

BIG SKY LOVE

By

TED FLEMING

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 white cape with a large yellow glittering "S" on the back which flutters in the wind.

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 surrounded by flowers is in the distance. 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 a diversity of 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 a newspaper stand. A 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 VoRTEx. Really Barbara? VoRTEx? Wow! VoRTEx. Oh uhm, by the way. What the fff...

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

BEN (OS) (CONT'D)
VoRTEx 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 coffee 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

A 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 the 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:

Angel storms to her bedroom and SLAMS door. Ben opens: "WSJ": "INVESTING". Headline: "VORTEX STOCK SCREAMS BENJAMINS". He tosses paper. WHINES resume. Ben is awestruck. Angel emerges.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
DORMITAR!

WHINES cease. Angel retreats and SLAMS door. Ben bewildered, suddenly becomes enraged.

BEN
Why you little shhhh... YOU
SWITCHED IT TO SPANISH?!

EXT. THE DOJO COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Zombies line the block to enter with Ben in the mix. Caffeine junkies exit with fix. MARK, 45, dressed for success, slaloms through sheeple calling out to Ben.

MARK
DEST! FREDRICK DEST!

BEN
(looks around, points to self)
NO MAN. BLOOM. BENJAMIN BLOOM.

Mark arrives and cuts in line holding: "WALL STREET JOURNAL".

MARK
No Ben. This guy.(points to man in photo repeatedly) This guy, this guy, this guy, this guy, this guy, this guy, this guy.

BEN
Ohhh. (points to sky) The sky.

MARK
The mind who redefined, "Your Dest-In-Nation. He wants me for his appeal.(anticipatory) Fred Dest? Dest air?

BEN
I know who he is.

MARK
This is big. BIG! And you know what big means?

BEN & MARK (CONT'D)
Uuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu...

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 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)

Tah dah. 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 primed 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 that. 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...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.
You need nuts to satisfy.

Ben snickers.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Do you even 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?

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 one. 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 put in front of him, no matter how dangerous or death defying, and with an Indian. 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? (skeptic) And are there
symptoms?

MARK

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

Ben stops, skeptic 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 and drink coffee.

CONTINUED:

MARK
So? You and Barbie?

BEN
Barb-Ara.

MARK
(nods)
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 and 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 and gives hugs. Buddy performs ridiculous dance. Agitated patrons clear floor. A couple sits at table, talking. A piece of Bud's boot flies off and lands in DUDE from couple's mug. He extracts it with a fork.

DUDETTE

What's it from?

DUDE

A sole.

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

DING

Wazzup fellas?

CONTINUED:

BUD

What's goin' on Ding Dong?

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.

CONTINUED:

SKYE

Just dumb enough not to see your
little girl.

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.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE
Raisin' (pushes chips) All in.

Zig pushes his chips in with enormous grin.

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.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE
No. It's fair.

Zig stands, kicks chair and 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.

CONTINUED:

ANGEL

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

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.

CONTINUED:

ANGEL

And Dorothy was, wonderful. She'd help with my homework. 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 and 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 and drums on steering wheel. Skye exits and walks to truck.

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, turn, see Billy and become fearful. They climb in car and 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 and 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 then 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.

CONTINUED:

DEL

An ice river when 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? I connect cut river.

BEN

(nodding)

Yeah. How it's spelled.

DEL

Oh how it spelled.

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 and 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.

CONTINUED:

DEL

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

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.

CONTINUED:

BEN

I think it sounds, empty.

Del stares bewildered, then a revelation.

DEL

Oh that's right. The sit eee.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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?

CONTINUED:

PETE

Owe?

BEN

The fare?

PETE

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

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 and 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?

CONTINUED:

DAMON
You'll never want to stop lying.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

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

EXT. POWERPLANT FACILITY - DAY

The car pulls into parking lot with a sign reading: "MONTANA POWER SERVICE MANAGEMENT GROUP AFFILIATION CORPORATION".

INT. POWERPLANT FACILITY - DAY

Ben enters through blackened glass doors. He walks up to a RECEPTIONIST in the 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 a hallway. Ben follows.

INT. WALKING AROUND CORNER IN HALLWAY - DAY

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

BEN
The Cut?

CONTINUED:

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.

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 no place that requires more power, than loss, vague us.

