

'TIL DEATH

SYNOPSIS

A newlywed couple, Glenn and Dolores, arrive in their new home following their wedding. The happy couple celebrates, but Dolores acts strangely as time passes. When

Dolores's mother, Mrs. Kane, unexpectedly shows up, secrets are revealed as Glenn discovers that his bride has a darker past than he could have imagined. Glenn learns just what it means to sacrifice for your wife.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

GLENN: Dolores's new husband, an all-American young man.

DOLORES: Glenn's new wife, a youthful, demure bride.

MRS. KANE: Dolores's mother, a severe woman and commanding presence.

SETTING

Middle America in the early 1960s. The living room of Glenn and Dolores's new home.

SCENE 1

GLENN and DOLORES'S early 1960s living room in their new home that's reminiscent of The Dick Van Dyke Show. Glenn enters through the front door over the threshold, carrying Dolores in his arms. Glenn is dressed in a suit and tie, and Dolores in a white tea length wedding gown. They are the picture perfect couple. Dolores giggles as they step inside and as he gently lays her down onto the couch. He kisses her and makes room for himself on the couch beside her.

GLENN

Welcome home, Mrs. Montgomery.

DOLORES

Why, thank you, Mr. Montgomery.

(She wraps her arms around him.)

DOLORES

Oh, Glenn! I'm so excited about starting our new life together.

GLENN

So am I, darling.

DOLORES

Wasn't the wedding just beautiful?

GLENN

It was everything I could have asked for. And I think I'm going to enjoy our honeymoon even more.

(He leans in as he's about to embrace her and give her a passionate kiss. She quickly gets off the couch.)

DOLORES

Champagne?

GLENN

We already had some at the reception.

DOLORES

Don't worry, I got us another bottle for tonight.

GLENN

But you don't drink.

(Dolores heads towards the kitchen.)

DOLORES

It's our wedding night, silly. We have to celebrate!

(Dolores enters the offstage kitchen.)

GLENN

(yelling to her)

Maybe I should help you with it. It can be hard to open.

(The pop of a champagne bottle is heard. After a few moments, Dolores enters with two flutes of champagne. She sits next to Glenn and hands him a glass. She takes a sip.)

DOLORES

Mmm, it's good. Try some.

(Glenn brings the glass up to his lips, then stops and sets the drink on the side table.)

GLENN

I think I might save it for after tonight's "festivities." I don't want to get too tired to enjoy our wedding night.

DOLORES

(laughs)

C'mon, have a little fun. Just take a few sips. It will loosen you up a little.

GLENN

I'll get to it later. We're going to stay up late, after all. Besides, I'm already feeling a little loose.

(Glenn goes to kiss her but she takes another sip of champagne.)

DOLORES

I just wanted to celebrate.

(He kisses her on the neck and she pulls away and reaches for the side table next to her. She opens the drawer and pulls out what looks like a ceremonial knife. She holds it and turns towards Glenn.)

GLENN

Oh my god! What is that?

DOLORES

It's a wedding gift. It's been passed down from the women in our family for generations. It's used to seal us together, to form an eternal pact. It's only to be used in a private ceremony, for obvious reasons.

(She grabs his hand and opens his palm, acting like she's going to cut it open.)

We will bring our palms together and our blood will mix as one.

(Glenn pulls his hand away.)

GLENN

(laughs)

I think maybe you've had enough alcohol for the night.

(Dolores gives him a big grin and sets the blade on the table.)

DOLORES

I saw it in the window of a pawn shop and thought it'd be a fun joke.

GLENN

Well, I don't know about *fun*, exactly. I didn't know you had such an offbeat sense of humor.

DOLORES

You're going to learn all sorts of things about me now that I'm your wife.

GLENN

My beautiful wife.

(She gives him a quick peck on the cheek.)

DOLORES

I've looked forward to this night for so long. I know it couldn't have been easy for you, waiting all this time.

GLENN

A year is a long time.

DOLORES

But it'll be worth the wait. I wanted to save myself for the perfect man on my wedding night. And now my dream is coming true.

GLENN

Dolores, I think there's something you should know.

DOLORES

What? Did I do something wrong?

GLENN

No, no, you haven't done anything wrong. In fact you are so wonderful, I probably don't deserve you.

DOLORES

Now why would you say that?

GLENN

(sighs)

Well, this is hard for me to say, but-

(MRS. KANE opens the front door and steps inside, holding a set of house keys. She is an imposing figure, her face emanating no warmth.)

Mrs. Kane?

MRS. KANE

I thought I'd let myself in.

