

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" printed on the back. The cape is fluttering 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)

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 outdoors 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)

CONTINUED:

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

Ben's eye's open. He looks at his dashboard and punches out an engine gauge. He looks up ahead at an oil well pumpjack bobbing in the distance. Miles of open terrain end at a mountain range. He removes the cape and looks to the right. A memorial cross is surrounded by flowers. He turns left and looks behind his shoulder. The trail of dust slowly 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 behind him.

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. OLD MUSLIM MAN,(80)/wood door. BUTCH WHITE WOMAN,(35)/mirrored door. WELL DRESSED BLACK MAN,(45)/steel door. SEXY ASIAN WOMAN,(25)/tinted glass door. HIPPIE WHITE MAN,(30)/clear glass paned door. HEAVYSET BLACK WOMAN,(55)/grid iron door.

CONTINUED:

-An UNKEMPT BURLEY MAN,(50s),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 clear glass door has a decal that reads: "A PLACE OF THE WAY".

-The door opens. ANGEL,(17), Caucasian/Asian, Goth, emerges holding a coffee cup and small paper bag. She walks along the sidewalk towards a newspaper stand which has a sign that reads: "NEWSTAND".

-"THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL" headline reads: "DEST AIR DENIED" with a photo of: A distant MAN,(60),head down, under a big sky. "THE NEW YORK TIMES" headline reads: "VICTORIOUS EGRET" with 2 photos, #1: a Pink Egret by a waters edge. Text: "EGRET". Photo #2: a Flamingo by a 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 the perimeter of grated iron doors. Angel cups it.

ANGEL

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

She releases the flower and enters the building passing a sign that reads: "LONE TOWER."

INT. APARTMENT - PRE-DAWN

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

ANGEL

Miss you Mom.

Angel removes an "O" shaped, glazed pastry from the bag. Pulsating WHINES blast from a bedroom.

BEN (OFF SCREEN)

Snoooooze.

The WHINES stop. Angel brings up a new screen which reads: "SCREENWRITING 101". "ASSIGNMENT: WRITE TREATMENT FOR CHOSEN GENRE." Angel is intrigued.

ANGEL

Right treatment?

The WHINES resume.

CONTINUED:

BEN (OS)  
Snooooooze.

The WHINES stop. Angel brings up a blank page. She types: "UNTITLED". She then sips her coffee, bites her pastry, and the WHINES resume.

BEN (OS) (CONT'D)  
SNOOZE DAMMIT. SNOOZE.

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

BEN (OS) (CONT'D)  
ARRRRGGGHHH!

Angel smiles. The doors slide open. Ben emerges, disgruntled. He staggers through the 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 the coat closet. He enters and makes a ruckus.

BEN (OS) (CONT'D)  
VoRTEx is patented, Voice Recognition Technology. Extreeeeme. 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 the 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 the bedroom. The WHINES continue. Angel stares at the bedroom door opening.

CONTINUED:

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 Ange.

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 coffee 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  
 is sipping 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?

CONTINUED:

ANGEL  
Honeyed, "O" light.

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-light.

She takes a huge bite then shakes her head and growls like a vicious animal tearing apart it's prey.

BEN  
Whatever.

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

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  
That's right. And when the  
earthquake hits, the buildings,  
collapse...

Angel SLAMS the laptop shut, angered.

BEN (CONT'D)  
What?

CONTINUED:

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.

Angel storms to her bedroom and SLAMS the door. Ben opens: "THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL" to: "INVESTING". Headline reads: "VORTEX STOCK SCREAMS BENJAMINS". He chucks the paper and the WHINES resume. Ben is awestruck. Angel emerges.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

DORMITAR!

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

BEN

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

EXT. THE DOJO COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Zombie like PATRONS line the block to enter with Ben in the mix. Hopped up caffeine JUNKIES exit with fix. MARK, (40s), 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.



CONTINUED:

MARK

So?

BEN

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

MARK

Don't change the subject.

BEN

No 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 last night?

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.

CONTINUED:

MARK

Oh her mother was too?

Ben pauses then becomes 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 proceed in and out.

MARK

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

BEN

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

MARK

Or ending. Well maybe the owner is a former in-mate. Deals with honey bunny money and coff-fees.

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.

CONTINUED:

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.

MARK

Man, did those guys ever leave base camp?

BEN

Yeah but it was a short trek. They didn't follow the Sherpa.(points to self) 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 and no Chockvanstraw? You better at least have Rainbow Sprinkles?"

MARK

Should've Kept It Sweet 'n Simple.

BEN

Sweet 'n Simple.

CONTINUED:

They arrive at the main 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 the desk with a phone to her ear. She taps her blue glitter claws on desktop. On the 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.

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

HOPE  
Your office.

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

Ben walks away towards the offices.

HOPE  
Ben? (Ben stops and turns) Good Morning.

BEN  
I'm not so sure.

Ben turns back and continues towards the offices.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

JOE FAIRWAY, (60s), large and in charge, sits against a 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 the 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.

Joe smiles, stands and walks to a window overlooking the 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?

CONTINUED:

BEN

Ok. Let's say, hypothetically. I'm home in bed suffering from 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

Uhhmmm...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. Made up 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.

BEN

Sir, is there something...

JOE

I need a voice. A dear friend of mine. This guy I've known for years. Ira Morse.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

JOE (CONT'D)

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 holding loose papers.

BEN

Oh Sir, 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 the 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 as Joe exits the office then into the montage.

MONTAGE - NEWSPAPER DELIVERY - DAWN

Newspaper: "BIG SKY VIEW" atop a strapped bundle. Headline: "PREPAIR FOR FAIR".(INTENTIONALLY SPELLED WRONG) Photo: Festival tents erecting. A NATIVE AMERICAN BOY(12) pulls the bundle off of the loading dock and throws it in the bed of an old pick up truck with others. He climbs in the bed as an OLD NATIVE AMERICAN MAN (70s) drives them away.

Truck passes a sign: "WELCOME TO BIG SKY". The boy rolls, bands, and throws papers at homes. The truck passes a sign: "LONE MOUNTAIN". A mountain silhouette is in the background.

The truck approaches a sign: "CUT RIVER" then drives over a bridge crossing a river.

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

CONTINUED:

The truck drives under an arched sign: "THE LIGHT'S HORSE CENTER".

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - DAWN

The truck stops in front of the house. The boy jumps out with the last paper, unrolled, and a blue Morning Glory flower in hand. He jogs onto a farmers porch and places the flat paper on a table, then the flower on top. He calmly walks back to the truck and climbs in the cab. The truck drives off. SKYE SHINE LIGHT,(35),country beauty, exits from a screen door and soaks in the sunrise. She picks up the flower and paper then admires the flower.

SKYE  
Good Morning Glory.

She smiles and enters house.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - DAWN

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

SKYE  
Good morning Sunshine. What would you like for breakfast?

SUNSHINE  
(thinks)  
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 the kitchen and pours cereal in a bowl. An engine outside CRANKS, REVS UP, 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, (65), and slim emerges from a bedroom. He's holding a fifth of whiskey and wearing long johns and a cowboy hat. He staggers to the kitchen, sits, then 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 the dry cereal to Sunshine then retrieves a giant mug labeled: "STUD MUFFIN". She fills it with coffee. Sunshine CLANGS her spoon on the bowl and CRUNCHES each bite of cereal. 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  
(nodding)  
And the raisins.

Skye unhooks a letter off the refrigerator door then delivers Papa's coffee. She kisses him on the head then sits. Papa looks at Sunshine.

PAPA RAY  
You know what them 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 I put it right next to yah. (grape on palm) Now I close my hand, (closes) give a couple shakes...(shakes)

CONTINUED:

Papa opens his hand revealing a golden raisin on his palm. Sunshine is amazed.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)  
Tah dah. Ain't that neat?

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

SAW 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)  
It says...and if you choose not to  
accept, we will condemn the  
property 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 gonna go to the  
courthouse. See if there's legal  
aid or something we can get.

CONTINUED:

SUNSHINE

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

SKYE

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

Skye stands and retrieves the glass of milk. Sunshine practices her Thhhh's. Papa pours whiskey in his mug. Skye delivers the 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 UP, 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 the coffee pot and refills her mug.

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 returns and sits.

SKYE

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

CONTINUED:

PAPA RAY

Go eeeasy. 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. The horse gallops off. Papa Ray, Sunshine and JOSE', (50s), Latino man, stand outside of the fence rails.

PAPA RAY

Thought yah had him.

SKYE

I thought you were gonna fix the fence.

Skye stands, brushes off and picks up a flattened cowboy hat. She kneads it while walking to a wall section where numerous mangled cowboy hats hang. She hooks the hat next to a wood carved sign that reads: "HATFIELD".

PAPA RAY

Well you got him saddled. An accomplishment in itself.

SKYE

Come on Sunshine. Let's round him up.

Sunshine goes to Skye. A black SUV with tinted windows blasts up the road and pulls into the driveway. Skye appears concerned. She kneels and addresses Sunshine.

SKYE (CONT'D)

Sweetie go inside. Right now, ok.

Sunshine runs to the house and goes inside. The SUV stops and sits creating suspense. STAN and DAN, (40s), in grey suits exit the rear doors. Shortly after, IRA MORSE, (45), short and thin with a facial scar on his right profile and wearing a white suit and hat, exits the front passenger door. The driver, DRAKE, (40s), in a grey suit, lowers his window and remains in the vehicle. Ira leads the entourage opening his coat in stride. A massive black pager is hooked on the front of his belt.

PAPA RAY

You fellas lost?

CONTINUED:

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

PAPA RAY  
Who are you guys?

IRA  
Mediators. Persuaders if you will.

PAPA RAY  
Montana Power Corp SSSomethin'  
SSSomethin'...?

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

The pager BEEPS.

SKYE  
Ira Morse.

Ira switches the pager off and smirks.

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.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

IRA (CONT'D)

He was approached by this beautiful young waitress who asked, "How may I serve Thee, one's 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.

The pager BEEPS, drowning out "f\*ck". Ira switches it off.

SKYE

Yeah I can see you being hard up.

IRA

This waitress, clearly i-rate, throws scalding coffee (glides back of fingers down facial 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 it's content, then took me in back. Miss Light, you're a waitress, are you not? Do you prefer in back? Perhaps, on top?

PAPA RAY

(lunges at Ira)

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

Papa skedaddles to the 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! A gunshot from afar. The driver's mirror shatters. Everyone, except Ira and Skye, takes cover. BANG!

CONTINUED:

The passenger door's window shatters. Stan and Dan crawl into the SUV. Ira stares off with Skye.

DRAKE  
(to Ira)  
GET IN!

IRA  
Pleasure Miss Light.

Ira calmly walks to the SUV and climbs in the passenger seat. He looks in the side mirror. BANG! His reflection shatters. The SUV speeds off. RAY J LIGHT,(15),portly, runs from the barn to the commotion.

RAY J  
WHAT HAPPENED?

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,(50s)Latino woman, exit the house. Sunshine runs to Skye. Jose' goes to Maria and hugs her. An engine CRANKS and REVS UP in the barn. Ray J. shoots out on a grey primered racing lawn mower. He zooms past the family.

SKYE (CONT'D)  
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

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

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

SKYE  
Good idea. I'll go with you.

CONTINUED:

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, SCREAMS and kicks it. Papa looks at Sunshine.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)

Whatdya say? Wanna go into town? Maybe, get some ice cream?

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

BEN  
Hey Henry.

HENRY  
Tsup Dude?

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

BEN  
See yah.

HENRY  
Later bro.

INTO A HALLWAY

Ben collides into BARBARA, (28), booty full, Barbie bitch. She's wearing a tight ass hot pink pant suit.

BARBARA  
So what happened last night?

BEN  
What? ... Nothing.

BARBARA  
Yeah no fff... BAM.

"F\*ck" is drowned out by the loud BAM sound from the vending machine. Henry walks by and salutes with an "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?

CONTINUED:

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 the bar for Barbara to break off a piece.

BARBARA

Hershey?

BEN

Yeah.

