

Chasing Blue Skies- Outline

EXT. MCCLUEN BACK YARD-DAY-TENTY YEARS AGO

YOUNG MELINDA leaves BABY JET unattended in the back yard.

JIMMY DEE (the estranged father) sneaks up and takes the baby.

KATHERINE (mom) comes out, just as Melinda spots her dad running down the driveway with Jet.

Mother and daughter chase after him.

He jumps in the truck & takes off, leaving them in the dust.

Melinda's eyes are filled with shame.

MELINDA (VO)

When my father, the man that promised me he'd take me to the moon and back, ran off with my baby sister, I thought my heart would explode right through my chest. I didn't think I'd ever see either one of them again.

(* note) the following scenes are played serious, but with a subtle "heightened" reality ala Nicolas Cage in Raising Arizona or Laura Dern in Blue Velvet...

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. MCCLUEN HOUSE – DAY – ELEVEN YEARS LATER

Melinda's eyes ...crying.

Their house has a "FORECLOSER" sign out front.

MELINDA (VO)

But Mom never gave up looking for Jeanette... until she'd spent every penny we had.

Katherine and Melinda, (now sixteen) walk past the sign toward the taxi, suitcases in hand. Melinda is heart-stoppingly beautiful.

MELINDA (VO)

And she was forced to accept a position as a live-in maid with one of the wealthiest families in Louisiana.

Melinda looks back at her home. Her huge pale eyes are filled with dread.

EXT. MANSION -NIGHT - TWO YEARS LATER

Melinda's eyes...crying watching something. (She's still extremely innocent at eighteen).

BUFFORD HORTON SR., a tall, distinguished man with a cane, brushes past her toward the front door of his traditional Southern mansion.

MELINDA (VO)

Buford Horton's family had owed the *Lake Charles Post* for three generations. Buford Horton Sr. was a man that could get things done.

The door slams behind him.

REVEAL what Melinda is looking at:

The "white coats" drag Katherine (her mother) away in a straight jacket. Fireworks explode behind her as they put her in the ambulance.

MELINDA (VO)

So on the Forth of July, when the voices in my mother's head wouldn't stop ...

BUFORD HORTON JR., an odd, doughy-faced, twenty-four year-old boy, looks out the window at Melinda. The light from the fireworks, reflect strange flashes of color across his face.

MELINDA (VO)

He made sure that Horton Jr. kept the story out of the press.

Horton Jr.'s eyes narrow as he sees...

A jeep pulling up. A handsome young man of twenty-one, RANDOM ADAMS, climbs out. He runs to Melinda. More fireworks.

MELINDA (VO)

I wouldn't have gotten though it without Random Adams, the new boy in town. The boy I was falling in love with.

Random is deeply concerned for her, and strong in his convictions; he's deeply in love with her.

RANDOM

“Don’t worry rabbit. I’m here. And listen to me, I’m always going to be here for you...always.

They hug.

Melinda’s teary eyes... reveal a ray of hope.

EXT. RANDOM’S HOUSE – DAY - SIX MONTHS LATER

Melinda eye’s... crying.

MELINDA (VO)

But whenever a man makes me a promise, it’s like the kiss of death...

RANDOM’S FATHER talks with Melinda, now nineteen, through the front screen of a slightly shabby, suburban house. She is devastated. His stern manner masks the pain in his heart.

MELINDA (VO)

I don’t believe you! He wouldn’t just leave me like that without even saying good-bye!

RANDOM’S FATHER

You’re going to have to forget him. He left for Camp Lejeune, at six this morning.

MELINDA

Where is--

RANDOM’S FATHER

Don’t bother contacting him. He’s got a new life now, as a Marine. I’m...sorry.

He shuts the door in her face.

Horton Jr. in the back of limo, parked down the street. He smiles.

MELINDA (VO)

I never heard from Random again or knew why he’d left so suddenly. But there were awful rumors about him... in connection with a robbery at The Havannah Room, where Random had worked as a bartender.

Melinda spots the limo pulling away.

She wipes the tears from her eyes.

