

DOLORES

by

Vicki Speegle

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Vicki Speegle
392 Tremont Avenue
Orange, NJ 07050
vicki@vickispeegle.com
(973) 673-0675

FADE IN:

INT. AKRON, OHIO - SMALL SUBURBAN HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shaun Cassidy wails with scratches and pops from a worn-out 45 record player. Baby dolls crammed into one corner of the room. Disney posters and cut-outs of teen heart-throbs.

DOLORES THOMPSON - 12, tall and scrawny - stands in front of the mirror wearing a bra over her Charlie's Angel's t-shirt. She takes off the bra and winds a measuring tape around her chest. She's flatter than a pancake.

DOLORES

Shoot!

Dolores plops down in a chair. A big Barbie head sits on the dresser. She smears blue eyeshadow on the Barbie's eyes and picks it up.

DOLORES

(continuing)

Well hello there, Barbara! My
but your breasts are looking
perky today.

(in Barbie voice)

Why thank you, Dolores, and
yours too.

Dolores brushes make-up on her own eyes. She turns Barbie to the mirror and compares their reflections.

DOLORES

(continuing)

When I grow up I'm gonna live in
a high-rise apartment. I'll sing
in a big nightclub and during
the day I'll go to movies. And
I'll never have to see my stupid
brothers again.

The record ends. Another plops onto the turntable.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dolores walks down the hall. It's lined with pictures. A school photo of Dolores with big teeth. Her brother Denny screaming on Santa's lap. Baby pictures and family photos in cheap frames.

Dolores stops at a door. She creaks it open.

INT. JANICE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores's mother JANICE THOMPSON - 32 - lays spread-eagled on the bed sleeping. Her uniform crumpled over a chair.

Dolores sneaks in and hangs her mother's bra on the chair.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dolores takes a big gulp of kool-aid, leaving a purple moustache. She pulls a pot out of the fridge and lifts the lid - leftover macaroni and cheese. She puts the pot on the stove, adds a stick of butter and turns on the flame.

A LOUD THUMP from the boys' bedroom, then a SCREECH.

INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE ROBERT & DENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores bangs on the door.

DOLORES

You guys better cut it out,
you're gonna wake Mom up!

Giggles from inside. Dolores opens the door, her mouth gaping open.

ROBERT - nine, and DENNY - six, stand in the center of the room with huge grins on their faces, suckers in their hands. Suckers are plastered all over the walls around them - green, red, orange and yellow.

DOLORES

(continuing)

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

Dolores marches over to Robert and grabs for the candy. He runs. Dolores chases him around the room while Denny watches, screeching in delight.

ROBERT

Get her, Denny! Stick one on her!

Denny takes up the chase.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The macaroni bubbles on the stove.

INT. ROBERT & DENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores runs from the boys, screeching.

DOLORES

Stop it! I'm gonna tell!

Denny plants a sucker on her arm, and she ducks the other way, her face red and angry.

DOLORES

(continuing)

STOP! Mom said I could spank you guys!

She runs into the corner. The boys gleefully pounce on her. Denny tickles her while Robert sticks a green sucker to her forehead.

DOLORES
(continuing)
Sto--HOP!

Dolores laughs uncontrollably. She throws them off, grabs a sucker and chases them around the room.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The macaroni burns in the pot. Smoke curls up to the ceiling.

INT. ROBERT & DENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores chases the boys, holding the green sucker out like an eyeglass.

DOLORES
Ha, ha, ha -- now you're green,
you big boogers!

ROBERT
We are not!

Dolores lunges for Denny. He tries to cram himself into the corner. Dolores chases him into the closet and slams the door shut. He screams.

JANICE (O.S.)
DOLORES!

Janice's FOOTSTEPS thump loudly down the hall.

Janice stomps into the room, her hair a mess. Dolores and Robert gape at her, suckers plastered to their shocked faces. Denny screams from inside the closet.

DENNY (O.S.)
Mommy!

The smoke detector goes off with a piercing shriek.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dolores slaps peanut butter onto bread, the blackened pot on the counter. She snuffles, clanking the knife into the jelly jar.

Denny giggles from his bedroom. Dolores turns with a frown, the knife dripping jelly on the floor.

