

STORED UP

24-DE03-W14

Jane's efforts to maintain an upscale lifestyle, clashes
with her husband's forthright expressions of faith

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON divorce papers as a pen glides slowly toward the signature line.

JANE Stevens, the middle-aged woman holding the pen, hesitates, then braces herself -- and signs her name.

Jane casts a glance up at a picture on the wall: A joyful young couple (Jane and TOM Stevens) next to a hippie-like van with a sign in the window, stating: "Jesus is Lord".

She stares hard-eyed into the desk mirror, and saddens at the sight. *Has it really come to this?*

She folds the papers and puts them in her fancy purse.

Jane opens her walk in closet: Organized, but full to the brim. Boxes with teddy bears, pillows, useless gadgets, and piles of nice looking, but inexpensive clothes that give an appearance of taste.

She pulls out an elegant top, while pushing the huge pile on top of it back into place. She succeeds, strangely enough.

Jane inspects her new look in the mirror. *Ready for battle.* She grabs her purse.

INT. DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jane corrects the dinner table, nicely set for four, and puts her purse on a drawer visible from the table, by her wedding photo. Then she adjusts the purse so that it looks its best.

INT./EXT. GARAGE/DRIVE WAY - AFTERNOON

At the very front of the open garage, lit up by the sun, TOM (50s) sits, organizing some useless gadgets for his start up business. He does not look fulfilled doing it.

Also here, boxes are piled to the roof. They hover over him, giving him little space to work.

A shadow falls over him. A silhouette in the garage doorway.

It's his wife. He gets up.

TOM
Dinner ready?

She nods. Investigates his outfit, removes some hair.

JANE
Remember what we talked about.

He nods reassuringly.

An expensive looking car turns into the driveway.

JANE
They're early!

She quickly closes the garage door. Looks earnestly at Tom.

JANE
Please. We really need this.

Tom sighs nervously..

They both turn toward the arriving guests and crack their best welcome smile.

As the guests step out, we catch a glimpse of their feet, before the garage door shuts with a bang before us.

INT. CASSEROLE - DAY

A casserole lid opens and we see Jane's nervous face looking down into it. Above her hangs a glittering chandelier.

INT. DINING ROOM -DAY

Jane dishes out the content to the stylish SERENA (40s) and her accomplished and well-to-do husband, FREDERIC (60s).

SERENA
Thank you. Smells good
(to Frederic)
Doesn't it, darling?

FREDERIC
Uh-huh.

SERENA
Well, thanks for inviting us.

JANE
Of course, Serena. It's been so long.
(to the men)
Did you guys even meet?

TOM

We said hi a couple of times. At the nursery.

FREDERIC

Barely.

JANE

Well, how's the kids? Oh, I saw your daughter in a concert a couple of years ago, by the way. She played that piano like a pro.

SERENA

She stopped. A year ago.

JANE

Oh, that's sad.

SERENA

She had to chose between modeling and piano, and I told her modeling of course. Much more profitable.

JANE

Of course. Modeling is good too.

SERENA

What about your kids? They're all studying now?

JANE

Yeah, they're doing great. Samuel is...

Serena eyes wander to assess the room.

JANE

...taking programming at the UCLA, and Hannah is doing --

Serena spots the purse.

SERENA

Oh Jane, you've got Gucci. That's impressive. I used to have that. Where did you get yours?

JANE

Well, ummm... It's... it's...

SERENA

Oh, it's not original?
(chuckles overbearingly)
That's fine. Could have fooled me.

Jane smiles politely. Tom sighs. Fred eats.

SERENA

Well, you've got a lovely home, Jane.
Quite big though, for the two of you.

TOM

I agree.

JANE

We've got 5 kids! We needed the space.

TOM

Needed. Maybe.

JANE

(slightly irritated)
Well, they come to visit still. And we
got lots of stuff, you know. Like
memories, stuff we might need. I mean,
it's our home.

