

[beeps]

[music]

**Speaker 1:** Extra, extra. Read all about it. Movie Goddess gets the chair. Check out this home good sale. They're practically giving glassware away.

[music]

**Speaker 2:** Ms. Collins, do you regret it?

**Speaker 3:** Ms. Collins, where did it all go wrong?

**Speaker 4:** Ms. Collins, who are you wearing?

**Speaker 5:** Quiet. This is the execution of Hollywood's Barbara Collins.

**Speaker 6:** Barbara Collins, the greatest movie star to ever live, and me the sad sap who got tangled up in her web.

**Speaker 5:** My name's Gary, by the way. I'm sort of known as the fun executioner. I used to do standup comedy in the community. I guess you could say what I do in here killing people is not too different than what I do out there. Ms. Collins, do you have any final words?

**Speaker 7:** A hell of a lot happened before that, and a hell of a lot happened after. Oh, hell. A hell of a lot happened after a hell of a lot than hell. I'd say a hell of a lot more happened after that.

**Speaker 8:** Hello. I'm here to see Mr. Jack Fitzgerald himself.

**Speaker 9:** Are you sure?

**Speaker 8:** Yes.

**Speaker 9:** Are you sure you're sure?

**Speaker 8:** Yes.

**Speaker 9:** Good, because I'm Shirley. [laughs]

**Speaker 8:** Thank you.

**Speaker 9:** I got you.

[music]

**Speaker 10:** She's 45 minutes late.

**Speaker 9:** She'll be here, Jack. If there's one thing that'll get Barbara Collins to a meeting, it's the smell of a good part, and this one's better than mom's fresh baked apple pie.

**Speaker 10:** I just get nervous, and when I do, I become a widow second guess guest, baby boy. [whines] Remember when she held that entire ship hostage, it made them all watch her shave her legs. I've asked around, nobody's got a nice word to say about her.

**Speaker 11:** She came into my salon, which is fairly high-end and and caused such a stir. I did not enjoy my baguette and cheese.

**Speaker 12:** She stole actual candy from my actual baby, and then she stole my baby. This is just a blanket.

**Speaker 10:** We can't screw this picture up. This is the life story of Jeannette Conway, America's first debutante plumber.

**Speaker 13:** Yes, I am Jeannette Conway, yes I am a debutante, and yes, I am a plumber.

**Speaker 14:** Ms. Collins is here, sir.

**Speaker 10:** It's not sir.

**Speaker 14:** Ms. Collins is here, cute little baby.

**Speaker 10:** Very well, Gladys.

**Speaker 15:** Gentlemen, I am so sorry to have kept you waiting. I ran here all the way from two feet ago. Jack, you know me. You know I'm never late. Oh, there are only two things I loathe in this world more than tardiness. Sardines and Claudette Colbert. Unless I'm eating them on a pizza, and I'm not talking about the sardines.

**Speaker 10:** Did you enjoy the Jeannette Conway script?

**Speaker 15:** Hated it, loathed it. Called the police. Tried to have it arrested. Turns out they don't do that sort of thing, they said. No, gentlemen, the next Barbara Collins picture has to be something spectacular. The thing they'd behold out of town not to award me for. The next Barbara Collins picture's going to be something everyone's talking about.

**Speaker 10:** Why did you come all the way over here just to say no?

**Speaker 15:** I was in the area.

**Speaker 10:** I wasn't taking no for an answer. Late that night, I drove up to that house of hers. Unfortunately for all of us, another young Hollywood nobody had beat me there.

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**Speaker 16:** Thanks for having me over, Ms. Collins. Gee, your home is beautiful, and it smells like--

**Speaker 15:** Ketchup. The walls were painted with ketchup. That's what I get for mistaking my chef for my painter. You should see what my gardener did in the meatloaf.

**Speaker 11:** I stood there just beyond her aviary and watched as she got the young man undressed, then redressed, then half-dressed. Bottoms as tops, tops as bottoms, shoes as hands. You know the drill. Suddenly, a fight broke out. Barbara Collins grabbed her gun. Shots were fired. The young man was dead. Me, some Hollywood nobody, had seen the whole damn thing.

**Speaker 11:** Barbara, open up.

**Speaker 15:** I didn't mean to do it, I swear. I mean, maybe-- maybe in the-- No, I did. In the moment, I didn't mean to do it. I can cop to that, I can.

**Speaker 17:** You were defending yourself against a jealous lover who discovered us together.

**Speaker 15:** You mean you would do that for me? You would be my alibi?

**Speaker 11:** If you do something for me. The Jeanette Conway picture.

**Speaker 15:** No, I told you, I--

**Speaker 11:** We all come to this city with dreams. Some of them come true and some fade into the night sky like Klieg lights after a Grauman's premiere. Me? I still got my dreams, Barbara. Nothing in this whole wide, crazy world should stop dreams. Also, I won't turn you in for murder.

**Speaker 15:** Well, Mr. Hunter, let's make a movie.

**Speaker 11:** I phoned the police, and by lunchtime that day, I was testifying on Barbara's behalf.

**Speaker 17:** Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

**Speaker 11:** I do.

**Speaker 17:** Thank you. Never forgets a floss.

**Speaker 18:** Order. Order. This is Judge Reinhold presiding. Mr. Hunter, please explain what happened.

**Speaker 11:** The young man arrived in a jealous rage. Barbara stopped him. End of story.

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**Speaker 18:** Oh, I hate when stories end. I just want them to keep going and going, but I'm a total bookworm. Are you?

