

THE HELP

by Tate Taylor

Based on the novel THE HELP

By

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DreamWorks

INT. LEEFOLT HOME - MAE MOBLEY'S ROOM - SAME DAY

1. ELIZABETH

Aibileen, **bridge club's in an hour!**

Did you finish the chicken salad?

2. AIBILEEN

Yes, ma'am.

3. ELIZABETH

**Oh, and Hilly's deviled eggs. No
paprika!**

Does this dress look homemade?

4. AIBILEEN

I reckon when you finish, it won't.

INT. JACKSON JOURNAL NEWSPAPER - OFFICE - SAME DAY

INT. MR. BLACKLY'S OFFICE

1. MR. BLACKLY

Oh, Christ, I guess you'll do. **Can
you clean?**

2. SKEETER

I'm sorry. Clean?

3. MR. BLACKLY

Clean!

INT. HOLBROOK HOUSE - BATHROOM - SAME DAY

1. HILLY

(screaming upward)

Momma! **We're late for bridge!**

Minnie! Go get Momma!

INT. HOLBROOK HOUSE - ENTRY FOYER STAIRWELL - SAME TIME

1. MINNY

Missus Walters?! **You need help
coming down?**

2. MISSUS WALTERS

I'm down. Been down.

3. MINNY

Gone give me a heart attack!

Whoa, whoa, whoa, Missus Walters.

Here, let me help you. Let's take

that coat off. **It's ninety-eight degrees out there.**

4. MISSUS WALTERS

Oh, is it?

5. MINNY

Yes, ma'am.

6. MISSUS WALTERS

Well, let's put my coat on then.

Thank you.

INT. LEEFOLT HOME - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Aibileen kneels next to Mae Mobley, who sits on a small children's training toilet.

1. MAE MOBLEY

No!

2. AIBILEEN

You drunk up two glasses of grape juice. I know you got to tee-tee.

3. MAE MOBLEY

No.

4. AIBILEEN

I'll give you two cookies if you go.

(Mae Mobley forms a smile as tee-tee sprinkles into the bowl)

5. ELIZABETH

Aibileen, the girls are pulling up, and the table isn't set!

6. MAE MOBLEY

Mae Mobley go, Momma!

7. ELIZABETH

(to Aibileen)

Set out the dessert forks, please.

(Elizabeth storms off with Mae Mobley. Aibileen is clearly disappointed)

EXT. LEEFOLT HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

1. SKEETER

Hi, Missus Walters.

(Missus Walters stays glued to the TV)

2. MISSUS WALTERS

(dismissive)

I'm watching my story.

3. SKEETER

Okay.

INT. LEEFOLT HOME - DEN - DAY

1. SKEETER

I got a job today! At The Jackson
Journal!

2. HILLY

They'd be a fool not to hire you.

3. SKEETER

Elizabeth, do you mind if I talk to
Aibileen? Just to help me answer
the letters 'til I get a knack for
it.

4. ELIZABETH

**My Aibileen? Why can't you just get
Constantine to help?**

5. SKEETER

Constantine quit us.
Anyway, I just, um, I don't know how
to answer these letters.

(Elizabeth looks to Aibileen)

6. ELIZABETH

Well, I mean as long as it doesn't
interfere with her work. I don't see
why not.

EXT. FOOTE ESTATE (INTERCUT) - POOL - SAME TIME

1. CELIA FOOTE (O.C.)

Hello, is Elizabeth in?

2. AIBILEEN

She havin' bridge club right now.

May I take a message?

3. CELIA

Uh, yes, please tell her Celia Foote
called again. I'll call back
tomorrow.

4. AIBILEEN

Yes, ma'am.

5. JOHNNY

What's for lunch?

6. CELIA

You scared the daylights out of me!

7. JOHNNY

**Mm. It's lunchtime and I'm suddenly
hungry.**

8. CELIA

(laughing)

Johnny! Honestly!

INT. LEEFOLT HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

1. MISSUS WALTERS

Oh! I'm still workin' on it,
Aibileen.

2. ELIZABETH

(to Aibileen)

Who was that on the phone?

3. AIBILEEN

Miss Celia Foote called again.

(Elizabeth stiffens then leans over and touches Hilly's arm)

4. ELIZABETH

I've never called her back, Hilly.

5. HILLY

She can't take a hint, can she?

6. JOLENE

Who's Celia Foote?

7. HILLY

That tacky girl Johnny married.

From Sugar Ditch!

8. SKEETER

It could have been you, Hilly.

9. HILLY

And live thirty minutes outside of
town? No, thank you. Anyway, I ran
into her at the beauty parlor and
she had the nerve to ask if she
could help with the Children's
Benefit Ball.

10. SKEETER

Well, aren't we taking non-members?

The benefit's gotten so big.

11. HILLY

Yes, but we're not telling her.

(Everyone laughs but Skeeter. Aibileen begins refilling glasses of tea.)

Skeeter is the only one to acknowledge this)

12. SKEETER

Thank you, Aibileen.

(Hilly begins squirming in her seat, obviously making a point to Elizabeth)

13. ELIZABETH

**Oh, Hilly, I wish you'd just go use
the bathroom.**

14. HILLY

I'm fine.

(Missus Walters breaks the uncomfortable silence as she shouts out from the sofa)

15. MISSUS WALTERS

Oh, she's just upset cause the nigra
uses the guest bath, and so do we.

(Elizabeth quickly turns to Aibileen)

16. ELIZABETH

Aibileen, go check on Mae Mobley.

(Aibileen disappears. Elizabeth leans into Hilly)

Just go use mine and Raleigh's.

17. HILLY

If Aibileen uses the guest bath, I'm
sure she uses yours too.

18. ELIZABETH

(quickly)

SHE DOES NOT!

