

# Best Friends

Written by Sara Davidson

Directed by James Keach

Rev. Blue, September 24, 1993  
Rev. Pink, September 28, 1993  
Rev. Yellow, September 29, 1993

## Cast List

MICHAELA  
SULLY  
MATTHEW  
COLLEEN  
BRIAN  
DOROTHY  
LOREN  
ROBERT E.  
GRACE  
REVEREND  
JAKE  
HANK  
HORACE  
MYRA  
RICHARD  
BECKY  
ALICE  
MISSY


ANIMALS  
WOLF

BACKGROUND: TOWNSFOLK  
SCHOOLCHILDREN  
BAND MEMBERS  
HARVEST DANCE PARTY-GOERS  
\*COLLEEN'S FRIENDS AT CHURCH



**Set List**

**INTERIORS: GENERAL STORE  
CLINIC  
HOMESTEAD  
BARBER SHOP  
OPERATING ROOM  
CLINIC RECOVERY ROOM  
DOROTHY'S ROOM**



**EXTERIORS: GENERAL STORE  
CLINIC  
HOMESTEAD  
TOWN  
BLACKSMITH SHOP  
\*BRIDGE  
GRACE'S CAFE  
ROAD  
SCHOOLHOUSE  
KISSING TREE  
CHURCH  
DANCE AREA  
GRACE'S STAND  
\*CIDER TABLE**



**TEASER**

**FADE IN:**

**1 EXT. TOWN - DAY ONE**

**Mike, Colleen, Matthew and Brian are walking to the general store. They pass Horace and the Reverend hanging a banner announcing, "Sweethearts Dance." It's fall and people are dressed for cool weather.**

**Mike  
Why do they call it the Sweethearts Dance?**

**Colleen**

One of the town founders proposed to his wife at the dance. Lots of weddings have come out of it.

**Matthew**

They say, if you take someone to the dance, she'll be your sweetheart for life.

**Colleen**

Can I make a new dress for it?

**Brian**

You got lots of dresses from Boston.

**Mike**

Well, it is fun to make something new for a special dance.

**Colleen**

What're you gonna wear?

Mike thinks a moment, and a small cloud passes over her face. As they reach the store, she continues, brightly.

**Mike**

I'm not sure I'm going.

## 2 EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY ONE

Dorothy opens the door to the store just as they approach it.

**Brian**

Hey, Miss Dorothy!

**Mike**

Dorothy, how are you?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

**Dorothy**

Fine, thanks. It's kinda warm in there. I'm gonna step outside for some air.

**Mike and Colleen move into the store, Brian and Matthew walk toward the livery, and we STAY with Dorothy. She's perspiring, and fans herself. Loren rushes up and shuts the door.**

**Loren**  
**Would you close that door!**

**Dorothy**  
**But it's hot...**

**Loren**  
**No, it's freezin'. I got my jacket on.**

**Dorothy**  
**(opens door)**  
**I'll close it in a minute.**

### **3 INT. STORE - DAY ONE**

**The store is filled with townsfolk, bustling with activity. Mike is picking out supplies, not far from Colleen, who's with her friends Alice and Becky, in the fabric section. Alice is looking at ribbons. Becky holds a bolt of fabric in front of herself, turns to Colleen.**

**Becky**  
**What do you think -- for the dance?**

**Colleen**  
**Oh, it suits you perfect!**

### **4 ANGLE - MIKE**

**Mike looks over at the girls.**

### **5 BACK TO SCENE**

**Becky**  
**Aren't the colors pretty?**

**Alice suddenly grabs the bolt of fabric Becky is holding.**

**Alice**

**That's what I'm choosin'.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**5 CONTINUED:**

**Becky**  
**But you didn't say...**

**Alice**  
**I picked it out yesterday.**  
**(calls)**  
**Mr. Bray, would you cut me ten yards of this, please?**

**Colleen**  
**That's not fair...**

**Alice**  
**You can use this, Becky...**  
**(holds up another bolt)**  
**And Colleen, this would be real nice on you.**

**Becky**  
**But I want that fabric...**  
**(points to the one Alice took)**  
**I just love it.**

**Alice**  
**We can't wear the same thing. You'll find somethin' else, I'm sure.**

**She heads off with the fabric.**

**6 ANGLE - MIKE**

**Mike watches it all. She wants to say something, but struggles with herself not to interfere.**

**7 BACK TO SCENE**

**Colleen**  
**She's got no right -- tellin' us what we can and can't wear.**

**Becky**  
**But she does. You know Alice.**

**Colleen**  
**I sure do. Who says we have to listen?**

**Becky**  
**She'll be mad.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**7 CONTINUED:**

**Colleen**  
**Then let's not be friends with her.**

**Becky considers this -- a radical idea. Then Becky nods.**

**Becky**  
**Right. We don't need her.**

**The girls smile at each other and link arms.**

**8 EXT. STORE - DAY ONE**

**Dorothy is still outside, feeling flushed and dizzy. Sully walks up, with Wolf.**

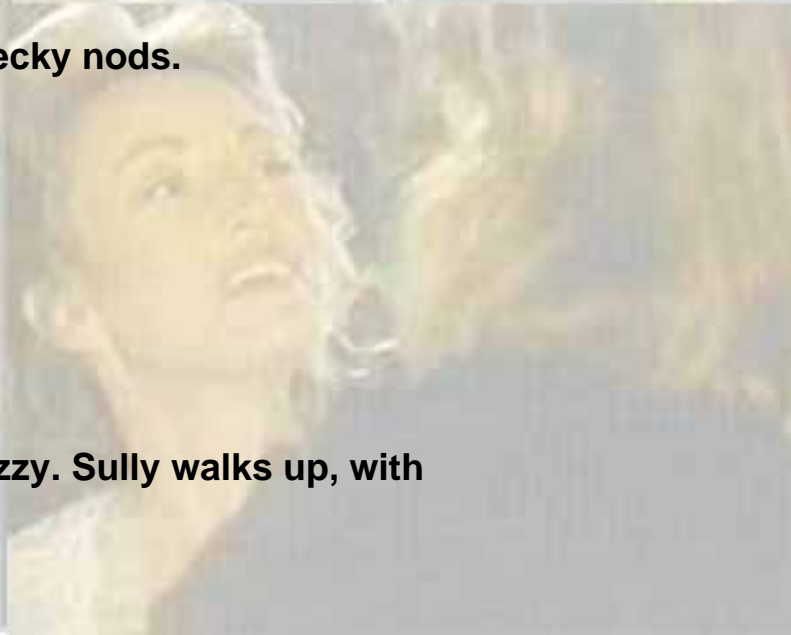
**Sully**  
**Mornin', Dorothy. Looks awful busy in there.**

**Dorothy**  
**It's madness. What with the Sweethearts Dance and all. You're goin', ain't ya?**

**Sully**  
**I'm not much for dancin'...**

**Dorothy starts to feel faint, and leans against a post.**

**Sully**  
**(continuing)**  
**You all right?**



**Dorothy**  
Just a little dizzy...

**Sully**  
(calls through door)  
Dr. Mike!

**Dorothy**  
Don't trouble her. It's just so hot...

**Mike comes out, sees Dorothy, feels her forehead.**

**Mike**  
Let's go to your room, so you can lie down.

**9 INT. DOROTHY'S ROOM - DAY ONE**

**Mike is taking Dorothy's pulse, asking questions.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**9 CONTINUED:**

**Mike**  
(continuing)  
How long have you been feeling this way?

**Dorothy**  
Off and on... for a while.

**Mike**  
How's your appetite?

**Dorothy**  
Don't feel much like eatin'...

**Mike**  
Any headaches?  
(Dorothy shakes head no)  
Pain in your chest?

**Dorothy**

**You don't have to ask no more questions. I know what's wrong with me.**

**Mike**  
**What's that?**

**Dorothy**  
**I'm pregnant.**

**Door opens and Loren walks in holding a glass of water.**

**10 CLOSE ON MIKE**

**She looks from Dorothy to Loren, in shock. Pregnant!**

**FADE OUT.**

**END TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

**FADE IN:**

**11 INT. CLINIC - DAY ONE**

**Mike is examining Dorothy on the table. She helps Dorothy put her feet up in stirrups, and drapes a sheet over her to do a pelvic exam.**

**Mike**  
**What makes you think you're pregnant?**

**Dorothy**  
**My waistband's gettin' tighter. My bust is gettin' larger. I've had three young 'uns, I know.**

**Mike**  
**But... how?**

**Dorothy**  
**(sighs)**  
**It was my husband.**

**Mike**  
**Marcus!**

**Dorothy**  
**Remember when I left him and he came after me?**

**Mike**  
**You mean, right before he... died?**

**Dorothy**  
**(nods)**  
**I told you, we was up all night... talkin'?**  
**(upset)**  
**I never dreamed this could happen.**

**Mike**  
**Dorothy, you're not pregnant.**

**Dorothy**  
**I'm not?**

**Mike**  
**No.**  
**(with difficulty)**  
**From what I've seen, it's... the change of life.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**11 CONTINUED:**