INT. ROBERT & DENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The Bionic Woman on tv. Janice sits on Denny's bed in her nurse's uniform, reading a story. She mimes the characters in a tired voice, wiping her nose with a kleenex. Robert lays in bed playing with a G.I. Joe doll.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dolores spits in Denny's sandwich and stuffs it into a baggie. She writes his name on the lunchbag.

Janice enters. Dolores glances at her. She snuffles.

JANICE

Did you finish the lunches?

Dolores nods. Janice pours a cup of coffee and sits down.

JANICE

(continuing)

That was a very irresponsible thing you did, Dolores.

Dolores dumps the knife in the sink, tight-lipped.

JANICE

(continuing)

There could've been a fire. What if I wasn't here?

Dolores busies herself wiping the counter.

JANICE

(continuing)

Dolores, I'm talking to you.

DOLORES

I know.

JANICE

Then stop giving me attitude.

Dolores turns to face her mother, arms crossed.

JANICE

(continuing)

You know you could've burned the house down!

DOLORES

It wasn't my fault, Mom! They don't listen to me!

JANICE

But you were careless! I've told you time and again, when they give you trouble, you come and get me! I don't even wanna think about what could've happened if I wasn't here.

Dolores turns back to the counter.

DOLORES

You're never here. So what?

JANICE

Excuse me?

DOLORES

You're never here, and when you are you're always sleeping.

JANICE

Listen to me, young lady. I am out there working my ass off to pay the bills around here, and you will show me some respect!

Dolores turns her back and screws the lid on the jelly jar.

JANICE

(continuing)

And now I have to shell out more money we don't even have to hire a babysitter!

Dolores whips around.

DOLORES

What for?

JANICE

I have to, Dolores.

DOLORES

I don't need a babysitter, I'm not a baby!

JANICE

Then stop acting like one!

Dolores throws Janice a glare and shoves the peanut butter into the cupboard.

DOLORES

You said I was big enough to take care of myself.

Janice sighs and takes a sip of coffee.

JANICE

I know I did, but - you're not old enough to handle your brothers alone, yet, that's all.

Dolores shoves the boys' lunches to the side, pouting.

JANICE

(continuing)

Come on, Dolores, it's only till I get a transfer to the day shift, ok? Help me out here.

Dolores wipes her nose.

DOLORES

What if she's a child abuser?

JANICE

She won't be a child abuser.

DOLORES

How do you know?

JANICE

I know, ok?

Dolores sniffs and looks away. Janice sighs. She gets up from the table and gives Dolores a hug.

JANICE

(continuing)

Honey, just bear with me, ok? I'm doing the best I can.

DOLORES

Are you gonna give her permission to spank Denny and Robert?

JANICE

Promise. And I might let her slap you around too if you're really bad.

Dolores grins reluctantly. Janice pats her cheek.

JANICE

(continuing)

What's this on your face?

DOLORES

Nothing.

JANICE

Uh-huh. Go on and get ready for bed now. And wash that stuff off.

Dolores sulks out of the kitchen. Janice walks back to the table.

From the hall Dolores watches as her mother sits down tiredly and lights a cigarette. The smoke curls up in the weak light of the kitchen.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - SIDEWALK - DAY

Dolores skips along in a pleated skirt and knee-socks. Denny and Robert lag behind. She turns, stomping her foot.

DOLORES

Would you guys come on!

Robert sticks his tongue out at her.

INT. CATHOLIC SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Dolores, in baggy shorts and a t-shirt, walks past two girls gossiping in their underwear - JENNIFER and JUDY, 16 and curvy. Jennifer leers at Dolores.

JENNIFER

I didn't know they were letting kindergartners in here, now.

Judy giggles. Her giggle is cut short as 16-year old SUSAN saunters into the locker room. Wearing hip hugger jeans with a wide black belt, open-toed sandals with a gleam of purple polish on her toenails, and an Eagles concert shirt, she's a study in coolness.

Time seems to stand still as all eyes follow the swing of Susan's hips to her locker. Dolores watches, mouth hanging slightly open, as Susan opens her locker. Jennifer and Judy glare at Susan.

JUDY

Nice uniform.

Susan ignores them as she pulls her school uniform out of the locker.

INT. CATHOLIC SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

Dolores jumping jacks next to TERESA - 12, stoop-shouldered and very well-endowed for a young girl. Teresa jumps gingerly, trying to control the bounce of her breasts.

