

UNTITLED THANKSGIVING DAY SCREENPLAY TREATMENT EXCERPT

BY PRISCILLA ADAMS-TUIEL

It's Thanksgiving day, and Denise is at her Dad's, helping him and her **Aunt Coco** get ready for the family dinner. Her Dad has been a widow for the last few years, and it's really important to him that the family continues to spend the holiday together. He and his sister don't always see eye to eye, but she's a great cook and even if they don't hear from her for a while, she always shows up around the holidays to help with the cooking and check on her son Bobby who lives with Denise's dad. Even though **Bobby is Denise's cousin**, he's more like a little brother.

Denise and her twin brother Dennis adore their Aunt Coco, and look forward to seeing her around the holidays, and when she comes by with her stolen goods to try to make some money. Bobby, resents the fact that his Mama is always out in the streets instead of providing a stable home for him, and he's trying to avoid her by staying in his room until it's time to eat.

Monica, Dennis' child's mother shows up with their child, and a dish for the meal. Denise opens the door for them and gives her **niece** a hug and reaches out to give Monica a hug and warm greeting as well. The two have been friends since middle school along with Dennis until friendship became love and then had a baby. Denise tells Monica how she hopes that **Dennis** will not be bringing his **girlfriend Ronda** to the holiday dinner, but Monica laughs and tells her that he probably will and since they've moved in together Denise probably needs to get used to it. The door opens and, speaking of the devil, Dennis comes in with Ronda. They bring the dishes to the kitchen, where Aunt Coco takes them and finds a place for them. Denise realizes that neither of them is the ham that Ronda agreed to provide for the meal. Ronda states that she decided to go vegan, and so instead of bringing a ham she brought steamed broccoli.

Denise is upset and they get into an argument about it. Even Aunt Coco and her Dad are surprised and frustrated. Everyone had their mouth ready for some ham, and now all they had was turkey. After the meal is over everyone is sitting around watching TV, so Aunt Coco uses the gathering to start taking orders for Christmas clothes. She brings a few things out of her old beat up van. They are some bags, shoes, and nice clothes, but Mr. Willie puts a stop to that. Bobby rolls his eyes and sighs in embarrassment. Ronda overhears Denise talking with Monica, about how she always brought what was asked of her to dinner and about how she wishes her brother was still with her. Ronda confronts her and tells her that next year she and Dennis won't be coming and will host Thanksgiving at their place instead. Instead of being embarrassed about being overheard Denise becomes confrontational and tells her she won't be coming, which is just fine with Ronda. Dennis is caught in the middle and tries to calm both of them down, before Ronda tells him she's ready to leave. Dennis hugs his twin and she apologizes to him, and he tells her not to sweat it, hell he wanted some ham too. He kisses her on the cheek, and then goes to hug and kiss his child goodbye.

The rest of the family looks on and say their goodbyes and Dennis and Ronda gather their things and head out. Later Denise fixes herself a plate to go, says her goodbyes, and gets in her car to drive home. As she is driving down the road, a speeding car comes out of nowhere and runs the light and slams into her. Dennis has dozed off on the couch at home, he is dreaming and he's driving over to Denise's when a car runs a light and crashes into him. Suddenly he is jarred awake.

It's 11 months later. Dennis and Denise are at their Dad's hanging out watching a movie together. She has finally healed and completed her physical therapy from the car accident. Denise tells him that she's decided not to look for another job and she's closing on a multiplex that she wants to turn into a bed and breakfast. Dennis warns her that it's kind of risky, but

Denise tells him life is risky and after her auto accident and her job laying her off, she realizes how short life is. Denise wraps the conversation up and gets ready to leave before Ronda comes to pick Dennis up. She's too late though, as she walks to the front door, Ronda is knocking. Denise lets her in and they speak but pass by each other. Ronda sits down with Dennis and they hug and kiss.

It's early morning and Denise is at the title company completing the closing deal on her new property, with the seller and his Realtor and the title attorney. As a newly licensed Realtor, Denise represented herself.

Charlie (early 30s, ruggedly good looking, physically fit, black) is driving through the neighborhood in his company truck and sees a house with a "for sale" sign in the yard. He pulls over and goes to take a peek in the windows, then he goes over to the sign and starts to type the number in his phone. Denise comes out of the front door dragging this large piece of furniture. Charlie sees her and goes to help her with it. They introduce themselves and he tells her about his interest in the property, and that he's a contractor. She tells him she's just closed on the property, but is looking to hire a contractor, and offers to show him around. They go in and tour the property. Sparks are flying between them and they feel like they know each other and are talking about ideas for remodeling the property. They are caught up in the moment and time flies by and it's soon dusk. Charlie asks if she wants to go grab an early dinner and they head off. They exchange numbers and make plans to meet up the next day.

Dennis and Ronda are in bed making out, and when they finish, she gets up and gets ready for work. While she's getting ready, they are talking about the upcoming Thanksgiving dinner. She is going through with her plans to host it this year and she wants him to make sure the family

will be coming over. He asks her if she's sure she wants to do that, because he doesn't know if Denise will come. Ronda smiles behind his back not phased by his concern.