

BORDERTOWN

Episode 2

"Drug Lord"

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ACT ONE**EXT./ESTAB. BORDER PATROL STATION - MORNING****INT. BORDER PATROL STATION - SAME**

BUD sits at his post, looking out upon the vast desert. His supervisor, STEVE HERNANDEZ, enters.

STEVE HERNANDEZ

Buckwald, is that your firearm those
stray dogs are playing with in the
parking lot?

ANGLE OUT THE WINDOW, where several dogs sniff and nudge a
gun on the ground.

BUD

Dammit, I told those dogs not to play
with that thing!

He runs out the door, and is seen out the window, **struggling**
to pull the gun from one dog's jaw as other dogs **bite** him.

BUD (CONT'D)

You don't have a permit for that
thing! Ow! Dammit! Ow!

BINOCULAR P.O.V., from a great distance away, of Bud
struggling with the dogs. **WIDEN TO REVEAL:**

EXT. PABLO BARRACUDA'S MOUNTAIN COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

PABLO BARRACUDA, a ruthless drug lord, stands on a balcony in
Mexico, looking through the binoculars. He lowers the
binoculars and turns to his HENCHMEN.

BARRACUDA

Gentlemen, we have finally found the
weakest link in the U.S. border security.
His name...is Bud Buckwald. (THEN,
DARKENING) Prepare to move our largest
heroin shipment ever into the U.S.,
through Mex--

His cell phone **rings**.

BARRACUDA (CONT'D)

(ANSWERS, ANNOYED) Mom, I can't talk now...I'm working, Mom. ...Mom?...Mom? ...Yes, I got the Bermuda shorts you sent. ...No, I will wear them. Okay, but...but...but...but...but...but... Mom?...Mom?...Mom?...Mom?...I'm hanging up now...Mom?...Mom?...Mom?...Mom?

He throws the cell phone over the balcony.

BARRACUDA (CONT'D)

(THEN, TO HENCHMEN) Okay, where was I?

HENCHMAN #1

You were about to tell us where to enter the U.S. with the heroin ...very dramatically.

BARRACUDA

Oh. Well, some of the drama's obviously been lost, but...

(DRAMATICALLY) Mexifornia!

There is a **dramatic chord**. After a beat, Barracuda presses an intercom.

BARRACUDA (CONT'D)

Keith? Have a bunch of heroin piled on my desk so I can stick my face in it and act all crazy-like.

KEITH (V.O.)

(CHEERFUL) Yes, Mr. Barracuda!

EXT./ESTAB. BUCKWALDS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Bud pulls into the driveway after work.

INT. BUCKWALDS' KITCHEN - NIGHT

JANICE (40's) reads GERT (5) a book at the table. SANFORD (15) and BECKY (18) sit nearby doing homework.

JANICE

(READING) "...And eventually, the stripper serviced enough guys to buy a condo in Phoenix, where she lived happily ever after, until gonorrhoea took her mind." (CLOSES BOOK) The end.

Gert smiles. Bud enters and notices the unset table.

BUD

Janice, what the hell? Where's dinner? Obesity is the last thing we're beating the Chinese at. You want to lose that, too?

JANICE

I didn't make dinner tonight, Bud. Ernesto invited us next door for a barbecue.

BUD

(INCREDULOUS) And you said yes?! I'm not going over there! Don't they got enough people crammed into that house without having to invite us over, too?

JANICE

Bud, they're our neighbors and they made a nice gesture. We're going.

BUD

Christ, it'll be all tacos, and smell like a third world country.

SANFORD

One of our alumni has a barbecue for the football team every year. Except instead of meat, he barbecues someone who is different.

EXT./ESTAB. ERNESTO'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The Buckwalds stand at Ernesto's front door when ERNESTO opens the door and greets them.

ERNESTO

Hola, Buckwalds! So glad you could join us! Come in!

INT. ERNESTO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Buckwalds enter.

JANICE

Oh, what a beautiful house you have.

Bud looks around, stunned at Ernesto's nice house.

BUD

What the hell? Your house can't be nicer than ours! We've been in this country longer!

Ernesto's wife, MARIA, enters from the kitchen.

MARIA

Hola, neighbors! (HUGS JANICE) Why don't you all head out back for some bacon-wrapped hotdogs?

She sees Ernesto and gooses him.

ERNESTO

Ooh, not in front of our guests,
honey! Save it for later in the
bedroom, when it's just the two of us
and my three cousins.

EXT. ERNESTO'S DECK - A LITTLE LATER

NEIGHBORS mingle on Ernesto's spacious and well-landscaped deck. The Buckwalds wait for burgers, watching Ernesto grill at a large, industrial-size grill. Bud looks on with envy.

BUD

How can he afford that grill? I've
been trying to save up for one of
those for years!

BECKY

I thought you were saving up to have
my tumor removed.

She parts her hair to reveal a large, bulbous tumor.

BUD

Would you stop whining about that thing!

COACH CLARK (of the Mexifornia High football team)
approaches, accompanied by COACH FOWLER.

ERNESTO

Hey, Coach Clark!

COACH CLARK

(TO ERNESTO, BUD, ETC.) Hello, ladies.
My grandmother drinks a beer faster than
that and other coaching phrases. (THEN,
TO ERNESTO) Beautiful house, Gonzales.

ERNESTO

Thank you, Coach Clark. That's so
nice of you to say.

COACH CLARK

(NOTICES) Too bad you've got that dump
next door.

He indicates Bud's house. Ernesto **laughs awkwardly**, aware Bud is standing there.

ERNESTO

Uh, I'm sure by "dump," you mean
lovely home with many fine details.