EXT. GRAVE YARD – MORNING – FOUR YEARS LATER

Melinda's eyes ... crying.

She stands at her mom's funeral. At twenty-two, she's even more beautiful and more pathetic than before.

MELINDA (VO)

And then when mama passed, I was sure I would crack
up just like she had. I had no idea what to do.

Horton Jr. puts his hand on her shoulder. She shudders at his touch.

Her eyes are filled with hopelessness.

EXT. BARRACKS-DAY-SIX MONTHS LATER

PHOTO OF MELINDA'S EYES on the front page of the paper.

The headline reads "*Buford Horton II to Wed Melinda McCluen*".

REVEAL ONLY THE BACK OF RANDOM'S HEAD as he speaks into the phone:

RANDOM (O.S.)

Please. It's urgent. I must speak to her.

INT. MANSION-STUDY-DAY

BUTLER

I believe you are breaking your restraining order calling here,
Mr. Adams. If you ever try to make contact with Melinda or
anyone in this family again, Master Horton will see you're thrown
in jail.

The butler is also looking at the photo in the paper of Melinda.

MOVE IN ON HER EYES.

INT. JET'S HOUSE – DAY

CLOSE ON PHOTO OF MELINDA'S EYES

PULL BACK TO REVEAL ONLY THE BACK OF JET'S HEAD, as she shouts into the phone, while reading the newspaper article. She's a gangly, cigarette toting, nineteen year old tomboy in tight jeans and "shit kicker" boots. The room is a cheaply decorated pigsty, so dingy, that if we catch a glimpse of her face it's in near silhouette.

JET

What do you mean she's my sister?! She can't be my sister because my old lady crocked in childbirth and it says here...

(refers to the paper)

...that this chick's mother died six months ago!

Unless ...

(realizing)

Oh, you prick.

INT. JAIL CELL – CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON PHOTO OF MELINDA'S EYES.

REVEAL ONLY THE BACK OF JIMMY DEE, on the phone, holding the paper.

JIMMY DEE

(hiding his desperation)

I don't have time for the melodrama, pigeon. I gotta bail my ass outta here, and then we've got a month to come up with 100 grand for these rat bastards, or we're talking hard time, here. Do you comprehend what I am saying here, pigeon?!

BACK TO JET SAME SHOT

JET

(livid)

Yeah...well, I'll send you a jar of Vaseline! Cuz if I have to drag my ass all the way down to Louisiana to brown nose Miss Priss for a fuck'en handout I'll be damned if I'm gonna' share any of it with you, you lazy, lying, no good sack of shit!

She flings the paper to the ground.

Steps on the photo of Melinda's face...leaving muddy prints over Melinda's eyes.

INT. MANSION-(MELINDA'S DRESSING ROOM) – CURRENT DAY

Melinda's eyes ...crying.

MELINDA (VO)

And that brings us today. My wedding day and what
should be the happiest day of my life.

CAMERA CIRCLES HER: She sits in her corset, hair in rollers, white lace-up boots, looking
in the mirror of her vanity....

REVEAL she is *holding a tiny pistol to her head*. At 23; her beauty has reached full bloom.
Tears fall down her porcelain angel face, her swollen ruby lips quiver dramatically... it's clear
that she's a loose canon ready to explode.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

ROCK MUSIC WITH A DRIVING BEAT PLAYS

EXT. HIGHWAY – DAY

The same red Chevy pickup, (seen in the opening scene), now old and beat up, rolls down the
highway.

EXT. STREET - SAME

The Greyhound bus stops at the Lake Charles Bus Stop.

INT. JET'S TRUCK - SAME

JET, looking tough and sexy in a man's tee shirt, cut-offs and boots, navigates with a map,
while smoking and drinking a coke. She almost misses the exit for "Lake Charles".

EXT. HIGHWAY – SAME

The truck lurches over the divider, and exits up the off-ramp.

EXT. BUS STOP – SAME

RANDOM ADAMS, steps out, wearing a Green Beret uniform. He hoists his bag over his strong
shoulders. He has grown into a statuesque, muscular, young man of twenty-five with a brooding face
and dark soulful eyes.

