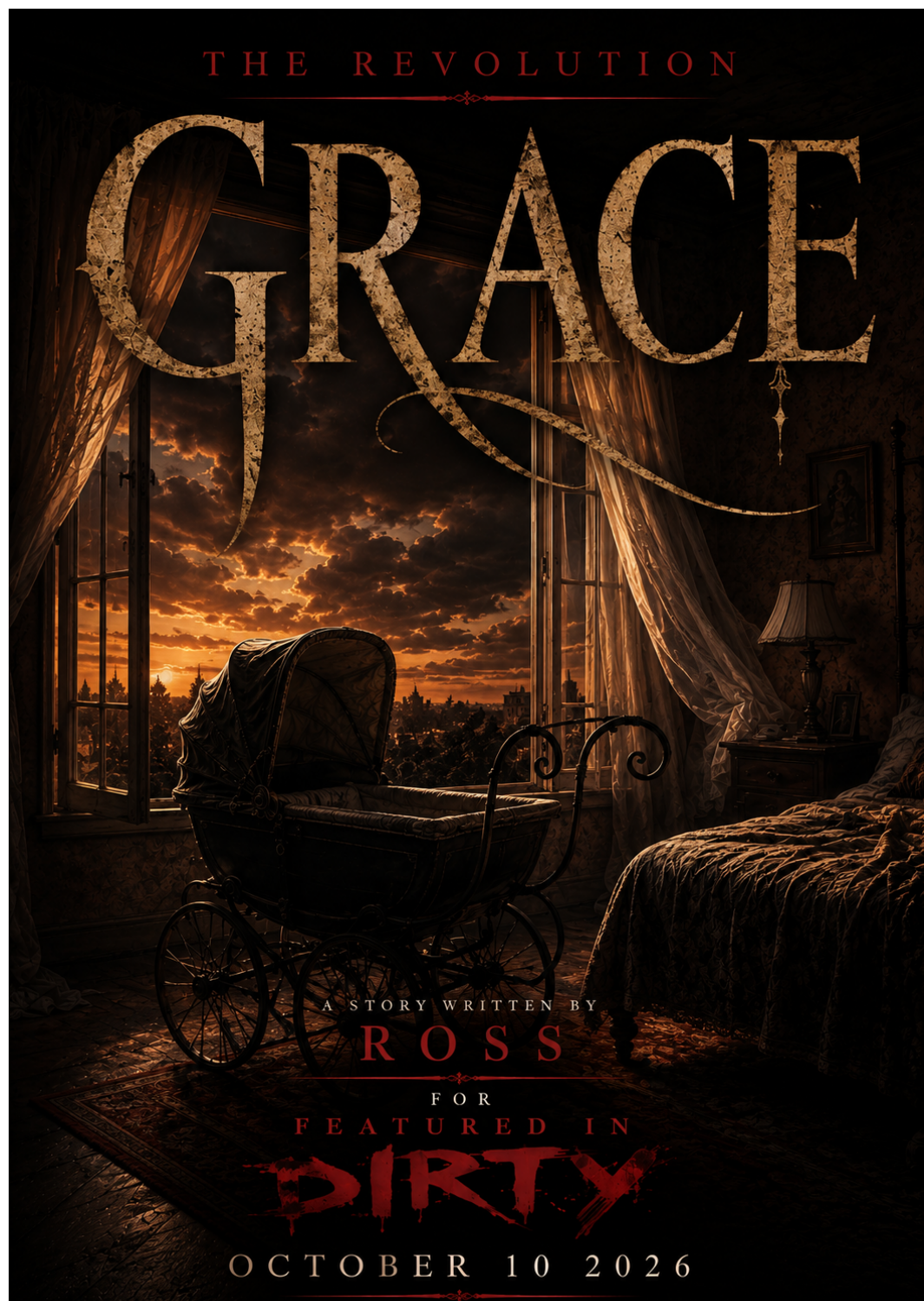




Complete **preview** rough draft...

INT. CHAMBERLAIN HOME - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

SUZANNE CHAMBERLAIN 60'S emerges from the bedroom slowly looking through a picture book.

Suzanne moves towards the sofa as memories encircle her being. She takes a seat and continues thumbing through the photo book.

With each page turn, Suzanne becomes more emotional.

JIMMY CHAMBERLAIN 60s and the husband emerges from the bedroom. He stops at the foot of the living room and studies Suzanne. He can tell that she is drowning in emotions.

JIMMY

Your sister's visit has you on edge
doesn't it?

The voice startles Suzanne.

SUZANNE

You startled me...and yes. Well i don't
know about 'on edge', but there is
definitely lots of emotions. **We've lost
so much time.**

Jimmy moves towards the sofa.