Other GUESTS look over.

GUEST #1

That's a house? I thought it was a
nest built by rodents.

MEXICAN RELATIVE

La casa es más horrible que mi baño.

Guests **laugh**.

COACH FOWLER

(UNINTELLIGIBLE SHOUTING)

COACH CLARK

Aw, Fowler, now that's just an insult
to Puerto Ricans.

COACH FOWLER

(UNINTELLIGIBLE CONTRITE SHOUTING)

Everyone **laughs**. Bud stews with anger.

EXT. ERNESTO'S DECK - SAME

Gert fishes a beer from a cooler. GEORGE (Native American art teacher) stands nearby, holding a doll.

GERT

Hey, George. (RE: DOLL) What's that?

GEORGE

I taught my students how to make a sacred Native American Kachina doll in class today. I think I made this one. I can't remember, I was kinda drunk. (TOSSES IT ASIDE, THEN) So, you still dating that guy in prison?

GERT

(SHAKES HEAD SADLY) I found out someone else made Randy their bitch.

GEORGE

You know what your problem is Gert? You're attracted to dirtbags. Look at the guys you date. And marry.

GERT

What about Drifter Derek?...Okay, maybe he's not a good example...Glue-sniffing Glenn? ...(REALIZES) Wow, you're right. I am attracted to dirtbags. That's probably why I'm five years old and still single.

GEORGE

It's a bad habit. You need to kick it. (THEN) Maybe take up gambling. (HANDS HER BUSINESS CARD) Remember, you can't win if you don't play.

GERT

(WITH RESOLVE) From now on, no more bad news boyfriends. I'm gonna find a decent guy.

Gert walks off. George **sips** his beer and looks out at the partygoers. After a beat, he shifts uncomfortably.

GEORGE

These are not the pants my balls
would've chosen.

INT. ERNESTO'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Gert enters. A group of kids sit around an ELDER GONZALES, who holds a book entitled: "Train Robbers of the Old West".

ELDER GONZALES

Who wants to hear a story about bad
guys from the old West?

GERT

Not me. I'm done with those guys. Tell me
about guys with steady jobs, who contribute
to society, and maybe I'll be interested.

Gert turns to go. A TEENAGE BOY, sitting in the back of the room looking at a newspaper, interrupts the elder Gonzales.

TEENAGE BOY

Why are you reading about old dead guys,
when one of the most low-down dirtbags,
baddest bad guys who ever lived is
causing trouble as we speak?

Everyone's attention turns to the teenage boy, including Gert's.

KIDS

Who's that?

TEENAGE BOY

(HOLDS UP A NEWSPAPER PHOTO) Pablo
Barracuda.

The photo portrays a disheveled, unshaven, Barracuda, beneath the headline: "Notorious Drug Lord Unleashes Killing Spree". The kids **gasp in fear**. CLOSE ON Gert, smitten.

GERT

My god, he's gorgeous! (THEN) I must
find him!

EXT. ERNESTO'S BACK PORCH - SAME

Ernesto addresses the NEIGHBORS, raising his beer.

ERNESTO

Welcome neighbors. Maria and I are so
grateful you all could join us tonight.
Looking around, I see what it is I love so
much about this country: we've got
(INDICATING GEORGE, ETC.) a Native
American, a Guatemalan, an Indian
couple...(THEN, RE: BUD) and I even
managed to find a white guy!

Everyone **laughs**.

BUD

Is that some kind of insult? There's
still more of us than you! We're
still in charge!

Everyone **laughs harder**. Bud looks around, paranoid.

ERNESTO

(LAUGHS) Oh, Bud, you are a crazy guy!
I love it!

GUEST #1

(WHISPERS) He lives in the rodents'
nest next door.

BUD

I'll deport all of you! Don't think I
can't do it! I swear to god!

They all **laugh** harder.

JANICE

Bud, don't get upset. Nobody can understand you when you're upset.

BUD

(FUMES) God-ja! Stinging-dang-farthing foul!

The **laughter dies down** and everyone just stares at Bud.

BUD (CONT'D)

Cherdnitting fonging gang! Crackin-gidang-gorgon-chew!

GEORGE

(STARES) What a strange person.

EXT./ESTAB. BUCKWALDS' HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

INT. BUD AND JANICE'S BEDROOM - SAME

Bud and Janice lie in their adjacent beds. Bud stews.

BUD

How could a guy like Ernesto be doing better than us? He's only been in this country ten years!

JANICE

Well, he's very industrious. Maria told me he works two jobs. And runs his own landscaping business. You're the junior agent at the border station, even though you've been there longer than everyone else. (PUTS HAND ON HIS) But that's okay, honey. We get by. And we have a wonderful family.

BUD

But, Janice, this is America. The guys who were here first are supposed to do a lot better than the guys who just showed up. That's what this country was founded upon. It's in the Constitution.

We hear audience **laughter** and **applause**, then CUT TO stock footage of the Emmys ceremony. The AUDIENCE gives an extended standing ovation. MARTIN SHEEN is in the front row.

JANICE

(THEN) Well, if it's that important to you, maybe you should think about finding a second job.

BUD

You're damn right I'm gonna get a second job. I'm tired of Ernesto always being the hero.

Bud **grumbles** and rolls over to go to sleep, facing the window. His window faces Ernesto's bedroom window, next door. Ernesto is in bed, lying on top of Maria. Ernesto sees Bud.

ERNESTO

Hola, Bud! Just having relations with my wife! (THEN, TO O.S. IN HIS BEDROOM)
Oh, sorry to wake you, Uncle Geraldo.
Don't watch! (THEN) Okay, you can watch.

