs are exactly the way they were when I was sixteen. In fact, last week I got carded.

DOROTHY

During a blackout.

COCO

Who cares? What is young? What is anything? What is blonde? What is pretty? What is wrinkles? It all changes. Inside is what stays the same.

ROSE

Oh, Coco. That is so wise. That is poetry. Isn't it, Dorothy?

DOROTHY

Why don't you write it down, Rose.

(BLANCHE ENTERS)

DOROTHY

Blanche -- who is Harry?

BLANCHE

My beau. He's wonderful. He's a real gentleman. He's very gallant. He's a great dancer and he doesn't make noises when he chews.

DOROTHY

Chewing. That's way up there on my list. Comes right after intelligent.

BLANCHE

He doesn't talk loud at the movies, he doesn't take his pulse, and he's still interested.

ROSE

In what?

DOROTHY

If you have to ask, it doesn't matter anymore.

BLANCHE

And he proposed.

(BLANCHE EXITS)

ROSE

Blanche, wait a minute

(DOROTHY AND ROSE EXIT)

INT. LIVING. ROOM - CONTINUOUS

(ROSE AND DOROTHY ENTER)

ROSE (CONT'D)

He proposed? You've only-known him a week.

BLANCHE

And he wants an answer tonight.

ROSE / DOROTHY

Tonight?

DOROTHY

What are you going to tell him?

BLANCHE

I don't know. He's very wonderful, but I've only known him a week.

ROSE

That's right.

BLANCHE

But I also don't want to lose him, so I don't know what I'll tell him. Now I've got to put on my face.

(BLANCHE EXITS)

ROSE

Dorothy, what if she marries him? What will happen to us? This house is hers.

DOROTHY

Then we'll move.

ROSE

We can't afford to buy a house. What do we have as collateral, a gay cook? Dorothy, we'll become bag ladies.

DOROTHY

Rose, come on.

(COCO ENTERS)

ROSE

Blanche is going to get married.

COCO

She is?

DOROTHY

She hasn't said that,

ROSE

And then you'll get married and Coco'll meet a decorator and I'll be alone.

DOROTHY

Rose, how can I get married? I don't even have a date.

COCO

God, the first home I've had since eighth grade and it's going to break up. I can't stand it.

ROSE

You haven't had a home since eighth grade?

COCO

When my parents found out I was gay, my mother had a heart attack and died. My father re-married, moved and never left me his address.

DOROTHY

No one is getting married, Coco. No home is breaking up. Let's go talk to Blanche.

(DOROTHY EXITS)

ROSE

You're quite a guy, Coco. You've had such a hard life and you can still call yourself gay.

(ROSE EXITS) (CUT TO:)

Scene 2,

INT. BLANCHE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION (DAY ONE)

(Blanche, Dorothy, Rose)

(BLANCHE SITS AT MAKE-UP TABLE APPLYING MAKE-UP. DOROTHY KNOCKS)

DOROTHY (O. S.)

Blanche?

BLANCHE

Come in.

(DOROTHY ENTERS)

DOROTHY

Blanche, your friend Harry wants an answer tonight. What are you going to say?

BLANCHE

I haven't decided. I guess I'll know when I hear the words come out of my mouth.

DOROTHY

You'll know when you hear it come out of your mouth? This isn't a belch, Blanche; this is marriage. My God, you've got more colors than Benjamin Moore paints.

ROSE

You shouldn't rush into anything, Blanche. You hardly know him.

BLANCHE

What do you think my husband George would think of me and Harry?

DOROTHY

If he was alive, he probably wouldn't like it. Since he's dead, I don't think it's a problem.

BLANCHE

I just want George to know that I'm happy, but that I'll never be as happy with Harry in the same way as I was with him.

ROSE

He knows that, Blanche. He knows. The thoughts and feelings go straight to him. You can communicate directly from your heart. Right, Dorothy?

DOROTHY

Don't ask me. I can't get through to New Jersey with MCI.

SFX: DOORBELL RINGS

BLANCHE

Oh! God, he's early. I haven't finished my face.

DOROTHY

The only thing left is to dip it in bronze. We'll get it.

(DOROTHY AND ROSE EXIT)

(CUT TO:)

Scene 3

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION (DAY ONE)
(Dorothy, Sophia, Rose, Blanche, Harry)
(DOROTHY AND ROSE ENTER)

DOROTHY

I wonder what he looks like.

ROSE

I just hope he doesn't have hair in his ears.

(DOROTHY OPENS DOOR. SOPHIA ENTERS)

SOPHIA

Hi, there.

