

"THE GRADUATE"

Screenplay by
Buck Henry

EXT. ROBINSON HOUSE - NIGHT

The car comes to a stop in the Robinson driveway.
They sit for a moment.

MRS. ROBINSON

Thank you.

BEN

Right.

She doesn't move. Ben gets out and goes around to
her side and opens the door.

MRS. ROBINSON

Will you come in, please?

BEN

What?

MRS. ROBINSON

I want you to come in till I get
the lights on.

BEN

What for?

MRS. ROBINSON

Because I don't feel safe until I
get the lights on.

They move to the door. She takes out her key and
opens the door.

INT. ROBINSON HALL AND SUNROOM - NIGHT

MRS. ROBINSON

Would you mind walking ahead of
me to the sun porch. I feel
funny about coming into a dark
house.

BEN

But it's light in there now.

MRS. ROBINSON

Please.

Ben turns and walks down the hall. They enter sunroom.

MRS. ROBINSON (CONT'D)

What do you drink? Bourbon?

BEN

Look - I drove you home. I was glad to do it. But I have some things on my mind. Can you understand that?

She nods.

BEN (CONT'D)

All right then.

MRS. ROBINSON

What do you drink?

He looks at her.

MRS. ROBINSON (CONT'D)

Benjamin - I'm sorry to be this way, but I don't want to be alone in this house.

BEN

Why not?

MRS. ROBINSON

Please wait till my husband gets home.

BEN

When is he coming back?

MRS. ROBINSON

I don't know.

She pours herself a drink.

MRS. ROBINSON (CONT'D)

Drink?

BEN

No.

She hands him a drink. There is a pause.

BEN (CONT'D)
Are you always this much afraid
of being alone?

MRS. ROBINSON
Yes.

BEN
Well, why can't you just lock the
doors and go to bed?

MRS. ROBINSON
I'm very neurotic.

She turns on the phonograph. SOUND of PHONOGRAPH.

MRS. ROBINSON (CONT'D)
May I ask you a question?

Ben looks at her.

MRS. ROBINSON (CONT'D)
What do you think of me?

BEN
What do you mean?

MRS. ROBINSON
You've known me nearly all of
your life. You must have formed
some opinion.

BEN
Well - I've always thought that
you were a very - nice - person.

MRS. ROBINSON
Did you know I was an alcoholic?

BEN
What?

MRS. ROBINSON
Did you know that?

BEN
Look - I think I should be going.

MRS. ROBINSON
Sit down, Benjamin.

BEN

Mrs. Robinson - if you don't mind my saying so - this conversation is getting a little strange. Now I'm sure that Mr. Robinson will be here any minute and -

MRS. ROBINSON

No.

BEN

What?

MRS. ROBINSON

My husband will be back quite late.

They look at each other. Ben is half standing.

MRS. ROBINSON (CONT'D)

He should be gone for several hours.

She takes a step toward him. He puts his hand up and retreats around the other side of the chair.

BEN

Oh my God.

MRS. ROBINSON

Pardon?

BEN

Oh no, Mrs. Robinson, oh no.

MRS. ROBINSON

What's wrong?

BEN

Mrs. Robinson, you didn't - I mean you didn't expect -

MRS. ROBINSON

What?

BEN

I mean - you didn't really think that I would do something like that.

MRS. ROBINSON

Like what?

BEN

What do you think?

MRS. ROBINSON

Well I don't know.

BEN

For God's sake, Mrs. Robinson, here we are, you've got me into your house. You give me a drink. You put on music, now you start opening up your personal life to me and tell me your husband won't be home for hours.

MRS. ROBINSON

So?

BEN

Mrs. Robinson - you are trying to seduce me.

There is a pause. She looks at him.

BEN (CONT'D)

(weaker)

Aren't you?

MRS. ROBINSON

Why no. I hadn't thought of it. I feel rather flattered that you -

BEN

Mrs. Robinson, will you forgive me for what I just said?

MRS. ROBINSON

It's all right.

BEN

It's not all right, it's the worst thing I've ever said to anyone.

MRS. ROBINSON

Sit down.

BEN

Please forgive me. Because I like you. I don't think of you that way. But I'm mixed up.

MRS. ROBINSON

All right. Now finish your drink.

BEN

Mrs. Robinson, it makes me sick that I said that to you.

MRS. ROBINSON

We'll forget it right now. Finish your drink.

BEN

What is wrong with me?

MRS. ROBINSON

Have you ever seen Elaine's portrait?

BEN

Her portrait?

MRS. ROBINSON

Yes.

BEN

No.

MRS. ROBINSON

We had it done last Christmas. Would you like to see it?

BEN

Very much.

We move with Mrs. Robinson and Ben out of the sunroom, into the hall, up the stairs and along the hall to the doorway to Elaine's room.