

DISSOLVE TO:

147 EXT. WHITE HOUSE DAY

As Tommy's Volkswagen parks across the street, Tommy gets out and approaches the White house.

Carrie is inside, watching him come up the stairs. She remains on the hall side of the screen door.

TOMMY
So this is where you live.

CARRIE
What... what're you doing here?

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TOMMY
(laughs)
Aren't you going to ask me in?

She shakes her head; he laughs again, a little nervously. Throughout this scene in which he remains on the porch side of the screen door, he catches glimpses of the weird house within.

TOMMY
(continuing)
Why not?

CARRIE
Momma's resting. What do you want?

TOMMY
Right to the point, huh? Okay, about the prom.

CARRIE
I already told you.

TOMMY
(a little charm)
Nothing to stop you changing your mind. Girls do it all the time.

CARRIE
Why are you doing this?

TOMMY
Hey, I'm asking you because I want to.

CARRIE
No.

TOMMY
Look, I don't do anything I don't want to.

CARRIE
I can't.

TOMMY
Sure you can.

In the background in the kitchen, perhaps Margaret calls out Carrie's name.

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Carrie glances nervously behind her; then back at Tommy.

CARRIE
You better go.

MARGARET'S VOICE
Carrie! Who are you talking to?

Carrie: who are you talking to?

TOMMY

Don't you think you better answer?

CARRIE

No one, Momma.

TOMMY

You're going with me.

CARRIE

I can't.

TOMMY

You're going.

CARRIE

They'll laugh.

TOMMY

No one will laugh. We'll see to it.

CARRIE

Please. Please go.

TOMMY

Not `til you say yes.

Carrie swipes at her eyes with the back of her hand; helpless, honest, confused. She'd really like to go at this point, but that extra sense in her is resisting.

CARRIE

Why? Why is it so important to you?

TOMMY

I don't know. Maybe it's because you liked my poem.

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MARGARET (o.s.)

Carietta!!!

And in just these split seconds, she decides; had he not "liked" her poem, had Margaret not called, perhaps she could have held back.

CARRIE

Yes.

(beat)

Okay.

TOMMY

I'll pick you up at eight.

CARRIE

(whispering)

Fine.

(then)

Thank you.

Tommy smiles at her and, turning to leave, touches her hand against the screen door. A goodbye, nothing more. He goes down the walk toward his car.

149 CARRIE

Watching him. She takes the hand he "touched" and brushes the hair back from her face. A little beautiful? You bet.

MARGARET'S VOICE

Carrie? Did you hear me?

CARRIE

Coming, Momma. Coming.

And as she turns away from the door, we:

CUT TO:

150 INT. GYM AFTERNOON

SUE

Why not?

HELEN

Why did you do it? God, everyone's talking.

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We PULL BACK to see the gym. The entire back wall has been devoted to a giant mural of stars and planets it seems the prom is to have a celestial theme, and the gymnasium is in the process of being hung with a great deal of crepe paper, moons, etc.

SUE

I asked Tommy to take Carrie. I thought I owed her that much.

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HELEN

Where does that put the rest of us?

SUE

You have to make up your own mind.

HELEN

And Tommy went along with it?

SUE

Uh-huh.

(pauses)

I guess the other kids think I'm stuck-up.

HELEN

Well... they're all talking about it. But most of them still think you're okay.

151 HELEN'S POV THE GYM CHRIS AND NORMA WATSON

as thick as thieves, off in the corner, whispering.

152 TWO SHOT SUE AND HELEN

HELEN

There is...

(giggles)

...a small dissenting faction.

SUE

I guess she's having a field day with this.

HELEN

Susie, she hates your guts.

Sue nods she knew it, now she hears it.

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153 EXT. WHITE HOUSE EVENING

FULL FRONTAL VIEW of the bungalow IN the FRAME.

The lights are on downstairs; there's a slight drizzle and haze. HOLD, then:

CUT TO:

154 INT. WHITE KITCHEN

As Carrie and Margaret finish dinner. Silence punctuated only by the slight DRIZZLE outside and occasional flashes of THUNDER and lightning. Then:

MARGARET

You haven't touched your pie, Carrie.

CARRIE

It makes me have pimples, Momma.

MARGARET

Your pimples are the Lord's way of chastising you.

CARRIE

Momma?

MARGARET

Yes?

CARRIE

Momma, please see that I have to start to get... to try and get along with people.

MARGARET

Whatever are you going on about? Have you been showering with the other girls again?

CARRIE

I... I've been invited to the prom.

MARGARET

(a foreign language)

Prom?

CARRIE

It's next Friday, and

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MARGARET

It's that teacher, the one that called. She'll be sorry.

CARRIE

Momma. please see that I'm not like you. I'm funny. I mean.