**Dorothy**  
**It can't be.**

**Mike**  
**It comes to every woman. It's perfectly natural...**

**Dorothy**  
**So that's why I'm havin' these hot spells?**

**Mike**  
**(nods, goes to cupboard)**  
**I'm going to give you a draught of lavender and gentian. Take a spoonful every three hours -- that should make you more comfortable.**

**Dorothy**  
**(flustered)**

**I knew it would come someday, but... I don't feel ready.**

**Mike**  
**(gently)**

**You have had your children.**

**Dorothy**

**It's not that. I feel like I'm losin' my clock -- the thing that tells me another month is goin' by and all's well.**

**Mike**

**All is well. It's just a transition. You're healthy and strong, and have wonderful things ahead of you.**

**Mike takes Dorothy's hand and looks at her with empathy, as Dorothy struggles to come to grips with what's happening.**

## **12 EXT. BLACKSMITH SHOP - DAY TWO**

**Colleen and Becky are talking to Robert E. The girls are in the flush of having a new best friend.**

**Colleen**  
**I got this silver heart.**  
**(shows him heart)**

**Could you cut it in half and put a little hole in each piece?**

**(CONTINUED)**

## **12 CONTINUED:**

**Becky**  
**We're gonna wear 'em 'round our neck.**

**Robert E.**  
**(takes heart)**  
**Kind of like a puzzle that fits together?**

**Becky**  
**(nods)**

**It's 'cause we're best friends.**

**Colleen**

**And wherever we go, we'll know the other one's got the matching piece.**

**Robert E.**

**That's real nice -- havin' a friend you know you can count on.**

**(holds up heart)**

**I'll have this done tomorrow.**

**Colleen**

**Thanks, Robert E.**

**The two girls link arms and walk off, happy and pleased.**

**13 INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY TWO**

**Jake is shaving Loren while Hank and the Reverend look on.**

**Hank**

**Loren, if I didn't know you better, I'd say you was goin' courtin'.**

**Loren**

**Can't a fella get a shave!**

**Jake**

**You wouldn't be fixin' to ask someone to the Sweethearts Dance?**

**Loren**

**Nah...**

**Reverend**

**Come on, Loren. Who's the lucky lady?**

**Hank**

**Lucky? That's a matter of opinion.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**13 CONTINUED:**

**Jake**

**Tell us. We won't laugh or say nothin'. I promise.**

**Loren**  
**It's... Dorothy.**

**Hank bursts out laughing.**

**Hank**  
**She's sick, she ain't gonna be dancin'.**

**Loren**  
**There's nothin' wrong with her.**

**Reverend**  
**I heard she fainted at the store.**

**Loren**  
**Dr. Mike says it's just... the "time of life".**

**Jake**  
**I coulda told you that.**

**Hank**  
**Watch out, Loren. You know what happens to ladies then, don't ya?**

**Loren**  
**No...**

**Jake**  
**She might get a mustache.**

**Loren**  
**(horrified)**  
**What?!**

**Hank**  
**They grow hair all over their faces.**

**Jake**  
**I might have to take care of her. Course, I wouldn't charge you.**

**Hank**  
**They get a hump, too. They get all shriveled up and dry and their bones break...**

**Loren gets up and runs out, with cream on his face.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**13 CONTINUED:**

**Jake**

**Where you goin'? You owe me -- for half a shave!**

**14 EXT. SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY TWO**

**Colleen and Becky are walking to school when they spot Alice walking with Missy. Colleen and Becky wave.**

**14A ANGLE - ALICE AND MISSY**

**Missy**

**There they are.**

**Alice**

**Ignore 'em.**

**Missy**

**I ain't seen nobody.**

**They walk by with their heads tipped up.**

**14B BACK TO SCENE:**

**Colleen and Becky giggle. As they continue walking, a new boy in town, Richard, comes around the corner. Becky sees him first and gets a little flustered.**

**Becky**

**There's that new boy. Richard.**

**Richard**

**Hey, Colleen. Becky.**


**Colleen speaks up but Becky's tongue tied.**

**Colleen**

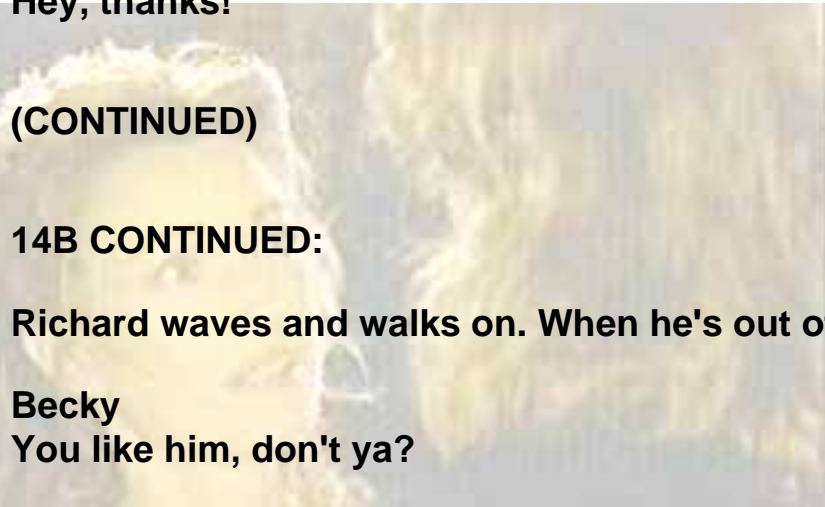
**Hey, Richard. I finished that story.**




**Richard**  
**Already?**



**Colleen**  
**I couldn't put it down. Did Mr. Twain write any others?**



**Richard**  
**We got one about a jumpin' frog. I'll bring it tomorrow, if you want.**



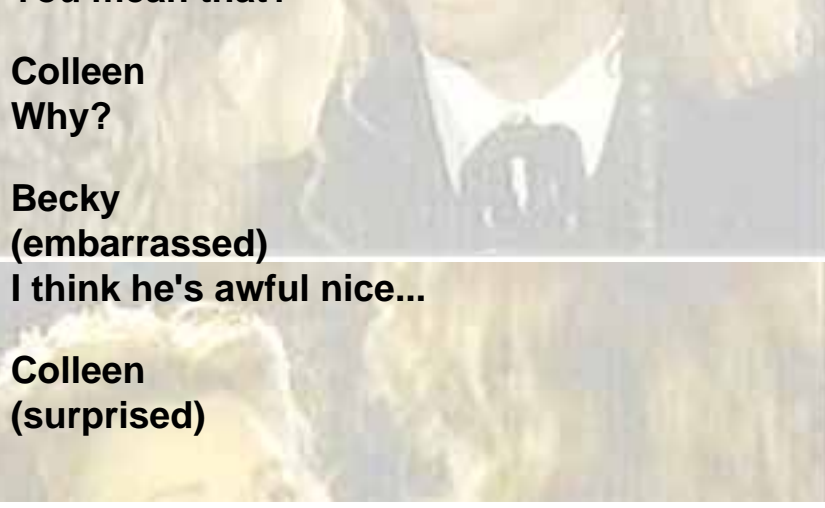
**Colleen**  
**Hey, thanks!**




**(CONTINUED)**



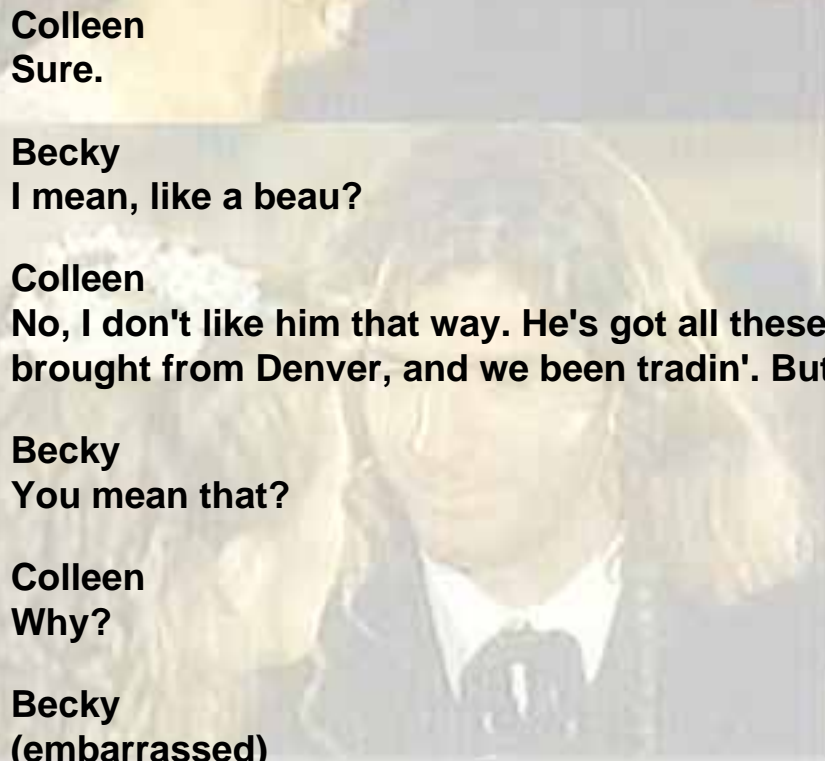
**14B CONTINUED:**




**Richard waves and walks on. When he's out of earshot...**



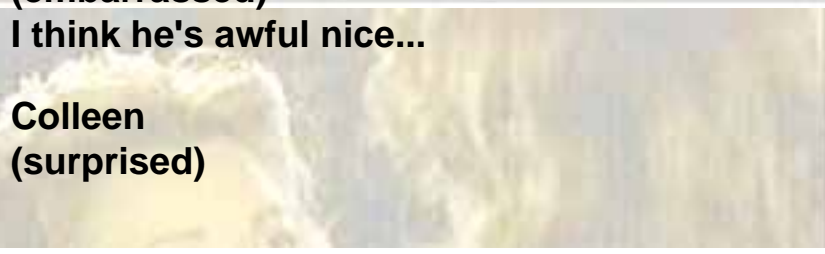
**Becky**  
**You like him, don't ya?**




**Colleen**  
**Sure.**



**Becky**  
**I mean, like a beau?**




**Colleen**  
**No, I don't like him that way. He's got all these new books his family brought from Denver, and we been tradin'. But we're just friends.**