Ira arrives at boardroom. Opens door. They enter.

IN BOARDROOM

Stan is holding a pointer stick. A satellite photo of the Powerplant and the Lights Ranch is on screen. Dan and Drake are sitting at a 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 his English accent, points the stick at the picture.

STAN

So if we dig, here...

DAN

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

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

The men look at each other and break out into laughter.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ben drives up to the Light's house and parks next to a horse trailer. He looks at the training ring. BAM! Jose' is slammed onto the hood. Ben's startled. He jumps out of car. Morning Glory gallops off.

BEN

Are you ok? Here, let me help.

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

CONTINUED:

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

Ben walks up onto the porch to a screen door. He knocks. He turns and walks to the edge. Morning Glory fades off in the horizon. He turns back. Sunshine is standing outside door. Ben's startled.

BEN (CONT'D)
Holy shhhh. (pause) Children of the
corn.

SUNSHINE
Who are you?

BEN
I'm...Ben.

SKYE (OS)
Sunshine? I'm gonna take a shhh...

Skye appears in white fuzzy bath towel with a 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 ummmah...

Ben walks backwards and falls down the stairs. Skye rushes to help.

SKYE
Are you ok? Here, let me help.

BEN
I'm uhmah umah ummmah 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 a chair then walks to kitchen. Ben tries to steady his hands. Sunshine stares. Skye returns and sits. She hands Ben a glass of water. Ben holding the glass, shakes and spills water.

SKYE
Should I call an ambulance?

BEN
No uhm mah mah mah...

Ben swigs water but can't swallow.

SKYE
Is there anything I can do?

Skye puts her hand on Ben's leg. The water explodes out like a geyser 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.

CONTINUED:

SKYE

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

BEN

(shakes head)

No, no, no. Jjjjust ssleep deprivation and ddehydration causing lllow bbloood cccirculation dddiscoordination. Nnnot ssseizures.

SKYE

Oh. Well...Thank God.

BEN

May I tttry the wwater again?

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 the glass. Skye goes to the kitchen with it. Sunshine stares at Ben.

SKYE (CONT'D)

So do you have a lot of experience?

BEN

I Nnnever lllost.

Skye pours a cloudy real lemonade. She opens the cupboard and grabs a box which reads: "STRAW BERRIES". She pulls out a pink straw.

SKYE

Guess we're pretty lucky then.

Skye returns and hands Ben the glass. She inserts the straw.

SKYE (CONT'D)

Don't suck too much.

CONTINUED:

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 whys.

Skye smiles and turns the honey jar on the table. The label reads: "BEE CAUSE HONEY". Slogan reads: "FOR THE WISE".

SKYE (CONT'D)
Been sweetening lives since the
beginning of time.

Ben sucks some more then settles. His hands become steady.

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 is 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 again. Lemonade explodes out like a geyser, saturating Skye.

INT. CAR(MOVING) - DAY

BEN
Shhit, shhh hit, shhhhhit..

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

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

BEN (OS)
Shhhhhit shh hit, ssshh hit..

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben enters.

BEN
Shh hit, shhhhhit ssshh hit.

He tosses key on coffee table, plops on the couch and shuts his eyes. His phone RINGS. His eyes open. He sits up, suspicious, then answers.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hell-oh?

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Barbara is wearing a tight-ass yellow slut dress and she's walking swiftly with a phone to her ear. She approaches a FAT MAN holding a Yorkie Bitch in a yellow bow. He stands in front of an 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

The Bitch BARKS, drowning out "F*ck" as Barbara passes the FAT MAN. The front of his shirt reads: "IN DOG WE TRUST".

CONTINUED:

BARBARA (CONT'D)
...off airplane mode.

BEN
Oh-kay.(does nothing) There.

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

BEN
Uhhmmmm, 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...

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 a key into a knob.

Ben's hand digs into an Evel Knievel cookie jar.

Barbara's hand turns the knob.

BARBARA
Yeah, I'm here now.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

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

BEN
Heyyyyyy.

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

What the hell. I thought you were
in Montana?

BEN

I am. I was. I mean, I forgot
something (pulls out a 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?

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 and Barbara exits.

EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - NIGHT

Ben walks along sidewalk, trips on a power cord being dragged
behind a sign that reads: "EVEREST X-CREAM". Two men load the
sign on a truck. Ben stands and looks at store's front
window. He then looks in. A man and a woman are sitting
together at a booth sharing a Chockvanstraw sundae.

CONTINUED:

A Girl on the other side of the table, showers rainbow sprinkles on the couples sundae and then on her own sundae. Two men on ladders install a new sign reading: "SPRINKLES".

EXT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - NIGHT

Ben, walking on the sidewalk, approaches the club. He looks in the window. Angel is walking to a stage with a microphone set up. Patrons clap. Ben leaves the window and walks to the door. He looks at the handle, intensely.

BEN
It's just a door.

INT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - NIGHT

Angel is standing center stage. She adjusts the microphone.

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

EXT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - NIGHT

Ben continues staring at the door. A young man and woman soldier couple in camouflage, exit. The CAMO WOMAN holds the door open for Ben.

CAMO WOMAN
Going indoors Sir?(Ben looks at the Woman) Indoors Sir?

Ben shakes his head in fear and hurries off.

EXT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Ben approaches club. A sign on a tripod reads: "TONIGHT-SPARKLES & TWINKLES." Ben walks up to a uniformed DOORMAN standing in front of the door.

BEN
Hi. Are you a Doorman?

CONTINUED:

DOORMAN

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

BEN

(abashed)

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?

The Doorman opens the door.

DOORMAN

See for yourself.

Ben enters the club.

INT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Green light and dry ice mimic the Northern Lights. An Elton John impersonator is wearing a twinkling jumpsuit, a huge concert belt that reads: "TWINKLES", and a silk cape with a big yellow glittered "E" on the back. He's singing "I'm Still Standing". A Liberace impersonator is wearing a sparkling jumpsuit, a huge concert belt that reads: "SPARKLES", and a fuzzy cape with a big yellow glittered "L" on the back. He's jamming on the piano. Clubgoers are dancing. A promotional WAITRESS in a black T-shirt reading: "SCREAMIN' DEMONS?" approaches Ben. She's holding a tray of shots. The club is very loud forcing the waitress and Ben to shout at the 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.

CONTINUED:

WAITRESS
SURE YOU CAN. RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW.

BEN
HOW MUCH?

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

Ben grabs a shot and looks around. He spots Barbara twerking on Henry against the bar. Henry grabs her hips and grinds on her. Barbara sees Ben staring back. She smiles then grabs Henry's crotch. She lip syncs the word, "Nuts", to Ben then tongues Henry in the mouth. Ben shakes head, not surprised.

BEN
Oh Henry.

Ben takes the shot, then walks away.

EXT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Ben exits the club and stops in front. A banner in the window reads: "demonale" - "Lemonade with HARD PUNCH". The music is still slightly audible from the street.

BEN
I'm still standing.

Ben walks away with the sign on the club in the back round. It reads: "THE DALE LEE GRIND".

EXT. CLOCK STORE - NIGHT

A sign on the store reads: "ABOUT TIME". Ben enters.

INT. CLOCK STORE - NIGHT

The store has nothing but clocks. Ben is in an aisle looking at clocks. "When You Wish Upon A Star" is being sung from the next aisle over. DAWN, a Black Trans clerk with a price gun, rounds the corner.

DAWN
Oh hi. I'm Dawn. You need some
help?

CONTINUED:

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, (pulls box from shelf) Astro Zodiac Clock. It has got a free floating illuminating holograph of the consolations(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

Tell yah what. 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 the clocks.

AT REGISTER

Dawn is holding a white unmarked box. Ben is standing at the counter.

DAWN

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

BEN

I'm sure I can figure it out.

Dawn rings up the purchase. Ben looks at a large clock on the counter. It has no hands. The numbers are replaced with a diversity of fish. A text in the middle reads: "IT'S HALF PAST, MY FIRST CAST, QUARTER TO MY WISH, THE TIME IS NOW, HERE AT LAST, SO I SHALL GO FISH".

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)
Clever. Except the hands are missing.

DAWN
Accept, the hands are not missing.

Dawn pulls out a shoe box filled with an assortment of clock hands.

DAWN (CONT'D)
You see, you get to choose your own hands, thus you make the time.