EXT. HORTON MANSION – COURTYARD - SAME

Workers hustle about, finishing last minute touches for the lavish courtyard wedding. Flowers are positioned, ice statues are carried toward the reception area, bridesmaids carry their gowns, toward the dressing area. (In one of the guesthouses).

INT. MELINDA’S DRESSING ROOM – SAME

Melinda finally puts down the gun, unable to shoot herself. She collapses over the vanity desk top, head in hands, sobbing.

EXT. SAM’S DINER DAY- ESTABLISHING

Jet’s truck is parked out front.

INT. SAM’S DINER-SAME

Lilly pours Jet’s coffee and gossips with her about Melinda’s wedding. Jet learns how much money Melinda will be worth, etc. and how the Horton’s control her totally, keeping her sheltered, with no real friends or family.

LILLY’S DIALOGUE CONTINUES OVER SHOTS OF:

EXT. MANSION-DRIVEWAY-DAY

A private, circular driveway. Valets open doors for fancy cars as early guests arrive.

EXT. MANSION - COURTYARD - SAME.

Wedding guests meander into the courtyard.

INT. MELINDA’S ROOM.

Melinda, slowly stepping into her wedding dress.

BACK TO DINER

Jet, feigning disinterest, claims she’s an old friend passing through, and tells Lilly to say hello to Melinda, next time she sees her.

Jet discovers a bug in her food and gets a free meal.

EXT. DINER - SAME

Reveal it was a scam; Jet has a vile of fake dead bugs.

She gets in her truck, starts up the engine, and pulls out.

INT. MELINDA'S ROOMS - SAME

She's now in her wedding dress. Horton Jr. enters with a flask of whiskey. She hides the pistol in her garter, under her dress.

Horton Jr., (now twenty-eight), hasn't outgrown his odd looks. He's a stout, weasel-eyed man that could stand to lose a few pounds. Hiding his insecurity under a pompous facade, Horton Jr. can hardly wait to finally get Melinda, the frail town beauty, in his bed. His main source of pride is that he is "well endowed" which he informs her of by pressing against her, from behind and saying, *"I want you to think about this while you're walking down the isle."*

She looks nauseous.

Knocking at the door. Someone calls for Jr., and he goes.

Melinda breaks down crying. *"Oh my God. What have I done?"* She guzzles from his flask of whiskey, hikes up her huge petty coat and retrieves her gun again. This time, she's determined to do it, and counts down with trembling lips...*three, two, one...*

A knock at the window, stops her.

It's the young maid, DANDELION (a fun character role) and the closest thing to a friend, Melinda has. Melinda hides the gun again.

Dandy crawls in and gives Melinda a letter.

She is stunned. It's from Random! He begs her to meet him now at Harper's bridge (a half a mile away in the next lot). He apologizes for not fighting harder for her years ago, but claims he was set up and must see her now to tell her the truth, and no matter what, she must not marry Horton Jr.

In her fragile and confused emotional state...Melinda decides to meet him. She takes another huge swig of whiskey and runs out with Dandy.

INT. MANSION-DRAMATIC STAIRWAY-CONTINUOUS

Looking like Scarlett O'Hara, Melinda flits down the stairs in her spectacular wedding dress with Dandy. They teasingly scold anyone nearby, for seeing the bride before the wedding, giggling, and acting like they're up to some prank.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

They run through the kitchen (where the reception food is being cooked) wave to all, and sneak out a side door.

EXT. MANSION - SAME

Melinda ducks past a caterer, and under a rolling serving table. Hid by the tablecloth; Melinda waddles along underneath, as it's rolled down the path.

Dandy causes some sort of a commotion. Melinda seizes the opportunity.

She runs for it, making for an open green field. No one sees her except...

THE BUTLER, who watches her from the window. He picks up a phone.

EXT. JET'S CAR - SAME

She parks out of sight, slightly down the road, but still in eyeshot of the mansion.

