

INT. STUDY -- SAME TIME

Chili is scribbling something on a piece of paper as Karen comes into the room. Chili looks up at her as he hangs up, smiles at her.

CHILI

Hey . . . Karen. How ya' doin'?

KAREN

What're you doing here?

CHILI

I wanted to come by, apologize for coming into your house like I did last night.

KAREN

Lemme get this straight, you broke in again to apologize for breaking in before?

CHILI

No, no . . . you let the patio door open. You gotta stop doin' that, all the nice things you got around here.

KAREN

Yeah, well make sure you lock it on the way out.

CHILI

Rough day on the set?

KAREN

I spent all day crawling out of a grave. The costumer kept bitching 'cause I was ripping my nylons --

CHILI

Ripped nylons work. Makes the shot more real.

KAREN

(regarding him)

. . . That's what we finally decided.

CHILI

Like in *Bride of the Mutant*, when you played the whole end with that torn top.

She looks at him.

KAREN

You saw that one?

CHILI

Yeah. When you turn to the camera to tell the alien mother that her time on earth is finished . . . when you give us all that look, Joan Crawford wishes on her best day she had that much presence. Not even in *Mildred Pierce* -- which by the way was a better book than a movie -- did Crawford even

touch the intensity you had in that look.

KAREN

(beat)

Yeah . . . that was a good scene. I mean, for a horror movie.

CHILI

For any movie.

KAREN

I know I'm better than what I've been doing the last ten years, walking around in a tank top and fuck-me pumps, waiting till it's time to scream.

CHILI

Man, can you scream.

KAREN

Yeah. It's a real gift.

(beat)

I'm just saying it'd be nice, one time in my career to get the chance to say one great line. You know, like in that Bette Davis picture, Cabin in the . . .

CHILI

Cotton.

KAREN

Yeah, you know when Bette comes up to the guy on the porch, gives him a flirty look and says, 'I'd kiss you, but . . .'

CHILI/KAREN

'I just washed my hair.'

KAREN

Yeah.

CHILI

That is a great line.

Chili looks at her.

CHILI

How come you stopped making movies with Harry?

KAREN

I married Martin. That was a full-time job.

CHILI

You read Harry's new one? He says it's the best thing he's ever read.

KAREN

He must mean after Slime Creature 3.

CHILI

That why Harry came over last night? See if you could help him get Martin in his movie?

KAREN

Harry's dreaming of a forty-million-dollar production he'll never get off the ground with a star he'll never sign. With or without my help.

CHILI

Harry told me Martin loves it, he flipped.

KAREN

Yeah, well Martin is known for his flipping. He flips over a script, and when the time comes to make a deal, he flips out.

CHILI

Tell you what, I'll stop by Harry's office and pick up a copy for you.

KAREN

Don't go out of your way.

They consider each other a moment . . . until Chili finally checks his watch.

CHILI

Well, I gotta have a talk with Leo, my runaway dry cleaner.

KAREN

Right. See how your story ends.

CHILI

Yeah. Right.

(then)

Listen, Touch of Evil's phying near my hotel. You wanna go check it out? Watch Charlton Heston play a Mexican?

Karen looks caught, doesn't answer right away.

CHILI

Maybe some other time.

He turns to go, then turns back to her . . .

CHILI

'He tried to make love to me and I shot him.'

(then)

Another great Bette Davis line.

Karen looks at him. Surprised. He smiles at her.

CHILI

See you around.