**Becky**  
**You mean that?**



**Colleen**  
**Why?**



**Becky**  
**(embarrassed)**  
**I think he's awful nice...**

**Colleen**  
**(surprised)**

**Becky...**

**Becky**  
I ain't told nobody. Promise you won't tell a soul!

**Colleen**  
I promise.

**Becky**  
I have dreams about him every night. When I see him, I get this jumpy feelin'. And he keeps watchin' me. In school, I look up and he's starin' right at me.

**Colleen**  
Have you talked to him?

**Becky**  
I'm too scared.

**Colleen**  
But you gotta talk to him.

**(CONTINUED)**

**14B CONTINUED:**

**Becky**  
I can't. But... maybe you could.

**Colleen**  
Me?

**Becky**  
You know him a little. And you got brothers. You can talk to boys.

**Colleen**  
Not about those things.

**Becky**  
Please. Just find out what he thinks of me.

**Colleen**  
How 'm I gonna do that?

**Becky**  
When you're talkin', just kinda drop it in. Please? I'd do anything for you, if you asked me.

**Colleen**  
(uncomfortable)  
All right. I'll try.

**Becky**  
Thanks, Colleen.

Becky looks happy, but Colleen looks uneasy with her task.

**15 EXT. CLINIC - DAY TWO**

Brian and Matthew are helping Mike with boxes of supplies that have just arrived. Several boxes are stacked on the porch. Matthew carries one inside, as Brian opens the top to another.

**Matthew**  
Where you want this?

**Mike**  
Just put it by the cabinet.

Sully comes up, with Wolf. Brian runs and jumps into Sully's arms.

(CONTINUED)

**15 CONTINUED:**

**Matthew**  
(coming out of clinic)  
Thought you was goin' huntin'.

**Sully**  
Changed my mind.  
(to Mike)  
Sun's out. Not a cloud in the sky. Want to take a walk?

**Mike**  
Now?

**Sully**

Right now. May not see a day like this for a while. We could stop at Grace's for some pie.

**Mike**

That sounds lovely, but it's impossible.

**Sully**

Why?

**Mike**

I wish you'd asked me in advance. I didn't plan...

**Sully**

So what?

**Mike**

We're right in the middle... I can't drop everything.

**Sully**

Sure you can. Come on.

**Mike**

But I have patients...

**Matthew**

Not 'til later.

**Brian**

Go on, Ma.

**Sully**

Everything'll still be here when we get back.

**Mike**

I'm sorry... but, really...

**(CONTINUED)**

**15 CONTINUED:**

Sully doesn't wait for her to finish. He scoops her up in his arms and heads away from the clinic. Mike struggles, protesting, then starts to laugh.

**Mike**  
**(continuing)**  
**Sully! What're you doing. Sully!**

**Laughing, he carries her down the street, as Matthew, Brian and other townsfolk watch. Then he sets her down and holds out his hand.**

**Sully**  
**Comin'?**

**Still laughing, Mike takes his arm and they walk toward the cafe.**

### **16 EXT. GRACE'S CAFE - DAY TWO**

**Robert E. talks with Grace as she takes pies from the oven. Around the cafe, several braziers have been set up with coals to warm people.**

**Robert E.**  
**Are you sayin' you're gonna work the night of the dance?**

**Grace**  
**Look around -- It's cold, and I got some lean months ahead. I need to make money...**

**Robert E.**  
**But it's the Sweethearts Dance.**

**Grace**  
**Think of all the sweetheart cakes I can sell.**

**Robert E.**  
**But what's the use of makin' money if we don't get to enjoy ourselves? Sweetheart? Even the Lord takes a day of rest.**

**Grace**  
**And so will I. After the dance.**

**She walks off with two plates of pie, leaving Robert E. feeling frustrated.**

**(CONTINUED)**

### **17 EXT. GRACE'S CAFE - DAY TWO**

**Mike and Sully, sitting at a table. Alice walks in with Missy and sits down.**

**Mike**  
Hello, Alice.

**Alice**  
(cool)  
Dr. Mike.

**Sully**  
Isn't that Colleen's friend?

**Mike**  
Not at the moment. They had a falling out... about what they're wearing to the dance.

**Mike looks at Sully. She's fishing for an invitation, but Sully is silent. Grace comes up and sets pie before them.**

**Grace**  
Seems like everybody's all worked up about that dance.

**Sully**  
Why's that?

**Grace**  
Winter's comin' -- you gotta pair up with somebody to keep warm, right?

**Sully shrugs.**

**Grace**  
(continuing)  
People are fussin' about who's going with who...

**Mike**  
And who's dancing with whom.

**Sully**  
Sounds like a lot of foolishness.  
(looks at sky)  
Weather's holdin'. Let's walk up to Granite Canyon.

**Brian runs up to the table.**

**Brian**

**Ma! Come quick!**

**(CONTINUED)**

**17 CONTINUED:**

**Mike**  
**What's wrong?**

**Brian**  
**Miss Dorothy's at the clinic. They need ya!**

**Dr. Mike gets up to leave, then turns back to Sully.**

**Mike**  
**I'm sorry...**

**She looks at him -- he shrugs. Then she rushes off with Brian, leaving Sully alone at the table.**

**18 INT. CLINIC - DAY TWO**

**Dorothy is on the examining table. Mike's working on her. Colleen is assisting.**

**Mike**  
**(continuing; to Dorothy)**  
**When did the bleeding start?**

**Dorothy**  
**Last night. I thought it was... the monthly... comin' back.**

**Mike**  
**No, it's not that.**

**Dorothy groans in pain.**

**Mike**  
**Hold on. It's going to be all right.**  
**(to Colleen, under her breath)**

**Run over to the ice house -- bring me some ice. She's haemorrhaging. I've got to stop it -- quickly.**

**Colleen nods, runs off for the ice.**

**19 HOLD ON MIKE**

**She wipes blood of her hands, frightened at what she sees.**

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

**FADE IN:**

**20 INT. CLINIC - RECOVERY ROOM - DAY TWO**

**Dorothy is dozing fitfully as Mike looks in on her.**

**Dorothy**  
**Dr. Mike?**

**Mike**  
**Don't worry, we were able to stop the bleeding. But you're going to feel weak. I want you to stay in bed a few days.**

**Dorothy**  
**But why'd this happen?**

**Mike**  
**It might be nature's way of helping the body adjust. It's not unusual to have heavy bleeding at this time.**

**Dorothy**  
**Is that all?**

**Mike**  
**Well... it might be something else.**

**Dorothy**  
**What else?**

**Mike**  
It could be a tumor...  
(quickly)  
... but I don't believe it is.

**Dorothy**  
What would you do if it was?

**Mike**  
We might want to remove it.

**Dorothy**  
What's the worst could happen?

**Mike**  
Dorothy, you're stable now...

**Dorothy**  
I want to know.

**(CONTINUED)**

**20 CONTINUED:**

**Mike**  
As a last resort, if we couldn't control the bleeding, we'd perform an  
extirpation of the uterus.

**Dorothy**  
You mean, take it out?  
(Mike nods)  
I don't want that.

**Mike**  
Course not. And there's no reason to expect it. Now try and rest.

She touches her arm to reassure her.

**21 EXT. BRIDGE - DAY TWO**

Colleen and Richard are walking along, making awkward small talk. Colleen's  
working up her courage...

**Richard**  
I'm glad ya liked the story.

**Colleen**  
Oh, I did.  
(beat)  
Richard, there's... something I want to tell you...

**Richard**  
Go ahead.

**Colleen**  
It's a little embarrassin'. And it's a secret.

**Richard**  
I'm good at keepin' secrets.

**Colleen**  
There's... a girl who's really sweet on you.

**Richard**  
There is?

**Colleen**  
She dreams about you all the time.

Richard thinks Colleen is making a confession about herself.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

**Richard**  
I think I know who it is. And I like her too.

**Colleen**  
You do?

Colleen feels a faint stab of jealousy. She didn't know, until this moment, that she might like Richard herself.

