

## SCENE THREE

(Kitchen. A week later. Evening. Becca, Izzy and Nat, their mom, are gathered around a birthday cake singing *Happy Birthday*. Nat has a glass of wine.)

**BEGIN**

NAT AND BECCA

(end of song)

*Happy Birthday to you...*

NAT

Blow 'em out.

(Izzy blows out the candles. Ad lib yays and clapping.)

BECCA

What did you wish for?

IZZY

I can't say.

(re: the cake)

It looks good, Becca.

NAT

Where'd you buy it?

BECCA

I didn't. I made it.

NAT

Of course you did. What a stupid question. Of course you made it.

BECCA

(catches Izzy scooping off the frosting)

Izzy--

IZZY

It's *my* cake.

BECCA

Well let me cut it first. Watch your fingers.

(Becca cuts slices of cake and puts them on plates over the following. Howie enters with a couple papers.)

You didn't wait for me? HOWIE

You said not to. BECCA

I didn't *mean* it though. HOWIE

I tried to stop them, Howie. NAT

I wanted cake. IZZY

Rude. HOWIE

I didn't know how long you were gonna be up there. Once you get on that computer... BECCA

Did you get it? NAT

Yeah right here. HOWIE

(Howie hands Nat the papers. She looks them over.)

Let me get my glasses NAT

Did you have to? BECCA

She wanted me to look it up. HOWIE

(good natured) BECCA  
Any excuse to escape for ten minutes.

(re: Nat) IZZY  
Well do you blame him?

NAT

(looks up from papers)  
What is this?

IZZY

Mom, cake!

HOWIE

It's a timeline, starting with the lobotomy. The plane crashes. It's the whole list. It's long.

NAT

Well still, that doesn't make it a curse.

BECCA

Nobody said it was a curse, mother.

NAT

Everybody says. That was my point. *Everybody* says it's a curse.

BECCA

Well nobody in this room.

NAT

You know what it is, really? Hype. Perpetuating the myth. That whole American royalty crap.

IZZY

It's good cake.

NAT

But the Kennedy's aren't cursed. They're just really unlucky. And kinda stupid, a lot of them.

HOWIE

Cut me a piece, wouldja Bec?

NAT

Too much money, that's their curse. And too much time on their hands. If they had to go to work, like normal people, then most of those Kennedy's would still be alive.

IZZY

Thanks, Howie. I'm so glad you went and got that timeline.

NAT

Maybe if they had stayed home and watched television once in awhile, instead of zipping off to Vail, then none of that stuff would've happened.

BECCA

You have the most interesting theories.

NAT

Don't patronize me.

BECCA

I'm not. I was being serious.

IZZY

(re: cake)

This is so good.

NAT

Normal people don't fly around in their own planes for example. I don't know anyone with his own plane, do you? Do you, Howie?

HOWIE

Well, yeah I know *one* guy but—

NAT

Well, *you* know someone, but that's not the norm. An average person doesn't own an airplane.

HOWIE

No, you're right, he's not average.

BECCA

He's a member of the jet-set.

NAT

Exactly! That's what that word means! The jet set. Jet-setters! Buzzing around in little Pipers or whatever, crashing off the coast of Massachusetts. All I'm saying is regular people don't have ten relatives die in separate plane wrecks.

HOWIE

It's not ten.

NAT

Just about, if you count Teddy who survived his.

IZZY

Well I think it's sad.

BECCA

Teddy surviving?

(Izzy and Becca chuckle.)

NAT

Well of course it's *sad*. All those good-looking people falling out of the sky like that. It's a frickin' waste. But it isn't a curse. It's just rich people acting stupid.

BECCA

I thought you liked JFK?

NAT

I'm not talking about JFK. I'm not talking about the ones who were *assassinated*. Although getting shot by a crazed gunman is kinda of a rich-guy problem too, isn't it?

HOWIE

Well, not *necessarily*.

NAT

It doesn't matter, that's not who I'm talking about. I'm talking about the unqualified *pilots*. I'm talking about playing football. And skiing. At the *same* time!

IZZY

That *was* stupid.

NAT

"Hey, look at me! I'm a Kennedy! I can catch a ball while flying down a mountain on sticks!" Of *course* he died. Idiot. And I know that's a terrible thing to say, but this was a grown man acting like a moron. The arrogance of these people.

HOWIE

The Greeks would call that hubris. "Arrogance in the face of..." It might not technically be hubris actually.

NAT

If hubris means reckless, then that's right.

HOWIE

No, it doesn't mean reckless. It's more about the gods.

NAT

That's probably the right word then. They're *very* Catholic, those Kennedys.

END