BARBARA

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

Ben snickers.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Do you even want me? Am I just, gross to you?

BEN

Absolutely. I mean no. No yes. NO!

He shakes his head and attempts to take a bite. Barbara grabs his wrist.

BARBARA

Know this, Ben. I'm candy. And every guy in this place, wants a taste. Got it?

Barbara lets go and walks away. She has a flash then turns back to Ben.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Oh and Ben. (bubbly) Mourning Love.

CONTINUED:

BEN  
(under his breath)  
Not so sure.

Ben walks away.

EXT. HEALTH CLUB - DAY

A sign in front reads: "A PERFECT FIT". Gym RATS enter through mirrored doors.

MARK (VO)  
GET IT UP!...GET IT UP! GET IT UP!  
GET IT UP!...YOU'RE A MACHINE!

INT. HEALTH CLUB - DAY

Ben struggles on a leg press machine. Mark is standing next to it.

MARK  
You want those Bruce Lee power  
kicks? (Mark does a karate kick)  
HEEYAWWW! Then push.

BEN  
It's-too-hard.

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

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

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

Ben stands and they rack the weights.

MARK  
Speaking of which. Meaning breaks.  
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  
Kniefel's from Montana.

CONTINUED:

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

BEN

I'll pass.

They finish racking the weights and walk towards the 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.

BEN

Jumping over any obstacle, no matter how dangerous or death defying; 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.

CONTINUED:

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.

SKYE

They called me in early.

SUNSHINE

I had Chockvanstraw with sprinkles.

SKYE

You did? Well 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 the locker room in casual dress and walk  
towards the exit. A beautiful black woman, DORA LEE, (30s),  
walks by and playfully bumps Mark.

DORA LEE

Nice guns.

MARK

Well enjoy the show. (to Ben)  
That's Dora Lee. We're going  
dancing tonight.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

MARK (CONT'D)  
Her brother Dale, (looks around)  
just opened a new night club.

Mark spots and waves to DALE LEE, (30s), black man. Dale is talking to some WOMEN and handing out flyers. He sees Mark and waves back.

BEN  
Man I envy you. Single. Dating.

MARK  
You're single. Dating. Only,  
exclusively. I'm...

A WOMAN walks by smiling at Mark. Mark smiles back.

MARK (CONT'D)  
Inclusively.

BEN  
Right. You're looking.

MARK  
I'm not looking, my friend. I'm  
waiting.

BEN  
Waiting? For what?

MARK  
For her.

BEN  
(looking around)  
Who's her?

MARK  
Her is She. Thee One.

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

MARK  
Those are just ones, not Thee One.

BEN  
How do you know?

MARK  
Because I've met Thee One. Couple  
of times.

CONTINUED:

Ben looks intrigued. They arrive at the mirrored entrance 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

No Tells, an acronym. T.L.S. True  
Love Seizures.

BEN

Ok? (skeptical) And are there  
symptoms?

MARK

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

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

BEN

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

MARK

Have you ever had that? Those?  
Them?

Ben snaps out of it and catches back up to Mark.

CONTINUED:

BEN  
(nodding)  
Grace. Except the projectile stuff.

They continue walking and talking.

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  
It 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.

MARK  
So? You and Barbie?

BEN  
Barb-Ara.

MARK  
(nods)  
Tells?

CONTINUED:

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,(35), babe waitress with a name tag, slaps Ben's shoulder.

LIV  
Missed you at The Speak EZ last night.

BEN  
Yeah I got hung up at work.

LIV  
Angel was a-maze-zing.

CONTINUED:

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

An Old Western Saloon with a farmers porch and sign reads: "SWEETBONE SALOON". A letterboard sign on a trailer reads: "THURS-KAREEOKEE-DOKEE"/"COMING SOON-DUKE & THE DAYS EASE".

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Country music is jamming on the juke. Two old timers, MIKE, (60s), white man and REID,(60s),black man are sipping suds at a table with empty lunch baskets on top. SOAP,(60s),coal dusted face white man, approaches.

MIKE

Hey there Soap?

CONTINUED:

REID  
What's goin' on Soap?

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

Skye approaches with a pitcher of beer.

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

Skye motions to a table of coal dusted MEN. They raise their  
mugs.

MIKE  
Ahh you're the real deal Skye.

REID  
Miss Deal with appeal.

Skye pulls a bar of soap from her 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 the empty baskets and cleans the table while  
Soap pockets the soap.

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

SKYE  
It was no easy task. Believe me.

REID  
It's gonna be one sweet gig.

SKYE  
It sure is.

SOAP  
Say what's Papa doing tonight,  
Skye?

CONTINUED:

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 the baskets and table trash.

EXT. SALOON - NIGHT

A monster truck wannabe, parks. BUDDY,(40s),tall husky dude in cowboy duds and two mini-buds, COLE,(40s),wearing an eye patch and DICK,(40s),all slick, climb out and are drunk and disorderly. They chug their beers then throw the cans in the truck bed full of empties. They walk up to a solid wood door with a sign: "KNOW MINERS ALOUD". They enter.

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Country music is still jamming on the juke as the three enter.

BUD

YEEEE HAHHHHHHHH!

Buddy shuffles to the dance floor. Cole secures a table. Dick walks over to a manly looking WOMAN,(30s),and gives her hugs. Buddy performs a ridiculous dance causing agitated PATRONS to clear the floor. The song ends. Buddy struts to the table. Dick leaves the woman and joins Bud and Cole at the table. DING,(20s),small Asian man wearing an oversized cowboy hat, approaches the dudes with a gleaming smile.

DING

Wazzup fellas?

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.

CONTINUED:

DICK  
Showed 'em how it's done.

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

DING  
Lotsa chicks were takin' notice in yah Bud.

DICK  
And there's lotsa chick in here.

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

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

Skye reluctantly approaches.

BUD (CONT'D)  
Take this one for example. She's been in love with me since the eighth grade.

SKYE  
Only person in love with Buddy, is Buddy.

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

SKYE  
(flash)  
You remember her name?

BUD  
I'm not that dumb.

SKYE  
Well then, how dumb?

BUD  
None dumb. I mean, no dumb.

SKYE  
Just dumb enough not to see your little girl.

CONTINUED:

BUD  
 Look we've been through this  
 before. 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 an order.

BUD  
 (to Ding)  
 Hey be a sport little Ring Ding and  
 get us a pitcher, will yah?

DING  
 Sure Bud. Anything for you, 'cause  
 you the Man. You ... some buddy.

Ding retreats.

DICK  
 How old is Sunshine now Bud?

COLE  
 Must be headed to school soon?

BUD  
 (shrugs)  
 I just send my checks.

AT A POKER TABLE

Poker chips are piled in the middle. Two out of five players  
 are holding cards. They are, ZIGGY,(50),shyster and BILLY  
 WAYNE SHEPHERD,(65),faceless, wearing a duster coat and  
 Cowboy hat. The cards "8A5,7,Q", are face up on the table. A  
 standing SPECTATOR,(30s),whispers to ANOTHER,(30s).

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. And then the  
 river's at the end. You build the  
 best hand possible, choosing, from  
 all that seven.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE  
(deep, scratchy voice)  
Raisin' (pushes chips in) All in.

Ziggy then pushes all his chips in with an enormous grin.

ZIGGY  
Call.

Ziggy lays down an "A" and "8".

ZIGGY (CONT'D)  
Two "A"s. Two "8"s. Beat that Billy  
Wayne.

BILLY WAYNE  
That's what you're calling?

ZIGGY  
That's what I'm calling.

TUBBY, (50s), the saloon's obese owner, is also a player at the table.

TUBBY  
Dead mans hand.

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

ZIGGY  
What? You gotta be kidding.  
Alright, split the pot.

Ziggy reaches into the pot. Billy Wayne whips out a butterfly knife and opens it in style. He stabs the table between Ziggy's fingers, holding his hand down with his clenched fist. He grabs Ziggy's arm and pulls him against the table.

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

Billy releases Ziggy and collects the chips. Ziggy looks at Tubby, infuriated.

TUBBY  
Sorry Ziggy. House rule. Call your  
own hand.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE

And a hand is five. You called four.

ZIGGY

That's bullshit and you know it.

BILLY WAYNE

No. It's fair.

Ziggy stands, kicks his chair and storms off. Billy stacks the chips.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben enters holding a bag that reads: "TIME-2-SHINE". He places it on a table then approaches Angel sitting on the couch and typing on her 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?

CONTINUED:

BEN

(nods)

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

ANGEL

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

BEN

She's not in the picture.

ANGEL

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

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.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

ANGEL (CONT'D)

I begged her to stop. Know what I got?

BEN

Whack?

ANGEL

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

BEN

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

ANGEL

And Dorothy was, wonderful. She'd help me 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?

CONTINUED:

ANGEL

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

BEN

(fearful)

So, now you're gonna leave me?

Angel at ease, shuts the laptop, walks to her bedroom, and closes the door behind her.

BEN (CONT'D)

YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER!

EXT. SALOON - NIGHT

A car rooster tails leaving the depleted parking lot. Two drunks, HUCK,(20s),and CHUCK,(20s),share swigs from a whiskey bottle next to a 1969 Satin black Mustang. Another drunk in the car, DRIVER,(20s),listens to music and drums on the steering wheel. Skye exits the saloon and walks to her truck.

HUCK

Hey baby. Want a ride?

CHUCK

(chuckling)

You're the one who wants a ride.

They approach Skye as she arrives at her truck.

HUCK

We got liquor up front.

CHUCK

And poker in back.(chuckling)

HUCK

What da yah 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

The car horn drowns out "F\*ck".

DRIVER

Just throw her in the car.

CONTINUED:

Snake skin cowboy boots with stirrups clang across the front porch. (PAN UP) revealing all of Billy Wayne Shepherd, scruff and tough. Skye, scared and restless, sees him and becomes settled. The drunks notice Skye's ease. They turn, see Billy Wayne and become fearful. They calmly climb in the car and drive off. Skye smiles. Ziggy, holding a 2x4x6 piece of wood, approaches Billy from behind. Skye panics.

SKYE

ZIG!

Ziggy swings. Billy zigs. Ziggy swings. Billy zags. Billy then grabs him and throws him over a railing into a horse trough full of water. Billy tips his hat to Skye then turns and struts away.

INT. BEDROOM - PRE-DAWN

A rotating white beacon digital clock reads: "4:59" then "5:00". An English siren WHINES as large white lights circle the room. Ben SLAMS the clock and knocks it off the nightstand. It CRACKS, making the lights now small and fixed, appearing as stars on the ceiling and walls. Ben sits up, puts a hardcover book which reads: "THE FAULT IN OUR STARS" on the clock. He STOMPS it, silencing the siren and making all the stars disappear.

INT. NY AIRPORT - DAWN

Ben, and other TRAVELERS, hand tickets to a GATE AGENT,(25), and then enter a concourse. A sign overhead reads: "YOUR DEST IN NY".

INT. AIRLINER - DAWN

DEL LOVE,(66),Oprah like black woman with an African accent, sits at a window seat. Ben puts his carry on in an overhead console then sits in the aisle seat leaving an empty seat between him and Del in the same row. Del smiles at Ben and he 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.

CONTINUED:

DEL

Oh? Whereabouts; from Mass?

BEN

Hatfield. It's in the western part of the state.

DEL

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

BEN

Huh? So am I.

DEL

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

BEN

It's a nice river.

DEL

An ice river when cold and dark. It's nice when 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

The concourse pulls away from an Airbus 320. Wheel chocks are removed from the nose wheel. The aircraft is pushed out. Then the aircraft takes off.

INT. AIRLINER - DAWN

Ben removes documents from his briefcase and reviews them. He turns and sees Del staring back with a huge smile.

DEL  
First time? Montana?

BEN  
It is.

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

Del opens a Yellowstone Park brochure. One page has a picture of "Old Faithful". The other page has a picture of a Blackfoot Ferret peeping out of a hole.

BEN  
Old Faithful.

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, Pssshhhh.  
(gestures an explosion) Re-leaf.