Aibileen returns down the hall from Mae Mobley's room. She
and Skeeter catch eyes. Aibileen ducks behind a corner in the hall so she can listen
to the girls' conversation.

19. HILLY

Wouldn't you rather them take their
business outside?

(Skeeter tries to change the subject)

20. SKEETER

Have y'all seen the cover of Life
this week? Jackie's never looked
more regal-

21. HILLY

Tell Raleigh every penny he spends
on a colored's bathroom, he'll get
back in spades when y'all sell.

It's just plain dangerous. They
carry different diseases than we do.

22. ELIZABETH

(re: her cards)

Pass.

23. HILLY

That's why I've drafted The Home
Health Sanitation Initiative.

24. SKEETER

The what?

(Aibileen continues listening in the hallway)

25. HILLY

A disease preventative bill that requires every white home to have a
separate bathroom for the colored help. It's been endorsed by the
White Citizen's Council.

26. SKEETER

Maybe we ought to just build you a bathroom outside, Hilly.

(The room grows eerily quiet)

27. HILLY

**You ought not to joke about the
colored situation. I'll do whatever it takes to protect
our children.** Your lead, Elizabeth.

INT. LEEFOLT HOME - KITCHEN - LATER THAT DAY

1. SKEETER

Aibileen?

(Aibileen becomes nervous at the sight of Skeeter alone)

2. AIBILEEN

Yes, ma'am.

3. SKEETER

**Do you think you'd be willing to
help me with those "Miss Myrna"
letters?**

4. AIBILEEN

Miss Myrna get it wrong a lot of
times. Be good to get it right.

5. SKEETER

Thank you, Aibileen. All that talk in there today...

Hilly's talk? I'm sorry you had to
hear that.

6. ELIZABETH

Well, there you are, Skeeter.

(Elizabeth hands Skeeter the papers. Home Health Sanitation
Initiative is written on the cover)

Hilly wants you to put her

initiative in the league newsletter.

(Skeeter nods and turns to Aibileen)

INT. PHELAN HOME - DINING ROOM - LATER THAT EVENING

1. CARLTON

What the hell do you know about cleanin' a house, Skeeter?

(Skeeter snaps to attention)

2. SKEETER

Well, it's a start, Carlton.

3. CARLTON

If you say so. I thought you wanted to write books.

4. ROBERT

Now y'all leave your sister alone. I'm proud of you, sweetheart.

(Charlotte scoops up some broth with a spoon)

5. CHARLOTTE

Oh, the irony of it all. Givin'
advice on keepin' up a home when she
doesn't even-

(Charlotte's spoon goes in her mouth. Pascagoula approaches

Skeeter and sets down a plate of food. Skeeter stops her)

6. SKEETER

**Oh! No, Pascagoula! You couldn't have known this...But, I'm allergic
to almonds.**

7. PASCAGOULA

Sorry, Miss Eugenia. I'll get you another one.

EXT. PHELAN HOME (FLASHBACK) - WILLOW TREE - EARLY EVENING

Skeeter, 15 and lanky, sits on the same bench under the
willow tree. Despite a tight bun, her strong-willed hair has
started to frizz.

Constantine approaches the willow tree. Her skin is black as
night. Her eyes have a striking honey-colored hue. She sits next to Skeeter.

1. CONSTANTINE

What you doin' hidin' out here, Girl?

2. SKEETER

I just couldn't tell mamma I didn't get asked to the dance.

3. CONSTANTINE

It's all right. Some things we just got to keep to ourselves, right?

4. SKEETER

All the boys say I'm ugly. Mamma was third runner up in the Miss

South Carolina pageant.

5. CONSTANTINE

I wish you would quit feeling sorry for yourself. Now, that's ugly. Ugly is something that grows up inside you. It's mean and hurtful, like them boys. Now you're not one of them, is you?

(Skeeter shakes her head)

Well, I didn't think so, honey.

Every day.... Every day you're not dead in the ground, when you wake up in the morning, you gonna have to make some decisions. Got to ask yourself, am I gone believe all them bad things them fools say about me today? You hear me? Am I going to believe all of them bad things them fools say about me today? All right. Come on. Go home with me till the dance over. Come on.

EXT. PHELAN HOME -FRONT YARD - WILLOW TREE - MOMENTS LATER

Skeeter looks toward the same dirt path. An idea washes over her. She forms a big smile.

INT. PHELAN HOME - PANTRY - SAME TIME

1. CHARLOTTE (O.C.)

Skeeter, who are you talking to in there?

(Skeeter covers the mouth piece and opens the door)

2. SKEETER

Go! Away!

(Skeeter slams the door)

3. MISS STEIN

Who was that?

4. SKEETER

My mother.

5. MISS STEIN

Look, no maid in her right mind is ever gonna tell you the truth. That's a hell of a risk to take in a place like Jackson, Mississippi.

6. SKEETER

I already have a maid.

7. MISS STEIN

Really? A Negro maid has already agreed to speak with you?

8. SKEETER

Yes, ma'am.

9. MISS STEIN

Well...I guess I can read what you come up with. The book biz could use a little rattling.

10. SKEETER

Thank you, Miss Stein!

EXT. LEEFOLT HOME - BACK YARD - LATER THAT DAY

1. SKEETER

"Dear Miss Myrna, When I'm chopping onions, how do I keep tears out of my eyes?"

2. AIBILEEN

Shoot, that's easy. You tell her hold a matchstick between her teeth.

(Skeeter writes this down)

3. SKEETER

Is it lit?

(Aibileen smiles and shakes her head)

4. AIBILEEN

No, ma'am.

5. HILLY (O.S.)

Miss Leefolt said you could start right away. Build it just...

6. HILLY

like the bathroom at my house. Let's see.

(A CONTRACTOR, 30's, follows holding a set of plans)

Right there. That will be nice.

