

WILDFLOWERS

an original action/adventure

screenplay by

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FADE IN

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

A Social Worker for the County of Los Angeles Dept. of Social Services is assigned to investigate Cody's home life with his divorced and single Playboy Bunny mother Lisa Breedlove after he is suspended from school for drawing a full nude of his fourth grade substitute teacher.

Cody intentionally forgets to remind his mom Lisa of the Social Worker's home inspection that occurs the morning after Lisa concludes a 'Leather and Lace' Halloween party in her living room with another Bunny and their two playboys an hour before the Social Worker's home inspection early that morning.

Before Cody and his younger brother Teddy leave for school, late again, Lisa is asleep from her love hangover while the Social Worker Mrs. Lipinski gains access to her apartment by threatening the Boys with another truancy violation if they don't let her inside "immediately" to complete her assignment.

Unwittingly, they allow the Social Worker access and try to wake their mom Lisa, but it's too late as the Social Worker collects enough incriminating evidence of sexual misconduct, illegal substances, and child endangerment to press charges against Lisa as an "unfit mother."

Days later, Lisa is served with a notice to appear at a custody hearing at the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

BAILIFF

All rise!

On one side of the center aisle stands a graying middle aged Social Worker (MRS. LIPINSKI) wearing a drab wool blouse. Directly across from her stands a sexy Playboy Bunny (LISA BREEDLOVE) fitted in an airy summer blouse.

JUDGE

Be seated.

Next to Lisa sits her Public Defender (MR. COHEN) and next to him sit Lisa's sons (CODY) and (TEDDY), ages ten and eight. As the two Boys jostle for position the younger one accidentally elbows the older one's artist's valise, ejecting a seminude drawing of Lisa in a Playboy Bunny outfit that lands in Mr. Cohen's lap.

LISA
(snatches the drawing)
That's what got us here in the first
place!

Cody glances up at her breasts while Mr. Cohen glances down
at them.

CODY
No! Those are what got us here in
the first place.

JUDGE
Our first case this morning is 12-15-
001, dated December 15, 1967 to
address charges made by the County
of Los Angeles Dept. of Social
Services against Lisa Breedlove for
licentious sexual behavior and
possession of illegal substances in
the presence of her sons, and child
endangerment for not providing adult
supervision for her sons while she
is away at work at the Playboy Club
in Hollywood.

MR. COHEN
We can explain all of them.

JUDGE
I sure hope so, because I'm inclined
to remove custody of the Boys from
their mother and reassign it to foster
care.

LISA
Foster care!

INT. COURTROOM DEFENDANT'S POV - DAY

MRS. LIPINSKI
The evidence I collected your honor
on the morning after Halloween
suggests there was a mini-orgy held
in Lisa Breedlove's living room
directly next to her sons' bedroom.

LISA
(to the Social Worker)
You tricked my Boys into letting you
in. You had no right to be there!

JUDGE

Is this true?

MR. COHEN

(cuts off the Social
Worker)

Your honor, my defendant never knew about the inspection or confirmed it, so technically, the Social Worker entered the premises without Lisa's permission, so the evidence used to make her case is inadmissible.

JUDGE

If that's true Mrs. Lipinski, I'm inclined to agree with the defendant and your evidence is inadmissible.

MRS. LIPINSKI

But this is! Here is the suspension notice and the nude drawing by Cody I received from his principal. Would you like to see them?

JUDGE

Yes I would!

MR. COHEN

And me too!

JUDGE

Plaintiff's and defendant's council, please approach my bench.

After the Judge examines the new evidence, options are discussed between the Judge, Social Worker and Public Defender. When there's a consensus, the Judge motions to Mr. Cohen and Mrs. Lipinski to return to their seats.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Are there any nearby relatives who can watch the Boys for a couple of weeks?

LISA

The Boy's grandparents, like always over the holidays.

JUDGE

And the Boys' father, Sean Breedlove?

LISA
Sean! They don't even know him.
Besides, he's been overseas since
they can remember!

MRS. LIPINSKI
Correction! I've contacted his
commanding officer and he's ending
his final tour in Vietnam at the end
of this year to start a detective
agency.

LISA
What are you saying?

JUDGE
What I'm saying is the evidence
presented, whether obtained legally
or not, indicates to me you're an
unfit mother.

LISA
Unfit mother? No way! Just ask the
Boys.

CODY
(proudly)
She's very fit! She measures 36-26-
34!

The COURTROOM erupts with LAUGHTER.

MRS. LIPINSKI
Yes she's fit! She's fit for non-
stop sex. Just ask her next door
neighbor who calls her the 'Moaning
Lisa.' Need I say more?

INT. COURTROOM JUDGE'S POV - DAY

JUDGE
After consulting with Mr. Cohen and
Mrs. Lipinski, this is my opinion on
the matter. Because you've had a
spotless record up until now, I'm
going to suggest you choose one of
two options -- and neither of them
involve foster care.

Lisa leans forward and Cody and Teddy hold their breath.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I've already spoken to the Boys' grandfather Buck Staley and he's agreed to take temporary custody while you spend either two weeks in jail as a consequence of the charges filed by the Dept. of Social Services...

LISA

Two weeks in jail!

JUDGE

...or, two weeks of voluntary psychiatric treatment and drug therapy at a new program started by Lanterman State Hospital.

LISA

I'm not crazy or a drug addict! You're making a big mistake!

The judge motions to the Bailiff and he shakes his head at Lisa.

JUDGE

It's only two weeks Miss Breedlove! It's your decision! Voluntary treatment or involuntary incarceration?

LISA

(thinking on it)
Since you put it that way...voluntary treatment.

JUDGE

Good choice Miss Breedlove!

LISA

What happens next?

JUDGE

The Bailiff will escort you to a holding cell until your father picks you up. The next step is to go back home, pack enough items for your two week stays, and he will transport you to Lanterman Hospital for check-in and return home with the two Boys.

(MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

If all goes per plan, this can happen by the end of today.

LISA

And after that?

JUDGE

The court will release custody of the Boys back to you on a probationary period of six months. At the point in time Mrs. Lipinski will reinspect your living conditions and interview Teddy and Cody...

LISA

(to the Social Worker)

With my permission!

(mumbles)

Bitch!

JUDGE

Yes! With your permission and if the report is good one and there is a positive father figure in the Boys' lives, I will re-instate permanent custody. Do I make myself clear?

LISA

Crystal!

JUDGE

Wonderful! Case dismissed.

INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY

BAILIFF

You three can go now.

As soon as the bailiff slides open the cell door, the Boys fly into Buck's arms, nearly toppling him over.

BUCK

Easy Boys! I'm not as young as I used to be!

LISA

Can we go now?

BUCK

Of course!

EXT. LANTERMAN STATE HOSPITAL - DAY

Upon arrival at the security gate to Lanterman State Hospital, which looks more like a minimum security prison, Lisa says good-bye to her Boys while Buck holds her suitcase.

LISA
I'm going to miss you two!

BOYS
(in unison)
You too Mommy!

LISA
Call me every night. Including
tonight!

BOYS
We will!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

While Buck parks the truck in a spacious two-car garage in a modern Gold Medallion Home on a cul-de-sac perched against the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, the Boys rush through the door to a warm kitchen and into their Grandma's arms.

BOYS
Grandma!

LAURIE
There you are and perfect timing!
I've got dinner ready so wash up and
let's eat.

BUCK
Amen to that!

When dinner is over and the desserts too, it's time to call Lisa.

CODY
Can we call Mommy?

LAURIE
Right now?

BUCK
Of course! Let me find the number.

OPERATOR

(o.s.)

Hello! You've reached Lanterman State Hospital. Can I help you?

BUCK

Yes you can please. Can we speak with Lisa Breedlove? She's a new patient in Ward D?

OPERATOR

(o.s.)

Let me patch you through. Please wait.

FEMALE NURSE

(o.s.)

Ward D. Who's calling?

Heard in the background is a women's voice, like Lisa's, screaming, as if she's being restrained.

BUCK

Hello! My name is Buck Staley. Is my daughter there?

The screaming continues until a Male Nurse's voice in the background can be heard over hers.

MALE NURSE

(o.s.)

Hold her down!

Within a few seconds, the screaming subsides to an inaudible mumble.

FEMALE NURSE

(o.s.)

My apologies! She can't come to the phone right now!

BUCK

Why not?

FEMALE NURSE

Because she's been sedated! And she won't be able to take any more calls this evening and over the weekend! Please try again on Monday.

CLICK! The call ends!

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Come Saturday morning, Laurie teases the Boys about a big surprise on Sunday. In the meantime they make get well cards for Lisa using photos from her old scrap book that holds a 5-year old driver's license of Sean.

CODY

Is this Dad's old driver's license?

LAURIE

How did that get here?

Cody inspects it carefully and slides it into his pocket as a keepsake.

TEDDY

What was he like?

LAURIE

We liked him! But Sean and Lisa married too young! When Sean started his first tour in Vietnam, his absence broke Lisa's heart.

CODY

Do you stay in contact with him?

LAURIE

No! We lost track of your Dad through Lisa. He moved from army base to army base, but she refused to follow.

Laurie reminisces as she digs through more of Lisa's photos.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Oh my! Look at this picture. It's of Lisa in a one-piece bathing suit...from her senior year in high school when she won Miss Bellflower.

BOYS

Wow!

CODY

She looks so different now!

LAURIE

She acted different! She was a good girl then. Captain of the girls swim team! An A+ student! Now look at her Working at that Playboy Club! It just makes me want to...

BUCK

(cuts her off)

...Inform the Boys they're going to church with us tomorrow.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (MONDAY)

Having survived their first day of Sunday School, the Boys are anxious to call Lisa Monday evening after dinner. After Laurie clears the kitchen table, everyone gathers around the phone to make the call.

LISA

(o.s.)

Hello! Are these my Boys calling?

BOYS

(ecstatic)

Yes Mommy!

LISA

(o.s.)

Wonderful! Are your Grandparents taking good care of you?

CODY

Yes! Grandpa taught me how to make a martini.

TEDDY

And he lets me taste test them.

BUCK

He makes them like you used to!

Lisa laughs and everyone smiles.

BUCK (CONT'D)

(pauses)

So how are the programs you're taking coming along.

LISA

(o.s.)

Good!

LAURIE

And the other people in there?

LISA

(o.s.)

Nice! If I keep having good days
like today, I might get to see you
on Christmas. Would you like that?

CODY

For real?

TEDDY

No joking!

BUCK

That's wonderful news Baby! Let's
count on it.

LAURIE

I'll make the best Christmas dinner
ever!

LISA

(o.s.)

Agreed! The Nurse is letting me
know my time is up now. Same time
tomorrow?

BUCK AND LAURIE

Yes, same time tomorrow.

CODY AND TEDDY

Goodnight Mommy!

LISA

(o.s.)

Goodnight Boys! I love you!

BOYS

(in unison)

We love you too!

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

It's Christmas day at the Staley's and everyone is gathered
around the Christmas tree.

BUCK
(to Boys)
Close your eyes and count to ten!

The Boys start their countdown and Lisa silently walks into the kitchen from the garage and stands behind them. Before they're done she covers their eyes with her hands.

LISA
Merry Christmas you two! Did you miss me?

Without a doubt they did, and they swivel and fly into Lisa's open arms.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

After the best Christmas dinner ever, Laurie cleans up and it's now time for a custody discussion.

BUCK
Boys! Please get washed up and ready for bed and close the hallway door behind you.

LISA
Me and your Grandparents have adult things to discuss.

LAURIE
I'll come and check on you in a little bit.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

After the Boys wash-up and slip into their beds they can't resist eavesdropping, so they creep down the hallway with Robes behind them and press their ears to the door.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (SAME)

LISA
I know what you're up to! You're trying to turn my Boys against me so they can go live with Sean.

LAURIE
The Boys deserve a normal life with a father!

LISA
You don't think I live a normal life?

BUCK
You're kidding me?

LISA
How many sons can boast their mom is
a Playboy Bunny?

LAURIE
Who would want to?

LISA
I'm doing what's best for them! In
my own way. So what if I broke a
few rules and laws along the way.
I'm a big girl now and it's time you
two accept that.

BUCK
You're lucky the judge went easy on
you!

LAURIE
You truly are an unfit mother!

LISA
If I'm an unfit mother? What does
that make you?

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT (SAME)

As tensions mount and no one answers her question, Lisa shouts
out the answer.

LISA
(o.s.)
A bitch and a bastard!

With their ears pressed as hard as ever against the door,
the Boys wait for what's to follow.

SLAP!!! Robes turns in circles and begs to get out the door!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (SAME)

BUCK
How dare you call your mother that?

LISA
You fucking slapped me!

LAURIE
Don't let her go!.. She's trying to
get away!..

LISA
Get your hands off of me! I'm going
to scream! Cody and Teddy! Help
me!

Non the kitchen floor, Lisa, Buck and Laurie roll up against
the hallway door so no matter how hard the Boys try to push
it open, they're outweighed three to one.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT (SAME)

LISA
(o.s.)
Your grandparents are on top of me!
I can't open the door!

CODY
(desperate to help)
We can't open it either! There's
too much weight against it.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (SAME)

LISA
(slips free)
Open it now!

With no weight against the door, the Boys push it open for
Robes to slip through. When he's outside, he chases the
Grandparents off of Lisa and when the Boys are through the
door, Robes has both Lisa and Grandparents at bay in opposite
corners.

LISA (CONT'D)
(to the Boys)
Come with me! Let's go!

When she reaches for them, Robes lunges at her. When Buck
tries the same, he lunges at him.

CODY
Mommy! What are you going to do?

Lisa moves slowly away from everybody and out of the kitchen using Robes as a shield.

BUCK
Don't try it Lisa!

LAURIE
You won't get away with it!

LISA
This isn't over yet!

BUCK
It is for you if you don't stop now!
You'll violate your court order if
you try to leave!

LAURIE
Just like you've violated your family!

INT. LIVING ROOM FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Stupefied, the Boys don't know what to do.

LISA
You may have won the day, but you
haven't won the battle. I'll be
back for them later. I promise!

LAURIE
Where do you think you're going?

LISA
Not back to Lanterman. That's for
sure!

Turning her back on them, she runs out the front door and into the darkness.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (SAME)

A half hour later, two Claremont police officers take a statement from Buck and Laurie in the kitchen.

OFFICER # 1
Okay Mr. and Mrs. Staley, we're going
to search your street and if we don't
find her, we'll patrol the
neighborhood in a mile radius and
see if she turns up.