BEN  
Do you ladies camp? Party in the  
woods?

DEL  
(chuckles)  
Oh no no no. What we do is more of  
a cleansing. We leave behind the  
daily grind and reconnect with  
ourselves.

BEN  
Daily grind?

CONTINUED:

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

Whhhhaaat? 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 his briefcase off the seat tray.

BEN

Here's my rake.

DEL

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

BEN

Big Sky.

DEL

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

BEN

I think it sounds, empty.

Del stares bewildered, then has 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.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

DEL (CONT'D)

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 the concourse under a sign that reads: "YOUR DEST  
IN MT".

EXT. MONTANA AIRPORT - DAY

Ben stands on a curb gripping a rolling carry on. A taxi van  
that reads: "PETE'S CAB", approaches. Ben flags him down. The  
cab pulls up and Ben climbs in.

INT. TAXI VAN (MOVING) - DAY

PETE,(40),Mid-East Indian with a strong accent, drives.

PETE

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

BEN

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

PETE

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

A carafe is mounted between the front seats, facing Ben. It's  
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?

CONTINUED:

BEN

Excuse me?

PETE

M. T.? You know, Montana.

BEN

Oh. Right. Uhmm, business.

PETE

Oh? 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

Ahhhhh. Manure business.

BEN

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

PETE

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

BEN

Nah no time.

PETE

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

BEN

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

PETE

Big Sky love alone is joyful.

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.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

PETE (CONT'D)

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, really 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

The cab pulls in. A sign reads: "AWAKEN INN" on the hotel. Ben looks at an assortment of rental cars with signs in the windshields that read: "WHEEL DEAL" or "ROOM & ROAM". Ben exits the cab and pulls out his wallet.

BEN

So what do I owe?

PETE

Owe?

BEN

The fare?

PETE

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

Pete drives off. A purple school bus drives by with Cheerleaders cheering and waving red and blue pom poms out the windows. Single square letters on the bus are put together reading: "BIG SKY CHEER SQUAD". Ben walks to a door and opens it. Smoke billows out. "One Love" by Bob Marley is playing. DAMON MON,(45),Jamaican man's voice is heard.

CONTINUED:

DAMON(OS)

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

INT. HOTEL/AWAKEN INN - DAY

DAMON is standing at a counter with a name tag that reads: "D. MON". A small sign on the countertop has a picture of a mattress and text that reads: "COMFEE ZONE". Damon hands over 2 keys to Ben.

DAMON

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

BEN

Thank you. Uhmm, does the clock in  
the room have a snooze switch?

DAMON

No Sir. It is ay wall clock. Tell  
"E" visions turn on at 5. Or we can  
do ay wake up call.

Ben nods then points to the mattress in the picture.

BEN

So these mattresses?

DAMON

I am ay big endorser (in-door-sir)  
There is no better sleep, than with  
ay Comfee Zone.

BEN

That comfortable huh?

DAMON

You will 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 that reads: "CUT RIVER".

EXT. POWERPLANT FACILITY - DAY

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

INT. POWERPLANT FACILITY - DAY

Ben enters through a blackened glass door. He walks up to a  
RECEPTIONIST,(20s),woman, 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 and walks to Ben.

BEN

Call me Ben.

IRA

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

Ira walks into a hallway. Ben follows.

INT. WALKING AROUND A CORNER IN THE HALLWAY - DAY

IRA

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

BEN

The Cut?

IRA

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

CONTINUED:

BEN

So what's your part in all this?

IRA

I love power. The more I control  
the more I feel, hole. So I  
consult. First, how to achieve it?  
Then, at what cost? When I'm done  
here, I'll go back to my home state  
of "N" "V" and the City of Sin.  
Think of the night, won't you. 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.  
(Las Vegas)

Ira arrives at a boardroom and opens the door. They enter.

IN BOARDROOM

Stan is holding a pointer stick. A satellite photo of the  
Powerplant and the Light's Ranch is on the screen. Dan and  
Drake are sitting at a table. Ira presents the Crew.

IRA (CONT'D)

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 the 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.

DRAKE

We need a clean level grade.

IRA

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

CONTINUED:

STAN

This plot, will keep this Tory moving forward.

BEN

You offered to buy them out?

IRA

Several offers.

DAN

And generous. They won't sell.

BEN

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

DRAKE

You're wasting your time.

IRA

It's not going to work.

BEN

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

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

EXT. RANCH 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 the car as Morning Glory gallops off.

BEN

Are you ok? Here, let me help.

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

BEN (CONT'D)

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

Ben walks up onto the farmers porch to a screen door. He knocks. He turns and walks to the edge of the porch. Morning Glory gallops off in the distance. He turns back. Sunshine is standing outside the door, quiet and still and startles Ben.

CONTINUED:

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 nothing but a white fuzzy bath towel with a yellow glittered "S" on it. It resembles the "S" on the cape from Ben's racing lawnmower introduction.

SKYE (CONT'D)  
Ohhh. Hi. Can I help you?

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

BEN  
Hi I'mah uhmah uhmah...Uhmamah  
Uummah ummah...

Ben walks backwards, away from Skye, and falls down the porch steps. Skye rushes to his aid.

SKYE  
Are you ok? Here, let me help.

BEN  
I'm uhmah umah ummah ummm...

Skye helps Ben up. She holds his arm and guides him towards the house.

SKYE  
Come on inside. I'll get you some  
water.

Skye assists Ben inside as he shakes and moves erratically.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

Skye assists Ben to a chair then she walks to the kitchen. Ben tries to steady his hands. Sunshine stares in bewilderment. Skye returns and sits next to Ben. She hands him a glass of water. Ben, still shaking as he holds the glass, spills water over it's rim.

CONTINUED:

SKYE  
Should I call an ambulance?

BEN  
No uhm mah mah mah...

Ben takes a big swig of water but can't swallow.

SKYE  
Is there anything I can do?

Skye puts her hand on Ben's leg. The water explodes out of his mouth like a geyser, saturating Skye.

BEN  
I'm uhm uhm uhmahh uhm...

SKYE  
It's ok. It's alright. (wipes face with the top of the towel) I was taking a shower anyways.

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

SKYE  
Lah lah lie yah? Lie yah? Liar, (excited) 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". And this is Sunshine.

SUNSHINE  
Are you crazy?

SKYE  
SUNSHINE!

SUNSHINE  
You look crazy.

SKYE  
SUNNY DEE LIGHT! I'm sorry. She's never seen seizures before.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

SKYE (CONT'D)

That's what you're having, right?  
Seizures?

BEN

(shakes head)  
No no no. Jjjjust ssleep  
deprivation and ddehydration  
causing lllow bblood  
cccirculation dddiscoordination.  
Nnot ssseizures.

SKYE

(flabbergasted)  
Thank God.

BEN

May I ttry the wwwater again?

SKYE

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

BEN

Shh shh. Shh shhher.

SKYE

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

Ben hands the glass over to Skye. She goes to the kitchen.  
Sunshine stares at Ben.

SKYE (CONT'D)

So do you have a lot of experience?

BEN

I Nnnever lllost.

Skye pours real lemonade which has a cloudy appearance. 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, hands Ben the glass, then inserts the straw.

SKYE (CONT'D)

Don't suck too much.

BEN

(sucks from the straw)  
Delishh, delish-shushhh-shush.

CONTINUED:

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 a honey jar that's on the table towards Ben so he can read the label: "BEE CAUSE HONEY"; "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 once again. The lemonade explodes out of his mouth like a geyser, saturating Skye.

INT. CAR(MOVING) - DAY

BEN  
Shhit, shhh hit, shhhhhit, shhhit,  
shit, shit...

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

Random cars pass the "AWAKEN INN" until Ben's car passes. The purple school bus loaded with cheerleaders, dormant and not cheering, passes in opposite direction of Ben.

BEN (OS)  
Shhhhit shh hit, ssshh hit shit ...

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben enters.

BEN  
Shh hit, shhhhit ssshh hit.

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

BEN (CONT'D)  
Hell-oh?

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Barbara, wearing a tight-ass yellow slut dress, is walking swiftly with a phone to her ear. She approaches a FAT MAN, (50), holding a Yorkie Bitch in a yellow bow. He stands in front of an elevator, staring at her.

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

INTERCUT - APARTMENT/HALLWAY

Ben looks at his phone that reads: "MISSED CALLS - 406".

BEN  
My phone? Must be on airplane mode.

BARBARA  
Well take it the fff...BARK

CONTINUED:

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

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  
Uhhmmm, You know. Stuff.

BARBARA  
What kind of stuff?

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

BARBARA  
Are you retarded?

BEN  
No I'm...

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?

Ben walks to the kitchen table which has an Evel Knievel cookie jar placed in the middle. Barbara's hand inserts a key into a door knob. Ben's hand digs into the cookie jar. Barbara's hand turns the door knob.

BARBARA  
Yeah, I'm here now.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Barbara opens the door. Ben is standing there with his hand in the cookie jar.

CONTINUED:

BEN

Heyyyyy.

BARBARA

What the hell. I thought you were  
in Montana?

BEN

I am. I was. I mean, I forgot  
something (he pulls out a star  
shaped sugar cookie with rainbow  
sprinkles) Cookie?

Barbara walks up, takes the cookie from Ben, analyzes it,  
then tosses it over her shoulder.

BARBARA

When did you fly back?

BEN

Actually I uhm, drove back.

BARBARA

YOU DROVE? From Montana?

BEN

Not 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 a sidewalk then trips on a power cord being dragged behind a sign that reads: "EVEREST X-CREAM". Two MEN, (40s), load the sign on a truck. Ben stands then looks at the store's front window. He approaches it and looks in. A MAN, (30), and a WOMAN, (30), are sitting together at a booth sharing a Chockvanstraw sundae. A GIRL, (6), on the other side of the table, holding a large transparent sugar shaker full of rainbow sprinkles, showers them on the couples sundae and then on her own sundae. Two MEN, (40s), on ladders install a new sign that reads: "SPRINKLES".

EXT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - NIGHT

Ben, walking on the sidewalk, approaches the club. He looks in the window. Angel is walking towards a stage with a microphone set up as PATRONS are clapping. Ben leaves the window and walks up 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, (20), and WOMAN, (20), soldier couple dressed in camouflage, exit. The woman soldier holds the door open for Ben.

WOMAN SOLDIER

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

CONTINUED:

Ben shakes his head in fear and hurries off.

EXT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Ben approaches the club. A sign on a tripod reads: "TONIGHT-SPARKLES & TWINKLES." Ben walks up to a uniformed DOORMAN, (30), standing in front of the door.

BEN

Hi. Are you a Doorman?

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, (35), 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, (35), 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, (25), 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?

CONTINUED:

BEN  
WHAT IS IT?

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

Ben struggles to hear over the music.

BEN  
I CAN'T HEAR.

WAITRESS  
SURE YOU CAN. RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW.

BEN  
HOW MUCH?

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

Ben grabs 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 his head, not surprised.

BEN  
Oh Henry.

Ben takes the shot, then walks away.

EXT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Ben exits and stops in front of the club. A banner in the window, with specific spelling, 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 is filled with just clocks. Ben is in an aisle looking at clocks. "When You Wish Upon A Star" is being sung from the next aisle over. DAWN, (22), Black Trans clerk with a price gun, rounds the corner.

DAWN

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

BEN

(suspicious)

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

DAWN

It's however you choose to see "N". So... (showcases clocks) So, this electronic clock has a satellite feed for real time weather updates. This magnetic clock has a modulation connection for global reception without local distortion. And this, (pulls a box from the shelf) Astro Zodiac Clock. It has got a free floating illuminating holograph of the constellations (note the spelling. Not constellations). STAR STAR (pointing in the air) STAR STAR STAR. With it's satin black coat and clear finish, the reflection is a-maze-zing.

Ben is bewildered.

BEN

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

Ben walks away as Dawn scans the clocks.

AT THE REGISTER

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

CONTINUED:

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'll figure it out.

Dawn rings up the purchase. Ben looks at a large clock on the counter. It has no hands and the numbers are each replaced with a different species 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".