She climbs on top of the truck and views the premises through binoculars.

HER POV THRU BINOCULARS

She watches the late guests arriving in fancy cars. She knows this family is "money" and is salivating to get her hands on some of it. But she also feels insecure. She notices for the first time the dirt under her nails, and the fact that her truck is beat up.

EXT. MANSION- IN A NEARBY GAZEBO - CONTINUOUS

Horton Jr. hits on a BRIDESMAID, trying to get a little last minute head. Again, he feels the need to mention his huge cock. Tells her, *I want you to be thinking of this when you're walking down the Isle.*

Henchman #1 interrupts and tells Horton Jr. that there is trouble.

EXT. COURTYARD - SAME

THE PRE-WEDDING MUSIC STARTS UP, a woman playing a harp.

We see HORTON SR. and his WIFE. Horton is a tall, distinguished man with an air about him that oozes power and commands respect. His wife is a bit overweight, but well put together. People congratulate them both. Horton Sr. cracks a joke and all nearby, laugh loudly. Some of his friends are local cops.

INT. MANSION-OUTSIDE MELINDA'S ROOM- SAME

The WEDDING COORDINATOR is looking frantically, for Melinda. Dandy covers for her. Says she is in the bathroom with the runs.

EXT. MANSION- SAME

JET'S POV THROUGH BINOCULARS

She sees Horton Jr. dramatically arguing with one of the valet attendants for blocking his driveway in. He can't get to any of his cars. The valets hustle to accommodate him. Jet realizes something is up.

INT. TRUCK--SAME

She climbs in her truck, starts the engine, slinks down in her seat, waiting...

EXT. HARPER'S LANE - DAY

Random and Mel meet across a small bridge, near the wishing well. Random explains that he was set-up by Horton Jr. four years ago... *"I was bartending in a private cigar club. 'The boys' were in, Horton Jr., his pompous cousins, Denny Johnston, and the rest of his brat pack friends, celebrating a bachelor party. It went on after hours. Everyone was really drunk. After I finished my shift, I walked in the coatroom and found Horton having sex with Denny Jacobs and I ran out. (Denny Jacobs is Horton's cousin, and there are rumors he went off to Hollywood to be an actor). The next day the DA was at my door with a warrant for my arrest, for a robbery they had manifested. They said they had eyewitnesses and I was going to jail. See, Horton Sr. bought off half the police force. My dad got them to drop the charges if I'd go into the Marines. Part of the deal was that I could never return to this town and never speak to anyone at the Horton estate, especially you. I left the next day. It was a mistake, but my father was frightened and convinced me to do it.*

Melinda is in shock. Random looks more handsome than she remembered. She never believed any of the lies but couldn't understand why he never returned her letters. He tells her that he never got them. They have a long wonderful, passionate kiss...a kiss that was four years in the making. He asks her to run off with him. How can she refuse?

They race across the bridge but the limo pulls in, blocking their path. Two henchmen get out, along with Horton Jr.

A fight ensues, and Random kicks the shit out of the henchman. They're both knocked out cold. It's down to Random and Horton Jr.

Horton Jr. pulls out a gun. Tells him how he can easily kill him and call it self-defense.

Angry, Melinda rushes him and he pushes her down hard. As she scrambles for her gun...

Random lunges at Horton Jr.

Horton Jr. shoots at Random ...

Just as Melinda, eyes tightly closed, shoots at Horton Jr.

Both men go down.

Horton Jr. has fallen back against the railing, holding his bloody crotch. She got him in the balls. He tells her, “your dead, bitch” just as the railing breaks and he falls over the side of the bridge in the creek below.

Melinda cradles Random in her arms. He’s dead.

Henchmen # 1 has come to, and seen everything. He crawls for his cell phone, dials and demands to speak to Mr. Horton Sr..

Melinda panics and runs in the opposite direction through the trees.

POV OF MELINDA THROUGH BINOCULARS

As she runs off.

ANOTHER ANGLE. Higher on the hill above it all, stands Jet watching through binoculars. She’s seen the whole thing, too.