OFFICER # 2

Without any transportation, and on foot, she couldn't have gone far. Here's our dispatch number in case she comes back. Don't worry Mr. and Mrs. Staley -- we'll find her.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

The next morning is a down one for the Boys. Lisa is still missing, and the Boys are in no mood to listen to hear their grandparent's version of what happened last night, so they drown their sorrows outside in the front yard with a soda, where Laurie can watch them from the kitchen window.

NEIGHBORHOOD BOY

Hey! You're the Staley grandkids, right? The ones with the Playboy Bunny mom?

CODY

Yes...

NEIGHBORHOOD BOY

My name is Kirk Fletcher!

CODY

I'm Cody and this is Teddy.

KIRK

And this is Danny, my younger brother. Over here is Richard, Bobby, Timmy, Greg and Manny. Our Lemo Gang!

CODY

Pleased to meet you!

KIRK

Hey! Why don't you play with us in the groves? We want to hear all about your mom!

CODY

You do?

KIRK

Sure! We think she's the coolest!

CODY

Can we bring our dog?

KIRK
Of course!

TEDDY
Will we get in trouble?

KIRK
Most likely!

CODY
Okay. Count us in!

KIRK
Great! But before we go there, you
need to learn a new song and it goes
like this:

*Scarecrow of doom, algae bloom. Smudge pots at night, coyotes
that bite! Throw your fruit with all your might. Throw them
high, throw them low, throw them where they need to go! Over
here, over there! If you really dare. You can't hit me in
my underwear!*

EXT. CITRUS GROVES - DAY

As they sing along, one by one, each boy in line vanishes
into the thick citrus foliage. When they're no longer visible
and only their song sings on to its final verse, the last
thing heard from the center of the grove is fun and laughter.

LEMO GANG
(o.s.)
Tag! Cody and Teddy! You're it!
Come and get us!

FADE OUT DEC. 1967

FIVE MONTHS LATER

FADE IN MAY 1968

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

MISS JERKINS
Okay class. Great "Show and Tell."
I'm so impressed with all the things
your dads do. Cody, you're next.

INT. CLASSROOM PODIUM - DAY

CODY

As you all know, I have a dad. But I don't know him! So there's not much to say but what my grandparents told me about him. His name is Sean and he's an Army Ranger, a tracker, and he saves POW's behind enemy lines. He's a patriot and loves his country and I'm very proud of him. I hope to meet him one day. Thank you for listening!

MISS JERKINS

Excellent Cody! If your dad was here today he would be proud of you too! You've come a long way since your first day in my Bible Class. My sinner to saint success story!...My "D" to "A" grade student!...Will miracles never cease to exist?

CODY

Thank you Miss Jerkins!

MISS JERKINS

It's we who should be thanking you! To think you're now representing St. Paul's tomorrow for our diocese Episcopalian Academic Olympics in not one subject but two: Geography and Current Events!

INT. CLASSROOM DOOR - DAY (SAME)

Before Miss Jerkins calls another student up to the podium the church secretary Miss Penny pokes her head into the classroom with an urgent message.

MISS JERKINS

This minute?

MISS PENNY

Yes! This minute.

The students look around the room, trying to guess who's the lucky boy or girl getting out of class today.

MISS JERKINS

Cody, please follow Miss Penny.

CODY
I haven't done anything have I?

MISS JERKINS
Please follow Miss Penny to the office
at once.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - DAY

As instructed, Cody follows Miss Penny to the holding cell known as the Teacher's Lounge. Once inside she locks the door behind him, and Teddy already detained there.

MISS PENNY
Stay here until I come get you.

TEDDY
What are you doing here?...

CODY
...I don't know! Why are you here?

TEDDY
Beats me! I've done nothing. What
about you?

CODY
Nada! I just finished my "Show and
Tell" about Dad and was called to
the office.

TEDDY
Weird!

MISS PENNY
You two can come now. Follow me!

INT. FATHER HAMMOND'S OFFICE - DAY

MISS PENNY
Step this way, Father Hammond is
expecting you.

As soon as Father Hammond's door is closed, he invites the Boys to approach his desk. As they do, they're not aware of Lisa standing behind them, dressed like she's going to church.

LISA
Hi Boys! Did you miss me?

As if they heard a ghost from their past, the Boys freeze, then turn around to see her. Without hesitating, they melt into Lisa's open arms.

CODY
 (whispers in Lisa's
 ear)
 Why are you dressed like Betty
 Crocker?

The prior conversation between Father Hammond and Lisa resumes in earnest.

FATHER HAMMOND
 ...If you think I'm going to release
 them into your custody so you can
 escort them to your father's birthday
 party?...You must be taking me for a
 sinning fool?

CODY
 Birthday party?

TEDDY
 Whose birthday party?

LISA
 Sillies! Your grandfather's, of
 course! If I would have told you
 earlier it wouldn't be a secret now
 would it?

The Boys are confused but play along because they're so excited to see Lisa and getting out of school early as well for their Grandpa's birthday party.

LISA (CONT'D)
 Now if you'll excuse us, we have a
 surprise birthday party to attend to
and, we don't want to be late!

Father Hammond presses a green button on his intercom phone at the corner of his desk.

FATHER HAMMOND
 Miss Penny! Have you been able to
 reach the Boy's grandparents?

MISS PENNY
 (over heavy static)
 No!

FATHER HAMMOND
 (taps his fingers)
 Keep calling!...And try the restaurant
 called the...the...

LISA
 ...Phoenix!

FATHER HAMMOND
 Phoenix Restaurant!

LISA
 (insisting)
 I'm paying that limo parked out front
 big bucks to sit there.

MISS PENNY
 I got a hold of Mr. Staley's machine
 shop! The foreman said he left early
 for lunch already, like he always
 does, for the Phoenix.

LISA
 Is that clock, right?

FATHER HAMMOND
 (to the Boys)
 I'm sure you're well aware your mother
 has requested I release you from
 school today in her care. However,
 under no circumstances am I allowed
 to do that without your grandparents'
 approval.

LISA
 (threatening)
 If we don't leave here right now and
 get there before he arrives it won't
 be a surprise!

Father Hammond presses the red button next to the green one
 so his conversation with Miss Penny cannot be heard on the
 intercom SPEAKER. It's ineffective because her voice is so
 high, everyone can still hear her every word from down the
 hallway.

FATHER HAMMOND
 Please call the restaurant to confirm
 there is a reservation for...for...

LISA
...Buck Staley!

MISS PENNY
There is a reservation in that name
for a party of five!

LISA
Party of five! There you have it!

FATHER HAMMOND
(counts on his fingers)
You're right! There's five of you.

LISA
Good! I'm glad you can count to
five because if you don't release my
Boys in five seconds...I will scream
bloody murder...and forceful rape...so
loud and for so long...you won't be
able to fill a single pew in your
church, or a desk in your school,
for years to come.

FATHER HAMMOND
(to Miss Penny)
Please have Mr. Staley paged so I
can talk to him directly.

LISA
(starts countdown)
One!

FATHER HAMMOND
Can I get you anything to drink while
we wait for Mr. Staley?

LISA
(a little louder now)
Two!!

FATHER HAMMOND
Did you know your son Cody is going
to our Episcopalian Scholastic
Olympics?

LISA
(motions to Boys))
Three!!!

FATHER HAMMOND

Your Boys have come a long way since they first came here! You must be proud of them?

LISA

(stands up)

Four!!!!

FATHER HAMMOND

I officiated their baptisms and I'm sorry you didn't make it.

LISA

Five!!!!

The pastor taps the green button again and again until Miss Penny reconnects.

FATHER HAMMOND

Miss Penny! Have you gotten through yet?

MISS PENNY

(squealing)

No sir!

Every time someone picks up, they tell me to please hold while they seat the next customer.

FATHER HAMMOND

Well try again! Ask for the manager! I made a promise!

LISA

And so did I!

INT. FATHER HAMMOND'S OFFICE DOOR - DAY

Lisa grabs Teddy and Cody by their hands and leads them to the door, but the good Pastor blocks their way. As he does, Lisa steps right up to him, as if their conversation is only between the two of them.

LISA

So help me God! If you don't move aside this very instant...

FATHER HAMMOND

...You wouldn't! You couldn't? You can't!

LISA

Try me!

Lisa backs up one step and then grasps his holy cross firmly in her hand and inhales deeply. When she can hold her breath no more, she opens her mouth and rolls her eyes...

FATHER HAMMOND

...Alright! Alright! You win!

As Lisa exhales, Father Hammond clears a path for the threesome to pass through. When she's the last one through, she pulls him by his cross to her face and kisses him on his lips.

LISA

...Smart move!

INT. OFFICE CORRIDOR - DAY

With her hands firmly wrapped around the Boys' arms, the threesome walk briskly out the front door in lock step and across the parking lot to a black limousine waiting outside.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

When the Chauffeur spots the threesome approaching the limo in his rear view mirror, he escorts Lisa and the Boys through the back door and inside the spacious rear cabin where Robes is waiting for them.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

CHAUFFEUR

Where to?

LISA

Malibu. And hurry!

INT. LIMOUSINE REAR WINDOW - DAY

After the Chauffeur punches the accelerator, the Boys are thrown to the rear window where they notice Father Hammond chasing after them.

FATHER HAMMOND

Come back!...I just spoke with their grandparents!...You don't have permission to take them!

INT. LIMOUSINE REAR CABIN - DAY

CODY

Malibu?

LISA

You didn't really think we're going to your Grandfather's birthday party?

TEDDY

I did!

LISA

Well!...Change of plans. We're going to start your summer vacation early and go live on the beach.

Cody crawls over to Lisa's side of the large sofa seat she's resting on.

CODY

Malibu Beach?

TEDDY

(does the same on her other side)

Like the TV show?

LISA

That's the one! But the place we're going to is a new bar and grille my partner Dickey and I are opening tomorrow called "The Robin's Nest."

After the limo passes the smog covered skyscrapers of Los Angeles, Teddy is asleep in Lisa's lap. While she savors her martini, Cody is wide awake, tracking every freeway along the way on a street map he borrows from the Chauffeur.

CHAUFFEUR

Before I forget; do you remember that rugged English gent from the Bahamas? The one I picked up a few times at the Club?

LISA

Oh yeah! The one who said I look like his wife. He runs a casino there, right?

CHAUFFEUR

(searches his pocket)
Ya! That's the guy!...He was asking
about you the last time he was in
LA. He said to give you his card if
I ever ran into you.

LISA

(inspects the card)
Thanks! I'll add it to my little
black book.

CHAUFFEUR

So you really do have a little black
book! I'm I in there?

LISA

You're on the "A" list. Would you
like a martini? I hear my son Cody
makes a mean one!

CHAUFFEUR

No thanks! I never drink and drive
on the job.

LISA

Fine then! Cody...make me a drink.

CODY

So when are you taking us back to
our grandparent's house?

LISA

Never! But not to worry! I left a
note for them on the front door that
you'll be alright and don't try to
find us.

TEDDY

(wakes up)
Are we there yet?

INT. LIMOUSINE FRONT WINDOW VIEW - DAY

After making a quick right off of Pacific Coast Highway to
W. Channel Road / Chautauqua Canyon Road the limo glides to
a stop in front of The Robin's Nest and the Chauffeur escorts
everyone outside except for Robes who Lisa has leashed to
her arm.

LISA
How much do I owe you?

CHAUFFEUR
I think we're even! That Betty
Crocker outfit really did it for me.

LISA
(winking at him)
Glad you liked it!

CHAUFFEUR
Loved it! Say hi to your partner
Dickey for me.

LISA
Will do!

EXT. THE ROBIN'S NEST - DAY

Lisa stands proudly in front of The Robin's Nest like a game
show hostess, so she shows the Boys what they've won.

CODY
Your partner, who is he again?

LISA
Dickey! He's inside so let's meet
him! Did I already tell you in his
heyday, Dickey was a gourmet chef
and owned and sold a four-star
restaurant in Queens? Came to LA,
married and divorced Patricia, the
owner of The Robin's Nest? And how
I met him at Lanterman where he was
curing his addiction?

CODY
Yes!...All but the last part.

TEDDY
I'm hungry!

From inside the Robin's Nest, a shrill voice, almost like a
woman's, cries out in pain. On the outside, next to the
front door, lay three grocery bags, one ripped.

INT. THE ROBIN'S NEST - DAY

As soon as the door swings open, a slightly built man wearing a t-shirt, small vest, cutoff jeans and loafers, squints in the daylight.

DICKEY
It's about time!

LISA
Do you need help carrying in the groceries?

DICKEY
(whining)
Is the Pope Catholic? Of course I do! Remember my back?

Lisa frowns at her Boys and nods to them to grab and bring the bags inside.

LISA
Where would you like them?

DICKEY
On the bar please!

After the threesome gently lay down the bags of groceries, the Boys are pleasantly surprised to see a twenty-five foot long bar complete with beer tapper, three tables along the front windows, a jukebox, a hostess podium next to the front door, a variety of promotional bar lights, a blank chalk menu board, and a checkout counter at the end of the bar. Dickey turns around to greet them.

DICKEY (CONT'D)
Oh, my goodness! Good afternoon my little angels! Your Boys are so handsome! I had no idea!

LISA
Why...thank you! They take after me.

DICKEY
Yes they do! I can see that! They both look just like you! The cheekbones, their chins, their lips.

After Dickey goes on, comparing every feature from head to toe as if they're items on a menu, he finally notices Robes watching his every move.

DICKEY (CONT'D)

You never mentioned a dog! He's not ferocious is he? Because if he is, he'll have to stay outside.

LISA

He's not ferocious!...Robes is very protective of me and the Boys.

After Dickey wipes the sweat off his brow with a high sense of drama, he lights a cigarette from a silver plated cigarette box inside his vest pocket and inhales deeply.

DICKEY

Is anyone hungry?

INT. KITCHEN MONTAGE OF ENTREES - DAY

After Dickey whips together a light breakfast of eggs Benedict for the Boys -- they're still hungry and challenge him to make them French toast that's better than their grandma's which it is -- and still hungry, he finishes them off with a chocolate mousse.

DICKEY

So, what do you think?

With mouths full, the Boys give Dickey the thumbs up sign.

LISA

So there you have it! The way to my Boys' hearts is through their bottomless stomachs.

DICKEY

(with a stack of flyers)
Can the Boys hand these out on the beach tomorrow morning before we open?

LISA

I don't see why not?

INT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

It's almost noon and The Robin's Nest is ready to open. The Boys just make it back in time after handing out flyers but accompanying them are two strangers.

LISA

(at the front door)

What took you so long to hand out the flyers? And who are these two?