EXT./ESTAB. BORDER PATROL STATION - DAY

INT. BORDER PATROL STATION - SAME

Bud sits at his post talking to BRYCE (janitor), who mops nearby.

BRYCE

Looking for a second job, huh? Well, you know, a lot of Mexicans pick up

(MORE)

BRYCE (CONT'D)

extra work as day laborers, hanging
outside Home Depot. It must pay well,
since so many of them do it.

BUD

Day laborer, huh? Maybe that's
Ernesto's secret. I'll try that,
Bryce. Thanks.

Bryce resumes mopping next to Bud.

BUD (CONT'D)

So, how are your kids?

BRYCE

Well, my five year-old recently died from
leukemia.

BUD

Aw, that's a fun age.

CUT TO:

BINOCULAR P.O.V. - IN THE DISTANCE

PULL OUT TO REVEAL Barracuda looking through the binoculars
at Bud. He is behind a rock formation in the desert beyond
the border station. Next to him, a small army of his
HENCHMEN finish loading bags of heroin onto several trucks.

BARRACUDA

(TO HENCHMEN) Okay, men, here is the
plan: I will distract our border agent
friend by posing as an illegal
immigrant. Once I've lured him away
from his post, you drive the trucks
across the border and into the U.S.

(THEN, OMINOUS) And, remember, failure
is not an option.

Barracuda then puts on a sombrero.

INT. BORDER PATROL STATION - SAME TIME

Bud, once again at his post, looks out onto the desert. In the distance, Barracuda emerges from the rock formation, wearing the sombrero.

BARRACUDA

(DISTANT) Hey, Americans! I'm entering your country illegally, you tiny-hatted, chronically-overweight, celebrity-obsessed Facebook addicts!

Bud jumps out of his chair.

BUD

You sonofabitch!

He runs outside.

EXT. NEARBY DESERT ROCK FORMATION - SAME

Barracuda sees Bud and starts running to lure him away from his post. Nearby, Barracuda's trucks await, ready to cross.

BARRACUDA

(SHOUTING TO BUD) That's right, come get me, you carbon-spewing siesta-haters!

ANGLE ON Bud, who sprints out from the border station, and immediately starts **huffing exhaustedly**, stops, then **collapses** in the middle of the international access road, where he falls asleep, **snoring**. Barracuda's trucks pull up to the unconscious Bud and stop, unable to pass. The HENCHMAN DRIVER and his CO-PILOT exchange a bewildered look.

EXT./ESTAB. BARRACUDA'S MOUNTAIN COMPOUND - DAY

INT. BARRACUDA'S OFFICE - SAME

Barracuda, disheveled, still wearing the sombrero, sits at his desk looking gravely displeased at the Henchman Driver.

HENCHMAN DRIVER

(PANICKED) He was blocking the road!

There was nothing we could do!

Please, Mr. Barracuda!

BARRACUDA

I'm afraid you've failed me for the last time. Prepare to meet...Scott Wolf.

He presses a button on his desk.

HENCHMAN DRIVER

(RELIEVED) Ohh! I love Scott Wolf!

BARRACUDA

He hasn't acted since "Party of Five", and, unfortunately for you, he's very hungry.

A hatch opens, and a feral SCOTT WOLF emerges on all-fours.

HENCHMAN DRIVER

Oh my god. No, Scott! AAAAAA!

Scott Wolf **attacks and devours** the henchman, who **screams**. Barracuda then addresses the other Henchmen.

MR. BARRACUDA

Perhaps this border agent is more savvy than he appears. Fortunately, there are other ways to gain his cooperation.

(DARKENS) Bring Buckwald to me.

There are **several dramatic stings**. ANGLE ON Henchman #2.

HENCHMAN #2

(SOTTO, TO HENCHMAN #3) Do I say yes?

HENCHMAN #3

(SOTTO) Yes.

HENCHMAN #2

(TO BARRACUDA) Yes.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT/ESTAB. MEXIFORNIA HOME DEPOT - DAY**

The parking lot bustles with activity, including jacked-up pickup trucks blaring **country music**. A group of DAY LABORERS stand at the entrance. The Buckwalds' car pulls up.

INT. BUCKWALDS' CAR - SAME

Janice drives. Bud is next to her, and Becky, Sanford and Gert are in the back.

BUD

(POINTS) Those look like the day laborers. Drop me off over there.

SANFORD

Dad, you're not coming to church with us? It's Sunday.

JANICE

Your father's taking on extra work so he can better support our family and get ahead in the world. I'm proud of him.

Janice pulls up to the curb. Bud gets out.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Don't forget your lunch, honey. (HANDS HIM LUNCH BAG) And remember, if you have to go B.M., just ask someone to point you to the nearest restroom.

The kids **snicker**.

BUD

Dammit, Janice, the kids can hear you!

JANICE

We can't afford to throw out another pair of pants.

The kids **laugh** harder. Bud **kicks** the car.

BUD

Just get the hell outta here!

Janice **drives** off.

EXT. HOME DEPOT - SAME

Bud joins the mostly Hispanic DAY LABORERS.

BUD

Hola, fellas. (OFF THEIR GLARES)

Remember, there's plenty of work for
all of us.

A pickup truck pulls up and the DRIVER scans the group of day laborers.

BUD (CONT'D)

(LOUDLY TO OTHER DAY LABORERS) That's
not cool, guys, I don't think we
should try to rob this guy in the
pick-up. I'm here to work.

Bud looks at the Driver hopefully.

DRIVER

(LOOKS AT BUD, THEN) I'll take my
chances. (TO OTHER LABORERS) You, you,
you and you.