JIMMY

Well at least you two have decided to
make up before its too late.

Jimmy takes a seat.

SUZANNE

Is that good enough? Twenty years. **I
haven't talked to Grace in 20 years.** A
big chunk of both of our lives... gone.
She has missed so many moments and so
have I.

Jimmy puts his arms around Suzanne.

JIMMY

No sense in stressing. There is nothing
you can do about the past.

The words strike a different chord with Suzanne. She
stands and takes a few steps away from the sofa. Her mind
is full and heavy. After a few seconds of allowing the
moment to breathe....

SUZANNE

My sister is dying. Grace is going to leave this earth and I am so ashamed that I did not reconnect with her earlier.

JIMMY

Look, despite the doctors giving her less than 12 months to live, there are plenty of stories where people went on to survive for years. We just have to be positive. Right now...lets focus on your long awaited reunion.

Suzanne prepares to respond but the sound of a KNOCK at the door interrupts her.

Both Jimmy and Suzanne look confused.

21SUZANNE

It's only 7am. **Who could that be?**

Jimmy stands.

JIMMY

I don't know but I will find out.

Jimmy walks off into the foyer while Suzanne returns to the sofa. Just that quick, the curiosity of 'who is at the door' fades from her thoughts as she returns to the pool of memories in the book.

Jimmy returns to the living room looking like a Cheshire cat. Suzanne has questions....

SUZANNE

Who was at the door?

JIMMY

(coy)

Oh just someone passing through the streets.

SUZANNE

Knocking on the door at this time of...

Before Suzanne can finish her comment, GRACE PETERS emerges from the foyer with a Similar Cheshire smile on **her** face.

Suzanne is stunned

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Grace...

Suzanne covers her mouth in joy. The two women scurry to one another and an incredible embrace occurs. Jimmy looks on in joy.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

What are you doing here so early? You weren't scheduled in until 3

GRACE

An earlier flight opened.

SUZANNE

(beaming)

My God it is so good to see you.

The two women hug again.

GRACE

(while in hug)

We have lost so much time.

SUZANNE

I haven't felt your embrace in forever.

The two eventually release their hold and look into the other's eyes. The two appear grateful.

Grace surveys the home. Her mood becomes reflective

GRACE

Look at this place. It almost looks the same as when mom...

Grace turns away from surveying the home as a way of not allowing memories to take her down.

Suzanne feels her sister's pain.

SUZANNE

I am sorry about the whole home situation.

GRACE

No need to apologize, Its what mom wanted. She wanted you to have everything

SUZANNE

It wasn't about that. She worked so hard for this place...

GRACE

(interrupting)

It was definitely about that.

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

She didn't want someone like me
destroying everything she worked for. I
get it. I wasn't in a good place during
mom's final years. I guess you can say I
wasn't a really good person.

SUZANNE

We all go through things.

GRACE

Some of us more viciously than others.
But mom did what she had to do. obviously
she left it in the right hands. It still
echoes her spirt

Suzanne moves to lighten the subject.

SUZANNE

Would you like to see the whole place?
Visit your old room?

GRACE

(nods)

Id like that....

Grace appears that she has a distraction in her head.

GRACE (CONT'D)

but where is Katie?

The question seems to make Jimmy uncomfortable.

SUZANNE

She's sleep. Home from College for a few
weeks. ***She mainly sleeps.***

GRACE

That means she has been working hard at
school.

SUZANNE

Yes. Trying to be a lawyer is definitely
hard work.

GRACE

I bet it is. I can't wait to see her
when she wakes up. In the meantime, I
guess we will take that tour.

Suzanne grabs her head. Grace notices.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Are you ok?

SUZANNE

Yes I am fine. I've just having a little headache and bouts of dizziness over the last few weeks.

JIMMY

This is the second time this has happened in the last ten minutes. ***Maybe you need to sit down?***

SUZANNE

I need to take my pills. ***Give me a moment before we tour.***

GRACE

Sure of course...go take care of that.

SUZANNE

It shouldn't take too long.

GRACE

Its fine. *I'm here for the week.*

Suzanne exits to her bedroom. Grace turns to Jimmy

GRACE (CONT'D)

Is she ok?

JIMMY

I think its all of the excitement of seeing you

Grace smiles.

There is a bit of hesitation before..

GRACE

How is Katie?

Jimmy instantly tenses up.

JIMMY

Don't start trouble.

GRACE

I just asked a question.

JIMMY

(whispery)

We agreed ***not*** to bring up that subject.