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)

See that's what's clever. 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. He/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.

Ben takes the bag and walks out of the store.

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 a switch. He shakes it then 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 is screwed shut.

BEN

Screwed.

CONTINUED:

Ben rolls out of bed and grabs his baseball bat. He strikes the thick plastic 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 then drops to his knees. He shuts the lid and flushes repeatedly. The Chipmunks gargle and the music distorts. Water begins to overflow 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 that reads: "THE DOJO." 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. Are you  
freaking kidding me? (pause) No. 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, (30ish), British beauty, 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!

CONTINUED:

He looks at the phone. It reads: "CALL ENDED". He grunts.

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.

GLORIA  
You remember. I don't believe.

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

Gloria extends her arm and ring 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.

CONTINUED:

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?

BEN

Oh lots of people. Lots of people.

GLORIA

Really?

BEN

(Thinks)

Absolutely. 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.

CONTINUED:

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

A lotta guys were into, Daisy's attributes.

BEN

Well, here's to you, (holds up coffee) and, so I don't upset you again, I won't add Vance. So to you, Misses Sir Allot.

GLORIA

Thank you Ben. That's kind. But it's ok. You can add Vance.

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.

CONTINUED:

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 same Gate Agent and enters the concourse. A sign overhead reads: "YOUR DEST IN NY".

EXT. MONTANA AIRPORT - DAY

Ben exits the concourse under the sign that reads: "YOUR DEST IN MT". PETE'S CAB pulls up. Ben climbs in and the cab drives off.

INT. TAXI VAN - DAY

PETE

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

BEN

Got a Deja vu thing goin' on Pete.

PETE

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

Ben looks at carafe in between the two front seats. It now reads: "NO BILL IT - TEA"

BEN

(scoffs)  
Nobility?

EXT. HOTEL/AWAKEN INN - DAY

The cab pulls in. Ben exits, walks up to Pete's window and digs in his pockets.

BEN  
Dare I ask? The fare?

PETE  
Dig deeper. It'll come.

Pete drives off. The purple school bus with Cheerleaders cheering out the window, passes by in the same direction as the original time. The banner reads: "BIG SKYE CHEER SQUAD". Ben, intrigued, looks at the word "SKYE" which now has an "E" at the end of it.

BEN  
Why "E"?

He makes his way to the entrance door of the hotel.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Ben is jittery at the counter. Damon stares quietly at Ben. The Yankees vs. The Rays is on the television 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 a key) Would you like to pre-arrange pick up for this one? You can cruise on down to the Sunshine State; catch some Rays.(motions to the television)

BEN  
No thanks. (Grabs key) I blister.

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) Hey uhm... (cue:"Heart of  
 Glass" by Blondie) I was  
 wondering...

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Papa Ray is on stage working karaoke. A blonde WOMAN,(25), dressed in cowgirl attire, is performing the "Heart of Glass" song by Blondie in her own Countryish style. 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". The BARTENDER,(40s), serves two cloudy lemonades and returns change to Ben.

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, leaving a buck on the bar. He walks to Skye and sits. Skye is holding numerous loose papers.

SKYE

Why are they so ungodly long? Laws  
 that is?

BEN

To deter arguments. Avoid conflict.  
 The government wants no room for  
 individual interpretation.

CONTINUED:

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...

A drunk Papa Ray approaches Ben and Skye with his fifth of whiskey. He plops on a chair next to them.

PAPA RAY

You know Ben? I'm happy 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 the 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 her breath)  
Here come fees.

BEN

Comfees?

CONTINUED:

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 trying to fix it. 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 gets up and 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 any of the 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 it around their face. They walk towards the bathroom as the patrons cheer them on.

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 but they lock his arms behind his back 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  
What? What song?

SOAP  
YOUR COUNTRY SONG! SING IT!

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

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

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

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

The men let go of Ben and pull down their masks revealing  
their faces. 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 there alone, without the  
posse, sitting 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.

CONTINUED:

A woman taps a beat on a napkin holder. Ben progresses.

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?

CONTINUED:

BEN

Be there at seven.

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. 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

(bewildered)  
Which one?

Cole jumps at Ben but Bud cuts him off, separating them.

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 the 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?

CONTINUED:

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

BUD  
What the fff...SQUEEK

The chicken SQUEEK drowns out, "F\*ck". Billy's holding the chicken and engaged in 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...

CONTINUED:

Billy looks at Ben, then Bud.

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 the chicken in Ben's face)  
Duck. Duck. DUCK!

BEN  
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 it in Ben's  
face again) DUCK. DUCK...(Ben  
becomes aware) DUCK!

Ben drops out of the hold. Billy chops Cole in the neck. He swings around and 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 next to Bud.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE (CONT'D)

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

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

BEN

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

Ben holds out the towel to Billy. 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 acknowledges Ben.

BILLY WAYNE

Benji? Is it?

BEN

Just Ben.

BILLY WAYNE

Keep your wag on, li'l dog.

BEN

(under his breath)  
Ok? Whatever the hell that means?

Billy takes the towel from Ben and puts it in the saddlebag. He then 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?

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE

Her's she.

Billy rides off into a cleared opening in the woods.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - PRE-DAWN

Ben is sleeping restlessly. The wall is actually a giant clock. 5 foot long hands read: "5:00". The TV turns on and is blaring. A 1933 film named: "SITTING PRETTY" is playing. The film is showing a song number called "Good Morning Glory". Ben grabs the remote, aims at the TV and presses buttons. There's no result. He slaps the remote then flips it over. There's no screws in the battery cover.

BEN

Whew. Not screwed.

He slides the battery cover open and it's empty. He tosses the remote and climbs out of bed. He walks to the TV and looks for a switch. He then feels for a switch with no luck. He slaps the TV. He spots a power cord running behind the bureau then strenuously pulls the bureau from against the wall and creates a gap. He reaches in. Just as his finger tips contact the plug, he falls and becomes wedged. He tries vigorously to un-wedge his arm then grabs the plug as "Ginger Rodgers" sings: "and do you still love me. Well baby here's a kiss for you." He pulls the plug and the TV dies.

EXT. THE LIGHT'S HOUSE - DAWN

Ben is standing lifeless at the front door. Skye opens it with a big lucent smile.

SKYE

Good morning.

INT. THE LIGHT'S HOUSE - DAWN

IN A BEDROOM

Alvin, Simon and mostly Theodores from the Chipmunks, as well as other stuffed animals, are scattered throughout the bedroom.

SKYE

Sunshine loves critters. She's got a pet ferret out back on the wain.

CONTINUED:

BEN

The wain?

SKYE

Oh a wain is a wagon. Without a cover.

Ben nods then looks around. He spots the same Chipmunks clock he drowned and scoffs. He picks up a large Theodore Chipmunk doll.

BEN

Well I think I figured out the fave.

SKYE

Yeah. For now. As she gets older, she'll become more interested in the (grabs the Alvin doll) 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 the Simon doll) realize what she really wants.

BEN

Are we talking stuffed dolls stuffed with stuff stuff?

IN ANOTHER BEDROOM

SKYE (OS)

And Ray J's room.

Ben is standing awestruck amongst a massive "Evel Knievel" collection of memorabilia. The bed is dressed with Evel Knievel linens which includes a throw blanket with a large yellow glittered "S" on it resembling the cape at Ben's introduction.

SKYE (CONT'D)

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

Ben slowly moves through the room and marvels at all the merchandise. He curiously points at the blanket.

BEN

What's up with the "S"?

CONTINUED:

SKYE

The "S"? Like my towel? Sunshine's doing. (Skye picks up the blanket and exposes the "S"). I had to put her in time out once and she got upset. So she decided to take some glitter glue and do 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 but couldn't find anything. So I threw in the towel.

Skye drops the throw blanket on the bed. Ben is touched. He then moves around the room and marvels at more "Evel" stuff. He picks up an Evel Knievel Big Red Touring Truck toy.

SKYE (CONT'D)

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

Ben sees a comic book. He gets super excited, drops the toy and grabs the comic.

BEN

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

SKYE

You've heard of Evel?

AT THE KITCHEN TABLE

Skye serves Ben a Honeybunny. (A bunny shaped Honeybun with frosted features and rainbow sprinkle hair). He takes a bite.

BEN

A-maze-zing.

SKYE

Thanks. I hope they come out like this tomorrow.

BEN

Tomorrow?

CONTINUED:

SKYE

The Fair. I have a concession stand.

BEN

Oh sweet.

SKYE

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

(questionable)

Yeah? There's still a lot of digging I gotta do.

SKYE

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

Ben nods in agreement as they look at each other and smile.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

Skye's truck pulls up to the Library which has Lone Mountain in the back round. They walk to clear glass doors then enter.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

They walk up to an old lady librarian whose nametag reads: "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 and Skye look at each other and smile. Ben addresses Faith again.

BEN

No law. Where is your law?

CONTINUED:

FAITH  
Ohhh law. Seattle.

BEN  
SEATTLE?

LIBRARY USERS  
Shhhhhh.

FAITH  
(whispers)  
See at "L".

Faith makes an "L" shape with her index finger and thumb.

#### MONTAGE IN LIBRARY

(Sweet music plays) Ben and Skye stand in an aisle of books. Each pull a book from a shelf and open. They walk away from each other engaged in their book. They corner the bookcase which reads: "L". They approach a table with computers and two empty chairs then gently collide becoming charmed.

-Ben sits at a computer and reads the screen. He jots down on a piece of paper: "KELO VS NEW LONDON". Skye approaches with an open book and shows Ben a page. It reads: "KELO V CITY OF NEW LONDON". They become charmed.

-Skye sits at a computer and reads the screen. Ben approaches with an open book and shows Skye a page. It reads: "CRAWFORD FARM V KEYSTONE PIPELINE L.P.". Skye becomes charmed and hits the enter key. The screen reads: "SUPREME COURT FAVORS CRAWFORD FAMILY FARM". They're charmed.

-Ben sits at a computer, reaches out his left hand, picks up a pen then jots down a note. Skye sits at a computer to the left of Ben. She reaches out her right hand, grabs the same pen, then jots down a note. Both are reading their screens then both reach out simultaneously to grab the pen and end up holding hands becoming charmed.

-Ben stands at a vending machine with a note hanging over the bill slot. It reads: "ONLY ACCEPT 1's". He inserts a bill and selects: "B1". He retrieves a Hershey Bar. He walks past Skye in an aisle who's reading with her back turned. He slowly backs up and looks down the aisle at Skye. Skye intuitively looks up then turns to Ben. He walks up to her and reaches out the candy bar. She breaks off a piece and indulges, becoming charmed.

CONTINUED:

-Skye walks out of aisle "L", reading. She stops and looks at Ben holding a giant coffee cup. He's looking out a window with a plaque next to it which reads: "LONE PEAK". Lone Mountain is in view. She's not charmed.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Skye's truck is driving on a paved road.

INT. TRUCK(MOVING) - DAY

Ben is driving while Skye looks out the passenger window.

BEN  
I'll keep digging.

Morning Glory pops out in front of the truck. Ben swerves to avoid hitting him.

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

SKYE  
Someone will round him up.

Skye looks ahead at a dirt road and becomes unsettled. Ben notices.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The truck passes the dirt road with a sign that reads: "THE PASS".

INT. TRUCK(MOVING) - DAY

SKYE  
So why don't you dance?

BEN  
Fifteen years ago, on my planned wedding day, my bride to be, daughters mom, was killed in a car crash. (WHITE FLASH). She was driving to a friend's house to get ready and turned into an oncoming dump truck. (SMASH) Investigators said the glare from the morning sun blinded her.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

She never saw it coming.(V.O. of echoing scream by Ben, "WHY!")  
Neither did I. Before she left we were rehearsing our first dance. We didn't finish. There wasn't enough, time.

SKYE

I'm so sorry.

BEN

We were gonna open up a coffee shop. Something sweet and simple. Then just like that, we became, I.

BEN (CONT'D)

I went back to school. Got my law degree. I guess it was a way for me 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

The truck passes a sign that reads: "CUT RIVER" then crosses over a bridge.