CODY

Look what we found on the beach!

SUNTANNED WOMAN

Hello! My name is Jackie. Do you need a waitress?

SUNTANNED MAN

Hello! My name is Digito. Do you need entertainment?

CODY

He plays a twelve string guitar! And look how pretty she is! Their names are Jackie and Digito.

TEDDY

Can we keep them? They're brother and sister!

Lisa sizes them up and counts the large number of people outside waiting to get in.

LISA

(to Jackie)

Can you wait on tables?

JACKIE

Si! I wait tables at tapas bar in Barcelona. I'm also flamenco dancer and perform with my brother.

LISA

(to Digito)

Besides playing your flamenco guitar, can you play here and help in the kitchen, clean tables, or tend bar if needed?

DIGITO

Si! For music, no problem! For others, I can if you show me how.

LISA

Ok! You're both hired. Follow my Boys inside and I'll get you started in a few minutes.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

The 'CLOSED' sign flips to 'OPEN.'

INT. THE ROBIN'S NEST (MONTAGE OF GRAND OPENING) - DAY

From 12 Noon until 6 PM when food is being served, everyone works non-stop. After the afternoon crowd leaves and the kitchen closes, the evening crowd takes their place, and the pace slows down enough to where Digito can play his music, Jackie can take a break, Dickey can help tend bar and relieve Lisa, and the Boys can finish the dishes and go upstairs.

INT. BAR - NIGHT (FIRST)

Plunking himself next to the cash register at the end of the bar is an enormous blond biker.

LISA

Hi Animal! How's it hanging?

ANIMAL

Way down there! How did it go today?

DICKEY

(answers for Lisa)

We haven't even finished our first day and you're ready to collect your take?

ANIMAL

(jokingly)

Dickey! Don't look so happy to see me!

DICKEY

(sarcastically)

I'm never happy to see you...just your mom. How's Patricia doing?

ANIMAL

Ever since you tried to embezzle what you could out of her before she annulled your marriage...she's doing fine now. My sources tell me that The Robin's Nest did great today.

DICKEY

Could shaking us down of our hard earned money be a form of embezzlement?

ANIMAL

(stands up)

No embezzlement is more like, 'Let me kiss you while I fuck you!' What I'm providing you, at cost, because you're still family, is more like 'Take it like a man!' You do take it like a man?...Don't you?

Disgusted by his ex-son-in-law's rude comments and uncivilized behavior, Dickey turns away and hands Animal over to Lisa who hands him over to Jackie who stops directly in front of him, salivating as she blocks his way.

JACKIE

Ay caramba! Did anyone order an enormous blond Viking?

When nobody claims him, she continues.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Excuse me senior! Would you like to try something hot and spicy on my menu?

ANIMAL

Thanks! But isn't the kitchen closed now?

JACKIE

(motions south of her border)

I'm not talking about that cocina!...I'm talking about this one.

Animal is immediately drawn to the brown-eyed beauty with a sexy accent.

ANIMAL
Do you do takeout?

JACKIE
Si senor! The tapas special!

ANIMAL
(tickled)
Hey Lisa! Is she another Bunny friend
of yours?

Digito sets down his guitar and inserts himself between his rambunctious sister and the oversized biker.

DIGITO
No! She's not a BUNNY! She's my
little SISTER!

Surprisingly gentleman like, Animal backs off and pats Digito on his shoulder to let him know he was only playing along.

ANIMAL
Excuse me! I didn't know.

DIGITO
(to Animal and then
Jackie)
No problem Mr. Animal!...Jacqueline,
you're excused.

Visibly disappointed as Animal walks away, Jackie pouts as Digito pulls her over to the bar for a complimentary glass of wine that Lisa is pouring.

JACKIE
Thanks Lisa!

LISA
(to Jackie first and
then Digito)
Sorry Jackie!...This glass of wine
is for your brave and handsome
brother!

DICKEY
(to Animal)
Run along now to Mommy Patricia!
And tell her I give her my love!

ANIMAL

I will! And me and the boys will be back tomorrow to collect. We'll see you then!

DICKEY

(turns his back)
I hope not!

JACKIE

(turns to face him)
I hope so!

DIGITO

Thanks Lisa!

LISA

Hey Dickey! Do I have your permission to date this fine looking Spaniard if he'll play for us again tomorrow?

DICKEY

(mumbles)
Not unless I get to him first!

DIGITO

Count on it!

INT. BAR - NIGHT (SECOND)

LISA

(to the Boys)
Leave the jukebox alone! You cannot set foot in the bar, but you can sit on the steps to watch.

DICKEY

(disgusted)
Bar flies! And more bar flies!
Where are they coming from?

LISA

(whispers while smiling)
Play nice Dickey!...And don't swat them away just yet!

DICKEY

(exaggerates his niceness)
Okay then! H-e-l-l-o! What can I get you?

LISA
They're thirsty! Not deaf.

DICKEY
Pardon me! Let me start over. My
name is Dickey, what's yours?

BAR PATRON
Bobby Summers.

DICKEY
(rearranges his name)
Sobby Bummings, what can I get you?

SOBBY
A new life!

DICKEY
No can do! Can I get you a cold
beer instead?

SOBBY
(sobbing)
I guess so...

DICKEY
Here you go Mr. Sobby. Drown your
sorrows!

As the new patron settles in, a pack of Harley's roll to a sudden STOP on the sidewalk in front of The Robin's Nest.

DICKEY (CONT'D)
(paces behind the bar)
Damn Mongol horde! They're not the
boss of me.

A few seconds later, a large gloved hand flips the 'OPEN' sign to 'CLOSED' and in walks Animal with three Hell's Angels.

ANIMAL
(to the remaining bar
patrons)
You have sixty seconds to pay your
tab and leave the bar! Starting
right now! And if you're so inclined,
please feel free to tip my associates,
Butch, Roach and Foreskin on your
way out.

Taking Animal's advice without thinking twice, all of the bar patrons except for Sobby flee the bar. When they've all left, Lisa unbuttons her skimpy top to expose a small wad of bills wedged between her breasts.

LISA
 (to Animal)
 Take what you need and leave the rest!

ANIMAL
 (gentlemanly)
 I'm not into making withdrawals that way.

DICKEY
 Good! Then withdraw yourself the hell out of here!

When Jackie saw what Lisa did, she takes her tip money from yesterday and does the same.

ANIMAL
 (focuses on Jackie's cleavage)
 You got fifty in there?

When Jackie hears the amount and is way short, she turns around and cusses in Spanish. Lisa, with change to spare, counts out the money in front of Animal.

LISA
 Fifty dollars! Tit for tat!

DICKEY
 No way Lisa! We're not going to let him shake us down for fifty!

JACKIE
 (to Animal)
 I can be shaken down and stirred for free!

ANIMAL
 (to Jackie, then Digito)
 I'm really beginning to like you! Digito! Do I have your permission to date your sister?

DIGITO
 (mumbles in Spanish
 before English)
 Do I have a choice? But thanks for
 asking! I'll see you tomorrow and
 behave yourself chica.

Ecstatic, Jackie pulls up a barstool next to Animal's and they spark up a conversation while the other three Hell's Angels ask Lisa point blank questions in front of Dickey.

BUTCH
 Hey Lisa, how's Dickey treating you?

LISA
 Just fine!

ROACH
 And the Boys?

LISA
 No problems!

FORESKIN
 Are you sure?

Lisa serves them three large mugs of ice cold beer while Dickey holds his breath.

LISA
 Like what do you mean?

BUTCH
 Is Dickey fond of tucking your Boys
 in?

ROACH
 Does he offer to help them get
 dressed?

FORESKIN
 Is he always there with a fresh bar
 of soap for their showers?

LISA
No! But if he does you'll be the
 first to hear about it!

DICKEY
 That's it! Get out! We don't want
 your kind in here!

ANIMAL

I'm sorry to hear that! Maybe if me and the boys show you and your bar a lesson in manners, you'll think twice about being so inhospitable.

SOBBY

(lifts his drunken
head off the bar)

That's what the Popeye's Bar next door said about the Hell's Angels! The bartender said they do not like your kind in there!

ANIMAL

(pissed off and
challenged)

We'll show them who they can like or not! Boys! Follow me next door! Let's shake, rattle and roll!

EXT. BAR STOREFRONTS - NIGHT (THIRD)

The next evening finds The Robin's Nest still standing but the Popeye's Bar next door looks trashed.

INT. BAR - NIGHT (THIRD)

It's closing time and the bar has emptied except for Sobby, Animal and the crew. On top of the bar, next to his third beer, Sobby displays a small stack of sugar cubes.

LISA

What do you have there?

SOBBY

(whispers)

LSD!

ANIMAL

I've tried it before! It barely fazes me.

DICKEY

That's because you're the size of bull elephant!

ANIMAL

And just like an elephant, I remember all your vices. Would you me to share them with everyone?

Dickey swallows hard and goes about his business.

LISA

I've never tried it before! What's it like?

SOBBY

It's far out! You see all kinds of colors and images. It's a real mind blower! Do you wanna try some?

LISA

I'm game! How long does it take to kick in?

DIGITO

If she's doing it! I'm doing it!

ANIMAL

What the hell! Give me three.

JACKIE

One for me please!

SOBBY

(back to Lisa's question)

About a half hour or so.

DICKEY

Is it dangerous? I've heard of people flipping out on it.

SOBBY

It's totally up to you what kind of high you get. Are you in?

DICKEY

(nervously)

I still have my doubts. Can you get addicted to it? Like heroine?

SOBBY

I don't think so! If Timothy Leary can drop acid a thousand times and quit anytime he wants to, why can't we?

ANIMAL

Show some balls for once!

DICKEY

Okay! I'll do it. So what do you do? Just eat one of these sugar cubes?

SOBBY

That's it! Just suck on one.

ANIMAL

That shouldn't be hard for you to do! Who wants to take a walk on the beach and trip out on a full moon?

JACKIE

Me! Me! Me! I'm loco for a full moon.

ANIMAL

(howls like a wolf)
I'm a raving lunatic!

DIGITO

I'll bring my guitar!

LISA

I'll bring Robes and some cigarettes!

SOBBY

Dickey! Are you coming with us?

DICKEY

Oh! I'm not sure. There's weirdos out there!

ANIMAL

No problem! Because we are the weirdos.

LISA

(to Dickey)
The Boys will tuck themselves in.

ANIMAL

(to Dickey)
And no funny stuff! I mean it!

Dickey mumbles under his breath as he flips off the lights to the bar and follows the Boys upstairs.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODY
I'm thirsty! You want a glass of
water?

TEDDY
(sleepy)
Nope! I'm good.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tippy toeing barefooted past Dickey's sofa bed in the living room to get to the kitchen, Cody quietly fills a glass full of tap water and quenches his thirst before he returns to bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

DICKEY
(o.s.)
Who goes there?

Startled, Cody drops the glass of water on the kitchen floor where it shatters on impact.

CODY
(frozen with fear)
It's just me! I'm sorry I dropped
the glass! It was an accident!

DICKEY
(his face emerges
from the shadows)
Where do you think you're going?

CODY
Back to bed!

DICKEY
(speaks in third person)
Now why is it every time one of these
Boys needs discipline there's no one
there to give it to them? Hmmm!
Why is that?

CODY
I don't know sir!

Dickey takes one step towards Cody and his entire body emerges into a swath of moonlight from the living room window.

Ready to make a run for it, Cody hesitates as he detects shards of broken glass glistening in the moonlight.

DICKEY

(takes another step
towards Cody)

Those Boys are as bad as Animal and his low life buddies. They're all bad boys! Bad, bad, boys!...And I know how to cure a bad boy!...Would you like me to show you how?

CODY

No, sir!

Unaware of the broken glass below his feet, Dickey takes a step off the carpet and onto a shard of glass. When nothing happens he takes another step towards Cody and another until the pain from cutting his feet on the broken glass registers -- and lays him out like a draw bridge at Cody's bare feet. Without hesitating, Cody takes three sure steps on top of Dickey's writhing body and races back to his bedroom.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT (SAME)

TEDDY

Why is Dickey screaming?

CODY

He was acting weird and then he stepped on my broken glass!

TEDDY

Lock the door!

INT. BEDROOM DOOR - NIGHT

A few seconds later, Dickey pulls at the Boys' door knob and then twists it in both directions.

DICKEY

(o.s.)

Oh, a locked door! I know where there's a spare key. Yes, I do!

As suddenly as Dickey appears, he's gone. Within a minute, he's in front of the door again, jiggling a ring of keys, trying each until one fits.

TEDDY

I thought he didn't have a spare key?

CODY

Me too! Mom promised us she had the only key to our door!

DICKEY

(o.s.)

I'll show them! I have the key and they don't! And when I'm done with them they'll know who the boss is around here!

INT. BEDROOM BUNKBEDS - NIGHT

When the third key slides all the way into the back of the lock, the Boys dive into their top and bottom bunkbeds, curling up into tight balls. After Dickey pushes the door open, he stands in the middle of the room, illuminated by a swath of moonlight through the bedroom window. When he gets his bearings, he checks inside the open closet, and then returns to Cody's top bunk bed, where he runs his hand over it in a wide arc until he finds Cody's foot.

DICKEY

Got you! You little bastard!

With a single grab of his hand, Dickey yanks Cody off the top bunk and throws him to the bedroom floor where he presses his weight on him. With Dickey's exposed flank just inches from Teddy's bottom bunk bed, Teddy throws himself on top of Dickey, biting his neck. In a fit of rage, Dickey pulls Teddy from his neck, and shoves him against the bedpost, knocking him unconscious.

DICKEY (CONT'D)

There's no flesh sweeter than a young boy's. It's true you know! But not to worry my fallen angel. It's just you and me now.

When Dickey's lips touch Cody's, Cody bites down on Dickey's as hard as he can and when the pain sets in, Dickey screams out with rage and pries Cody's mouth open.

DICKEY (CONT'D)

Open your damn mouth! Open it or I'll...

ANIMAL
 (standing over him)
 ...You'll do what?

INT. ANIMAL'S POV - NIGHT

Like a puppet dangling on strings, Dickey's feet kick furiously as Animal lifts him off of Cody by the back of his shirt and into the moonlight.

DICKEY
 Animal! I was only teasing him!
 Just having a little fun! I didn't
 mean any harm! Honest! It's the
 acid talking! Not me! I swear!

ANIMAL
 (to his face)
 When Lisa got her Boys back, I warned
 you in no uncertain terms that I'd
 hurt you bad if I ever found out
 you'd been messing with hers Boys.
 Didn't I?