**Speaker 11:** Yes.

**Speaker 18:** What have you read lately?

**Speaker 11:** I read the new Stuart Woods novel last week. Couldn't put it down, but that's because I glued it to my hand on a dare.

**Speaker 18:** I'm a bit of a daredevil myself. Seriously, dare me to do something. I'll do it.

**Speaker 11:** Okay. I dare you to let Barbara off for the murder.

**Speaker 18:** Damn. You got me. Okay, fine. Go. You're your own worst enemy sometimes, Paulo.

**Speaker 11:** That afternoon, we filmed the entire picture, and just as I imagined, it was remarkable.

**Speaker 19:** We're Conways. We have a legacy to uphold.

**Speaker 15:** No.

**Speaker 19:** Our grandfather, the colonel, invented toenail clippers. We don't do that sort of thing.

**Speaker 15:** No one's going to tell me what to do anymore. If I want to put on a big pretty dress and go to the cotillion, I will. If I want to reach my hand into a dirty toilet and unclog it after someone lays a really big one and get paid money, I'm going to do that, too. Please, get out of my way and let me plunge that goddamn toilet.

**Speaker 11:** The next morning was opening night, and the raves were in.

**Speaker 20:** She's brilliant. Divine. A fancy face of fabulous. I love cock.

**Speaker 21:** I loved it so much, I'm eating my ticket stuff. I'm allergic to paper.

**Speaker 22:** Take it from me, she's a shoo-in for the Oscar. Right, guys?

[applause]

**Speaker 11:** The Oscars were the following afternoon. That morning, as we got ready for the big night, we were both optimistic.

**Speaker 15:** I can't believe after 48 years in this business, I'll finally get to stand on that stage tonight and take the bow I've always deserved. What will make it sweetest of all, Mr. Hunter?

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**Speaker 11:** What, Barbara dear?

**Speaker 15:** Winning it for your words. Your tender, erotic words. Fuck me. Wait. The TV.

**Speaker 23:** More scandal in Tinseltown today, as British actress Irene Sinclair is sentenced to a lifetime in prison for crimes not yet fully explained. Though police have offered the following statement.

**Speaker 24:** Believe us when we say it was really icky and really gross. Back to you, news.

**Speaker 23:** Now, a word from Irene Sinclair herself.

**Speaker 25:** Yes, I did what I did, no more mistaking for me.

**Speaker 15:** Oh, that bitch. She went and created a bigger scandal than me. Oh, she's sure to win tonight. Oh, Leslie, we've got to think of something fast and sick, really sick. I mean, the kind of thing nobody could ever forgive. Not even a real sicko. Hello, press. My name is Academy Award nominee, Barbara Collins.

[applause]

**Speaker 15:** Thank you. Guys, come on, really. Really, guys. Shh. I am announcing today that I, Barbara, Academy Award nominee Collins, have never, ever once washed my hands.

**Speaker 26:** Take her away. Lock her up and throw away the key.

**Speaker 27:** Don't actually throw away the key.

**Speaker 26:** It's been four years, that guy's still in jail for jaywalking.

**Speaker 28:** Please, I didn't know. I'm colorblind.

**Speaker 18:** All right, Ms. Collins, you're back.

**Speaker 15:** It's good to see you again, Judge. Hey, what happened to your arm?

**Speaker 18:** My four-year-old niece dared me to drop a refrigerator on it. I really need to work on this dare thing. For the crime of never, ever having washed your hands, we sentence you to death. In light of your Academy Award nomination, we permit you to attend tonight's festivities at the Shrine Auditorium before death by electricity at 11:00 PM sharp.

**Speaker 15:** Oh, thank you.

**Speaker 29:** Tonight's Best Leading Actress nominees have spent the past few days working tirelessly on their films. I admire their commitment to craft, creativity, and

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caffeine. They're all coffee lovers, and so am I. These are Deborah Underwood for *The Girl with Roses for Elbows*. Irene Sinclair for *A Postman's Holiday*. Betty Gilpin for *Our Sofa Was Not for Sale*. Barbara Collins for *The Jeanette Conway Story*. The winner is Barbara Collins.

[applause]

**Speaker 15:** Oh, wow. Thank you. This one's a lot heavier than Olivia de Havilland's, but actually you could say that for a lot of things of mine. In fact, I would like to take this moment to list all of the items in my home that probably weigh more than the ones Olivia de Havilland has. I'll start with the kitchen. Toaster. My butcher's block. Oh, and I'm getting the wrap it up sign. Okay, thank you.

**Speaker 5:** Ms. Collins, do you have any final words?

**Speaker 15:** Oh, no. Not really, no.

**Speaker 5:** All right, thank you very much.

**Speaker 11:** I have something to say. I love Hollywood and I love the pictures, but up until two days ago I had never loved before. I thought I had, but it was kid's stuff. Even the deepest of my past romances is shallowed by the flattening love I have for this woman before me. Barbara, I love you with every drop of blood coursing through my unworthy heart.

**Speaker 5:** Thanks, Mr. Hunter. Barbara, anything else you'd like to add?

**Speaker 15:** No.

**Speaker 5:** Thank you very much. Here we go.

[background noise]

**Speaker 11:** That was it. The end of the greatest star to ever live and the greatest star to ever love. I suppose you could call this story of mine some sort of fable, not one of mice and lion nor miser and gold, but of a great big Hollywood star with the world finally once again at her fingertips, yet fingertips attached to two dirty, unwashed hands.

[music]