**Richard**  
Yeah. I like her a lot. Will she meet me at the Kissing Tree?

**Colleen**  
I don't know...

**Richard**  
If she really cares for me, she will. I'll wait for her there on Friday,  
after school.

**Colleen**  
I'll tell her.

**22 INT. HOMESTEAD - NIGHT TWO**

Sully has come for supper with Mike and the three kids. They've finished eating.

**Brian**  
(to Matthew)  
How come you ain't goin' to the dance?

**Matthew**  
Cause Ingrid's away -- in Pueblo, helpin' that lady who had twins.

**Colleen**  
You can dance with me.

**Brian**  
They're gonna have hay rides, too.

**Matthew**  
I'll think about it. Now let's turn in. Night, Dr. Mike. Sully.

Everyone AD LIBS goodnights, as Matthew and Brian go out the door and Colleen retreats to her alcove. Mike and Sully are left alone at the table.

**(CONTINUED)**

**22 CONTINUED:**

**Mike**  
More coffee?

**Sully**  
No thanks.

**(beat)**  
**Want to tell me?**

**Mike**  
**Tell what?**

**Sully**  
**What you're frettin' about.**

**Mike**  
**I am not fretting.**

**She stands and busies herself, washing dishes.**

**Sully**  
**You haven't looked me in the eye all night.**

**Mike**  
**(turns)**  
**I'd like to go to the dance.**

**Sully**  
**So?**

**Mike**  
**Well, are you going to ask me?**

**Sully**  
**I just figured we'd be goin' together.**

**Mike**  
**What made you figure that?**

**Sully**  
**Cause we're courtin'. That means we go to things like this together.**

**Mike**  
**Still, I would appreciate being asked.**

**Sully**  
**All right. Would you like to go to the dance with me?**

**Mike**  
**No.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**22 CONTINUED:**

**She's being playful now.**

**Sully  
Why not!**

**Mike  
You waited too long.**

**Sully  
Fine. I'm no good at dancin' anyway.**

**Mike  
You danced in Boston.**

**Sully  
That was the waltz. All I had to do was: one - two- three. These reels and squares get me all twisted up.**

**Mike  
They're easy, once you know the pattern. I'll teach you.**

**She takes his hands to pull him to his feet, but he resists.**

**Sully  
You said you didn't want to go.**

**Mike  
I lied. I do want to go.**

**Sully smiles, and they stare at each other. Then he takes her hand and kisses it.**

**23 EXT. ROAD - DAY THREE**

**Colleen and Becky are walking to school.**

**Becky  
The Kissing Tree!**

**Colleen**

**He cares for you a lot.**

**Becky**  
**But I ain't never kissed a boy. Have you?**

**Colleen**  
**Well... no.**

**Becky**  
**I don't know how.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**23 CONTINUED:**

**Colleen**  
**I expect he does.**

**Becky**  
**What if your noses bump?**

**Colleen**  
**Maybe you gotta turn your head.**  
**(she experiments, turning her head)**

**Becky**  
**Do you hold your breath?**

**Colleen**  
**I guess you do, for a minute.**

**Becky**  
**Oh, how am I gonna wait 'til Friday?**

**They giggle and walk on.**

**24 INT. DOROTHY'S ROOM - DAY THREE**

**Dorothy's lying in bed. Loren sets a tray of soup down. He's ill at ease and keeps stealing glances at her.**

**Dorothy**  
**Thank you, Loren.**

**He squints at her cheeks -- looking for hair.**

**Dorothy**  
**What're you lookin' at me like that for?**

**Loren**  
**I'm not lookin'.**

**Dorothy**  
**You been creepin' around here all day. What's on your mind?**

**Loren**  
**Nothin'. Well... Jake says... you're gonna grow hair all over and get a hump.**

**Door opens and Dr. Mike comes in.**

**Mike**  
**Excuse me, I've come to check on Dorothy.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**24 CONTINUED:**

**I'm much better, except for these stories Loren's tellin'. He thinks I'm gonna turn into a hairy hunch back.**

**Mike**  
**That's a ridiculous superstition.**

**Loren**  
**But folks say... ladies get all dry and shrivelled up.**

**Mike**  
**That doesn't have to be. Some women actually bloom. They feel more free.**

**Dorothy**  
**I think I know what you mean.**

**Loren**  
**So you're gonna be all right?**

**Dorothy**

**'Course, Loren. I'm not the first lady to go through this. Now leave us be, and quit worryin'!**

**Loren takes a last look at her and leaves the room.**

**Mike**  
**How're you feeling?**

**Dorothy**  
**It's peculiar, Michaela. One minute I can't stop cryin', and the next, I feel like it's springtime and the brooks are bubbling and the sap is flowing...**

**Mike**  
**(smiles)**  
**That's wonderful.**

**Dorothy**  
**How much longer do I have to stay in bed?**

**Mike**  
**Let me check you tomorrow. If there's no more bleeding, you can go back to normal activities.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**24 CONTINUED:**

**Dorothy**  
**And maybe a few new ones?**

**Mike looks at her, then both women start to laugh.**

**24A INT. HOMESTEAD - NIGHT THREE**

**Mike, in her robe, is getting ready to go to sleep. She blows out the oil lamp in the dining area, and notices the lamp still on in Colleen's alcove. She walks over there and watches Colleen.**

**24B MIKE'S POV**

**Colleen, in her nightgown, is staring at herself in the mirror Grandma gave**

her. She's practicing how to kiss, pursing her lips. Then she kisses the mirror.

**24C BACK TO SCENE:**

**Mike**  
Colleen? What are you doing?

**Colleen**  
(startles)  
Oh! Nothin'. I was just... dreamin', I guess.

**Mike picks up a brush and starts to brush Colleen's hair.**

**Mike**  
Must have been a nice dream.

**Colleen**  
Mmmm.  
(beat)  
Dr. Mike?

**Mike**  
Yes.

**Colleen**  
You remember the first time you kissed a boy?

**Mike**  
I certainly do.

**Colleen**  
How old were you?

**Mike**  
(remembers)  
Twenty-five.

**(CONTINUED)**

**24C CONTINUED:**

**Colleen**



**That's old!**

**Mike**

Well, I was a little... different. I didn't go to cotillions. I was too busy -- with my studies, working with my father. I wasn't around boys much... Until I met David.

**Colleen**

How'd you know... how to do it?

**Mike**

I didn't.

(get's suspicious)

Colleen... you're not... are you...

**Colleen**

Oh, no. It's just... Becky and I were talkin' and... there's nothin' wrong with it, is there?

**Mike**

No, there's nothing wrong. But... you want to be careful.

**Colleen**

Careful of what?

**Mike**

(uncomfortable)

Well, kissing can be very sweet, but sometimes, it can lead to... other things... Things you wouldn't want.

**Colleen**

(shakes her head)

Well, I ain't fixin' to kiss no one right now anyway. 'Night, Dr. Mike.

She hugs her and climbs into bed. Mike tucks her in, concerned.

**Mike**

'Night, Colleen.

**25 EXT. SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY FOUR**

School is out and most of the kids have gone. Becky sits on a bench, doubled over in pain. Colleen sits beside her.

**(CONTINUED)**

**25 CONTINUED:**

**Becky**  
My stomach hurts so bad.

**Colleen**  
Take some deep breaths.

**Becky**  
I can't do it, Colleen. I can't go.

**Colleen**  
Just be still a moment. It might pass.

**Becky**  
I want to go home.

**Colleen**  
But he's waiting for ya...

**Becky**  
Will you go and explain? Tell him I'll meet him another day.

**Colleen**  
You sure?  
(Becky nods)  
You all right goin' home?

**Becky**  
Yes. Please. We can't leave him out there.

**26 EXT. KISSING TREE - DAY FOUR**

Colleen has arrived to meet Richard. She doesn't see him at first, and stands, waiting.

**27 ANGLE**

Richard comes up behind and sees -- it's Colleen. His suspicions were right! Quietly, he goes up to her and before she can say anything, he takes her by



the shoulders and kisses her. It's Colleen's first kiss. She's taken by surprise, starts to protest, but then she lets herself give in to the wonder and magic of it. She and Richard stare at each other. The world has changed.

**28 EXT. HOMESTEAD - DAY FOUR**

Mike is trying to teach Sully a reel. The mood, at first, is playful and flirtatious. There's wash on the line, and chickens are pecking.

**(CONTINUED)**

**28 CONTINUED:**

**Mike**  
The Sweetheart Reel's my favorite. Starts like this -- one, two, then you slide.

**Sully**  
I can't see your feet.

She lifts her skirts a little.

**Mike**  
One, two...

**Sully**  
That's better.

**Mike**  
Aren't you going to try?

**Sully**  
I'd like to see that again.

She dances in front of him, holding her skirt up.

**Mike**  
Come on. It's simple.

She takes his hands and starts to lead him through it, but he catches her and kisses her.