DICKEY
 (still dangling)
 Yes, you did! But I will...

When Cody looks up, Animal hurls Dickey into the closet ten feet away -- and then Animal finishes his sentence.

ANIMAL
 ...Never...ever...do it again!

INT. BEDROOM BUNKBEDS - NIGHT

ANIMAL
 (to Cody)
 Are you okay?

LISA
 (checks in with her
 Boys)
 Is who okay?

After Animal inspects both Boys front to back, particularly their backs, he gives them both the thumbs up.

ANIMAL
 The Boys!

LISA
 The Boys! What's going on here?
 Where's Dickey?

When Lisa inspects her Boys and sees the covers thrown off their bunk beds, she becomes suspicious.

LISA (CONT'D)
 Damn it Animal! What the hell
 happened here? And where is Dickey?

JACKIE
 (behind Lisa)
 Ay caramba!

ANIMAL
 Well!...When I came back to lock the
 front door...I heard Dickey upstairs
 shouting like crazy. So...when I
 arrive, he's in the Boys' room, Teddy
 is out cold, and Dickey is on top of
 Cody.

LISA
 And then?

ANIMAL
 I pulled him off and threw him into
 the closet! Over there.

INT. BEDROOM CLOSET - NIGHT

After Lisa turns her head, she charges the closet and punches Dickey's head repeatedly, which flops from one side to the other from each blow.

Before Lisa can inflict any more damage to Dickey's face, Animal quickly lifts her off of him.

LISA
 (crying)
 You promised me this would never
 happen! You promised! How could
 you betray me?

ANIMAL
 Don't worry about Dickey betraying
 you and your Boys again!

LISA
 Why is that?

ANIMAL

Because I think I broke his freakin' neck.

When Animal flops Dickey's head from side to side, he's certain of it.

ANIMAL (CONT'D)

Yep! I broke his neck! Jackie, sweetie, can you please call Butch from the phone in the kitchen at this number and tell him to come over at once with the rest of the boys. Just tell him Dickey's been misbehaving and hurry! He'll know what it means.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

After Butch makes his way upstairs with Roach and Foreskin, they check in with Animal and he shows them what happened by playing with Dickey's head.

ROACH

Holy shit! Can I try that?

FORESKIN

Dickey's back in the closet?

BUTCH

Just where he belongs!

When the three Hell's Angels try to keep a straight face -- they can't -- and start laughing all at once.

INT. BOTTOM BUNKBED - NIGHT

While they carry on, Lisa drops to her knees in front of the Boys and reaches for their hands.

LISA

Oh my God! What have I done? This place! This scene?

ANIMAL

Don't be so hard on yourself.

LISA

(to her Boys)

I'm sorry for what happened tonight.

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

Somehow! Someway! I'll make it up to you. I promise!

With no reason not to forgive her, the Boys wrap their arms around Lisa's quivering body, while Robes licks the tears from her cheeks.

ANIMAL

I hate to break up this Kodak moment, but we got work to do here! Jackie, what happened to Sobby and your Brother?

JACKIE

They met some hippie chicks, so we left them on the beach and came back by ourselves.

ANIMAL

Good! But just in case they decide to return for a nightcap, go downstairs and lock the front door, and wait for them.

Doing as told, Jackie hurries downstairs followed by the other three bikers, and locks the front door. A few minutes later, the rest of the Hell's Angels return upstairs with cold beers and sandwiches.

LISA

So what do we do now?

ANIMAL

Do you have a piece of paper and a pen handy?

LISA

Of course! Cody keeps all those things in his artist's valise over there.

ANIMAL

Perfect! Now dictate after me:

Dear Dickey, Thanks for letting me and the boys stay here for the past week!

But it's time for us to leave now. Ever since you got hooked on drugs, especially LSD, we don't feel safe around The Robin's Nest any longer.

So good bye, and good luck! We're not exactly sure where we're going, but we'll know when we get there.

Don't take it too hard or get too depressed and do something stupid!

Love, Lisa

FORESKIN

Brilliant!

ROACH

You're a genius!

BUTCH

Brains and brawn! That's why you're our leader.

LISA

Now what?

Animal rolls up Dickey's body in Cody's blanket and throws it over his shoulder as he walks to the BATHROOM where he stands about three feet in front of the abandoned bootleg doorway.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

ANIMAL

Well!...In my estimation!...Dickey got stoned out of his mind! Let's say on some acid...And because he's Dickey he had a bad acid trip. Hallucinating madly!...When he relieves himself in the bathroom...he becomes disoriented and walks out the wrong door...to a neck breaking thirty foot plunge to the concrete channel below.

Looking on, everyone follows his every move from the HALLWAY for a better look.

LISA

But the bootleg door is sealed tight!

With one powerful kick from his boot, Animal smashes it wide open, and lets Dickey's body unroll head first out of the blanket, like a loose toilet paper roll.

ANIMAL

Not anymore!

After receiving a round of applause from the Hell's Angels, Animal takes a bow and invites them to take a look for themselves.

BUTCH

We're sure gonna miss him!

ROACH

Ya!...Like the way he used to call us all those silly little names makes me want to break his neck all over again!

FORESKIN

Bon voyage Dickey! Don't forget to write!

While Animal motions to the three Hell's Angels to join him outside in the kitchen, Lisa herds Teddy and Cody back to their bedroom, and wait for further instructions.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

JACKIE

(on edge)

We must all leave here immediately, on their bikes. Each of you bring one small suitcase and wear warm clothing, lock the door behind you, and meet us outside. You have five minutes. We're going for a ride to San Diego!

EXT. FISHERMAN'S LANDING BOAT DOCK - DAY (SUNRISE)

When all of the Harley's coast down to the docks at San Diego's Fisherman's Landing, the bikers kill their ignitions in front of a handful of modest sport fishing boats along with the driver of a white Oldsmobile.

After they hop off their Harley's and stretch their legs and adjust their crotches, the Captain of the nearest boat calls out to Animal from his bridge.

CAPTAIN

Damn! Look what the tide brought in!

ANIMAL

We're not here to fish Captain. I got a favor to ask of you.

CAPTAIN

The last time I did a favor for you and the boys, I spent three long years in Folsom. Remember?

ANIMAL

Of course I remember! But it all turned out okay!

CAPTAIN

If you call one stab wound, a three-year apprenticeship in license plates, and the fear of bending over as okay then you're right! So are you going to introduce me to the pretty lady and her kids?

ANIMAL

Right! Lisa and Boys, I'd like you to meet Captain Dwight Chapin, and this is his sport fishing boat the *Lady Angler*.

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

(reaches out to shake hands)

Dwight or Captain will do! So what kind of favor are we talking about?

ANIMAL

Nothing you can't handle! Just keeping an eye on them for an hour or so and we'll be right back.

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

I won't be harboring or abetting any criminals, will I?

ANIMAL

Of course not! That's why me and the boys won't be staying!

EXT. BOAT DECK - DAY

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

(to Lisa)

Can you cook breakfast and make sandwiches?

LISA

Short order no problem!

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

How about your Boys? Can they chum bait and stay clear of fish hooks and keep out of my customers' way?

LISA

They will, if you show them how.

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

And what about your dog? He won't be biting people, will he?

LISA

Only if they bite first!

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

(to Lisa and then the Boys)

Good enough! You follow me and the Boys can follow my First Mate Daryl. Be aware, he's a bit of jokester, so don't take everything he says seriously.

Daryl, a lanky man sporting an eye patch and a beanie, collects the first fare from a Fisherman who appears to be mocking him by wearing a Captain Ahab disguise, with matching eye patch.

FISHERMAN

(adjusts his fake beard)

What are you looking at?

DARYL

(stares unbelievably)

Who the hell are you supposed to be? Captain Ahab? You just stay there and don't move an inch while I rip your silly costume off your face!

FISHERMAN
 (swings around and on
 to the boat)
 Don't do it! I'm a detective on
 official business.

DARYL
 (moves close enough
 to reach him)
 Official business my ass! Remove
 your eye patch!

FISHERMAN
 (moves backwards)
 Take one more step and I'll...

When the Fisherman runs out of deck behind him, he trips and falls to the deck and his disguise falls off when his head strikes the corner of the bait tank, knocking himself out.

DARYL
 Knock yourself out mother fucker!

Daryl reaches into Ahab's coat pocket and then stands aside him.

DARYL (CONT'D)
 I'll be damned! He really is a
 private detective.

After he studies the ID, he hands it off to Captain Dwight, who studies it as well. While Robes sniffs the fallen Detective and then licks his face, Lisa arrives from the galley to see what the ruckus is. When she pulls Robes away from the Detective's face, hers turns ghostly white.

CAPTAIN DWIGHT
 (to Lisa)
 You know this man?

LISA
 Nope! Never saw him before.

DARYL
 (compares photo ID to
 Cody)
 He looks kind of like you?

LISA
 (snatches the ID)
No he doesn't!

CODY

Can I see?

LISA

No you cannot! Take Robes and your brother to the galley right now!

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

(to Daryl)

Let's get him inside the galley.
You take his head and I'll take his feet.

INT. BOAT GALLEY - DAY

With as much finesse as two bulls in a China shop, the Captain and the First Mate move the limp Detective across the pitching deck, but not without bumping his head into the side of the galley door.

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

I need to reassure everyone this man is alright. Then I'm going to call the Coast Guard.

LISA

Why call the Coast Guard?

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

If I don't notify them what happened, I could lose my fishing license.
Daryl, where's his ID?

DARYL

Right here Captain.

As soon as the Captain returns to the bridge, Daryl races back to his cabin and returns quickly.

DARYL (CONT'D)

I've got an idea! Check the rest of his pockets.

LISA

(grabs a baloney sandwich)

So do I!

After the Captain returns from the bridge again, he hands back the Detective's personal affects to his First Mate.

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

Hold on to these.

DARYL

Aye! Aye! Captain!

The second the Captain returns to the bridge again; Daryl kisses a four finger bag of Michoacán goodbye and stuffs the pot into the detective's back pocket where his wallet was.

LISA

I like your style! Stuff this baloney sandwich into his pocket where his badge was.

DARYL

I like yours too! Those ought to make for some lasting impressions!

LISA

Yep!...That'll teach him!...I hope they lock him up!...And throw away the key!...So now what?

DARYL

We wait for the Coast Guard!...They'll search him...Find all the contraband...Take him into custody...And off to the brig he goes!

EXT. BOAT DOCK - DAY

Minutes later, a Coast Guard contingent of two MP's and a Paramedic roll up to the boat and carry the Detective by stretcher into the back of the waiting ambulance. After the two MP'S and PARAMEDIC take a quick statement from the Captain and look around the boat, they return to their vehicles, and race away from the dock with sirens blaring.

INT. BOAT GALLEY - DAY

LISA

You remember when Animal said you wouldn't be harboring or abetting any criminals?

CAPTAIN DWIGHT

Yes, I remember. Why do you ask?

LISA
Because you are!

DARYL
You! You're a criminal?

CAPTAIN DWIGHT
What happened?

LISA
If I told you I'd have to kill you!

The Captain and First Mate start laughing.

LISA (CONT'D)
Is there a payphone on the dock where
I can make a call?

DARYL
Yep, down the ramp, and to the left
about a hundred yards. You can't
miss it.

LISA
Perfect! Stay put Boys and I'll be
right back.

CAPTAIN DWIGHT
Don't take too long because we got
work to do and won't be here much
longer!

When Lisa returns from the payphone, she forms a huddle with
the Boys at the galley table.

LISA
(whispering)
We're going to hitch hike from here
to Miami!

CODY
Hitch-hike!

LISA
What other choice do we have? We
can't call a taxi; the fare would
kill us! We can't take a bus, or a
train, or a plane because they'll be
a record of our purchase, our
schedule, and the Detective will
(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)
 know where to find us. It's the
 only way to leave without a trace.

CODY
 Or...I can call our Grandparents
 right now...and have them pick us
 up?

LISA
 Is that what you really want?

TEDDY
 Seriously?

EXT. (O.S.) HARLEY'S APPROACHING - DAY

CODY
 Seriously! We'll go along if you
 promise to find us a new father.

LISA
 (ignores the question)
 Sounds like our ride out of here
 just arrived.

EXT. BOAT DOCK - DAY (SAME)

Leaping to her feet, Lisa saunters towards the Hell's Angels
 on the dock, working her magic spell upon them. When she
 returns to the galley, she winks at the Boys.

INT. GALLEY - DAY (SAME)

LISA
 We're all set!...Grab Robes and our
 suitcases!...And let's go!

CODY
 And your promise...?

LISA
 (hesitating)
 ...I promise!

EXT. BOAT DOCK - DAY (SAME)

After the foursome move down the gangway to the dock, they
 wave goodbye to Captain Dwight and Daryl.

ANIMAL

Where to?

LISA

East of here to the edge of town!

EXT. I-8 LOS COCHES RD. OFFRAMP - DAY

When the bikes reach the end of the Los Coches Road off ramp and coast to a stop, the Hell's Angels help the women, children, dog and suitcases off and out of their bikes. After reaching into his pocket, Animal slaps a wad bills into Lisa's hand.

ANIMAL

I wish we could take you farther but there's not much going on between here and Miami. Here's your \$260 rent back and the other \$50 we shook you down for. Keep it!

LISA

Thank you! You've all been very nice and sweet to me and my Boys.

A loud ruckus rings out from the bikers over the derogatory term of 'nice and sweet.'

ANMIAL

(chuckling)
You must have us confused with someone else!...So don't let those kind words get around!...We've got bad reputations to protect!

Butch works a plastic vile of little white pills (UPPERS) into Lisa's hand.

BUTCH

Here's a little something to keep you going.

LISA

What are they?

BUTCH

(winking)
Vitamins!

LISA

Thanks! They might come in handy.

Roach digs out of his jacket a plastic vile of big red pills (DOWNERS).

ROACH
And here's something else when you
can't go to sleep.

LISA
And these are?

ROACH
(grinning)
More vitamins.

LISA
Okay! I might need these as well.

FORESKIN
(not to be outdone)
Here's my canteen and sunglasses.

After Lisa wipes the slobber off her cheeks from all the manhandling, Jackie plucks a wildflower at her feet and places it in Lisa's hair.

JACKIE
I have nothing to give you but this
WILDFLOWER that thrives anywhere...
Watch out for cuckoos out there!

LISA
Thanks a million!

After the Hell's Angels and Jackie hop back on their bikes and turn them around, one-by-one, they take off under the freeway overpass the way they came, leaving the foursome standing in a cloud of smoke.

As they stand there, all by themselves, castaways, Lisa carefully reads the label on the vile of downers.