Dawn picks out 2 mini fishing rod clock hands. One is red and one is blue. She hands them to Ben. Ben tosses them back in the box. Dawn hands Ben a bag that reads: "ABOUT TIME".

DAWN (CONT'D)
Remember; It's About Time.

INT. BEDROOM - PRE-DAWN

Digital numbers read: "4:59" then change to "5:00". Alvin and the Chipmunks "Original" theme song rocks out. A Chipmunks figurine clock is on the nightstand. Ben slaps the clock but the music continues. Ben grabs the clock and looks for switch. He shakes it and looks again. He yanks the cord from the outlet. The music continues. Ben holds the plug in awe. He flips the clock over. The battery cover has screws.

BEN
Screwed.

Ben rolls out of bed and grabs a baseball bat. He strikes the clock several times without producing a dent. He tosses the bat, frustrated.

BEN (CONT'D)
Battery back up.

He grabs the clock and walks to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - PRE-DAWN

Ben throws the clock in the toilet and drops to his knees. He shuts the lid then flushes repeatedly. The Chipmunks gargle and the music distorts. Water overflows from the toilet. The Chipmunks last words are, "Alvin, Simon, Thee-oooh..."

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Ben is at the food court holding a massive coffee cup. He has his phone to his ear.

BEN

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

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

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?

He looks at the phone. It reads: "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.

BEN

Right. The blizzard.

CONTINUED:

GLORIA

You remember. I don't believe.

BEN

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

Gloria extends her arm and finger displaying a giant diamond
ring. She hums the "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. This
time tomorrow I'll be, Misses Sir
Vance Allot.

BEN

Sir Lancelot?

GLORIA

No, Vance. Sir, Vance Allot.

BEN

Oh. That...sucks.

Gloria begins to ball.

BEN (CONT'D)

Oh 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.

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?

CONTINUED:

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 Vincs.

BEN

Vincs? 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 the Dukes
of Hazzard.

BEN

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

GLORIA

Yeah. A lotta guys were into,
Daisy's attributes.

BEN

Well, here's to you.
(holds up coffee)
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

and, I don't want to upset you
again so I won't add Vance. To you
and, Misses Sir Allot.

GLORIA

You can add Vance Ben.

BEN

Yeah?

GLORIA

Yeah. I mean, 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

Ok then. To Misses Sir Vance Allot.
(raises coffee cup again) 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 a ticket to the Gate Agent and enters the
concourse. A sign overhead reads: "YOUR DEST IN N. Y."

EXT. MONTANA AIRPORT - DAY

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

INT. TAXI VAN - DAY

PETE

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

CONTINUED:

BEN
Got a Deja vu thing goin' on Pete.

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

Ben looks at carafe. It's now labeled: "NO BILL IT - TEA"

BEN
Nobility?

EXT. HOTEL/AWAKEN INN - DAY

Cab pulls in. Ben exits and digs in his pockets.

BEN
Dare I ask? The fare?

PETE
Dig deeper. It'll come.

Pete drives off. The bus with cheering Cheerleaders passes by. The banner reads: "BIG SKYE CHEER SQUAD". Ben looks at the word SKYE, intrigued.

BEN
Why "E"?

He makes his way to the entrance door.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

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

BEN
I'm sorry. I have no idea.

DAMON
Sigh Mon. Breathe.

BEN
I'm sure it's in New York. Hard to say where, I don't remember.

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?
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

DAMON (CONT'D)

You can cruise on down to the
Sunshine State; catch some Rays.
(motions to tv)

BEN

No thanks. I blister. (Grabs key)

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Ben paces with his phone in his hand. He looks at the screen. It reads: "SKYE LIGHT" "406-555-0241". He tosses the phone on the bed and paces again. He looks at the phone, jumps on the bed and snatches it as he bounces off and hits the floor behind the bed, unseen. A BEEP, then RINGS.

BEN (OS)

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

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Papa Ray is on stage working karaoke. A woman is performing. Skye is sitting at a table. Ben is standing at the bar. A wooden plaque with a rubber chicken hanging on it 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 returns change.

BEN

That's too much change.

The bartender points to a chalk board that reads: "TODAY'S SPECIAL/ 2 for 1".

BARTENDER

Today is special.

BEN

Oh. Two for one. Sweet.