DOLORES

Are you coming over tonight?

TERESA

It's family night. We're gonna get pizza and play Twister. You wanna come?

The GYM TEACHER marches by. Dolores and Teresa jump exuberantly.

GYM TEACHER

Come on, girls, keep it up!

The teacher passes. They slow down.

DOLORES

No. I'm grounded till Saturday.

TERESA

Why?

DOLORES

I set fire to the macaroni and cheese and my mom went ballistic.

Teresa gapes at Dolores.

TERESA

You did?

DOLORES

It was an accident! I hate macaroni and cheese anyway.

Teresa giggles. The gym teacher blows her whistle. The girls switch to sit-ups.

The gym door opens. SISTER MARIE leads a GROUP OF BOYS through. Dolores watches as the older girls whisper and giggle. A BLONDE BOY stares at Teresa and snickers to his FRIEND. Teresa folds her arms over her breasts.

The gym teacher CLAPS her hands.

GYM TEACHER

Eyes front, girls! Let's go!

Jennifer does a seductive cartwheel. Susan watches the boys pass coolly. Dolores watches Susan.

TERESA

So what're you gonna do for your birthday?

Dolores shrugs. Teresa pushes her bangs back shyly.

TERESA

(continuing)

Is your mom gonna throw you a party?

Dolores frowns.

DOLORES

I don't know. She hasn't said anything yet.

TERESA

Oh. Hey, did you hear about Sherry Parker?

DOLORES

No, what?

TERESA

She got her period in the middle of home ec!

Dolores promptly stops her sit-ups.

DOLORES

What? But she's not even twelve yet!

EXT. DOLORES' HOUSE - NIGHT

A big old run-down Chevy sputters up to the curb.

INT. CHEVY - NIGHT

Susan leans over the seat in her tight Jordache jeans and kisses her boyfriend, JOHN - 17, cute and pimply. She pops her gum back into her mouth and climbs out of the car.

INT. DOLORES' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Robert sits on the couch glued to the tv. Denny watches Susan with wide eyes as Janice shows her around.

JANICE

Denny has little accidents, so he doesn't get anything to drink after eight, and both of them should be in bed by nine. And don't let them talk you out of it.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Janice leads Susan to Dolores' bedroom. She knocks on the door.

JANICE

Dolores, the babysit - Susan is here.

She knocks again, stepping closer.

JANICE
(continuing)
Dolores.

Janice looks at Susan apologetically.

JANICE
(continuing)
She'll come out after awhile.

Susan lifts her eyebrows and snaps her gum.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Janice picks up her purse and jacket. Denny jumps up and attaches himself to her leg. She strokes his hair.

JANICE
Ok, Denmeister. Listen to Susan,
you hear?

INT. DOLORES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores opens her door and peeks out.

POV - DOLORES

Susan hooks her thumbs in the back pockets of her jeans. Her t-shirt pulls back, baring her midriff.

JANICE (O.S.)
There's food in the fridge.
I'll call later to check up.

Susan snaps her gum and smiles at Denny.

INT. DOLORES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores sees Susan's face. Her eyes widen in recognition.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Robert sits on the couch with Susan's boyfriend John, both glued to cartoons. Susan walks in carrying two glasses. Denny bounces in after her. She hands a glass to Robert.

Denny jumps up and down.

SUSAN
Whoa, kid, cool it.

DENNY
I want my pop!

SUSAN
Well sit down and I'll give it
to you!

Denny sits, reaching for the glass. Susan hands it to him.

John motions to her and points at his watch. Susan sits and grabs a bowl of popcorn from the table.

SUSAN
(continuing)
You guys are supposed to be in
bed by nine?

Robert, Denny and John all stare at her expectantly. Susan coyly lights a cigarette.

SUSAN
(continuing)
I'll give you fifteen more
minutes.

John glares at Susan.

The sound of Dolores's bedroom door opening. Her footsteps sound down the hall. She stomps into the living room.

SUSAN
(continuing)
Wow, it's alive.

DOLORES
Denny and Robert are supposed to
be in bed.

ROBERT
Shut up Dolores!

DOLORES
Mom said!

ROBERT
You're not the boss, Susan is!

SUSAN
Ok! That's it. Your sister is
right. We don't want to get into
trouble with Mommy.

Denny and Robert wail in protest.

SUSAN
(continuing)
But that means you should be in
bed too, little girl.

