

BIG SKY LOVE

By

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BLACK SCREEN:

Fast paced ROCK & ROLL MUSIC fades in. Text appears in a Fairy Tale style font: "TIME IS A PRECIOUS COMMODITY...(end of sentence dissolves in)...WITH A FAIR RETAIL VALUE."

FADE IN:

ON A CHROME WHEEL spinning rapidly. (ZOOM OUT) on a souped-up, "Evel Knievel" styled racing lawn mower driven by BENJAMIN BLOOM, 39 and handsome. He's sharply dressed wearing slacks, shirt, shoes, and a fluttering white cape with a large yellow glittering "S" on the back.

EXT. OPEN PLAIN - SUN FALLING

Ben's hauling ass on a dirt road creating a trail of dust. A young ladies voice is heard - ANGEL (17 YEARS OLD)

ANGEL (VOICE OVER)

"Cut to the chase?" That's what the producer said as I was pitching the story about my Dad. "What Genre?" He asked.

The engine blows. Smoke billows out. Ben panics as the mower slows down.

ANGEL (VO) (CONT'D)

Well a New York city slicker attorney learns to endure the great out doors of Big Sky, Montana. But to sum it up solely as a "Fish out of Water"? Let's be real. That's just a hook.

The mower chugs out a few more yards.

ANGEL(VO) (CONT'D)

It has action and drama. But how much action classifies, "Action"? How much drama defines, "Drama"?

The mower dies. Ben lowers his head and closes his eyes.

ANGEL (VO) (CONT'D)

There's Cowboys and Indians. Key weigh ins for a Western. Soooo, Western?

CONTINUED:

Ben looks up. He punches an engine gauge. An oil well pumpjack bobs in the horizon. Miles of open terrain end at a mountain range. He removes the cape and looks to the right. A memorial cross in the distance is surrounded by flowers. He turns left and looks behind his shoulder. A trail of dust settles. He scrunches up the cape exposing the "S". He buries his face in it then drops his head against the steering wheel.

ANGEL (VO) (CONT'D)

The story has humor and romance and dare I say, thee "L" word. So how do I pick one specific genre?

Ben's head pops up. He's intrigued.

ANGEL (VO) (CONT'D)

"Just tell me what it's about." He said.

Ben slowly turns right and looks over his shoulder.

ANGEL (VO) (CONT'D)

Well, I told him. I'm not so sure.

Ben's eyes light up. He breathes fast and heavy. He cinches his lips and prepares to scream out. (FREEZE FRAME)

ANGEL (VO) (CONT'D)

So let me tell you what happened. Maybe after words, I can tell you what it's about.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - PRE-DAWN

MONTAGE -

-Wet streets reflect colorful illuminations from signage draping the Square. Gloomy night stragglers pass lively morning strollers. A diversity of business owners open various doors to their shops. A wood. Mirrored. Steel. Tinted glass. And grid.

-An unkempt burly man holding a coffee cup appears from behind a garbage truck and climbs in. A decal on the door reads: "DON'T WASTE-A-WAY / GLORE RECYCLING". The truck pulls away and reveals a coffee shop. A sign reads: "THE DOJO". A glass door has a decal that reads: "A PLACE OF THE WAY".

-Door opens. ANGEL, Caucasian/Asian, Goth, 17, emerges holding a coffee cup and small paper bag. She walks along sidewalk towards newspaper stand. Sign reads: "NEWSTAND".

CONTINUED:

- "THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL" headline reads: "DEST AIR DENIED" with a photo of: A distant man, head down, under a big sky. "THE NEW YORK TIMES" headline reads: "VICTORIOUS EGRET" with 2 photos, #1: Pink Egret by waters edge. Text: "EGRET". Photo #2: Flamingo by waters edge. Text: "Flamingo". Angel buys both papers. She continues on. Angel arrives at a narrow apartment building (FLATIRON BUILDING in NYC). A lone, purple Morning Glory flower blooms from vines lacing perimeter of grated doors. Angel cups it.

ANGEL

Good Morning Glory. (inhales scent)
Love your heaven scent.

She releases the flower and enters the building. A sign reads: "LONE TOWER"

INT. APARTMENT - PRE-DAWN

Angel's sitting at a breakfast bar with an open laptop. The screen has a picture of an early 20's Asian woman (GRACE).

ANGEL

Miss you Mom.

Angel removes an "O" shape pastry from the bag. Pulsating WHINES blast from a bedroom.

BEN (OFF SCREEN)

Snoooooze.

WHINES stop. Angel brings up a new screen. Reads: "SCREENWRITING 101". "ASSIGNMENT: WRITE TREATMENT FOR CHOSEN GENRE."

ANGEL

Right treatment?

WHINES resume.

BEN (OS)

Snooooooze.

WHINES stop. Angel brings up blank page. She types: "UNTITLED". She sips coffee then bites pastry. WHINES resume.

BEN (OS) (CONT'D)

SNOOZE DAMMIT. SNOOZE.

WHINES stop. She types a sub-title and authorship: "HIS STORIED LIFE'S AFFAIR: E-TALE BY A. BLOOM". She looks at bedroom doors, suspiciously. She waits. WHINES resume.

CONTINUED:

BEN (OS) (CONT'D)
ARRRGGGHHH!

Angel smirks. Pocket doors slide open. Ben emerges, disgruntled. He staggers through residence, ranting.

BEN (CONT'D)
Get this one Baby. It's got the Power Source Projector so the time lights up on the ceiling. And ahh cool, it's got VoRTEEx. Really Barbara? VoRTEEx? Wow! VoRTEEx. Oh uhm, by the way. What the fff...

Ben freezes. Angel stares in contempt. He composes himself then continues to coat closet. He enters and makes a ruckus.

BEN (OS) (CONT'D)
VoRTEEx is patented, Voice Recognition Technology, Extreeme. This high tech clock interprets words, even context so you don't have to rely on a switch. Works wonders.

Ben emerges with a baseball bat. He check swings as he walks slowly back to bedroom.

BEN (CONT'D)
So all I have to do is say the word "Snooze" and it'll automatically, Snooze? Yep. That's what it'll do. Well then let's give it a try, shall we?

Ben enters bedroom. WHINES continue.

BEN (OS) (CONT'D)
Hey a new Pitcher on the mound, up from the Minors. Time to drive one, outta the Park. SNOOZE! (SMASH. WHINES continue.) SNOOZE! (SMASH. WHINES continue.) SNOOZE! SNOOZE! SNOOZE!...

Ben unleashes fury. The WHINES cease. Ben emerges, victorious. He drops the bat and swaggers to the kitchen.

ANGEL
You snooze you lose.

BEN
(condescending)
Hah. Funny. Good one Ainge.

CONTINUED:

Ben pulls an "EVEL KNIEVEL-PERILIOUS TRAPS OF MR. DANGER" coffee mug off a shelf displaying "Evel Knievel" memorabilia. (Lunchbox, Stunt Cycle, Scramble Van, etc.) He grabs the empty coffee pot from the machine and pours nothing.

BEN (CONT'D)

What's up with the coffee? (pause)
ANGEL?

ANGEL

What coffee? We have no coffee.

BEN

Great. That's just...

Ben slips the pot back and staggers to the bar. Angel sips her coffee.

BEN (CONT'D)

You went to the Dojo? Didn't get me anything?

ANGEL

I didn't know you were home. You're usually not.

BEN

Yeah well you could've checked. You know. That would've been nice.

Angel picks up the pastry and takes a bite.

BEN (CONT'D)

Ahh? And a Honey Dough Lite?

ANGEL

Honeyed, "O" lite.

BEN

It's Honey Dough Lite. The cross between a Honeybun and Doughnut.

ANGEL

Well it's an "O". And it's honeyed. So I like, Hun-need, oh-lite.

She engulfs remains.

BEN

Whatever.

Ben grabs "THE NEW YORK TIMES" and becomes intrigued.

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)
Huh? They won. Hey did you hear
about this egret...

ANGEL
BUSY.

Ben begins to read. Angel types. Time creeps by.

BEN
So I had the nightmare again last
night.

ANGEL
Captivating.

BEN
Yeah it's surreal. I'm alone at the
crossroads...

ANGEL
...in Times Square. Yeah yeah.

BEN
And when the earthquake hits the
buildings, collapse...

Angel SLAMS laptop shut, angered.

BEN (CONT'D)
What?

ANGEL
I can't concentrate when you're
babbling.

BEN
What's your problem?

ANGEL
Did you know nightmares are
subconscious interpretative visions
caused by suppressed anxiety from
life flaws

BEN
Really?

Angel stands and gathers her things.

ANGEL
Analyze your nightmare. Dissect it.
I'm sure you'll find out "why" you
keep having it.

CONTINUED:

Each extend a hand out, then reach down and shoot up into a high five.

BEN & MARK (CONT'D)
SWEET BONE!

MARK (CONT'D)
Bust out the speedo and oil well up. I'm taking you on that cruise.

BEN
Girls Gone Wet and Wild? You're nuts. Barbara will never have it.

MARK
(condescending)
You know, I'm sure it was a beautiful ceremony with you and the Misses exchanging vows.(flash)
And the reception? Did you smear cake in each others faces?

BEN
We've been seeing each other like, four years.

MARK
So?

BEN
Sooooo. (pause) So you know this nightmare I've been...

MARK
Don't change the subject.

BEN
Listen. After the collapse there's a maze, leading to, this invisible door. Just a door. It's fuzzy after that.

MARK
What's this have to do with you and, Barbie?

BEN
Barb Ara. And I'm not so sure. But apparently, Angel thinks it means something.

MARK
Why? Did she say something? At her performance?

CONTINUED:

Ben recollects, then cringes.

MARK (CONT'D)

You forgot? Again? I'm starting to think you're scared to see Angel perform.

BEN

Scared? Of what? She speaks.

MARK

She recites what she writes. Would it help if she rapped?

BEN

A Spoken Word Artist. That's what she calls herself.

MARK

Ben, Angel's talented. And very intelligent.

BEN

Yeah. Good genetics I guess.

MARK

Oh her mother was too?

Ben pauses becoming entranced.

BEN

Yeah. She was.

MARK

I'm busting on you Dude. She's you.

BEN

I see her mother.

MARK

One is a product of one's environment. Forget genetics.

BEN

I see Grace.

Mark looks at the line, impatient. Customers continue to rotate in and out;

MARK

Dough and joe? How does it generate, this insanity?

CONTINUED:

BEN

Hey in prison, coffee and honeybuns are valuable commodities. Could be life saving.

MARK

Yeah or ending. Well maybe the owner is a former in-mate. Deals with honey bunny money and coffees.

BEN

You see the Dojo, they know, the secret of success. It all starts with a KISS.

MARK

A kiss?

BEN

Kiss. An acronym. Keep It Sweet 'n Simple.

MARK

Sweet? Like sugary? Oh!(flash) Like our bonuses.

BEN

Exactly. Wondrous; bliss. A Satin black Mustang, pushing it's peak gross horsepower to a (mimes shifting) Summit five.

MARK

I see your future buddy. Mustang in there.

BEN

One more seals the deal.

MARK

So what about simple?

BEN

Simple's simple. Simple's Chockvanstraw. Yeah variety's cool, but the better of all sales come from three. That was my Chocolate, Vanilla, Strawberry argument I had with Everest X-cream. Extreme ice cream.

CONTINUED:

MARK

Man, did those guys ever leave base camp?

BEN

Yeah but it was a short trek. They didn't follow the Sherpa. They tried to summit alone with flavors like the Very Berry Extraordinary, which be Acai, Cherry, Black 'n Blue, plus two Ras, Goji, Boysen and Grape Pizzazz.

MARK

Gesundheit.

BEN

Even the Yeti was like, "All this way 'n no Chockvanstraw? You better at least have Rainbow Sprinkles?"

MARK

Should've Kept It Sweet 'n Simple.

They arrive at doors and enter.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Ben, Mark, and mob of suits enter through a revolving door. Clear, double glass doors on each side of revolving door go unused.

INT. OFFICE LOBBY - DAY

A nameplate on a desk reads: "HOPE SINKEY." It's decorated with colorful star stickers. One legged, Hope Sinkey; 50ish, sits in wheelchair behind desk with phone to ear. She taps her blue glitter claws on desktop. On wall behind her it reads: "FIRM" - "FAIRWAY INTERVENTION REPRESENTATION MEDIATION. Ben arrives. Hope hands him mail.

HOPE

Barbie's asking. Actually, Barbie's looking.

BEN

Figured she would be. And it's, Barb Ara.(holds up mail) This it?

HOPE

Fairway's asking. Actually, Fairway's waiting.

CONTINUED:

BEN
(discouraged)
Great. Heading to his office...

HOPE
Your office.

BEN
...my office.(sighs) Thanks Hope.

Ben walks away towards offices.

HOPE
Ben? (Ben turns) Good Morning.

BEN
I'm not so sure.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

JOE FAIRWAY, 60 large, sits against wall. A framed photo of Angel in an Angel costume at age 6 and one of Grace in a "UMASS" sweatshirt are on a bookshelf. Ben hurriedly enters.

BEN
Sir I apologize. I don't recall us
having a meeting this morning.

Ben plops on a ratty old office chair behind a desk overlooking the city. He jumps up and grabs his right butt cheek.

BEN (CONT'D)
OWWWW. Ahhhh. I got, cut.

He looks at his butt then at the chair. A spring end is piercing out of the chair's fabric.

BEN (CONT'D)
I think I'm bleeding.

JOE
Apply firm pressure. It'll scab.

Ben applies pressure then sits gently on edge of the chair. He flips through pages of a notebook.

BEN
As I was saying. I have nothing...

JOE
You know we didn't have a meeting
this morning.

CONTINUED:

Joe smiles, stands and walks to window overlooking city.

BEN

(skeptic)

Uhm. You're in my office, waiting.
It makes no sense. Especially if
you consider the variable unknowns.

JOE

And what are those Ben?

BEN

Ok. Let's say, hypothetically. I'm
home in bed suffering a raging
hangover so debilitating I have to
crawl around my apartment to look
for my cell phone so I can call in
sick this morning. Only then to
recall it was destroyed in a full
out balls to the wall bar brawl
initiated from a renege on a bet
over a beer pong tournament between
some pumped up pissed off paddlers
and you'd still be sitting here,
waiting. I don't get it.

JOE

Bravo Ben. Bravo. You, are a spoken
word master.

BEN

Uhm...huh?

JOE

"Ask not what your country can do
for you." Would those words have
had the same impact if JFK had
simply, wrote them down? "Read my
lips" cost Bush Senior re-election.
A word spoken is energy
transcending through space and time
with a purpose. To be heard. Then
interpreted formulating thoughts,
feelings, emotions. Comprised of
specific tones A,E,I,O,U and
sometimes Y, along with gasps or
breaths of air if you will. A word
spoken, one might say, is alive.

Joe stands and walks to the wall. A poster hangs of a 2025
Satin Black Mustang Dark Horse 5.0 liter 500 Horsepower Car.
50 boxes are underneath. 49 are checked off. The last box is
blank.

CONTINUED:

BEN

Sir, is there something...

JOE

I need a voice. A friend of mine. This guy I've known for years, Ira Morse. Well he's been consulting a Black Coal Power Plant in Montana and they've run into a territorial dispute with some neighbor. This horse center.

Ben pops up. Holds loose papers.

BEN

Oh Sir, I'm...I'm swamped. I've got a ton...

JOE

I need a go getter on this one Ben. A winner. Plus this will be fifty for you. Five oh and FIRM's top bonus. (admires poster) Ahhh she's a beaut.

Ben sits, dispirited. Joe walks to doorway.

JOE (CONT'D)

Hope will make the arrangements.

BEN

Montana?

JOE

You'll love it Ben. That's Big Sky country.

Sweet music plays.

MONTAGE - NEWSPAPER DELIVERY - DAWN

Newspaper: "BIG SKY VIEW" atop strapped bundle. Headline: "PREPAIR FOR FAIR".(INTENTIONALLY SPELLED WRONG) Photo: festival tents erecting. Native American boy pulls bundle off loading dock. Throws in bed of old pick up with others. Climbs in bed. Old Native man drives away.

Truck passes sign: "WELCOME TO BIG SKY". Boy rolls, bands, throws papers at homes. Truck passes sign: "LONE MOUNTAIN". Mountain silhouette in background.

Truck approaches sign: "CUT RIVER". Drives over bridge.

CONTINUED:

Truck passes Coal Power Plant with sign: "MONTANA POWER SERVICE MANAGEMENT GROUP AFFILIATION CORPORATION".

Truck drives under arched sign: "THE LIGHT'S HORSE CENTER".

EXT. HOUSE - DAWN

Truck stops in front of house. Boy jumps out with last paper, not rolled, and blue Morning Glory flower. Jogs onto farmers porch. Places flat paper on table; flower on top. Walks calmly back to truck and climbs in cab. Truck drives off. SKYE SHINE LIGHT, 35 years old, country beauty, exits screen door. Soaks in sunrise. Picks up flower and paper. Admires flower.

SKYE

Good Morning Glory.

She smiles and enters house.

INT. HOUSE - DAWN

Skye enters, walks to kitchen and puts the flower in a vase, then the vase on a sill. SUNSHINE DEE LIGHT, 6 years old, exits bedroom holding a Theodore Chipmunk stuffed doll. She trots to kitchen table and sits. Skye walks over and kisses her head.

SKYE

Good morning Sunshine. What would yah like for breakfast?

SUNSHINE

HONEYBUNNIES.

SKYE

Sweetie we had Honeybunnies yesterday. How 'bout some, Raisin Bran? (Sunshine thinks) Extra raisins? (Sunshine excitedly nods) Yeah? (nods) Ok.

Skye walks to kitchen and pours cereal in a bowl. An engine outside CRANKS, REVS, BACKFIRES then dies. Skye pours a glass of milk.

PAPA RAY(OS)

(yawn and cough)

Coffff-ffeeee.

CONTINUED:

Skye and Sunshine lock eyes and grin. PAPA RAY LIGHT emerges. Slim 65 year old in long johns and a cowboy hat is holding a fifth of whisky. He staggers to the kitchen and sits. He plants his face on the table.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)
Coff- (coughs) fee.

SKYE
Hold your horses Papa Ray. I'll get
it in a second.

Skye delivers dry cereal to Sunshine then retrieves a giant mug labeled: "STUD MUFFIN". She fills it with coffee. Sunshine CLANGS spoon and CRUNCHES each bite. Papa covers his ears. CLANG and CRUNCH continue. Papa raises his head and peers at Sunshine.

PAPA RAY
You like all that crunchy stuff
stuff, don't yah Sunny girl?

SUNSHINE
And the raisins.

Skye unhooks letter off of fridge and delivers Papa's coffee. She kisses his head then sits. Papa looks at Sunshine.

PAPA RAY
You know what them there raisins
are made from? Do yah?

Sunshine shrugs. Papa opens his hand, palm up.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)
Let's say I take you, Sunshine. And
I put you (taps palm) right here.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)
Then, I take...