LISA (CONT'D)
Here, take one of these.

TEDDY
What are they?

LISA
They're vitamins!

CODY
Since when did we start taking
vitamins?

LISA
Since now and for the rest of the
trip. And Robes too! So be a good
boy and swallow.

Lifting the canteen to Teddy's lips he swallows and so does
Cody.

LISA (CONT'D)
Here Robsey!

CODY
Now what?

LISA
I'll do the hitch-hiking while you
three hide behind those rocks.

EXT. INTERSTATE 8 LOOKING EAST - DAY

While the Boys wait, Lisa brushes the miles' worth of tangles
out of her hair, touches up her lipstick, and then unbuttons
her blouse. With a smile as bright as a homecoming queen's,
she thrusts her hip and her thumb out, waiting for a quick
ride east.

To her surprise, the first car keeps going! And so does the
second one! And the third! Only a carload of drunken sailors
coming from the opposite direction slows down to take notice,
circling back thorough a gap in the center meridian for a
closer look.

When they cruise to a stop in front of Lisa, they toss their
empty beer bottles out -- and then moon her. When she ignores
their pathetic gesture, the swabbies circle back through
another gap in the center meridian and almost sideswipe a
Woody van that brakes and skids to a stop where Lisa was
standing -- forcing her to leap out of the way.

WOODY DRIVER
(helps Lisa off her
butt)
Are you okay? I could have run you
over!

LISA
 (checks herself)
 It wasn't your fault!

WOODY DRIVER
 (helps her up)
 Think again! You took a piece of
 gravel to your face. Have a seat in
 my Woody and I'll tend to your shiner.

LISA
 Excuse me?

WOODY DRIVER
 My van! My ride! My vehicle!

LISA
 Yes! Of course!...Thank you!

WOODY DRIVER
 My name is Kevin, Kevin Yace. Would
 you like me to call for help? There's
 a call box on the other side of the
 highway.

LISA
 No thanks!...I think I'll be
 okay!...I'm just a little bruised
 and battered.

KEVIN
 Do you need a lift?

LISA
 Yes we do!

KEVIN
 We?

LISA
 I meant me. So, where are you headed?

KEVIN
 Tucson!

LISA
 (points west)
 Is that east of here?

Kevin delicately spins her hand and POINTS it in the opposite
 direction.

KEVIN

It sure is. Hop on in!

LISA

(motions to the Boys)

Perfect! Give me a minute to gather my belongings.

INT. WOODY - DAY

After Kevin completes his vehicle inspection, he slides into the front seat and so does Lisa. When he adjusts his rearview mirror he sees in the reflection the Boys smiling at him.

KEVIN

(turns around)

Whoa! Like I didn't know...like you had...that many belongings! Are there any more I should be aware of?

LISA

No, that's it! And how rude of me! My name is Lisa, and these are my Boys, Cody and Teddy. That's our dog, Robespierre.

After the intros, the Boys reach over the front seat to shake Kevin's hand while Robes says hello in his usual way with a long growl. Like an awkward blind date, everyone goes silent until Lisa breaks the ice.

LISA (CONT'D)

So Kevin! Why are you driving into the desert with a surfboard strapped to the top of your car? Isn't the ocean the other way?

KEVIN

(smiling)

I get that question all the time! I'm going surfing with my buddy in Mexico and I'm going to pick him up in Tucson and then south we go to Mexico!

LISA

I see!

KEVIN

Now it's my turn. So Lisa!
(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

What's a mom and her two kids and a dog doing hitch-hiking cross country?

LISA

(pauses)

I'm taking my Boys on a journey to find a new father!

KEVIN

Right!

LISA

It's the truth. Ask my Boys.

Cody leans over the front seat between Kevin and Lisa, yawning.

CODY

She promised! Is it ok for me and my brother to lay down in the back of your Woody?

KEVIN

Of course!

When the Boys do just that, it's obvious the downers are taking effect. When Lisa notices, she smiles.

EXT. FRONT OF CACTUS RANCH MOTEL - NIGHT

The Woody coasts to a stop in front of the Cactus Ranch Motel that sits beside the Truck Stop Café and a dozen or so big rigs idling in an adjacent parking lot.

KEVIN

Will this do?

LISA

It sure will, thank you!

INT. CAFE BOOTH - DAY

WAITRESS

Good morning! My name's Deirdre. Shall I start you off with some coffee and orange juice?

LISA

Yes please to both!

DEIRDRE

Great! While you're deciding, I'll be back in a few minutes to take your order.

INT. CAFÉ PANORAMA - DAY

While the Boys flip through the oversized menu, Lisa makes eye contact with a number of truckers doing the same. When she's done, she procures a fresh batch of big red pills for the Boys' morning vitamins before Deirdre reappears.

INT. CAFE BOOTH - DAY (SAME)

DEIRDRE

So what'll we be having?

LISA

(whispering)

What we need is not on your menu.

DEIRDRE

It's not! What is it then?

LISA

We need a ride east with one of these truckers.

DEIRDRE

Hell's bells! A ride with one of these lug nuts? Seriously?

LISA

We don't have any wheels and very little money. Can you help us?

DEIRDRE

(scratches her scalp
with her pencil)

Maybe? It's possible! Okay!... 'Ole Deirdre's here to help. After I take your orders, I'll start asking.

Outside the window Robes seems happy to see someone.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)

Here's your order: One chicken fried steak, biscuits and gravy, eggs basted and some more coffee; two bacon and eggs hungry-man platters, toast, two
(MORE)

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)
 glasses of milk; and a side of
 sausages for your dog outside.

LISA
 Perfect! Do you have anyone in mind?

INT. CAFÉ TOWARDS BLUEBALLS JAKE - DAY

The waitress tries her best to subtly tilt her head towards
 the trucker she has in mind.

DEIRDRE
 There's Blueballs Jake over there in
 the corner. He hauls fertilizer
 from Oklahoma, where's there plenty
 of it!...But now that I think about
 it he's got roving hands! Maybe
 he's not for you?

LISA
 Who else?

INT. CAFÉ TOWARDS RATTLESNAKE JIM - DAY

DEIRDRE
 That's Rattlesnake Jim in the other
 corner. He hauls poultry to market
 and never chickens out on anything!
 But come to think of it...he's almost
 as bad! I'll cross them both off my
 list.

LISA
 Anyone else?

DEIRDRE
 Give me a few minutes!

INT. CAFE BOOTH - DAY (SAME)

After the order bell rings and rings, Deirdre hurries back
 to the kitchen counter to pick-up more orders. When she
 skips over to Lisa's table, she's as giddy as a schoolgirl.

INT. CAFÉ TOWARDS BIG BOB - DAY

DEIRDRE

(drooling)

See that beefsteak of a man seated
at the front counter? That's Big
Bob McElroy, and he's your ride east!

LISA

Is Big Bob someone we can trust?

DEIRDRE

With your life! He hauls aircraft
parts and jet engines in the Midwest
wherever they're needed! But Texas
is his home. He's nothing more than
oversized Teddy bear who wouldn't
dare lay a hand on you. God knows,
I've tried!

LISA

Okay! Let's sign him up.

DEIRDRE

I already did!...And here's your
tab!...When I come back to collect,
Big Bob will be one step ahead of
you and waiting outside next to his
Peterbilt.

INT. CAFE BOOTH BLOCKED BY THE TWO TRUCKERS - DAY

As soon as Deirdre leaves their table, first Blueballs Jake
and then Rattlesnake Jim offers the threesome a ride east in
their big rigs. Not to be outdone, a third man squeezes
between them, and it's the Detective staring down at Lisa
and the Boys.

INT. CAFE BOOTH - DAY (SAME)

LISA

(amazed)

It can't be? It's impossible!

DETECTIVE

(triumphantly)

It can be! And it is possible!

BLUEBALLS JAKE

Who the hell are you?

RATTLESNAKE JIM

Ya! Get lost!

DETECTIVE

My name is Sean Breedlove! I'm a private detective from California and the father of these two Boys. I've been given the power to take this woman, Lisa, my ex-wife into custody, and bring them back to justice and return them to their rightful guardian parents, Buck and Laurie Staley!

CODY

You're our dad?

TEDDY

Daddy?

LISA

(contemplating)

I hate to break up this Hallmark moment, but I had to remove our two Boys from your life because you abused them! And you beat me! Just look at what you did to my face again!

Utterly confused, the Boys stare at Lisa, and then at Sean, while the truckers stare at Lisa's bruised face.

DETECTIVE

(rests his hands on
the table)

You thought you could outsmart me on the fishing boat that landed me in the brig? It almost worked!

LISA

Sean! It sounds like you've been drinking again!

DETECTIVE

What? No! Never!...Those sailors that passed you on the highway returning to the Naval Station that were drinking? They tore the base up when they got back and were thrown in the cell next to mine. A sexy blond hitch-hiking east on I-8 was all they could talk about!

Lisa bats her eyes to the angry crowd of truckers encircling Sean.

LISA
Why I don't know what you mean!

DETECTIVE
Don't play cute with me! The Coast Guard confirmed my identity, released me and I got my badge and wallet back from that lunatic First Mate and clueless Captain.

LISA
So what made you stop here?

DETECTIVE
Our dog! He's tied up outside. I could see him from the highway. At least he remembers me!

LISA
I'm very proud of you! But me and the Boys realized we had to leave you because you're such a neglectful father and a relentless wife beater.

DETECTIVE
Excuse me! I never laid a hand on you...or them...in my life!

INT. CAFE BOOTH - DAY (SAME)

Lisa nudges the Boys' feet under the table to play along while all the truckers begin to press in on the Detective.

LISA
I'm thankful this time you didn't whip the Boys until they bled!

DETECTIVE
(suffocating)
Why...why...that's ridiculous! I did no such thing! I have no idea where your bruises came from!

LISA
(with crocodile tears)
Please don't hurt us again!

DETECTIVE

Of course not!...I mean yes! I mean
no!

Frustrated, the Detective throws his hands in the air and bumps Blueballs Jake in the chest, who shoves the Detective backwards into Rattlesnake Jim, who shoves him even harder into another trucker, and another -- triggering a brawl.

INT. BELOW CAFE BOOTH - DAY

Quickly, the Detective is knocked to the ground and lands face-to-face with Cody who is on all fours crawling towards the cash register with Teddy and Lisa. Before the Detective is dragged away, Cody flashes his Dad's driver's license in his face, and he proudly smiles at Cody and winks yes. When the threesome make it through the brawling truckers, Lisa tosses a twenty dollar bill at Deirdre on the way out.

INT. CASH REGISTER - DAY

DEIRDRE

Thanks darling!...He's waiting for
you in the big red Peterbilt named
Bitchin' Betty...Have a great trip!

EXT. TRUCK STOP CAFÉ - DAY

As the threesome quickly make their way out of the Truck Stop Café, Lisa throws a handful of sausages in Robes' gaping mouth and follows it with his downer. After he swallows, she unties him, and they hurry over to Big Bob's rig as if nothing has happened and he helps all four of them up and the luggage inside his spacious cab.

INT. BIG RIG CAB - DAY

BIG BOB

What do you think of the Truck Stop
Café?

LISA

It's a riot!

BIG BOB

It sure is.

LISA

It's very spacious in here!

BIG BOB
Over 200 cubic feet in the cab here
and 400 in the back.

When Lisa and the Boys stick their heads inside the back sleeping compartment they're impressed with its accommodations and size.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)
You're welcome to nap back there.
That's what it's there for. Our
next stop is Albuquerque, New Mexico.
And after that, Sweetwater, Texas.

LISA
How far is that?

BIG BOB
It's 234 miles to Albuquerque.

CODY
How do you know that to the exact
mile?

BIG BOB
We just passed a destination signboard
posted a mile or so back on the side
of the road. It was right there on
the sign, 'Albuquerque 234 miles.'
That's how I know!

LISA
And you're following that sign?

BIG BOB
Yes, lots of them. There are all
sorts of signs to follow on the road.
And if you read them well enough,
you can make the most of them and
avoid bumps, detours, and forks in
the road and accidents too.

LISA
(crawls into the
sleeping compartment)
Sounds like great advice! I think
me and the Boys will take you up on
your offer. Can you please wake us
when we're five minutes away from
your final destination?

BIG BOB

You got it!

For the rest of the morning, all of the afternoon, and the early part of the evening the big rig continues its journey east non-stop, except for a quick pit top in Albuquerque. As Big Bob approaches his home and final destination in Sweetwater, Texas, drenched in a spring storm, he wakes Lisa.

LISA

Damn it! I forgot to bring an umbrella. Boys! Wake up! We've got rain!

Big Bob points to the road sign 'Sweetwater, Population 1,284.'

BIG BOB

There it is! Home sweet home! The end of our journey.

As the rain pours down, Lisa tidies up Big Bob's sleeping compartment as he turns off I-20 and downshifts through a dozen more gears and comes to a stop in front of the Sweetwater Inn.

EXT. SWEETWATER INN - NIGHT (RAINING)

BIG BOB

The Sweetwater Inn is the only lodging in town. Looks like they're still open! Just tell Flo you're a friend of mine if she gives you any gruff. She'll set you up for the night.

After helping everyone down as gently as he'd helped them up, Big Bob holds squints under his John Deere cap in the rain.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

God bless! And good luck on your journey! And remember what I told you about the road signs ahead.

As a torrent of rain pounds the Sweetwater Inn's tin canopy into submission, Lisa rings the doorbell underneath it while the Boys and Robes huddle together to stay warm and dry. With no response, Lisa persists until a surly voice responds from the other side of an opaque glass window.

WOMEN'S VOICE

Alright! Just wait a minute.

LISA

We need a room for the night please.

WOMEN'S VOICE

We have no vacancies!

LISA

But the sign outside says 'Vacancy.'

WOMEN'S VOICE

Never mind what that sign says!
This is my inn, and I know how many
rooms are vacant.

LISA

Big Bob McElraney said you could
help us. Are you Flo?

FLO

You're here for that Negro spiritual,
aren't 'ya?

LISA

Spiritual! What spiritual?

FLO

You know what I' talking about? The
Sweetwater Revival.

LISA

No I don't! We just need a room for
the night. We'll sleep in the lobby
if we have to.

FLO

Don't play innocent with me! Like I
said, we have no vacancies! You
better leave the premises before I
call the sheriff.

Lisa pleads with her but it's no use. After the blurry white face on the other side of the opaque glass fades away, the neon sign outside that reads 'Vacancy' goes dark and is replaced by another that reads 'No-Vacancy'.