Dolores glares at Susan. She spins on her heel and walks out of the room. Susan leans forward, straining to see where she's gone. The sound of a glass clinking, the fridge door opening and closing.

Dolores comes back in with a glass of soda.

DOLORES

And you can't smoke in here. My
mom wouldn't like it.

Susan takes another drag off her cigarette, staring at Dolores. Dolores stares back. Susan leans over and puts the cigarette out.

Dolores stomps off to bed. Susan grins.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Denny and Robert trudge down the hall pouting. Dolores opens her door a crack, peeking out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

John scoots close to Susan and kisses her, hands roaming.

INT. DOLORES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores watches with wide eyes.

EXT. CATHOLIC SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Blue sky spinning.

TERESA (O.S.)

Stop doing that. You're making
me dizzy.

Dolores spins around, arms out, and falls to the ground next to Teresa.

DOLORES

She thinks she can do whatever
she wants, but it's my house.
Mom put me in charge.

TERESA

What does she look like?

Dolores makes a face.

DOLORES

I hate her!

She grabs Teresa's teen magazine and flips to an ad for Stayfree maxi pads.

DOLORES

(continuing)

"Someday I'll be a grown woman. But
I'm not in any hurry. I'm having too
much fun now. Mini-pads help."

Teresa pushes her bangs back and watches Dolores. Dolores flips the page.

DOLORES
 (continuing; in a
 sexy voice)
 "The softness is for you. The
 silkiness is for him."

Teresa giggles, her hand over her mouth. Dolores strikes a pose.

DOLORES
 (continuing)
 "Trust my bouncy shiny hair to a
 dandruff shampoo?"

Dolores screeches. Teresa giggles hysterically.

DOLORES
 (continuing)
 And my personal favorite. "No
 nicks, no cuts..."

TERESA	DOLORES
"...no ouches. Just a CLEAN COMFORTABLE SHAVE!"	"...no ouches. Just a CLEAN COMFORTABLE SHAVE!"

The girls fall back onto the grass laughing. Teresa lays her head on Dolores' shoulder.

EXT. DOLORES' FRONT YARD - DAY

Robert chases Denny around the yard with a squirt gun. Denny falls flat on his face and wails.

INT. DOLORES' BEDROOM - DAY

Dolores lays in bed reading a book. Teresa sits at the mirror, combing her stringy hair.

DOLORES
 And she thinks she can tell me
 what to do! Shit.

Dolores opens to the back of the book and makes a mark.

DOLORES
 (continuing)
 I mean, they were practically
 doing it on the couch!

Teresa turns in the chair, sliding a barrette in her hair.

TERESA
 Did she take her shirt off?

DOLORES
No, but he kept sticking his
tongue in her mouth! Fuck.

Dolores makes another mark in the book.

DOLORES
(continuing)
And guess where she put her hand?

TERESA
Where?

DOLORES
Down there.

TERESA
Where?

DOLORES
On his thing, dummy!

Teresa claps her hand over her mouth.

DOLORES
(continuing)
Asshole.

Dolores slaps the book shut.

DOLORES
(continuing)
There are two shits, one fuck,
and three assholes in this book.
And listen to this!

She opens to a dog-eared page.

DOLORES
(continuing)
"Jerome jerked Melanie back,
tearing her bra strap. Bending
his head, he kissed her breasts,
sucking on the taut nipples. She
moaned in ecstasy."

Teresa and Dolores squeal. Dolores pushes her shirt out
with her hands.

DOLORES
(continuing)
How big do you think they can
get?

A KNOCK at the door. Dolores sits up.

DOLORES
(continuing)
Who is it?

Susan opens the door.

SUSAN
Hey, I just wanted to let you
know I'm here.

Susan looks around the room. She walks inside.

SUSAN
(continuing)
Wow. Cool room.

Dolores and Teresa ogle Susan's tight halter top and short-shorts as she crosses the room. She picks up a doll.

SUSAN
(continuing)
Oh, cool. I had one of these
when I was little. You feed it
and it pisses, right?

Dolores and Teresa stare at her. Susan sees the Barbie head and puts the doll down.

SUSAN
(continuing)
Oh, shit!

She struts over to the dresser. Teresa jumps out of the way.

SUSAN
(continuing)
I used to love this thing when I
was little!