INT. TRUCK(MOVING) - DAY

SKYE

You know that road we passed back there. 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 there. A forestry plane (VROOM) spotted her truck and called it in. They found Ray J (BABY CRY) wrapped in a seat cover in my mother's arms. She had hemorrhaged.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

SKYE (CONT'D)

Bled to death. You know, sometimes I wonder.(they look at each other) The Pass? How she interpreted it? It's a shortcut but it's rough and isolated. I don't know. 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 and Billy Wayne meet?

Skye looks at Ben in anguish and then out the window.

SKYE(VO)

(crying and fearful)

No. Please no. Please no. No. Get off me. Please no. NO! SOMEBODY HELP!

EXT. THE LIGHT'S HOUSE - DAY

The truck pulls in the driveway. Skye enters the house. Ben walks over to the training ring. Papa Ray is digging with a hole digger next to a fence. Ray J is watching.

PAPA RAY

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

RAY J

(flash)

The pick axe. It'll bust through.

Ray J runs to the barn. Ben approaches Papa Ray.

BEN

Escaped again huh?

PAPA RAY

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

Ben looks over at Sunshine sitting behind a Lemonade Stand.

BEN

Lemonade?

Papa looks at Sunshine, then at Ben.

CONTINUED:

PAPA RAY

We got allot of lemons Ben.

AT A LEMONADE STAND

Ben walks to the lemonade stand which reads: "LEMONAID". On the countertop is a basket of lemons, a jar of coins with a label that reads: "MAKING CENTS", a jar of "BEE CAUSE" honey, a jar of pink powder, a jar of yellow powder and three pitchers of lemonade. One pink, one yellow and one colorless cloudy with lemon slices floating in it. Sunshine is stirring the colorless cloudy.

BEN

Hey Sunshine. Love the stand.

SUNSHINE

The-ank you.

BEN

You got allot of coin there.

SUNSHINE

I'm saving.

BEN

Oh yeah? Whatchu saving for?

SUNSHINE

A riding glove.

BEN

One, riding glove? Why only one?

SUNSHINE

It only takes one to hold on and turn the rein.

BEN

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

SUNSHINE

What color? I have the-ree.

BEN

The-ree Sun-shine?

SUNSHINE

The-reeeee.

CONTINUED:

BEN

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

SUNSHINE

You want lemonade or not?

BEN

Sorry.

SUNSHINE

Pink and yellow is fake but the  
clear is real.

Ben puts his face close to the colorless real.

BEN

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

SUNSHINE

Rake?

BEN

Mmmm, I was thinking more like,  
Feal. Let's call it, feel.

SUNSHINE

One quarter please.

Sunshine starts to pour some pink lemonade in a cup. Ben digs  
around in his pockets the pulls out a wallet and removes a  
bill.

BEN

Can you split a fifty?

Sunshine's baffled. She empties the jar of coins on the  
countertop.

SUNSHINE

Does that make cents?

BEN

Cents?

SUNSHINE

Change?

CONTINUED:

BEN

It makes allot of cents.

Sunshine spreads out the coins and shakes her 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 to Sunshine.

BEN (CONT'D)

Here. You keep it.

SUNSHINE

That's ok. This one's on me.

Ben looks at the bill, shameful, then puts it back in his wallet.

BEN

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

SUNSHINE

I don't mind.

Ben walks around the stand and sits next to Sunshine. She puts a "half full", pitcher of real lemonade 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. THE LIGHT'S HOUSE - DAY

Skye exits the house in a work shirt and climbs in her truck. She looks at the lemonade stand and sees Sunshine dropping lemon wedges in the pitcher of real lemonade as Ben stirs. He gives Sunshine a high five. Skye smiles then drives off.

TIME LAPSE:

EXT. THE LIGHT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Skye pulls in the driveway, gets out of her truck and walks to the house. She looks over and sees that the lemonade stand is gone.

INT. THE LIGHT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Papa coughs aggressively. He then leans over the kitchen sink and spits up blood. Skye enters. Papa turns on the faucet and washes the blood down the drain. He pulls out a 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 the kitchen table. A flipped over scrabble board has lettered tiles on it that spell the words: "LIGHT", "GLORY", "FAIR", "WAIN" "BEN" "HONEY", "REAL", "JOY", "TIME", and "SKYE".

SKYE (CONT'D)

You and Sunshine did some spelling?

PAPA RAY

Ben 'n Sunshine. He just left.

Skye looks at the words and smiles. She takes her index finger and puts it on the "S" in the word: "SKYE". She then rearranges the tiles and spells the word: "KEYS".

INT. HOTEL ROOM - PRE-DAWN

Ben is sleeping restlessly. The room phone RINGS. He buries his head under a pillow. The RINGS continue. He throws the pillow at the phone and knocks off the receiver.

CONTINUED:

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

EXT. BIG SKY FAIR - DAY

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

The fair grounds are cluttered with rides, games and  
 concessions.

EXT. CONCESSION STAND - DAY

A line of PEOPLE are in front of a canopy tent that has a  
 sign which reads: "HONEYBUNNYS". Skye, Ben and Ray J are  
 slinging Honeybunnys to customers at a rapid pace. Sunshine  
 sits off to the side playing with a Theodore Chipmunk doll.

LATER

They close the stand.

MONTAGE - THROUGHOUT FAIRGROUNDS

Ben and the family go on rides, play games and watch  
 lawnmower racing. Sunshine gets her face painted as a  
 chipmunk. Ray J sees some friends and takes off. Skye brings  
 Sunshine to a portable bathroom. Ben waits next to a tented  
 booth as dusk approaches.

AT TENTED BOOTH

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

HERB LISS  
 The ferret hails here. That's right  
 everybody. Ferret hails here.

A sign reads: "THE FERRET HAILS HERE". Photos of Blackfoot  
 Ferrets and informational flyers are displayed on a table. An  
 abundance of Blackfoot Ferret stuffed dolls are set up on  
 shelves behind the tables.

CONTINUED:

Ben looks in the distance and sees FAIRGOERS surrounding a restored 1971 Black Mustang Mach 1 on display. A sign in front of the car reads: "TROPHY". HERB LISS puts down the flyer and picks up a ferret doll and a prairie dog doll.

HERB LISS (CONT'D)

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

Herb holds up the dolls and uses them in a demonstration. Ben, not that attentive, sneaks peaks at the Mustang.

HERB LISS (CONT'D)

One feeds off the environment, the other feeds off what's 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 his trance and points to the ferret doll.

BEN

I'm sorry. How much for that?  
Fifty?

HERB LISS

Fifty. That's five oh.

Ben pulls out his wallet, removes a fifty and exchanges it for the doll. Skye and Sunshine return from the bathroom and Ben hands Sunshine the doll. She hugs it, giving it lots of love. She then grabs Ben's hand and they all begin to walk towards the Mustang. They arrive and marvel at the displayed Muscle Car then continue on, exploring the fair.

CONTINUED:

P.A. VOICE

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

Ben and Skye curiously look at each other.

BEN

You play?

SKYE

Hold 'em? (scoffs) 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 of PEOPLE waiting for separate attractions leaves a narrow passage for people to walk through. Skye takes Ben's free hand and leads the way.

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.

CONTINUED:

SKYE

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

They exit the passage way and walk side by side, still holding hands.

BEN

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

SKYE

Okay.

BEN

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

SKYE

Still with yah.

BEN

You can better your hand, but not with a Queen. The girl thing 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, 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.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

SKYE (CONT'D)

Some can even show a Cowboy, then with a sleight of hand, make it a Joker.

Ben appears shameful.

BEN

Yeah, there are.

SKYE

So what about you?

BEN

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

SKYE

A Lady?

BEN

Also known as a Lady.

SKYE

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

BEN

Yup. The river completes a hand.

Ben picks up Sunshine and puts her on his shoulders. A WOMAN, (25), holding numerous Red heart balloons that read: "BIG SKY", hands one to Sunshine. A PHOTOGRAPHER, (30), is wearing a badge that reads: "PRESS". He aims a camera at Ben, Skye and Sunshine. A firework explodes overhead, startling Skye. She jumps into Ben's arms and all three look up to the sky as the photographer takes a shot.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Ben is on the phone, panicking while holding numerous papers.

BEN

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

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

ANGEL

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

INTERCUT - HOTEL ROOM/BEN'S APARTMENT

BEN

A way in?

ANGEL

Look for a way in.

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

BEN

Way in. Ok...Thanks.

Ben hangs up the phone and answers the door. JOY,(40), little person cowgirl, is wearing a t-shirt with a logo that reads: "PIZZA WAIN" on an image of 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 and give us a try.

She hands Ben a paper menu that reads: "PIZZA WAIN"

BEN

Pizza Wain?

JOY

Pizza Wa-in. We got 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.

CONTINUED:

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 the 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" parked in front of the building. He looks up at a sign that reads: "PIZZA WAIN" and enters.

INT. PIZZA PLACE - DAY

Ben looks around the dining area, peaking over high seat backs on the booths. He walks up behind Pete, sitting alone at a booth. There's a full pizza on the table minus a slice which Pete has in his hand. Ben becomes awestruck.

PETE  
 Ben.

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

PETE  
 Sit down. Join me. Here, have a  
 slice.

Ben sits as Pete puts a slice of pizza on a plate then slides it over in front of him.

PETE (CONT'D)  
 If you look inside there's lotsa  
 cheese. But what's really great  
 is...Joy puts olives in free.

Ben observes the slice with cheese and black olives oozing out of the crust.

CONTINUED:

PETE (CONT'D)

So how's business?

BEN

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

PETE

Ahhh. Look for a way in.

BEN

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

PETE

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

BEN

Doors?

PETE

Doors we all walk through in life, along with gasps or breaths of fear 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) "Ay?". "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)"Eee". "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 the "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 then begins to stand. He becomes hesitant then drops back down.

CONTINUED:

BEN  
What about, "Y"?

Pete wipes his mouth with a 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's driving and talking on the phone.

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

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DUSK

A waiting room is full of patients. A tearful Skye is standing by open solid doors with a phone to her ear. Papa Ray and a NURSE,(30),walk down the hallway away from Skye. The doors automatically close. Skye cringes.

BEN(PHONE VOICE O.S.)  
Hello?

SKYE  
Hi.

INT. THE LIGHT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben enters holding a half gallon of Neapolitan ice cream.

BEN  
Hello?

IN RAY J'S BEDROOM

Ray J. is sitting on his bed, working on a small engine with a lawnmower race on TV and Rock music playing on the stereo. There's KNOCKS on his door.

CONTINUED:

RAY J

Yeah?

Ben opens the door and enters.

BEN

Hey. Your sister asked if I'd hang out until Maria got back from her date. So if you need anything...

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

BEN (CONT'D)

Working on your quad?

Ray J. looks at Ben with a condescending stare.

BEN (CONT'D)

Well I know it's a lawn mower. I just thought, you know, four wheels so...Quad, right...Quad for four, right...right...

Ray J continues with his stare.

BEN (CONT'D)

Ok then...

Ben humbled, smiles and exits the bedroom. Ray J. continues working on his engine.

IN SUNSHINE'S ROOM

There's KNOCKS at the door. Sunshine is holding a pet Albino Ferret and panics. She hides the ferret under a couple of pillows then sits on her bed and smiles.

SUNSHINE

Come in.

Ben enters the bedroom.

BEN

Hey Sunshine. Listen, I'm gonna be here for a little while so if you need anything, just let me know, alright?

Sunshine nods while smiling suspiciously.

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

You ok?

Sunshine nods again. Ben walks over and sits on the bed next to her.

BEN (CONT'D)

You wanna do something?

Sunshine shakes her head. Ben starts to contemplate as the ferret crawls out from under the pillow and approaches him.

BEN (CONT'D)

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

SUNSHINE

BINGO!

Ben jumps off the bed and spins around with the ferret hanging on for dear life. Ben contorts his body and smashes into walls. He gets a grip of the ferret, pulls it off and throws it into pile of stuffed animals.