DOROTHY

Ma. What's the matter?

SOPHIA

Everyone's fine, no one died. The home burnt down.

DOROTHY

My God, are you all right? How did you get here?

SOPHIA

I hitched.

DOROTHY

Ma.

SOPHIA

A cab, I took a cab.

DOROTHY

You should have called.

SOPHIA

I am perfectly capable of managing by myself. I don't need help. I am a totally independent person.

DOROTHY

I know. I know.

SOPHIA

I need sixty-seven dollars for the cab.

DOROTHY

That's crazy. The home is fifteen minutes-from here.

SOPHIA

The driver is Cuban. He said there was an additional tax for a bi-lingual driver.

DOROTHY

I'll take care of him.

(DOROTHY EXITS)

ROSE

Sit down, Sophia, you must be exhausted.

SOPHIA

Why? I rode in the cab, I didn't push it.

(BLANCHE ENTERS)

BLANCHE

Sophia, good to see you.

SOPHIA

Who are you?

BLANCHE

It's me. Blanche.

SOPHIA

You look like a prostitute.

ROSE

Oh, Sophia, the things you say. She doesn't mean it, Blanche.

SOPHIA

Of course I mean it. Look at her. My cab driver would fall in love. Can I get something to eat or is the fancy man in the kitchen?

ROSE

It's okay, Sophia. Just go on in.

(SOPHIA EXITS)

ROSE (CONT'D)

The way she talks.

BLANCHE

She can't help it.

ROSE

I've met plenty of people who've had strokes. Some of them are in very bad shape, but they're still ladies.

BLANCHE

Rose, this stroke destroyed the part of her brain that censors what she says, so she says whatever she thinks because she can't help it.

(SOPHIA ENTERS)

SOPHIA

You know his father moved and never left an address.

(DOROTHY ENTERS)

DOROTHY

Mother, the driver said you promised him a sixty-seven dollar tip.

SOPHIA

Don't be silly. I said a six, seven dollar tip. Why don't these people learn English if they're going to live here? This is Miami. I'd have less trouble getting around Ecuador.

SFX: DOORBELL RINGS

BLANCHE

I'll get it.

(BLANCHE OPENS DOOR. HARRY ENTERS)

BLANCHE
Hi.

HARRY
Hi, my pretty.

BLANCHE
Everybody, this is Harry. Harry, is Rose. Dorothy. And Sophia.

HARRY
You must be Blanche's sister.

SOPHIA
And you must be blind,

BLANCHE
Sophia's home just burned down.

HARRY
Oh, that's terrible.

SOPHIA
Not to me. It was an old age home. And you know what they did? They set off the fire alarm. In an old age home. Who can rush? Half the people have walkers, the other half can't get out of their chairs, but got bells going off like crazy. You know what that does to hearts that beat only a few times a week? It's not pretty.

HARRY
I think we'd better go. we have reservations. Ladies, a pleasure.

(BLANCHE PUTS THE MINK STOLE AROUND HER)

SOPHIA
I hope he's taking you to a cold climate.

DOROTHY / ROSE
Nice meeting you.

(BLANCHE AND HARRY EXIT)

SOPHIA
The man's a douche bag.

DOROTHY
Mother.

ROSE
This is so sad. We were all so lonely and then, by a miracle, we found each other.

DOROTHY
Rose, we answered an ad to share Blanche's house that we found on the bulletin board of a local market. That was hardly a miracle.

ROSE
To me it was a miracle. Because we were happy. It's not fair, you know. I mean we get married, have kids,, our kids leave and our husbands die. Is that some kind of test? Because if it isn't some kind of test like maybe Job's teat, then I don't get it. You don't work that hard and go through everything you go through to be left alone. We're alone, Dorothy. We really are. Our families are gone and we're alone. And there are too many years left and I just don't know what

to do.

SOPHIA

Get a poodle. (DISSOLVE TO:)

WARDROBE CHANGE

(Dorothy, Rose, Coco)

Scene 4

EXT. LANAI - VERY LATE THAT NIGHT

(Rose, Dorothy, Coco)

(ROSE, DOROTHY AND COCO ARE HAVING TEA. THEY ARE IN NIGHTCLOTHES)

ROSE

It's yes. I know it is. She's going to marry him. Blanche needs a man. She told me that when George died, she made a date at the funeral. Not because she didn't love George. She just can't be without a man. You know what I'm saying?

DOROTHY

What am I doing up? I'm subbing for a teacher who was shot by a student. I need all the sleep I can get.

(DOROTHY EXITS)

ROSE

I used to sleep so well I never even turned over.