Ben grabs the change and the drinks and leaves a buck on the bar. He walks to Skye and sits. Skye is holding numerous loose papers.

SKYE

So why are laws so ungodly long?

CONTINUED:

BEN

To deter arguments. Avoid conflict.
The government wants no room for
individual 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 of whiskey and plops
on a chair next to Ben and Skye.

PAPA RAY

You know Ben? I'm sure glad Lou
sent you. When I went to his office
he said, he had the 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 and walks over to Karaoke machine. Ben grabs his
drink and sips away as to avoid an explanation. He becomes
self-conscious.

BEN

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

SKYE

(under breath)
Here-come-fees.

CONTINUED:

BEN

Comfees?

SKYE

So is there a standard charge for something like this?

The woman singing finishes as the music begins to distort. Papa smacks the machine. Ben and Skye look over at Papa Ray, then back at each other.

BEN

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

Ben walks to the bathroom. The woman singer walks off to a moderate applause.

PAPA RAY

Alright who's next? Any takers?

Papa sees no interest from the patrons.

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 who are sitting together at a table. They each pull out a bandanna and wrap their face. They walk towards the bathroom. The patrons cheer.

IN BATHROOM

Ben is looking in the mirror.

BEN

Truth. You need to tell the truth.

The masked men enter and grab Ben. He tries to defend himself. They lock his arms behind him and pull him out.

IN THE SALOON

The men corral Ben through the saloon with cheers. Skye becomes very concerned.

SKYE

Mike? Reid? Soap?

The men escort Ben on stage. Mike places a microphone in front of Ben.

CONTINUED:

MIKE
SING US YOUR SONG!

BEN
Whah? What song?

SOAP
YOUR COUNTRY SONG! NOW SING IT!

BEN
I...I don't have a Country song.

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

Reid hands Ben a list of songs. Ben scrolls through the list.

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...

The men let go of Ben and drop their masks. Mike slides the
microphone closer to Ben.

MIKE
Make it your song.

The men return to their seats. Papa starts the karaoke
machine and it begins to play: "Good Ol' Boys", The Dukes Of
Hazzard theme song. The music distorts. Papa smacks the
machine. The machine sparks then puffs out smoke. The music
dies. There's silence and stillness throughout the bar.
Everyone is staring at Ben. Cole is on a barstool with a
shit-eating grin.

PAPA RAY
Ben?

Ben turns to Papa. Papa nods. Ben looks at the patrons then
at Skye. She smiles. Ben grabs the microphone and adjusts it.

BEN
(sings acapella)
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 a beat on a napkin holder. Ben progresses.

CONTINUED:

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

A cymbal CRASH sound comes from pans falling in the kitchen.
Ben begins to rock out.

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.

The audience gives a celebratory ovation. Billy Wayne sits in
back and claps to the Bingo song beat. Buddy and Dick enter
and are confused by the commotion. Cole approaches Buddy and
barks in his ear. Ben walks off stage to pats on the back
from the patrons. He walks up to Skye who's smiling.

BEN
But I don't dance.

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

EXT. SALOON - NIGHT

The parking lot is clearing out. Papa loads his equipment in
his truck. Skye and Ben are standing by the 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
I'll be there at seven.

CONTINUED:

Skye and Papa get in the truck and drive off. Buddy's truck comes stomping into the parking lot. Ben hurries to his car and tries to retrieve his keys. The truck stops behind Ben's car and the posse exits.

BUD

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

The posse draws in closer to Ben. Ben turns.

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 jumps at Ben but Bud cuts him off, stopping 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 then follow Bud to a horse trough full of water. Ben struggles trying to break free. Bud grabs Ben's head and dunks him under water. Ben fights then pulls up for a breath of air before being dunked again. Bud is holding Ben's head under water as the rubber chicken from the wooden plaque appears on the side of Bud's face.

BILLY WAYNE(OS)

Rubber ducky?

Bud swats the chicken away. It slowly appears again then starts to flick Bud's face. Bud lets go of Ben and jumps up.

CONTINUED:

BUD
What the fff...SQUEEK

The chicken SQUEEK drowns out, "F*ck". Billy's holding the chicken having a face off with Bud

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.

BUD
Sorry Billy Wayne. 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 the chicken and examines it. He looks at Bud, skeptical.