Papa pulls a white grape off a cluster from a fruit bowl on the table.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)
...this seedless li'l white fella,
and put it right next to yah.(grape
on palm) Now I close my hand,
(closes)give a couple shakes
(shakes).

Papa opens his hand revealing a raisin on his palm. Sunshine's amazed.

CONTINUED:

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)

Presto. Ain't that neat?

SKYE

What Grandpa's trying to say, is that raisins are dried up grapes.

PAPA RAY

Dried up, shriveled old grapes. Like me.

Papa flips the raisin in his mouth. Skye holds up the letter.

SKYE

Got another letter from the jerks. They say it's their final offer.

PAPA RAY

Oh yeah? That it?

SKYE

(scrolls and reads letter)
...and if you choose not to accept, we will condemn on grounds of eminent domain whereas you'll only be awarded fair retail value of one said home. Signed C. Ira Morse Esquire.

Letter's signature reads: "C. IRA MORSE, ESQ.".

PAPA RAY

Damn government granted corporations and their bullying.

SKYE

We need to find out what this is about.

PAPA RAY

Greed. Some buddy, some where, wants some more, of some thing.

SKYE

Well I'm going to the courthouse. See if there's legal aid or something we can get.

SUNSHINE

I'm the-rsty.(can't pronounce thhh)

CONTINUED:

SKYE

Thhhirsty Sweetheart. Put your tongue up against your teeth and blow. Thhhirsty.

Skye stands and retrieves glass of milk. Sunshine practices. Papa pours whiskey in mug. Skye delivers milk to Sunshine.

PAPA RAY

I'll go. To the courthouse. This is my fight.

SKYE

It's not your fight. It's all of ours. This is, our home.

Engine outside CRANKS, REVS, BACKFIRES, dies. A SCREAM from a boy is amplified in through the kitchen window.

PAPA RAY

Yah think Ray J. would get in the ring? Think he could leave his lawn mower for three minutes?

SKYE

If he had to. Absolutely.

Skye gets up, walks to coffee pot and refills.

PAPA RAY

(to Sunshine)

You stick to horses. Those machines, they'll break on you. Leave yah stranded. But a horse? Well if a horse trusts you, that horse will never let you down. If a horse trusts you, that horse will get you where you need to go. Always.

SKYE

That your subtle way telling me to work on Morning Glory? I tried saddling him yesterday. He broke loose, jumped the fence and hightailed it past the Cut.

PAPA RAY

Go easy. That's a Mustang in there. But this horse; it's no bull. In time, he'll break.

EXT. TRAINING RING - DAY

Skye's slammed to the ground. A saddled, satin black horse jumps a section of fence with one side of the top rail off of the post and resting on the lower rail. Horse gallops off. Papa Ray, Sunshine and JOSE', a 50 year old Latino, stand outside of fence rails.

PAPA RAY
Thought yah had him.

SKYE
I thought you were gonna fix the fence.

Skye stands, brushes off and picks up flattened hat. She kneads it and walks to wall section. Numerous mangled hats hang. She hooks hat next to wood carved sign: "HATFIELD".

PAPA RAY
You got him saddled. An accomplishment in itself.

SKYE
Come on Sunshine. Let's round him up.

Black SUV with tinted out windows blasts up road and pulls in driveway. Skye appears concerned and addresses Sunshine.

SKYE (CONT'D)
Sweetie go inside.

Sunshine runs to house. SUV stops and sits creating suspense. Finally STAN and DAN in grey suits exit rear doors. Then IRA MORSE, short and small, white suit and hat, facial scar on right profile, exits front passenger door. Driver (DRAKE) in grey suit, remains. Ira leads entourage. He opens coat in stride. A massive black pager is hooked on the front of his belt.

D

PAPA RAY
You fellas lost?

IRA
(chuckle)
No, no, no. Not, lost.(evil high pitch voice) Here, by choice.

PAPA RAY
Who are you guys?

CONTINUED:

IRA
Mediators. Persuaders if you will.

PAPA RAY
Montana Power Corp Somethin'
somethin'...?

IRA
Montana Power Service Management
Group Affiliation Corporation
absolutely. The name, is Morse.

Pager BEEPS. Ira switches off; smirks.

SKYE
Ira Morse.

IRA
Friends call me, Pager.

PAPA RAY
Well I'm sorry but our home is not
for sale, Ira Morse.

SKYE
Yeah I thought I made that clear
when I sent a response to your
first offer, and where to stick it.

IRA
Everything's for sale Sweetheart.
(leers up & down) Uuuu everything.

SKYE
Wrong.

IRA
Let me share a little fare re-tale.
Once upon a time, Pager went to a
coffee shop. He waved a fifty note,
high in the air. He was approached
by this beautiful young waitress
who asked; How may I serve Thee,
ones desired fare? Pager replied;
This is what I offer, won't
negotiate one buck. And all I ask
of you, is to come on over, spread
those legs, and give me a
fff...BEEP BEEP BEEP.

Pager BEEPS, drowning out "f*ck". Ira switches it off.

SKYE
Yeah I can see you being hard up.

CONTINUED:

IRA

This waitress, clearly i-rate,
throws scalding coffee (glides
fingers down scar) sealing my fate.

PAPA RAY

Bet that woke yah up.

IRA

'Twas decaf.

PAPA RAY

Maybe not.

IRA

I didn't flinch. I simply wiped off
the, Cafe of the day, gourmet, then
opened a briefcase revealing fifty
hunnys. That's five oh "C" notes.
She appraised its content, then
took me in back. Miss Light you're
a waitress aren't you? Do you
prefer in back? Perhaps on top?

PAPA RAY

Ok Pal. You just won free tickets
to the gun show.

Papa skedaddles to house. Ira gets in Skye's face

IRA

Fact is. Everyone's a wait truss.
Everyone's got a price. Tell me
Miss Light. What's yours?

BANG! Gunshot from afar. Driver's mirror shatters. Everyone,
except Ira and Skye, takes cover. BANG! Right rear turn
signal shatters. Stan and Dan crawl into SUV and lower the
windows. Ira stares off with Skye.

DRAKE

GET IN!

IRA

Pleasure Miss Light.

Ira calmly walks to SUV and climbs in. He looks in the side
mirror. BANG! Reflection shatters. The SUV speeds off. RAY J
LIGHT, portly, 15 years old, runs from barn.

RAY J

WHAT HAPPENED?

CONTINUED:

Papa approaches Skye.

PAPA RAY
You alright?

SKYE
Yeah.

The family looks to the horizon where the shots came from.

PAPA RAY
Billy Wayne?

SKYE
That's my guess.

Ray J. runs back to the barn. Sunshine and MARIA, a 50 year old Latino, exit the house. Sunshine runs to Skye. Jose' walks to Maria and hugs her. Engine CRANKS and REVS up in barn. Ray J. shoots out on grey primered racing lawn mower. He zooms past the family.

SKYE (CONT'D)
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

RAY J
SEE IF HE'LL TEACH ME TO SHOOT LIKE THAT.

PAPA RAY
Well that's it. Enough's enough.
I'm going to the Sheriff.

SKYE
I'll go with you.

☺PAPA RAY
No. You're working tonight. I'll take Sunshine with me.

SKYE
Will you check on a lawyer?

PAPA RAY
Yeah. I will. Actually I...know this guy.

In the distance, smoke puffs out of the lawnmower and it dies. Ray J. jumps off and SCREAMS and kicks it. Papa looks at Sunshine.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)
Whatdya say? Wanna go into town?
Maybe get some ice cream?

CONTINUED:

Sunshine excitedly nods.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)
Yeah? What flavor you like?

SUNSHINE
Chocolate. No Vanilla. No
Strawberry.

PAPA RAY
Well? Which one?

SUNSHINE
All of 'em.

PAPA RAY
All of 'em? What do yah call that?
Napoleon? No. Neo...(looks at Skye)
What do yah call that Skye?

SKYE
We just call it, Chockvanstraw.

SUNSHINE
Chockvanstraw.

PAPA RAY
Alright then. Chockvanstraw it is.

The family turns and walks to the house.

INT. OFFICE BREAK ROOM - DAY

Ben stands facing old vending machine. HENRY, 25 years old, 6'1" good looking paralegal dim wit, walks in and stands behind Ben.

BEN
Hey Henry.

HENRY
Tsup Dude?

Ben reads note covering change slot. It reads: "NOT ACCEPTING CHANGE". Ben inserts bill then scrolls candy. "HERSHEY", "SNICKERS", "OH HENRY", "NUTRAGEOUS", "BABY RUTH". Ben pulls handle: "B1". Loud BAM sound. He retrieves a "HERSHEY" Bar. Ben leaves breakroom.

BEN
See yah.

CONTINUED:

HENRY

Later bro.

INTO HALLWAY

Ben collides into BARBARA. 28 year old, booty full, Barbie bitch. Wears tight ass hot pink pant suit.

BARBARA

So what happened last night?

BEN

What? Nothing.

BARBARA

Yeah no fff...BAM.

"F*ck" drowned out by loud BAM sound from vending machine. Henry walks by and salutes with "OH HENRY".

BARBARA (CONT'D)

And sneaking off in the middle of the night? You know I bought that outfit for you. It's Victoria's Secret.

BEN

Vic-torious? What?

BARBARA

The Diva Daredevil. I thought it'd excite you.

BEN

It did. I liked it. Especially...the cape.

BARBARA

Well I know you're into that Evel guy. It's based on his costume.

BEN

Look I haven't been sleeping; this nightmare. Can we talk about this later? I'm having breakfast.

Ben holds out bar for Barbara to break off a piece.

BARBARA

Hershey bar?

BEN

Yeah.

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

Looks very satisfying? No wait.
(looks at bar, shakes head) No. No
you need nuts to satisfy.

Ben snickers.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Do you want me? Am I gross to you?

BEN

Absolutely. I mean no. No yes. NO!

He attempts bite. Barbara grabs his wrist.

BARBARA

Know this Ben. I'm candy. And every
guy wants a taste. Got it? (Ben
nods) Good.

Barbara lets go and walks away. She has a flash and turns.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Oh Ben. (bubbly) Mourning Love.

BEN

(under his breath)
Not so sure.

EXT. HEALTH CLUB - DAY

Sign: "A PERFECT FIT". Gym rats enter through mirrored doors.

MARK (VO)

GET IT UP! GET IT UP! GET IT UP!
YOU'RE A MACHINE!

INT. HEALTH CLUB - DAY

Ben struggles on leg press. Mark stands next to it.

MARK

You want those Bruce Lee power
kicks? (Mark kicks) Then push.

BEN

It's-too-hard.

Mark assists the sled up. Ben turns the handles to lock.

CONTINUED:

MARK

It's the weight that's going to help you develop.

Ben stands. They rack weights.

BEN

Yeah well I'm not there yet so cut me a break.

MARK

Speaking of which. I heard you caught a big one. Montana? That's Big Sky country.

BEN

So I hear. Now I know something about Montana. Well something else. (Mark's intrigued) Evel Knievel's from Montana.

MARK

Yeah booty, right? Or is it pronounced beauty?

BEN

It's pronounced Butte. The "E" at the end is silent.

MARK

Hey maybe you can visit him?

BEN

Nah, he's dead.

MARK

Oh. Well visit his grave. People do with Elvis. You know, Graceland.

BEN

I'll pass.

They finish racking the weights and walk towards locker room.

MARK

You know Evel Knievel reminds me of Elvis. Only crazy. With a cape.

BEN

Not crazy. Determined.

MARK

I don't know about that.

CONTINUED:

BEN

Jumping over any obstacle with an Indian? No matter how dangerous or death defying. That's determined. I think Elvis had a cape.

MARK

He used an Indian?

BEN

Evel wasn't privileged with the bikes of today and their technologically advanced suspension systems. That's why he crashed so much.

MARK

Isn't he in the record books for most broken bones?

BEN

In all fairness. The machine failed, not the man.

They enter the locker room through a solid door.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Skye exits in jeans and a T-shirt reading: "SWEETBONE SALOON". She climbs in a pick-up truck and pulls out as Papa pulls in. They stop. Sunshine has a Chockvanstraw goatee with sprinkles.

SKYE

They called me in early.

SUNSHINE

I had Chockvanstraw with sprinkles.

SKYE

I hope you left room for supper?

PAPA RAY

That was the deal.

SKYE

How'd it go? Did you get a lawyer?

PAPA RAY

I'll tell yah 'bout it later.

Papa motions to Sunshine. Skye nods then drives off.

INT. HEALTH CLUB - DAY

Mark and Ben exit locker room in casual dress and walk towards exit. Beautiful black woman (DORA LEE) walks by and playfully bumps Mark.

DORA LEE

Nice guns.

MARK

Glad you like the show. (to Ben)
That's Dora Lee. We're going
dancing tonight. Her brother Dale,
(looks around) just opened a new
club.

Mark spots and waves to DALE LEE, mid-age black man. Dale is talking to women, handing out flyers. He waves back to Mark.

BEN

Man I envy you. Single; dating.

MARK

You're single; dating. Only
exclusively. I'm...

WOMAN walks by smiling at Mark. Mark smiles back.

MARK (CONT'D)

Inclusively.

BEN

Right. You're looking.

MARK

I'm not looking. I'm waiting.

BEN

Waiting? For what?

MARK

For her.

BEN

(looking around)
Who's her?

MARK

Her's She. Thee One.

BEN

Mark, you're with a new one every
week.

CONTINUED:

MARK

Those are just ones, not Thee One.

BEN

How do you know?

MARK

Because I've met Thee One. Couple times.

Ben looks intrigued. They arrive at mirrored doors and exit.

EXT. NYC SIDEWALK - DAY

Walking and talking.

MARK

A Soulmate is not a sole mate. There's more than one of Thee One and I know she's Thee One because of me not her. It's what happens to me in her presence.

BEN

What happens?

MARK

I get these...Tells.

BEN

Tells? Like in Poker?

MARK

Tells. It's an acronym. T.L.S. True Love Seizures.

BEN

Ok? (skeptical) And are there symptoms?

MARK

Full body convulsions. Indecipherable blabber. Some may experience, explosive projectile slobbering.

Ben stops, skeptical again as Mark continues walking. Ben looks to the side at a solid wood door in front of small club with sign: "THE SPEAK EZ". He appears distraught. Mark stops and looks back at Ben.

CONTINUED:

BEN
(under his breath)
It's just a door.

MARK
Have you ever had that? Those?
Them?

Ben snaps out of it and catches up to Mark. They continue walking and talking.

BEN
(nodding)
Grace. Except the projectile stuff.

MARK
The last one I had was when I met
this girl in Seattle. There was
this, charge. We created an arc 'n
saw this brilliant orange light
flare up around us. It freaked me
out so I took off.

BEN
Were you ok?

MARK
I came out of it. (Ben nods) Three
days later back in New York.

BEN
What?

MARK
Seems after I took off, I just kept
on driving. Past my hotel and all
the way home. Don't remember a
thing.

BEN
Nothing?

MARK
Well except for her. All I thought
about was her.

They arrive at The Dojo and enter.

INT. THE DOJO - DAY

Ben and Mark sit; drink coffee.

CONTINUED:

MARK
So? You and Barbie?

BEN
Barb-Ara.

MARK
Tells?

BEN
Uhhmmm? Yeah.

MARK
Bull.

BEN
No bull.

MARK
Grace was no bull. Barb-(shoulder shrug and shiver) Eeeee.

BEN
Ara. Are you calling my girlfriend a cow?

MARK
She's a calf. I'm calling you a cow-herd. Lying because it'll... Listen, there's one thing I know about Tells, I just haven't experienced it.

BEN
Enlighten me.

MARK
A person who experiences prolonged Tells becomes dependent on them, where if they should stop...

BEN
Yeah?

MARK
There is no worse pain to experience. But you should be explaining this to me. You have the experience.

LIV, 25 year old, babe waitress with name tag, slaps Ben's shoulder.

CONTINUED:

LIV

Missed you at The Speak EZ last night.

BEN

Yeah I got hung up at work.

LIV

Angel was a-maze-zing.

BEN

Yeah Liv, I'm sorry I missed it.

LIV

You'll catch it next time.

Liv walks off. Ben checks her out then looks at Mark smirking.

BEN

What?

MARK

Not Thee One.

BEN

Why's that?

MARK

You didn't have Tells.

BEN

I might of had, little Tells.

MARK

I'm not hearing it so stop telling it. If you had Tells, you'd be told. Mark my word, No Tells.

BEN

How can you be so sure?

MARK

Simple.(takes sip) You spoke easy.

EXT. SALOON - NIGHT

Old Western Saloon with farmers porch and sign: "SWEETBONE SALOON". Letterboard sign on trailer: "THURS-KAREEOKEE-DOKEE"/"COMING - DUKE & THE DAYS EASE".

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Country music jamming on juke. Two old timers, white man MIKE and black man REID are sipping suds at table with empty lunch baskets. An old coal dusted face man, SOAP, approaches.

MIKE
Hey there Soap?

REID
What's goin' on Soap?

SOAP
Reid. Mike. Hard week in this hole near Bitterroot. Deep dig and all mine.

Skye approaches with pitcher of beer

SKYE
New pitcher on the mound. Up from the Miners.

Skye motions to table of coal dusted men. They raise mugs.

MIKE
You're the real deal Skye.

REID
Miss Deal with appeal.

Skye pulls bar of soap from apron and holds it up to Soap.

SKYE
Soap soap soap soap soap. The more one hears, the more one believes.
(places bar on table) There Soap.

Skye collects empty baskets; cleans table.

MIKE
(chuckling)
She knows the time of the week Soap. (to Skye) I see yah booked Duke and the Daisies.

SKYE
No easy task. Believe me.

REID
It's gonna be one sweet gig.

SKYE
It sure is.

CONTINUED:

SOAP

Say what's Papa doing tonight,
Skye?

SKYE

Same sit every Friday night.

SOAP

Oh yeah.(chuckle) Babysitting.

SKYE

Sunshine's not a Baby. She's a
young maturing girl, Soap. And
hanging in with her? It's a pretty
sweet gig.

Skye walks off with baskets and table trash.

EXT. SALOON - NIGHT

A monster truck wannabe, parks. BUDDY, tall husky dude in cowboy duds and two mini-buds, COLE wearing an eye patch and DICK all slick, climb out drunk and disorderly. They chug their beer cans then throw the cans in the bed full of empties. They walk up to solid door with sign: "KNOW MINERS ALOUD". They enter.

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Country music's jamming as the three enter.

BUD

YEEEE HAHHHHHHHH!

Buddy shuffles to dance floor. Cole secures table. Dick walks to a manly looking woman; gives hugs. Buddy performs ridiculous dance. Agitated patrons clear floor. A couple sits at table, talking. A piece of Bud's boot flies off; lands in DUDE from couple's mug. He extracts it with a fork.

DUDE

His sole.

Girl grossed out. Song ends. Buddy struts to table. Dick leaves woman; joins Bud and Cole. DING, small Asian man wearing oversized cowboy hat approaches with gleaming smile.

DING

Wazzup fellas?

BUD

What's goin' on Ding Dong?