(ROSE EXITS) (CUT TO:)

Scene 5

INT. LIVING, ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION (DAY ONE)

(Dorothy, Rose, Coco, Blanche)

(DOROTHY AND ROSE ENTER)

ROSE

I would wake up with a perfect hairdo. Charlie, on the other hand, moves all night long. His side of the bed looks like a murder took place.

(COCO ENTERS)

DOROTHY

Rose, Charlie's dead.

COCO

Why tell her?

DOROTHY

It's fifteen years, Coco.

ROSE

I know he's dead; I'm not crazy.- I just like to talk about him in the present tense sometimes. It makes him feel closer.

Coco

That's fine. You do that. I don't mind at all.

DOROTHY

Sure, Rose. Set a place at the table.

(BLANCHE ENTERS)

BLANCHE

Hi.

ROSE

What happened?

BLANCHE

We had such a nice time. We went to Joe's. Have you ever been to Joe's?

ROSE

Yes, yes. What happened?

BLANCHE

Well . I had stone crabs. I've never had stone crabs. Have you had stone crabs?

DOROTHY

Yes, Blanche. Just tell us.

BLANCHE

I was just so relieved they didn't have eyes. You know I can't eat things with eyes, like lobster.

ROSE

I can't eat things that move.

DOROTHY

Like what, Rose? Horses?

ROSE

Like oysters.

COCO

Oysters don't move.

DOROTHY

Coco, they could dance, who cares? Blanche, tell us...

ROSE

Oysters move. Very slowly. You have to watch very closely.

DOROTHY

Blanche, are you going to marry Harry?

BLANCHE

Marry Harry. Marry Harry.

ROSE

A little rhyme.

DOROTHY

Knock it off. Are you?

BLANCHE

Yes. Next week,

(ON THEIR SHOCKED FACES, WE:)
(FADE OUT)

END OF ACT-ONE

ACT TWO

Scene 1

(FADE IN:)

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION - (DAY ONE)

(Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, Coco, Sophia)

DOROTHY

Are you?

BLANCHE

Yes. Next week.

ROSE

I knew it. I knew she'd marry him.

DOROTHY

Next week, my God.

COCO

I have nothing to wear to a wedding. I only have for theme parties and parades.

(COCO EXITS)

ROSE

Where will you live?

BLANCHE

Here.

ROSE

Where will we live?

DOROTHY

Don't worry. We'll live, we'll live.

BLANCHE

Oh, I never thought of that.

ROSE

It's so hard to find a place.

BLANCHE

I guess you can stay here.

ROSE

Well, that's settled.

DOROTHY

Rose, we cannot stay here with Blanche and Harry.

ROSE

She just said...

BLANCHE

Well, you can until you find a place.

ROSE

However long that takes.

BLANCHE

We're going to Mexico on our honeymoon. I hope I don't get the runs.

(BLANCHE EXITS)

ROSE

Charlie and I waited two years before we got married.

DOROTHY

I got married before my father finished the sentence.

ROSE

You married your father?

DOROTHY

My father told Stan he had to marry me. I was pregnant.

ROSE

You had a blowgun wedding?

DOROTHY

If you live in the Amazon. In Queens, it's called shotgun.

ROSE

Maybe that is why he left you. Because he was forced into it.

DOROTHY

Rose. He left me thirty-eight years later for a stewardess he met on a business trip to Hawaii. It was her first flight. They said, on arrival, give the passengers a lei. She got confused; Stan got lucky. They now live on Maui. It's very nice. A sixty-five year old man with gout is learning to windsurf. I hope he trips on his thongs and falls in a volcano.

(SOPHIA ENTERS)

ROSE

Sophia, did we wake you?

SOPHIA

I heard noise. I thought it was robbers so I hid my jewels. Now I don't remember where.

DOROTHY

You don't have any jewels.

SOPHIA

Thank God, because I can't find them.

(COCO ENTERS)

COCO

Tea, Sophia?

SOPHIA

No thanks, fancy man. But I could go for a margarita. No salt.

DOROTHY

Mother.

ROSE

This was dumb of me having tea. Now I'll go to sleep and have to get up again to go.

DOROTHY

And wake me up. If you didn't drink before bedtime, you wouldn't have to get up in the middle of the night.

ROSE

I don't drink before bedtime. I stop all liquids at noon and I still wake up.

COCO

Me, too. I go to bed absolutely parched, my tongue clicks in my mouth. And I still get up in the middle of the night.

(COCO EXITS)

SOPHIA

I never have that problem. Never. I sleep like a log. I never get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom. I go in the morning. Every morning like clockwork, at seven a.m., I pee. Unfortunately, I don't wake up 'til eight.