7. CONTRACTOR

Yes, ma'am.

(Thunder cracks. Trees sway wildly in the wind as a storm approaches. Rain begins to fall)

8. HILLY

Oh, my goodness, we got to run back to the car.

Come on, Billy. Bye,

Skeeter!

(Aibileen and Skeeter watch as Hilly runs back to her car.

Skeeter turns to Aibileen, seizing the moment)

9. SKEETER

Aibileen. There's somethin' else I want to write about...But I need your help. I want to interview you...about what it is like to work as a maid. I'd like to do a book of interviews about working for white families...

INT. LEEFOLT HOME (INTERCUT) - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

1. RALEIGH

I bought you this damn house, put up with the new clothes and the trips to New Orleans, but this takes the goddamn cake!

2. ELIZABETH

Hilly spoke to the surgeon general. She also said it will add value to our home!

3. RALEIGH (O.C.)

I guess Mae Mobley will just have to go to college in that damn bathroom!

INT. LEEFOLT HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Raleigh storms in the kitchen with Elizabeth on his heels.

1. ELIZABETH

**Hilly's covering the cost and said
you can just do William's taxes to
pay her back.**

2. RALEIGH

We don't take orders from the
Holbrooks!

(Raleigh and Elizabeth are surprised to see Skeeter)

Skeeter? How you doin'?

3. SKEETER

Fine.

Mae Mobley begins crying in her bedroom.

4. RALEIGH

Fix me a sandwich, Aibileen.

5. ELIZABETH

Aibileen, Mae Mobley's cryin' her eyes out!

(Aibileen runs off. Elizabeth tries to compose herself)

6. ELIZABETH

**Skeeter...I'm sorry but I think it's
best if you leave now.**

7. SKEETER

Oh! Sure, sure.

EXT. HOLBROOK HOUSE - LATER AFTERNOON

1. MISSUS WALTERS

Are we in Biloxi, Minny?

2. MINNY

No, Ma'am, we ain't.

(Minnie lowers Missus Walters into a dining table chair)

3. MINNY

Why don't you sit down here for a spell. And then me and you, we'll go down to the beach in a little while. How 'bout that?

Hilly plops down in a dining table chair and fans herself. Missus Walters notices as Minny looks out to the garage bathroom. A patio chair is blown against its door. Minny suddenly begins squirming with discomfort. Minny hesitates. Minny turns to Hilly and gulps.

MINNY

Uh...Miss Hilly?

4. HILLY

Mm-hm?

5. MINNY

Never mind.

(As Minny turns back to the window, Missus Walters calls out to her)

6. MISSUS WALTERS

You go on ahead and use the inside bath, Minny. It's all right.

EXT. BUS STOP - MOMENTS LATER

1. YULE MAY

Is that Minny?

2. AIBILEEN

Minnie?

(Minnie turns with a guilty smile as passengers board behind)

3. MINNY

Hey, Aibileen.

4. YULE MAY

Hi, Minny.

(Minnie ignores Yule May)

5. MINNY

Uh-hm.

6. AIBILEEN

Where you headed?

7. MINNY

I got some business ta tend to. So,
y'all just mind your own!

(With that, Minny storms off. Yule May and Aibileen look suspiciously at one another)

8. YULE MAY

All right, then. Well, Bye!

(Minnie briefly throws her hand in the air, never turning)

9. MINNY

Bye!

10. YULE MAY

Now, she's mad at me 'cause I got
that job at Miss Hilly's.

11. AIBILEEN

Don't worry about her. She's always
mad about something.

Yule May's eyes suddenly widen as she indicates someone
approaching.

Aibileen turns to find Skeeter walking toward them. She and
Aibileen catch eyes. Skeeter waves.

12. SKEETER

Aibileen!

(Aibileen nods nervously, looking at the other domestics)

13. AIBILEEN

Yes, ma'am. Everything okay.

14. SKEETER

Oh, yeah, I just wanted to talk to you.

(Yule May looks to Aibileen with concern)

15. AIBILEEN

**You got some more "Miss Myrna"
questions for me?**

16. SKEETER

Oh no. I just wanted to talk about... We never finished our conversation
at Elizabeth's. About the book I want to write.

17. AIBILEEN

Yes, ma'am.

(Aibileen watches regretfully as the bus pulls away)

18. SKEETER

I'd really like to interview you, Aibileen. I know it's scary.

(Aibileen slowly turns)

19. AIBILEEN

They set my cousin Shinelle's car on fire just cause she went down to the
voting station.

20. SKEETER

A book like this has never been written before.

21. AIBILEEN

'Cause they's a reason. I do this with you, I might as well burn my
own house down.

22. SKEETER

I promise we'll be careful.

23. AIBILEEN

This already ain't careful, Miss Skeeter! You not knowing that is what scare me the most. Scare me more than "Jim Crow".

24. SKEETER

Here's my phone number.

(Aibileen quickly grabs the paper and shoves it in her pocket)

And my car's here. I could take you home.

25. AIBILEEN

No, Ma'am.

INT. AIBILEEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DUSK

There is a knock at the kitchen door. Aibileen quickly opens it and waves Skeeter inside.

1. AIBILEEN

Quick. Come in quick.

2. SKEETER

I parked way up on State Street and caught a cab here like you asked.

3. AIBILEEN

Got dropped two streets over?

4. SKEETER

I know now that it's against the law what we're doin'. I've never seen you out of uniform before. You look really nice.

5. AIBILEEN

Thank you. I ain't never had no white person in my house before. Miss Skeeter, what if you don't like what I got to say? About white peoples?

6. SKEETER

This isn't about me. It doesn't matter how I feel.

7. AIBILEEN

You gone have to change my name. Mine, Miss Leefolt's, everbody's.

8. SKEETER

Do you have other maids interested?

