

INT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

Alfred walks over to the bar. He turns and looks around the room which has calmed and, once again, resembles the average Old West saloon. Trying to get into the mood, Alfred calls down to The Barkeep.

ALFRED

Get me whatever is the most popular drink in the house.

MS. AGNES (O.C.)

You certainly seem to be taking advantage of your free run at the bar.

Alfred is frightened by the voice suddenly appearing behind him. He turns and sees Ms. Agnes glaring at him.

ALFRED

Actually, ma'am. It's free for everyone. We're just one of the townsfolk tonight.

MS. AGNES

Oh, well...

Ms. Agnes stammers as she tries to figure out how to respond but Alfred interjects.

ALFRED

Although I can't imagine you'd have known that since you don't strike me as the type of lady that frequents this type of place.

MS. AGNES

Yes. Exactly. And I'll have you know that I plan on talking to Preacher about the degradation that goes on here.

ALFRED

Ah, so that is why you are here. To get a first hand view of what you're fighting against.

MS. AGNES

Yes! And I'm, well, I'm looking for Sister June.

Alfred points over to the Mayor's table.

ALFRED

I believe I saw her earlier talking
with the Mayor and his daughter.

MS. AGNES

Daughter?

ALFRED

The young girl, always by his side.

Ms. Agnes laughs out loud.

MS. AGNES

Bianca? Bianca's not his daughter.
She's his fiancée.

Ms. Agnes cackles at Alfred mistake and WALKS OFF. Alfred
looks over to The Mayor's table and watching the old man
interact with his much younger bride-to-be. The Barkeep walks
over and drops off Alfred's drink.

THE BARKEEP

That all you need.

Alfred looks at the drink and then back at the bar.

ALFRED

Yes. I hope it is.

INT. BOARDING HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - CONTINUOUS

Adam sleeps on the floor while Rose rocks in a rocking chair
and knits. Linda ruins this picture of tranquility by pacing
back and forth.

There is a loud CRASH from the back. Rose and Linda look over
to the area where the crash came from. Adam, half-awake,
raises his head.

ADAM

Was that Uncle Alfred?

LINDA

No. No it wasn't.

ADAM

Was it John making an oops again?

ROSE

I think so. You just go back to
sleep now.

Adam puts his head back down on the pillow and Rose goes back to knitting and rocking.

LINDA

Rose, are we really supposed to just sit here and wait?

ROSE

I choose to sit here and knit.

Linda just stares at Rose, not amused. Rose tries to ignore Linda and continue knitting but she mistakenly pokes herself with her needle.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Ah! Now see what you've done.

LINDA

What I've done?

Rose looks to Linda and motions for her to keep her voice down. She nods towards George, who rolls around, trying to get back to sleep.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Maybe I wouldn't have bothered you if the men didn't stay out so late.

ROSE

And this is why the men stay out late. This is why you have never been able to make an honest man out of James. Because you don't know your place.

Linda turns around in a huff, but she doesn't walk away.

ROSE (CONT'D)

A woman's place is before and after. We make sure the men feel prepared in the morning and unincumbered at night; our effort isn't needed during their workday. In times of battle, we help build them up before they go and we nurse them when they come home. We aren't needed to fight. Even in love, we get them excited to start and we reassure them when it's finished. The actual moment... we need not be that involved, and rarely, if ever, does one wish to be.

Linda turns and looks at Rose.

ROSE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry if I ruined any illusion
that you might have had.

LINDA
What if I don't want a man to take
care of me? I can take care of
myself.

ROSE
I've never said you couldn't. I
said that you need to learn that
you can take care of the men as
well.

LINDA
So I'm supposed to just stay locked
to the home--

ROSE
--Why would you want to run away
from it?

LINDA
Because life is out there. Perhaps
you've missed it while tending to
the men but I haven't.

ROSE
I hope you don't expect me to
apologize for the decisions I have
made for my family's well-being.

Rose stares at Linda, hoping her point has gotten through.
Linda thinks for a moment and then looks Rose in the eye.

LINDA
Then don't expect me to apologize
for what I have to do.

INT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

The saloon doors slam against the walls with a crash. Alfred turns from the bar to see who made the racket and sees Robert and Walt sprinting into the bar and right up to the Mayor and The Sheriff. Alfred watches as The Mayor starts to scold The Sheriff for something.

Alfred heads over to see what is going on. As he does, The Sheriff tries to walk out but the Mayor stops him.

He puts his hand on the Sheriff's chest, preventing him from going by.

THE MAYOR

Get the big Freak to back you up.