(DISSOLVE TO:)

WARDROBE CHANGE

(Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, Coco)

Scene 2

INT. BLANCHE'S BEDROOM - SOME DAYS LATER (DAY TWO)

(Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, Coco)

(DOROTHY LOOKING AT HERSELF IN MIRROR. ROSE ENTERS)

ROSE

Where's Blanche?

DOROTHY

In the bathroom.

ROSE

I have to talk to you.

DOROTHY

What is it?

ROSE

I know this sounds crazy, but I'm suspicious.

DOROTHY

Of what?

ROSE

Harry. And I don't know why. There's just something about it I don't like. So I have to tell Blanche.

DOROTHY

Tell Blanche what?

ROSE

Not to marry him.

DOROTHY

You can't tell her that.

ROSE

I owe it to her. I'm her friend.

DOROTHY

But there's nothing to tell her. It's just some crazy hunch.

ROSE

My hunches are never wrong. Mrs. Gandhi would be alive today if she'd taken my call. I'm going to tell Blanche she can't marry him.

DOROTHY

You are not. I won't let you.

(BLANCHE ENTERS)

BLANCHE

I can't stop crying. I'm just so happy. And I'm so sad. A kind of happy sad.

ROSE

Blanche, speaking of sad...

DOROTHY

Shut up,, Rose.

ROSE

She's crying anyway. What's the difference.

(DOROTHY THROWS FACE POWDER BOX ON THE FLOOR)

DOROTHY

Rose, pick that up.

BLANCHE

I can't believe it. I'm getting married. What do you think of that?

ROSE

I think it's a mistake.

DOROTHY

... to wear all that make-up. Rose, go answer the phone, please.

ROSE

It's not ringing.

DOROTHY

It will. Go wait for it. The Chinese are calling. They want you to predict an earthquake.

BLANCHE

I know it's fast, but I don't know when I'll ever get another like him. He makes me feel so good, so young, so happy.

DOROTHY

Did you hear that? So happy.

(ROSE SMILES)

BLANCHE

I have to go to the bathroom again. When I get nervous, I have to go all the time. That's why I'm getting married at home. Public bathrooms are so difficult for me. I wash my hands so thoroughly and then it's hard to get out without touching the doorknob.

(SHE EXITS)

ROSE
Don't!

DOROTHY
(PUTTING HAND OVER ROSE'S MOUTH)
... be
too long now. That's a happy woman
in there. Now I want you to promise
not to say anything. You promise?
(ROSE NODS)
Do you promise?
(ROSE NODS)
You're sure.
(ROSE NODS. BLANCHE ENTERS)

BLANCHE
But what's got me sad is that I've never had two better friends. I can't stand leaving you.

DOROTHY
Blanche, you look gorgeous. Shut up, Rose. Are you ready?

BLANCHE
I guess.

ROSE
Stop.

(SHE THROWS ROSE INTO CLOSET AND SHUTS DOOR)
(COCO ENTERS)

COCO
The minister's here.

(BLANCHE STARTS FOR THE CLOSET)

DOROTHY
Where are you going?

BLANCHE
I need something old.

DOROTHY
What are you talking about?

BLANCHE
My dress is new. My purse is blue. My earrings are yours, but I don't have something old.

DOROTHY
Sure you do. us.

(DOROTHY AND BLANCHE EXIT)
(COCO HEARS ROSE KNOCKING ON CLOSET DOOR, OPENS IT)

ROSE
Oh, Coco, you won't believe why I'm in here...

COCO

You don't have to explain to me; I spent years in the closet.

(COCO EXITS AS WE:) (DISSOLVE TO:)

Scene 3

INT. LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE WHILE LATER, (DAY TWO)

(Blanche, Dorothy, Rose, Sophia, Coco, Minister, Cop)

(BLANCHE, DOROTHY, ROSE, SOPHIA, COCO AND THE MINISTER ARE SITTING WAITING)

BLANCHE

He's half an hour late.

COCO

He probably got caught in traffic.

MINISTER

Ladies, I'm on a tight schedule. This is Miami; I've got funerals backed up.

COCO

Give us a few minutes, please.

MINISTER

Another five minutes. Then I've got to bury Mr. Pincus.

SFX: DOORBELL RINGS

DOROTHY

See.

(BLANCHE OPENS DOOR. A COP ENTERS)

COP

Is there a Blanche Hollingsworth here?

BLANCHE

Oh, God, he's been killed.

COP

Arrested.

BLANCHE

What?