(Aibileen is quiet for a moment. She shakes her head)

9. AIBILEEN

That gone be hard.

10. SKEETER

What about Minny?

11. AIBILEEN

Nah, Minny got her some stories, sho nuff. But she ain't real keen on talking to white peoples right now.

INT. AIBILEEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

We continue with the interview that began in scene one.

Skeeter sits at the kitchen table taking notes.

1. SKEETER

What does it feel like to raise a white child when your own child's at home, being looked after by somebody else?

2. AIBILEEN

It feel...Uh.

3. SKEETER

Is that your son?

4. AIBILEEN

Yes, ma'am. **Can we move on to the next question?**

5. SKEETER

You know, Aibileen, you don't have to call me "ma'am." Not here.

(Aibileen nods. Skeeter stares at her list of questions)

INT. HOLBROOK HOUSE - DINING ROOM – DAY

Hilly reads the paper at the breakfast table, her hair set in pin curls. Her husband WILLIAM, dressed for work, also reads the paper. Yule May clears breakfast dishes. She starts to leave but stops herself. With something to say, she sets a plate down on the table and wrings her hands nervously.

1. YULE MAY

Miss Hilly, I would like to ask you and Mister William something. My twin boys graduated high school, both on the honor roll...Well, me and my husband, we been saving for years to send them to Tougaloo. We short about seventy-five dollars on one of the tuitions.

(William conspicuously checks the time on his wristwatch and quickly stands)

2. WILLIAM

Whoo! I am late. I gotta get goin'.

See you tonight, honey.

3. HILLY

Okay.

(to Yule May)

Go on.

4. YULE MAY

Well, now...We're faced with having to choose. Which son can go...if we don't find all the money.

YULE MAY

Would you consider givin' us a loan? I'll...I'll work everyday for free 'til it was paid off.

5. HILLY

That's not working for free, Yule May. That's paying off a debt.

6. YULE MAY

Yes, ma'am.

7. HILLY

As a Christian, I'm doin' you afavor. God doesn't give charity to those who are well and able. You need to come up with this money on your own. 'Kay?

8. YULE MAY

Yes, Ma'am.

(Hilly raises the paper up to her face to resume reading)

9. HILLY

You'll thank me one day.

EXT. FOOTE ESTATE - LATER

1. CELIA

Hi! Hey! Come on!

2. MINNY

(under her breath)

No sass-mouthin', Minny Jackson, no sass mouthin'...

(Celia Foote brings Minny inside. Celia is covered in tight pink clothes. Celia sits down on a chair and begins to put on her shoes.

There's a smudge of flour on her cheek)

3. CELIA

Aibileen said you'd be on time. I'm Celia Rae Foote.

4. MINNY

I'm Minny Jackson.

(indicating flour)

You cookin' somethin'?

(Celia wipes flour from her cheek)

5. CELIA

One of those upside-down cakes from the magazine. It ain't workin' out too good.

(Celia jumps up and grabs Minny's arm. Minny follows her to the kitchen)

INT. FOOTE ESTATE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Celia and Minny enter the living room. Celia crosses the room toward the kitchen.

1. CELIA

You hungry?

2 MINNY

No, ma'am. Now hold on a minute. We gots to talk about some things

First.

2. CELIA

Oh.

3. MINNY

I work Sunday through Friday.

4. CELIA

No, you can't work at all on weekends.

5. MINNY

Okay. Well, what time you want me here?

6. CELIA

After nine, and you gotta leave before four.

7. MINNY

Okay. Now what your husband say you can pay?

(Celia looks away)

8. CELIA

Johnny doesn't know I'm bringing in help.

9. MINNY

And what's Mr. Johnny gone do when he come home and finds a colored woman in his house?

10. CELIA

It's not like I'd be fibbing. I just want him to think I can do this on my own... **I really need a maid.**

(Minny lets out a big breath)

11. MINNY

I'll be here tomorrow mornin' 'bout nine-fifteen.

12. CELIA

Great.

INT. BRENT'S PHARMACY AND SODA FOUNTAIN - LATER THAT DAY

1. SKEETER

Sorry I'm late.

(Hilly shakes her head with little emotion. Elizabeth slides a coke float in front of Skeeter)

Thanks.

(Skeeter slowly looks to Hilly)

Hilly, I really am sorry about the newsletter. It's just with Momma being sick and all.

2. HILLY

Oh, it's fine.

(A waiter, HENRY, black, early 30s, approaches the table)

3. HENRY

I made you an egg and olive on rye, Miss Skeeter.

(Skeeter smiles)

4. SKEETER

Oh, thank you, Henry. You remembered.

5. HENRY

You're welcome.

INT. AIBILEEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SUNRISE

1. MINNY

We gots to get more maids!

(Minny stands. Skeeter's eyes widen with hope)

2. AIBILEEN

It hard. **You go try and see.**

3. MINNY

Okay, I will.

4. AIBILEEN

We gone and done it now.

(Minny barges through the kitchen door)

5. MINNY

They done set off a bomb in MedgarEvers' carport.

Minny stops cold in her tracks at the sight of Skeeter. Her face hardens. She turns to Aibileen.

MINNY (V.O.)

Yule May told me what y'all was up to. I didn't wanna believe it.

(Aibileen looks to the floor. Minny scowls at Skeeter)

6. MINNY

And just what makes you think colored people need your help? Why do you care?

7. AIBILEEN

Minny.

8. MINNY

(to Skeeter)

Maybe you just want to get Aibileen in trouble.

(More sirens are heard coming from other directions. Skeeter is petrified. Her face reddens)

9. SKEETER

No. I want to show herperspective...so people might understand what it's like from yourside.

10. MINNY

Well it's a real Fourth of Julypicnic. It's what we dream a doing all weekend long, get back in they house to polish the silver. And we just love not makin' minimum wage or gettin' Social Security.