The selected day laborers hop into the back of the truck and the Driver drives off.

BUD

(TO OTHERS) Dammit, we should've
robbed that guy while we had the
chance.

EXT./ESTAB. MEXIFORNIA MEGACHURCH OF GOD - DAY

INT. MEXIFORNIA MEGACHURCH OF GOD - SAME

Janice, Becky, Sanford and Gert sit in the pew. **Organ music plays.** Becky notices Darryl Muncie, the inbred neighbor, waving to her from a nearby pew. She smiles weakly, then looks away. She then notices Gert holding a notebook covered with newspaper photos of Barracuda, with "Mrs. Gert Barracuda" written repeatedly.

BECKY

Ew, Gert, why do you have that gross
guy's pictures all over your notebook?

GERT

Don't you judge him! You don't
understand him like I do!

BECKY

When will you learn? You can't change
flawed men.

JANICE

Oh, that's not true, Becky. Look at your
father. When I met him, he was just an
overweight, hot-tempered buffoon.

Becky stares at Janice.

BECKY

(BEAT) You married dad because you
thought you could change him?

SANFORD

Dad can't help the way he is. He's a
buffoon just like his father before
him. It's genetic. (THEN, UPSET,
REALIZING) Gidang-gorgon-chew!

Organ music plays. REVEREND PLATT approaches the altar,
flanked by two ALTAR BOYS, then smiles to the congregation.

REVEREND PLATT

Good morning, friends. Hallelujah.
Let us begin today's mass with the
word of Gid.

ALTAR BOY

(WHISPERS) God, sir.

REVEREND PLATT

God! Right! Right. Can never
remember that guy's name.

The ALTAR BOY crosses and sets a Bible on the altar. Reverend
Platt gropes and kisses him briefly and grabs his ass.

REVEREND PLATT (CONT'D)

Sorry. Sorry. Sorry.

The altar boy exits, and Reverend Platt opens the Bible, then
raises his arms reverentially.

REVEREND PLATT (CONT'D)

Let us prue.

EXT. HOME DEPOT - DAY

Bud still stands among the Day Laborers. MR. ROBERTSON
(teacher at Mexifornia High) then pulls up in a truck. A
PREGNANT GIRL sits in the passenger's seat.

MR. ROBERTSON

(TO DAY LABORERS) I need some guys to
build a crib. It doesn't have to be
that good, just needs to hold together
till the mother graduates junior high.
Then it could collapse for all I care
I'll never see her again.

BUD

(RAISES HAND, JUMPING UP AND DOWN) Me!
Me! Me! Pick me! Me! Me! White
guy! Right here! You're in luck!

Mr. Robertson points to several day laborers but not Bud.

MR. ROBERTSON

You, you, you, you, and you.

The guys jump in the back of the truck and Mr. Robertson **drives off**.

BUD

Dammit! Why won't anyone pick me up?

This job sucks!

The other day laborers look over at Bud.

DAY LABORER

Looks like no one wants to pick up out-of-shape gringo.

They **laugh**. Just then, a helicopter **descends** to the sidewalk. Barracuda's Henchman #2 opens the door and points at Bud.

HENCHMAN #2

Bud Buckwald?

BUD

Yeah?

They **grab** Bud and haul him into the helicopter, which then lifts off. The other day laborers watch in awe.

DAY LABORER

O dios mios.

Bud looks out the window, gloating. He flips the others off.

EXT. SKY - DAY

The helicopter approaches the lavish Barracuda mountain compound. **Ominous** music plays as Bud looks down upon the compound in awe.

INT. BARRACUDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud is escorted into Barracuda's office by the Henchmen. Mr. Barracuda greets him.

MR. BARRACUDA

Hello, Mr. Buckwald. My name is Pab--

CUT TO:

A TITLE CARD reads: "INTERMISSION". **Orchestral music** plays for about three seconds, then:

INT. BARRACUDA'S OFFICE - SAME (BACK TO SCENE)

MR. BARRACUDA

--lo Barracuda.

BUD

How do you know my name?

MR. BARRACUDA

Let's just say, I'm a fan of your work.

He winks.

BARRACUDA

(THEN, CROSSING TO BAR) Can I get you something to drink? A heroin colada, perhaps? Cocaine and tonic? A bloody Manny? A mojito with raisins in it?

BUD

I'm okay. (LOOKS AROUND IN AWE) Wow, you must make a lot of money. What do you do?

MR. BARRACUDA

I'm a, uh, gym teacher.

BUD

Really?

MR. BARRACUDA

(NODS) I've made a fortune teaching gym. Elementary school.

BUD

Wow. This place is amazing.

BARRACUDA

Yes, with vast wealth, I can afford the finer things in life. (POINTS OUT WINDOW) See that?

BUD

The Pacific Ocean?

BARRACUDA

No, that's my swimming pool. I bought the Pacific Ocean, drained it, and replaced it with a salt-water swimming pool stocked with sea life. (THEN, SHOUTING OUT WINDOW) Hey, you! Get out of my pool!

ANGLE OUT THE WINDOW, where a SWIMMER wades in the surf far below.

BARRACUDA (CONT'D)

Don't you dare pee in it! That's what I bought Lake Havasu for!

ANGLE BACK ON Bud. He notices a dungeon-like cell in which a MAN IN A SUIT hangs upside down, chained to the stone wall.

BUD

Who is that?

BARRACUDA

Oh, that is the President of Mexico.

PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

You'll never get away with this, Barracuda! I swear to god I'll put you behind bars!

BUD

Why is he here?