Tom bites his tongue. Serena enjoys the tension.

SERENA

Well, it's a beautiful house, and if
you can afford it, then why not?

She's rubbing it in. Jane avoids Tom's stare.

JANE

Right.

Jane decides to go for it.

JANE

I heard your company is doing well.

SERENA

Oh, you heard that? Well, yes, it's
doing pretty well, isn't it darling?

FREDERIC

(busy eating)
It's doing alright.

JANE

And that you're growing, and... might need more employees...

FREDERIC

(finally looks up from his food)
You need a job?

JANE

Well, no, I have a full time job, down at the dentist office, which I love, but...

She hesitates. How shall she put it.

JANE

Well, Tom's had his own sales business the last couple of years, but you know how it is, with the financial situation now. Not easy to build something from scratch.

FREDERIC

(to Tom)
So what's your background?

TOM

It's in development. I had a great job for years, in a similar company to yours, only bigger. I helped build the company, from the ground.

JANE

He's a real people person and has had so many good ideas on how to reach new costumers. They loved him there.

Jane smiles at Tom, giving him confidence.

TOM

Yeah, I love connecting with people, helping them, you know, show them their potential. Yeah.

Jane shifts in her chair as she awaits their reaction.

FREDERIC

(to Serena)
Sounds like someone we could need.

Frederic kind of smiles at them for the first time.

SERENA
 (assesses Tom's figure)
 Yes, I could sure use some of that in
my department.

Smiles flirtatiously.

Jane ignores that. She smiles success and gives Tom the
 confirming look he's craving. A look of victory.

FREDERIC (OC)
 So why did you leave?

Jane's face suddenly changes. As does Tom's.

TOM
 Huh?

FREDERIC
 The last job. Why did you leave?

TOM
 Well...

JANE
 They had to cut back.

FREDERIC
 I thought they were growing.

JANE
 Not that year. They... they had to let
 someone go.

TOM
 Yeah, but that wasn't the reason.

JANE
 That was the reason.

SERENA
 (disbelieving)
 When he had contributed so much?

TOM
 They just didn't like what I was
 sharing.

Jane gives him a stern look, but he doesn't notice.

FREDERIC
 (to Tom)
 Sharing?

TOM
 My co-workers were asking me
 questions, and... when I get going...

FREDERIC
 What did you share with them?

TOM
 Well, I --

JANE
 Frederic, don't you want some more --

FREDERIC
 (to Tom)
 Go on.

JANE
 -- meat?

TOM
 You may not know this, but Jane and I,
 when we were newly married, we were on
 fire. We traveled around, shared the
 gospel, trusting the Lord. And he
 provided, didn't he, honey? In the
 most amazing ways.

Jane smiles apologetically.

FREDERIC
 Right, so you're Christians?

TOM
 We love the Lord.
 (to Frederic)
 Do you know Him, Fred?

Jane cringes.

FREDERIC
 Who?

TOM
 The Lord. Jesus.

Serena looks at them with disdain. Jane shrinks.

FREDERIC
Um, not personally, no.

TOM
You know, my life totally changed when
I met Jesus.

Serena shifts in her chair, clearly uncomfortable.

TOM
When I was in high school, somebody
told me that God loved me, and that he
had sent Jesus to die for my sins. Can
you imagine? I never thought anybody
could love me.

Jane glares at him. Serena puts her cutlery to the side,
although she hardly touched the food.

FREDERIC
(slightly intrigued)
Good for you.

Serena checks her phone.

TOM
It could be good for you too, Fred.
There's nothing like his love...

SERENA
(sideways to Frederic)
Darling...

FREDERIC
Huh?

Tom finally takes in the awkwardness and Jane's stare. He
looks for an escape and spots Frederic's empty plate.

TOM
Oh, sorry, do you want some more food?

He's about to say yes.

SERENA
No, sorry, we can't. I'm afraid we
need to leave already.

FREDERIC
Do we?