She gets the hell out of there, diving in her truck, backing up, and racing down the windy dirt road.

EXT. HILLSIDE- CONTINUOUS

As Melinda runs down a long grassy hill in her bloody wedding dress, she looks like the cover of a romance novel gone wrong. She hops a fence, tearing the back of her dress so that as she continues running, her butt pokes out, now and again.

A SIREN SOUNDS IN THE FAR DISTANCE.

VARIOUS shots of Melinda running

INTERCUT with Jet driving, her truck bouncing erratically as she shoots down the rough, bumpy road.

EXT. PAVED ROAD-SAME

Melinda makes it to the paved road, and runs around the corner....

INT. TRUCK - SAME

As Jet pulls out on the paved road, almost hits Melinda, swerves and hits a tree. Her truck dies.

SIRENS IN THE DISTANCE GROW LOUDER.

Jet curses, cracks the hood, messes with a wire.

Melinda runs past her, down the paved road.

EXT. HARPER'S BRIDGE - SAME

Two ambulances have just arrived at the scene. Horton Sr.'s limo pulls in and the tall man climbs out. A huge vein protrudes from his temple as he surveys the premises.

THE SIRENS GROW LOUDER.

Jet gets the truck going, jumps in, and pull away. Further down the road is Melinda, in complete shock. She runs erratically in front of the truck, sobbing, pleading for Jet to stop.

INT. TRUCK-SAME

Jet blasts her horn, yelling for Melinda to get out of the way.

As Jet pulls around her, Melinda grabs the driver door and runs along side of the truck, begging Jet to stop.

Jet rolls up the window.

EXT. TRUCK - SAME

Melinda sticks her other hand in the window. Jet pins Melinda's fingers.

Melinda yelps.

INT. TRUCK - SAME

And then Jet sees it, Melinda's \$150,000 diamond engagement ring, sparkling in the light.

THE SIRENS GROW LOUDER

Jet brakes. Tries to yank the ring off of Melinda's pinned finger, but it won't budge.

EXT. TRUCK – SAME

Melinda hollers.

Jet rolls down the window and tells Melinda to get in.

But now Melinda is unsure, and asks, *"What were you trying to do?"*

They argue, Melinda accusing Jet of trying to steal the ring, Jet contending that she was just trying to pry her fingers out, cause the window had jammed.

Melinda looks her in the eyes. Jet shrugs.

THE SIRENS PEAK.

Melinda has no choice. She hops in.

INT. TRUCK -SAME

Mel asks, *"Who...who are you anyway?"*

Jet answers, *"Does it matter?"*

Melinda ducks down inside the truck just as a cop car flies around the corner.

The girls notice a helicopter flying overhead.

EXT. BRIDGE – DAY - CRIME SCENE

The helicopter flies by.

Horton Jr. is loaded onto the ambulance, slightly awake while they put oxygen over his face. He's still alive but has a broken leg, and his "manhood" has been destroyed.

Horton Sr. is talking intensely to Henchman #1 going over a plan.

Henchman #2 interrupts and is reprimanded. Henchman #2 just wants to inform Horton Sr. as to his son's condition.

Horton Sr. answers, *"Doesn't really matter about his condition. If he survives, I'm going to kill him myself"* and we see how cold this man can be.

Several cop cars arrive. From one, emerges SERGEANT GULLY, a solid cop in his forties.

Horton asks the henchman under his breath, *"Who the hell is this guy?"*

Gully introduces himself. He's a new cop out from out of New York. He wants to know exactly what happened.

Horton is intimidating and pissed as hell, but hides it under a calm southern charm. To save face and avoid scandal, he and the henchmen have invented a little "story"... that Melinda was kidnapped by two men. *My son killed one of them, but the other got away, with the girl.*

Gully instinctively doesn't like Horton Sr. and smells a rat.

(Another option for Horton's "story" is... Melinda went crazy (like her mother) planned to kill Horton Jr., and run off with Random, whom Horton Jr. shot in self defense. There's more embarrassment to the family this way, but it may be a smarter plan for Horton).

