

SCENE 5- WEDNESDAY NIGHT

[**FRANK AND VIRGINIA** ENTER THEIR YARD THROUGH THE ALLEY. IT'S LATE. THEY HAVE A FLASHLIGHT. THERE ARE NOW FOUR 30 INCH STAKES INSTEAD OF FLAGS.]

VIRGINIA

Frank, you need to calm down.

FRANK

I am calm. I'm just upset.

VIRGINIA

This is silly. They might see us.

FRANK

They are asleep. And I want to see the damage. I want you to see it. They seemed so kind and so civilized.

[**GASPS WHEN HE LIGHTS TANIA'S WILTED HYDRANGEA'S AND SEE THEY ARE GONE**]

But who rips out Hydrangeas? They could have been saved. Those poor plants are being murdered!

VIRGINIA

It's not good for you to get so worked up about it.

FRANK

These are living things that were planted with purpose and care. Now look at this. It used to be flags ... now it's —

VIRGINIA

Stakes! Why are they out so far?

FRANK

Ginny! That's where the new fence is going to go. They say their property is two feet further than the old fence.

VIRGINIA

What? This far? That's crazy. When did they tell you?

FRANK

While I was clipping the ivy. As a favor to them. I'm taking a picture.

VIRGINIA

They want to take our land?

FRANK

The dandy Esquire nonchalantly told me that they own this much of our property.

VIRGINIA

Where did they get that idea?

FRANK

From the documents attached to their mortgage. And then the survey they did ... showed the same thing. They have documents. Do we?

VIRGINIA

It's been decades. God know where ours are.

FRANK

Did you ever think we were taking land that wasn't ours?

VIRGINIA

Us? Of course not! What did you say?

FRANK

I told him to "Hold his Tongue and Shut his BIG Mouth" and I shook my fist and told him I'd see him in Court.

VIRGINIA

Really? You did? To a lawyer?

FRANK

Basically! And then I walked away.

VIRGINIA

You walked away? Please don't tell me you rolled over like a circus dog.

FRANK

No — I was vicious. And intimidating.

VIRGINIA

You cannot cede an inch with this. You hear? An inch becomes a foot becomes a yard.

FRANK

I assure you. Walking away wasn't a retreat.

VIRGINIA

Chamberlain looked the other way when it came to Poland. Nothing appeases greed.

FRANK

I've been documenting the destruction all evening.

VIRGINIA

But we need more than photos. We need to find those documents. This is our property!

FRANK

We were so nice to them. And they seemed to like us. What have we done to deserve this?

VIRGINIA

Nothing but bring them wine and dark chocolate.

FRANK

Exactly. You know how I worked on the flowerbeds. Just to have a fence slam into them. Sever them. Days before the garden judgment. I'll never win "Best Garden." Thanks to them, I may not even be in the running ever. Phillip Saxon will gloat all year.

VIRGINIA

Frank, don't get all lathered up about this. Tomorrow we'll give those ambitious kids a gentle lesson in maturity. I'll do the talking. OK? You get too upset.

FRANK

Fine.

VIRGINIA

Believe me, I will put a stop to this whole travesty.