SERENA

Yes, darling, I just remembered we need to pick up our daughter from her... piano lesson.

Frederic looks confused.

JANE

I thought she stopped playing?

SERENA

Oh, I meant my son. He.. he plays too. We need to pick him up, darling.

JANE

Your 20 year old son?

SERENA

Yes, his car broke down. He just... texted me.

JANE

Of course.

Jane stares at her with a spiteful smile.

INT. HALLWAY -DAY

Jane lingers with the same smile when Serena and Fredric rushes out the front door.

When the door shuts, her smile vanishes, and Jane slowly turn to give Tom her deadliest look.

TOM

I'll go and do the dishes.

He quickly disappears. She looks back at the door, fuming.

INT. DINING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

Tom has almost reached the kitchen, when Jane, sprinting around the corner, places herself between Tom and the dishes.

JANE

No, you're not!

TOM

This is silly, Jane.
(moves towards the stairs)
Let's talk when you're calmer.

JANE

No, no, no, you're not getting away.

She starts following him, then remembers the purse, grabs it and runs up the stairs after him.

INT. BED ROOM - DAY

He tries to shut the bed room door. She pushes it open.

JANE

Don't shut me out!

He grabs a book and slumps down in his reading chair.

JANE

We were so close. So close to saving everything.

She opens the closet...

JANE

But now it's too late. That was your last chance.

...and starts filling a bag with Tom's things. Tom realizes and gets up, exasperated.

TOM

What do you want from me? I'm doing everything I can to please you.

JANE

No, you're not. I told you only job-related. Nothing extra, I said. Nothing like...

TOM

Sharing the gospel?
(pauses)
What happened to you, Jane?

This accusation hits hard.

TOM

What happened to us?

JANE

Responsibilities happened, Tom! Five kids. Schools, holidays, birthday parties. Good clothes so that they

wouldn't be bullied. A great environment, so they wouldn't become... drug addicts. We needed all this for their sake.

(continues to pull out stuff)

And now I need some space!

...and with it, the whole cupboard with all the boxes, clothes and stuff - comes crashing over her.

In a sea of stuff scattered around her, and a strange looking gadget on her head, she suddenly bursts out laughing. A laugh that quickly turns into a sob.

JANE

I can't take it anymore, Tom. It's too much. Too much...

(lifts up another stupid gadget)

Who needs this anyways?

She sob-laughes a little again. Tom stoops down on the floor to her.

TOM

That's the kind of things I'm trying to sell.

JANE

No wonder it's not working.

They both chuckle a little.

TOM

I understand your fear, honey. I don't know what's gonna happen, I don't know if it's gonna be fine. And I'm sorry I haven't been able to provide for you lately. I know it's been hard.

Jane nods quietly.

The afternoon sun shines through some glass decorations in the window, throwing rainbow colored lights on the wall.

Jane looks up, and spots the dancing colors near and around the picture of them. Tom sees it too. They stare in awe.

JANE

You light up when you talk about Him.

A moment.

TOM

I feel God is nudging me.... I've felt
it all along, but especially now...

He hesitates, tries to guess how she will receive it. He
can't, so he just goes for it.

TOM

I think He wants me to go into full
time ministry. Work full time for him.

She looks as shocked as he feared. But there's also something
else. Resignation? Determination?

Jane gets up, goes quietly over to her purse, and takes out
the folded papers. Her eyes fill with tears. Has she decided?

She turns around, lifts up the papers - and tears them up in
front of him.

He doesn't quite understand. Or does he?

TOM

I will try to provide for you...

She shakes her head.

JANE

No, Tom, you follow Him.

He is puzzled.

And He will provide.

She smiles warmly. Tears now swell in Tom's eyes as well.
They embrace.

Colored lights still dance around the picture on the wall.

EXT. FIELD - AFTERNOON

Behind their house, a group of birds fly over a ripe wheat
field, bathed in the afternoon sun.

FADE OUT.

