

# DEACON

29.

SC. 1

FRED (CONT'D)

The one in the house where my first wife currently resides. With her boyfriend.

The audience laughs again. He begins playing.

LATER

The room is mostly empty. Deacon and Scarlett catch up.

DEACON

If she wants to come for Thanksgiving, she can stay at my place. I don't know why she's so stubborn about it.

SCARLETT

She just doesn't want to put you out.

DEACON

She's my sister for cryin' out loud. She's still weird. I mean--

Avery appears.

AVERY

Hey, Deacon, did you get my demo?

Deacon's manner is disarming, and even barbs are delivered with a smile that almost makes it feel like an honor to be slapped around by him.

DEACON

I did. What kind of music?

AVERY

Kind of alt/country/punk.

DEACON

You know, around here punk is code for not being able to play at all.

Avery ribs him right back.

AVERY

You need to hear what the kids are playing these days, old timer.

DEACON

Alright, alright, I promise not to use it as a coaster. In the meantime, you keep working on being good enough for my favorite niece.

SCARLETT

I'm your only niece.

DEACON

What a happy coincidence!

Start →

NASHVILLE - PILOT

1/8

Gunnar brings Deacon his guitar case. Avery follows Scarlett back to the bar, grabs his beer, then takes a table by the window and checks his phone.

GUNNAR

That was a great show. A couple of those songs I'd never heard. That one, "Wildest Dream"? Killer.

DEACON

It won't be too long before you're sittin' in that circle. Heard a couple of your demos. You're sounding good, boy. Real good.

A compliment from Deacon is as good as it gets. Gunnar can barely respond.

GUNNAR

That's-- thank you.

Deacon looks at Avery, sitting by the window.

DEACON

What do you think of that guy? Is he good enough for my niece?

GUNNAR

I guess I'm just naturally suspicious of anyone that confident.

DEACON

Keep an eye on her for me, will ya?

Gunnar, with a smile, as charming as can be --

GUNNAR

It's kind of hard to take my eyes off her.

Deacon claps him on the shoulder.

DEACON

Well, son, she's got the family curse. We always pick the one who'll break your heart. That one just doesn't strike me as the marryin' kind.

Deacon takes his guitar case and heads out the door.

CONT.

EXT. BLUEBIRD CAFE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

DEACON  
SC. 2

Deacon opens the car door and puts his guitar on the back seat. When he turns back around, Juliette is standing there.

DEACON

Well! Hello.

2/8

Juliette's posse waits outside her Escalade on the other side of the parking lot.

JULIETTE  
That last song you did. Has that ever been recorded?

She stands close to Deacon, gazing up at him.

DEACON  
Only by me, so that pretty much damns it to obscurity.

JULIETTE  
I want to record it.

DEACON  
You do.

JULIETTE  
I do. This week. Will you come play on it?

Deacon is unnerved by her unabashed admiration. And unless he's wrong, and he's not, she's flirting with him.

DEACON  
Well, I could, depending on when. We're rehearsing all week.

JULIETTE  
With Rayna? I heard that tour might be off.

DEACON  
What? No. Not to my knowledge. I haven't heard anything like that.

JULIETTE  
Maybe I'm wrong then.

Now she's just smiling at him. He's a little at a loss.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
Why don't you come take over for Buddy as my band leader? His wife's baby is due two weeks into the tour. I'm gonna to have to replace him anyway.

DEACON  
I can't.

JULIETTE  
Why not?

DEACON  
I can't do that to Rayna.

JULIETTE  
I'll pay double whatever she pays.

3/8

DEACON  
And why would you do that?

JULIETTE  
I want the best. You're the best.

Deacon is trying to figure her out her angle.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
We could write together.

Now he's interested, but doesn't let it show.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
(suggetively)  
I'll bet you and I could have a lot  
of fun on the road.

Her white Escalade comes rolling up.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
I'll schedule the session around  
you. Think about it.

The car stops.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
Rayna's not the only woman in the  
world, you know.

DEACON  
You're a girl.

JULIETTE  
That, too.

The back door opens and she climbs in and is gone.

DEACON  
(to himself)  
What the hell was that?

INT. BLUEBIRD CAFE - NIGHT

Avery has watched Deacon and Juliette through the window.  
Gunnar and Scarlett go about their work, but they're aware of  
Deacon and Juliette in the parking lot.

AVERY  
Think there's something going on  
there?

SCARLETT  
She sure looks different when she's  
dressed regular. Kind of gives me  
hope.

GUNNAR  
He's way too cool for her.