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

Billy looks at Ben, then Bud.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE (CONT'D)

I know. Let's see what he thinks?

BUD

Alright. Axe him.

Billy walks over to Ben and the boys. He holds the chicken up 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.

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 out of the hold. Billy chops Cole in neck. He swings around, sweeps Dick while blocking a punch from Bud. He then front kicks Bud in the solar plex. All men are down in 3 seconds. Bud and Cole are gasping for air. Dick limps off in the distance. Billy walks to his horse and pulls a towel from the saddle bag. He walks back and hands Ben the towel 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.

CONTINUED:

Billy stands up then walks past Ben drying off. He digs in the saddlebag. A fuzzy black animal tail pops up then disappears. Ben approaches Billy. He drops the towel from his face and begins to fold it.

BEN

Thank you. Thank you very much. I mean, who knows what would've happened if you hadn't shown up.

Ben holds out the towel. Billy ignores him and continues to dig in the saddlebag.

BEN (CONT'D)

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

BILLY WAYNE

Benji? Is it?

BEN

Just Ben.

BILLY WAYNE

Keep your wag on, li'l dog.

BEN

(under his breath)
Ok? Whatever that means?

Billy takes the towel and puts it in the saddlebag. He mounts his 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 is sleeping 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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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

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 monogramming. 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.

CONTINUED:

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).

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.

CONTINUED:

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?

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.

CONTINUED:

-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.

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.

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?

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

BEN
The-ree Sun-shine?

SUNSHINE
The-reeeee.

BEN
Oh thhree. It's thhree Sweetheart.
Put your tongue up against your
teeth and blow. Thhreee. Thhree.

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

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?

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

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.
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

RECEIVER (DAMON'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
 Good morning Good good
 morning...continuous until it
 merges into...

EXT. BIG SKY FAIR - DAY

P.A. SPEAKER VOICE
 Gooooood mooorning to all you a-
 wake 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. 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.

CONTINUED:

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?

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?

CONTINUED:

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?

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.

CONTINUED:

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. 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?

CONTINUED:

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?

CONTINUED:

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?

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 pie 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

Here. Join me. Have a slice.

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

PETE (CONT'D)

If you look inside there's lotsa cheese. But the best part... Joy puts olives in free.

Ben observes slice.

PETE (CONT'D)

So how's business?

BEN

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

PETE

Ahhh. Look for a way in.

BEN

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

PETE

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

BEN

Doors?

CONTINUED:

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 back 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.

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

BEN

So 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) Gotcha. Ok I
 have another call coming in, ok...
 (Clicks over) Hello?

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DUSK

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

BEN(PHONE VOICE O.S.)
Hello?

SKYE
Hi.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben enters holding a half gallon of Neapolitan ice cream.

BEN
Hello?

IN RAY J'S BEDROOM

Ray J. sits on the bed and works on a small engine. A Lawnmower race is 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.

BEN (CONT'D)
Well I know it's a lawn mower. I just thought, you know, four wheels so... Ok then.

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

CONTINUED:

IN SUNSHINE'S ROOM

KNOCKS at door. Sunshine is holding an Albino Ferret. She panics and hides the ferret under a pillow. She sits on bed and smiles.

SUNSHINE

Come in.

Ben enters.

BEN

Hey Sunshine. Listen, I'm gonna hang out for a little bit so if you need anything, just 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....

Sunshine distressed, runs to ferret.

BEN (CONT'D)

WHAT IS THAT?

SUNSHINE

It's Bingo. My ferret.

CONTINUED:

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.

MARIA

Hola?

Ben pops awake. Grabs ferret doll; stands.

CONTINUED:

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.

BEN (CONT'D)
Whether a little clothes? Or fully
ajar?

Sunshine enters with Theodore Chipmunk, singing.

CONTINUED:

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

CONTINUED:

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?

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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

BILLY WAYNE

Isn't there someone else...

BEN

She knows.

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

BILLY WAYNE

Did he say something?

LOU

He didn't have to.

BILLY WAYNE

Then how do you know?

CONTINUED:

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

We'll 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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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?

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?

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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. 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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

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". 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

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

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.

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?

CONTINUED:

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.

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?

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

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.

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!

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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?

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?

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

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?

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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".

CONTINUED:

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".

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?

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

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