

1 INT. SEMOLINA'S PENTHOUSE - EVENING

The year is 1954. We see a beautiful view of Central Park from the view of a gorgeous, expensive 59th street penthouse. Beautiful SEMOLINA TASSLE, late 40's, lounges on a velvet red couch with a glass of wine reading Anna Karenina. She is wearing mature lingerie and a satin robe. Most notably, she wears a magnificent, almost blindingly sparkling ruby necklace. Her beautiful white cat, CHARLES, purrs at her feet. The phone rings. She takes a sip of her wine, closes her book, slinks over to the telephone, and answers.

SEMOLINA

Hello? Oh, hello Chester. Yes, I got your note from the doorman. No, I've had plenty of time, I just didn't want to.

Her maid, HILDA, early 60's Hungarian woman, comes over to the phone.

HILDA

Is everything alright, Miss Tassle? Is it him again?

SEMOLINA

(Putting the phone to her chest)  
Yes, Hilda, everything's just fine. I can handle him.

Hilda nods and walks off.

Semolina reaches for an open jar of Maraschino cherries that is sitting next to the phone and begins munching on them seductively while she admires herself in a large ornate mirror.

SEMOLINA

I've told you, Chester, I'm simply not interested. Oh, I said that once, and I was drunk. I meant nothing by it. Not to mention we were at a party with your mother and I felt pressured. She's a rather domineering woman, you know.

Continuous shot: As CHESTER mutters something on the other line, Semolina, still admiring herself in the mirror, removes her jewels and places them in a velvet box before her. She plucks another cherry from the jar and places the phone on the table, walking away leaving Chester blubbering. Zoom in

on the jewelry box as she walks away. A few seconds pass, and a black gloved hand snatches the jewels from the box. We pan back out and Semolina reappears in the mirror and picks up the phone. As Chester continues confessing his love, she grabs another cherry from the jar. Before she can put it in her mouth, she glances down.

CHESTER (PHONE)

Semolina?

Semolina shrieks at the top of her lungs when she sees that her precious jewels are missing.

TITLE SEQUENCE.