COP

He gave me this to give you.

(HE HANDS HER A NOTE)

He's a bigamist. Was wanted in four states. He has six wives. You got yourself involved with a hustler. I'm very sorry, ma'am.

(THE COP EXITS)

MINISTER

Well, you won't be needing me today.

(MINISTER EXITS)

DOROTHY

Do you want to read the note?

(BLANCHE SHAKES HER HEAD)

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Do you want me to read it to you?

(BLANCHE NODS)

'Dear Blanche. I guess you know by now. I'm really sorry. The thing is I really liked you. This time was different. You're a special lady. Maybe someday you'll write to me. Harry.'

COCO

Oh, God.

BLANCHE

I'm stunned. I'm so stunned.

DOROTHY

I know.

BLANCHE

I feel like an old fool. Not just a fool, but an old fool. I want to die.

ROSE

You're not a fool. You are a beautiful, loving, trusting woman. There's no fool here, Blanche.

BLANCHE

In a way, I guess I'm hoping the shock will be too much for my heart, I'll drop dead right here, the minister can bury me with Mr. Pincus, and I'll never have to look anyone in the eye ever again.

ROSE

Except maybe Mr. Pincus.

(DOROTHY GRABS ROSE)

(DISSOLVE TO:)

WARDROBE CHANGE

(Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, Sophia)

Scene 6

EXT. LANAI - THREE WEEKS LATER LATE AFTERNOON (DAY THREE)

(Rose, Sophia, Dorothy, Blanche)

(ROSE IS READING MAGAZINE. SOPHIA IS ASLEEP. DOROTHY ENTERS CARRYING A WET NEWSPAPER)

DOROTHY

If I meet our paper boy, he'll never grow up to be a paper man. Florida is having a drought, there's not enough water in the entire state to make a cup of tea, he finds a puddle.

(DOROTHY BENDS DOWN, HOLDS MIRROR UNDER SOPHIA'S NOSE)

ROSE

What are you doing, she's sleeping?

DOROTHY

Just checking. You never know. How's Blanche?

ROSE

She didn't go to work again today It's been three weeks and all she does is sit in her room. The museum will fire her.

DOROTHY

Well, we've tried everything. Golf, the movies, theatre tickets. She wouldn't even budge for Julio Iglesias.

ROSE

Julio Iglesias was here?

DOROTHY
His concert, Rose.

ROSE
Well, we just have to be patient. We sit with her and we wait with her. I know grief. Grief takes time.
You've got to give it time.

DOROTHY
Please. Look at the Irish. You have a wake, you eat, you cry, you drink, you vomit, and you're done. If you're Jewish, you sit, you weep, you eat for seven days, gain ten pounds, and that's that. We Italians scream, dress up a donkey, hire a band and it's over. It's these Southern Protestants who make it a way of life.

SOPHIA
When I go, just put me in a Steel-Sak and leave me on the curb next to the cans.

DOROTHY
I thought you were asleep.

SOPHIA
You never know.
(BLANCHE ENTERS)

BLANCHE
You girls shouldn't lie out in the sun.

ROSE
We were getting so worried about you, Blanche. I'm so glad you're out.

BLANCHE
I know. And I'm so sorry if I've worried you.

DOROTHY
How are you?

BLANCHE
I'm okay. I really am. At first, I wanted to give up, to die. Truly. The only time I ever felt worse was when George died, but then I had my kids around and I pulled through. But this time was my last chance, my last hope for happiness. I thought I would never feel good again.

SOPHIA
How long is this story? I'm eighty, I have to plan.

DOROTHY
Ma!

BLANCHE
And then, I woke up this morning and I was in the shower shampooing my hair and I heard humming. I thought someone was in there with me. But it was me. And humming means I'm feeling good and I realized I was feeling good because of you. You have made the difference. You're my family. You make me happy to be alive.

ROSE
Let's drive to Coconut Grove and have lunch. My treat. We should celebrate.

SOPHIA
What? That she came out of her room?

ROSE

That we're all together.

DOROTHY

And that no matter what happens, even if we all get married, we'll stick together.

ROSE

We'll need a much bigger house.

DOROTHY

Fine, Rose. After lunch, you can pick up the lumber. Mar you want to join us?

SOPHIA

No. I got to rest. I got a date tonight.

DOROTHY

With who?

SOPHIA

The fancy man and I are going to the dog track.

(SOPHIA EXITS)

BLANCHE

Your mother bets?

DOROTHY

No. She rides. She's a dog jockey. Let's go, girls.

(THEY EXITS AS WE) (FADE OUT.)