BARRACUDA

Why are we all here? That's a question which has baffled Mankind for fifteen years.

BUD

Mr. Barracuda, is there a reason you brought me here? You want me to dig a ditch, move some bricks or something?

BARRACUDA

Mr. Buckwald, how would you like to be in business with me?

BUD

(SHRUGS) Okay.

Barracuda hands Bud and envelope.

BARRACUDA

This is for today. It's a token of our new friendship. (THEN) Perhaps, down the road, there might be something you could do for me.

Bud looks at the envelope. It is stuffed with cash. It says, "\$5,000". His eyes widen.

BUD

Being a day laborer is the greatest job in the world!

EXT. BUCKWALDS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Ernesto sits on his porch next door when Bud pulls into his driveway.

BUD

(SHOUTING OUT WINDOW) Hey, Ernesto!
Don't get jealous, (INDICATES) but
check out my new grill in the trunk --
it's twice as big as yours!

ERNESTO

(LOOKS) Bud, there's no grill in your
trunk.

Bud looks back. WIDEN TO REVEAL the trunk is empty, with
broken, dangling straps.

BUD

What the turd?!

He then notices his new grill lying in the middle of the
street, halfway down the block. Some YOUNG KIDS play on it.

BUD (CONT'D)

Get off of there, you damn kids!

Bud pulls out his gun and **fires several rounds** into the air.
The terrified kids scatter. A MAN wearing a "Git-R-Done" t-
shirt sits on a nearby porch.

MAN IN "GIT-R-DONE" SHIRT

That's the sound of a happy
neighborhood.

INT. BUCKWALDS' KITCHEN - LATER

The family, minus Bud, sits at the table when Bud enters
dragging the enormous grill into the kitchen, causing deep
grooves in the floor.

JANICE

Good lord! Bud, what are you doing
with that thing?

BUD

Janice, today our luck changed forever.
We're rich.

(MORE)

BUD (CONT'D)

From now on, Bud Buckwald doesn't keep up with the Ernestos, the Ernestos try to keep up with him.

SANFORD

What happened, dad?

BUD

I met a rich businessman, who is paying me to consult in his business.

GERT

Is he drunk? (BEAT) Are you drunk?
(THEN) Someone's drunk in this scenario besides me.

JANICE

Bud, that's amazing! I'm so proud of you for taking initiative to solve your problem instead of complaining until I wanted to blow my brains out.

BUD

(SMILES) I brought home something for you, too, Janice.

He pulls out a ring. Janice **gasps**.

JANICE

A diamond ring?! Bud, we can't afford this!

BUD

(SMILES) Don't worry. My new friend gave it to me. He said it came from a dead guy's anus.

Becky and Sanford exchange a concerned look.

EXT./ESTAB. BUCKWALDS' HOUSE - NIGHT**INT. BUD AND JANICE'S BEDROOM - SAME**

Bud and Janice lie in their adjacent beds. Janice gazes up at the ceiling, dreamily.

JANICE

Bud, maybe this is the universe finally giving us a reward for all the years of struggle and hardship we've had to endure. I'm proud of you.

BUD

(WARMLY) I did this all for you, honey. You and the kids. And Ernesto. Well, mostly Ernesto. But I'm glad you guys were able to benefit, too. By accident.

JANICE

(HUGS BUD) Maybe we should celebrate your success, by making love.

BUD

Shhh, honey, just close your eyes and put that terrible thought out of your head.

EXT./ESTAB. BUCKWALDS' HOUSE - NIGHT

The house looks slightly nicer. Janice puts fresh flowers in barrels next to the door.

EXT. BUCKWALDS' BACKYARD - SAME

Bud stands at his new grill, hosting a barbecue. Several neighbors are there. George approaches.

GEORGE

Wow, great place, Bud. Sounds like things are really going your way. You're really on a roll. Lady Luck is on your side.

BUD

You already gave me one of your casino
business cards, George.

GEORGE

Oh. Okay. Wasn't sure. (AWKWARD) I'll
just grab some sort of brown liquor here.

He picks a bottle off a nearby table full of bottles, then **chugs** it. We see the label reads "Deck Varnish". Janice then approaches Bud and hugs him.

JANICE

Oh, Bud, it's so nice to hear everyone
commenting on our beautiful home.
It's like we've got...dignity. As
long as we've been together, I've
never known what that felt like.

BUD

I just wish Ernesto would show up so I
can rub his nose in this. (THEN,
NOTICING) Oh, there he is!

ANGLE ON Ernesto and Maria, entering. They are accompanied
by J.C. Becky sees him.

BECKY

J.C.!

They embrace, then kiss.

BUD

(TO JC) Hey! Get that tongue away
from my daughter! She is not a taco!

BECKY

Dad, stop it! He's my fiancée!

ERNESTO

Hola, Bud! (LOOKS AROUND) Your house is so beautiful! Wow, look at that awesome grill.

BUD

You're not jealous?

ERNESTO

(LAUGHS) Why would I be jealous? No, I'm happy for you!

BUD

(STARES FOR A BEAT) I'll pay you a hundred dollars to be jealous.

ERNESTO

Oh, Bud, you silly man! I'd need at least one fifty for that to be worth my while.

The **doorbell** is heard from in the house. ANGLE ON Sanford, who opens it, revealing DELIVERY MEN with a large box.

DELIVERY MAN

(OFF CLIPBOARD) We've got a flat screen TV delivery for Bud Buckwald.

Bud rushes in.

BUD

That's me! (RUSHES OVER) Just set that thing up over there on the wall.

The delivery men struggle to get the giant TV through the door.