GRACE

Asking how Katy is doing is not **bringing up a subject. It is a normal question between family.**

JIMMY

(dismissive)

She is fine.

Then Grace tightens up.

GRACE

I want to tell her jimmy

Jimmy tries to keep his voice down.

JIMMY

(matter of fact/strong)

Grace, we had an agreement.

GRACE

And that agreement flew out of the door once I was diagnosed.

JIMMY

I had a feeling that this is what this visit was all about.

GRACE

That is because you know its the right thing. Learning that I am leaving this place makes one put things into perspective..and that is where I am at.

JIMMY

I am sorry about your situation. As a matter of fact I sympathize with all my heart..**but that is no reason to negate our agreement.**

GRACE

It **should** be a reason. **I am dying Jimmy.** I think my sister AND Katie need to know the truth.

JIMMY

(adamant)

They absolutely **should not**. Did you really came here to start trouble? Open up wounds that will affect this family long after you are gone?

GRACE

Of course I didn't come from for trouble.
I feel the truth will bring clarity. **Lift
away heavy burdens.**

JIMMY

There are no heavy burdens here.

Jimmy's comment is interrupted by the sound of Suzanne's voice who appears at the foot of the room.

SUZANNE

Jimmy, can you help me? I opened my medicine and two of the containers rolled under the bed. My vertigo is out of control and I am afraid if I bend down I may fall.

JIMMY

Of course.

SUZANNE

(to grace)

I am sorry this is taking so long. Why don't you go ahead and give yourself a tour. You still know your way around I'm sure.

GRACE

I'll wait for you. I'd like to revisit those golden memories together.

Suzanne smiles. She loves to hear this.

SUZANNE

Sure thing. **We'll be quick.**

Suzanne and Jimmy disappear into the room.

Grace paces the floor eyeing its aesthetics while allowing memories to bobble in her head. Her mind is heavy.

A YOUNG WOMAN in her 20s emerges from the bedroom. She studies Grace who doesn't notice her. The young woman is KATIE and she is agitated.

KATIE

(dry)

Aunt Grace.

Grace turns around and immediately lights up upon seeing Katie.

GRACE

Katie..

Grace moves over to Katie and wraps her arms around her. Katie barely responds. Grace releases her hug and moves to study Katie.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Look at you. *You're all grown up.*

Grace notices the sourness emitting from Katie.

GRACE (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

KATIE

(matter of fact)

I am worried about my mom.

GRACE

What do you mean?

Katie tries to play nice.

KATIE

I understand what you are going through and I am sorry. But I am not going to allow you take my mother with you.

GRACE

(stunned)

What? take her with me..I don't understand.

KATIE

She has been a mess over the last month knowing that you were coming to visit. I don't know the true depths of your estrangement..but whatever it is or **was**, it is making my mom sick.

GRACE

She and I have a complicated history.

KATIE

I believe that. Then to hear you and my father in here whispering and agitated, I bet there is more to this family scenario than I can imagine.

Grace seemed stunned yet a bit hopeful that Katie heard she and Jimmie speaking.

GRACE

You heard us talking?

KATIE

My bedroom is on the other side of the living room wall. I couldn't hear what you two were saying, but dad was obviously irritated. To be honest I don't want to know what you were talking about. But I don't want you here causing problems for my mother. *She almost died once upon a time and stress was the culprit.*

GRACE

What do you mean ***she almost died?***

KATIE

(backs off)

I'll let her tell you about it. But just know this, I am not going to let you hurt my mom. So if that is what you planned with this visit, then think again. (exaggerated breath) Now Besides that, I hope you have a nice trip.

Katie then turns and heads back into the bedroom putting an exclamation mark on her comments.

GRACE

(to herself)

Baby you have no idea...

LIGHTS OUT

15 minutes pass

LIGHTS ON

There a series of HARD KNOCKS at the front door.

Katie emerges from her bedroom and heads towards the sound

(offstage)

WE HEAR Katie at the door with her voice elevated yet inaudible.

Then a MAN rushes into the living room, face covered in anger. Katie is on his heels.

KATIE

What the hell are you doing?

The guy stops in the middle of the room and turns around to face Katie. This is SCOTT DURAND.

SCOTT

(aggressive)

I am here to blow up your spot. You have been ignoring my calls.

KATIE

I have been busy with family things.

SCOTT

I don't give a shit about your family things...***We had a deal***

KATIE

Scott, you are being ridiculous.

SCOTT

I quit my job and moved from Arizona to be with you because you claimed you were pregnant.

KATIE

I know what happened... you don't have to remind me.

SCOTT

Apparently I do because after your ruse was revealed we agreed that you would completely fund my education..the classes that ***I*** lost all ***funding*** to when I dropped out to be a 'father'.