(Minny makes a point to make eye contact with Aibileen)

11. MINNY

And how we love they children when they little and then they turn out just like they mommas.

12. SKEETER

I know. So maybe things can change.

13. MINNY

What law's gonna say you gotta be nice to your maid?

14. AIBILEEN

You don't have to do this, Minny.

15. MINNY

You damn right I don't! You two givin' me the heart palpitations.

INT. PHELAN HOME - SKEETER'S BEDROOM - LATER

The Shinolator was a success. Skeeter's hair is straight, silky and beautiful. Skeeter gazes into the mirror.

1. SKEETER

Holy shit.

2. CHARLOTTE

You've shrunk five inches. You'll be able to wear heels tonight.

3. SKEETER

Oh my God.

(Charlotte looks down to the huarache shoes on Skeeter's feet and begins forcibly removing them)

4. CHARLOTTE

You're not leaving this house in those awful, Mexican man-shoes.

5. SKEETER

Can I take the Cadillac?

6. CHARLOTTE

We promised the Cadillac to Carlton and Rebecca tonight. So William's cousin will just have to come pick you up himself.

INT. ROBERT E. LEE HOTEL - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Hilly, William, Stuart and Skeeter sit at a round table adorned with white linens, silver and fine china.

The room buzzes with Jackson's elite, all trying to be noticed. A Frankie Avalon tune plays in the background.

Stuart finishes the drink he's holding and motions to a waiter for another.

1. STUART

(to Skeeter)

You want a drink?

2. SKEETER

Just water, please.

3. STUART

(to waiter)

Double Old Kentucky straight...with a water back...Make that two backs.

4. SKEETER

You sure you don't want to just make it the whole bottle and a straw?

INT. FOOTE ESTATE - KITCHEN - LATER THAT DAY

Minnie sits alone at a table for two by a window. She unfolds her napkin and places it over her lap. Just as she's about to bite into a crispy chicken wing, Celia enters from the dining room with her plate.

1. CELIA

There you are.

(She sits at Minny's table)

I'm starved. It looks so good!

2. MINNY

We done been over this, Miss Celia. **You supposed to eat in the dinin' room. That how it work.**

(Minnie grabs Celia's plat)

Here, let me take your plate back-

3. CELIA

No! I'm fine right here, Minny.

4. MINNY

What?

5. CELIA

I just want you to know...I'm real grateful you're here.

6. MINNY

You gots plenty more to be grateful for than me. And look, now I ain't messin' around no more. Mister Johnny gone catch me here and shoot me dead right here on this no-wax floor! You gots to tell him. Ain't he wondering how the cookin's so good?

7. CELIA FOOTE

You're right. Maybe we ought to burn the chicken a little.

(Minny lowers her piece of chicken and looks directly into Celia's eyes)

8. MINNY

Minny don't burn chicken.

INT. AIBILEEN'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Skeeter hangs up the phone and sits down at the kitchen table with Minny and Aibileen.

1. SKEETER

We need a dozen more.

2. MINNY

Me and Aibileen done asked everbody we know. Thirty-one maids. They all too scared, think we crazy..

3. SKEETER

Well if we don't get more, we're not getting published.

4. MINNY

I gots plenty a stories, Miss Skeeter. Just write 'em down and invent the maid that said it. **You're already making up names.**

Just make up the maids, too.

5. SKEETER

We're not gonna do that. That would be wrong.

6. AIBILEEN

Don't give up on this, Miss Skeeter.

EXT. HOLBROOK HOUSE - BACK YARD - LATER THAT DAY

Mae Mobley wanders up to the table and approaches Elizabeth.

Her belly almost looks distended crammed inside last year's one piece.

1. MAE MOBLEY

I'm hungry, Momma.

(Elizabeth turns to Mae Mobley but never gets up)

2. ELIZABETH

She's always hungry.

(All the women laugh except for Skeeter. Skeeter scowls)

3. SKEETER

You know she can hear you, Elizabeth?

(Elizabeth lowers her iced tea and looks away. Aibileen
kneels down to Mae Mobley)

4. AIBILEEN

I'll cut you a piece of cake, Baby.

INT. HOLBROOK HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER THAT DAY

1. HILLY

Skeeter, are you intentionally not
putting my initiative in the newsletter?

2. SKEETER

No, no, not at all. I've just been really busy with Momma.

3. HILLY

I know. I know, you must be so worried about your mother, but,
um...

(Hilly reveals that she's been holding the pamphlet of
Mississippi race laws that were in Skeeter's satchel)

...I'm worried about you. Readin'
this stuff? Believe it or not,

there are real racists in this town!

**If the wrong person caught you with
anything like that you'd be in
serious trouble.**

(Skeeter snatches the booklet from Hilly)

4. SKEETER

Well, I'll be on the lookout.

5. HILLY

Put my initiative in the newsletter. 'Kay?

EXT. PHELAN HOME - BACK YARD - WILLOW TREE - MOMENTS LATER

Skeeter and Stuart sit on the bench beneath the willow tree.

1. STUART

Look. I know it was a few weeks back, but I came here to say I'm
sorry for the way I acted.

2. SKEETER

Who sent you? William or Hilly?

3. STUART

Neither.

(Skeeter shoots Stuart a look)

4. STUART

Okay, Hilly. But, I wanted to come. I was rude, and I've been thinking about it a lot.

5. SKEETER

Well, I haven't. **So you can just go.**

6. STUART

Goddammit!

(He stands and fixes his tie)

I told Hilly I wasn't ready to go out on any date, all right? Wasn't even close to ready.

(Stuart shoves his hands in his pockets like a boy. Skeeter turns to the balcony and sees her mother pretending to prune a plant)

STUART

I was engaged last year. She ended it.

7. SKEETER

I'm sure she did.

