

SEA GLASS

A MODERN CAIN AND ABEL

**Characters**

Imogen Kilcullen	14 years old; freshman; youngest girl
Anne Kilcullen	16 years old; junior; middle girl
Patrick Kilcullen	Mid 30's; Father of three girls
Bill McDermott	19 years old; senior; oldest boy
Mike McDermott	17 years old; junior, middle boy
Toddy McDermott	15 years old; sophomore; youngest boy
Alan O'Hare	23 years old; college graduate

**A Casting Note:** Alan and Patrick were double cast in the original theatrical cast.

**An Acting Note:** All slash marks are interruptions. This "/" indicates when the next line should begin.

Scene

Long Island; Outer beaches, along Jones Beach. Babylon, NY

Time 1979; Fall

ACT I, SCENE 1

2:21 AM. Night. The living room and kitchen of a beach house in West Gilgo. The interior features light wood furniture and a tile floor. Two couches, a rattan coffee table, an old red rug, and shelves filled with tchotchkes decorate the living room. The coffee table between the couches is covered in travel magazines. A wooden door nestled in the back wall of shelves leads to the bathroom.

Behind the couches, a metal winding staircase ascends to the second floor.

A slatted wooden backdoor leads to a back porch. A wooden kitchen table with five chairs sits under a single light fixture, which has a red and green stained-glass bowl. Three placemats are laid out on the wooden table.

Behind the table, the kitchen features a small tile countertop and an old white refrigerator covered in kitsch magnets. Far right, a glass sliding door leads to the front porch.

The house is eclectically furnished, with a mix of dusty old wooden chairs and large, fancy china in cabinets. Dolls, pots, a record player suitcase, and an infinite number of books line the shelves along the back wall. Old cardboard boxes fill any open space. This is the home of an unadmitted hoarder.

It's night. The sound of crickets and ocean waves fills the air. A kitchen clock reads "2:21 AM."

The red taillights of a car illuminate the living area. Bathed in the glow is

IMOGEN KILCULLEN, 14, tall for her age, with frizzy hair tied back for sleep. She wears a red tartan cotton nightgown with a lacy collar, a bathrobe, and white socks.

IMOGEN holds a white envelope in her hands.

Sound of engine. The red glow of taillights fades away. IMOGEN is alone in the MOONLIGHT.

The sound of crickets. Ocean waves. A parkway.

IMOGEN weighs the envelope in her hands. As she goes to examine its contents, heavy footfall on the metal staircase.

IMOGEN stuffs the envelope into a pocket on her robe.

IMOGEN turns towards the stairs to see ANNE, 16 come down the stairs.

ANNE wears an oversized t-shirt with text that reads "ROLLING STONES 1978 US TOUR" and gym shorts. She plods down the stairs, rubbing the sleep from her eyes. She has short, messy red hair. A rebellious spirit.

ANNE  
Did she leave?

IMOGEN  
Yeah, just left.

ANNE  
How much money did she leave?

IMOGEN takes the envelope from her pocket, caught.

IMOGEN  
She didn't say.

ANNE  
Count it, then.

IMOGEN turns the light on, sits. ANNE looms over her.

IMOGEN sorts the money.

ANNE hovers. IMOGEN's shoulders lift.

IMOGEN  
Stop breathing down my neck.

ANNE obnoxiously wheezes onto IMOGEN's shoulder.

IMOGEN continues sorting.

IMOGEN  
400.

ANNE  
What?

IMOGEN  
400 dollars.

ANNE  
Count again.

IMOGEN  
Anne, that's how much there / is.

ANNE  
Count again.  
IMOGEN counts again.

IMOGEN  
400.

ANNE  
She's a psycho.

IMOGEN  
That's not a small amount of money.

ANNE  
400?! Mom can spend a metric buttload of cash on a cruise / and  
we can't get more than 500?

IMOGEN  
It's not a cruise! It's a semester at sea! And if we spread it  
out carefully, that's... a little over 25 a week.

ANNE  
A week!?

IMOGEN  
(thinking out loud)  
Divide 400 by 15 and you end up with something around 26.

ANNE  
For gas and groceries and all that shit... 26 fuckin' bucks.

IMOGEN  
Okay! Give me a second and I'll budget it. Just give me a  
second.

IMOGEN finds a notebook in the kitchen nearby and begins sorting  
through, jotting down calendar dates.

ANNE

That bitch / makes me get a license so I can drive you around  
and then doesn't leave me with enough money to fill the tank.

IMOGEN

Don't call Mom a bitch, she's trying to figure it out and it's  
not like Dad was going to be any help-

ANNE

Give me my cut.

IMOGEN

I'm sorry?

ANNE

I want my cut. Give me my cut.

IMOGEN

You don't have a cut.

ANNE

Of course I have a cut. It looks like this.

ANNE grabs a wad of cash from the piles. IMOGEN grabs her hand.  
The two struggle.

ANNE

Imogen! Get off!

IMOGEN

Put it back! Put it back!

ANNE releases, sending the money flying into the air and IMOGEN  
falling onto her back.

The two sisters scramble to catch the money out of the air.

Blackout.