**Mike**

**(continuing)**  
**Sully...**

**Sully**  
**What?**

**Mike**  
**This doesn't come now.**

**Sully**  
**But it comes with courtin'.**

**Mike**  
**I'm trying to show you something...**

**Sully**  
**What's the matter?**

**Mike**  
**Nothing. But there's not much time left. Please, try...**

**Sully dutifully nods and follows her, but he doesn't get it right away.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**28 CONTINUED:**

**Mike**  
**(continuing)**  
**One, two... Start with your left foot.**

**Sully**  
**Be patient. I never done this before.**

**Mike**  
**I am patient. Left foot first.**

**Sully**  
**Take it easy. It's just a dance.**

**Mike**  
**I know, but you have to concentrate. Left foot...**

**Sully**

**I heard ya.**

**Mike**  
**(trying to joke)**  
**You do know your left foot, don't you?**

**Sully**  
**(irritated)**  
**What's so important about dancin', anyway?**

**Mike**  
**It's something people enjoy.**

**Sully**  
**Well, I don't.**

**Mike**  
**But you could...**

**Sully**  
**I told ya I'm not good at it.**

**Mike**  
**You haven't tried. I taught this to Brian, for heavens sake.**

**Sully**  
**I'm not Brian. And folks don't change.**

**Mike**  
**Of course they do, if they want to. Clearly you don't.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**28 CONTINUED:**

**Sully**  
**Look. Don't try to change me and I won't try to change you. How's that.**

**Mike**  
**Not acceptable.**

**Sully**  
**Well, that's all I got to say.**

He turns and walks off, leaving her frustrated and angry.

**29 INT. CLINIC - DAY FIVE**

Mike has finished examining Dorothy, who's regained her strength, but Mike seems troubled. Dorothy senses this.

**Mike**  
You look fine.

Mike busies herself cleaning up.

**Dorothy**  
What about you, Michaela?

**Mike**  
Me?

**Dorothy**  
You don't look so fine. And I don't mean health-wise.  
(beat)  
Sometimes it helps to talk to somebody.

Mike looks at Dorothy, then sits down and becomes still.

**Mike**  
You're not going to print it in your paper, are you?

**Dorothy**  
Course not. This is us talkin' as friends.

**Mike**  
(tentative)  
Sully and I have agreed to court. But... it's not going well.

**Dorothy**  
Why's that?

**(CONTINUED)**

**29 CONTINUED:**

**Mike**

**(starts getting worked up)**

**I tried to teach him to dance, but it was hopeless. He says people can't change. You think he's right? I don't. What hope is there if people can't change? That's why we're here -- to learn and grow.**

**Dorothy**

**I don't think that's what he's sayin'. He's talkin' about acceptin' folks as they are.**

**Mike**

**But we're so different. He sleeps on the ground. He comes and goes as he pleases and I like to plan things.**

**Dorothy**

**Sometimes differences are good for a couple.**

**Mike**

**That's just it. I don't know if I'm suited for this. I've always been on my own.**

**Dorothy**

**You're the one who believes folks can change.**

**Mike**

**Sully wants to touch and kiss...**

**Dorothy**

**(it hits her)**

**And you've never... been with a man?**

**Mike**

**(shakes head no)**

**Maybe this is a terrible mistake.**

**Dorothy**

**But you love him.**

**Mike looks at Dorothy, then bursts into tears. Dorothy holds her, and Mike gives vent to all her fears, and her feeling of vulnerability.**

**FADE**

**OUT.**

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

**FADE IN:**

**30 EXT. CHURCH - DAY SIX**

Everyone is coming out of church after Sunday service. The Reverend is there. Bells RING. CAMERA FOLLOWS Mike as she looks for Dorothy, then spots her. Dorothy is wiping her brow. She's had a setback, but she doesn't want to let on to Mike.

**Mike**  
Dorothy, how're you feeling?

**Dorothy**  
Fine. Fine. How 'bout you?

**Mike**  
Better.

**Dorothy**  
Good. I'm glad.

**Mike**  
I want to thank you for our talk. I'd love you to come to dinner?

**Dorothy**  
Oh. I would love that too, but I have another engagement.

**Mike**  
(curious, eager)  
You do? With whom?

**Dorothy**  
It's nothing important...

**Mike**  
You can tell me.

**Dorothy**  
I'm sorry, but I can't.

**Mike**  
**Why not?**

**Dorothy**  
**(tries to be soft)**  
**I just can't. Thank you for the invitation. I'll come another time, if I may?**

**She walks off, leaving Mike curious and a little miffed.**

**31 ANGLE**

**Colleen is with some friends. Colleen looks about and spots Richard. Colleen and Richard exchange soulful looks and a discreet hand wave. They have a secret.**

**31 ANGLE**

**Becky walks up to Colleen -- catches her staring at Richard.**

**Becky**  
**Colleen?**

**Colleen**  
**(startled, turns)**  
**Hey, Becky.**

**Becky tugs her arm, takes her aside, as Richard walks off with his family.**

**Becky**  
**What happened? I'm dyin' to hear.**

**Colleen**  
**How's your stomach?**

**Becky**  
**All better. Was he mad?**

**Colleen**  
**No.**

**Becky**  
**That's good. What'd he say?**

**Colleen**  
Not much.

**Becky**  
He wasn't disappointed?

**Colleen**  
No. I mean... I gotta tell you somethin'...

Colleen's trying to work up the nerve to tell Becky but she's feeling worse every minute.

**Becky**  
What?

**Colleen**  
Richard was... real sorry you were sick.

**(CONTINUED)**

**32 CONTINUED:**

**Becky**  
Oh, that's so sweet. He's got the kindest heart. I just knew it.

Colleen nods.

**Becky**  
(continuing)  
Does he want us to meet again?

**Colleen**  
He's gonna be sorta busy the next few days.

**Becky**  
That's all right. I can wait.  
(hugs Colleen)  
Thanks, Colleen. You're the best friend ever.

With a dreamy smile, Becky walks off. Colleen is in agony, as she turns and goes to join Dr. Mike, standing with Matthew.

**Mike**  
(looking about, to Matthew)

**Where's Brian?**

**Matthew**  
Playin' horseshoes.

**Mike**  
Colleen, there you are. I have to stop at the clinic on the way back...

**Matthew**  
I feel like walkin' home.

**Colleen**  
I'll walk with you.

**Matthew**  
All right.  
(to Mike)  
We'll meet you back there.

**33 EXT. ROAD - DAY SIX**

Matthew and Colleen are walking home. Colleen's dreaming of Richard, but she's also feeling guilty about Becky.

**(CONTINUED)**

**33 CONTINUED:**

**Colleen**  
Matthew, can I ask you somethin'?  
(he looks up)  
How'd you know you were in love with Ingrid?

**Matthew**  
Just a feelin'.

**(CONTINUED)**

**33 CONTINUED:**

**Colleen**

**Did you have it right away?**

**Matthew**

**First time I saw her. Course, it took me a while to figure it out. Why?**

**Colleen**

**Just askin'.**

**Matthew**

**Come on. You got that dreamy look in your eyes.**

**Colleen**

**(laughs)**

**Get away.**

**Matthew**

**Somethin's goin' on. You want to tell me, you know you do.**

**Colleen**

**It's that new boy. Richard.**

**Matthew**

**(surprised and tickled)**

**Hey! I thought he was sweet on you. But I didn't think you felt like that.**

**Colleen**

**I didn't. Until yesterday. But I'm in hot water now.**

**Matthew**

**Why's that?**

**Colleen**

**Cause Becky likes him.**

**Matthew**

**So?**

**Colleen**

**She's my best friend. She asked me to talk to him about her, only before I could, he kissed me. Now I can't stop thinkin' about him.**

**Matthew**

**Becky's got no claim on him. It's not like they were courtin'.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**33 CONTINUED:**

**Colleen**  
But she'll die if she finds out.

**Matthew**  
She won't die.

**Colleen**  
I tried to tell her, but I couldn't.

**Matthew**  
I say, follow your heart.

Colleen shakes her head as they walk on.

**34 EXT. CLINIC - DAY SIX**

Brian is waiting as Mike comes out of the clinic and starts for the wagon to drive home.

**Brian**  
Look, there's Sully.

**Mike**  
Where? I want to speak with him.

**Brian**  
By the store.

She turns and starts to walk to the store, but stops.

**35 HER POV**

Sully, with Wolf, walks to the door of the store. Looks around, then knocks. Dorothy opens the door and beckons Sully inside. He motions Wolf to stay outside, then walks in. Door closes, and we see Dorothy pull down the shade.

**36 BACK TO SCENE**

Mike is troubled. So this is Dorothy's "engagement?"

**Brian**  
(continuing)  
What's he doin' there? It's closed.

**Mike**  
Maybe he has business with Loren.

**Brian**  
No, Mr. Bray's at the saloon.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

Mike looks toward the saloon, where Loren stands outside, talking to Hank. She looks back at the store, with the shade drawn. Then turns and guides Brian back to the wagon.

**Mike**  
Aren't you hungry? Let's be going.

37 OMITTED

38 EXT. HOMESTEAD - DAY SIX

Mike is sitting on the porch, knitting a sweater. Sully and Wolf walk up, Sully holding a box of candy.