GLENN

(in a lowered voice.)

What is your mother doing here?

DOLORES

Mother! So good to see you.

(Mrs. Kane steps into the living room and examines Glenn's untouched flute of champagne.)

MRS. KANE

Is this his second glass?

DOLORES

No, he hasn't touched it.

GLENN

I'm sorry, but it's late and it's our wedding night. I'm sure you understand-

(Mrs. Kane lays her hand on the blade.)

MRS. KANE

(to Dolores)

So you haven't begun yet, I take it?

(Dolores shakes her head. Glenn stands up and backs away from them.)

GLENN

Begun what?

(Dolores look at him, expressionless.)

Begun what?

(They both look at him with nothing behind their eyes.)

What is in that champagne?

DOLORES

I told you that you were going to learn all sorts of things about me.

GLENN

I thought you meant you leave your dirty socks on the floor or drool in your sleep! Not-whatever this is!

MRS. KANE

What *this* is, is far beyond you.

GLENN

What does she mean by that? What is going on?

(Dolores stands up and approaches him and he backs away from her.)

DOLORES

The one before you didn't...work out as we had planned. We were so close.

(The women both shake their heads in pity.)

But you're different.

GLENN

What do you mean, "the one before" me?

(Dolores gives him a sweet smile and holds his hands.)

DOLORES

When I said I found my perfect man, I meant it. You are the perfect man. So honest, so pious, and faithful. You're everything I have been waiting for.

MRS. KANE

That we have been waiting for.

GLENN

And what's that?

DOLORES

A virgin.

GLENN

(laughs nervously)

For what? A sacrifice?

(The women both stare at him coldly.)

MRS. KANE

Get him.

(Glenn makes for the door to escape but Dolores manages to restrain him easily.)

GLENN

God, you're strong!

MRS. KANE

(with a devilish grin)

You have no idea. And she's about to grow even stronger.

(Mrs. Kane picks up the blade and moves towards Glenn. Dolores throws him on the ground and he sits up on his knees.)

GLENN

This is all I ever was to you? Just a pig for the slaughter?

DOLORES

You serve a purpose greater than yourself. You should feel honored.

GLENN

Somehow I don't.

(Mrs. Kane stands in front of Glenn, then hands Dolores the blade. She takes it with a slight bow of her head.)

DOLORES

My ever faithful husband.

(Dolores begins to raise the blade. Glenn begins to laugh, nearly hysterically. Dolores lowers the blade in confusion.)

What are you laughing about?

GLENN

What I was about to tell you, darling, before we were so rudely interrupted by my mother-in-law, was about just that.

DOLORES

What do you mean?

GLENN

Do you remember that girl who works in my office, the receptionist? The one you met at last year's Christmas party?

DOLORES

(voice drops)

Kathy?

GLENN

Yes, Kathy. The brunette with the tight sweaters

DOLORES

I remember her. The one you told me not to worry about.

GLENN

Yeah, well, as it turns out, you were right to worry.

DOLORES

You cheated on me?

GLENN

It was when we were first dating, we had only been out twice. It didn't mean anything..
Wait! Why are you acting so high and almighty? You've been planning to *kill* me!

DOLORES

I never took you for a cheat!

(Dolores is caught off guard and turns away from him in distress. Glenn takes this opportunity to get up and grab the knife away from her. He points it at her.)

GLENN

Ha! Now who's in control?

MRS. KANE

Dolores! I thought you had everything set up perfectly this time. I am so disappointed in you.

(Mrs. Kane effortlessly plucks the blade from Glenn's hand and crosses to the front door.)

DOLORES

Mother, no! Next time I'll get it right. I promise!

MRS. KANE

After this, there may not be a next time.

(Mrs. Kane leaves. Dolores falls to the floor, crying.)

DOLORES

You ruined it! You ruined everything!

(She crawls on her hands and knees to the front door, still crying. She pulls herself up with effort and opens the door.)

And on our wedding night!

(Dolores exits and slams the door behind her. Glenn opens the door and shouts after her.)

GLENN

I'm keeping the house! And I'm decorating it however I want!

(Glenn closes the door and pulls a flowery painting off the wall, tossing it to the floor like a temperamental child. He slowly moves to the couch and plops onto it.)

Whew. That was a close call.

(He looks at the phone, then decides to dial it.)

Hi, Kathy? It's Glenn. So, I've got an interesting story for you.

(Without thinking, he reaches for the flute of champagne and takes a large swig of it. His eyes widen as he suddenly realizes what he has just done. His face drops as does the receiver.)

Shit.

BLACKOUT.