CONTINUED:

DING

I love watchin' you dance Bud. You dance like nobody I seen.

COLE

You owned it Bud.

DICK

Showed 'em how it's done.

BUD

Yeah well, some Buddy, had to show these wannabees howda two step.

DING

Lotsa chicks were takin' notice in yah Bud.

DICK

And there's lotsa chick in here.

COLE

Even the chick with Dick. They were all diggin' yah dude.

BUD

Dick? Cole? Ding? I'd be lying to yah if I told you that wasn't true.

Skye reluctantly approaches.

BUD (CONT'D)

Take this one for example. She's been in love with me since the eighth grade.

SKYE

Only person in love with Buddy, is Buddy.

BUD

Now that's not true. Lots of people love me. Sunshine loves me.

SKYE

(flash)

You remember her name?

BUD

I'm not that dumb.

SKYE

Just dumb enough not to see your little girl.

CONTINUED:

BUD

We've been through this. If you ain't having me...(does shruggie)

SKYE

It's a shame Sunshine doesn't have a Daddy. That her Father, doesn't give a damn.

Skye angered, retreats without taking order.

BUD

Be a sport Ring Ding and get us a pitcher, will yah?

DING

Sure Bud. Anything for you, cuz you the Man. You, some buddy.

Ding retreats.

DICK

How old is Sunshine now?

COLE

Must be heading to school soon?

BUD

(shrugs)

I just send my checks.

AT POKER TABLE

Poker chips piled in middle. Two of five players hold cards. ZIGGY, a shyster and BILLY WAYNE SHEPHERD, faceless, wearing duster coat and Cowboy hat. The cards "8A5,7,Q", are face up on the table. A SPECTATOR whispers to another.

SPECTATOR

It's not as simple as Go Fish. You see after the cut, each player is dealt two; which can be used with any part of the community. First you have the trips, which is the flop, then the turn; River's at the end. You build the best hand possible choosing, from all that seven.

BILLY WAYNE

Raisin'(pushes chips) All in.

Zig pushes his chips in with enormous grin.

CONTINUED:

ZIGGY

Call.

Ziggy lays down "A" and "8".

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Two "A"s, two eights. Beat that
Billy Wayne.

BILLY WAYNE

That's what you're calling?

ZIGGY

That's what I'm calling.

TUBBY, the saloon's obese owner, is also a player.

TUBBY

Dead mans hand.

Billy Wayne lays down "A" and "8".

ZIGGY

What? Alright split the pot.

Ziggy reaches in. Billy whips out butterfly knife, opens it in style. Stabs table between Zig's fingers; holds his hand down with fist; grabs his arm and pulls him against table.

BILLY WAYNE

I haven't called my hand. Two
eights 'n two Aces (removes hand
from knife; slides out "Q" from
River) Queen high. I win.

Billy releases Zig. Collects chips. Zig looks at Tubby.

TUBBY

Sorry Ziggy. House rule. Call your
own hand.

BILLY WAYNE

And a hand is five. You called
four.

ZIGGY

That's bullshit and you know it.

BILLY WAYNE

No. It's fair.

Zig stands, kicks chair; storms off. Billy stacks chips.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben enters holding bag: "TIME-2-SHINE". He places it on table; approaches Angel sitting on couch, typing on laptop.

BEN

About last night. Barbara and I...

ANGEL

Doesn't matter.

BEN

Of course it matters. You're upset.

ANGEL

If it mattered you would've been there.

BEN

Listen...

ANGEL

WHY are you with her?

BEN

It's, comfortable.

ANGEL

A new chair is comfortable. Hell even a firm mattress is comfortable. Barbie's a steady lie.

BEN

It's lay.

ANGEL

Is it?

BEN

And it's Barb Ara. And why are we talking about this?

ANGEL

Because as long as she's in the picture...

BEN

She's not in the picture.

ANGEL

...you can't see outside the frame. So if the right woman comes along,

CONTINUED:

BEN

I have the right woman.

ANGEL

...well how's your peripheral vision? 'Cause you might miss her.

BEN

I won't miss her because I have her. YOU.

ANGEL

ME?

BEN

YOU. The woman I've spent seventeen years raisin'. Alone mind you. YOU. The right woman.

ANGEL

Remember Carrie? That load. She'd lock me in my room all day while she sat her fat ass on the couch and watch Maury's most memorable, "Who My Baby Daddy" montage, over and over and over...

BEN

...yeah and I remember firing her.

ANGEL

And then came Alice. The Wooden Spoon Paddle Penguin. Don't touch, WHACK. Don't slouch, WHACK. Elbows off the table, WHACK-WHACK. I begged her to stop. Know what I got?

BEN

Whack?

ANGEL

WHACK SLAP. She added a spatula to her arsenal of finely crafted utensil weaponry and now, was dual wielding.

BEN

Well I fired her too. Sent her back to the Convent. And I got Dorothy.

ANGEL

And Dorothy was, wonderful. She'd help with my homework.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Take me to my dance classes and recitals. She built a lemonade stand just so she could teach me about change.

BEN

(flash)

The Flamingo Lingo Pink Lemonade Company. I remember. You see. I didn't do so bad.

ANGEL

And then you fired her.

BEN

You were getting older.

ANGEL

You fired her because Barbie was threatened by another woman.

BEN

Barb ARA! And there was more to it.

ANGEL

The only person I ever thought of, as a Mom. And it was really hard, because I already didn't have a Dad.

BEN

What are you saying?

ANGEL

Next year, I go to college. You'll be alone, asleep. As you've always been.

BEN

(fearful)

So, now you're leaving me?

Angel at ease; shuts laptop, walks to bedroom; closes door.

BEN (CONT'D)

YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER!

EXT. SALOON - NIGHT

A car rooster tails leaving depleted parking lot. Two drunks, HUCK and CHUCK, drink from whiskey bottle next to '69 Satin black Mustang. Another drunk in car, DRIVER, listens to music; drums on steering wheel. Skye exits; walks to truck.

CONTINUED:

HUCK
Hey baby. Want a ride?

CHUCK
(chuckling)
You're the one who wants a ride.

They approach Skye as she arrives at truck.

HUCK
We got liquor up front.

CHUCK
And poker in back.(chuckling)

HUCK
What da ya say? Yah look a li'l
lonely. I'm Huck. And this here,
this is Chuck.

CHUCK
And Huck and Chuck want to
fff...BEEP

Car horn drowns out "F*ck".

DRIVER
Just throw her in the car.

Snake skin boots with stirrups clang across front porch. (PAN UP) revealing Billy Wayne Shepherd, scruff and tough, 65 year old. Skye looks at him. Drunks notice; they turn, see Billy and become fearful. Climb in car; drive off. Skye smiles. Ziggy holding a 2x4 piece of wood, approaches Billy from behind. Skye panics.

SKYE
ZIG!

Ziggy swings. Billy zigs. Ziggy swings. Billy zags, grabs him and throws him over railing into horse trough full of water. Billy tips hat to Skye. Skye smiles. Billy struts off.

INT. BEDROOM - PRE-DAWN

Rotating beacon digital clock reads: "4:59" then "5:00". English siren WHINES. Large white lights circle room. Ben SLAMS clock; knocks it off nightstand. CRACK. Lights now small and fixed, appear as stars on ceiling and walls. Ben sits up, puts hardcover book: "THE FAULT IN OUR STARS" on clock. STOMPS. Siren silences. Stars disappear.

INT. NY AIRPORT - DAWN

Ben, and other travelers, hand tickets to Gate Agent; enter concourse. Sign overhead: "YOUR DEST IN NY".

INT. AIRLINER - DAWN

DEL LOVE, 66 year old, Oprah like black woman, African accent, sits across aisle. Smiles at Ben. Ben smiles back.

DEL

The name's Del Love. Delaware.
That's where I call home.

BEN

Ben, right here N Y City. Well,
Mass. originally.

DEL

Oh? Whereabouts; from Mass?

BEN

Hatfield. Western part of the
state.

DEL

Sure, I know Hatfield. We were once
neighbors. I'm U-Mass Alumnus.

BEN

Huh? So am I.

DEL

I lived by the river. Such a
beautiful river. Alike all rivers
leading to one's see. I'd be
mesmerized as the sunshine
reflected off its ripples creating
a luminous show of sparkles and
twinkles.

BEN

It's a nice river.

DEL

An ice river when it's cold and
dark. It's nice when it's warm and
sunny. (chuckles, reflects) Ahhh
yes. The Connecticut river. Connect
I, cut river. Get it?

CONTINUED:

BEN
(nodding)
Yeah. How it's spelled.

DEL
Oh how it spelled. I connect, cut
river.

INTERCOM
Good morning everybody. This is
Captain Werd. Looks like a clear
shot to the Treasure State. A few
low stragglers but isolated so
we'll pass right over 'em. There's
lotsa blue so in-joy the view.
We'll be leaving in, oh it's right
about time.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAWN

Concourse pulls away. Wheel chocks removed from nose wheel.
Airliner pushed out. Airliner takes off.

INT. AIRLINER - DAWN

Ben removes documents from briefcase; reviews. He turns. Del
stares back with huge smile.

DEL
First time? Montana?

BEN
It is.

DEL
I'm meeting some girlfriends for a
spiritual retreat.

Del opens Yellowstone Park brochure. One page; "Old
Faithful". Other page, a Blackfoot Ferret peeping from hole.

BEN
Old Faithful.

DEL
The geyser of all geysers. Pressure
builds up under a constriction in
this hole. And over time it builds
and builds and builds until
finally, Pssshh. Re-leaf.

CONTINUED:

BEN

Do you ladies camp? Party in the woods?

DEL

(chuckles)

No what we do is more of a cleansing. We leave behind the daily grind and reconnect with ourselves.

BEN

Daily grind?

DEL

The busyness of life rather than, the joy. Daily routines that keep one, you know, mechanical.

BEN

I like busyness. That's why I'm going to Montana. To work.

DEL

Whaaat? That's like a child going to a playground on a crisp Fall morning and, passing on the jungle gym to rake leaves.

Ben raises briefcase off seat tray.

BEN

Here's my rake.

DEL

I'd soon be leaves. So whereabouts are you, raking?

BEN

Big Sky.

DEL

Whoooo-wee. That sounds breathtaking. Big Sky. Big Sky.

BEN

I think it sounds, empty.

Del stares bewildered, then a revelation.

DEL

Oh that's right. The sit eee.

CONTINUED:

BEN
What about it?

DEL
Skyscrapers.

BEN
Yeah?

DEL
You've surrounded yourself with
skyscrapers. Everywhere you go.
Everything you do. You can't see
the breathtaking sky along with
it's sweet sunshine. Just
skyscrapers.

BEN
I'm gonna get back...

DEL
Oh you go right ahead. Gonna take
me a li'l nap. Visit my new happy
place. Big Sky. Love, Big Sky.

INT. MONTANA AIRPORT - DAY

Ben exits concourse under sign: "YOUR DEST IN MT".

EXT. MONTANA AIRPORT - DAY

Ben stands on curb with carry on. Sign over terminal doors:
"YOUR DEST IN MT ". Taxi van: "PETE'S CAB" approaches. Ben
flags him down. Ben climbs in.

INT. TAXI VAN (MOVING) - DAY

PETE, a 40 year old, Mid-East Indian with strong accent,
drives.

PETE
Welcome to Montana. And thank you
for letting Pete's Cab serve you. I
am Pete.

BEN
Hi.(Pete stares in mirror) I'm Ben.

PETE
Care for some honesty Ben? It's
right in front of you.

CONTINUED:

Carafe is mounted between front seats, facing Ben. Labeled:
"ON US TEA" - "DECAF"

BEN

No thanks. I'm a caffeine dude.

PETE

Ohhh. Ok, calf fiend dude. So what
brings you to empty?

BEN

Excuse me?

PETE

M T. You know, Montana.

BEN

Oh. Uhm, business.

PETE

Oh? So what kind of business you
in?

BEN

Presently? The condemnation of this
horse center so a Power Corporation
can expand to maximize profits
business.

PETE

Ahhh. Manure business.

BEN

Another way of putting it. I'm a
Lawyer.

PETE

Know shit? Well maybe after your,
business, you'll find a little joy
in Montana.

BEN

Nah no time.

PETE

Non-cents. All we have is time.
It's how we spend our time.

BEN

So Pete? What's joyful in, M.T?

PETE

Big Sky love alone is joyful.

CONTINUED:

BEN

How's that?

PETE

I know this guy, He owns, Oscar Winning Move Ease. Not highly acclaimed films. It's a moving service. Move. Ease. Well that wasn't the original name. See when Oscar worked as a mover, he noticed lots-o-people wanting help, right away. So he started a business. Came up with the perfect name implying, prompt, immediate service, then posted signs. But the phone, didn't ring. One day, as he was hanging this flier, a man said, "Who's hirin' this guy? This confused Oscar. He examined the flier, hard. And there it was. How could he not have seen it. The original name of Oscar's company; The Drop Everything Mover.

BEN

(chuckles)

I assume there's a point?

PETE

Words are open for interpretation.

EXT. HOTEL/AWAKEN INN - DAY

Cab pulls in. Sign: "AWAKEN INN": Rental cars with signs in windshield: "WHEEL DEAL". Underneath reads: "ROOM & ROAM". Ben exits cab, pulls out wallet.

BEN

So what do I owe?

PETE

Owe?

BEN

The fare?

PETE

Ohhh. Pay, attention. You'll figure it out.

CONTINUED:

Pete drives off. Purple school bus drives by with Cheerleaders cheering, waving red and blue pom poms out windows. A banner reads: "BIG SKY CHEER SQUAD". Ben walks to door; opens. Smoke billows out. "One Love" by Bob Marley plays. A Jamaican man's (DAMON MON) voice is heard.

DAMON(OS)

Hey Mon. I am Day-mon. And well-come to your Awaken Inn.

INT. HOTEL/AWAKEN INN - DAY

DAMON, a Reggae hippie, 30 year old, black man at counter, name tag: "D. MON". Small sign on countertop with picture of mattress: "COMFEE ZONE". Damon hands over 2 keys.

DAMON

Here you are. One wheel deal. Room and roam.

BEN

Does the clock in the room have snooze?

DAMON

No it is a wall clock. Tell "E" visions turn on at 5. Or we can do awake up call.

Ben nods then points to mattress in picture.

BEN

These mattresses?

DAMON

I'm a big endorser. There's no better sleep, than with a Comfee Zone.

BEN

That comfortable huh?

DAMON

You'll never want to stop lying.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Ben's rental car drives towards Power Plant. Drives over bridge crossing river with sign: "CUT RIVER".

EXT. POWERPLANT FACILITY - DAY

Car pulls into parking lot with sign: "MONTANA POWER SERVICE MANAGEMENT GROUP AFFILIATION CORPORATION".

INT. POWERPLANT FACILITY - DAY

Ben enters through blackened glass doors. Walks up to RECEPTIONIST in lobby.

BEN

Hi I'm here to see...(pulls paper from pocket) Ira...

IRA(OS)

Mister Bloom?

Ira enters wearing the white suit.

BEN

Call me Ben.

IRA

Ben. Ira Morse.(shakes hand) BEEP BEEP BEEP. (Pager beeps, Ira clicks off) Friends call me, Pager. This way if you will.

Ira walks into hallway. Ben follows.

WALKING AROUND CORNER IN HALLWAY

IRA (CONT'D)

The Cut is deep. It's been able to provide what's regulatory; until now that is.

BEN

The Cut?

IRA

The river you crossed on the way in. With the proposed expansion we'll be generating more power so a reservoir will be needed. We have a week left before the new code on diversion damming is enforced so we need to break ground or the state will shut us down.

CONTINUED:

BEN

So what's your part in all this?

IRA

I love power. The more I control the more I feel hole. So I consult. First, how to achieve it? Then, at what cost? When I'm done here, I'll go back to my home state of "N" "V" and the City of Sin. Think of the night. So dark. So long. The power it takes to light up the sky is enormous. And there's nowhere that requires more power, than loss, vague us.

Ira arrives at boardroom. Opens door. They enter.

IN BOARDROOM

Stan holds pointer stick. Satellite photo of the Powerplant and the Lights ranch on screen. Dan and Drake sit at table. Ira presents the Crew.

IRA

Everybody this is Ben. Here to help with our dilemma. Ben, this is the crew. Lest you require more. That's Stan, Dan, Drake. Stan's an economic Tory from the UK known for his foresight.

All men nod. Ben and Ira sit. Stan with English accent, points stick at picture.

STAN

So if we dig, here...

DAN

We'd have to excavate then relocate the inlet to the main pump.

DRAKE

We need a clean level grade.

IRA

See Ben we have the land, not the time. And everything up to now has been talk.

CONTINUED:

STAN

This plot, will keep this Tory moving forward.

BEN

You offered to buy them out?

IRA

Several offers.

DAN

And generous. They won't sell.

BEN

If it's all the same to you, I'd like to try?

DRAKE

You're wasting your time.

IRA

It's not going to work.

BEN

You don't know me. My reputation. I can be a slick talker.

Men look at each other and break out into laughter.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ben drives up to the Light's house; parks next to horse trailer. Looks at training ring. BAM; Jose' is slammed onto hood. Ben startled. He jumps out. Morning Glory gallops off.

BEN

Are you ok? Here, let me help.

Jose' slides off. Ben helps him stand. Jose' shrugs him off; staggers away. Ben looks at dented hood, then at Jose'.

BEN (CONT'D)

Uhm Sir? The damage?(looks at hood)
Hope it's insured.

Ben walks up on porch to screen door. Knocks. He turns; walks to edge. Morning Glory fades off in horizon. He turns back. Sunshine is standing outside door. Ben's startled.

BEN (CONT'D)

Holy shhhh. (pause) Children of the corn.

CONTINUED:

SUNSHINE

Who are you?

BEN

I'm Ben.

SKYE (OS)

Sunshine? I'm gonna take a shhh...

Skye appears in white fuzzy towel with yellow glittered "S".

SKYE (CONT'D)

Ohhh. Hi. Can I help you?

Ben is taken back. His eyes light up. He shakes and babbles.

BEN

Hi I'mah uhmah uhmah...Uhmamah
Uummah uhmamah...

Ben walks backwards; falls down stairs. Skye rushes to help.

SKYE

Are you ok? Here, let me help.

BEN

I'm uhmah umah ummah ummm...

Skye helps Ben up and guides him to the house.

SKYE

Come inside. I'll get you some
water.

Skye assists Ben inside.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Skye assists Ben to chair then walks to kitchen. Ben tries to steady hands. Sunshine stares. Skye returns and sits. Hands Ben glass of water. Ben holds glass. Shakes and spills water.

SKYE

Should I call an ambulance?

BEN

No uhm mah mah mah...

Ben swigs water; can't swallow.

SKYE

Is there anything I can do?

CONTINUED:

Skye puts hand on Ben's leg. Water explodes saturating Skye.

BEN

I'm uhm uhm uhmahh uhm...

SKYE

It's ok. It's alright. (wipes face)
I was taking a shower anyways.