BEN

WHAT THE FFFFF....

Sunshine becomes distressed and runs to the ferret.

BEN (CONT'D)

WHAT IS THAT?

SUNSHINE

It's my ferret. Bingo.

Ben grabs the Blackfoot Ferret doll he bought for Sunshine off the dresser.

BEN

I thought this was a ferret?

SUNSHINE

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

BEN

Why not? A lot cuter than  
that...thing.

CONTINUED:

SUNSHINE  
They're in danger.

BEN  
In danger? Of what?

SUNSHINE  
Dying. The ones around here are.

BEN  
Oh you mean endangered? They're protected?

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

BEN  
Well, where's their home?

Sunshine shakes her head.

SUNSHINE  
Where they're happy, Silly.

Ben looks at the ferret doll, intrigued.

IN LIVING ROOM

Ben is laying slouched on the couch with his eye's shut and the ferret doll on his tummy. The front door opens and Maria enters holding a gift bag.

MARIA  
Hola?

Ben pops awake. He grabs the ferret doll and stands up.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
(broken English)  
Ah Senor Ben. Gracias you here now.

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

BEN  
You have a good time?

CONTINUED:

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 the verbiage, then 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 the ferret doll, looks at the lingerie, then the  
jar of coins. He then becomes intrigued.

BEN (CONT'D)

Whether little clothes? Or fully  
ajar?

Sunshine enters with a Theodore Chipmunk doll, singing.

SUNSHINE

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

Ben turns rapidly to Sunshine.

CONTINUED:

BEN  
Sunshine? Who's your favorite  
Chipmunk?

Sunshine holds up Theodore.

SUNSHINE  
Thee Oh Door.

Ben hands the ferret doll to Sunshine then kisses her head. He flies out the front door. Maria rushes to the door and calls out to Ben.

MARIA  
SEEN YOUR BEEN? YOU BE-LEAVING NOW?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ben searches, Pink Egret, online. He comes up with an article that reads: "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 then searches Blackfoot Ferrets and comes up with an article that reads: "Only Ferret native to North America". "Found in 8 states". "Montana". "Endangered". Ben looks out the window at daylight breaking. He walks to the bathroom and turns the shower on.

BEN (OS)  
Alvin, Simon, THEE-O-DOOR.

EXT. THE LIGHT'S HOUSE - DAY

Ben jogs onto the porch, opens the screen door then KNOCKS on the main door.

BEN  
Hello? Skye?...Hello?

Ben being impatient, opens the door and enters.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

Skye is sitting at the kitchen table, grief-stricken, looking at paperwork. The red heart balloon from the Fair is floating overhead with it's string dangling.

BEN  
I've got great news.

CONTINUED:

SKYE

You're gonna take our home?

BEEPS from a pager down the hall. Ira creeps out of the bathroom, drying his hands with a bath towel. He walks to the kitchen with a newspaper tucked under his arm.

IRA

Mister Bloom. We were just talking about you.

Ben looks at Skye, fearful.

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 the newspaper on the table which reads: "BIG SKY VIEW". On the cover is a photo of Ben with Sunshine on his shoulders, embracing Skye. They're all joyfully looking up at the BIG SKY heart balloon that Sunshine is holding. The headline reads: "BIG SKY LOVE".

IRA (CONT'D)

I just couldn't bare your lie anymore. I mean...even I...(grabs the balloon string and pulls it down) ...have a heart.

Ira walks up to Ben and whispers in his 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 the house still holding the balloon.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

Ira walks to the stairs on the porch and releases the balloon into sky. He looks up as it takes flight it, smirking.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

BEN  
Look, Skye?

SKYE  
Get out.

BEN  
I wanna...

SKYE  
NOW!

Skye breaks down in tears. Ben discouraged, turns and exits the house in despair.

INT. CAR(MOVING) - DAY

Ben is driving while shaking his head and pounding the steering wheel.

BEN  
Don't look for a way out. Look for a way in. A way in? A way in. The solution. Not the problem.

Ben looks out his window and becomes intrigued.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

A static display of an old wain is amongst swings, a jungle gym and slides. Ben's car pulls in the lot and parks. Kids are playing together on the wain while another kid rakes leaves into a pile behind the wain. Ben casually watches them.

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. Wag on. (intrigued) Wagon? Keep your wag on li'l dog. Way in.(excited) Billy...Wayne.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

The kids jump from the wain into the pile of leaves. Then they throw hand full of leaves into the air. Ben looks up in the sky and see the heart balloon floating by. He starts the car and races off, following the balloon.

EXT. SALOON - DAY

Ben's car pulls into the parking lot. Ben exits the car and looks up at the balloon which is floating over the opening in the woods where Billy Wayne entered during the chicken episode. Ben enters and follows a trail.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Ben hikes over rough terrain. He spots a camp site by a river and hides behind some trees. A man with his back turned is crouching by a campfire. The man gets up and walks behind a shelter. Ben moves in to get a closer look. He searches for the man but can't find him. An arm slings around Ben's forehead and a Butterfly knife opens up and is placed on the front of 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 and closes the knife. He then retrieves a cooking pot and walks to the rivers edge. Ben follows and watches him dunk the pot in the river.

BEN

You live out here? Alone?

BILLY WAYNE

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

Ben looks around as Billy stands with a full pot of water.

CONTINUED:

BEN

Ok.

BILLY WAYNE

Don't believe me?

BEN

No I didn't say that.

BILLY WAYNE

You see that tree?

Billy motions to a ten foot, leafless tree by the waters edge.

BEN

The one with no leaves?

BILLY WAYNE

It'll be leaving soon. I planted it, a 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 with the pot and Ben follows.

BEN

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

BILLY WAYNE

I don't believe in killing.

BEN

Then what happened?

Billy hangs the pot over the campfire then turns to Ben.

BILLY WAYNE

Ohhh 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 a firewood pile.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE (CONT'D)  
May get, fifty high.

Ben looks at leafless tree by the river and dry gulps. Billy collects firewood.

BEN  
I'm not who everyone thinks I am.

BILLY WAYNE  
Who do you think you are? Bark  
outside? Or sap in?

Billy stands and walks back to the fire.

BEN  
I'm the Attorney, representing  
Montana Power Corp Somethin'  
Some... I'm with the other side.

Billy freezes holding the wood in front of the fire.

BILLY WAYNE  
Isn't there...

BEN  
She knows.

BILLY WAYNE  
Then why come here? Tell me?

BEN  
I know how to save their home, but  
I need a hand.

Billy turns his head to lend Ben his ear.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Can you get me a Blackfoot Ferret?

BILLY WAYNE  
Blackfoot Ferrets are endangered.

BEN  
Exactly.

Billy looks at the fire, takes a breath, then throws the wood to the side. He turns to Ben.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE

I know this guy, Katchatookie-whatchawanna. He's fluent in the sacred dance, 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 looking fearful, hesitantly nods while 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.

The heart balloon descends from the sky in front of Ben. He takes hold of the string.

EXT. WOODS - SUNSET

Ben's face is painted like a chipmunk identical to Sunshine's face at the Fair. He's standing next to a bonfire, wearing a loin cloth. Across the fire stands, LOU POLLS, a Native American in full dress costume with 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?

CONTINUED:

BEN

I am.

LOU

Then let us begin.

Lou initiates a ridiculous interpretive dance with Ben mimicking every move. He interprets birds flying, a man swimming, the sun rising, and rain falling. He then speeds up into dance moves from notable genre movies like Saturday Night Fever, Grease, Peanuts characters dancing to Linus loves Lucy. Lou becomes tired and leans against a tree. He extends his hand out, signaling for Ben to continue. Ben's Silhouette is on a rock ledge dancing proficiently amongst Northern Lights. Dawn arrives. Ben and Lou are asleep against boulders. (SONG ENDS). Billy rides up on a horse and climbs off. He walks to the fire pit which is now just hot coals. He approaches Lou and taps him with his foot. Lou wakes up and stands.

BILLY WAYNE

So?

LOU

That man? That man loves that woman.

BILLY WAYNE

Did he say something?

LOU

He didn't have to.

BILLY WAYNE

Then how do you know?

LOU

I'm awake.

Billy walks to his horse and Lou follows.

BILLY WAYNE

Were you awake when Papa Ray asked for your 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 and unbuckles his saddle bag. He pulls out a Blackfoot Ferret and shows Lou. Lou pets it.

CONTINUED:

LOU (CONT'D)  
I'm gonna get ready. I'll see you  
in a bit.

Lou walks off. Billy walks up to Ben and places the Ferret on his stomach. Ben wakes up and sees the ferret. He takes hold of it and stands in awe.

BEN  
I...I don't believe.

BILLY WAYNE  
Well be leave Ben. Believe.

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

BILLY WAYNE  
You did your part. (tries to take  
the 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 the ferret)  
So what are you...

BILLY WAYNE  
Ben. Trust me.

Billy walks away with the Ferret. Ben skedaddles.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Ben and Ira meet in front then walk up to solid courthouse doors and enter.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Ben and Ira are sitting together at a table on one side on of the room in front of the Judge's bench. Lou Polls, dressed in a high quality suit, enters with Skye and Papa Ray on his heels. Ben looks at Lou in shock.

CONTINUED:

BEN  
Katchawhatcha-wishee-washah?

IRA  
(To Ben)  
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?

A BAILIFF,(60) is standing next to a door.

BAILIFF  
All rise. (everyone stands) The honorable Judge Knot presiding.

The door remains closed. Moments pass and worry sets in. People look around the room, waiting. The door finally opens and a tiny, very old Judge enters and sits behind his bench.

JUDGE KNOT  
You may be seated. (everyone sits)  
I see both parties are present.  
Mister Bloom? Did you receive a copy of the defense's motion to dismiss?

BEN  
No your Honor. I have not.

The Judge hands over a piece of paper to the Bailiff and the Bailiff brings it to Ben. Ben examines it.

JUDGE KNOT  
It seems new evidence suggests that your claim is unwarranted. Is that right Mister Polls.

LOU  
(stands)  
Yes your Honor.  
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

LOU (CONT'D)

We refute that the Lights are the sole proprietors of the land and essentially the home in question. If I may I'd like to bring forth an expert witness to clarify?

JUDGE KNOT

You may.

LOU

I call to the stand, Mister William Wayne Shepherd.

JUDGE KNOT

This is an evidentiary hearing Mister Polls. Just bring him in.

Billy Wayne in a nice suit, 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 state's 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 at Ben, then the Judge.

BILLY WAYNE

The sky.

JUDGE KNOT

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

BILLY WAYNE

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

CONTINUED:

LOU

Your Honor, 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's his findings we wish to present here today.

JUDGE KNOT

Ok. Mister Shepherd.

Billy holds up an 8x12 picture of a ferret with his head popping out of a hole and a newspaper propped up behind him. The Light's house is in the 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) that yesterdays news, is present.

JUDGE KNOT

May I see that please.

Billy Wayne brings the newspaper and the picture to the 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.

CONTINUED:

The Judge hands back the picture and newspaper to Billy. Billy takes out a badge with a lanyard from his pocket and hangs it around his neck.

JUDGE KNOT

Go on.

BILLY WAYNE

In compliance with regulations in title 50 part 1, 7; I measured out a 100 yard perimeter around this ferrets 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. You should know that. 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 provided it meets certain regulatory standards.

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. This case is closed.

Judge slams a gavel then closes a file. Lou, Skye, Billy, and Papa Ray hug. Ira watches, infuriated, then turns to Ben.

IRA

You're history. Your life, history.

Ira storms out of the courtroom. Ben stands and heads to the exit door passing the defense team celebrating.

IN THE HALLWAY

Ben is sitting on a bench with his head down and an open briefcase on his lap. The defense team exits the courtroom and walk towards Ben. Skye passes without any acknowledgement towards him. Then Lou and Papa, both pass and nod. Billy approaches, stops and drops the newspaper on Ben's briefcase. Skye reaches the exit door as her phone BUZZES.

CONTINUED:

She looks at the screen. It reads: "BIG SKY MEDICAL CENTER". She looks at Papa Ray, distressed.