EXT. EASTERN HORIZON - NIGHT (RAINING)

As the threesome scan the horizon, it's impossible to see anything in the distance except for a cardboard sign tacked to telephone pole that reads 'Sweetwater Revival Straight Ahead.' After the next lightning burst, they can see ahead for a split second.

CODY
(pointing)
Did you see that?

TEDDY
I saw it!

LISA
(rubbing her eyes)
I don't see it.

After the next lighting burst, Lisa sees the same blurry white object in the distance, and the Boys follow her lead and run for it.

CODY
Maybe it's a big white house?

TEDDY
Or a big white church?

LISA
It looks like a circus tent!

EXT. REVIVAL TENT - NIGHT (RAINING)

After another bolt of lightning incinerates an oak tree behind them, they run faster across a parking lot, dragging their three suitcases and Robes behind them towards the tent. After Lisa pulls up the side of the tent and everyone slithers inside, out of breath and exhausted, they collapse into each other's arms and fall asleep.

INT. REVIVAL TENT - DAY

It's Sunday morning and Cody wakes up first to organ music and a choir. He thinks he might be dreaming when an angelic voice speaks to him from an adjacent pew.

PLUMP WOMAN
Got here early for the revival, didn't
'ya sweet pea?

CODY

Revival?

NANCY

My name's Nancy! Nancy Mae Johnson!

Lisa wakes up next and surveys their surroundings.

LISA

Nice to meet you Nancy! Where are we?

NANCY

The Sweetwater Revival! Your first time?

LISA

First time for what?

NANCY

For the word of God! For the chance to be saved!

LISA

There's no saving me! So if you don't mind, can you please point to the nearest exit.

INT. SIDE OF REVIVAL TENT - DAY

Before Lisa responds, a familiar shadow moves outside the tent, searching for an opening, a flap maybe, and when he finds one he sticks his battered head through it.

INT. NANCY'S END OF THE PEW - DAY

LISA

(whispers to the Boys)
I'll be damned! It's Sean! Get down and pray!

NANCY

(on alert)
Did you see something? An apparition?
A ghost?

LISA

(visibly shaken)
I might have?

NANCY

Not to worry! The Reverend Billy
Ray Flateboe is the best faith healer
around! Just keep praying while
Nancy takes care of everything.

When about five minutes have passed, Lisa scans the tent horizon for any sign of Sean, and when she sees none, she motions to the Boys to get ready to follow her.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Going so soon? It would be a sin to
leave right now!

LISA

Trust me! I'm no stranger to sin!
It follows me wherever I go

INT. MAIN AISLE END OF THE PEW - DAY

When the moment seems right, Lisa grabs Robes while Cody drags two suitcases and Teddy pulls the third as they make their way down the pew to the main aisle, bumping knees and stepping on feet along the way. When they get there, Lisa trips on the last foot and falls into the main aisle, taking her Boys with her. Before they regain their footing, the Reverend Flateboe returns from the altar and confronts them in a brilliant blue and white robe.

INT. MAIN AISLE - DAY

REVEREND FLATEBOE

Is there anyone out there?
Anyone!...Running away from God?...Or
fighting a losing battle with Satan?

NANCY

(o.s.)
They are! Those three. Please save
them!

The good Reverend makes his way up to Lisa and the Boys.

REVEREND FLATEBOE

Young mother with two sons! What
kind of trouble has the Prince of
Darkness forsaken you to?

While Lisa and the Boys stand frozen and remain speechless in front of the congregation, they can feel the weight of every stare upon them.

REVEREND FLATEBOE (CONT'D)
 Something is frightening you? I can
 see it in your faces. Is that true?

Lisa tries to resist, but she cannot. Reverend Flateboe's powers of persuasion are too great in her weakened state. With no place to hide and her willpower fading, Lisa raises her head toward the Preacher's.

LISA
 (softy)
 I was once a Playboy Bunny!

Taken aback by what he just heard, the good Reverend approaches her again, as if he stumbled upon a hundred dollar bill.

REVEREND FLATEBOE
 Say that again!...But louder now.

LISA
 (louder)
 I was once a Playboy Bunny!

REVEREND FLATEBOE
 (to the congregation)
 Did you hear that? She was once a
Playboy Bunny!

LISA
 (even louder)
 I used to smoke pot and pop pills!

REVEREND FLATEBOE
 She used to smoke pot and pop pills!

LISA
 I once had an orgy in my living room!
 And I loved it!

The congregation, already at the edge of their pews, erupts with gossip and innuendo and pops off with spiritual salvos of "Sweet Jesus!" And "Have mercy on her soul!" And "Hallelujah!"

REVEREND FLATEBOE
 Go on sweet thing! They love it!

LISA

And now we have no home, no
transportation, and only the clothes
on our backs!

REVEREND FLATEBOE

Sweet Jesus! That's what I'm talking
about!

When Lisa is done, there isn't a dry eye under the tent,
even the Reverend's, who's as pleased as any preacher could
be that he found the perfect sinner.

REVEREND FLATEBOE (CONT'D)

God bless your heart! God bless
your souls! May the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Ghost be with you
and protect you!

With a gentle nudge to Lisa and a nod to the two deacons
standing by, the foursome are escorted out of the tent.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

After Cody takes notice of a white Oldsmobile they're standing
next to, he places his hand over Lisa's mouth.

CODY

(whispering)
It's Dad's car!

LISA

(whispers back)
How do you know?

CODY

Because he's asleep in it! Follow
me...

From the ground, Cody holds up one of many bee-bee sized
pebbles that litter their feet.

CODY (CONT'D)

...I've got an idea! We'll slowly
flatten his tires. These pebbles
are just the right size.

EXT. OLDSMOBILE TIRE - DAY

Showing the others how it's done, Cody unscrews the valve
stem cover on one of Sean's tires and places a tiny pebble

on top of it, screwing the cover back on just tightly enough to let a barely audible stream of air out of the tire. When Teddy and Lisa see how it's done they each take care of a tire of their own while Cody does the last one.

CODY

In about five minutes, his tires will be flat, and he won't know about it until it's too late.

LISA

That's if he doesn't wake up before then! How long do you think this revival thing is going to last?

CODY

If it's like St. Paul's, it'll be over in a few minutes! Five tops!

TEDDY

That's not enough time!

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Lisa silently makes her way around the unlocked cars that are parked nearby and starts peeking in glove boxes, behind visors, and under floor mats.

LISA

We'll steal a car!

CODY

Don't you have a better plan?

TEDDY

Why can't we just use the keys hanging from the steering wheel in that maroon car next to Dad's?

EXT. PONTIAC - DAY

Lisa spots the hanging keys and quietly opens the car door to let the Boys in the back.

LISA

You two and the dog hide in the back seat under those blue and white robes so no one can see you.

After she reaches for the ignition switch, Lisa accidentally drops the keys to the floor and Sean stirs, but is not

awakened. Only when Lisa tries to close the driver's side door as quietly as possible, does he wake up.

SEAN

(o.s.)

Who goes there?

INT. FRONT SEAT FLOOR - DAY

Lisa dives to the floor on the passenger side and covers herself with a large overcoat draped over the front seat. The Boys do the same in the back with the robes and Lisa makes hand signals under the front seat to the back seat floor where Cody and Teddy are facing her.

NANCY

(o.s.)

Billy Ray! Will I ever see you again?

INT. PONTIAC - DAY (SAME)

REVEREND FLATEBOE

Well...ah...that's totally up to you. Unfortunately...I'm out of time...and have to be back in Jackson this evening! I'm leaving right now!

NANCY

I wasn't talking about that kind of seeing you again! I was talking about the other kind!

The Reverend fumbles for the door handle and when he finds it, he pulls open the door, and flops into the driver's seat, slamming the door behind him.

INT. FRONT SEAT FLOOR - DAY (SAME)

Unaware that Lisa is curled up beside his feet on the passenger side floor, he fumbles for his car keys in the ignition switch which she hands to him (without him noticing) and he fires up the Pontiac and throws it in gear.

NANCY

(o.s.)

But I love you!...Like you love the Lord!

REVEREND FLATEBOE

(o.s.)

I'm most flattered! But I have to ask you to refrain from draping yourself on my car and showing affection like that!

INT. BACK SEAT - DAY

Unable to resist the love connection outside the car, the Boys emerge from their cover, and take a look for themselves out the back window, staring straight in their Dad's bloodshot eyes.

SEAN

Hey, you there! Do you know my Boys are in your car?

When the Reverend is shocked to see the Boys in the back seat, he accidentally presses on the accelerator pedal, running over Nancy's foot. When she cries out in pain and hops on the other one, Lisa presses hard on top of the Reverend's right foot and accelerator pedal, moving the car backward again so it runs over Nancy's other foot.

REVEREND FLATEBOE

Sweet Jesus! What are you doing down there?

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

NANCY

Come back, my love! I'll endure any pain for you! I forgive you!

CODY

(acts as Lisa's eyes)

Press harder Mom!...She's catching up!

Throwing all of her weight on top of the Reverend's right foot, he has no choice but to deal with the speed and avoid ramming into parked cars as his and Sean's car swerve out of the parking lot towards the open highway. Behind them, Nancy slogs through the mud after the Reverend's car, while Sean revs up his Olds directly behind the Reverend's Pontiac.

NANCY

Please don't leave me like this!...I want to marry you!

CODY

Mom! Let off the pedal! He's at
the highway!

While the Reverend sits at the entrance and checks both directions of the highway and then his rearview mirror (where the love sick Nancy grows bigger and bigger), Lisa slides into the front seat and turns to the Reverend.

LISA

Life is full of signs!

The conflicted Reverend hesitates, while Sean's honks his horn, ready to follow.

REVEREND FLATEBOE

Is that so?

LISA

(quotes Big Bob)

That's right! If you learn to read the signs and use the information they're giving you and clearly map out your route and follow the markers you'll be sure to make the right choice and avoid delays and detours along the way.

CODY

(aides his decision)

And we placed bee bee sized pebbles in that car's valve stems so all four of his tires should be flat by now.

The reverend eyes his rear view mirror and then tucks his cross inside his robe.

REVEREND FLATEBOE

Forgive me Lord because...I do know what I'm doing...but I must do it now!

EXT. OLD CAPITAL INN - DAY

After the Pontiac skids to a stop in front of the Old Capital Inn on State St. in downtown Jackson, Mississippi, the Reverend looks both ways, and as soon as the foursome offload their luggage, he punches the accelerator and speeds away without a proper goodbye!

EXT. GREYHOUND BUS STATION - DAY

The next morning Lisa purchases bus tickets to Miami, and somehow, as they stand in line for their bus to leave, Sean's superb tracking skills leads him to the downtown bus station. Before the foursome can board, he spots them, and they flee back to the hotel on Jackson's Memorial Day parade route.

LISA

Run!...Run to the parade! And follow
me and don't get lost!

Sean can't believe his eyes and when he does, he gets boxed in by the next incoming bus until it offloads its passengers.

SEAN

(honking)

Damn it!

EXT. OLD CAPITAL INN - DAY

When Lisa and the Boys make it all the way back to State Street six blocks away, they collapse to the sidewalk beside a sparkling '56 Chevy.

'56 CHEVY DRIVER

Well, well, well! You must be new
in town? The name's Lester Higgins
but you can call me Slick.

LISA

Maybe?...Mr. Slick.

SLICK

Baby! Baby! Don't say maybe!

While Slick lays down his best jive to Lisa, the Boys point to the Greyhound Bus they should have boarded to Miami rolling by.

SLICK (CONT'D)

Miss your ride? Because if you did,
I'm your vehicle babe!

While Lisa hesitates, the Boys tap on her shoulder again as a trick farm truck pulls up beside them.

SLICK (CONT'D)

Friend of yours?

LISA
Nope! Yours?

EXT. SPEEDING TOWARDS STATE ST. - DAY

No longer blocked in at the bus station, Sean speeds towards State Street and when he SPOTS Lisa and the Boys in front of him, he slams the brakes to his Olds, but it's too late and he crashes into the back of the trick farm truck, throwing all of the GOOD 'OLE BOYS standing in the stake bed, into the air and over the sides.

EXT. SLICK'S CAR - DAY

While Slick moves out of the Good 'Ole Boys' way so they can get to Sean, he seizes the opportunity and holds opens the back door to his inviting car.

With the same look that Sean gave Cody during the brawl at the Truck Stop Café, he salutes the Boys before he throws himself into the pile of angry locals.

SLICK
Saints alive little lady! You sure
know who to stop traffic! What else
to you do for an encore?

LISA
Get me and my Boys out of here and
I'll show you!

SLICK
Jumpin' Jehovah! Where to?

INT. SLICK'S CAR - DAY

LISA
Miami! And punch it!

From the back seat window, the Boys stare out of it as the altercation behind them fades from view.

SLICK
Check it out!...I'm a member of the
Playboy Club!...A key card member to
be exact.

LISA
Wow! I'm impressed! You must be a
raging Casanova?

SLICK

(loudly then softly)

And I make 8 millimeter movies out
in the back woods at my love shack?
How about you and I make a movie
tonight?

LISA

Maybe! But if I do...you'll need to
take some of these to keep up with
me!

Slick eyes the vile of red pills suspiciously and so do the
Boys.

SLICK

What are they?

LISA

(whispers with bated
breath)

Uppers!

Slick works his arm around Lisa's shoulder and then retracts
it as soon as Robes notices it's not where it should be.

SLICK

Uppers!...What would I want with
those?

LISA

(blows softly in his
ear)

Just think about it stud! If you
had a few of these you could keep up
with me all night long!

SLICK

Jumpin' Jehovah! That sounds really
kinky! Give me a handful!

LISA

Take it easy Casanova!...Here's three.

After Slick washes down the downers with his flask of hooch
in his coat pocket, Lisa asks him if she can drive awhile so
he can conserve his energy. After he agrees, and they switch
places, he's fast asleep in a half hour.

INT. SLICK'S CAR WITH DRIVER'S REVERSED - DAY

The Boys inspect Slick's level of unconsciousness.

CODY

Vitamins? His head is as limp as
Dickey's.

LISA

Shush! Before you and your brother
can tell me what a bad mom I am...what
time do our bus tickets say we'll
arrive in Miami?

Before he answers, Lisa tries on Foreskin's sunglasses and
swallows three uppers she washes them down with Slick's
hooch.

CODY

6:45 AM.

LISA

Perfect!...Goodbye Jackson!...And
hello Miami!

EXT. SLICK'S CAR AT MARINA - DAY

At the end of the sixteen hours journey, Lisa wakes the Boys
up and gets the final directions to Bayfront Park and Marina
from Cody.