**Sully**  
Dr. Mike?

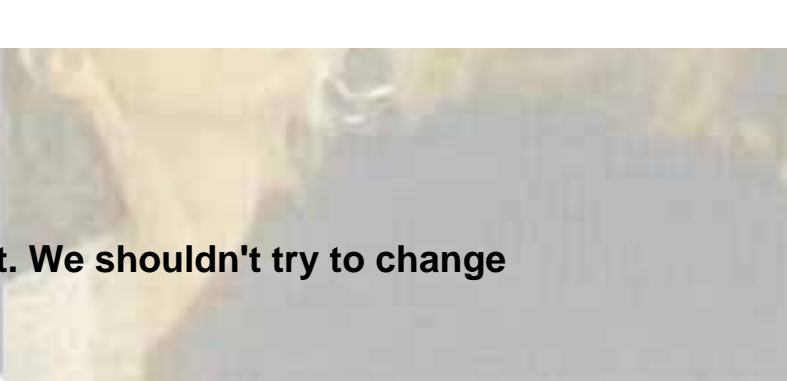
**Mike**  
(looks up, hides knitting away)  
Sully...

**Sully**  
I'm sorry 'bout the other day.

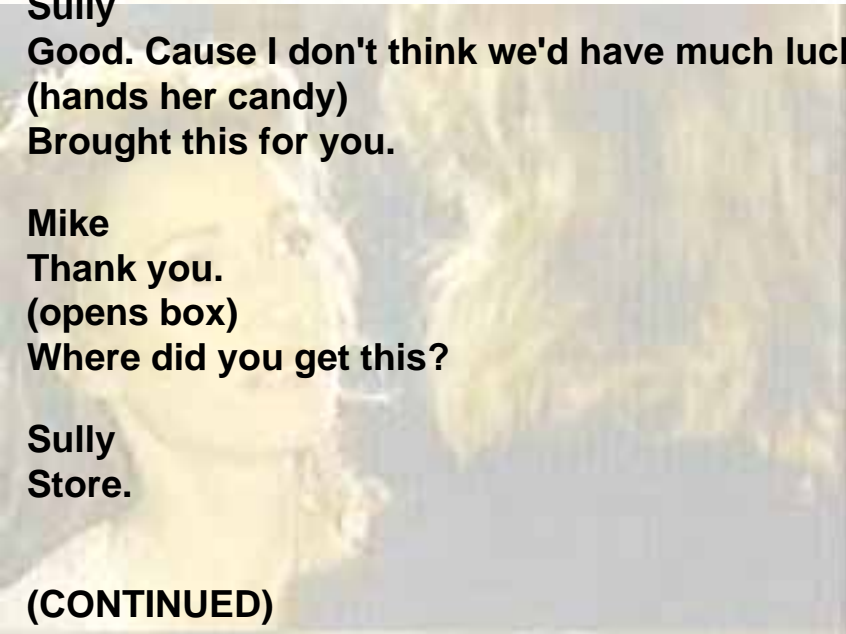
**Mike**  
No, I'm the one who's sorry. I should have been more patient.




**Sully**  
I wasn't too patient myself.



**Mike**  
Dancing is not that important. And you're right. We shouldn't try to change one another.



**Sully**  
Good. Cause I don't think we'd have much luck anyway.  
(hands her candy)  
Brought this for you.

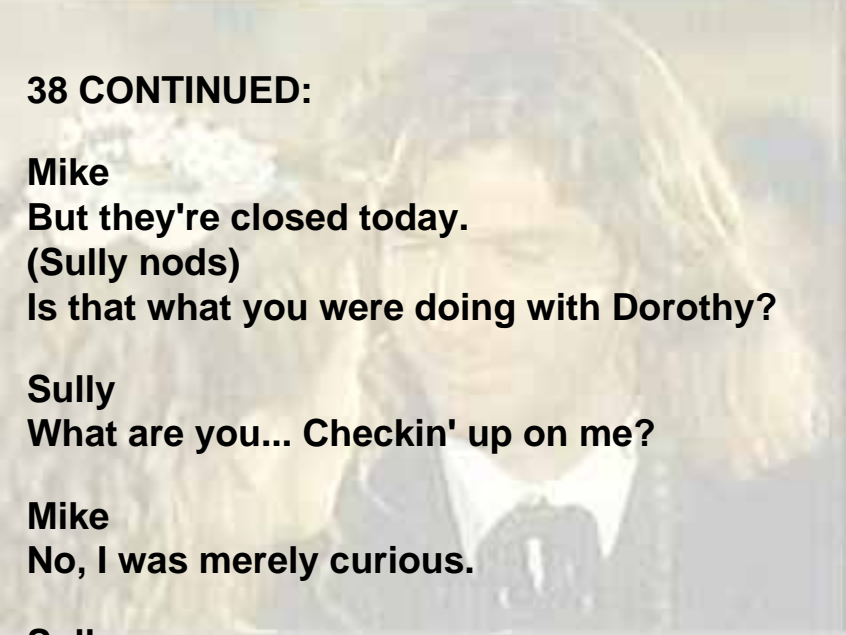


**Mike**  
Thank you.  
(opens box)  
Where did you get this?


**Sully**  
Store.

**(CONTINUED)**

**38 CONTINUED:**

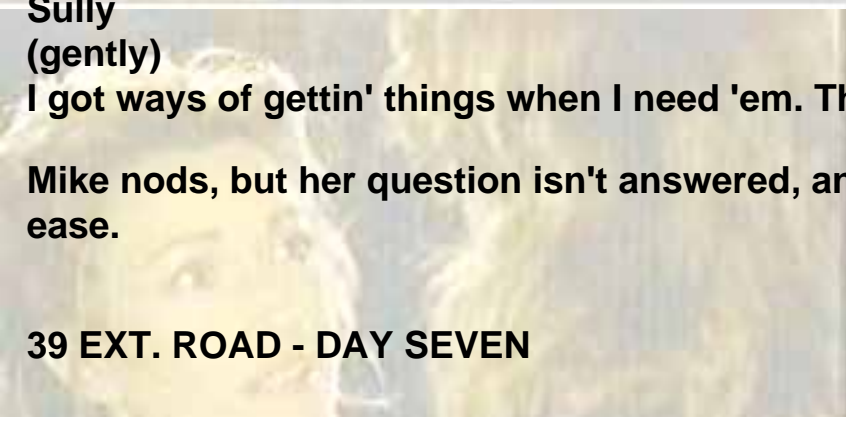


**Mike**  
But they're closed today.  
(Sully nods)  
Is that what you were doing with Dorothy?

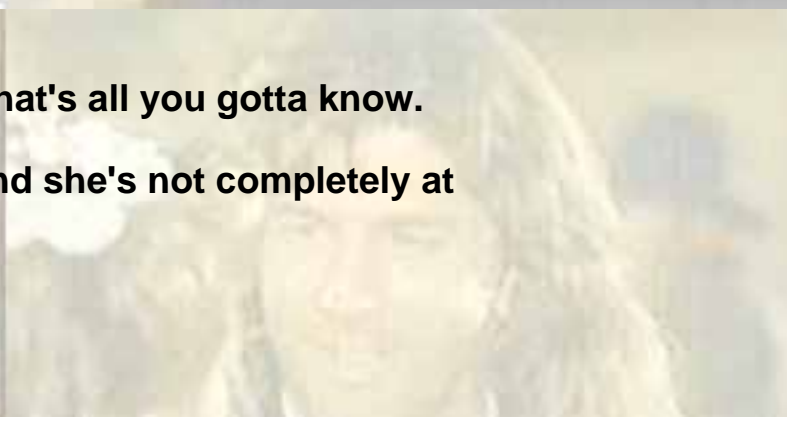


**Sully**  
What are you... Checkin' up on me?

**Mike**  
No, I was merely curious.



**Sully**  
(gently)  
I got ways of gettin' things when I need 'em. That's all you gotta know.



**Mike** nods, but her question isn't answered, and she's not completely at ease.

**39 EXT. ROAD - DAY SEVEN**

**Colleen is waiting to meet Becky to walk to school. Richard comes up, surprising her.**

**Richard**  
**Colleen, I just had to come find you.**  
**(takes her hands)**  
**I miss you so bad.**

**Colleen**  
**(nervous, looks around)**  
**I'm waitin' for Becky. There's somethin' I gotta tell you...**

**Richard**  
**Let's kiss first.**

**He kisses her, and she momentarily forgets everything.**

**40 ANGLE**

**Becky walks up, sees them kissing. Stops in her tracks.**

**41 BACK TO SCENE**

**Colleen and Richard pull apart. Colleen sees Becky, who turns and runs away.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**41 CONTINUED:**

**Colleen**  
**Becky, wait!**

**Colleen goes after her.**

**Colleen**  
**Becky, please, let me explain...**

**Becky**  
**(turning to her)**  
**How could you!**

**Becky starts off again, but Colleen catches her arm.**

**Colleen**

**I didn't mean for this to happen.**

**Becky**

**(shrugs her arm off)**

**I trusted you.**

**Colleen**

**It was all a mistake. That day at the Kissin' Tree, Richard thought I was the one who'd come to meet him...**

**Becky**

**You're supposed to be my best friend. We made a promise to each other.**

**Colleen**

**I'm sorry. But... it turns out he had feelin's for me...**

**Becky**

**You're worse than Alice. All she did was take the dress I wanted. You took the one boy I cared for!**

**Becky takes the heart off her neck and throws it at Colleen. It hits the dirt. Colleen stares at it as Becky runs off. Then she picks it up, puts it around her neck and holds the two matching pieces together.**

**42 EXT. TOWN - DAY SEVEN**

**Mike finds Colleen by the fence near the pasture. Colleen is in tears.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**42 CONTINUED:**

**Colleen**

**I never had a best friend before. Someone I could walk to school with, share secrets with.**

**Mike**

**I know how nice that is. It wasn't easy for me to make friends, growing up. Your mother was the first real friend I had.**

**Colleen**  
Now Becky hates me. I betrayed her.

**Mike**  
Well, you did know Richard first. You were trading books...

**Colleen**  
But Becky was the first to declare she loved him. And after the Kissin' Tree, I didn't tell her the truth.

Mike looks concerned -- she didn't know about this kissing.