BUD (CONT'D)

Let me help you with that.

Bud turns over the price tag so that everyone can see it says "\$4,000". The delivery men finally **force** it through the door, taking part of the wall with it. They slide it toward the wall and plug it in. The TV takes up the entire wall. The GUESTS all **murmur**, admiring it.

ERNESTO

Okay, Bud, now I'm jealous.

BUD

(SMILES, THEN) Wait'll you guys see this picture. (LOOKS AROUND) I was gonna have Reverend Platt bless it first, but he's still out in his car. I think he's praying.

ANGLE OUT THE WINDOW on a sports car parked at the curb. It's rocking back and forth and the windows are fogged up.

REVEREND PLATT (O.S.)

Oh, Gid! Oh, Gid!

ANGLE BACK ON Bud. He **clicks** the remote, turning on the TV.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY (ON TV)

A NEWS ANCHOR sits at a news desk.

NEWS ANCHOR

In other news, Pablo Barracuda is suspected in today's Mexico City restaurant shootings.

A photo of Mr. Barracuda appears next to the anchor.

INT. BUCKWALDS' LIVING ROOM - SAME (BACK TO SCENE)

BUD

Hey, there's my buddy!

Everyone looks at Bud.

SANFORD

That's your buddy?!

ANGLE ON Gert, who looks up from carving "Gert and Pablo Forever" into a coffee table.

BECKY

Dad, Pablo Barracuda is a notorious drug lord!

BUD

Drug lord? He's not a drug lord! (OFF
LOOKS) You're all just jealous!

INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS (ON TV)

NEWS ANCHOR

Barracuda, the notorious leader of the
Barracuda cartel, allegedly targeted
this known hangout for a rival cartel.
With more on the story, we now go live
to a man trying to get a donkey out of
his living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME (ON TV)

A MAN holding a broom chases a loudly **braying** donkey around
his living room. The donkey violently **kicks** over furniture,
lamps, etc.

MAN HOLDING A BROOM

Thanks, John. It appears today's
strike may have been in retaliation
for the recent assault on Barracuda's
compound by rival--

His WIFE enters the room.

WIFE

Shoo him towards the door!

MAN HOLDING A BROOM

What do you think I'm doing, bitch?!

INT. BUCKWALDS' LIVING ROOM - SAME (BACK TO SCENE)

Bud stares at the TV. Everyone else stares at Bud.

BUD

The news is jealous, too!

BECKY

(ALARMED) Dad, this TV...the grill...
it was all bought with drug money!

Guests **murmur**.

GUESTS

Drug money? / Bud's not legitimately
rich? / (RE: HOUSE) This is not where
my drug dollars should be going.

BECKY

(TO BUD) He clearly wants your help
getting drugs into the country! You
have to give the money back!

BUD

I do not have to give it back! He's a
legitimate businessman, dammit! He
teaches gym!

The guests exit en masse. Mr. Robertson hands Bud his plate
of food. A GIRL is with him.

MR. ROBERTSON

Have you no shame? (TO DATE) Let's get
out of here, latest underage student I
impregnated.

They exit. Bud shouts after them all.

BUD

He's not a criminal! He had the
President of Mexico at his house, for
godsave! He was in a cage!

Bud **slams** the door. The family stands in alarmed silence.
Janice approaches Bud, concerned.

JANICE

Bud, is what those people said about your friend true?

BUD

What do you think? (THEN) Let me paint you a picture. Bud Buckwald becomes wealthy, and everyone's jealous. So what do they do? They come up with something like this to try to take him down a notch. That's just human nature, Janice. I knew this was coming. I've made a list of those I suspect are behind it. And I've already gotten them back with a plan so clever it would blow your mind.

ERNESTO (O.S.)

(DISTANT) Hey, Bud, did you poop on my porch?

JANICE

But those are pretty serious accusations.

BUD

Relax, Janice. Mr. Barracuda doesn't want anything from me.

The **phone rings**. Bud answers.

BUD (CONT'D)

Hello?

INT. BARRACUDA'S OFFICE - SAME

WE SPLIT SCREEN between Bud and Barracuda, who sits at his desk, on the other end of the phone.

BARRACUDA

Mr. Buckwald, this is Pablo.

BUD

From that truck stop bathroom?

BARRACUDA

No. Pablo Barracuda.

BUD

Oh! (AWKWARD LAUGH) Hi, Mr. Barracuda.

BARRACUDA

Remember when I said I might need a favor from you someday? Well, that day has come.

BUD

(NERVOUS PAUSE) What is it?

BARRACUDA

I'd rather not discuss it over the phone, so I'd like you to join me for dinner tomorrow. And bring your family. I'd like to meet them, too. So I know who to go after if things go south.

BUD

(THEN) Mr. Barracuda? ...You're not a drug lord, are you?

BARRACUDA

What? Of course not. Don't make me cough. You silly goose! Don't be silly, you silly.

INT. BARRACUDA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (END SPLIT-SCREEN)

WIDEN TO INCLUDE Barracuda's Henchmen looking on as Barracuda does the Pinocchio nose-growing imitation, to their amusement. They **struggle to repress their laughter.**

BARRACUDA

(INTO PHONE) Why, I'm a boring old Betty!

He sticks his face in a pile of heroin on his desk so that when he comes back up he's covered in it. The Henchmen **repress laughter.**

BARRACUDA (CONT'D)

No, that's too racy for me. Even if I wanted to. I'm too much of a Pollyanna.