CODY

Shall I wake him now?

LISA

Go ahead!

SLICK

(dazed and confused)
Where the hell are we?

LISA

(jiving like Slick)
Miami, Florida! The keys are in the
ignition. I know I got your
permission. I topped off the tank.
Ain't life great!

EXT. MARINA - DAY

Bathed in sunshine and a warm tropical breeze, the foursome make their way along a walkway out into the marina, then down a gangway to Aisle J until they locate a blue and green speedboat named the *Bermuda Triangle II* berthed inside a slip.

EXT. MARINA GANGWAY - DAY

A tall and fit man in a Hawaiian shirt and white slacks with reddish blond hair sits alone on deck with his back to them reading a newspaper. It must be Roger.

LISA

Roger! Is that you?

ROGER

Yes it is! You actually made it!

LISA

Yes! Here we are!

EXT. SPEEDBOAT DECK - DAY

ROGER

Welcome aboard the *Bermuda Triangle II*! Can I offer you a cold Daiquiri? Boys, perhaps two Shirley Temples would interest you? And the dog, a big bowl of water?

LISA

Yes of course! They all sound great!

ROGER

Wonderful! Please follow me to the galley. And look around if you like.

EXT. SPEEDBOAT GALLEY - DAY

While Roger prepares the drinks, Lisa and the Boys run their hands along the bull nose edging of the galley's mahogany countertop until it stops in front of a family portrait of Roger, his wife, and two boys that look a lot like them.

TEDDY

Whoa!

CODY

That's amazing!

LISA
What a beautiful family!

ROGER
That picture was taken on this very
boat for our last wedding anniversary.

LISA
How...sad!

ROGER
(raises his glass to
theirs)
To a new life and a new beginning!

LISA
To the playboy capital of the world!

ROGER
When you get settled...can this
eligible playboy show the island to
you?

LISA
Of course you can!

EXT. APARTMENT FRONT DOOR - DAY

A few days have passed, and the foursome have settled comfortably into their furnished apartment. Lisa is already making a killing in tips as a cocktail waitress at the Kings Island Hotel & Casino and the Boys are registered for St. James Private School and will start next week. There's no sign of Sean and Roger is treating the foursome to a picnic today.

There's a KNOCK on the front door that Lisa is expecting.

ROGER
(with flowers and a
picnic basket)
Roger Woods III at your service!

LISA
I'm impressed! Flowers! Picnic
basket! You've come prepared! What's
in the basket?

ROGER
It is a surprise!

LISA
I love surprises!

EXT. SPEEDBOAT DECK - DAY

The *Bermuda Triangle II* coasts into a shallow lagoon with clear blue water surrounded by a white coral beach.

When the picnic is ready to start, Roger escorts the foursome to the back of the boat at the stern. After he lowers the dingy into the calm waters and receives the well-stocked picnic basket, he carefully holds out his hands to the foursome to join him.

EXT. PARADISE CAY - DAY

At the center of a very small coral island with a view of Smugglers Cove and the boat anchored in the middle of its cove, Roger and Lisa stretch out on a blanket while the Boys and Robes explore every acre of Paradise Cay.

LISA
(licks her lips)
Wow! Lobster tails, cream corn,
fresh asparagus and garlic bread.
You certainly know how to please!

ROGER
(grinning)
You have no idea!

When their eyes meet, Lisa starts giggling and she pretends to slip and fall into Roger's arms. For a brief moment, their lips lock before the Boys and Robes race across the blanket, kicking sand in their faces.

ROGER (CONT'D)
What do you think of the cay? This
island?

LISA
It's a nice slice of paradise!

ROGER
My best friend Charley and I used to
play here together when we were boys.
See that old Boathouse there? We
pretended it was anything we wanted
to in our imaginary adventures here.

LISA
 (interested)
 Really! How did you two meet and
 become friends?

ROGER
 Charley was an orphan and my family
 owned the orphanage Well! I mean to
 say they made a major donation to
 add a wing to the orphanage and the
 caretakers let Charley out to play
 with me whenever I wanted to.

LISA
 Seems like you lived a privileged
 life?

ROGER
 Yes but no! I hated my kept life
 and family obligations and envied
 his simple one without any. I think
 if Charley and I could have traded
 places like *The Prince and the Pauper*
 we would have.

A bit drunk from her wine like Roger is from his, Lisa lies
 on her back and stares up at the top of the pine tree at
 least a hundred feet tall above them.

LISA
 This tree looks very old!

ROGER
 It is and is very special! My
 grandfather planted this Southern
 pine himself when our family emigrated
 to the Bahamas. We call it the
 Grandfather Pine.

LISA
 Clever!

ROGER
 Enough about my family! Would you
 and the Boys like to accompany me to
 the Grand Bahamas Ball? The date
 falls on your Fourth of July 4
 Holiday.

LISA

If I can be your Cinderella and you my Prince Charming? The answer is yes!

ROGER

You can count on it! Charley will be there as well.

LISA

Okay then, it's a date!

ONE MONTH LATER

EXT. KINGS ISLAND INN CASINO - NIGHT

CONCIERGE

Welcome Mr. Woods! Your table is ready in the back. Please allow me to escort you and your guests personally.

ROGER

Thank you, but that will not be necessary! Carry on! We will find our way.

INT. GRAND BAHAMAS BALLROOM - NIGHT

When they reach their designated table, the Constable is the only one seated at the 'Giovanni Table.'

ROGER

Lisa and Boys meet Charley our Constable! Where are the other table guests?

CONSTABLE

They are right behind you, coming in as if they own the place.

ROGER

You are correct my friend. They do own the place!

Following Roger's wake through the crowded ballroom, an older man, another in dreadlocks, and two younger and larger men make their way to the reserved table.

INT. BALLROOM TABLE - NIGHT

After the older man reaches for his cigar, Roger is there with his silver plated lighter, striking a flame to puff on.

MR. GIOVANNI

Thank you Roger! Always the gentleman! And who do we have here?

ROGER

This is Lisa and her two boys Cody and Teddy.

When the Boys attempt to shake his hand, he exhales a cumulous cloud of cigar smoke in their faces.

MR. GIOVANNI

Please call me Mr. G. That's what all my friends call me.

LISA

(as the Boys frown)

Thank you Mr. G! It's a pleasure to finally meet you.

MR. G

(to the Constable and then to Roger)

What's he doing here? Sitting with us? I told you not to associate with his kind.

ROGER

(humorously, raises his glass)

Odd! He gave me the same advice about you. A toast! To my best friends!

Feeling the moment, everyone except the Constable, raise their full champagne glass and toast each other, including the Boys who drink cream soda instead. When every glass (except the Constable's) has clanked and is empty, the Constable makes an announcement before he leaves.

CONSTABLE

As you all know Hurricane Dolly is upon us and it seems every time one strikes the island the underworld cleans house and my workload

(MORE)

CONSTABLE (CONT'D)
 quadruples. With that said, I would
 like to make a toast to not cleaning
 house this time!

No one else raises their glass.

JAMAICAN
 (smiling)
 Goodnight Constable!

ROGER
 (a separate toast for
 Lisa and Boys)
 To the Bahama's California treasure!

LISA
 (toasts him back)
 Thank you Roger for everything you've
 done for us!

ROGER
 (with a smirk)
 Roger that! Shall we dance?

And just like that, everyone smiles in jest at the phrase
 he's heard a thousand times before.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY (MORNING)

When the Boys wake up the next morning, Lisa is asleep in
 her bedroom and looks like she will be for a while. After
 making themselves breakfast, the Boys are restless.

CODY
 Let's go outside and check on the
 hurricane.

TEDDY
 Aren't you afraid?

CODY
 We survived a lightning storm that
 almost killed us! How bad can a
 Category 2 hurricane be?

Up for the challenge, Teddy and Robes follow Cody outside
 and they risk the trip to Xanadu Beach, only three blocks
 away.

EXT. XANADU BEACH CLUBHOUSE - DAY (MORNING)

When they get there, the beach is deserted, except for a local flying a kite. Before they get to the Clubhouse, a sudden burst of wind snaps the kite's tether and the kite is sucked into the turbulent clouds above.

As the Boys approach the Clubhouse from their preferred jungle path, they overhear arguing voices beside a black Rolls Royce, including Roger's, and spy on the group of men from the cover of the foliage.

JAMAICAN

You crossed that line Roger!

MR. G

And there's no turning back now?

ROGER

I have turned over to you everything
I salvaged from that wreck.

JAMAICAN

Everything?

ROGER

Yes! Everything.

MR. G

You know my rules.

ROGER

Yes I do. Share and share alike!

MR. G

So why risk breaking them?

JAMAICAN

Since you won't share with us what
you really found at the wreck and
are still keeping it to yourself
we're going to take something of
yours that you cherish until you do.

MR. G

More like borrowing!...Or a security
deposit!

ROGER

What are you saying? And who are
you talking about.

JAMAICAN
Lisa and her Boys!

When the Boys hear their names and Lisa's, they freeze.

MR. G
(motions his two sons
to Roger)
Take him!

FRANKIE AND JOEY
Where?

MR. G (CONT'D)
To Lisa's place. It's just a few
blocks away. Invite her and the
Boys to our usual place so we can
settle this matter.

FRANKIE
Okay! But I have to take a leak
first.

JOEY
Me too! I'll go in the jungle.

MR. G
Damn you two! Hurry up and be done
with it.

As they men approach the jungle, the Boys and Robes race
back to their apartment.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY (HURRICANE)

When they crash against their front door, Cody unlocks it
and slams it closed behind them, locking it and pushing the
deadbolt in.

CODY
Run to mom's room and wake her.
Tell her there are bad men coming to
get us! I'm calling our grandparents
right now to let them know where Dad
can find us.

TEDDY
Are you sure?

CODY

Yes I'm sure! Look what happened
when I didn't tell mom about the
Social Worker?

After laying Sean's driver's license on the kitchen counter
next to the phone, Cody flips it over for his grandparents'
phone number that he wrote on it with a permanent marker.

CODY (CONT'D)

Operator!...Please make a collect
call to 213-555-1212. Hurry!

LISA

(stumbles to the
kitchen)

What are you doing?

CODY

I'm calling the police!

LISA

Why?

CODY

Because Roger is in trouble and so
are we!

LISA

For what?

CODY

We don't know! It sounds like they're
going to harm him if he doesn't give
them what they want! He refused!
So they forced him into a black Rolls
Royce next to the Clubhouse we just
ran from. They'll be here any second!

TEDDY

We've got to go Mom!

They all hear a car SCREECHING to a halt in front of the
apartment.

CODY

(desperate)

Pick-up! Pick-up! Please pick up!

OPERATOR

(o.s.)
Hello! Are you Buck Staley?

BUCK

(o.s.)
I am!

OPERATOR

(o.s.)
Will you accept a collect call from
Cody Breedlove.

BUCK

(o.s.)
Cody? Yes! Of course!

CODY

Grandpa! We're in trouble! Some
bad men are going to take us any
minute now.

LISA

You're calling your grandparents?
Hang up now!

TEDDY

Check the front door! They're driving
a Rolls Royce!

There's KNOCKING at the door!

LISA

Hang up!

CODY

(to Lisa)
Check the door peephole! See for
yourself who's outside.

Hesitating for a second, Lisa checks the peephole and then
falls backward after she sees who's standing outside.

LISA

They're here!

CODY

(to Buck)
Call Dad and give him our address.

Frankie and Joey kick at the door. One KICK! Two KICKS!!
Three KICKS !!! It flies open!

BUCK

(o.s.)

Sean is going to take you and your
mom into custody tomorrow morning.
Stay where you're at. He's working
with the Constable. They know where
you are!

Joey charges first through the open door and yanks the phone
cord out of the wall but not before Cody snags the driver's
license and stuffs it in his shorts.

JOEY

It's too late for that!

When Joey subdues Teddy first and then Cody, he drags each
of them by their shirt collars to the waiting Rolls Royce
outside but is tripped up by Lisa while Robes charges Frankie.
When Frankie manages to grab Robes by his collar with one
hand and Lisa by the other, he picks Robes up over his
shoulders and slams his head down on top of Lisa's head,
knocking them both out.

FRANKIE

I can't carry them both at the same
time. I'll come back for the dog.

JOEY

Forget about 'em! Even if he survived
that body slam he ain't going anywhere
in this hurricane!

INT. SMUGGLER'S COVE BOAT HOUSE - DAY (HURRICANE)

With hands tied, eyes blindfolded, and mouths gagged, Roger,
Lisa and Boys huddle together inside the Boathouse as Cody
struggles to pull his Dad's driver's license from his shorts.
When it's free and clear and it falls to the floor as a signal
marker, he covers it with his leg when the Jamaican appears.

JAMAICAN

(back to Mr. G)

They're all huddled together scared!
Shall we invite them outside and get
the party rollin' mon?

MR. G

Yes!...Frankie! Joey!...Bring them here! And put Roger front and center so we can get to the truth.

EXT. VERANDA NEXT TO BOAT HOUSE - DAY (HURRICANE)

When Roger's blindfold and gag are removed, he takes in the surroundings of the tidal surge flooding Smuggler's Cove lagoon and submerged Paradise Cay -- except the Grandfather Pine -- rising it above it all.

JAMAICAN

Just thought you might like to stretch your legs a little since you seem to be stretching the truth.

ROGER

Let them go! They have nothing to do with this.

JAMAICAN

You love and cherish them don't you? Just like I love what you have of ours. Your pleasure versus my pain! Can you feel my pain Roger?

When Roger doesn't answer, the Jamaican pulls tightly on his black driving gloves and buries his fist into Roger's gut, dropping him to his knees.

JAMAICAN (CONT'D)

Oh! I'm terribly sorry, Roger!...Did you feel that?...Did you feel my pain?

FRANKIE AND JOEY

(kick Roger in his back)

No one cheats our family! And gets away with it!

JAMAICAN

Easy! We're not even sure he's guilty but we'll soon find out aye, Roger?

ROGER

(spits up blood)

What is that supposed to mean?

MR. G

It means I think you have something that belongs to us. You know what I'm talking about, don't you?

ROGER

No! I do not!

JAMAICAN

Ok then, let me describe it to you! It's a sixteenth century cross, about fourteen inches high by eight inches wide, covered with gold, inlaid with silver, and studded with diamonds and rubies. From a sunken galleon rumored to be within diving range off the east end of Bimini Island. That's where you were treasure hunting last year! Isn't that true?

When Roger doesn't answer like he's supposed to, the Jamaican buries another uppercut into him.