Susan puts make-up on the Barbie. Dolores jumps off the bed.

SUSAN
(continuing)
One time I dyed the hair purple
and it all fell out, and my mom
refused to buy me another one.
God, I was so upset.

Teresa watches Susan shyly.

SUSAN
(continuing)
Do you still play with this
stuff?

Dolores crosses her arms.

DOLORES

No.

TERESA

Yes you do.

Dolores shoots Teresa a dirty look. Susan snaps her gum.

SUSAN

(to Teresa)

What's your name?

Teresa pushes her hair away from her eyes.

TERESA

Teresa. Will you show me how to do that?

Susan shrugs.

SUSAN

Sure.

Susan gets up and Teresa sits in the chair, grinning shyly. Susan sifts through the make-up. She turns Teresa's face this way and that.

SUSAN

(continuing)

Green eyes. Sexy.

Susan puts shadow on Teresa's eyes. Dolores crosses to the chair. Teresa beams up at her. Dolores frowns.

TERESA

(to Susan)

Can you do my hair like yours?

SUSAN

Sure.

Susan runs a comb through Teresa's stringy hair.

SUSAN

(continuing)

Um.

She gives up and pulls the barrette out.

SUSAN

(continuing)

There.

TERESA

Do Dolores now.

Teresa hops out of the chair. Dolores takes a step back.

TERESA
(continuing)

Go on!

Teresa pushes Dolores into the chair. Susan runs her hand through Dolores' hair. Dolores stares at Susan's red fingernails.

SUSAN
You have great hair. I could
give you a french braid if you
want.

Susan snaps her gum and rummages through the make-up. Dolores looks at Teresa and smiles.

EXT. CATHOLIC SCHOOL - DAY

Dolores runs out the door as the school bell RINGS. Teresa runs out after.

TERESA
Dolores, wait!

DOLORES
I gotta go! Susan's coming!

TERESA
Will you call me later?

Teresa watches sadly as Dolores runs off down the sidewalk.

EXT. DOLORES' HOUSE - DAY

Susan sits on the front steps smoking a cigarette. Dolores runs up and plops down beside her.

DOLORES
Hi.

Susan gives her a strange look.

SUSAN
Hi.

Dolores grins. She stares at the cigarette, watches as Susan blows out smoke.

DOLORES
Can I try that?

SUSAN
What, are you kidding?

Dolores frowns.

DOLORES

I got some new records. Wanna
listen to 'em?

Denny and Robert shuffle up the sidewalk toward the house.
Denny holds onto Robert's hand, crying.

Susan stubs out her cigarette and walks over. Dolores looks
away, chin in hand.

SUSAN

What's wrong?

Denny snuffles. Robert points at Dolores.

ROBERT

She left us at school!

DOLORES

I did not!

ROBERT

You did so! Mom said you're
supposed to wait for us!

DOLORES

Big babies!

SUSAN

Ok Dolores, shut up!

Susan leads the boys up the steps and into the house.
Robert pushes Dolores as he passes. She pushes him back.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Susan on the phone. Dolores walks up and plops down next to
her.

SUSAN

Oh my God, you're kidding! No, I
didn't! Did she go? Oh my God,
that slut.

Susan glances at Dolores and lowers her voice.

SUSAN

(continuing)

I cannot believe that. NO I
WOULD NOT! Well, I can't really
talk now, I'm babysitting.

Dolores frowns.

SUSAN

(continuing)

Yeah, right, we're stuck with watching his little brother, so there's no chance of that. What? Hang on a second. Dolores, isn't it time for you to go to bed?

DOLORES

No.

SUSAN

Your brothers are already asleep.

DOLORES

So. I don't have to go to bed when they do. Will you do my hair?

Susan sighs.

SUSAN

Cheryl, I have to call you back.

Susan hangs up.

SUSAN

(continuing)

Sit down. A quick braid. And then you're going to bed.

Susan lights a cigarette.

DOLORES

Susan, how old were you when you went on a date?

SUSAN

Thirteen. Bobby Deams. Terrible kisser.

DOLORES

Are you a good kisser?

SUSAN

Oh yeah.

DOLORES

Do you like it? Even when they stick their tongue in your mouth?

Susan laughs.

SUSAN

That depends. It can be really cool, sure. So why did you leave your brothers at school?

Dolores shrugs.

DOLORES

I don't know.

