

76 EXT. GREENBRIER HOTEL - WALKWAY - MORNING 76

Margot walks back to the cottage with Simone and Kate.

SIMONE
That was the best breakfast buffet
ever!

Kate holds her stomach.

KATE
I swear I've gained 5 pounds since
we got here.

MARGOT
It's Christmas. Calories don't
count on holidays!

They all laugh.

START → EVELYN (O.C.)
Margot Hammond?

Margot stops, turns to see a familiar face coming her way
with her husband RON... EVELYN MARCH (MID-50'S), well kempt,
sophisticated.

Margot freezes.

MARGOT
Evelyn March?

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN
I thought that was you!

MARGOT
What are you..?

EVELYN
We have family in the area and have always wanted to stay here at Christmastime. This year all the pieces fell into place, so we thought, why not?

(realizing)
Where are my manners. Ron, this is Margot Hammond, the pianist I've told you about. This is my husband, Ron.

Ron smiles. They shake hands.

RON
It's a pleasure. We were at your last performance.

MARGOT
I remember...

KATE
(mutters)
Believe me, she remembers.

MARGOT
This is my sister, Kate, and my Niece, Simone.

Ron and Evelyn exchange pleasant greetings.

RON
We're looking forward to the concert tonight.

Margot looks like she's caught in headlights.

MARGOT
You'll be at the concert?

EVELYN
Yes. Didn't they tell you?

MARGOT
No, but I'm really...

Kate gives her a subtle nudge.

(CONTINUED)

Role: EVELYN

MARGOT (CONT'D)
...looking forward to playing for
you.

Evelyn gives her a polite smile.

EVELYN
Whatever it is, I'm sure you'll be-

MARGOT
Technically gifted?

EVELYN
I was going to say "wonderful."
Anyway, good luck tonight.

←END

Margot does her best to remain composed as Evelyn and Ron
continue on. Margot is left feeling disheartened,
overwhelmed and upset.

Role: EVELYN

87 CONTINUED: (2)

87

Evelyn claps politely, but her true feelings are hidden behind a neutral expression.

DISSOLVE TO:

88 EXT. GREENBRIER HOTEL - BALLROOM - NIGHT

88

Energized GUESTS and LOCALS filter out of the ballroom, heading for the reception at the hotel. ICE LANTERNS light the way.

The POP of champagne is heard (PRE-LAPPING).

89 INT. GREENBRIER HOTEL - BALLROOM - SAME (NIGHT)

89

The post-performance reception is underway.

TOWERS OF HOLIDAY COOKIES visible. Along with CHAMPAGNE and HOT CHOCOLATE for the kids, and next to a Christmas tree, a table with gift bags of Greenbrier ornaments for guests to take home.

Jackson is in the midst of the gathering, talking to Pam.

PAM

That was beautiful. The finale was just perfect. And you were great, too.

JACKSON

Thanks. I'm glad you liked it.

PAM

Everyone did. What a wonderful event. How you pulled this together on such short notice...it's a real testament to your leadership skills.

JACKSON

Thank you.

Pam looks around. Jackson tenses, not sure which way this is going to go.

PAM

Since it's the night before Christmas I might as well give you an early gift...unofficially. The committee met yesterday. We all agreed you're perfect for the job.

(MORE)

FIY



(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PAM (CONT'D)

We'll have an official press
release after Christmas and you'll
start after the new year.

Jackson is stunned, then can't contain his smile.

JACKSON

I don't know what to say.

PAM

How about, yes?

Jackson smiles.

JACKSON

Yes! It's an honor.

PAM

We know you'll do great things.
Congratulations.

JACKSON

Thank you. Merry Christmas.

PAM

Merry Christmas.

As Jackson lets this sink in we --

ANGLE ON Margot, talking to her family.

TODD

Truly amazing.

RENEE

I went through a whole pack of
tissues.

KATE

And what you did with it, wow. Dad
would have been so proud.

MARGOT

Okay, don't make me cry now.

Everyone laughs.

Margot turns to see Evelyn approaching.

EVELYN

I just wanted to congratulate you.

(beat)

(MORE)

START →

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN (CONT'D)

I know I've been tough on you lately, but that's only because I've followed your work for years. You have that rare gift to not just entertain people but to transcend and move them.

(beat)

And tonight you did that.

MARGOT

Thank you so much.

EVELYN

(to everyone)

Well, Merry Christmas.

MARGOT

You, too.

END →

Margot and her family can barely contain their excitement as Evelyn walks away.

KATE

I'd say that's a pretty positive review. You should probably share the good news with Jackson.

MARGOT

You're right. Where is he?

RENEE

I saw him by the ornament table a few minutes ago.

Margot excuses herself and walks away.