He playfully throws a handful of heroin at his Henchmen. They muffle **hysterical laughter.** Doing a bit, one henchman sticks his face in a pile of heroin and **snorts.** His eyes go bloodshot. He then **pukes,** gets a crazed look in his eye, and jumps through a large window. The others **repress laughter.**

BARRACUDA (CONT'D)

I wouldn't even know how. Oh, Mr. Buckwald, you make me laugh with your silly, child-like inquiry. You are adorable. See you tomorrow.

INT. BUCKWALDS' LIVING ROOM - SAME (BACK TO SCENE)

Bud hangs up. The family stands around him, anxiously.

BECKY

What did he want?

BUD

See? He didn't want me to smuggle any drugs for him. He just wanted to invite us over for dinner.

BECKY

(ALARMED) What? No! We're not having dinner with that monste-- (SHE SCREAMS AND COLLAPSES)

WIDEN TO REVEAL Gert has just cut Becky's hamstring with a pocket knife.

GERT

(SMILES) Dinner? How charming! (THEN,
SUDDENLY PANICKED) Oh god, I've only
got twenty-four hours to look my
sluttiest!

She runs off.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**EXT. SKY - DAY**

A helicopter, transporting the Buckwalds, approaches Barracuda's mountain compound in the distance. **Ominous music.**

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

Sanford looks nervously down at the sprawling compound.

SANFORD

This was a bad idea, dad. Barracuda is a known criminal.

BUD

Boy, have you guys ever been brainwashed. (POINTS O.S. BELOW) Look, there's a police officer down there. Does that make you feel better?

BECKY

Where?

BUD

See? The one the other guys are shooting at. He just got shot. See there? Surrounded by those other guys, who are trying to cut off his head? That's the guy. See? The guy with no head.

ANGLE ON Gert, sitting in the back of the helicopter. She wears high-heels, and caked-on make-up -- looks like a whore. She looks out the window down at the compound.

GERT

(TO SELF) Don't be intimidated, Gert.

Remember, you've dated serial killers.

EXT. BARRACUDA'S MOUNTAIN COMPOUND - DAY

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME

The family is seated at a large table with Mr. Barracuda. They eat quietly. **Gunfire** and **explosions** can be heard just outside. Clearly they are in the middle of a drug war.

BARRACUDA

I'm so glad you all could join me for dinner. Mr. Buckwald, you have a wonderful family. (TO JANICE) And Mrs. Buckwald, Bud is lucky to be married to such a beautiful man.

JANICE

(FLATTERED) Thank you.

SANFORD

(SOTTO, TO BUD) You still think this guy is a gym teacher, dad?

BUD

(SOTTO) Of course! Look how fit he is!

ANGLE ON Mr. Barracuda's doughy figure as he looks at his watch.

SANFORD

(SOTTO, TO BUD) Then how do you explain all the people getting killed outside?

BUD

(SOTTO) Gym teaching is very competitive! Everyone wants to knock off the top guy.

SANFORD

(THEN) Who's foot is in my crotch?

GERT

Sorry. Mistake.

Gert fixes her hair, then smiles flirtatiously at Barracuda, who does not notice.

BECKY

(SOTTO, TO BUD) Dad, I know you don't want to give up the money, but he's obviously a horrible thug!

BUD

(SOTTO) I'm not giving back the money because he's not a drug lord and he's not trying to bribe me!

A bullet-ridden MAN **falls through a glass dome** in the ceiling and **lands** on their table. Two SERVANTS enter and quickly remove the bloody body from the table.

BARRACUDA

Please excuse all the noise and commotion. We're, uh, having some construction done.

As the Servants carry it out, the body writhes. One of the servants takes a decorative Spanish guitar off the wall and **beats** the man until completely lifeless.

GERT

(TO BARRACUDA) Is that your bloody guitar?

BARRACUDA

Yes, little girl, it is. Would you like to hear a song?

Gert nods, excited. Barracuda crosses, takes the blood-covered guitar and begins to play.

BARRACUDA (CONT'D)

(IN PERFECT CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER VOICE)

EDELWIESS / EDELWEISS / EVERY MORNING
YOU GREET ME / SOFT AND WHITE / CLEAR
AND BRIGHT / YOU SEEM HAPPY TO MEET ME
/ BLOSSOM OF SNOW MAY YOU BLOOM AND
GROW / BLOOM AND GROW FOREVER /

GERT (O.S.)

Oh god, first orgasm!

EXT. BALCONY - LATER

Barracuda finishes showing the Buckwalds around.

BECKY

Mr. Barracuda, why did you invite us here?

BARRACUDA

I wanted to meet your family. (THEN) I
also had one tiny, cocaine-granule-sized
favor I wanted to ask of your father. (TO
BUD) You see, I'd like to move my family
to Mexifornia. (RE: GUNFIRE) To escape all
this chaos. I have several moving trucks,
and, well, Bud...I was wondering if you
could spare us the hassle of Customs.

GERT

Customs pisses me off.

BECKY

(SUSPICIOUS) What's in the trucks?

BARRACUDA

Oh, uh,...assorted, um...radioactive
material.

BUD

(SHRUGS) That sounds okay.

BARRACUDA

Awesome!

EXT. HELICOPTER PAD - NIGHT

Barracuda stands with the Buckwalds. The helicopter awaits.

BARRACUDA

I'm so glad you all could come. That dinner was hilarious. And Bud, (HANDS HIM CASH-FILLED ENVELOPE) this is for helping me tomorrow. I'll see you at the border at noon.

ANGLE ON the helicopter, where the family watches with concern.

BECKY

Mom, is dad really gonna help that man tomorrow?

JANICE

No, Becky. Not if I can help it.

ANGLE ON Gert, about to board the helicopter. She deliberately drops a small piece of paper by Barracuda's feet.