BEN

Uhmah lah lah lieyah. Lieyah. La la
lie yah.

SKYE

Lah lah lie yah? Lie yah?(excited)
Oh! You're thee Attorney!

BEN

(nodding)

Bah Bah Bah Ben. Bah Ben.

SKYE

Bah bah Been? Ben? Ben I'm Skye.
Skye with a "Y" "E". This is
Sunshine.

SUNSHINE

Are you crazy?

SKYE

SUNSHINE!

SUNSHINE

You look crazy.

SKYE

SUNNY DEE LIGHT! I'm sorry. She's
never seen seizures before. That's
what you're having? Seizures?

BEN

(shakes head)

Jjjjust ssleep deprivation and
ddehydration causing lllow bblood
cccirculation dddiscoordination.
Nnot ssseizures.

SKYE

Well, thank god.

BEN

May I ttry wwater again?

CONTINUED:

SKYE

How 'bout some lemonade? I just
made a fresh batch

BEN

Shh shh. Shh shh-her.

SKYE

You know what they say? When life
hands you a lemon.

Ben hands over glass. Skye goes to kitchen. Sunshine stares.

SKYE (CONT'D)

So do you have a lot of experience?

BEN

I Nnnever lllost.

Skye pours cloudy real lemonade. Opens cupboard and grabs box
which reads: "STRAW BERRIES". Pulls out pink straw.

SKYE

Guess we're pretty lucky then.

Skye returns and hands Ben glass. She inserts straw.

SKYE (CONT'D)

Don't suck too much.

BEN

(sucks)

Delishh, delish-shushhh-shush.

SKYE

I keep it sweet 'n simple. Freshly
squeezed lemons 'n some honey...

BEN

Hhhoney?

SKYE

Bee cause Honey; it's for the wise.

Skye smiles, turns honey jar on table. Label: "BEE CAUSE
HONEY" Slogan: "FOR THE WISE".

SKYE (CONT'D)

Been sweetening lives since the
beginning of time.

Ben sucks then settles. His hands become steady.

CONTINUED:

BEN

I ssseem to be ssshaking less so...

SKYE

So why won't they leave us alone?
This is our home.

BEN

A court's going to look at a
ssstate sssubsidized corporation
offering a ssservice to the public.

SKYE

What can we do?

BEN

I'll dddig up old cases. Llook for
lloop holes.

Skye nods and smiles. Ben smiles. A happy moment shared between the two. Ben takes a big suck on the straw.

SKYE

Well if there's anything I can do?

Skye places her hand on Ben's leg. Lemonade explodes, saturating Skye.

INT. CAR(MOVING) - DAY

BEN

Shhit, shhh hit, shhhhit..

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

Cars pass "AWAKEN INN." Ben's car passes. Purple bus with cheerleaders, not cheering, passes in opposite direction.

BEN (OS)

Shhhit shh hit, sssh hit..

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben enters.

BEN

Shh hit, shhhit sssh hit.

He tosses key on coffee table, plops on couch; shuts eyes. Phone RINGS. Eyes open. He sits up, suspicious. Answers.

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

Hell-oh?

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Barbara, in tight-ass yellow slut dress, walks swiftly with phone to ear. She approaches FAT MAN holding a Yorkie dog in yellow bow. He stands in front of elevator, staring.

BARBARA

Where the hell have you been? I've been calling for two days.

INTERCUT - APARTMENT/HALLWAY

Ben looks at phone: "MISSED CALLS 406".

BEN

My phone? Must be on airplane mode.

BARBARA

Well take it the fff...BARK

Dog BARK drowns out "F*ck" as Barbara passes FAT MAN. Front of his shirt reads: "IN DOG WE TRUST".

BARBARA (CONT'D)

...off airplane mode.

BEN

Ok.(does nothing) There.

BARBARA

So what have you been doing for the past two days?

BEN

Uhhmmm, You know. Stuff.

BARBARA

What kind of stuff?

BEN

Stuff stuff. There's stuff. Lots of stuff.

BARBARA

Are you retarded?

BEN

No I'm...

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

Look I left my bracelet at your place. I'm gonna swing by and get it.

BEN

Oh-kay?(worried) You have your key, right?

Barbara's hand inserts key into knob.

Ben digs hand into Evel Knievel cookie jar.

Barbara's hand turns handle.

BARBARA

Yeah I'm here now.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Barbara opens door. Ben's hand is in the cookie jar.

BEN

Heyyyyy.

BARBARA

What the hell. I thought you were in Montana?

BEN

I am. I was. I mean, I forgot something (pulls out sugar cookie in the shape of a star with rainbow sprinkles) Cookie?

Barbara walks up, takes cookie and tosses it over shoulder.

BARBARA

When did you fly back?

BEN

Actually I uhm, drove back.

BARBARA

YOU DROVE? From Montana?

BEN

Wasn't a bad commute.

BARBARA

Are you going back?

CONTINUED:

BEN

Tomorrow.

BARBARA

Are you driving?

BEN

You know I think I'll fly. Change it up.

BARBARA

You're weird. (grabs bracelet)
Anyways have a nice trip...again.
And I'll, see you when you get back
...again.

They peck. Barbara exits.

EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - NIGHT

Ben walks along sidewalk, trips on power cord being dragged behind sign: "EVEREST X-CREAM". Two men load sign on truck. Ben stands; looks at store front window. Looks in. Man and woman sit together at booth sharing a Chockvanstraw sundae. Girl on other side showers rainbow sprinkles on it and then on her own sundae. Two men on ladders install new sign: "SPRINKLES".

EXT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - NIGHT

Ben walking on sidewalk, approaches. Looks in window. Angel walks to mic. Patrons clap. Ben leaves window and walks to door. Looks at handle.

BEN

It's just a door.

INT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - NIGHT

Angel stands center stage. Adjusts mic.

ANGEL

This is about interpretation. I call it, Go Fish. Grandma said, on her death bed, Son, pray for something wild for you and only child. Don't ask for things sublime and how. Ask for strings of time for now. My belief, this Source responded; Go Fish.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Now how does father swallow this
simple dish delish...

EXT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - NIGHT

Ben stares at door. A young man and woman soldier couple in
camouflage, exit. CAMO WOMAN holds door open.

CAMO WOMAN

Going indoors Sir?(Ben looks at
Woman) Indoors Sir?

Ben shakes head; hurries off.

EXT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Ben approaches. Sign on tripod: "TONIGHT-SPARKLES & TWINKLES"
Ben walks up to uniformed DOORMAN standing in front of door.

BEN

Hi. Are you a Doorman?

DOORMAN

What gave it away? The outfit? Or
me standing in front of a door?

BEN

Who's Sparkles 'n Twinkles?

DOORMAN

Performers. Impersonators if you
will. One jams the keys while the
other's on words.

BEN

Is there a cover?

Doorman opens door.

DOORMAN

See for yourself.

Ben enters.

INT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Green light and dry ice mimic Northern Lights. Elton John
impersonator wears twinkling jumpsuit, huge concert belt that
reads: "TWINKLES", and silk cape with big yellow glittered
"E" on back. He's singing "I'm Still Standing".

CONTINUED:

Liberace impersonator wears sparkling jumpsuit, huge concert belt that reads: "SPARKLES", and fuzzy cape with big yellow glittered "L" on back. He wails on the piano. Clubgoers dance. Promotional WAITRESS in black T-shirt reading: "SCREAMIN' DEMONS?" approaches. She holds tray of shots. Club very loud. Waitress and Ben shout at top of their lungs.

WAITRESS
DEMON ALE?

BEN
WHAT IS IT?

WAITRESS
IT'S A SHOT. LEMONADE WITH HARD
PUNCH.

Ben struggles to hear over the music.

BEN
I CAN'T HEAR.

WAITRESS
SURE YOU CAN. RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW.

BEN
HOW MUCH?

WAITRESS
AS MUCH AS YOU WANT. THERE'S NO
CHARGE.

Ben grabs shot; looks around. Spots Barbara twerking on Henry against bar. Henry grabs her hips; grinds. She sees Ben staring back. She smiles, grabs Henry's crotch. Lip syncs, "Nuts", then tongues Henry. Ben shakes head.

BEN
Oh Henry.

Ben takes shot; walks away.

EXT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Ben exits; stops in front. Banner in window reads: "demonale"
- "Lemonade with HARD PUNCH".

BEN
I'm still standing.

Ben walks away. Sign on club reads: "THE DALE LEE GRIND".

EXT. CLOCK STORE - NIGHT

Sign: "ABOUT TIME". Ben enters.

INT. CLOCK STORE - NIGHT

Only clocks. Ben in aisle looking. "When You Wish Upon A Star" being sung from aisle over. DAWN, Black Trans clerk, with price gun rounds corner.

DAWN

Oh hi. I'm Dawn. Need some help?

BEN

(suspicious)

Just looking for a basic clock with an alarm, Dawn. Don? Is it Dawn, "D" "A.W." like awe "N", or Oh "N"?

DAWN

It's however you choose to see "N". So.(showcases clocks) So this electronic clock has a satellite feed for real time weather updates. This magnetic clock has a modulation connection for global reception without local distortion. And this, Astro Zodiac Clock. It has got a free floating illuminating holograph of the constolations(note: not constellations).(points in air) STAR STAR, STAR STAR STAR. With its satin black coat and clear finish, the reflection is amazing.

Ben bewildered.

BEN

You pick. As long as it has battery back up and a snooze, switch. Not patented crap technology but, switch, then I'm good.

Ben walks away. Dawn scans clocks.

AT REGISTER

Dawn holds white unmarked box. Ben stands at counter.

CONTINUED:

DAWN

The demo was the only one in store
so I'll knock off ten. And sorry;
there's no User Manual.

BEN

I'll figure it out.

Dawn rings up purchase. Ben looks at large clock on counter.
No hands. Numbers replaced with various fish. Text in middle:
"IT'S HALF PAST, MY FIRST CAST, QUARTER TO MY WISH, THE TIME
IS NOW, HERE AT LAST, SO I SHALL GO FISH".

BEN (CONT'D)

Clever. Except the hands are
missing.

DAWN

Accept, the hands are not missing.

Dawn pulls out shoe box with assortment of clock hands.

DAWN (CONT'D)

You get to choose your own hands,
thus you make the time.

Dawn picks out 2 mini fishing rods. One red, one blue. Hands
to Ben. Ben tosses back. Dawn hands Ben bag: "ABOUT TIME".

DAWN (CONT'D)

Remember; it's About Time.

INT. BEDROOM - PRE-DAWN

Digital numbers: "4:59" to "5:00". Alvin and the Chipmunks
"Original" theme song rocks out. Chipmunks figurine clock
sits on nightstand. Ben slaps clock, music continues. Ben
grabs clock; looks for switch. Shakes it; looks again. He
yanks cord from outlet. Music continues. Ben holds plug. He
flips clock over. Battery cover has screws.

BEN

Screwed.

Ben rolls out of bed; grabs bat. Wails clock several times.
No dent. He tosses bat, frustrated.

BEN (CONT'D)

Battery back up.

He grabs clock; walks to bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - PRE-DAWN

Ben throws clock in toilet; drops to knees. Shuts lid; flushes repeatedly. Chipmunks gargle; music distorts. Water overflows. Chipmunks last words, "Alvin, Simon, Thee-oooh..."

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Ben at food court, holds massive coffee cup; phone to ear.

BEN

Because I told you switch...How would I know it's Simon's nose. It's not like Simon says...Simon knows? Really?...He is not the most adorable...Uhm yeah, he does need them...Because Alvin's the unpredictable rebel and what's his name's sweet 'n simple. What's Simon?...He is not the heart and they don't need his smarts, they have Dave...

GLORIA WAITS, British, 30ish, female red-head Pilot, pulling carry-on with wheels walks by. She looks at Ben, double takes; approaches.

BEN (CONT'D)

Ok Don, Dawn. You keep thinking Dave's a puppet and Simon's working the strings. I want my money back. Hello? HELLO?

Looks at phone: "CALL ENDED".

GLORIA

(British accent)
Ben? Big Ben?

BEN

Gloria.

GLORIA

I don't believe.

They hug.

BEN

I haven't seen you since...

GLORIA

The lay over. Parliament Square.

CONTINUED:

BEN

Right. The blizzard.

GLORIA

You remember. I don't believe.

BEN

How could I forget? Nasty. Real nasty.(clarifies) The blizzard. So how are you?

Gloria extends arm and finger; displays giant diamond ring.
Hums "Wedding March Song"

GLORIA

Do you believe?

BEN

I don't believe.

GLORIA

Well be leave. This morning I woke up, Gloria Waits, hot to trot. Tomorrow I'll be Misses Sir Vance Allot.

BEN

Sir Lancelot?

GLORIA

No, Vance. Vance Allot.

BEN

Oh. That sucks.

Gloria begins to ball.

BEN (CONT'D)

No no no don't cry.

GLORIA

That name. That stupid name.

BEN

No Vance is a cool name.

GLORIA

Really?

Ben cringes in silence. Gloria starts balling again.

CONTINUED:

GLORIA (CONT'D)

It sounds like a porn stars name. Some dick holding guy waiting for his big scene. I mean who names their kid Vance?

BEN

Oh lots of people. There's uhm, Vance Vaughn. You know, Wedding Crashers. Uhm, Vance Neil. Motley Crue(sings) I'm on my way. Home sweet home.

GLORIA

Those are Vinces.

BEN

Vinces? Are you sure?

GLORIA

I'm convinced. Now convance me.

BEN

(flash)

Dukes of Hazzard. They had a Vance. Coy and Vance Duke.

GLORIA

I think it was, Bo and Luke?

BEN

Yeah but for one season, Bo and Luke were replaced by cousins Coy and Vance. It was during a contract dispute with the actors.

GLORIA

I don't remember that.

BEN

It was about the same time they got cheap and started using toy models for their signature car jumps.

GLORIA

You sure know a lot about Dukes of Hazzard.

BEN

I was into the General Lee. And of course, Daisy's attributes.

CONTINUED:

GLORIA

A lotta guys were into Daisy's attributes.

BEN

Well, here's to you,
(holds up coffee)
and I won't add Vance. To Misses
Sir Allot.

GLORIA

You can add Vance Ben.

BEN

Yeah?

GLORIA

For a Knight wanting to take my
hand, making me a Lady, feel like
Queen? It lights up my every
morning and leaves my once grey sky
gone.

BEN

To Misses Sir Vance Allot. Future
Nobility.

INTERCOM

Flight four oh six now boarding.

BEN

That's me. Well good luck on the
whole, Allot Waits; Waits Allot
union.

GLORIA

And you, stay clear of the clouds.
Alright Ben?

BEN

Gloria Waits? I don't believe.

GLORIA

Well believe Ben. Be leave.

Ben hands ticket to Gate Agent; enter concourse. Sign
overhead: "YOUR DEST IN N Y".

EXT. MONTANA AIRPORT - DAY

Ben exits. PETE'S CAB pulls up. Ben enters. Cab drives off.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXI VAN - DAY

PETE

Welcome to Montana. And thank you
for letting Pete's scab serve you.
I am Pete.

BEN

Got a Deja vu thing goin' on Pete.

PETE

More like a, (looks in mirror) re-
Pete.

Ben looks at carafe. Labeled: "NO BILL IT - TEA"

BEN

Nobility?

EXT. HOTEL/AWAKEN INN - DAY

Cab pulls in. Ben exits; digs in pockets.

BEN

Dare I ask? The fare?

PETE

Dig deeper. It'll come.

Pete drives off. Bus with cheering Cheerleaders passes by.
Banner reads: "BIG SKYE CHEER SQUAD". Ben intrigued.

BEN

Why "E"?

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Ben jittery at counter. Damon stares. Yankees vs. Rays is
playing on tv in background.

BEN

I'm sorry.

DAMON

Sigh Mon. Breathe.

BEN

It's in New York. Hard to say
where, I don't remember.

CONTINUED:

DAMON

It was in a closed off fire zone and seized. I knew your card so I charged you to pick it up. (holds up key) Would you care to pre-arrange pick up for this one? You can cruise on down to the Sunshine State; catch some Rays.(motions tv)

BEN

No thanks. I blister. (Grabs key)

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Ben paces, phone in hand. He looks at screen: "SKYE LIGHT" "406-555-0241". He tosses phone on bed; paces. He looks at phone. Jumps on bed; snatches it as he bounces off and hits floor. Ben unseen, BEEP, then RINGS.

BEN (OS)

Hi it's Ben Bloom, thee Attorney. That's right, seizures; well not seizures but uhm yeah.(chuckle) Uhm. Hey I was wondering...

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Papa Ray on stage works karaoke. Woman performing. Skye sits at table. Ben stands at bar. Wooden plaque with rubber chicken reads: "IF I'M HITTING ON YOUR CHICK, UNAWARE SHE IS WED, DO ME A FAVOR, PARDON MY BEHAVIOR, BUT DON'T BITE OFF MY HEAD". BARTENDER serves two real lemonades and change.

BEN

That's too much change.

BARTENDER

Today is special.

Bartender points to chalk board: "TODAY'S SPECIAL/ 2 for 1".

BEN

Oh. Two for one. Sweet.

Ben grabs change and drinks; leaves buck. He walks to Skye; sits. Skye holds loose papers.

SKYE

Why are laws so ungodly long?

CONTINUED:

BEN

To deter arguments. The government wants no room for interpretation.

SKYE

I thought the fifth amendment was the right to remain silent. You know, taking the fifth?

BEN

It is. But it also includes the Takings Clause for eminent domain which cites, fair or just compensation.

SKYE

Well our home is more than fair or just compensation. And I don't see how it's fair they can just take it.

BEN

Back in the eighteen hundreds with the development of railways...

Drunk Papa Ray approaches with his fifth, plops on chair.

PAPA RAY

You know Ben? I'm glad Lou sent you. He said he had this bright man for the job. So you two gonna sit around or you gonna get up there and dance?

BEN

Oh no I, I don't dance.

SKYE

Really?

Papa gets up; walks to Karaoke machine. Ben sips drink.

BEN

Uhm, look there's something I need to clear up.

SKYE

(unsettled)
Here come fees.

BEN

Comfees?

CONTINUED:

SKYE

So is there a standard charge for something like this?

Woman singing ends as music distorts. Papa smacks machine. Ben and Skye look over then back at each other.

BEN

We'll talk about it later. Will you excuse me.

Ben walks to bathroom. Singer walks off to applause.

PAPA RAY

Alright who's next? Any takers?

Papa sees no interest.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)

Come on now. Don't force my hand. (coughs) Alright. You leave me no choice.

Papa nods at Mike, Reid, and Soap. They pull out bandannas; wrap their faces and walk towards bathroom. Patrons cheer.

IN BATHROOM

Ben is looking in mirror.

BEN

Truth. You need to tell the truth.

Masked men enter; grab Ben. He defends himself. They lock his arms; pull him out.

IN THE SALOON

Men corral Ben through saloon with cheers. Skye's concerned.

SKYE

Mike? Reid? Soap?

Men escort Ben on stage. Mike places mic in front of Ben.