INT. AIRLINER (FLYING) - NIGHT

Ben wakes up with his head against a window. He looks out at the sky, morose. A jolly English man, SIR VANCE ALLOT, (45), is sitting next to him. He's playing a noisy "SR 71" Blackbird flight simulator on his laptop. Ben turns to him. The screen has a view from the top of the world.

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

Screen dies and goes black.

SIR VANCE ALLOT (CONT'D)  
Crap. Lost it's charge.

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

BEN  
(under breath)  
Who's hirin' this guy? The Drop  
Everything Move her.

DEE, (25), Flight Attendant, approaches holding a basket of peanuts and potato chips. She serves the passengers.

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

LUVIA, (30), another Flight Attendant, scoots by Dee and addresses Sir Vance Allot.

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?

CONTINUED:

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 is sleeping restlessly. A deafening GONG blasts from the living room. Ben skyrockets up and rushes to the door. The GONGS continue.

INT. LIVING ROOM - PRE-DAWN

Ben pops out of the bedroom. Angel is standing center, smiling. The GONGS continue. Ben looks to the left and becomes disgruntled. A "Big Ben", replica grandfather clock, continues to GONG. He looks at Angel.

BEN  
Really?

INT. JOE'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben is sitting in a trance while Joe is raising 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 'em the shit stinking squirrel.

BEN  
Ferret sir.

JOE  
These bleeding heart animal right activists. Save the gophers.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

JOE (CONT'D)  
Save the weasels. SAVE THE PISSANT  
PRICKLY PORCUPINES!

BEN  
Ferrets too Sir.

Joe pulls a key with a Mustang keychain from his desk and holds it up.

JOE  
Look what you just passed on buddy.  
Here.(throws the key to Ben) Go for  
a spin. Get a taste of what serious  
horsepower feels like. It might be  
your last.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Cue: "YOU SEE ME CRYING" by Aerosmith. Ben enters, grabs the picture of Grace off the bookshelf and sits on a new office chair with plastic wrapped backing. Rain is drizzling down the window. Ben stares at the picture, morose. Mark pops in the 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. 'Cause 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 the photo then breaks off and opens a briefcase. The "BIG SKY VIEW" newspaper is displayed face up. Ben stares at the photo and shakes his head before slamming the case closed.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

Skye, standing in the kitchen, pulls a vase off the window sill and shuts the window. The vase has a wilted Morning Glory flower in it. Rain weeps down the glass. She brings the vase to the kitchen table and sits. She looks at a medical report that reads: "RAYMOND GORDON LIGHT/BLACK LUNG DISEASE...TERMINAL". Next to it, an official looking document reads: "PROPERTY DEED - TITLE OF SURRENDER". She looks away and sees the "BIG SKY VIEW" newspaper at the edge of the table. A pair of Theodore Chipmunk slippers trot across floor. (ZOOM OUT) as Sunshine places a glass of real lemonade in front of Skye. Skye becomes emotional then hugs and kisses Sunshine.

MONTAGE:

IN BEN'S OFFICE

-Ben looks at a photo of Grace then at his reflection in the window. The drizzle appears as tears down his face. He slowly stands then heads for the door. He grabs his raincoat and exits office.

-Ben scurries down a staircase in the building's lobby. He jogs towards the revolving door, stops, takes a breath, then passes through.

OUTSIDE BUILDING

-Ben exits into the rain and stands in front of the building. SHEEPLE, in dark trench coats holding black umbrellas, flock around him. He looks up at the buildings blocking the sky. They appear to lean over him. He begins to spin around.

ON A MOUNTAIN

-Horse legs ascend up a steep slope in the rain. Billy Wayne is in the saddle holding the reins. He summits then looks at the Powerplant in the distance. Smoke is billowing from the stacks into the sky. He looks up at grey sky as rain showers his face appearing as tears, then trots off.

OUTSIDE BUILDING

-Ben stops spinning and becomes woozy. He puts his head down, arms out and regains his balance. He lifts his head as rain trickles down face appearing as tears then walks off.

CONTINUED:

IN A PARKING GARAGE

-A door opens on a Satin Black Mustang Dark horse car. Ben climbs in and inserts a key. The Mustang exits the garage.

ON A HIGHWAY

-The Mustang drives along a highway with the city in the background. It passes a sign which reads: "LEAVING CITY LIMITS".

ON A COUNTRY ROAD

-The Mustang drives along.

AT A FLOWER SHOP

-A sign on the store reads: "GOOD BUY FLORIST". A sign in the window reads: "BLEEDING HEARTS - WE GOT 'EM". The Mustang pulls up and parks. Ben climbs out and rushes in the store.

AT A COUNTRYISH CEMETRY

-The Mustang pulls up and parks. Ben, holding Bleeding Heart flowers, walks through the cemetery. He arrives at a heart shaped gravestone.

BEN

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

-Ben places the flowers in front of the gravestone. The stone reads: "GRACE KAIGON". Ben bows then walks away.

-The Mustang pulls out of the cemetery.

-The Mustang drives on the country road.

CONTINUED:

-The Mustang drives along the highway with the city ahead in the distance. It passes a sign which reads: "ENTERING CITY LIMITS".

-The Mustang pulls into the parking garage.

OUTSIDE BUILDING

-Ben stands in front of the building, looks at the revolving door, takes a deep breath then enters.

INSIDE BUILDING

-Ben standing in an elevator with a reflective door, shields his reflection with his hand until the door opens.

INSIDE OFFICE

Ben enters FIRM, dauntless. Joe approaches.

JOE

So?

Ben tosses the key to Joe.

BEN

I quit.

Ben begins to walk down the hallway with Joe on his heels.

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 his office with Joe right behind him.

JOE

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

Ben drops a stack of paperwork into an open briefcase, grabs the photo of Angel, leaving the photo of Grace then walks up to Joe and hands over his briefcase like a serving tray. Joe takes the case.

JOE (CONT'D)

What?

CONTINUED:

BEN  
Go rake some leaves.

Ben leaves with only the photo of Angel.

-Ben runs down the stairs in the lobby and heads for the revolving door. He stops, looks at the door and smiles. He then sprints to the door.

OUTSIDE BUILDING

-Ben shoots out one of the clear glass doors next to the revolving door. The clouds break and sunshine peers through.

INSIDE OFFICE

The new office chair is empty. The photo of Grace remains on the shelf.

EXT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - DAY

Ben arrives, stops in front of the door and stares at the handle.

BEN  
It's just a door.

He closes his eyes, takes a deep breath then enters.

INT. CLUB/THE SPEAK EZ - DAY

The place is empty. Angel is sitting alone at a table. Ben joins her.

BEN  
I did it. I quit my job. I want us to spend time together before you go. 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?

CONTINUED:

BEN

False tells? Maybe Miss-deal?

ANGEL

STOP SNOOZING! You know I always thought you didn't come here because you were afraid of what I might say. You're afraid of what you might say. Not variable knowns and unknowns, but owns. Own fears. Own pain. Own truth. Because in here, there's 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,(80),"God" like 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 then reluctantly walks to the stage. Angel walks to the back of the club and sits with Owen against the wall. Ben approaches the mic and looks out. He adjusts the mic and takes a 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.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

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

Angel and Owen stand and clap. Owen's beat is to the Bingo song. Ben walks up to Angel.

ANGEL

Good morning.

BEN

How'd you know?

ANGEL

You're my Dad.

CONTINUED:

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 she's  
said, as darkness falls. You have  
to stop her.

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

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

BEN  
Angel, 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 the Jumbotron again and becomes mesmerized.  
Angel looks at it as it turns to: "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 the ticket and takes off on foot.

CONTINUED:

He runs through the streets while dancing around cars and city fixtures.

INT. SALOON/SWEETBONE - DAY

DUKE, a Trace Adkins type Country Singer, and four diverse DAISY DUKES, (20s), a White, Black, Asian and Latino perform while intercutting to Ben running to the airport.

INT. NY AIRPORT - DAY

Ben arrives at the "Dest Air" terminal. A sign on the wall reads: "YOUR DEST IN NY". A Ticket agent throws a bag on the conveyer belt and bumps the wall. The left side of the sign drops at an angle. The "Y" from "YOUR" and the "N" from "NY" fall while the "IN" and the "Y" remain on sign and slide down towards "DEST". The sign now reads: "OUR DESTINY". Ben becomes enlightened.

INT. AIRLINER (FLYING) - DAY

Dee approaches Ben with a basket of nuts and chips.

DEE  
Nuts or chips?

BEN  
(smiles)  
Chips.

EXT. MONTANA AIRPORT - DAY

Ben exits the M T terminal and sees Pete's cab vacant. He looks around then inside the cab. The key is in ignition. Ben jumps in and takes off. Pete walks out of the terminal with a stuffed pizza slice, oozing cheese.

PETE  
Mmm mmm. Now for the cheesy stuff.  
(he takes a bite and sees van  
taking off) He'll brake.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

Papa, wearing sunglasses, pulls on a new fence post which he fixed. Jose' is holding the reins of a saddled Morning Glory. He walks him into the ring. Papa grabs his shovel and his 5th of whiskey then walks off. The van speeds up the driveway.

INT. TAXI VAN (MOVING) - DAY

Ben presses the brake and panics. He starts pumping it and holds on tight.

BEN  
Brake, brake, BRAKE.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

The van smashes through the fence and heads for Jose'. He drops the reins and dives out of the way. The van smashes through the other side of the fence and hits a dirt mound, launching it 50 feet in air. The horn sounds off the "GENERAL LEE'S" iconic musical chorus then splashes into a watering hole. Jose' runs to the edge.

JOSE'  
Swamped.

Morning Glory flees the ring. Ben climbs out of the van and struggles climbing out of the hole. He limps to Papa Ray.

BEN  
SKYE? SKYE?

PAPA RAY  
She's gone.

BEN  
Then I'm too late.

PAPA RAY  
No Ben. I am.

Papa Ray drops the shovel and removes his 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.  
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)

You go get her and bring her home.  
Bring her home and I'll call it,  
fair.

Ben takes the sunglasses and he and Papa look at the van discouraged. They turn and see Papa's truck with a wheel-less front axle on a jack stand. Papa looks away at something else then smiles.

PAPA RAY (CONT'D)

Ben.

Papa Ray motions to a souped-up racing lawn mower painted like the one in the opening scene.(cue: "Bad Motor Scooter" by Montrose) Ben turns and sees the mower. (Slow motion) Ben puts on the sunglasses and walks to the mower. He removes his coat and tie in stride then mounts the mower. He turns the key. A needle on a tachometer swings up. Ben's foot works a throttle pedal. A digital speedometer reads: "SPEEDO"- "0.00". Ben shifts from "PARK" to "DRIVE". His foot floors the pedal. Dirt shoots out from the rear tires and the mower takes off. Ben holds on for life as he loses control and drives under a clothes line with hanging linens. He runs into the Evel Knievel throw blanket with the "S" on back. It knocks off his glasses and his head becomes covered. The blanket tears as it creeps around his head and drops to his neck. It's now a cape, fluttering in the wind. Ben drives over the Cut River Bridge. He passes Sunday drivers, curious cows and an old lady at a mailbox. He approaches the purple school bus full of cheerleaders from behind. The back of the bus reads: "LUV OUR PURP BUS". His foot floors the pedal and he passes the bus as he fist pumps.

The sign: "BIG SKYE CHEER SQUAD" has the "S" from "SQUAD" get blown over to "CHEER", now making the sign read: "BIG SKYE CHEERS QUAD". The girls cheer and wave pom poms out the window. Ben pulls ahead and continues to hauls ass. He slows down as he pulls up to "THE PASS". He stops and looks down the dirt road, then at the wet paved street with a winding road caution sign.

BEN

Slick.

The bus drives by. He guns it onto "THE PASS".

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

A chrome wheel spins rapidly. Ben maneuvers machine. BANG. smoke billows out. Mower slows and dies. Ben lowers his head and closes his eyes.