KATIE

Keep your voice down. I am working on it.

SCOTT

Working on it is not good enough. My Mom is going to kill me if she finds out I dropped out...My dad would take the kill thing a step further. You need to fix this and then you and I are going to deal with your even bigger deception..

KATIE

(matter of fact)

I understand and like I said I am working on it.

SCOTT

And as I told you that is not good enough.

(MORE)

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Now if I don't have the money within 48 hours, I am going to expose you to your parents about your scheme and then I am heading straight to the authorities.

KATIE

You won't dare.

SCOTT

Oh no? Watch me. ***The money Katie.*** Do whatever it takes to get it. Just like you rustled up the first payment. Get on it right away or so help me God..

Scott's conversation is interrupted by the emergence of Suzanne, Grace and Jimmy from the backroom tour. The three look concerned.

SUZANNE

What is going on in here?

Katie tries to play it off...

KATIE

(word stumbling)

Oh, Mom this is...

GRACE

Scott? Scott Durand is that you?

Scott takes a moment to allow his eyes to focus.

SCOTT

(stunned)

Grace?

GRACE

(shocked)

What? What are you doing here? How...

KATIE

(confused; interrupting)

You two know one another?

GRACE

Yes. I was once upon a time friends with his father.

Scott doesn't look too good. Katie's stun increases.

KATIE

He's a friend of mine from school.

SCOTT
(concerned)
How do you two know one another

KATIE
She's my aunt.

Scott's face falls to the floor. His shock is palpable.
Suzanne moves in to shake Scott's hand.

SUZANNE
Hello...Scott. I am Katie's mom Suzanne.
Scott takes her hand.

SCOTT
Nice to meet you.
Suzanne moves aside so that Jimmy can greet Scott.
Jimmy reaches out his hand.

JIMMY
And I am her father Jimmy.

SCOTT
Nice to meet you as well.
Grace moves in with extreme hesitation and gives Scott a hug.

Something about the hug seems phony from both sides. The hug is brief. After the embrace ends...

SCOTT (CONT'D)
Well This is a shocker.

GRACE
Its a very small world.

SUZANNE
When we walked in here, you and Katie seemed to be at odds. Is everything ok?

KATIE
I left my ring in the library. I was berating him for driving 2 1/2 hours to bring it to me. He could have just waited until I returned to school and saved himself such a big trip.

JIMMY

I thought I saw you with the ring on last night at the dinner table?

KATIE

That was another ring.

JIMMY

Ahh.

SUZANNE

Well Scott why don't you stay here with us for Brunch? We are having a very mediterranean spread. Impeccably delicious.

KATIE

(shaky)

Oh no I don't think that's a good idea. He has such a long trek back.

SUZANNE

Oh nonsense Katie. He came all the way here to bring you a ring. The least we can do is feed him

Katie doesn't know how to fight that logic.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

(to Scott)

So will you stay?

Scott takes a moment to think about it before realizing that this would be a good thing.

SCOTT

Yes I accept.

Both Katie and Grace try and hide their discomfort.

SUZANNE

Good.. its done. Katie come with me so we can set out an extra set of dinnerware

JIMMY

(whispers to Suzanne)

And I think I am going to grab a particular sweet dish from Arnolds and Cane. Something to add fire to the brunch.

SUZANNE

(joyful)

I bet I know what it is.

JIMMY

Bet you do. I'll Be back quickly.

Jimmy exits the home. Suzanne grabs her daughter's arm and heads off towards the kitchen.

SUZANNE

(to Katie)

Aww he's cute.

Katie looks back at Scott who teases her with a wave.

He then slowly turns to Grace who is locked in on him.

SCOTT

Well well well. What a fucking coincidence. Life has a way of bringing Karma to its knees.

GRACE

Was all of this planned?

SCOTT

Not a single moment. This is a pure act of fate

GRACE

I find that hard to believe.

SCOTT

Believe it....and Also believe this...me standing here with two deviants in my grasp is serendipitously beautiful...

GRACE

(careful)

And that means what?

Scott smiles before breaking out into song.

SCOTT

'Its a family affair...it's a family affair' which equates to me being able to take down two demons in close proximity... What you did is unforgivable. My Dad is going to love this...

Grace tries to hold a poker face.

Lights out.

A host emerges on stage

HOST

You have just witnessed the beginning of chaos in the Chamberlain home...a Family full of secrets, lies and deception. What is it about? What did the family do to Scott? What will revenge look like from Scott's point of view? What secret is Grace and her brother in law keeping from their Suzanne....these Answers and more when the full one night version of this story drops in...