MIKE

SING US YOUR SONG!

BEN

What song?

CONTINUED:

SOAP
YOUR COUNTRY SONG! SING IT!

BEN
I don't have a Country song.

REID
Everyone's got a Country song now
sing it.

Reid hands Ben a list. Ben scrolls.

BEN
I'm telling you I don't know any
country songs. I'm...Huh? I know
this. Well it's not my song but...

Men let go; drop masks. Mike slides mic closer to Ben.

MIKE
Make it your song.

Men return to seats. Papa starts. "Good Ol' Boys", Dukes Of
Hazzard theme song. Music distorts. Papa smacks it. Machine
sparks then puffs smoke. Music dies. Silence throughout bar.
Everyone stares. Cole on barstool with shit-eating grin.

PAPA RAY
Ben?

Ben turns to Papa. Papa nods. Ben looks at patrons. Skye
smiles. Ben grabs mic, adjusts.

BEN
(sings)
Just a good ol'boy. Never meanin'
no harm. Beats all you never saw,
Ben in trouble with the loss since
the day he was torn. Straight'nin'
the curves.

A woman taps beat on napkin holder. Ben progresses.

BEN (CONT'D)
Flat'nin' the hills.(piano keys in)
Someday the mountain might get him
but the law never will...

A cymbal CRASH like sound comes from pans falling in kitchen.
Ben rocks out.

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

Makin' his way, (everyone cheers, music cooks) the only way he knows how...That's just a little bit more than the law will allow. Just a good ol' boy. Would try to change if he could.(music stops, silence and stillness) Fightin' the system like a true modern day Robin hood.
(music closure)

PAPA RAY

Yeeeeeee hawwwwwwwww.

Audience gives celebratory ovation. Billy Wayne sits in back; claps to Bingo song beat. Buddy and Dick enter; confused by commotion. Cole barks in Buddy's ear. Ben walks off stage; pats on back. He walks to Skye, smiling.

BEN

But I don't dance.

Buddy enraged, exits. Dick and Cole on his heels.

EXT. SALOON - NIGHT

Parking lot clearing. Papa loads equipment in truck. Skye and Ben stand by drivers door.

SKYE

Would you like to come over tomorrow? Breakfast? We can brainstorm; see what we come up with.

BEN

Ssssure. That'll be...Sure.

SKYE

Say seven?

BEN

Will be there seven.

Skye and Papa get in truck; drive off. Buddy's truck stomps into lot. Ben hurries to car; tries to retrieve keys. Truck stops behind. Posse exits.

BUD

Well looky look. If it ain't Wail on Jennings.

Posse draws in. Ben turns.

CONTINUED:

BEN

Hey guys?

BUD

Think you can come to my town? Mess with my girl?

BEN

I was meeting some clients. That's all.

COLE

He was all over her. Seen it with my own eye.

BEN

Yeah? Which one?

Cole attacks. Bud stops him.

BEN (CONT'D)

Look I'm sure we can figure this out if we all just chill, alright?

BUD

Sure Yankee. We'll chill. (spots horse troth) Tell yah what. Let's start with you.

Dick and Cole grab Ben; follow Bud to trough. Ben struggles. Bud grabs his head; dunks. Ben fights; pulls up for breath. Gets dunked again. Bud holds Ben's head under. The rubber chicken from the wooden plaque appears on side of Bud's face.

BILLY WAYNE(OS)

Rubber ducky?

Bud swats away. Chicken slowly appears again; starts flicking Bud's face. Bud lets go of Ben; jumps up.

BUD

What the fff...SQUEEK

Chicken SQUEEK drowns out "F*ck". Billy's holding chicken.

BUD (CONT'D)

Billy Wayne? Why you flickin' me with that chicken?

BILLY WAYNE

I saw you boys taking a bubble bath and was hoping to join in.

CONTINUED:

BUD

Sorry. You ain't invited.

BILLY WAYNE

Well that hurts. But just to show there's no hard feelings. Here. (hands out chicken) You, play with rubber ducky anyways.

BUD

Whatchu talkin' about? That's a chicken.

BILLY WAYNE

No. This is my rubber ducky. Rubber ducky I play with when I take bubble baths.

BUD

I know the difference between a duck and a chicken and that there is a chicken.

COLE

Hell yeah chicken.

DICK

Sure looks like a chicken.

Billy Wayne holds up chicken; examines. He looks at Bud.

BILLY WAYNE

Well if you, Cole Dick say it's a chicken, then...

Billy looks at Ben, then Bud.

BILLY WAYNE (CONT'D)

I know. Let's see what he thinks?

BUD

Alright. Axe him.

Billy walks to Ben and boys. Holds chicken to Ben's face.

BILLY WAYNE

Is this a chicken? Or is this a, DUCK?

BEN

I have to agree with these guys. It looks like a chicken to me.

CONTINUED:

BUD
See Billy Wayne. Chicken.

COLE
Chick. In.

DICK
It is a chicken.

BILLY WAYNE
Look closer. You see I think it's
a,(puts in face) Duck. Duck. DUCK!

BEN
Ok ok, jeez. Whatever you say. You
seem pretty convinced.

BILLY WAYNE
It's you who needs, "convincing".
So pay, attention. They say
chicken. I say,(puts in face) DUCK.
DUCK...(Ben becomes aware) DUCK!

Ben drops from hold. Billy chops Cole in neck. He swings around, sweeps Dick while blocking punch from Bud then front kicks Bud in solar plex. All down in 3 seconds. Bud and Cole gasp for air. Dick limps off. Billy walks to horse; pulls towel from saddle bag. Walks back; hands to Ben then crouches by Bud.

BILLY WAYNE (CONT'D)
I do know the difference between a
duck and a chicken Bud. And right
now I see a big ol' chicken. Three
against one? You boys need to learn
fair.

Billy stands, walks by Ben drying off. He digs in saddlebag. Fuzzy black animal tail pops up then disappears. Ben approaches Billy. He drops towel from face and folds it.

BEN
Thank you. Who knows what would've
happened if you hadn't shown up.

Ben holds out towel. Billy ignores and continues to dig.

BEN (CONT'D)
Here. I'm all set.(ignored) Here's
your towel.(ignored) Towel?
(ignored) Hello, anyone home?

BILLY WAYNE
Benji? Is it?

CONTINUED:

BEN

Just Ben.

BILLY WAYNE

Keep your wag on li'l dog.

BEN

(under his breath)

Ok? Whatever that means?

Billy takes towel; puts it in saddlebag. He mounts horse.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm just trying to thank you. Thank you, for saving me.

BILLY WAYNE

I was saving her.

BEN

Her? Who's her?

BILLY WAYNE

Her's she.

Billy rides off into a cleared opening in the woods.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - PRE-DAWN

Ben sleeps restlessly. Wall is turned into a giant clock; 5 foot hands read: "5:00". TV turns on loud. 1933 film: "SITTING PRETTY" plays. Film is showing song number "Good Morning Glory". Ben grabs remote, aims at tv; presses buttons. No result. Slaps remote; flips it over. No screw holes in battery cover.

BEN

Whew. Not screwed.

He slides it open. It's empty. Tosses remote. Climbs out of bed. Walks to tv. Looks for switch. Feels for switch. Slaps tv. Spots power cord running behind bureau. Strenuously pulls bureau from wall. Creates gap. Reaches in. Finger tips contact plug. He falls. Becomes wedged. Vigorously un-wedges arm. Grabs plug as "Ginger Rodgers" sings: "and do you still love me. Well baby here's a kiss for you." Tv dies.

EXT. HOUSE - DAWN

Ben lifeless at door. Skye opens with lucent smile.

CONTINUED:

SKYE
Good morning.

INT. HOUSE - DAWN

IN A BEDROOM

Alvin and the Chipmunks, mostly Theodores, and other stuffed animals, occupy room.

SKYE
She loves critters. She's got a pet
ferret on the wain.

BEN
What's a wain?

SKYE
Oh a wain is a wagon. Without a
cover.

Ben nods; looks around. Spots same Chipmunks clock he
drowned; scoffs. He picks up large Theodore Chipmunk doll.

BEN
Well I think I figured out the
fave.

SKYE
For now. As she gets older she'll
become more interested in the
(grabs Alvin) unpredictable rebel
and his false charm. Then after
years of chaos and heartache,
lasting well into her twenties,
(throws Alvin) she'll wake up and;
(grabs Simon) realize what she
really wants.

BEN
Are we talking stuffed dolls all
stuffed with stuff stuff?

IN ANOTHER BEDROOM

SKYE (OS)
And Ray J's room

CONTINUED:

Ben stands awestruck amongst massive "Evel Knievel" collection of memorabilia. Bed dressed with Evel linens, includes throw blanket with yellow glittered "S".

SKYE (CONT'D)

Papa grew up with Evel Knievel.
Bobby he says. He worked in the
coal mines in Butte.

Ben slowly moves; marvels toys. He points at the blanket.

BEN

What's up with the "S"?

SKYE

Like my towel? Sunshine's doing.
(Skye picks up blanket; exposes
"S"). I had put her in time out and
she got upset. So she took some
glitter glue and did some personal
monograming. When I caught her with
this, she said she was looking for
something warm and fuzzy to wrap
herself in. Make her feel safe and
secure. I looked through several
throws but couldn't find anything.
So I threw in the towel.

Skye drops throw on bed. Ben marvels more "Evel" stuff.

SKYE (CONT'D)

Ever since Ray J was thrown from
this horse, he's been interested in
this stuff. Machines.

Ben holds toy truck; sees comic book. Drops toy; grabs book.

BEN

Evel's Perilous Traps of Mister
Danger (pulls out sheet of
stickers) with Supplemental Stunt
Sticker Spectacular; I have its
mug.

SKYE

You've heard of Evel?

AT THE KITCHEN TABLE

Skye serves breakfast. Ben eats honeybunny. (Bunny shaped
honeybun. Frosted features, rainbow sprinkle hair).

CONTINUED:

BEN
A-maze-zing.

SKYE
Thanks. I hope they come out like
this tomorrow.

BEN
What's tomorrow?

SKYE
The Big Sky Fair. I have a
concession stand.

BEN
Oh sweet.

SKYE
Yeah and I only do mornings. I have
this saying. Start early making
honey like the worker bees, so as
to enjoy the sweetness of the days
ease. You should come by.

BEN
There's still a lot of digging to
do.

SKYE
That is why, (Skye sits at table)
after breakfast, we, are going to
the library. 'Cause I'm gonna help.

Ben nods. They look at each other and smile.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

Skye's truck pulls up to Library; overlooks Lone Mountain.
They walk to clear glass doors; enter.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

They walk to old lady librarian. Nametag: "FAITH".

BEN
Hi. What aisle is your law in?

FAITH
Our lawn? Oh dear boy, our lawn is
out-side. Are you the new mower?

CONTINUED:

BEN

No law. Where is your law?

FAITH

Ohhh law. Seattle.

BEN

SEATTLE?

LIBRARY USERS

Shhhhhh.

FAITH

(whispers)

See at "L".

Faith makes "L" with index finger and thumb.

MONTAGE IN LIBRARY

(Sweet music plays) Ben and Skye stand in aisle of books. Each pull book from shelf and open. -They walk away from each other engaged in book. They corner bookcase: "L". They approach table with computers and two empty chairs. They gently collide. Smiles.

-Ben sits at computer; reads screen. Jots on paper: "KELO VS NEW LONDON". Skye approaches with open book. Shows Ben: "KELO V CITY OF NEW LONDON". Smiles.

-Skye sits at computer; reads screen. Ben approaches with open book. Shows Skye: "CRAWFORD FARM V KEYSTONE PIPELINE L.P.". Skye hits enter key. Screen displays: "SUPREME COURT FAVORS CRAWFORD FAMILY FARM". Smiles.

-Ben sits at computer. Reaches out left hand, picks up pen; jots note. Skye sits at computer to left. Reaches out right hand. Grabs same pen; jots note. Both read screens then reach out simultaneously; grab pen. Hold hands. Smiles.

-Ben stands at vending machine. Note over bill slot: "ONLY ACCEPT 1's". He inserts bill; selects: "B1". He retrieves Hershey Bar. He walks past Skye in aisle, reading; back turned. He slowly backs up; looks down aisle. Skye intuitively looks up; turns to Ben. He walks to her; reaches out candy bar. She breaks off piece; indulges. Smiles.

-Skye walks out of aisle "L", reading. Stops; looks at Ben. Ben holds giant coffee cup; looks out window with plaque: "LONE PEAK". Lone Mountain is in distance. No smiles.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Skye's truck drives on paved road.

INT. TRUCK(MOVING) - DAY

Ben drives while Skye looks out passenger window.

BEN
I'll keep digging.

Morning Glory pops out in front of truck. Ben swerves.

BEN (CONT'D)
What the fff... Was that?

SKYE
Someone will round him up.

Skye looks ahead at dirt road; unsettled. Ben notices.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Truck passes dirt road with sign: "THE PASS".

INT. TRUCK(MOVING) - DAY

SKYE
So why don't you dance?

BEN
Fifteen years ago, on the day of my wedding; my bride to be, daughters mom, was killed in a car crash. (WHITE FLASH). She was on her way to a friends to get ready and turned into an oncoming dump truck. (SMASH) Investigators said the glare from the morning sun blinded her. She never saw it coming.(V O of Ben screaming "WHY") Neither did I. Before she left we were rehearsing our first dance. We didn't finish. There wasn't, time.

SKYE
I'm so sorry.

CONTINUED:

BEN

Our dream was to open a coffee shop. Something sweet and simple? Then just like that, we became, I.

BEN (CONT'D)

I went back to school; Law. A way to escape.

SKYE

You really loved her?

BEN

There are no words. We were connected. We could communicate, in silence. Does that make sense?

SKYE

Perfect.

EXT. ROAD/BRIDGE -DAY

Truck passes sign: "CUT RIVER"; crosses bridge.

INT. TRUCK(MOVING) - DAY

SKYE

That road we passed. It's where my Mom died. She went into labor with Ray J and no one was home so she tried driving herself to the hospital.(CLANG; HISS) She broke down on the way. A forestry plane (VROOM) spotted the truck and called it in. They found Ray J (BABY CRY) wrapped in a seat cover in my mother's arms. She had hemorrhaged. Bled to death. Sometimes I wonder.(they look at each other) The Pass? How she interpreted it? It's a shortcut but it's rough and isolated. Billy Wayne tells me not to speculate. Yeah the main road is smooth but it's winding with blind corners; and it had rained so it was slick.

BEN

So how'd you two meet?

Skye looks at Ben in anguish then out window.

CONTINUED:

SKYE(VO)
 (crying and fearful)
 No. Please no. Get off me. Please
 no. No. SOMEBODY HELP!

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Truck pulls in. Skye enters house. Ben walks to training ring. Papa Ray digs with hole digger next to fence. Gordy watches.

PAPA RAY
 It's too hard. We have to dig deep.

GORDY
 The pick axe. It'll bust through.

Ray J runs to the barn.

BEN
 Escaped again huh?

PAPA RAY
 And it's the last time on my watch.
 Last time.

Ben looks at Sunshine. She sits behind Lemonade Stand.

BEN
 Lemonade?

Papa looks at Sunshine, then Ben.

PAPA RAY
 We got allot of lemons Ben.

AT A LEMONADE STAND

Ben walks to stand that reads: "LEMONAID". On countertop, basket of lemons, jar of coins with label that reads: "MAKING CENTS", jar of "BEE CAUSE" honey, jar of pink powder, jar of yellow powder, three pitchers of lemonade. Pink, yellow and a colorless with lemon slices. Sunshine stirs colorless.

BEN
 Hey Sunshine. Love the stand.

SUNSHINE
 The-ank you.

CONTINUED:

BEN

You got allot of coin there.

SUNSHINE

Mmm hmm. I'm saving.

BEN

Oh yeah? Whatchu saving for?

SUNSHINE

A riding glove.

BEN

One, riding glove? Why only one?

SUNSHINE

Because it only takes one to hold on and turn the rein.

BEN

Well young lady, I would like some of your finest please.

SUNSHINE

What color? I have the-ree.

BEN

The-ree Sun-shine?

SUNSHINE

The-reeeee.

BEN

Oh ththree. It's ththree Sweetheart. Put your tongue up against your teeth and blow. Ththree. Ththree.

SUNSHINE

Do you want lemonade or not?

BEN

Sorry.

SUNSHINE

Pink and yellow is fake but the clear is real.

Ben puts face close to real.

BEN

Looks a little cloudy to me. Tell yah what. Why don't we stir some fake into real and make our own special blend. We'll call it...uhm

CONTINUED:

SUNSHINE

Rake?

BEN

Mmm no I was thinking more like,
feal. Let's call it a feel.

SUNSHINE

One quarter please.

Sunshine pours. Ben digs in pockets. Pulls out wallet and
removes bill.

BEN

Can you split a fifty?

Sunshine baffled. She empties jar of coins.

SUNSHINE

Does that make cents?

BEN

Cents?

SUNSHINE

Change?

BEN

It makes allot of cents.

Sunshine spreads out coins and shakes head.

SUNSHINE

You can have it.

BEN

You can't run a successful business
by giving away your product
Sunshine. And another thing.
Discontinue the real. Stick with
the powders. Artificial's the way
to go nowadays. Let's face it,
there's cost for lemons. Honey even
more. Not to mention the increase
in your labor rate. And the color
isn't appealing. Pink and yellow is
much easier on the eye. At a
quarter per cup? You're talking
sweet profits for this industry.

Sunshine's bewildered. Ben looks at the bill then holds it
out.

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

Here. You keep it.

SUNSHINE

That's ok. This one's on the house.

Ben looks at bill, shameful. Puts it away.

BEN

Hey you mind if I hang out? Help
sell lemonade?

SUNSHINE

I don't mind.

Ben walks around stand and sits next to Sunshine. She puts
pitcher of real, "half full", in front of Ben.

BEN

So. What would you like me to do?

SUNSHINE

You can make more real. Even if it
makes less cents.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Skye exits house in work shirt and climbs in truck. She looks
at stand. Ben drops lemon wedges in pitcher as he stirs. He
and Sunshine high five. Skye drives off, smiling

TIME LAPSE:

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Skye pulls in and walks to house. She looks over and sees the
stand is gone.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Papa coughs aggressively. He leans over sink and spits blood.
Skye enters. Papa turns on faucet and washes blood. He pulls
out hanky and coughs in it.

PAPA RAY

How was your night?

SKYE

Same old shack hole. Waiting on
drunks and miners. (Papa coughs) In
black coal.

CONTINUED:

Skye walks to table. A flipped over scrabble board with tiles read: "LIGHT", "GLORY", "FAIR", "WAIN" "BEN" "HONEY", "REAL", "JOY", "TIME", and "SKYE".

SKYE (CONT'D)
You and Sunshine spelled?

PAPA RAY
Ben 'n Sunshine. He just left.

Skye smiles. Her finger approaches: "SKYE". She rearranges tiles and spells: "KEYS".