INT. TRUCK -SAME

Melinda and Jet argue about what to do. Melinda thinks she's killed Horton Jr. and wants Jet to take her to the police. Jet wants to keep going. Melinda demands they turn around and go back. Jet screams at her. *They'll fry her ass and mine now. You don't mess with powerful people like this.*

EXT. FREEWAY- SAME

They make it onto the highway just as a roadblock is set up behind them.

INT. TRUCK - SAME

After a moment, Jet breathes a sigh of relief. Melinda changes into Jet's clothes. They fling the wedding dress over an overpass.

EXT. HIGHWAY - SAME

The dress lands on in the back of a truck, heading the opposite direction.

INT. TRUCK-SAME

Melinda starts crying...and rambling, speaking in disjointed sentences...she doesn't know what to do... She's in trouble... it's not her fault...*Random...Random is dead...*

Jet gets her to take a sip of whiskey.

Mel doesn't understand why she's helping. She asks again, *Who are you?*

Jet tells her that she's her long lost baby sister.

It's all too much for Melinda...her eyes glaze over and she faints.

Immediately, Jet tries to yank the ring off of Melinda's finger, but it won't budge.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The truck swerves back and forth down the highway.

EXT. CHEAP MOTEL – AFTERNOON (THREE HOURS LATER)

The limo pulls up. NATHAN GREER, a huge, pale man with dead eyes and a large birthmark on his face, slithers out of the hotel and down the pathway.

INT. LIMO – SAME

Greer climbs inside. Horton shows Greer a photo of Melinda. Horton Sr. explains that he has boys on the inside of the police department that will keep Greer abreast of the situation. Overly cocky, he assumes the pathetic Melinda is holed up in some corner crying to her self and she'll never make it past the state line. But the new Sergeant, (Houston) poses a threat, so Horton Sr. wants Greer to find her first. *He prefers that she doesn't live long enough to attempt to tell her story. Now muss, no fuss.* Greer asks how he wants him to do it? Horton answers, *whichever takes longer and is the messiest.* Greer likes that answer, being a man who enjoys his work.

INT. PICK UP - MOVING - DAY

The gas gauge reads FULL. Jet drives, eating chips from a bag of groceries. Jet explains she's almost out of cash. Explains she just learned she had a sister and wanted to come out for a reunion before taking off for the Caribbean's and starting a new life. But her purse got ripped off on the way, (a lie) and she's down to her last dollar. She looks at Melinda's ring again, dying to get her hands on it. She starts to mention that she knows someone that pays good money for --

Melinda interrupts, blurting out self-absorbed drunken pity about how everything she cared about is gone now... no mom, no Random, no home ...she drops the empty flask out the window.

Jet grasps for the right words. Gives a pep talk about how life isn't about what you have it's about what you do. *And right now, we've got options.*

EXT. HIGHWAY – SUNSET -SAME

A DRAMATIC BALLAD SWELLS as the truck drives off into the magnificent magenta sunset.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Horton Sr. enters with Greer, who needs information from him on Melinda.

Horton Jr. wants to go after her, himself. His father lectures Horton Jr. for trying to marry below his class. Tells him he'll be damned if this family's name will be scandalized for want of lower class pussy and that he's done enough damage. Horton leaves the bounty hunter, to talk with his son. Horton Jr. says he doesn't know anything; Melinda's only family abandoned her as a child, and never made contact. She has no one.

Horton Jr. tells Greer that he'll pay him an extra 25 grand to keep him updated and he'll get another 25 grand if he can watch Greer pop her. Greer smiles, he doesn't see how that could hurt.

In the meantime, he suggests that Horton Jr. take a little vacation ...go fishing, and flicks his cigarette onto Horton Jr.'s bed.

Horton Jr. pulls out a secret photo of Melinda, (probably taken when she first arrived at the Horton's). A tear rolls down his cheek and plops onto the photo. He tries to rub the tear off but uses too much force and smears the image. Anger sets in as he rubs harder and harder until her entire face is rubbed out.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Jet's truck passes a sign, which reads, *"NOW ENTERING NEW MEXICO".*

INT. TRUCK - MOVING - NIGHT

Jet explains a bit about her life, growing up with dad. Melinda is in a funk, and won't say a word.