GERT

Oops, I dropped my phone number.

Barracuda looks off into the distance, completely oblivious.

GERT (CONT'D)

(POINTS) Right there. (NO REACTION)

On the ground.

Barracuda pays no attention. A **breeze** blows the phone number over to a FILTHY-LOOKING HENCHMAN'S feet. He picks it up.

GERT (CONT'D)

No! That's not for you! (THEN, SIGHS)

Oh, what the hell. Call me.

The henchman smiles a toothless grin.

EXT./ESTAB. BUCKWALDS' HOUSE - NIGHT

INT. BUD AND JANICE'S BEDROOM - SAME

Bud and Janice are in their beds. Bud has a troubled look on his face. Janice notices.

JANICE

Bud, I know you don't really believe that man we had dinner with is a gym teacher. Is this all just so you can be better off than Ernesto?

BUD

No.

JANICE

Then why won't you admit what this man really is?

BUD

(SIGHS, THEN) You want to know why? Because that means I gotta go back to being the old Bud. The Bud who can't provide for his family. I want this for you, too, Janice. You told me you finally had dignity. You want to go back to struggling and scraping just to get by? What about the money?

JANICE

Bud, you've never done anything for the money. That's why we're poor.

(MORE)

JANICE (CONT'D)

That's why we eat expired meat for dinner, and our kids haven't seen a dentist in a decade. But that's also what makes you a hero. You became a border agent, not for the money, but because you chose to serve a cause greater than yourself. (THEN) And all those neighbors you're trying so hard to impress? They owe their very safety, and security, to you.

BUD

Wow. (REALIZES) I guess I am kind of a hero, aren't I? That's something Ernesto will never be. (THEN, STANDS UP, INSPIRED) Janice, if you'll excuse me, I've got a drug smuggler to stop.

JANICE

You're going to arrest him?

BUD

Uh, sort of.

FLIP TO:

EXT. DESERT BORDER - DAY

Barracuda's trucks are stopped at the border. Steve Hernandez approaches the driver, Henchman #3, who rolls down his window.

HENCHMAN #3

(THROWN) Uh, we'd like to talk to Bud Buckwald.

STEVE HERNANDEZ

He called in sick. He said he came down with a sudden case of Super AIDS, which I've never heard of. He also added that if anyone happened to want to kill him, not to bother because he'd already be dead, and still very contagious. (THEN) Anyway, I'm gonna have to inspect your vehicles.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Gert sitting in the cab with the Henchman, holding his hand.

GERT

Well, see you in prison.

INT. NEWSROOM - SAME (ON TV)

The news anchor sits at his desk.

NEWS ANCHOR

Members of Pablo Barracuda's drug cartel were arrested at the border today, where over two tons of heroin were confiscated, in one of the largest drug busts in U.S. history.

PULL OUT TO:

INT. BUCKWALDS' LIVING ROOM - SAME

Bud peers at the TV from a sofa cushion fort. Janice, Becky and Sanford enter.

BECKY

Dad, you did it! You're a hero!

JANICE

Oh, Bud! I knew you'd do the right thing.

BUD

Quiet, I wanna see if they mention my
name on TV!

INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS (ON TV)

NEWS ANCHOR

Drug enforcement agents were alerted
to the suspicious trucks by the border
station gardener, Ernesto Gonzales.

Ernesto's picture appears.

INT. BUCKWALDS' LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME (BACK TO SCENE)

BUD

What?! NOOO!! Anyone but him!!

EXT. DESERT BORDER - DAY (ON TV)

A REPORTER interviews Ernesto. The caption beneath him
reads: "American Hero."

REPORTER

How did you suspect those were drug
smugglers?

ERNESTO

I thought some relatives might be in
those trucks, but when I peeked in the
back, the only thing crammed in there
was heroin.

REPORTER

Would you mind if I stroked your
heroic mustache?

ERNESTO

Why don't you ask him. His name is El
Guapo.

REPORTER

(TO MUSTACHE) Can I pet you, El Guapo?

ERNESTO

(MUSTACHE VOICE) Okay but be gentle.

He strokes Ernesto's mustache.

INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS (ON TV)

NEWS ANCHOR

Gozales will receive a \$10,000 reward for his efforts in helping protect America's border.

INT. BUCKWALDS' LIVING ROOM - SAME (BACK TO SCENE)

Bud stares at the TV, incredulous. He then looks out the window and sees a truck backing into Ernesto's driveway with an monster-sized grill.

BUD

Gidget-dang-gargij! Creeshkin-bragit-bloger-fanny!

JANICE

Don't be upset, honey.

Bud **cries in agony.**

SANFORD

Dad, you're a hero, too. In a way.

In a very cowardly way.

Janice hugs Bud.

JANICE

You gave up your dreams to protect our country today. Even if nobody knows it, that makes you the biggest hero of all.

Bud smiles, somewhat consoled.

BUD

Thanks, Janice.

JANICE

(THEN, FLIRTATIOUS) And now I'm going to give you a hero's reward.

BUD

(WARY) What do you mean by that?

JANICE

Oh, you know exactly what it means.

BUD

No.

JANICE

Don't try and resist, because this is gonna happen.

The kids **laugh**.

GERT

Ha. She's gonna rape him.

BUD

(SIGHS) Oh, alright.

He takes a bat off a table.

BUD (CONT'D)

Have your way with me.

He **knocks** himself unconscious. Janice smiles, then drags Bud up to the bedroom. We do a HEART IRIS OUT accompanied by the final notes of the "**Love American Style**" theme.

END OF SHOW

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