INT. HOTEL ROOM - PRE-DAWN

Ben is sleeping restless. Room phone RINGS. He buries head under pillow. RINGS continue. He throws pillow at phone and knocks off receiver.

RECEIVER (DAMON'S VOICE)
Gooooooooood morning.(singing by soulful evangelical choir) Good morning. Good morning Good good morning...continuous until it merges into...

EXT. BIG SKY FAIR - DAY

P.A. SPEAKER VOICE
Goooooood mooorning to all you awake out there. And welcome to the Big Sky Fair.

Fair grounds cluttered with rides, games and concessions

EXT. CONCESSION STAND - DAY

Tent with sign reads: "HONEYBUNNYS". Line of people. Skye, Ben and Ray J sling Honeybunnys. Sunshine plays with a Theodore chipmunk doll.

LATER

They close the stand.

MONTAGE - THROUGHOUT FAIRGROUNDS

They go on rides, play games, watch lawnmower racing. Sunshine gets her face painted as chipmunk.

CONTINUED:

Gordy sees friends and bails. Skye brings Sunshine to the bathroom. Ben waits next to tented booth as dusk approaches.

AT TENTED BOOTH

HERB LISS, 40ish is holding up flyer and yelling out.

HERB LISS

Ferret hails here. That's right.
The ferret hails here.

A sign reads: "THE FERRET HAILS HERE". Photos of Blackfoot Ferrets are displayed. Informational flyers are on a table. Blackfoot Ferret stuffed dolls are set up on shelves. Ben looks in the distance and sees fairgoers surrounding a restored 1971 Black Mustang Mach 1 on display. A sign reads: "TROPHY". HERB LISS puts down the flyer and picks up a ferret doll and a prairie dog doll.

HERB LISS (CONT'D)

You Sir? Care to take action? (Ben approaches) You see it all starts in this hole. In this hole there could be a predator or prey.

Herb holds up dolls and uses them in demonstration. Ben, not attentive, looks over at Mustang.

HERB LISS (CONT'D)

One feeds off the environment, the other feeds off what is already in this hole. Now as darkness falls, these hungry dwellers search countless holes looking to consume and take over which they do. Well in the past, those holes were being poisoned. It didn't matter whose hole it was. Whatever was in those holes was regarded as a nuisance and destroyed. The Ferret hails here initiative is working close with the Federal Wildlife Service to protect those holes in danger by turning their surroundings into conservation. A fifty dollar donation helps our efforts and you receive a thank you gift. (holds up ferret)

Ben breaks out of trance and points to the ferret doll.

BEN

Sorry. How much for that? Fifty?

CONTINUED:

HERB LISS

Yes. Five oh.

Ben pulls out wallet, removes a fifty and exchanges it for the doll. Skye and Sunshine return. Ben hands Sunshine the doll. She hugs it. Sunshine grabs Ben's hand and they begin to walk towards Mustang. They arrive and marvel at the displayed Mustang then continue on.

P.A. VOICE

Last call for Hold 'em. Winner goes home with a restored Mustang.

BEN

You play?

SKYE

Hold 'em? Every day of my life. And even though I wasn't dealt a pocket pair, I still somehow managed a full house.

BEN

Do you have, aces over?

SKYE

Aces over Jacks. Caught one on the flop and one on the turn.

BEN

Let me guess. Papa on the flop?

SKYE

And Ray J's on the turn. But it's not over Ben. We haven't seen the River and it could better my hand.

BEN

So you're waiting for a Queen?

SKYE

I don't go there. Well once. But I was young. I was experimenting.

Two large groups wait for attractions which leaves a narrow passage. Skye takes Ben's free hand and leads them through.

BEN

Then you must be holding Big Slick?

SKYE

Is that what you call him?

CONTINUED:

BEN

That's his name. An Ace King in hand.

SKYE

Well if I am holding Big Slick, can you guess what I'm waiting for on the river?

They exit passage and walk side by side, holding hands.

BEN

I think I can. First let's disclose the variable knowns. You have Aces over Jacks, without a pocket pair.

SKYE

Okay.

BEN

A Jack on the flop, and one on the turn, would make the other two on the flop Aces. So you're holding the third Ace.

SKYE

Still with yah.

BEN

You can better your hand, but not with a Queen. The girl thing just didn't take.

SKYE

It was an isolated adolescent incident.

BEN

These knowns prove that you are indeed holding Big Slick, and what you're waiting for on the river, is a King.

They stop walking and Skye faces Ben.

SKYE

A Cowboy.

BEN

Also known as a Cowboy.

SKYE

But it's hard Ben. There's cons out there.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

SKYE (CONT'D)

Players who lead you on with false tells. Some can even show a Cowboy, then with a sleight of hand, make it a Joker.

Ben appears shameful.

BEN

Yes there are.

SKYE

So what about you?

BEN

Well I'm also working on a full house but I need to match one that I'm holding. You see I need a Queen.

SKYE

A Lady?

BEN

Also known as a Lady.

SKYE

Well I hope you get her Ben. Guess we'll find out on the river?

BEN

Yup. The river completes a hand.

Ben picks up Sunshine and puts her on his shoulders. A woman holds numerous Red heart balloons that read: "BIG SKY." She hands one to Sunshine. Photographer has badge that reads: "PRESS". He aims a camera. A firework explodes overhead. Skye startled, jumps into Ben's arms. All three look up. Photographer snaps a shot.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Ben is on the phone panicking while holding numerous papers.

BEN

I can't find anything that's going to help save their home. Not to mention she still thinks I'm somebody I'm not. Look, you're the smartest person I know. I just need a way out.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

ANGEL

By looking for a way out, you're focusing on the problem. Look for a way in. The solution.

INTERCUT - HOTEL ROOM/BEN'S APARTMENT

BEN

A way in?

ANGEL

Look for a way in.

Ben is frozen in thought. There's KNOCKS on the door.

BEN

Way in. Thanks.

Ben hangs up and answers the door. Joy, a cowgirl little person, wears a t-shirt with a logo that reads: "PIZZA WAIN" on a Wagon. She has a strong southern accent and pronounces Wain (way in)

JOY

Hi, I'm Joy with Pizza Wa-in. Home of the Stuffed Sourdough Pizza Pie. We would love for you to come by. Give us a try.

She hands Ben paper menu: "PIZZA WAIN"

BEN

Pizza Wain?

JOY

Pizza Wa-in. Lotsa specialties. The Supreme being most popular.

BEN

Pete's a Wa-in? That's what your saying? Pete's a way in?

JOY

Pizza Wa-in. Five stars in the Big Sky View, "What to Love" Review.

BEN

(elated)

Pete's a way in. PETE'S A WAY IN. Get it?

CONTINUED:

JOY

I'm always gettin' Pizza Wa-in.
Heck I own the place.

BEN

Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank
you.

Ben closes door. Joy turns, shrugs and smiles.

JOY

Thinks he's excited now, wait 'till
he tries the pizza.

EXT. PIZZA PLACE - DAY

Ben sees "PETE'S CAB". Looks at sign that reads: "PIZZA WAIN"
and enters.

INT. PIZZA PLACE - DAY

Ben looks around and over high seat backs on booths. He walks
up behind Pete at a booth. There's a pizza on the table and
Pete has a slice in his hand. Ben is awestruck.

PETE

Ben.

BEN

I...can't believe you're here.

PETE

Join me. Here. Have a slice.

Ben sits. Pete puts a slice on plate. Fillings ooze out.

PETE (CONT'D)

If you look inside there's lotsa
cheesy stuff. But best part, Joy
puts olives in free.

Ben observes slice.

PETE (CONT'D)

So how's business?

BEN

I have a problem. And was told not
to look for a way out.

PETE

Ahhh. Look for a way in.

CONTINUED:

BEN

That's right. Then I find you here.
Pizza Way in.

PETE

I can't claim to be a way in Ben.
But I can tell you about the doors.

BEN

Doors?

PETE

Doors we all walk through in life,
along with gasps or breaths of fair
if you ill. There's A,E,I,O,U and
sometimes Y. You see "A" door is
false expectations. It's expecting
one thing then walking into
something completely different. You
say,(acts surprised) "A?". "E" door
is fear. It's a revolving door.
It's running from things only to
come around and face them again.
(acts scared)"E". "I" door, a
mirrored door, is ego. When your
eyes are focused on "I", you're
blind to what's truly important in
life. "U" or "Uuu" door, is self-
indulgence. Lust, greed, envy, even
pity and pride; (acts greedy)
"Uuuuuu". They're behind that one.
What you want is thee "O" door.
Clarity. Awareness. Whether a
little close, sure. Or fully ajar.
It's the door when everything just,
seems to make sense. You say to
yourself, "Oh". That's the way in.

Ben mesmerized, nods. He begins to stand; drops back down.

BEN

What about, "Y"?

Pete wipes mouth with napkin.

PETE

Sometimes, there's a trap door.
Beneath lies a black hole of
emptiness and despair. The only
survivors, are the ones who see the
light. The ones who trust life and
stop asking, why.

INT. CAR(MOVING) - DAY

Ben driving, talks on the phone.

BEN

Yes Ira...In front of the
courthouse. (BEEP) I have another
call, ok...(Clicks over) Hello?

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DUSK

Waiting room full of patients. Tearful Skye, stands by open
solid doors; phone to ear. Papa Ray and nurse walk down
hallway, away from Skye. Doors close automatically. Skye
cringes.

BEN(PHONE VOICE O.S.)

Hello?

SKYE

Hi.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben enters. Holds half gallon of Neapolitan ice cream.

BEN

Hello?

IN RAY J'S BEDROOM

Ray J. sits on bed and works on a small engine. Lawnmower
race on tv. Rock music plays. KNOCKS on door.

RAY J

Yeah?

Ben enters.

BEN

Hey. Your sister asked if I'd hang
out until Maria gets back from her
date.

Ray J. doesn't respond. Ben looks at tv then engine then red,
white, blue paint cans by closet.

BEN (CONT'D)

Working on your quad?

Ray J. looks at Ben, condescending.

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

Well I know it's a lawn mower. I just thought, four wheels so... Ok then.

Ben, humbled, smiles and exits. Ray J. continues.

IN SUNSHINE'S ROOM

KNOCKS. Sunshine holds Albino Ferret. She panics; hides ferret under pillow. She sits on bed; smiles.

SUNSHINE

Come in.

Ben enters.

BEN

Hey Sunshine. I'm gonna hang out for a bit so if you need anything, let me know ok?

Sunshine, smiling suspiciously, nods.

BEN (CONT'D)

You ok?

Sunshine nods again. Ben walks over; sits next to her.

BEN (CONT'D)

You wanna do something?

Sunshine shakes head. Ben thinks. Ferret crawls out from under pillow; approaches Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)

I know. And you're gonna like this. I brought with me some Chocolate, Vanilla, and Strawberry, I (Ferret jumps on Ben's shoulder) SCREEEEAAAM!

SUNSHINE

BINGO!

Ben jumps off bed; spins around. Ferret hangs on. Ben contorts body; smashes into walls. He gets grip of ferret, pulls it off; throws it into pile of stuffed animals.

BEN

WHAT THE FFFFF....

CONTINUED:

Sunshine distressed, runs to ferret.

BEN (CONT'D)
WHAT IS THAT?

SUNSHINE
It's Bingo. My ferret.

Ben grabs Blackfoot Ferret doll off dresser.

BEN
I thought this was a ferret?

SUNSHINE
That's a Blackfoot Ferret. I can't
have one of those.

BEN
Why not? Lot cuter than that,
thing.

SUNSHINE
They're in danger.

BEN
In danger? Of what?

SUNSHINE
Dying. The ones around here are.

BEN
Oh endangered? You mean they're
protected?

SUNSHINE
So you can't take them from their
home.

BEN
Well where's their home?

Sunshine shakes her head.

SUNSHINE
Where they're happy, Silly.

Ben looks at ferret doll, intrigued.

IN LIVING ROOM

Ben sloped on couch; eye's shut. Ferret doll on tummy. Front
door opens. Maria enters; holds gift bag.

CONTINUED:

MARIA

Hola?

Ben pops awake. Grabs ferret doll; stands.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(broken English)

Ah Senor Ben. Gracias you here now.

They walk to kitchen. Maria puts bag on table next to lemonade jar full of coins: "MAKING CENTS"

BEN

You have a good time?

MARIA

Oh we dance and dance and dance.
Me, Ginger Rodgers; Jose', Fred
Dest Air.

BEN

Astaire. Fred, Ah-staire.

MARIA

A stair? Like a step? Or a stare,
like you see?

BEN

No you said Dest Air. Fred Dest
Air.

Ben becomes curious of verbiage. Shakes it off.

MARIA

Oh. Ok. So we stop on way here.
(pulls lingerie from bag)
Victoria's Secret for my Fred Dest
Air.

BEN

Victorious Egret. It's Victorious
Egret?

MARIA

What I said?

BEN

You said...(revelation) Victoria's
Egret? Victorious. Dest Air Denied?

Ben holds up ferret doll. He looks at lingerie, then jar. He makes a connection.

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

Whether a little clothes? Or fully
ajar?

Sunshine enters with Theodore Chipmunk, singing.

SUNSHINE

We're the Chipmunks. Alvin, Simon,
Thee o door. Doot doot, do do doot.

Ben turns rapidly to Sunshine.

BEN

Sunshine? Who's your favorite
Chipmunk?

Sunshine holds up Theodore.

SUNSHINE

Thee Oh Door.

Ben hands ferret doll to Sunshine; kisses her head. He flies
out door. Maria rushes to door; calls out.

MARIA

SEEN YOUR BEEN? YOU BE-LEAVING NOW?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ben searches Pink Egret on-line. "Dest Air denied permit to
construct maintenance hanger in Orlando". "Pink Egret
registered as new species". "Not a Flamingo or Reddened
Heron". "Court adds bird to Endangered list. Protected
habitat, Federal Conservation". Ben searches Blackfoot
Ferrets. "Only Ferret native to North America". "Found in 8
states". "Montana". "Endangered". Ben looks out window.
Daylight breaking. He walks to bathroom. Shower turns on.

BEN (OS)

Alvin, Simon, THEE-O-DOOR.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ben jogs up on porch, opens screen door; KNOCKS on main.

BEN

Hello? Skye?

Ben, impatient, opens door. Enters.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Skye sits at kitchen table, grief-stricken. Looks at paperwork. Red heart balloon with string, floats overhead.

BEN

Great news.

SKYE

You're gonna take our home?

BEEPS from pager. Ira creeps out from hallway. Dries hands with bath towel. A newspaper tucked under his arm.

IRA

Mister Bloom. We were just talking about you.

Ben looks at Skye, worried.

BEN

I can explain.

IRA

No need, Ben. I'm sorry but I had to come clean. I mean after seeing this morning's paper...

Ira drops: "BIG SKY VIEW" on table. Cover photo is Ben with Sunshine on shoulders, embracing Skye. All look up at BIG SKY heart balloon, joyous. Headline: "BIG SKY LOVE".

IRA (CONT'D)

I just couldn't bare your lie anymore. Even I...(grabs balloon string) have a heart.

Ira walks up and whispers in Ben's ear.

IRA (CONT'D)

I don't blame you Ben. She is one sweet honeybunny indeed. You will win tomorrow or I'll have you disbarred. See you in court buddy.

Ira exits with balloon.

EXT. RANCH - DAY

Ira walks to stairs on porch; releases balloon into sky.

INT. RANCH - DAY

BEN
Skye?

SKYE
Get out.

BEN
I wanna...

SKYE
NOW!

Ben exits in despair. Skye cries.

INT. CAR(MOVING) - DAY

Ben drives, shaking head.

BEN
Don't look for a way out, look for
a way in. A way in? The solution.

Ben looks out window, intrigued.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Old wain static display, amongst swings, jungle gym and slide. Ben's car pulls in. Kids play on wain. Another kid rakes leaves into pile behind wain.

INT. CAR(PARKED) - DAY

BEN
A wain is a wagon. Without a cover.
Then just say wagon. Is that so
hard? Wag on. Way in. (intrigued)
Wagon? Keep your wag on li'l dog.
Way in.(excited) Billy Wayne.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Kids jump from wain into pile of leaves. They throw leaves into air. Ben looks up. Heart balloon floats in sky. Car races off.

EXT. SALOON - DAY

Ben's car pulls into parking lot. Ben exits, looks up. Balloon floats over woods by opening where Billy Wayne entered. Ben enters.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Ben hikes over rough terrain. Spots camp site by river. Hides behind trees. Man with back turned, crouches by campfire. He gets up; walks behind shelter. Ben moves in. Arm slings around Ben's forehead; Butterfly knife opens and is placed on Ben's neck.

BILLY WAYNE

Never sneak in the wild, unless
you're out for the prey.

BEN

I was just making sure you weren't
some crazy inbred hillbilly,
moonshining or making pigs squeal.

BILLY WAYNE

Reasonable argument. Sustained.

Billy releases Ben. He retrieves cooking pot; walks to rivers edge. Ben follows. Billy dunks pot.

BEN

You live out here? Alone?

BILLY WAYNE

Look around. You are surrounded by
life. Glorious life and all its
divinity.

Ben looks around. Billy stands.

BEN

Ok.

BILLY WAYNE

See that tree?

Billy motions to ten foot leafless tree by waters edge.

BEN

The one with no leaves?

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE

It'll be leaving soon. I planted it, few years back when it was a seedling no bigger than my hand. Now look at it. It's living large. May get, fifty high.

Billy walks back to camp. Ben follows.

BEN

Was that about the same time you saved Skye? She told me what happened. Everything. Except what happened to that...She doesn't know. Nobody knows. Did you kill him?

BILLY WAYNE

I don't believe in killing.

BEN

Then what happened?

Billy hangs pot over campfire; turns to Ben.

BILLY WAYNE

He's out there. And he's had a change of heart. So I turned him around. Gave him a home where he can provide and no longer consume. He's out there. And he's living large.

Billy walks away from Ben, towards firewood pile.

BILLY WAYNE (CONT'D)

May get, fifty high.

Ben looks at tree; dry gulps. Billy collects wood.

BEN

I'm not who everyone thinks I am.

BILLY WAYNE

Doesn't matter. Who do you think you are? Bark outside? Or sap in?

Billy stands; walks back to fire.

BEN

I'm the Attorney; representing Montana Power Corp Somethin' Somethin.. I'm with the other side.

CONTINUED:

Billy freezes. Holds wood in front of fire; intense.

BILLY WAYNE

Isn't there someone else...

BEN

She knows.

BILLY WAYNE

Then why come here? Tell me?

BEN

I know how to save their home. But
I need a hand.

Billy turns head; lends ear.

BEN (CONT'D)

Can you get me a Blackfoot Ferret?

BILLY WAYNE

Blackfoot Ferrets are endangered.

BEN

Exactly.

Billy looks at fire; takes breath. Throws wood to the side.

BILLY WAYNE

I know this guy, Katchatookie-
whatchawanna. He's fluent in the
sacred dance, the Macoronin.

BEN

You mean, the Macarena?