**Mike**  
That was wrong. You must go and apologize.

**Colleen**  
But she won't talk to me.

**Mike**  
Keep trying. Make her know how important she is to you. And I'll tell you something, Colleen. You're going to have many beaus -- they'll come and go. But if you and Becky have a true friendship, you shouldn't destroy that for a boy.

Colleen looks at her, taking in her words.

#### 43 INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY SEVEN

Loren is at the counter, waiting on Mike.

**Mike**  
(continuing)  
Where's Dorothy this morning?

Loren looks embarrassed. He doesn't want to say.

(CONTINUED)

#### 43 CONTINUED:

**Loren**  
I think she went to the telegraph office.

**Mike**  
I just came from there. Didn't see her.

**Loren**  
That all for ya?  
(starts adding things up)

**Mike**  
She's not in her room?

**Loren**  
Don't think so. That's two dollars.

Just then the door to Dorothy's room opens and she comes out, followed by Sully. They're laughing and in high spirits, but they freeze when they see Mike. They act like they've been caught in the act.

**Sully**  
Dr. Mike.

**Dorothy**  
We were just... lookin' at some... old things...

**Sully**  
Dorothy was showin' me...

**Mike**  
You needn't explain.

She turns to leave the store, but suddenly, Dorothy cries out. Mike turns. Dorothy clutches at her stomach, then starts to collapse. Sully catches her.

Mike stares a moment, upset and agitated at what she's just seen. But then her medical persona takes over.

**Mike**  
(continuing)  
Bring her to the clinic.

**44 INT. CLINIC - DAY SEVEN**

Mike examines Dorothy, who's lying on the table. Mike's manner is cool and professional.

**Dorothy**

**What's happening? What's wrong?**

**Mike**

**You're losing a lot of blood. I'm going to try to cauterise the uterus with silver nitrate. If that doesn't work, I may have to do the extirpation. I need your permission... before I give you chloroform.**

**Dorothy**

**But... it's dangerous?**

**Mike**

**There is a risk of infection. Peritonitis.**

**Dorothy**

**I might not wake up.**

**They look at each other. Mike gives a slight nod.**

**Dorothy**

**(continuing)**

**Do what you gotta do.**

**HOLD ON Mike as we**

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

**FADE IN:**

**44A EXT. TOWN - DAY SEVEN**

**Pick-up Loren, hurrying toward the clinic, where we see Mike close off the windows with screens.**

**45 INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY SEVEN**

**Mike is preparing to do the cauterisation with silver nitrate, as Colleen administers chloroform to Dorothy.**

**Mike**  
Is her breathing regular?

**Colleen**  
Nice and steady.

**Mike**  
(prepares instruments)  
Good. I'm almost ready.

**Colleen**  
How will that work?

**Mike**  
We apply it to the site. It burns the cells so a seal will form. Hopefully, it will stop the bleeding.

**Colleen**  
You done this before?

**Mike**  
Not in this area. The silver nitrate has to be applied very precisely, or it could destroy the surrounding tissues. One mishap and you do more harm than good.

**Colleen**  
Need anything else?

**Mike**  
The light. Bring it as close as you can.

**Colleen brings the surgical candle close to Mike. They exchange a look, then Mike starts to apply the chemical.**

#### **46 EXT. CLINIC - DAY SEVEN**

**Loren is waiting with Sully, Wolf, Jake, Brian, the Reverend, Horace and Myra. Loren paces.**

**Loren**  
They've been in there for hours.

**Sully**  
Just seems that way.

**Brian**  
She's gonna be all right, Mr. Bray.

**Loren**  
Oh, no, she's as good as gone. Once they start cuttin' and takin' things out...

**Brian**  
But Ma cut you open and you're all right. Same with me.

**Loren**  
I wanted to talk to her -- one last time.

**Jake**  
You talked plenty.

Door to clinic opens and Mike walks out. The three men and Brian rise and face her -- a silent question on their faces.

**Mike**  
The procedure worked. I won't have to do major surgery.

**Loren**  
Are you sayin' she's alive?

**Mike**  
Yes.

Loren's head starts to reel and he faints, in Jake's arms.

The others look at each other, then start to laugh.

**Brian**  
Mr. Bray!

**47 INT. CLINIC - DAY SEVEN**

Mike is by herself, cleaning up. Sully walks in.

**Sully**  
Dr. Mike?

**(CONTINUED)**

**47 CONTINUED:**

**She turns her back to him and doesn't answer.**

**Sully**  
**You all right?**

**Still no answer. Sully approaches her.**

**Sully**  
**(continuing)**  
**You must be tired. I know these things are hard...**

**He reaches out to touch her, but she moves away.**

**Mike**  
**I thought you'd be more concerned about Dorothy.**

**Sully**  
**What are you talkin' about?**

**Mike gives him a withering look.**

**Mike**  
**Please don't pretend. I can't bear that.**

**Sully**  
**Pretend what?**

**Mike**  
**I saw you coming out of her room, remember? And that Sunday, when the store was closed...**

**Sully breaks into a smile, and shakes his head, which really sets her off.**

**Mike**  
**(continuing)**  
**What are you smiling about?**

**Sully**  
**(softly)**  
**You're jealous.**

**He's getting a kick out of this, but the more he smiles, the madder she**

**gets.**

**Mike**

**I am not jealous. I'm stating the facts. And for God's sake, take that smirk off your face. What am I supposed to think?**

**They stare at each other a moment. Sully drops the smile.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**47 CONTINUED:**

**Sully**

**You're supposed to trust me.**

**He turns and walks out.**

**48 EXT. SCHOOL - DAY EIGHT**

**Colleen, by herself, walks toward the school house. Other children, including Becky, Alice, Missy and Brian, are milling about, waiting for school to begin. When Colleen approaches, everyone stops what they're doing and stares. Then they begin to whisper and giggle. Feeling self-conscious, Colleen looks around, spots Becky.**

**Colleen walks up to Becky. Everyone falls silent.**

**Colleen**

**(softly)**

**Could I talk to ya?**

**Becky turns and walks over to Alice and Missy, giving Colleen the cold shoulder. Colleen tries to join some other girls but they turn their backs and move away as she approaches.**

**Colleen spots Brian, playing tag.**

**Colleen**

**(continuing)**

**Brian! Brian, come here.**

**Brian**

**Hey, Colleen.**

**He approaches, and she moves off with him.**

**Colleen**  
**What's goin' on?**

**Brian**  
**What do you mean?**

**Colleen**  
**Why is everybody lookin' at me funny.**

**Brian kicks at the ground.**

**Colleen**  
**(continuing)**  
**You gotta tell me. You're my brother.**

**Brian**  
**They were talking about you and Richard.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**48 CONTINUED:**

**Colleen**  
**What did they say?**  
**(off his silence)**  
**Brian. Tell.**

**Brian**  
**They said you was too easy. What's that mean?**

**Colleen**  
**Easy?**

**Brian**  
**They said you let Richard do things. That's why he likes you.**

**Colleen**  
**That's not true!**

**Brian**  
**What did you and him do?**

Colleen looks about miserably. It seems everyone is staring at her. "Easy". She wants the ground to open up and swallow her. Richard appears, coming to school.

Richard  
Colleen!

This sets off a flurry of laughing and staring. Colleen turns and runs off in the other direction. Richard follows.

#### 49 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY EIGHT

Colleen and Richard are talking by the road.

Colleen  
All we did was kiss. Now the whole school's laughing. They think I'm easy.

Richard  
Don't pay no attention to 'em.

Colleen  
I can't go back there.

Richard  
Yes you can. If you hide, it will look like you believe you did something wrong.

Colleen  
Maybe I did.

(CONTINUED)

#### 49 CONTINUED:

Richard  
Course you didn't.

Colleen  
I lost my best friend. Everybody's mad...

Richard  
They're just jealous. It'll all blow over.

**Colleen**  
I wish we could put things back the way they were.

**Richard**  
What're you sayin'?

**Colleen**  
Can't we just be friends?

**Richard**  
But... Colleen... All I want to do is be with you. I never felt like this before. And I know you like me too.