8. STUART

It's not like that. I'm not always a jerk. Anyway, we'd been dating since we were fifteen. You know how it is.

9. SKEETER

Actually, I don't. I've never really dated anyone before.

10. STUART

Ever?

11. SKEETER

Ever.

(Stuart chuckles)

12. STUART

Well, that must be it then.

13. SKEETER

What?!

14. STUART

Skeeter, I've never met a woman that says exactly what she's thinking.

15. SKEETER

Well, I've got plenty to say.

16. STUART

Yeah, I'll bet you do. You make me laugh...and smile. Would you a....**would you like to come have dinner with me? We could talk. I could actually listen to you this time.**

17. SKEETER

I can't think of anything worse.

(Stuart looks down)

18. STUART

Well, I understand and I'm sorry. That's what I came to say and...I said it.

Stuart turns and walks towards his car, self-consciously weaving his strong fingers through his hair. Skeeter looks up to the Charlotte-free balcony and shouts out to Stuart.

19. SKEETER

Just give me a minute!

(Stuart turns)

Let me get my sweater.

EXT. MAYFLOWER CAFE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Stuart follows Skeeter out of the restaurant. He suddenly stops her and spins her around.

1. STUART

Skeeter, I hope you get to write something really good. Something you believe in.

(Stuart and Skeeter kiss under the cafe's flashing neon sign)

EXT. JACKSON STREET - MINUTES LATER

Aibileen and Henry walk along a dark street. The sound of cicadas and sirens fill the air. Over a megaphone, a POLICEMAN orders people to clear the street; there's a curfew in effect.

1. HENRY

You gone be all right, Miss Clark?

2. AIBILEEN

I be all right. **You go on now, Henry.**

3. HENRY

You want me to walk ya?

4. AIBILEEN

No, thank you. I'll be all right.

5. HENRY

Well, you have a good night.

INT. JACKSON JOURNAL - MORGUE - DAY

Mr. Blackly sticks his head in the room. Skeeter quickly covers her research with her notebook and looks up.

1. MR. BLACKLY

Miss Phelan! Presses are heating up! I needed "Miss Myrna" thirty minutes ago.

2. SKEETER

Yes, sir.

3. MR. BLACKLY

Chop-chop.

(sighs)

Good Lord.

INT. FOOTE HOME - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mিনny walks into Celia's bedroom and hears water running joined with muffled crying behind the bathroom door. She leans in, pressing her ear to the door.

1. MINNY

Miss Celia?

2. CELIA (O.S.)

Mিনny, go home. I'll see you tomorrow.

(Mিনny twists the knob. It's locked)

3. MINNY

You mess up your hair coloring again? I helped you fix it last time. We got it back to butter batch. It was real pretty, remember? Miss Celia.

4. CELIA (O.S.)

I told you, go home!

AT THE COUNTER

Henry, the fry cook, walks over to Skeeter's place at the counter. He intimates that he has something to tell her. Careful not to look at her, he busies himself with work as he mumbles.

1. HENRY

Miss Skeeter, you best get over to Miss Aibileen's house. Now.

INT. NEW YORK RESTAURANT - DAY

A phone has been brought to Miss Stein's table. She's having a working lunch with two other publishing types. She sips a Martini while talking to Skeeter.

1. MISS STEIN

I leave early this week for thanksgiving and then our last editor's meeting is December 17th. If you want a prayer of this getting

read, I need it by then.

INT. PHELAN HOME - PANTRY (INTERCUT) - DAY

Skeeter talks to Miss Stein on the phone.

2. SKEETER

But that's in three weeks, Miss
Stein!

3. MISS STEIN

Otherwise it goes in The Pile.

(Miss Stein smirks knowingly to her co-workers)

You don't want it in The Pile.

The co-workers snicker at Miss Stein's remark.

4. SKEETER

Yes, Ma'am.

5. MISS STEIN

And put something personal in there. Write about the maid who raised you.

6. SKEETER

I understand

INT. FOOTE ESTATE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Celia sits at the kitchen table halfway through the pie she
tried to give to the bride girls.

Minnie fumes over a bowl of peas she's shelling.

1. MINNIE

Don't be taking those women any more
pies, you understand?

(Minnie turns to reveal a deep cut and bruise above her eye)

2. CELIA

They made me stand there like I was the vacuum salesman. Why, Minnie?

3. MINNIE

'Cause they know about you getting knocked up by Mr. Johnny. Mad you
married one a they mens. Especially since Miss Hilly and Mister Johnny
had just broke up, too.

4. CELIA

So Hilly probably thinks I was fooling around with Johnny while
they were still going steady.

5. MINNIE

Mm-hmmm. And Missus Walters always
said Miss Hilly still sweet on
Mister Johnny, too.

(Celia suddenly slaps her thigh with excitement)

6. CELIA

No wonder! They don't hate me. They hate what they think I did!

7. MINNY

They hate you 'cause they think you white trash!
(Minny's words bounce off of Celia's ears)

8. CELIA

Well, I'm just going to have to let
Hilly know I ain't no boyfriend
stealer. In fact, I'll tell her
Friday night at the benefit.
(Celia rises and smiles like she just cured cancer)

9. MINNY

**You don't need to be going to that
benefit, Miss Celia. Did you hear me? Now you just stay
home.**

INT. AIBILEEN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Aibileen and Skeeter are speechless.

1. AIBILEEN

You try' to get yourself killed?!

2. MINNY

No! I wasn't plannin' on tellin' her, Aibileen! I just wanted to see
her take a bite and then I was gonna leave. Be done with her forever.
(Minny's eyes narrow)

Before I knew it, I had done told that woman what was in that pie.
(Aibileen looks to Skeeter, shaking her head)

I've done asked God to forgive me. But more for what happened to poor
Missus Walters. Miss Hilly threw her in that nursing home just for laughing.