INTERLUDE A

IMOGEN, Catholic school uniform, stands at a lectern, reading her book report.

IMOGEN

A godly woman is a woman of value. Firstly, a woman helps her husband. She is meant to help her husband and be the mother of his children. She provides help and assistance to her husband in every way. She is also valuable to the household as she raises her children. A godly woman is also a woman of virtue. She does not lead her husband down a sinful path. She is meant to steadfastly preserve her husband and household's name. She is kindhearted and steadfast. A godly woman fears the Lord and protects her household. Godly women are valuable, virtuous, and fearful of the lord. Women under the lord are women of excellence. We are women of excellence.

ACT I, SCENE 2

4:40 PM, later that week.

IMOGEN does homework at the kitchen table.

ANNE comes downstairs, wrapped in a bathrobe. She opens the fridge.

ANNE  
How'd you end up getting to school?

IMOGEN  
Mister McDermott drove me.

ANNE  
St. Paul's is super out of his way.

IMOGEN  
Well, Mom told us he was willing to help if we ask.

ANNE  
Don't wanna bother him, though.

IMOGEN  
I won't.

ANNE constructs an elaborate sandwich. IMOGEN takes out a pile of schoolwork.

IMOGEN  
Sister Josephine sent this home with me / for you so you didn't fall behind on anything.

ANNE  
Oh, no...  
Did you tell her about my food poisoning?

IMOGEN doesn't reply.

ANNE  
Fine. What did the Sister give you?

IMOGEN taps the math textbook with her pencil.

ANNE can't find a pencil. She grabs the one from IMOGEN's hand. IMOGEN finds a new one.



ANNE

(an attempt at civility)

Jeez, you'd think we'd have measured all the triangles by now,  
right?

No response from IMOGEN. ANNE sits on the couch, opening a  
different textbook.

IMOGEN

You're chewing really loud.

ANNE

Oh my god.

IMOGEN

I'm just saying / it's really loud!

ANNE

You always think everyone / is chewing really loud!

IMOGEN

I do not / I just think when you chew with your mouth open-!

ANNE

Yes, you do! I could be eating a fucking feather sandwich a mile  
away and you'd complain about the crunch!

Can you help me?

IMOGEN trudges over. She sits beside Anne.

IMOGEN

What's the problem?

ANNE

"Which one of the following decreases the entropy of the system?  
There is only one correct answer.

- A) Dissolving NaCl in water
- B) Sublimation of benzene
- C) Dissolving oxygen in water
- D) Boiling of alcohol"

Who is boiling alcohol?

IMOGEN

It's C.

ANNE

Okay.

ANNE circles it and IMOGEN stops her.

IMOGEN

Can I explain why?

ANNE

Why would you need to?

IMOGEN

Because if I explain the question, then the answer will make sense / if a similar question comes up again.

ANNE

But I have the answer. / "Dissolving oxygen in water"

IMOGEN

But you don't know *why*!

ANNE

I don't need to know why!

IMOGEN

What are you going to do when you've got a test? It's not going to be the same question; it's going to be the same *why*! So what are you going to do if you don't know why?

ANNE

Cheat.

IMOGEN

(fed-up)

Clearly a gas dissolving in a liquid shows a decrease. That's why.

ANNE

Wow, "smart-one" is / all hot and bothered today.

IMOGEN

Don't say that.

ANNE

Remember when Dad introduced us to that couple in his dressing room? He said Winnie was an 'actor', he called me 'Anne' and then he said you were 'the smart one'.

IMOGEN  
He didn't mean it like that.

ANNE  
We should get some food.

IMOGEN  
You're eating / right now.

ANNE  
I know, I know, I meant for dinner.

IMOGEN  
Okay... What were you thinking?

ANNE  
Pizza.

IMOGEN  
No. No chance.

ANNE  
What? Why not?

IMOGEN  
Because that's not in the budget.

ANNE  
It can't be more than 10 bucks.

IMOGEN  
Yes. Out of our 25 for the week.

ANNE  
So, we eat in for the rest of the meals.

IMOGEN  
We're eating in tonight too.

ANNE  
C'mooooon. What if we get barbecue? Half-racks are like five bucks at Odeen's.

IMOGEN  
That's still a lot.

ANNE  
'Gen. Really?

IMOGEN  
Anne. Really.  
I'm sure we could ask the McDermott's if we / needed anything

ANNE  
No.

IMOGEN  
What is your issue with asking them?

ANNE  
I don't want people knowing we're... 'temp-orphans'.

IMOGEN  
Oh my gosh, we are not 'temp-orphans', that's such a horrible thing to say.

ANNE  
It's true. If it's just two kids hanging out, what's the difference between us and orphans?

IMOGEN  
ALIVE. PARENTS.

ANNE  
Technically. But if they're not even around and they're not sending us money, are they even alive, dear Imogen?

IMOGEN  
You're such a freak.

ANNE  
Our parents could be dead.

IMOGEN  
Mom and Dad are not dead.

ANNE  
Can we see them? Can we hear them? Are we just living day to day hoping they'll eventually return? We're basically Annie.  
Little. Orphan. Annie.

IMOGEN  
Oh my gosh, fine, I'll call Odeen's.