BILLY WAYNE

Macoronin. Summons of the beast. Or
in this case, cute little fuzzy
guy. I can have Katchawoochie-
whatchawanna show you this dance.

BEN

(horrified)

I have to dance?

BILLY WAYNE

Be here sunset; to don costume.
Then you and Koochiewoochie-
whatchawanna will dance.

Ben fearful; nods. Billy walks away.

CONTINUED:

BEN

Is that dawn, "D", "A W", like awe
"N"? Or Oh "N"?

BILLY WAYNE

It's however you choose to be "N",
cost tomb.

Heart balloon descends to Ben. He takes string.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - SUNSET

Ben's face painted like chipmunk.(same as Sunshine's at Fair)
Wears loin cloth. Stands next to bonfire.

Across stands, LOU POLLS, Native American in full dress
costume; hundreds of feathers.(cue: CHANGE" by Blind Melon)

LOU

For centuries, our ancestors have
called upon the wild as sought. It
has been done so through dance.
Only the noble and determined have
been able to endure the longevity
and complexities of this dance. Are
you one of these people?

BEN

I am.

LOU

Then let us begin.

Lou initiates ridiculous interpretive dance. Ben mimics
moves. Interprets birds flying, man swimming, sun rising,
rain falling. Speeds up into moves from notable genre movies.
Saturday Night Fever, Grease, etc. Lou tires; leans against a
tree. Extends hand out for Ben to continue. Ben's Silhouette
on rock ledge dances proficiently amongst Northern Lights.
Dawn arrives. Ben and Lou asleep against boulders. SONG ENDS.
Billy rides up on horse; climbs off. Walks to fire pit of
coals. Approaches Lou; taps with foot. Lou wakes; stands.

BILLY WAYNE

So?

LOU

That man, loves that woman.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE
Did he say something?

LOU
He didn't have to.

BILLY WAYNE
Then how do you know?

LOU
I'm awake.

Billy walks to horse. Lou follows.

BILLY WAYNE
Were you awake when Papa came to
you for help? We all thought he was
with your Firm.

LOU
You know how it is. Sometimes,
people fall through the cracks. So
we good?

Billy nods; unbuckles saddle bag. Pulls out Blackfoot Ferret.
Lou pets.

LOU (CONT'D)
I'm gonna get ready.

Lou walks off. Billy walks to Ben; places Ferret on stomach.
Ben wakes; sees ferret. Takes hold of it; stands in awe.

BEN
I don't believe.

BILLY WAYNE
Well be leave.

BEN
I have to get him to the Lights.
Build a home.

BILLY WAYNE
You did your part. (tries to take
ferret) Now let me do mine.

BEN
No I know your version of home. You
mean underground. I'm sorry but I
need him alive.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE
Ferrets live in burrows, Ben.
Underground.

BEN
Oh. Right. (hands over ferret) Well
what are you going to...

BILLY WAYNE
Ben. Trust me.

Billy walks off with the Ferret.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Ben and Ira meet; walk up to solid courthouse doors. Enter.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Ben and Ira sit on one side. Lou Polls in suit; enters. Skye
and Papa Ray follow. Ben in awe.

BEN
Katchawhatcha-wishee-washah?

IRA
Lou Polls. He's defended numerous
property right cases for the
Blackfeet Indian Tribe. Better be
on your "A" game.

BEN
That's Lou?

IRA
AKA, Bi-polar eyes. He sees all the
ins and outs. Up and down.

BEN
Loop holes?

BAILIFF stands next to door.

BAILIFF
All rise. The honorable Judge Knot
presiding.

Everyone stands. Door remains closed. Moments pass. Worry
sets in. People look around, waiting. Door finally opens.
Tiny dinosaur Judge enters; sits.

CONTINUED:

JUDGE KNOT

You may be seated. I see both parties are present. Mister Bloom? You've received a copy of the defenses motion to dismiss?

BEN

No your Honor. I have not.

Judge hands paper to Bailiff. Bailiff brings to Ben.

JUDGE KNOT

It seems new evidence suggests your claim is unwarranted.

LOU

Yes your Honor. We refute that the Lights are sole proprietors of the home in question. I would like to bring to the stand an expert witness to clarify?

JUDGE KNOT

Ok.

LOU

I call to the stand, Mister William Wayne Shepherd.

JUDGE KNOT

It's an evidentiary hearing Mister Polls. Just bring him in.

Billy Wayne in suit with cowboy hat and boots, enters.

JUDGE KNOT (CONT'D)

Mister Shepherd. Nice to see you again.

BILLY WAYNE

Likewise.

JUDGE KNOT

Have you been playing nice with the Power people? You know black coal has too long been accepted here in M T. for things to change now.

BILLY WAYNE

Shhh he's crying your Honor.

JUDGE KNOT

Who's crying Mister Shepherd?

CONTINUED:

Billy looks at Skye, then Ben, then Judge.

BILLY WAYNE

The sky.

JUDGE KNOT

You're an intense individual, aren't you Mister Shepherd? A fundamental-environmentalist?

BILLY WAYNE

I'd say, a Mental-fond-man-fire-ventilist.

LOU

Mister Shepherds prior conduct advocating for the clean air act is irrelevant here. Now during his probation, he has been conducting a census on the diminishing Blackfoot Ferret population. It is his findings we wish to present today.

JUDGE KNOT

Mister Shepherd.

Billy holds up 8x12 picture; ferret has head out hole with newspaper propped up behind. The Light's house in background.

BILLY WAYNE

This, was taken by me this morning.

BEN

Objection. Please the court. How do we know when that picture was taken?

JUDGE KNOT

Hold your horses Mister Bloom. Let him finish.

BILLY WAYNE

Within the shot, you will clearly see, (holds up paper in other hand) yesterdays news, is present.

JUDGE KNOT

May I see.

Billy Wayne brings newspaper and picture to Judge.

BILLY WAYNE

On the cover, a happy couple and little girl enjoying, the Fair.

CONTINUED:

JUDGE KNOT
They look familiar.

BILLY WAYNE
They're a happy couple your Honor.
You won't find that here.

Judge hands back picture and newspaper. Billy pulls out badge.

JUDGE KNOT
Continue.

BILLY WAYNE
In compliance with regulations in title 50 part 1 7; I have measured out a 100 yard perimeter around this burrow and officially declare it, conservation. On behalf of the Federal Wildlife Service.

JUDGE KNOT
The state can't condemn a Federal Conservation Easement Mister Bloom. Now if the Lights wish to surrender their home? Endorse it over? The state could file a motion to relocate the inhabitant of this hole.

LOU
Barring any tragic circumstances your Honor, I'd say that's a nay.

JUDGE KNOT
Then I decline the motion for a formal hearing on this matter. Case closed.

Judge slams gavel; closes file. Lou, Skye, Billy, Papa Ray hug. Ira watches, infuriated. Turns to Ben.

IRA
You're history. Your life, history.

Ira storms out. Ben stands; passes defense team celebration.

IN THE HALLWAY

Ben sitting on bench, head down, open briefcase on lap. Defense team exits courtroom; walk towards Ben. Skye passes. Lou and Papa pass and nod.

CONTINUED:

Billy stops; drops newspaper on briefcase. Skye's phone BUZZES. She looks at screen: "BIG SKY MEDICAL CENTER". She looks at Papa Ray, distressed.

INT. AIRLINER (FLYING) - NIGHT

Ben wakes up, head against window. Looks out, morose. Jolly English man, SIR VANCE ALLOT, sits next to him. Plays noisy S R 71 Blackbird flight simulator on computer. Ben turns to him. Screen has view from top of the world.

SIR VANCE ALLOT
(British accent)
I'm a really good flier. Who's
higher in the sky, I'd ask my wife.
She's a Pilot in real life.

Screen goes black. Dies.

SIR VANCE ALLOT (CONT'D)
Lost its charge.

Ben examines flyer, hard. He looks back out window.

BEN
Who's hirin' this guy? The Drop
Everything Move her.

Flight attendant, DEE, approaches. Holds basket of peanuts and potato chips. Serves passengers.

SIR VANCE ALLOT
I wonder what Dee's serving? Looks
like nuts and chips. What are you
Sir? Nuts or chips?

Flight attendant, LUVIA, scoots by Dee, addresses Sir Vance.

LUVIA
Hi Mister Allot. Yes there was a
hold in Hershey. Then a re-route to
Cape Fear, where she filled in the
last leg to Hope.

SIR VANCE ALLOT
Hope?

LUVIA
Arkansas. She'll be waiting in
Hope.

Luvia retreats. Sir Vance turns to Ben.

CONTINUED:

SIR VANCE ALLOT
So be it. Gloria waits in Hope.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - PRE-DAWN

IN BEDROOM

Ben sleeps restlessly. Deafening GONG blasts from living room. Ben skyrockets; rushes to door. GONGS continue.

INT. LIVING ROOM - PRE-DAWN

Ben pops out. Angel stands; smiling. GONGS continue. Ben looks left; becomes disgruntled. "Big Ben", replica grandfather clock, GONGS. He looks at Angel.

BEN
Really?

INT. JOE'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben sits in trance while Joe raises Hell.

JOE
I sent you to win damnit. Win! And you get out smarted by some country bumpkin and a bitch ass beaver?

BEN
Ferret sir.

JOE
Not to mention Pager's on my ass saying you gave them the shit stinking squirrel.

BEN
Ferret sir.

JOE
These bleeding heart liberals. Save the gophers. Save the weasels. SAVE THE PISSANT PRICKLY PORCUPINES!

BEN
Ferrets too sir.

Pulls key with Mustang keychain from desk; holds up.

CONTINUED:

JOE

Look what you just passed on buddy.
Here.(throws key to Ben) Go for a
spin.

JOE (CONT'D)

Get a taste of what serious
horsepower feels like. It might be
your last.

Ben leaves.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Cue: "YOU SEE ME CRYING" by Aerosmith. Ben enters, grabs
picture of Grace off bookshelf; sits on new office chair with
plastic wrapped backing. Rain drizzles down window. Ben
stares at picture; morose. Mark pops in doorway.

MARK

So you lost your first. You'll get
over it.

BEN

I'm not so sure it was my first.

MARK

I'm not following.

BEN

Good. Because you don't want the
experience.

MARK

Hey? What do you think of the new
office chairs? Comfortable huh?

BEN

Yeah. Comfortable.

Mark retreats. Ben stares at photo; breaks off. Opens
briefcase. "BIG SKY LOVE" newspaper on top. Ben stares;
shakes head. Slams case closed.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Skye in kitchen, pulls vase with wilted Morning Glory off
window sill; shuts window. Rain weeps down glass. Brings vase
to kitchen table; sits. Looks at medical report: "RAYMOND
GORDON LIGHT/BLACK LUNG DISEASE...TERMINAL". Next to it,
paper reads: "PROPERTY DEED - TITLE OF SURRENDER".

CONTINUED:

She looks away. Sees "BIG SKY LOVE" newspaper at edge of table. Theodore Chipmunk slippers trot across floor.

Sunshine places glass of real lemonade in front of Skye. Skye hugs and kisses Sunshine.

MONTAGE:

IN BEN'S OFFICE

Ben looks at photo of Grace. Looks at reflection in window. Drizzle appears as tears down face. Slowly stands; heads for door. Grabs raincoat; places photo down.

Ben scurries down staircase in building's lobby. Jogs toward revolving door; stops. Takes breath; passes through.

From outside, Ben exits into rain; stands in front of building. Sheeple, in dark trench coats holding black umbrellas, surround him. He looks up at buildings blocking sky. They appear to lean. He begins to spin.

Rain. Horse legs ascend up steep slope. Billy Wayne in saddle; holds reins. He summits. Looks at Powerplant in distance. Smoke billows into sky. Looks up at grey sky. Rain showers his face. Appear as tears. Trots off.

Ben stops spinning. Becomes woozy. Puts head down, arms out; regains balance. Lifts head; rain trickles down face. Appear as tears. Walks off.

IN A PARKING GARAGE

Door opens on Satin Black Mustang Dark horse. Ben climbs in; inserts key. Mustang exits garage.

Mustang drives on highway; city in background. Passes sign: "LEAVING CITY LIMITS".

Mustang drives on country road.

AT A FLOWER SHOP

Store sign: "GOOD BUY FLORIST". Sign in window: "BLEEDING HEARTS - WE GOT 'EM". Mustang pulls up, Ben rushes in.

CONTINUED:

AT A COUNTRYISH CEMETRY

Mustang pulls up. Ben holds Bleeding Heart flowers. Walks through cemetery. Arrives at heart shaped gravestone. In silence, Ben visually screams at top of lungs.

BEN

Sorry I haven't been by. Still, mourning. Still stuff. Angel's good. She's amazing Grace. She goes to college soon. You'd be so proud of her. She's so smart. So talented. So beautiful. Everything you are. Sorry. I get a little confused sometimes. Anyways, I just wanted to let you know, I'll be leaving. I'm gonna find a new home. Somewhere I can start being, and no longer Ben. So I wanted to say Goodbye. I'll miss you. And, Goodbye.

Ben places flowers in front of gravestone. Stone reads: "GRACE KAIGON". "05/05/1985 - 12/21/2009. Ben bows; walks away.

Mustang pulls out of cemetery.

Mustang drives on country road.

Mustang drives on highway; city ahead in distance. Passes sign: "ENTERING CITY LIMITS".

Mustang pulls into parking garage.

Ben stands in front of building. Looks at revolving door; takes deep breath. Enters.

Ben on elevator with reflective door. Shields reflection with hand. Door opens.

Ben enters FIRM, dauntless. Joe approaches.

JOE

So?

Ben tosses key to Joe.

BEN

I quit Joe.

Ben walks down hallway. Joe follows.

CONTINUED:

JOE

Look I know I got a little heated
but quitting's not the answer.

BEN

Yeah well there's no question.

Ben walks into office. Joe follows.

JOE

So that's it? You're just gonna
drop everything; move on? You know
Ben I thought you were some Buddy?
I thought you were a go-getter?

Ben drops paperwork onto open briefcase, grabs photo of
Angel; leaves photo of Grace. Walks up to Joe; hands over
briefcase.

JOE (CONT'D)

What?

BEN

Go rake some leaves.

Ben leaves with Angel photo.

Ben runs down stairs in lobby; heads for revolving door. He
stops, looks at door; smiles. Sprints to door.

From outside, Ben shoots out of clear glass door next to
revolving door. Clouds break. Sunshine peers through.

New office chair is empty. Photo of Grace remains on shelf.

EXT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - DAY

Ben arrives. Stops in front of door. Stares at handle.

BEN

It's just a door.

Closes eyes, takes deep breath; enters.

INT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - DAY

Angel sits alone at table. Ben joins. Place is empty.

CONTINUED:

BEN

I did it. I quit my job. I want us to spend time together before you leave. Time, together.

ANGEL

Thank you. That's, noble. The problem is, you're not together.

BEN

Angel I quit my job. I saw your mother. Got closure. What else...

ANGEL

And Skye?

BEN

False tells? Maybe Miss-deal?

ANGEL

STOP SNOOZING! You know I always thought you didn't come here because you were afraid of what I might say. You're afraid of what you might say. Not variable knowns and unknowns, but owns. Own fears. Own pain. Own truth. Because in here, there is no taking the fifth. Now I want you to do something. I want you to get on that stage and explain your nightmare.

BEN

Oh Angel I...

ANGEL

Please.(grabs Ben's hand) For us.

BEN

There's like nobody here, accept...

OWEN, "God" looking man, cuts through Angel and Ben.

OWEN

Coming through.

ANGEL

That's just Owen. He's always here.

BEN

I wouldn't know how to start.

CONTINUED:

ANGEL

It's easy. Last night, I had a nightmare.

Ben stands; reluctantly walks to stage. Angel walks to back of club and sits with Owen against wall. Ben approaches mic; looks out. Adjusts mic and takes breath.

BEN

Last night, I had a nightmare. I was in the middle of Time Square. I was alone. I couldn't remember where was home. Tried using my wit when suddenly it hit. An earthquake. The whole city began to shake. Buildings all, started to fall. Crumble. Pitching a thunderous rumble. I stood still, there, without a care about being hit by debris. See I didn't flee. I stood. Still there after the city had fallen, in self, pity, I started ballin'. Crying. Am I dying? Live I must so just start trying. To see, I couldn't. Dust so thick wouldn't, bust with an axe or pick.(scoff) Pick axe perhaps. So I looked down to the ground. It was stained. How profound. The shadows of the buildings remained. A maze of them. A two dimensional jungle gym. Amazing. Then, I followed this maze. Avoiding being swallowed by haze. Until I reached a door. This invisible door. But not so sure which in door. Or what I was in for. It's just a door. Just a door. Just, adore. In which I endured before. Waiting there. Contemplating dare I step in once more. I knew I could but feared if I should. So amid not knowing what in could possibly begin. I did. I stepped in. And then it reared. And then it dawned. All dust had cleared. All rubble was gone. I didn't question, why. Perhaps a sign. And there it was. This breathtaking Skye. Along with it's. (Awakens) Along with "her", sweet Sunshine. Last night, I had a nightmare. Because hear now, it's an awakening.

CONTINUED:

Angel and Owen stand. Owen claps to Bingo song. Ben walks to Angel.

ANGEL
Good morning.

BEN
How'd you know?

ANGEL
You're my Dad.

OWEN
Remember life laws, as spoke
inward. All doors open, no bull,
lead to, one door full.

Ben and Angel hug. She grabs his hand and pulls him outside.

EXT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - DAY

ANGEL
I talked to Skye. Something
happened to Papa Ray. She's gonna
surrender their home. Sunset, as
darkness falls. You have to stop
her.

Angel hands Ben airline ticket: "5:00 NY-MT 'YOUR DEST IN
NATION'". Ben looks at Jumbotron: "4:05".

ANGEL (CONT'D)
True love. Seize yours.

BEN
I'll never make it.

ANGEL
Aren't you forgetting something?

BEN
Time difference.

ANGEL
Leave now and you'll make it.

Ben looks at Jumbotron; mesmerized. Angel looks: "4:06".

BEN
Four oh six.

ANGEL
I know. SO GO!

CONTINUED:

BEN

That's the prefix for Big Sky.

ANGEL

She's calling you Dad. Go-get-her.

Cue country version: "I'll FALL IN LOVE AGAIN" by Sammy Hagar. Ben waves ticket; takes off on foot. Runs through streets. Dances around cars and city fixtures.

INT. SALOON/SWEETBONE - DAY

DUKE, Trace Adkins type, and four DAISY DUKES (White, Black, Asian, Latino), perform. Intercut Ben runs to airport.

INT. NY AIRPORT - DAY

Ben arrives at "Dest Air" terminal. Sign on wall: "YOUR DEST IN NY". Ticket agent throws bag on conveyer. Bumps wall. Left side of sign drops on angle. "Y" from "YOUR" and "N" from "NY" fall; "IN" and "Y" remaining on sign, slide down to "DEST". Sign now reads: "OUR DESTINY". Ben enlightened.

INT. AIRLINER (FLYING) - DAY

Dee approaches Ben with a basket of nuts and chips.

