

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

THE DOOGAN FAMILY prepares Thanksgiving dinner. MRS. DOOGAN (BETTY), 50, bastes the turkey. MR. DOOGAN (CARL), 55, sharpens the carving knife and takes occasional sips from his cocktail. JANE DOOGAN-SMITH, 28, chops vegetables. Near Jane, at the end of the counter, AUNT EDNA writes place cards on little paper turkeys.

BETH DOOGAN, 25, daughter of Betty and Carl, and Jane's younger sister, watches her family carry on these various tasks from her vantage point on a kitchen stool.

She pulls something out of her pocket and puts in on the windowsill. It is the bottle for her prescription medication.

Beyond the pill bottle, we see cigarette smoke rising and the top of an AKWARD ADOLESCENT's head.

AUNT EDNA

Oh, Betty. That turkey smells divine.

MRS. DOOGAN

I think we're just about there.
How are your veggies coming,
Jane?

JANE

Okay.

LILY and LOU, Jane's twins, run through the kitchen. Lily chases Lou with a shotgun.

LOU

Ahhh!

LILY

Bang! Bang!

They are followed by UNCLE JACK, Aunt Edna's husband.

JANE

Dammit! Uncle Jack!

UNCLE JACK
Come back here, now. Guns
aren't toys!

Jane chases after Jack who chases after her kids. She hands off the knife to Beth.

JANE
Here.

Mrs. Doogan sees this. She runs over and takes the knife out of Beth's hands.

MRS. DOOGAN
Jane, let's use our heads.

BETH
Mom, don't be so paranoid.
They released me, remember?
Now, what can I do?

MRS. DOOGAN
You just sit there and look
pretty, honey. You need your
rest.

BETH
Mo-o-om!

Mrs. Doogan raises her hands and takes the knife with her to the other side of the kitchen. Aunt Edna begins folding napkins into little turkeys.

BETH
What? You think I'm going to
slit my throat in the middle
of the kitchen? On
Thanksgiving? Don't you think
that's a little dramatic?

Jane come back into the room, grabs the knife off of the table and continues her chore.

JANE
Drama never stopped you before.

Beth jumps off her stool to confront Jane.

BETH

What's that supposed to mean,
Jane?

MR. DOOGAN

Girls!

JANE

"Oh, Jane got an A? Let me
stick my head in the oven.
Jane got into Med School? Let
me swallow a pound of
lithium." Well, I am tired
of your sick little games.

BETH

Do you think I enjoy being
locked up with a bunch of
freaks? Do you think I go
there for the entertainment
value? Some pervert watches
me shower for god's sake. I
had to earn the RIGHT to put
on a fucking pair of jeans!

MRS. DOOGAN

Language.

JANE

Oh, god. Did you take your
pills today? You know I can
always tell when you're
getting...

BETH

...Sick? I not taking anymore
pills. I'm just as sane as
any of the rest of you luners
around here. Gimme that.

Beth grabs the knife out of Jane's hand and starts to
chopping. Aunt Edna moves to save all her little turkeys.

Beth slips and cuts her finger. BLOOD gets on the counter.

EVERYONE stops. No one really knows what to do. Mrs. Doogan drags Beth to the sink to wash the cut.

BETH

Let go of me, Mother! It was a fucking accident okay? I'm not helpless!

Beth wrestles free from her mother's grasp and runs out of the kitchen.

Through the kitchen window, Jane sees Beth run across the front lawn.

JANE

This holiday is going to be for shit. Again.

Jane grabs the medicine off of the kitchen windowsill and runs outside.

Mr. Doogan crosses to the window and looks out. He shakes his head and raises a toast.

MR. DOOGAN

My daughter, the picture of health.

EXT. YARD

Jane runs out to Beth. She wraps BETH's finger in a napkin.

She hands the pill bottle to Beth who opens it and deliberately dumps the pills on the ground. Jane gets down and starts picking up pills out of the grass.

The AKWARD ADOLESCENT watches the commotion as he smokes.

He turns around and realizes he can be seen clearly from inside the kitchen and ducks back down again.

INT. KITCHEN

Aunt Edna holds up a torn place card.

AUNT EDNA

Aw, look! The poor little
guy's got a broken wing!

INT. DOOGAN LIVING ROOM - LATER

Doogan family members mill around the living room drinking cocktails and making holiday small talk.

Mr. Doogan talks to Uncle Jack. JANE'S HUSBAND watches the football game. Aunt Edna talks to Mrs. Doogan. The Awkward Adolescent goes around the room tasting hors d'oeuvres and putting them half-eaten back on the plate. The twins play cards on a coffee table.

Beth and Jane come into a far corner of the room.

Jane unwraps the bloody napkin from her sister's finger and examines the cut.

BETH

Just a few hundred bucks and I
could get my own apartment.

JANE

Tried the United Bank of Dad?

Suddenly, the room gets very quiet, and the following line seems to hang in the air.

BETH

I hate asking Dad for money.
He's such a dick about it.

Everyone turns to look at Beth.

Then they turn back to their own conversations. We hear only snippets over the din.

Jane's husband jumps up in triumph.

JANE'S HUSBAND

Go, Yes, YES! TD! OH, YES! 72
yards! Damn, that was
beautiful!

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For the complete script please contact Jennifer Brooks at
info@filmmakers.com