3. AIBILEEN

(gravely)

We can't put that story in the book.

4. MINNY

We ain't got no choice! Hilly Holbrook can't let nobody know that
pie story is about her.

5. AIBILEEN

Exactly! If people find out "The Terrible Awful" was you and Miss
Hilly, we're in trouble there ain't words for!

6. MINNY

Right! But don't you see? She going to her grave convincing folks
this book ain't about Jackson. Now that keeps us safe. Insured.

7. SKEETER

No, no. **That's too dangerous.**

(Minny stands up quickly)

8. MINNY

**All right, y'all two brought me into this, but I'm gonna finish it!
Either put it in or pull my parts
out all together. Y'all pick!**

INT. ROBERT E. LEE HOTEL - BALLROOM

A waiter brings Celia another drink.

1. WAITER

Your cocktail.

2. CELIA

Thank you.

(The waiter moves off. Johnny turns to his wife)

3. JOHNNY

**Honey, don't you think you've had enough to drink? I wish you'd try
and eat something.**

4. CELIA

I'm not havin' my stomach poke out!

INT. FOOTE ESTATE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Minnie stands in the doorway of Celia's bedroom. Distraught,
Celia is packing a suitcase.

1. CELIA

I'm not right for this kind of life, Minny. I don't need a dining room
table for twelve people. I couldn't get two people over here if I begged.
I can't do this to Johnny anymore. That's why I gotta go back to Sugar Ditch.

(Celia starts to cry)

2. MINNY

You can't move back to Sugar Ditch, Miss Celia.

(Minnie leads Celia to a bench at the foot of the bed)

INT. PHELAN HOME (FLASHBACK) - DINING ROOM - DAY

1. RACHEL

Hello, Miss Charlotte.

(Rachel is groomed and well dressed. Charlotte forms a tight smile)

2. CHARLOTTE

Rachel. We were expecting you next
week.

3. RACHEL

I decided to come early and surprise Momma.

(Rachel starts to open the screen door to enter. Charlotte pulls it shut)

4. CHARLOTTE

I'm entertaining. **Why don't you go
around back and wait in the kitchen.**

(The DAR women's body language conveys their shock at a black woman bold enough to enter uninvited. Constantine grows worried)

Go on now!

(Charlotte closes the door on the stunned Rachel and goes back to her seat
(to the ladies))

I am sorry.

(Rachel opens the door and walks into the dining room. All eyes are on her)

Rachel, what are you doing?

5. RACHEL

**I'm just doing as I was told, Miss Charlotte. Goin' to the kitchen.
But I'm gonna see Momma first.** (Rachel walks up to Constantine.)

Hello, Momma.

(Constantine tries to walk Rachel to the kitchen)

6. CONSTANTINE

Go on to the kitchen, baby. I'll be there directly. Go on, go, go. Go, go.

INT. NURSING HOME - MISSUS WALTERS' ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

1. MISSUS WALTERS

Well, it's a wonderful book, Hilly.
Filled with grippin' testimonials
from Mississippi's housekeepers.

HOLBROOK'S HOUSE (INTERCUT) - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

2. HILLY

Okay, Momma! I need to run.

3. MISSUS WALTERS

You should read the book, Hilly. It's quite scandalous.

It sounds like Jackson, if you ask me.

(Hilly's sudden silence fills Missus Walters with delight)

Quite scandalous.

4. HILLY

What book?

(Missus Walters raises the magnifying glass to the book)

5. MISSUS WALTERS

Uh, The Help. H-E-L-P.

EXT. PHELAN HOME - DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Tires crunch gravel down the drive. Skeeter sees a car
moving toward her and soon recognizes the car as Hilly's.

Hilly gets out of her car smoking a cigarette and storms toward the front door.

1. SKEETER

What the hell..?

(Hilly stops and turns toward the approaching Skeeter)

2. SKEETER

What are you doing here?

(Hilly throws her cigarette at Skeeter)

3. HILLY

I've contacted my lawyer, Hibbie Goodman. He's the best libel attorney in the state.

Oh Missy, you're going to jail!

4. SKEETER

You can't prove anything.

5. HILLY

Oh, I one-hundred-percent know you wrote it 'cause nobody else in town is as tacky as you.

6. SKEETER

You don't know anything, Hilly.

7. HILLY

I don't, do I? You tell Aibileen, the next time she wants to write about my dear friend Elizabeth...uhhuh. Remember her? Had you in her wedding? Let's just say, Aibileen ought to've been a little bit smarter before puttin' in about that L-shaped scratch in poor Elizabeth's dining table. And that nigger, Minny? Do I have plans for her.

8. SKEETER

Careful, Hilly. Now that's chapter twelve. Don't give yourself away now.

9. HILLY

That was not me!

INT. PHELAN HOME - RECEIVING ROOM

Skeeter and Charlotte cross the living room together.

1. CHARLOTTE

Skeeter, do you have plans tomorrow?

2. SKEETER

No, Ma'am.

3. CHARLOTTE

Good.

(Skeeter leads her mother to a sofa, helps her sit)

Because we are going shopping. No single daughter of mine is going to New York City, representing the great state of Mississippi, without a proper cosmopolitan wardrobe.

4. SKEETER

How do you know about New York?

5. CHARLOTTE

Oh, well, Miss Stein called last
night.

EXT. FOOTE ESTATE - SIDE WALK - DAY

Mিনny walks up the long front walk of the Foote Estate,
holding a bag of groceries in one arm, a fan in the other
hand, and her purse slung over her arm at the elbow.
Mিনny slows as she hears a car approaching behind her. She
turns to see Johnny Foote behind the wheel of his car.
Mিনny freezes as Johnny stops his car.

1. JOHNNY

Need some help with those?

