

**FROM "1989"**

**CYNTHIA**

***CYNTHIA examines her emotional state***

We'll have to pull out. We'll have to take a big loss.

*(They are silent a while. STEPHANIE rolls a joint.)*

You put everything you want on the back burner. "Okay. I'm gonna make a life with someone. I'll put what I want on the back burner." And you think you can keep it there. On low heat. Then one day you look and it's burnt. The pot's all black. And you scrub it and you scrub it until your arm aches. Then you say, "Fuck it." And throw it away. And you go to your room and lay on your bed and cry. Like you did when you were thirteen. Then you compose yourself. You go to the mirror. Straighten yourself up. Put a little make-up on. And go back out to the life you share. Just a little thinner, just a little more...insubstantial.

*(CYNTHIA makes the gestures of a shrug with her palms up, then recognizes the gesture.)*

God! *(revulsion)* My mother used to do this. When my father'd come home drunk And after Anthony got killed. And on the last night in the nursing home. I asked her if she wanted to eat her jello.