The Mayor points to Alfred. The Sheriff looks back directly at Alfred and doesn't seem thrilled to see him. The Mayor walks over to where Bianca is sitting and grabs her hand. He slowly kisses it and then starts to smooch his way up her arm. Alfred sees this and then notices that The Sheriff is watching it all closely. When Bianca looks over to The Sheriff, he turns around and marches over to Alfred.

THE SHERIFF

There is a little trouble out front and The May... I was hoping you and James could--

ALFRED

--I understand. I just need to find James.

Alfred heads over towards the bar and waves down the Barkeep.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

There seems to be some trouble outside, and--

Alfred is cut-off in mid-sentence as the Barkeep quickly bends down below the bar and reemerges with a shotgun.

THE BARKEEP

--My pleasure.

ALFRED

Um, the Sheriff said--

THE BARKEEP

--Doc ain't in charge here.

The Barkeep starts to walk towards the end of the bar so he can exit. Alfred walks with him.

ALFRED

It was at the Mayor's request.

The Barkeep stops. He looks disappointed. The Barkeep, annoyed, sighs and puts the gun back under the bar.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

I was wondering if you knew where James went.

THE BARKEEP

Down the stairs, through that door.
Second door on your other left.

Alfred nods and heads to the basement door.

INT. SALOON (DRESSING ROOM) - CONTINUOUS

Alfred slowly creeps down the basement stairs when he hears someone SCREAM. He runs down the rest of the stairs and sees a stunned Ms. Agnes standing in the dressing room.

MS. AGNES

Oh my! May god have mercy on your
souls!

Alfred runs over to the doorway and finds James, half-naked, standing in the middle of the room. A couple of the other girls run around trying to get their clothes back on.

JAMES

Miss... Miss, I can explain...

In the background, a WOMAN in a bath makes a splash and seems stunned by Ms. Agnes' entrance.

WOMAN

Please, Agnes, we're not decent.

MS. AGNES

Oh I can see that!

JAMES

I'm sorry, I probably shouldn't be
here.

HELEN

Nonsense James.

Helen emerges from the back of the room.

HELEN (CONT'D)

The only person out of it here is
this old maid.

Helen steps into the doorway, directly in front of Ms. Agnes.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Why does Jesus hate me today Agnes?
Because I enjoy the feeling of a
man's embrace?

MS. AGNES

Well, I never!

HELEN

I don't doubt you haven't.

MS. AGNES

I just came to find Sister June.

HELEN

Sister left. She came to pray for us. High-tailed it out as soon as the scripture was out of her mouth.

MS. AGNES

Why am I not surprised?

Ms. Agnes STORMS OFF. James looks around and sees that all of the the women in the room are standing around, completely silent. That is, until Miriam starts to giggle. Then all of the women start laughing out loud. In the background, bubbles starts to rise in the bath.

HELEN

You can come up now Sister.

Alfred looks over to the bath where he sees Sister June rise up from the water. The woman in the bath smiles at Sister June and places her hand on her head.

WOMAN

You can go back down now Sister.

Sister June smiles from ear-to-ear and re-submerges. Alfred steps into the doorway.

ALFRED

Pardon me ladies, I hate to intrude.

(to James)

There's a minor conflict outside.

Helen turns around to present the news to the girls in the room.

HELEN

Ladies, we have a squabble!

All of the girls hustle to get dressed. As James buttons up his shirt, Miriam reaches over and starts unbuttoning the bottom buttons.

MIRIAM

It could be dangerous.

She starts to slide her hand down his stomach and towards his waist.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Maybe you should stay here--

Before she can finish her seduction, Miriam gets slapped violently by Helen.

HELEN

Hands off the hero.

She looks up at James and smiles. She does up the buttons that Miriam had undone.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Hopefully, this will be the first of many times I get to see you in action.

Standing outside in the hall still, Alfred corrects Helen.

ALFRED

Well, hopefully we can avoid any action.

Helen quickly snaps her head in Alfred's direction.

HELEN

Well, you're not a very fun one now, are you?

She turns back towards James and gives him a smile.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Don't start without me.

James smiles innocently at Helen and EXITS the room. Alfred stays in the doorway and watches as Helen fires an evil look at Miriam and tosses some dirty clothes at her.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Wash these while we watch the fight.

Miriam frowns and picks up the clothes. Helen then slams the door in Alfred's face.

INT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

Alfred and James appear from the stairwell and walk through the saloon. The Sheriff walks up to the two Freaks.

ALFRED

Have you seen Emmett? I don't see him.

THE SHERIFF

Well, that's part of the problem.

Upon hearing the Sheriff's words, James and Alfred give each other a look, as if to say 'Here we go again.'

ALFRED

He always finds a way.