EMD SC. 2

4/8

# Deacon

37.

SC. 3

RAYNA (CONT'D)

I'm so far beyond worried it's not even funny. I'm staying off full-blown panic attacks.

BUCKY

It's not time for panic yet. I'll let you know when it is. Meantime can we talk about a couple of things?

RAYNA

Go.

BUCKY

I told Caldwell's campaign guy that you could do two songs at the announcement, so just let me know what songs and who you want.

RAYNA

Okay. Let me think about it.

BUCKY

Now. There's a meeting Monday morning at the label. Marshall Evans. He's going to want to know your decision.

Rayna nods, but obviously doesn't want to talk about it. She catches Deacon's eye and heads toward the door.

RAYNA

Deacon! Wait. You gotta second?

DEACON

For you I do.

BUCKY

And... meeting's over.

EXT. CUMBERLAND RIVERWALK - DAY

Rayna and Deacon walk together. Rayna has told him everything. Almost.

RAYNA

I mean, I feel like I'm in my prime. I don't think I've ever sounded better. But the way they say "forty" makes it sound like I should be in a wheelchair. If I'm such an old hag, then why would I open for Juliette Barnes? What is she, fifteen?

DEACON

Nineteen. And don't talk crazy.

Deacon folds her into his arms, in a comforting way.

start

5/8

RAYNA  
Am I crazy? Do you understand why I  
can't do it?

They resume walking.

DEACON  
I do. We've been doin' this for  
twenty-one years. Can you believe  
that?

This makes her laugh.

RAYNA  
No. That's absolutely impossible.

DEACON  
You've been sayin' for a while you  
don't want to do as many dates now  
that the girls are in school--

RAYNA  
Yeah, but I want it to be my  
choice.

DEACON  
You can leave any way you want and  
come back anytime you want. You're  
not some overnight sensation.  
Although you are sensational  
overnight, to the best of my  
recollection.

She smiles, but isn't going there.

RAYNA  
I still love it. I just don't feel  
ready to hang up the rhinestones.

DEACON  
They're not the only record company  
in the world. You don't owe them any  
records. You could blow them off,  
call off the tour, pretend the whole  
thing never happened. You'd be  
snapped up in heartbeat, and start  
over with a new label who'll bust  
their asses and feel lucky to have  
you.

RAYNA  
But all the guys and the crew,  
they've planned their whole year  
around the tour. ~~I have hundreds of~~  
~~people depending on me. They have~~  
~~families. No one understands that~~  
~~assure.~~ I can't leave everybody  
hanging. Especially not you.

Deacon realizes that he has to tell her, now.

6/8

DEACON  
In that vein, here's something kind  
of strange that happened. Juliette  
Barnes asked me if I wanted a job.

RAYNA  
She asked you? As what?

DEACON  
Lead guitar. Band leader. Her guy  
is leaving in a few weeks.

Rayna looks like she's been punched in the stomach.

RAYNA  
Oh. What did you say?

DEACON  
Nothing. I mean, I'm not available  
until otherwise notified.

RAYNA  
Randy's doing her record, she wants  
you in her band, what, is she  
comin' for my house next?

DEACON  
She wants to write with me.

RAYNA  
Wow. She went straight for your  
soft spot.

He acknowledges that it's his weakness.

DEACON  
I've always wondered why you never  
cut more of my songs.

RAYNA  
I don't know. Felt weird, like they  
were all about me.

DEACON  
They were. Are, I guess.

Rayna nods. He knows this is pure pain for her.

DEACON (CONT'D)  
Rayna, you know I would never do  
anything-- if you don't want me to--  
I won't leave you hanging either.

Rayna is far away.

RAYNA  
Sometimes, I wish I could go back  
and do the whole thing over again.

DEACON  
What would you change?

7/8

RAYNA  
Everything. I'd do it all  
different.

DEACON  
That makes two of us.

She looks into his eyes. She wants to kiss him, but she  
won't. He wants the same thing, but he won't either.

RAYNA  
I need a drink. Walk with me to Tootsies?

DEACON  
Ha, can't. Got a meeting.

Really? Then she gets it.

RAYNA  
Oh, that kind of a meeting. Do you  
ever miss the wild old days?

DEACON  
Everyday. Except the headaches. I  
don't miss the headaches.

She smiles.

RAYNA  
I'd never stand in your way. I want  
you to be happy.

DEACON  
Babe, you know good and well  
there's only one thing that could  
have made me happy and I lost that  
a long time ago.

Not much to say after that.

END OF ACT III

END  
SC. 3

8/8