SUSAN

I guess they can probably get on
your nerves sometimes, huh?

Dolores looks at her. Susan grins. Dolores grins back.
Susan takes a drag on her cigarette. She holds it out.

SUSAN

(continuing)

Here. One puff. And don't tell
your mother.

INT. CATHOLIC SCHOOL - DAY

The school bell RINGS. Dolores closes her locker. Her hair
still in the french braid. She walks up to Susan standing
with her friends.

DOLORES

Hi Susan.

SUSAN

Hey Dolores.

SUSAN'S FRIENDS look Dolores up and down.

DOLORES

Are you coming over tonight?

SUSAN

Does your mom need me to babysit?

DOLORES

No. But we could listen to
records or something.

Susan glances at her friends. They stifle their giggles.

SUSAN

Oh, Dolores, I can't. I've got
plans.

DOLORES

Oh.

John walks up.

SUSAN

I'll see you Friday night, ok?

Susan and John walk off with her friends. One of them looks
back at Dolores and giggles. Dolores stares after them.

INT. DOLORES' HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Dolores, Janice, Denny and Robert eat dinner at the kitchen table.

JANICE

So how's school, guys? You
lookin' forward to Summer break?

Dolores shrugs.

JANICE

(continuing)

I have this weekend off. I was
thinking we could all go out and
do something. What do you think?

DENNY

Yeah, Disneyland!

JANICE

Denny.

DOLORES

You mean something special?
'Cause it's a "special" weekend?

JANICE

Sure.

Dolores frowns. The phone RINGS.

JANICE

(continuing)

Hello? Hi Susan.

Dolores sits up.

JANICE

(continuing)

Yeah? Oh. No, I don't think so.
Well how old is he? Oh. Well,
she'd have to be back by ten.
Ok. Ok. That sounds fine. Let me
ask her. Dolores, would you like
to go to the drive-in with Susan?

Dolores grins.

INT. DOLORES' BEDROOM - DAY

The bed is covered with dresses. Dolores stands at the mirror attempting to curl her hair with a hot iron. Susan saunters in.

SUSAN

Come on, Dolores, we gotta go.

DOLORES

You have ta help me pick a dress!

Dolores drops the iron and runs over to the bed. She yanks two of the dresses from the pile, holding them up.

SUSAN

Why don't you wear jeans? It might get chilly.

DOLORES

No! Help me pick!

Dolores throws the dresses back down and dashes to her closet. Susan picks up a frilly dress.

SUSAN

This one's good. Now come on.

Dolores slips the dress on and Susan buttons up the ruffled back.

DOLORES

Susan? What does John's brother look like?

Susan snorts.

SUSAN

Stevie? Oh, he's adorable.

Dolores grins. Susan takes a drag on her cigarette.

DOLORES

Susan?

SUSAN

Mm-hmm.

DOLORES

Is that all they do is stick things inside you?

Susan chokes on her smoke.

SUSAN

Well I never really thought about it that way, Dolores.

A CAR HORN blows.

SUSAN

(continuing)

That's John. Let's go.

Dolores runs to the dresser and grabs her hair brush.

DOLORES
I gotta finish my hair!

SUSAN
There's no time! Let's go!

Susan takes the brush from Dolores. Dolores smiles up at Susan with her big hair.

DOLORES
Do you think Stevie will like me?

Susan pats her on the head.

SUSAN
Dolores, he's gonna love you.

EXT. DRIVE-IN MOVIES - NIGHT

John's big old Chevy.

INT. CHEVY - NIGHT

Dolores sits in the backseat, arms crossed, staring forward. Next to her sits STEVIE - 3 years old and cute as a button. He colors happily with his crayons. The two look very small and lost in the huge backseat.

Susan turns from the front.

SUSAN
You guys need to go the bathroom
before the movie starts?

Dolores refuses to look at her.

John tries to hook the speaker to the window. He drops it.

JOHN
Shit. A lot of fun this is gonna
be. I should just rent my car
out as a daycare center.

The movie starts. Susan passes a bucket of popcorn back to Dolores. Stevie drops his crayon and starts to cry. John scoots closer to Susan. Stevie's wails pierce the car.

SUSAN
Dolores, please?

Dolores picks up Stevie's crayon and dumps it in his lap. John leans over and kisses Susan. Dolores sits up.

