

SCENE 8- THURSDAY EVENING

[NIGHTTIME. **FRANK** IS OUTSIDE. **PABLO** ENTERS WITH A BEER.]

PABLO

I know it's after midnight, but do you mind if I join you?

FRANK

Yes, I do.

[**PABLO** GRABS A FOLDED CHAIR, HAS SOME DIFFICULTY UNFOLDING IT, AND SITS, FACING **FRANK**.]

FRANK

Did you just get home from work?

PABLO

Yes. My wife is horribly upset about the ... incident this morning.

FRANK

Women get so emotional when they are pregnant.

PABLO

I hear Virginia is not too happy either.

[BEAT]

I also assume she's not pregnant.

[BEAT. MEN SIZE EACH OTHER UP]

FRANK

No one is happy.

PABLO

You tried to make my wife feel small.

FRANK

Maybe she feels small, because she called my wife names.

PABLO

Virginia threatened Tania.

FRANK

Pablo. You are creating havoc over 23 inches.

PABLO

It's 80 square feet, at least. If it's so valuable to you, I'll sell it to you at market price.

FRANK

Ah, so it's all about the money.

PABLO

No. But it is a way to come to terms. A rational way to make peace.

FRANK

I shouldn't have to spend that kind of cash. I've been tending this garden for years. Its value comes from my care.

PABLO

Maybe you should be grateful you've had it for free for so long.

FRANK

Ginny and I have been researching adverse possession.

PABLO

You are invoking squatter's rights?

FRANK

I'm thinking we might have a case.

PABLO

Frank, I like you. I really do. And let me tell you, you don't want to get in a legal argument with Smith, Krause, and Wilson.

FRANK

Sometimes the little man wins.

PABLO

You've never been the little man, Frank Butley. And we can't have another argument like we did this morning.

FRANK

That was no argument. It was an incident.

PABLO

I have sixty colleagues coming on Saturday. We have every right to do what we are doing.

FRANK

But what about my garden and the years of toil, sweat and love I've poured into it? You are sacrificing all the work I have done. For what: to make it look ordinary and common? Just days after you said you loved it. Are you a liar, Pablo?

PABLO

I do like your garden. I like its' grace and elegance. But Tania's garden is better,
[LOOKS AROUND DESPAIRINGLY]
because it is natural.

FRANK

Nature is not why people move to this neighborhood. You could have bought a house with a chicken coop in in hippy dippy Takoma Park and been as messy and native gardeny as you wanted. But you didn't want that, did you? You wanted to put down roots here ... in a stately neighborhood with all the other K-Street lawyers and doctors and lobbyists. Why did you move here if you want to change everything?

PABLO

We don't want to change everything. We just want to add our touch to the landscape. Tania believes your plants are eroding the environment. They are foreign to the natural landscape.

FRANK

So Tania has a problem with my plants because they are from somewhere else? - Because they are...immigrant plants?

PABLO

No. Tania's problem is that your plants are ...colonialists with gross disregard for the indigenous population.

FRANK

I'm surprised that you of all people, Pablo, would defend this type of... botanical xenophobia.

PABLO

Back away Frank.

FRANK

No. You tell Tania to back away from my defenseless plants. This is a border dispute. And I'm not giving up one inch of my yard without a fight.

PABLO

You don't want to fight with me, Frank.

FRANK

I would say the same, Pablo. I've been in this town a long time. I spent 37 years at the Agency.

PABLO

The Agency?

FRANK

The Agency. I know powerful people, Pablo.

[FRANK EXITS. PABLO POURS HIS BEER ON FRANK'S FLOWER BED AND EXITS].