**Colleen**  
It's happened so fast. I want to think it all over.

**Richard**  
But... you're still comin' to the dance with me, aren't you?

**Colleen**  
Maybe I'd best go with my family.

Richard stares at her, confused and dejected. She turns and walks off alone.

#### 50 INT. CLINIC - RECOVERY ROOM - DAY EIGHT

Dorothy is sitting up in bed. Loren is there, with a bunch of flowers.

**Dorothy**  
Loren, they're so pretty.

**Loren**  
There's somethin' I been meanin' to ask, but I couldn't get the words out...

(CONTINUED)

#### 50 CONTINUED:

**Dorothy**  
I'm not dyin' yet, so don't go sayin' somethin' you're gonna regret.

**Loren**

**Last time I asked you was thirty years ago. You turned me down.**

**Dorothy**

**What're you talkin' about?**

**Loren**

**Will you go to the dance with me?**

**Dorothy**

**(laughs)**

**Your timin' is somethin'. I'm not fit for dancin'...**

**Loren**

**I didn't mean we have to get up and dance.**

**Dr. Mike walks in -- all business, cool and professional.**

**Mike**

**Hello, Loren. Dorothy, let's check your pulse.**

**(takes her hand)**

**Loren**

**Dr. Mike, you think Dorothy could come to the dance and just sit with me?**

**Mike**

**If she sits quietly... it would be all right.**

**Loren**

**(smiles)**

**Fine, then. Good day.**

**He leaves, and Mike starts taking Dorothy's blood pressure.**

**Dorothy**

**Thank you for savin' my life.**

**Mike**

**(cool)**

**You're quite welcome.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**50 CONTINUED:**

**Dorothy**

**I know you're upset, and I know what you're thinkin', but you got it all wrong.**

**Mike**

**Do I? You were alone with Sully in your room...**

**Dorothy**

**We had business to attend to.**

**Mike**

**Please, Dorothy, I believe it's best to have everything out in the open. Even if it should be painful.**

**Dorothy**

**But I'm your friend. I would never do anything to harm you.**

**Mike shrugs.**

**Dorothy**

**(continuing)**

**And even if I wasn't your friend, that man has no place in his heart for any woman but you. He's like the needle on a compass that points true North. Don't you know that?**

**Mike**

**I suppose so.**

**Dorothy**

**He's as straight and sure as you are. That's the one way you're alike. And it's more important than all the little ways you're different. Ya gotta believe that.**

**Mike looks at her, and is finally persuaded. She nods, and takes Dorothy's hand.**

## **51 EXT. DANCE - NIGHT NINE**

**The town is decorated for the Sweethearts Dance. We see Grace's refreshment stand, a table for cider, and a wagon for hay rides. There are fires and lanterns. A band is playing and people wearing their best clothes are dancing and milling about. We see our townsfolk among the crowd, including Horace, Myra, Hank, the Reverend, Jake.**

## 52 ANGLE - GRACE'S STAND

She hands plates of cake to two customers. Glances at Robert E. who's standing, watching the dancers.

## 53 ANGLE

Mike and the three children arrive. Mike looks breathtaking in one of her Boston dresses. Colleen looks beautiful in the dress she made from fabric picked out at the store.

**Brian**

Let's go on the hay ride, Matthew.

**Matthew**

All right.  
(to Colleen)  
Comin'?

**Colleen**

I want to get some cider.

The kids walk off, leaving Mike standing by the dance area. She watches, wistfully. She's resigned to not dancing.

## 54 EXT. CIDER TABLE - NIGHT NINE

Richard drinks a cup of hot cider. He finishes and sets it on the table, then stands, awkwardly. Alice, Becky and Missy walk up.

**Alice**

Hey, Richard. What're you doin' all by yourself?  
(teasing)  
Where's Colleen?

**Richard**

She turned me down.

**Becky**

She did?

Richard nods. Alice makes a little moan and dabs at her eye.

**Richard**  
**Somethin' wrong?**

**Alice**  
**I think I got an eyelash in my eye. Or a speck of dirt. Can you take a look?**

**She tips her face up to Richard, and he leans close to look.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**54 CONTINUED:**

**Richard**  
**This one?**

**Alice**  
**No, the other.**

**55 ANGLE**

**Colleen walks toward the cider table. Sees the young people and stops.**

**56 BACK TO SCENE**

**Richard and Alice are standing very close together, their faces almost touching.**

**Richard**  
**I don't see anything.**

**Alice**  
**You sure?**

**Richard**  
**Yeah. But you got real pretty eyes, Alice.**

**Richard's hormones take over -- he can't resist. He kisses Alice.**

**Becky can't watch any more. She turns, and sees Colleen.**

**57 ANGLE**

**Colleen is frozen with shock. Then she walks to a tree or bench to steady herself. She feels like she's been stabbed. Becky approaches. Colleen sees her.**

**Colleen**  
**Hey, Becky.**

**Becky**  
**Richard said you turned him down.**

**Colleen**  
**That's right. But he sure didn't lose no time.**

**Becky**  
**Why'd you do it?**

**(CONTINUED)**

**57 CONTINUED:**

**Colleen**  
**I felt bad about... you. And I wanted to think it all over.**  
**(Becky nods)**  
**Guess it doesn't matter now.**

**Becky**  
**What's so special about him? Who is he, anyway?**

**Colleen**  
**Just a boy. Not worth all this fussin'.**

**Becky**  
**He's not even handsome.**

**Colleen**  
**No, he's funny lookin'.**

**Becky**  
**With that lick of hair always fallin' in his eyes.**

**They burst out laughing -- it breaks the ice.**

**Colleen**  
**I'm sorry, Becky. I never meant to hurt you.**

**(beat)**  
**I've missed you.**

**Becky**  
**I missed you too.**

**Colleen**  
**I'll never do nothin' like that again.**

**Becky**  
**Got a new installment of Harper's. Want to come by my place later and read it?**

**Colleen**  
**All right. Could we make hot chocolate?**

**Becky**  
**Yeah, we could.**

**They link arms and start walking off, but Colleen stops.**

**Colleen**  
**Hold on.**

**(CONTINUED)**

**57 CONTINUED:**

**Colleen takes one of the matching necklaces off her neck and offers it to Becky. After a moment, Becky takes it and puts it around her own neck. They smile, and walk on.**

**58 EXT. DANCE AREA - NIGHT NINE**

**Dorothy and Loren sit in comfortable chairs, watching.**

**Dorothy**  
**Wouldn't you like to dance, Loren? I remember you were passable.**

**Loren**  
**Naw, I'm happy where I am.**

**Dorothy**

**There's a lot of pretty young ladies that don't have a partner.**

**Loren**  
**No one prettier than you.**

**Dorothy**  
**You're a foolish man.**

**Loren**  
**Maybe. But when I look at you, I see a girl of sixteen, with fiery hair blowin' all about.**

**Dorothy**  
**You're losin' your eyesight, too.**

**Loren laughs.**

**Loren**  
**I'll always see you that way.**

**59 EXT. GRACE'S STAND - NIGHT NINE**

**There's a lull in her business, and Grace is alone. She looks off at the people dancing and laughing. Then she looks at her money box. She flips it closed.**

**She walks over and taps Robert E. on the shoulder.**

**Grace**  
**May I have this dance?**

**Robert E.**  
**Did you make enough money? Sell all your cakes?**

**(CONTINUED)**

**59 CONTINUED:**

**Grace looks around, and then yells out.**

**Grace**  
**Free cake!**

**She puts her hand out, and Robert E. takes her to dance.**

## **60 EXT. DANCE AREA - NIGHT NINE**

**Mike is watching the dancers. The band strikes up the Sweethearts Reel. Jake is the caller.**

**Jake**  
**Choose your partners now for the Sweethearts Reel!**

**People scurry to get partners and move onto the floor. Horace dances with Myra. Mike watches, trying to keep a cheerful face, but she's aching with frustration.**

**Sully, wearing a suit, appears at her side.**

**Sully**  
**This one's your favorite, right?**

**Mike**  
**Sully!**

**He takes her arm and starts to lead her to the floor.**

**Mike**  
**(continuing)**  
**What are you doing?**

**He says nothing, but escorts her to the line of dancers. The reel begins, and Sully dances with her -- perfectly.**

**Mike**  
**(continuing)**  
**How did you learn this?**

**Sully**  
**I had lessons. From a friend.**

**He motions with his head towards Dorothy, in her chair.**

**Mike looks at Dorothy, who smiles at her. They exchange a look of complicity.**

## **61 ANGLE**

**Matthew and Brian, with Colleen and Becky. They all watch, smiling, as Mike and Sully dance.**

**62 BACK TO SCENE**

**Mike and Sully twirl around the floor.**

**Mike**  
**You were right. I was jealous.**

**Sully**  
**I know.**

**Mike**  
**It was foolish.**

**Sully**  
**It was.**

**Mike**  
**(playful)**  
**Must you agree with me all the time?**

**Sully stops a moment, kisses her, and she doesn't resist as she did before. Then they begin to dance again, their eyes locked together with renewed pleasure in each other's company.**

**FADE**  
**OUT.**

**THE END**

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