(Johnny gets out of the car. His approach is a little too
quick for Minny's comfort. She takes off toward the house
with her best gallop)

2. MINNY

Miss Celia!

Johnny chases after her. Minny, hey, stop!
(Minny drops the groceries, the purse and the fan)

Miss Celia!

3. JOHNNY

Minny!

4. MINNY

Stay back! Stay back!

(Minny picks up a fallen branch from the ground and rears it
back like a weapon)

5. JOHNNY

Hey, I'm not here to hurt you, girl! You wanna put the stick down?

6. MINNY

(shaking her head no)

Um-um.

(Minny breathes heavily)

7. JOHNNY

Listen, Celia finally told me about the babies. All of 'em. But I also
know that the minute you started working here, she started getting
better. So you saved her life.

8. MINNY

You...knew I was here the whole time?

9. JOHNNY

Fried chicken and okra on the first night? Y'all should have at least

put corn pone on the table.

(Minnie tosses the stick down, shakes her head)

10. MINNY

No... I couldn't let you eat no more corn pone, Mister Johnny.

11. JOHNNY

Well, thanks to you, now I've had to let out every pair of pants I own.

(Minnie starts to collect the groceries)

Oh, no. You just leave that.

(Johnny picks up Minny's purse, bag and fan)

Here you go. Let's head on up to the house.

INT. FOOTE ESTATE - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Johnny leads Minny into the dining room. The table, set beautifully in silver and crystal, is covered with delicious-looking casseroles, baked goods and fried chicken.

Celia steps forward proudly.

1. MINNY

What's all this?

2. CELIA

I cooked it all by myself.

3. JOHNNY

Yes, she did. She was up all night.

4. CELIA

I wanted to do something special. I wanted to say "thank you."

(Completely surprised and moved, Minny becomes emotional)

5. MINNY

So...I ain't losing my job?

6. JOHNNY

No, you've got a job with us for the rest of your life, if you want it.

INT. LEEFOLT HOME - KITCHEN - LATER THAT MORNING

Aibileen enters with two bags of groceries. Elizabeth calls out from the den.

1. ELIZABETH (O.C.)

Aibileen, can you come here, please?

Aibileen enters to find Elizabeth and Hilly staring at her.

Elizabeth holds her six month old baby boy.

2. AIBILEEN

Good morning.

3. HILLY

Aibileen, the silver I lent Elizabeth last week.

4. AIBILEEN

It not polished good? Humidity been fighting me on polishing day.

5. HILLY

When you returned it, three pieces were missing from the felt wrapper.

A fork and two spoons.

6. AIBILEEN

Lemme...lemme go check in the kitchen. Maybe I left some behind.

7. HILLY

You know as well as I do that silver's not in the kitchen.

(Aibileen turns to Elizabeth)

8. AIBILEEN

You check in Mae Mobley's bed? Since Lil' Man was born, she been putting things-

9. HILLY

Do you hear her, Elizabeth? She's trying to blame it on a toddler.

(Elizabeth won't look at Aibileen)

10. AIBILEEN

I ain't got no silver.

(Elizabeth whispers to Hilly)

11. ELIZABETH

She says she doesn't have them.

(Mae Mobley runs into the room, heads straight for Aibileen)

12. HILLY

Then it behooves me to inform you that you are fired, Aibileen. And I'll be calling the police.

(Mae Mobley grabs Aibileen's skirt)

13. MAE MOBLEY

Aibee, my froat hurts.

14. AIBILEEN

I'll go get her some syrup, Miss Leefolt.

15. HILLY

Elizabeth can take care of her own children.

(Elizabeth looks to Hilly somewhat upset with this suggestion)

16. ELIZABETH

I'll go get the cough syrup.

(Aibileen reaches for the baby boy in Elizabeth's arms)

17. AIBILEEN

Come here, Lil' Man.

(Hilly steps between Aibileen and Elizabeth)

18. ELIZABETH

I'm okay.

(Elizabeth takes Lil' Man and leaves the room. Aibileen stands firm in front of Hilly)

19. AIBILEEN

I didn't steal no silver.

20. HILLY

Maybe I can't send you to jail for what you wrote, but I can send you for being a thief.

21. AIBILEEN

(quickly)

I know something about you. Don't you forget that.

(Hilly narrows her eyes)

And from what Yule May says, they's a lot a time to write letters from jail. Plenty a time to write the truth about you, and the paper is free.

22. HILLY

Nobody would believe what you wrote.

23. AIBILEEN

I don't know. I been told I'm a pretty good writer! Already sold a lot a books!

Elizabeth returns with the syrup, Mae Mobley following behind. Aibileen approaches Hilly and leans into her face.

24. HILLY

Call the police, Elizabeth.

(Elizabeth doesn't move)

25. AIBILEEN

All you do is scare and lie to get what you want.

26. ELIZABETH

Aibileen, stop!

27. AIBILEEN

(to Hilly)

You a godless woman. Ain't you tired, Miss Hilly? Ain't you tired?

28. ELIZABETH

Aibileen, you have to go now.

(Aibileen kneels down to Mae Mobley. Aibileen begins to cry)

29. MAE MOBLEY

Don't go, Aibiee!

30. AIBILEEN

Baby, you need to get back to bed.

31. MAE MOBLEY

Please don't leave.

32. AIBILEEN

I gots to, Baby. I am so sorry.

33. MAE MOBLEY

Are you going to take care of another little girl?

34. AIBILEEN

No, that's not the reason. I don't want to leave you, but...it's time
for me to retire. You my last little girl.

35. MAE MOBLEY

Noooo!

36. AIBILEEN

**Baby, baby, I need you to remember ever thing I told you. Okay? Do
you remember what I told you?**

(Mae Mobley nods)

37. MAE MOBLEY

You is kind. You is smart. You is important.

38. AIBILEEN

That's right, Baby Girl.