ROGER

(shakes off the second blow and eyes Mr. G)

Oh that!...You could have just asked me!...Instead of hiring this psychopath to kill my family for it?

JAMAICAN

A psychopath? I take that as a complement! How was I supposed to know you'd take your family with you like a moonlight picnic to watch you stake your claim.

ROGER

I suspected that was your doing!

JAMAICAN

After the explosive charge I planted on the hull of your boat to stun you and not kill you went off...the four of you flew into the water so we searched you, your clothing and your boat, but our treasure was nowhere to be found!

ROGER

And my family? What did you do to them?

JAMAICAN

After I saved you from drowning...

ROGER

...You saved me?

JAMAICAN

Yes my friend! You were unconscious but not mommy and your little kiddies who wore their life vests just like you taught them. They were wide awake...so they just floated off and away in the Gulf Stream...crying out it in the darkness for you to save them. But no one did!

Before the Jamaican can continue with the gruesome story, Roger lunges towards him but gets no more than two steps before Frankie and Joey knock him to the ground kicking and stomping him until he's nearly unconscious.

LISA AND BOYS

(all three shout behind their gags)

No! Stop! Please don't!

MR. G

That's enough!

JAMAICAN

(with serene satisfaction)

After I tucked you in on a tiny cay for safe keeping and then called the Coast Guard they ended up finding you alive and your sunken boat...but no family.

MR. G

You're lucky we're giving you a second chance to find it! Before we do, you need to tidy things up here, so everything is back the way it was before you got selfish.

After the Jamaican unties Roger's hands and Frankie and Joey sit him up, Roger rubs the circulation back into his wrists.

ROGER

What do you mean by tidy things up?

MR. G

You have to take care of Lisa and the Boys right now! Out there, in the lagoon. We can't have any witnesses can we? Now go do it and make things right!

EXT. SMUGGLER'S COVE LAGOON - DAY (HURRICANE)

JAMAICAN

(o.s.)

Hurry up, mon! We don't have all day!

Without delay, Roger leads Lisa and the Boys into the cove (lagoon) while he is egged on by the mobsters behind them. When they reach the far end of the cove, the mobsters on shore appear as blurry figures.

ROGER

I am your only chance at survival! Do not say a single word when I cut your hand ties and do not remove your gags because they can still see them from shore!

LISA

Roger! You had us worried!

ROGER

Lisa, you first and not to worry! I'm going to throw you about and then hold you under for 60 seconds. When I let you go swim as fast as you can away from here to the Grandfather Pine behind us and wait for the Boys to join you. Teddy, you will be next and need to hold your breath for 30 seconds, and when I let go, you swim after your mom and hold on to the tree no matter what. Cody, you do the same. Are you ready?

After all three nod yes, Roger cuts Lisa's hand ties with his pocket knife and throws her about in the churning waters! When he's done with the first act he raises his body up as he holding Lisa under for 60 seconds for the second act.

When her time under is up, he releases her, and then starts with Teddy.

EXT. SMUGGLER'S COVE SHORE - DAY (HURRICANE)

From the shore, under the veranda, the mobsters watch a blurry Lisa going under and Roger holding her down and they encourage him to finish her off and then get to the Boys.

EXT. SMUGGLER'S COVE LAGOON - DAY (SAME)

Like clockwork, Roger gives the same performance for the Boys and when each has done their part, he holds up his arm with thumb up, to let the mobsters know he's drowned them all and proven his loyalty. Before he returns to shore, he turns around to make sure Lisa and the Boys got away, but instead, all three swim back to him and throw their arms around his neck.

LISA

(pleading)

Come with us? We can all escape together!

CODY

(begging)

Please Roger! You've got to come!

TEDDY

(desperate)

You promised you'd protect us!

ROGER

I am protecting you! There is no other way.

LISA

We can survive this!

ROGER

Yes you can survive it...but I cannot.

LISA

Why's that?

ROGER

We were brought to this location for one purpose only and that is to disappear, all of us, including me, under the cover of a hurricane.

(MORE)

ROGER (CONT'D)

This is how it plays out! There is no happy ending for me...but there is for you if you do what I ask you to do.

Refusing his orders, the threesome cling to him even tighter, making it difficult for Roger to breath.

CODY

You can't leave us!

TEDDY

We need you!

ROGER

The longer you wait...the more powerful Dolly gets. Swim now and do not look back!

Lisa places a memorable kiss on his bloody lips and pulls the Boys off of him.

Along the shore, the mobsters look on and realize they've been tricked. They shout to Roger to finish them off, but he turns his back on them and gives Lisa and the Boys additional instructions as they swim away.

ROGER (CONT'D)

(shouts in their direction)

Once you get your bearings at the Grandfather Pine, there are a string of cays next to this one to your right, and after you swim to the first and then the second one, head back to shore, and follow the beach east back to Freeport. Ask for help at the first beach house you come to. Got it?

LISA

(swims away now)
Got it!

ROGER

(barely heard)
To a new life and a new beginning!...To a past life and unforgettable memories!

EXT. PARADISE CAY AT GRANDFATHER PINE - DAY (HURRICANE)

Just as Roger instructed, the threesome reach the Grandfather Pine together and hug the tree as they catch their breath for the next leg. Before they start, crackling through the hurricane's winds...one shot is heard...then a second one...and finally a third. When it's evident what happened, the threesome can't bear to look at each other, and swim on.

EXT. SMUGGLER'S COVE LAGOON - DAY (SAME)

On shore, a contingent of Freeport policeman led by the Constable swarm the cove and surprise the mobsters and take them into custody without firing a shot. Sean and Robes are with him, and as the two men study Roger's body and try to make out what happened, Sean notices Roger's right hand pointing straight out to the lagoon.

CONSTABLE

I remember this place! Roger and I used to play here when we were boys. In the Boat House behind us there was always a row boat, a lantern, drinking water and a few blankets. See if those things are still in there and if they are meet me right here after I instruct my men to interrogate the mobsters to see if they can lead us to Lisa and the Boys.

SEAN

Yes sir!

INT. BOAT HOUSE NEXT TO VERANDA - DAY (HURRICANE)

To Sean's surprise, everything is there as the Constable described it! With assistance from two policeman loading the gear inside the rowboat, they drag the boat to the shore of the lagoon and Sean and the Constable board it. When they're pushed out into the lagoon, they both row as fast as they can straight ahead into blinding winds and cascading waves.

EXT. PARADISE CAY AT GRANDFATHER PINE - DAY (HURRICANE)

CONSTABLE

(shouting over his
shoulder)

Keep rowing!

(MORE)

CONSTABLE (CONT'D)

There is a large pine tree straight ahead on the cay in front of us.

SEAN

(shouting ahead)

A cay is an island, right?

CONSTABLE

(straining his eyes)

Perhaps they are clinging to the tree?

SEAN

(growing desperate)

There's no one on the tree! Where else could they be?

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - DAY (EYE OF THE HURRICANE)

Then slowly, without warning, the hurricane subsides, and the sky opens up.

CONSTABLE

(rejoicing)

We're in the eye of the hurricane!

SEAN

(pointing)

I see them! Over there!

With renewed hope and vigor, the two men row towards Lisa and Teddy -- but Cody is not with them.

LISA

(gasping for air)

We lost sight of Cody! He cut his foot on coral! When he reached for it a giant wave split us apart!

TEDDY

(treading water)

He was right next to me! Right around here.

SEAN

Blood there!

CONSTABLE

Boy there! At the bottom!

Diving in immediately, Sean pulls Cody's lifeless body into the boat while the constable pulls Teddy and Lisa inside as well.

LISA
Do something!

EXT. ROWBOAT - DAY

Instinctively, Sean cradles Cody's body on his knee, props his head back to look inside his mouth and throat for any debris.

CONSTABLE
Is it clear?

SEAN
Yes! Give me some room!

While everyone looks on, Sean pumps Cody's chest and pinches his nose and then blows short breaths into his lungs. When he repeats the process three times, Cody opens his eyes and spits out sea water. When he perks up and looks around him -- Lisa almost hugs Sean first before she pulls Cody to her bosom.

SEAN (CONT'D)
That's my boy!

CODY
Where's Roger?

No one is brave enough to answer except Sean.

SEAN
He's back there, Son! But you, Teddy and Lisa are alive!

CONSTABLE
We need to get you back to shore!
Before the eye passes us. We must hurry!

EXT. SMUGGLER'S COVE SHORE - DAY (SAME)

The moment the rowboat is pulled onto the beach, Lisa, Cody and Teddy walk up to the ambulance parked beside the Boathouse. On a stretcher, covered from head to toe with a wet sheet stained with blood in three places, is the outline of Roger.

CONSTABLE

(holds back his tears)

I am so sorry! When we arrived here, it was too late to stop what they did to him. At least he held on long enough to point in the direction to save you. Thank God for that!

After Cody and Teddy drape themselves over Roger's dead body, holding him one last time, Lisa pulls the sheet down that covers his handsome face and kisses him goodbye. When Sean sees what they did, he turns around, sadly, and walks away from the ambulance.

EXT. PARADISE CAY AT GRANDFATHER PINE - DAY

Having fulfilled his assignment, Sean cannot find it in his heart to take Lisa into custody. Instead, she's placed under house arrest until everything is sorted out in California. Before that happens, there's Roger's wake and funeral to attend to.

In full uniform, sword resting at his side, the Constable sprinkles Roger's ashes around the Grandfather Pine. When the ashes have settled, he directs his 21 officers to form a straight line with military precision, and with rifles drawn, as the bag piper plays, the Constable draws his sword and gives the command to fire the 21-gun salute. After the smoke clears from the gun barrels, the Constable salutes and everyone in attendance is dismissed.

CONSTABLE

(to Lisa and then
Sean)

Roger left a last will and testament but neither of you are in it. As for you sir, you have their extradition papers?

SEAN

Right in my pocket.

CONSTABLE

Your flight back to California is all set?

SEAN

We'll be flying out of here tomorrow morning at 11:15 AM.

CONSTABLE
(to Lisa and Sean)
Before you leave, can I make some
personal comments? To the two of
you?

LISA AND SEAN
(in harmony)
Yes! Of course!

CONSTABLE
I hope for the Boys' sake when you
return home together you will resolve
your differences. The Boys need a
strong father and a stable mother.
Would you agree?

Sean and Lisa look at each other and nod yes.

CONSTABLE (CONT'D)
Excellent!...If you have no further
questions?...My case is closed, and
I'll meet you at the airport tomorrow
morning for a sendoff.

LISA
I do have one question: How did you
know where to find us at Smuggler's
Cove?

CONSTABLE
I had a hunch after we kept finding
mob associates dead at the west end
of the island more so after every
hurricane. I triangulated the center
point from the victim locations and
guess where it led me?

SEAN
Smuggler's Cove!

CONSTABLE
Precisely my dear Watson!

CODY
I think I figured it out!

CONSTABLE
Figured what out?

CODY

Where it is? The Cross of Isabella!

CONSTABLE

Go on!

CODY

We're standing on it!

INT. GRAND BAHAMA INT'L AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Waiting to board their flight from Grand Bahama International Airport to LAX, the foursome spot the Constable heading for their boarding gate.

CONSTABLE

You were right! We have the Cross.

LISA

What are you going to do with it?

CONSTABLE

I know of a dozen schools to repair, churches to be built, an orphanage in need of a new wing. Oh, the possibilities!

SEAN

Thanks for everything you did for us! We'll never forget you!

CONSTABLE

You are welcome...and I wish I could have done more. I am leaving now so chins up...and the best of luck to the four of you! I hope one day to see you back on the island under better circumstances. Perhaps as tourists?

INT. GRAND BAHAMA INT'L AIRPORT BOARDING GATE - DAY

After everyone watches the constable disappear around a corner, all eyes are on Lisa.

LISA

As much as I hated you for finding us I admire your determination and sacrifice in doing so. So do the Boys!

The Boys nod yes and grasp one of Sean's hands.

SEAN
I know you do!

LISA
Regardless of what happens to me, I owe you an apology and a big thank you for saving our lives. You're a very good tracker and detective!

SEAN
(smiling)
Thank you! That means a lot to me!

LISA
Shall we go now?

SEAN
Yes! Let's catch our plane!

INT. BOEING 707 - DAY

On board the Boeing 707, Sean, Teddy and Cody sit three wide, and Lisa sits by herself on the other side of the aisle, across from Sean.

CODY
Dad! What's going to happen to us when we get back to California?

Sean looks at Cody, then Teddy, and over to Lisa.

SEAN
I don't know Son. We're in uncharted territory. But we have options!

TEDDY
What are they?

SEAN
Your Grandparents could drop all charges of kidnapping. Then there's the matter of figuring out how to handle child services, reversing the court order requirements, and reassigning custody.

With no more questions for now, it's quiet again until the plane is in the air and reaches cruising altitude.

TEDDY

How many times did you get beat up
trying to get us?

At first, no one dares to laugh, but when Sean does, the ice
is broken again.

SEAN

Twice! Once at the diner and the
other after the parade.

CODY

Which one hurt the most?

Sean laughs in pain again as if his ribs are still healing.
When it quiets down, he glances at Lisa.

SEAN

They both hurt! They hurt a lot!

LISA

How about a broken heart? Which one
hurts the most?

Caught off guard, Sean ponders her question while the Boys
look on.

SEAN

A broken heart!

LISA

Do you know how to fix one?

SEAN

I'm not sure!...I mean...I don't
know! I guess it depends on how
badly it was broken.

LISA

Badly!

INT. LAX TERMINAL - DAY

After they land at LAX, pick-up Robes and are through customs,
the fivesome stop in the middle of the main terminal and
stare at the sign: 'Welcome to Los Angeles International
Airport.'

LISA

So where do we go from here?

SEAN

(Reaches out to grasp Lisa's hands)
That's up to you!...And I think I
have the answer to your question on
the plane.

LISA

I'm listening!...What is it?

SEAN

We start over again!...Put the past
behind us!...And plan for a future
ahead of us!

LISA

Go on!

SEAN

After all that's happened to us that's
come between us, no matter what...I
never stopped loving you. You've
always been in my heart. Do you
think you can learn to love me again?

LISA

(gazes into his eyes)
No!...I don't have to!

SEAN

But why not?

LISA

(smiling)
Because I never stopped loving you!

SEAN

Okay then! It's settled. Lisa!
Boys! Would you like to come to my
place tonight? I can make you a
nice spaghetti dinner.

CODY AND TEDDY

Yes! Yes!

LISA

It's a date!

The five of them walk out the terminal doors, hand in hand,
as a family again.

FADE OUT