

STELLA

We had a beautiful chandelier hanging over this big table where we had all our holiday meals. Gram would bring out her best crystal and silverware. We would hang our Christmas Cards over the sideboard, when it was still here. The world was a happy place when I was in this room.

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Suddenly, Gabe joins them, interrupting.

PABLO

For God's sakes, Gabe, put on a shirt. It's freezing out there.

GABE

It's invigorating.

PABLO

There you go again with the five dollar words.

GABE

It's an apt phrase.

STELLA

And with that, you earned the right to go without a shirt all week.

GABE

Thank you, Stella. Vern needs you in the cellar. ASAP.

STELLA

Is something wrong?

43

EXT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

43

A Cam is shooting Stella coming out of the cellar with VERN, 72, folksy, kind, her plumbing guru, who is like a surrogate father. His iconic white bib overalls and forehead flashlight are covered in muck.

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Stella
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STELLA

Thanks for giving me a heads up about the pipes.

VERN

I suspect some of them have been leaking for a very long time.

STELLA

I bought the place 'As Is.' I knew what I was getting into, but I didn't expect this. Should I be worried?

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Shook

VERN

I've seen worse. I remember working on one of your father's projects where the pipes went back to 1850. That was something.

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Nevertheless, Stella looks concerned.

See her

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44

EXT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - WALKING BACK TO THE FRONT - DAY

44

There are no cameras around as Stella and Vern walk back.

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VERN

You're biting off a lot with this project, Stella. Are you sure you're okay?

Handwritten annotations: arrows pointing to 'project' and 'Are you sure you're okay?' with a large circle around the latter.

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STELLA

I've got a lot on my mind. The wedding. The house. This might be our last season.

VERN

If the show goes away, what do you think you'll do next?

STELLA

We've talked about expanding my brand. A new show. An E Store. Maybe a line of furniture.

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VERN

Do you ever think about finishing your engineering program?

Handwritten bracket on the left side of the Vern and Stella dialogue.

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STELLA

Sometimes. I did love it. But now after all this time, how could I give up this glamorous life?

Handwritten arrows pointing to the right.

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There's a LOUD CONSTRUCTION CRASH nearby. Glamorous indeed.

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VERN

You got your civil license, right?

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STELLA

Yes, but if wanted to get my structural to do the kind of work Dad did, I'd have to go back for a masters degree and lot of work after that.

VERN

You'd be amazing. !

STELLA

Have you been talking to my mother?
(looks at her watch)
...who, by the way, is waiting for me downtown for a fitting.

VERN

I wish your father was here to walk you down the aisle.

STELLA

(sweetly)
Me too.

She leans in to give Vern a hug, but he's covered with muck. They negotiate a comical hug without really touching.

STELLA (CONT'D)

I'm so glad you're here, Vern. I need your steady hand on this one.

VERN

Stella, you're the only person I'd come out of retirement for.

45

EXT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - DAY

45

Jack is making notes on the color test cards taped to the shingles. Pablo passes by.

JACK

Did Vern find any bodies in the cellar?

PABLO

I knew this was going to be more than a cosmetic make-over. Stella is the eternal optimist.

JACK

These old houses are a Pandora's Box. If I had my way, we'd move into my condo in Richmond. Poured concrete floors, walls of glass, views forever.