CONTINUED:

He looks back up at the: "SPEEDO"-"0.00". He punches it with his fist. He looks ahead at the Oil pump jack in distance. He removes the cape and looks right. A memorial cross is in the distance. Ben squints. (CLOSE UP SHOT) Cross reads: "STAR LIGHT" "YOU SHALL FOREVER SHINE". Ben reflects.

DAWN(VO)  
(singing)  
"When you wish upon a star."

Ben closes his eyes and lip syncs unknown words. He opens them up and looks over his left shoulder. Dust slowly settles. He buries his face in the "S" on the cape and drops his head against the steering wheel. A NEIGH from behind.

BEN  
Hallelujah.

Bens head pops up. He looks at the "S" on the cape and shakes his head.

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

He tosses it to the side. He looks over his right shoulder then breathes fast and heavy, overwhelmed with joy.

BEN (CONT'D)  
GOOD MORNING GLORY!

Ben hops off the mower and walks to Morning Glory.

BEN (CONT'D)  
I don't know where I'm going. But I trust you do. So if you let me, I'll just hang on and go for the ride. What do yah say? Maybe it's about time we both break. We'll do it together.

Ben approaches the saddle and sees a single riding glove propped up on the saddle horn.

BEN (CONT'D)  
One riding love.

He takes it off and inserts his hand. He grabs the reins and mounts Morning Glory. (cue: "Speak" by Godsmack) He kicks the stirrups and takes off. He rides over plains and valleys. Bud, Cole and Dick are by a river, burning tires and shooting birds. Cole spots Ben.

CONTINUED:

COLE

Yo Bud.

Bud takes notice.

BUD

Get him.

They jump on their horses and take off. Ben spots the posse and veers off. The posse closes in. Billy Wayne, riding his horse, appears out of nowhere and chases the posse. He rides up to Dick, leaps onto his horse, and throws him off. The chase continues. He rides up to Cole and whirls his lasso. He throws the lasso around Cole and stops. Cole is yanked off his horse, crashing to the ground. Bud and Ben continue on.

BILLY WAYNE

Go get her.

Ben approaches a steep slope. Morning Glory stops. Ben panics and jumps off. Bud slowly approaches and dismounts.

BUD

Well looky look. If it ain't the Lone Stranger.

Ben looks left, then right, then at Bud.

BEN

I'm not alone Bud. You are. And in danger.

Bud looks left, then right, then becomes skeptic.

BUD

Stranger danger?

BEN

Is there a greater kind?

Bud walks to Ben. Ben flails his arms like he's Bruce Lee. He sticks his hand out and waves Bud in. Bud walks in. Ben charges Bud and gives him a straight kick to his solar plex. Bud flies back into a tree and gets knocked out, falling to the ground. Ben walks over and kneels next to Bud.

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. He looks at the mountain's slope.

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

You ready boy? Let's do this.

Ben mounts Morning Glory and kicks the stirrups. Morning Glory climbs the same slope as Billy Wayne did earlier in the rain. They summit. Ben marvels the view. The Powerplant is no longer smoking. Ben looks up at clear blue sky. He then looks at a small town in the distance. He heads for the town as the sun is sinking.

INT. TOWN HALL - DAY

Ira, Dan and Drake are sitting on the left side of a conference table. Skye is sitting on the right. A Notary is behind the table. The notary slides a form to Skye.

NOTARY

Full names please. Skye Shine  
Light, you are the Endorser  
surrendering to the Endorsee, Cody  
Ira Morse as The Corpse  
Administrator.

Notary uses a pen and checks boxes on the form in front of Skye.

NOTARY (CONT'D)

Initial here, here, here. Then here  
initial sign.

SKYE

Sorry?

Notary points on the form.

NOTARY

Here initial...

NOTARY/SKYE (CONT'D)

...sign

Skye turns her head and closes her eyes to listen. There's a faint GALLOPING in the 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 the Town Hall and gallops down Main Street.

EXT. TOWN HALL - SUNSETTING

Two clerks exit. Ben rides up the steps as the frightened clerks hold the doors open. Ben enters riding Morning Glory.

INT. TOWN HALL - SUNSETTING

NOTARY

Miss Light? (pause) Miss Light?

SKYE

Don't.

Skye raises her hand and opens her eyes.

NOTARY

Sign.

Notary points to a signature column. Skye picks up the pen and takes a breath. She looks forward and becomes intrigued. A framed panoramic poster with 5 pictures hangs on wall. The first pic is of a Morning Glory bud in the dark. After, each picture is brighter with the flower fuller. The last picture is fully lit and the flower is in full bloom. Underneath it reads: "MORNING GLORY" "FROM BUD TO BLOOM". Skye weeps and smiles. She freely signs the deed with a confident smile. Commotion is in the hallway. Ira snatches the deed. They all rush to the door.

IN HALLWAY

Ben trots towards the group. People dive out of the way. Skye is flabbergasted. Ben rides to her and sticks his gloveless hand out. Skye sticks her hand out. Ben grabs it and pulls her onto the horse. Dan grabs Skye's leg and holds her as Ira holds up deed.

IRA

Let her go. We got what we need.

Ira chuckles. Dan lets go. Ben and Skye trot off down the hall. Ira looks at the signature on the deed and stops chuckling. He becomes angered. Drake looks at the signature.

DRAKE

Honeybunny?

IRA

In deed.

CONTINUED:

Ira crumples up the deed. Ben and Skye trot out through the exit doors and continue down the street.

EXT. TOWN - SUNSETTING

Ben and Skye ride out of town.

EXT. SCENIC RIVERSIDE - SUNSET

Ben and Skye ride slowly along the river's edge. The sun is reflecting off the ripples creating a luminous show of sparkles and twinkles. They dismount. Ben walks to the 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 and puts his fuzzy un-shaven cheek against hers. She rubs her cheek against it with a big smile. They begin to slow dance. He dips her at the finish. They embrace.

DOWN RIVER

Ben and Skye walk along the river's edge holding hands, with Ben holding Morning Glory's reins. They approach Billy Wayne, skipping stones.

BILLY WAYNE

In Hold 'Em, the two most defining moments procuring a winning hand, is the cut and the river. Everything connecting the two, is just a game.

BEN

(under his breath)  
I connect Cut River.

CONTINUED:

BILLY WAYNE

The River also completes a hand.  
Now you 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 his 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 his hat off his head and puts the new one on. He sniffs the worn hat and is taken back. He puts the worn hat on Ben.

BILLY WAYNE (CONT'D)

Just what I thought. A perfect fit.

Billy walks away and mounts his 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 and rides off into an orange sunset.

BEN

Who are you, Will-I-am Way-in  
Shepherd?

Ben curious, becomes fascinated then smiles. Billy, far off in the distance. stops and turns to Ben and Skye. He smirks.

BILLY WAYNE

Now we're talking.

Billy turns and continues to ride off. Ben's silhouette reaches out a hand. Skye's silhouette retrieves it creating a silhouette of Ben and Skye with arms out, hand in hand. Billy Wayne's silhouette rides off in between.

CONTINUED:

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 a clock read: "4:59" then switch to "5:00". There's no alarm. Skye's eyes are closed. Ben's face appears and kisses her cheek.

BEN

Good morning. I'm gonna go open up.

SKYE

Ok.

Ben exits. Skye rolls over and pulls off the comforter. She sits up displaying that she's pregnant.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - PRE-DAWN

Ben exits. Ray J, riding Morning Glory, heels and dismounts. They both get in Papa Ray's truck and drive off, passing the training ring where sections of the damaged fence are now eliminated. Morning Glory, free to go wherever, trots along inside the ring.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Sign reads: "HONEYBUNNYS"

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

It's a packed house. At the counter on barstools, Mark sips his coffee, Angel eats a honeybunny and Mike and Reid read newspapers. Ben and Skye tend to customers. A "STUD MUFFIN" coffee mug and photos of Papa Ray and Star Light sit on a memorabilia shelf.

MARK

Gotta hand it to yah Ben. You know your joe.

Skye walks up and hugs Ben.

CONTINUED:

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 the Entertainment section from the newspaper. Skye pulls Angel from her stool and walks to an 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, Skye.

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. It reads: 8:44.

BEN (CONT'D)

And six seconds. Five, four, three. Ah who's counting?

Skye and Angel continue talking.

ANGEL

No student has ever gotten a deal with a major studio before.

SKYE

Until now.

Ray J walks over to bus a table.

CONTINUED:

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 and grabs Angel's hand.

SUNSHINE

Come spell with me.

ANGEL

Ok.(to Skye) My new sister.

Sunshine and Angel sit at booth. It has an upside down Scrabble board on the table. Reid turns to Ben and waves the newspaper.

REID

Gotta restored Mustang in here. Still intrested?

BEN

Nope. Already got one.

REID

Oh yeah? What's the horsepower?

BEN

One. And he flies.

Lou enters.

LOU

Well I found the whereabouts of one C. Ira Morse.

Lou sits at the counter. Ben walks over.

LOU (CONT'D)

He's dead.

BEN

What?

Skye walks over with a cup of coffee for Lou.

CONTINUED:

SKYE

Dead?

LOU

Found in the trunk of his car. In the desert outside Vegas. He had an empty briefcase and a fifty note, 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, who is listening in, spelled the words: "DAD", "SKY", "HONEY" and "LIGHT" which are on board. Also: "US" and "INDOORS" with "IRA" and "PAGER" below. Angel looks at Sunshine and pulls the "S" from "US" and slides it behind "IRA". She pulls "IN" from "INDOORS" and slides it behind "IRAS".

ANGEL

I think we're all glad not to be in the position, Ira's in.

The board reads: "U DOORS" over "IRAS IN".

CONTINUED:

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 and looks at the tiles. She slides "S" from "IRAS IN" to "IN". It reads: "IRA SIN". She slides "I" from "IRA" into the middle. It now reads: "RAISIN" next to "PAGER". Angel is in awe.

SUNSHINE

Raisin.

ANGEL

You know what raisins are made from? Do yah?

Sunshine nods and looks at loose tiles then at "PAGER". She slides out "G" from "PAGER". Then slides out "R" and puts it 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 is marveled. Ben approaches.

BEN

You ready?

ANGEL

(nods and looks at Sunshine)

Keep practicing.

Angel walks to a closet by the restrooms. Ben takes off his apron.

MIKE

Whatcha doin' Ben?

BEN

Going to do something we should've done a long time ago.

CONTINUED:

Angel walks up holding two fishing poles. One red and one blue.

ANGEL  
Ready Dad.

They walk to the 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 a crowd of all the characters, excluding Bud, Joe and Billy Wayne are gathered. They 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 begin to fall. 7 clear glass doors in front of the theater open automatically. The crowd rolls into the theater. Mark skedaddles past Ben and family.

CONTINUED:

MARK

Come on guys, It's starting to rain.

Ben and the family look up then stick their hands out to feel the drops. They look at each other and smile.

TOGETHER

Sprinkles.

Ben fixates on the crowd entering the 7 doors and smiles.

SKYE

What?

BEN

The doors. They're all clear. All open. And there's heaven.

Skye intrigued, sees Bud. He's holding a Sunshine balloon and a Theodore Chipmunk stuffed doll. Sunshine looks at Skye. Skye nods. Sunshine walks to Bud and retrieves her gifts. Skye and Ben walk up. Bud looks at Skye and smiles. Skye smiles back. Bud looks at Ben. Places his hand on Sunshine's head, gently.

BUD

Two for one?

Ben places his hand on Bud's hand as Angel walks up.

BEN

Sweet.

They all walk towards the entrance 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 continue to walk to the entrance.

BEN

Skye?

Skye stops and turns. Ben looks at Angel.

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

Back two's cool.

ANGEL

Awe.

Skye smiles and continues, into the theater. Ben and Angel walk under the theater's 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 Big Sky Love. It's more than an Action or Drama. More than a Western, Comedy or Romance. And it's 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 his arm around Angel. They walk up and enter the theater. They put their arms around Skye and Sunshine. Doors close. (camera pans up) revealing the title: "GOOD MORNING GLORY".

FADE OUT