DOLORES
I wanna sit up front.

SUSAN

Why? You've got plenty of room
back there.

DOLORES

But I can't see!

John glares at Dolores.

JOHN

Oh, you can see just fine.

DOLORES

No I can't, your big head's
blocking me!

JOHN

Well it's my car, I can sit
wherever the hell I want!

SUSAN

John! Dolores, just move over a
little.

Dolores glares at John.

John puts his arm around Susan. He kisses her, sliding his
tongue in her mouth.

Susan glances back at Dolores uneasily. Dolores screams and
dumps her popcorn all over the backseat.

JOHN

What now?

DOLORES

This is the scary part! She's
gonna stab him with a really big
knife!

JOHN

Oh, thanks! Look, why don't you
go play on the swings or something?
And take Stevie with you.

DOLORES

I don't wanna play on the swings!

JOHN

Well you've already seen the
movie!

SUSAN

Ok. Here, Dolores.

Susan reaches into her pants and pulls out a five dollar
bill.

SUSAN
 (continuing)
 Go get yourself some candy, ok?

DOLORES
 I DON'T WANT ANY CANDY!

Dolores jumps out of the car and slams the door.

SUSAN
 Dolores!

INT. DRIVE-IN BATHROOM - NIGHT

Susan stands by the sink smoking a cigarette, facing the stalls.

SUSAN
 Dolores, are you ok in there?

The TOILET FLUSHES and Dolores exits the stall, stomping over to the sink. She washes her hands.

SUSAN
 (continuing)
 Dolores, what's wrong?

DOLORES
 Nothing.

SUSAN
 Well, you're ruining the whole night with this little pouting game of yours!

DOLORES
 You set me up on a date with a baby!

SUSAN
 I did not set you up on a date!
 You're just a kid!

DOLORES
 I am not a kid! I'm gonna be thirteen in three days!

Dolores storms out of the bathroom. Susan sighs. She pushes away from the counter and walks out after Dolores, smacking her gum.

INT. CHEVY - NIGHT

Dolores climbs into the backseat and slams the door. Susan opens the front door and gets in.

JOHN
What's goin' on?

SUSAN
Let's just go home.

JOHN
But the movie's not over.

SUSAN
Well I know that, John.

John throws up his hands and starts the car. He slams it into gear. Stevie bangs his head against the door and starts crying. Dolores plops back against the seat in disgust.

EXT. DOLORES' HOUSE - NIGHT

The Chevy pulls up to the curb. Dolores climbs out, slamming the door.

SUSAN
See you later.

Dolores watches John's taillights disappear up the street. She trudges to the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dolores enters. Janice turns from her seat on the couch. Denny is conked out on the floor sucking his thumb. Robert sleeps in front of the flickering tv, his mouth gaping open.

JANICE
Hey, how was the movie? Did you
have fun?

Dolores trudges down the hall. Her bedroom door SLAMS shut.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Dolores and Teresa walk through the store in their school uniforms. Teresa licks an ice-cream cone. She looks at her watch.

TERESA
We better get back.

DOLORES
We still have fifteen minutes.
They can't tell us what to do.

Dolores pulls Teresa into the lingerie section. She picks out a bra and holds it against Teresa's chest. Teresa giggles. A SALESLADY approaches.

SALESLADY

Can I help you girls with something?

Dolores turns, holding up the bra.

DOLORES

(with a country twang)

Yes, ma'am. We're lookin' for somethin' lacy in a 38D.

Teresa grabs Dolores' hand and pulls her away. They run off down the aisle, giggling.

Dolores sees a MAKE-UP LADY standing behind the cosmetic counter. A sign on the counter offers free make-overs. She pulls Teresa over.

DOLORES

(continuing)

Excuse me?

The saleswoman looks up.

DOLORES

(continuing)

We'd like a free make-over, please.

The saleswoman looks them over. She sighs.

MAKE-UP LADY

Fine. Sit here.

Dolores grins and pulls Teresa up to the counter.

INT. CATHOLIC SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Dolores struts down the hall with a big grin, bright blue eyeshadow and red lipstick on. Teresa follows close behind, head bowed, pulling her hair around her face. STUDENTS throng around the lockers talking.

Susan leans against her locker with John. Dolores gives her a defiant smile as she passes. Susan watches as she struts down the hall with Teresa.