DEE

Nuts or chips?

BEN

Chips.

EXT. MONTANA AIRPORT - DAY

Ben exits M T terminal. Sees Pete's cab vacant. Looks around then in cab. Key in ignition. Ben jumps in; takes off. Pete walks out of terminal with stuffed pizza slice, oozing cheese.

PETE

Mmm mmm. Now for the cheesy stuff.
(takes bite, sees van) He'll brake.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Papa pulls on new fence post. All fixed. Jose' holds reins of saddled Morning Glory. Walks in ring. Papa grabs shovel and 5th of whiskey; walks off. Van speeds up driveway.

INT. TAXI VAN (MOVING) - DAY

Ben presses brake. Panics. He pumps brake; holds on tight.

BEN
Brake, brake, BRAKE.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Van smashes through fence. Jose' drops reins and dives. Van smashes through other side; hits dirt mound. Launches 50 feet in air; Horn sounds off "GENERAL LEE'S MUSIC", splashes into watering hole. Jose' runs to edge.

JOSE'
Swamped.

Morning Glory flees. Ben climbs out of van; struggles out of hole. He limps to Papa Ray who's wearing sunglasses.

BEN
SKYE? SKYE?

PAPA RAY
She's gone.

BEN
Then I'm too late.

PAPA RAY
No Ben. I am.

Papa Ray drops shovel; removes sunglasses.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)
Doc says, black hole's been eating me up for years. Ever since...If I had only stopped asking, why. If I didn't (looks at bottle) take the fifth. Maybe if I had worn a cape. It's not too late for you Ben.

Papa Ray hands sunglasses to Ben.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)
There's still Light. And you're more than, capable. You go get her and bring her home. Bring her home and I'll call it, fair.

CONTINUED:

Ben takes sunglasses; looks at van discouraged. Papa Ray looks at van. They both look at Papa's truck with wheel-less front axle on jack stand. Papa looks away; smiles.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)

Ben.

Papa Ray motions to souped-up lawn mower.(cue: "Bad Motor Scooter" by Montrose) Ben turns head; sees mower. (Slow motion) Ben puts on sunglasses; walks to mower. Removes coat and tie. Mounts mower. Turns key. Needle on tachometer swings up. Foot works throttle pedal. Digital speedometer: "SPEEDO"- "0.00". Ben shifts from "PARK" to "DRIVE". Foot floors pedal. Dirt shoots from rear tires; mower takes off. Ben holds on; loses control. Drives under clothes line with hanging linens. Hits Evel Knievel throw blanket with "S". Knocks off glasses. Head covered. Blanket tears; creeps around head to neck. Now it's a cape. Ben drives over Cut River Bridge. Passes Sunday drivers, curious cows, old lady at mailbox. Approaches Cheerleaders bus from behind. Back of bus reads: "LUV OUR PURP BUS". Floors pedal. Passes and fist pumps.

Sign: "BIG SKYE CHEERS QUAD". Girls cheer; wave pom poms. Ben pulls ahead; hauls ass. Slows down; pulls up to "THE PASS". Looks down dirt road, then at wet paved street with winding road caution sign.

BEN

Slick.

Bus drives by. He guns it onto "THE PASS".

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Chrome wheel spins rapidly. Ben maneuvers machine. BANG. smoke billows out. Mower slows; dies. Ben lowers head; closes eyes. Looks back up at: "SPEEDO"- "0.00". Busts it out with fist. Looks ahead. Oil well up, in distance. Removes cape; looks right. A memorial cross is distant. Ben squints. (CLOSE UP SHOT) Cross reads: "STAR LIGHT" "05/05/1971 - 12/21/2009" "YOU SHALL FOREVER SHINE". Ben reflects.

DAWN(VO)

(singing)

"When you wish upon a star."

Ben closes eyes and lip syncs unknown words. Opens eyes. Looks over left shoulder. Dust settles. He buries his face in the "S" on cape against steering wheel. A NEIGH from behind.

BEN

Hallelujah.

CONTINUED:

Bens head pops up. He looks at "S" on cape; shakes head.

BEN (CONT'D)
No "S" cape.

He tosses it to side. He looks over right shoulder; breathes fast and heavy; overwhelmed with joy.

BEN (CONT'D)
GOOD MORNING GLORY!

Ben hops off mower; walks to Morning Glory.

BEN (CONT'D)
I don't know where I'm going. But I trust you do. So if you let me, I'll just hang on and go for the ride. What do yah say?

BEN (CONT'D)
Maybe it's about time we both break. We'll do it together.

Ben approaches saddle. A single riding glove is propped up on saddle horn.

BEN (CONT'D)
One riding love.

He takes it off; inserts his hand. He grabs reins; mounts Morning Glory. (cue: "Speak" by Godsmack) He kicks stirrups; takes off. He rides over plains and valleys.

Bud, Cole and Dick are by river. They burn tires and shoot birds. Cole spots Ben.

COLE
Yo Bud.

Bud takes notice.

BUD
Get him.

They jump on horses; take off. Ben spots posse; veers off. Posse closes in. Billy Wayne on horse, appears out of nowhere; chases posse. Rides up on Dick, leaps onto horse, throws Dick off. Continues chase. Rides up to Cole; whirls lasso. Throws lasso around Cole; stops. Cole is yanked off horse. Bud and Ben continue.

BILLY WAYNE
Go get her.

CONTINUED:

Ben approaches steep slope. Morning Glory stops. Ben panics; jumps off. Bud slowly approaches; dismounts.

BUD
Well looky look. If it ain't the
Lone Stranger.

Ben looks left, then right, then at Bud.

BEN
I'm not alone Bud. You are. And in
danger.

Bud looks left, then right, then becomes skeptic.

BUD
Stranger danger?

BEN
Is there a greater kind?

Bud walks to Ben. Ben flails arms like Bruce Lee. Sticks hand out; waves Bud in. Bud walks in. Ben charges. Straight kick in Bud's solar plex. Bud flies back into tree; gets knocked out. Falls to ground. Ben walks over and kneels.

BEN (CONT'D)
When you wake up, you'll
understand. Life's a pretty sweet
gig.

Cue: "ONE LOVE" by Pat Benatar. Ben stands and walks to Morning Glory. Looks at slope.

BEN (CONT'D)
You ready boy? Let's do this.

Ben mounts; kicks stirrups. Morning Glory climbs same slope as Billy Wayne did earlier in the rain. They summit. Ben marvels view. Powerplant no longer smoking. Ben looks up. Clear blue sky. Small town in distance. Ben heads for town. Sun sinking.

INT. TOWN HALL - DAY

Ira, Dan and Drake sit left on conference table. Skye sits right. Notary on other side. Notary slides form to Skye.

CONTINUED:

NOTARY

Full names please. Skye Shine
Light, you are the Endorser
surrendering to the Endorsee, Cody
Ira Morse. The Corps Administrator.

Notary uses pen and checks boxes on form in front of Skye.

NOTARY (CONT'D)

Initial here, here, here. Then here
initial sign.

SKYE

Sorry?

Notary points on the form.

NOTARY

Here initial...

NOTARY/SKYE (CONT'D)

...sign

Skye turns head; closes eyes to listen. A faint GALLOPING in
distance. A car horn BEEPS. Citizens CUSSING is heard.

EXT. TOWN - SUNSETTING

Ben gallops around cars and pedestrians. He cuts through
alleys and sidewalks. He spots Town Hall and gallops down
Main Street.

EXT. TOWN HALL - SUNSETTING

Two clerks exit. Ben rides up steps. Frightened clerks hold
doors open. Ben enters, still on Morning Glory.

INT. TOWN HALL - SUNSETTING

NOTARY

Miss Light? (pause) Miss Light?

SKYE

Don't.

Skye raises hand; opens eyes.

NOTARY

Sign.

CONTINUED:

Notary points to signature column. Skye picks up pen; takes breath. She looks forward; becomes intrigued. Framed panoramic poster with 5 pictures hangs on wall. First pic, Morning Glory bud in dark. After, each pic brighter with flower fuller. Last pic, fully lit; flower full bloom. Underneath reads: "MORNING GLORY" "FROM BUD TO BLOOM". Skye weeps and smiles. Freely signs deed with confident smile. Commotion in hallway. Ira snatches deed. All rush to door.

IN HALLWAY

Ben trots towards group. People dive out of way. Skye flabbergasted. Ben rides to her; sticks out gloveless hand. Skye sticks out hand. Ben grabs it; pulls her onto horse. Dan grabs Skye's leg and holds her. Ira holds up deed.

IRA

Let her go. We got what we need.

Ira chuckles. Dan lets go. Ben and Skye trot off down hall. Ira looks at signature; stops chuckling. Becomes angered. Drake looks at signature.

DRAKE

Honeybunny?

IRA

In deed.

Ira crumples up deed. Ben and Skye trot through exit doors.

EXT. TOWN - SUNSETTING

Ben and Skye ride out of town.

EXT. SCENIC RIVERSIDE - SUNSET

Ben and Skye ride slow along river. Sun reflects off ripples creating a luminous show of sparkles and twinkles. They dismount. Ben walks to edge.

SKYE

Ben? (pause) Ben are you okay?

Skye approaches Ben.

SKYE (CONT'D)

Ben say something?

She grabs his shoulder. He turns to her.

CONTINUED:

BEN

There are no words.

He grabs her waist. They engage in passionate kiss before a majestic sky. A brilliant orange light flares up around them. He wraps around her. Puts fuzzy un-shaven cheek against hers.

She rubs hers against his with big smile. They begin to slow dance. He dips her at finish. They embrace.

DOWN RIVER

Ben and Skye walk along edge holding hands; Ben holding Morning Glory's reins. They approach Billy Wayne, skipping stones.

BILLY WAYNE

In Hold 'Em, the two most defining moments procuring a winning hand, is the cut and the river. Everything connecting the two, is just a game.

BEN

(under his breath)
I connect Cut River.

BILLY WAYNE

The River also completes a hand. Now you both know what you've got. Looks to me, you're all in.

Billy Wayne walks to his horse. Ben and Skye follow. He removes a new cowboy hat from saddle bag. He approaches Ben. Ben and Skye become excited.

BILLY WAYNE (CONT'D)

This? It's not for you. You didn't earn this.

Ben and Skye become disappointed. Billy Wayne takes hat off his head; puts on new one. Sniffs worn hat; is taken back. Puts worn hat on Ben.

BILLY WAYNE (CONT'D)

Just what I thought. A perfect fit.

Billy walks away; mounts horse. Ben and Skye follow.

SKYE

So what now?

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE

Well you two, can be one. And I,
well, I'll keep doing what I've
always been doing.

Billy Wayne looks at Skye, Ben, then the Sky. He looks back
at Skye and Ben.

BILLY WAYNE (CONT'D)

Protecting the Sky.

Billy turns; rides off into orange sunset.

BEN

Who are you, Will-I-am Way-in
Shepherd?

Ben curious, becomes fascinated. Smiles. Billy, far off in
the distance. stops and turns to Ben and Skye.

Billy Wayne with smirk.

BILLY WAYNE

Now we're talking.

Billy turns and continues to ride off.

Ben's silhouette reaches out hand. Skye's silhouette
retrieves. Silhouette of Ben and Skye with arms out; hand in
hand. Billy Wayne's silhouette rides off in between. Ben and
Skye's silhouettes turn to each other, they close in slowly
and embrace Billy's silhouette within.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. BEDROOM - PRE-DAWN

Digital numbers on clock read: "4:59", switch to "5:00". No
alarm. Skye's eye's closed. Bens face appears; kisses her
cheek.

BEN

Good morning. I'm gonna open up.

SKYE

Ok.

CONTINUED:

Ben exits. Skye rolls over. Pulls comforter off. She sits up, pregnant.

EXT. HOUSE - PRE-DAWN

Ben exits. Ray J on Morning Glory, dismounts. They get in Papa Ray's truck. They drive off; pass training ring. Sections of fence from car crash are eliminated. Morning Glory trots along inside ring.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Sign reads: "HONEYBUNNYS"

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Packed house. At counter on barstools; Mark sips coffee, Angel eats honeybunny and Mike and Reid read newspapers. Ben and Skye tend to customers. "STUD MUFFIN" coffee mug and photos of Papa Ray and Star Light sit on memorabilia shelf.

MARK

Gotta hand it to yah Ben. You know your joe.

Skye walks up; hugs Ben.

SKYE

And his HoneyBunnys.

BEN

Well I have the Dojo to thank for that.

ANGEL

And their Honeyed "O" Light.

BEN

Because it's an "O". And it's honeyed.

Mark grabs Entertainment section from newspaper. Skye pulls Angel from stool; walks her to empty booth.

SKYE

Tell me about school.

CONTINUED:

MARK

Angel, what's up with the title? I thought the movie was about your Dad finding...(motions to Skye) You know.

ANGEL

You'll see when it's over.

BEN

Eleven hours, sixteen minutes.

Ben looks at the Go Fish clock on wall, It has the red and blue fishing pole hands and a fly rod seconds hand. Reads: 8:44.

BEN (CONT'D)

And six seconds. Five, four, three. Ah who's counting?

Skye and Angel continue talking.

ANGEL

No student has ever gotten a deal with a major studio before.

SKYE

Until now.

Ray J walks over to bus a table.

GORDY

I don't get the title. I thought it was about this place.

ANGEL

You will when it's over. Uncle Gordy. (gags and laughs).

GORDY

Whatever.

Gordy walks away. Sunshine approaches; grabs Angel's hand.

SUNSHINE

Come spell with me.

ANGEL

Ok.(to Skye) My new sister.

Sunshine and Angel sit at booth. Upside down Scrabble board is on table. Reid turns to Ben; waves newspaper.

CONTINUED:

REID

Gotta restored Mustang in here.
Still intrested?

BEN

Nope. Already got one.

REID

Oh yeah? What horsepower?

BEN

One. And he flies.

Lou enters.

LOU

Well I found the whereabouts of one
C. Ira Morse.

Lou sits at counter. Ben walks over.

LOU (CONT'D)

He's dead.

BEN

What?

Skye walks over with cup of coffee for Lou.

SKYE

Dead?

LOU

Found in the trunk of his car;
desert outside Vegas. Had an empty
briefcase and a fifty, clutched in
his hand.

SKYE

Foul play?

LOU

You might say that. Investigators
have a video of him at the Lucky
Duck Casino. He's waving a fifty
note, high in the air, then is
approached by a beautiful young
waitress who asks...(shrugs) Video
ends there.

BEN

The Lucky Duck? That's owned by the
Dorazio crime family.

CONTINUED:

LOU

And the waitress? Paul Dorazio's
Granddaughter.

BEN

Looks like Pager, beeped with the
wrong waitress.

SKYE

His friends call him Pager.

BEN

Well I'm glad I'm not in the
position, Ira's in.

Angel's listening. Spelled words: "DAD", "SKY", "HONEY" and
"LIGHT" are on board. Also: "US" and "INDOORS" with "IRA" and
"PAGER" below. Angel looks at Sunshine; pulls "S" from "US",
Slides it behind "IRA". She pulls "IN" from "INDOORS"; slides
behind "IRAS".

ANGEL

I think we're all glad not to be in
the position, Ira's in.

Board reads: "U DOORS" over "IRAS IN".

LOU

They say he was out there 'bout a
week. Was all dried up and
shriveled; like a raisin.

Angel looks at Sunshine; smiles and nods.

ANGEL

Raisin.

Sunshine nods, looks at tiles. Slides "S" from "IRAS IN" to
"IN". Reads: "IRA SIN". Slides "I" from "IRA" into middle.
Reads: "RAISIN" next to "PAGER". Angel in awe.

SUNSHINE

Raisin.

ANGEL

You know what raisins are made
from? Do yah?

Sunshine nods; looks at loose tiles then at "PAGER". Slides
out "G" from "PAGER". Slides out "R", puts behind "G".

CONTINUED:

SUNSHINE

A raisin (slides "A" behind "R") is
a (slides "P" behind "A") dried up
(Slides "E" to end) grape.

"PAGER" now reads: "GRAPE".

Angel marveled. Ben approaches.

BEN

You ready?

ANGEL

(nods, looks at Sunshine)
Keep practicing.

Angel walks to closet by restrooms. Ben takes off apron.

MIKE

Whatcha doin' Ben?

BEN

Going to do something we should've
done a long time ago.

Angel walks up; holds two fishing poles. One red, one blue.

ANGEL

Ready Dad.

They walk to door. Ben holds it open for Angel.

LOU

Hey Angel? About the title?

Angel turns to Lou.

ANGEL

When it's over.

Ben and Angel exit.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Cheerleaders plus crowd of all characters, excluding Bud, Joe
and Billy Wayne are gathered. All mingle. Ben, Angel, Skye
and Sunshine are together.

SKYE

So it starts with a cut?

ANGEL

Cut to the chase.

CONTINUED:

BEN

And you've got the the whole
chicken flickin' thing?

ANGEL

And dudes are diggin'.

SKYE

A Chick Flick that Dudes will Dig.

BEN

About time.

SUNSHINE

Sounds like a logline.

Everyone smiles. Rain drops fall. 7 clear glass doors open automatically. Crowd rolls into theater. Mark skedaddles past Ben and family.

MARK

Come on guys, It's starting to
rain.

Ben and family look up then stick out hands to feel drops.
They look at each other and smile.

TOGETHER

Sprinkles.

Ben fixates on crowd entering 7 open doors and smiles.

SKYE

What is it?

BEN

The doors. They're all clear. All
open. And there's heaven.

Skye intrigued, sees Bud. He's holding Sunshine balloon and Theodore Chipmunk stuffed doll. Sunshine looks at Skye. Skye nods. Sunshine walks to Bud and retrieves gifts. Skye and Ben walk up. Bud looks at Skye and smiles. Skye smiles back. Bud looks at Ben. Places hand on Sunshine's head, gently.

BUD

Two for one?

Ben places hand on Bud's. Angel walks up.

BEN

Sweet.

They all walk towards doors. Ben stops Angel.

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)
Hey we'll be right in.

Skye walks to Ben and kisses his cheek.

SKYE
I'll save you seats.

Ben smiles and nods. Skye, Sunshine and Bud walk to theater.

BEN
Skye?

Skye stops and turns. Ben looks at Angel.

BEN (CONT'D)
Back two's cool.

ANGEL
Awe.

Skye smiles and continues into theater. Ben and Angel walk under theater sign and look up. (music)

BEN
So?

ANGEL
So?

BEN
How come not, Big Skye Love, with the "E" at the end, silent.

ANGEL
Well I thought about it. And I realized your story is more than a Love story. It's a life story. This horse's life story. And if you trust this horse, this horse will never let you down. If you trust the source, the source will get you where you need to go, always.

They smile. Skye and Sunshine pop out.

SKYE
Come on guys. It's about to start.

Angel looks at Ben.

ANGEL
It already has.

CONTINUED:

Ben puts arm around Angel. They walk up and enter theater. They put arms around Skye and Sunshine. Doors close. (camera pans up) reveals title: "GOOD MORNING GLORY".

FADE OUT