Jennifer stands at her locker talking with her BOYFRIEND. She puts her hand on his arm and leans up to kiss him, but he shrugs her off and walks away.

JENNIFER

Darren?

Jennifer slams her locker door shut, tears forming in her eyes. She sees Dolores and Teresa approaching.

JENNIFER
 (continuing)
 Aw, look at the little girls
 playing dress-up. Aren't they
 cute?

Students turn to stare. Dolores keeps walking. Jennifer
 steps away from her locker and yells down the hall.

JENNIFER
 (continuing)
 You gotta get some zits and tits
 before you can play with the big
 girls, honey! Woo!

Jennifer flips her skirt up. Dolores stops dead, tears
 welling in her eyes.

She turns and charges Jennifer, knocking her to the hard
 floor. Jennifer screams and covers her face as Dolores
 pounds her. A crowd gathers. Teresa cowers on the fringe.

Jennifer flails at Dolores weakly, screaming.

JENNIFER
 (continuing)
 You bitch! Get off of me!
 Somebody help!

Dolores pounds away blindly, sobbing. Susan breaks through
 the crowd and pulls her off just as Sister Marie arrives.

SISTER MARIE
 What's going on here!

Jennifer huddles on the floor crying, holding her face, her
 skirt hiked up around her hips. The boys snicker.

JENNIFER
 She attacked me, the bitch!

SISTER MARIE
 Watch your language, young lady!

Susan holds Dolores back. Jennifer pulls herself up.

JENNIFER
 Look what she did to my face,
 the little bitch! You little
 bitch!

SISTER MARIE
 Alright, that's it. Both of you
 report to the office immediately.

Sister Marie looks at Dolores.

SISTER MARIE

(continuing)

And what is that on your face?
Go and wash that off right now!

SUSAN

I'll take her.

SISTER MARIE

The rest of you should be in class!

The hallway clears. Susan stares at Dolores in amazement.

SUSAN

Well, that was quite a show.

Dolores wipes her nose.

DOLORES

I don't like that girl very much.

Susan laughs.

SUSAN

Well, I never did either.

Susan puts her arm around Dolores and leads her down the hall.

SUSAN

(continuing)

Come on, let's get you cleaned
up for your date with Mother
Superior.

INT. DOLORES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dolores lays in bed crying, her face turned to the wall. A
KNOCK at the door.

JANICE (O.S.)

Dolores?

The door opens. Janice enters. She sits down on the bed.

JANICE

Hey, kiddo. Teresa just
called... What's wrong?

DOLORES

Nothing.

JANICE

Did something happen at school
today?

DOLORES

No.

Janice rubs her back.

JANICE

We haven't talked about your birthday, yet. What do you wanna do?

Dolores opens her eyes. She shrugs.

JANICE

(continuing)

I thought we could go shopping at the mall and get you some new clothes, maybe see a movie, just you and me.

Dolores swipes her hand across her nose.

JANICE

(continuing)

How does that sound?

DOLORES

Ok.

Dolores snuffles and turns over. Janice strokes her hair.

DOLORES

(continuing)

Mom?

JANICE

What, sweetie?

DOLORES

How old were you when you went out?

JANICE

You mean on a date?

Dolores nods.

JANICE

(continuing)

Oh... 15, I think. Your grandpa told me I couldn't till I was 16, but I snuck out.

DOLORES

You DID?

JANICE

Yep.

DOLORES

Was Dad your first date?

JANICE

Well, no.

DOLORES

But you liked him the best, right?

JANICE

Yeah, at the time. I did.

DOLORES

Mom?

JANICE

Yeah.

DOLORES

Do I have to wait till I'm 16?

JANICE

Oh God, Dolores, I don't know.

Janice runs her hand over her face. She looks at Dolores.

JANICE

(continuing)

Let's play it by ear, ok?

Dolores grins.

JANICE

(continuing)

Geez, I can remember when you were still potty training.

DOLORES

Mom!

Janice laughs.

JANICE

Sorry.

Dolores stares up into her mother's face.

JANICE

(continuing)

Thirteen years old...

Dolores grins. Janice kisses her and leaves.

Dolores gets out of bed and stands in front of the mirror, pulling her pajama top tight. She picks up the measuring tape and wraps it around her chest. She makes a mark with her pen one-quarter of an inch past the previous mark. She looks in the mirror and grins.

THE END.