EXT. BEAUTIFUL LAKE - LATER THAT NIGHT

The girls have set up camp. Melinda sits as if in a trance, staring at the moon's reflection on the water. Jet sits by the campfire, smoking, and babbling on about Jimmy Dee, trying to break her sister's long silence. She explains the trouble he's in with the IRS for running a boiler room. Owes them 100 grand in taxes or he's doing up to five years. And Jet would just as soon, he rots in jail, for lying to her all her life.

She tells Mel that the last thing Jimmy Dee told her, was that their mom was the only woman he ever loved.

Melinda finally speaks, tells Jet that their mom never stopped looking for her. And knew someday that she'd come back.

Jet says she was too late.

Melinda says not for me you weren't ...her voice cracking with sadness.

Jet tells Mel that she cries too much. And every tear she sheds gives Horton Jr. power. Tells her she needs to learn to get mad. Melinda admits she doesn't know how.

She gets Melinda to say "the f... word (the first time she's ever said that word). But once she says it, she likes it a little too much and starts screaming long-suppressed obscenities at the top of her lungs. *"Fuck you, Buford!!!"* Your father worked my mother so hard she went crazy, you took Random from me once and then again. Fuck you and fuck your father and all your stupid fucking money! And she flings the diamond ring in the lake.

Jet yells at her. *"What in the hell did you do that for?!!"*

Jet dives in the water trying to find the ring, to no avail. Jet goes nuts and calls Melinda a moron. She shoves Melinda in the water and tells her to go find the damn ring!!! Melinda says *"fuck you"* (her new favorite word) and they continue yelling at each other into the night.

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

A NURSE walks down the hallway with a tray of breakfast.

INT. HOSPITAL - (HORTON JR.'S ROOM) - MORNING

The nurse enters with food.

Horton Jr. has split.

EXT. JACKSON LAKE - MORNING

The girls are skinny dipping and looking for the ring. They still can't find it.

Jet explains that they could've sold the ring and started a new life in the Bahamas. She's determined to get some scuba gear today and hunt for it.

They are interrupted by a man's voice.

RANGER ROGER, a hardened, middle-aged man, stands on the shore holding towels out, with his head, politely turned away.

But as soon as the girls get out of the water... he drops their towels and sneers at them.

He makes a big deal about writing them a ticket as they get dressed and beg for him to let them off.

He agrees, but only if they'll come back to his cabin for breakfast.

They have no choice.

INT. SAM'S DINER - DAY

Bacon and eggs SIZZLE on the grill.

Lilly serves Greer his breakfast. He overhears her gossiping, learns about Jet's presence yesterday morning, and asks questions.

She agrees to help an artist sketch a composite photo.

INT. POLICE STATION - MORNING

Sergeant Gully holds up a photo of Melinda. He explains that so far there is no ransom note, and it may be a crime of passion. He plans want to plaster Melinda's face everywhere in the hopes that someone will spot her.

INT. GREER'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Lilly guides the artist as he sketches a face that is starting to look a lot ... like Jet. Greer watches nearby.

INT. ROGER'S CABIN - DAY

The girls sit near the fireplace, finishing their pancakes. There's a knock at the door. KYLE, a sleazy white trash friend of Rogers stops by with a six-pack.

The girls want to go, but Roger tells them not yet, and plays with the ticket, toying with them. He says they want to have a little party, first.

Roger clears the dishes, feeding a bit of bacon to his ugly dog. Kyle joins him in the kitchen and they talk in hushed voices about the girls.

Melinda and Jet also talk in hushed voices. Melinda is worried. Jet says we'll just get them drunk and roll them for what's in their wallets. She reveals she has two drops of date rape juice left... just enough for each guy.

Just then, three more CREEPY GUYS show up. Now both girls are concerned.

A newscast plays on the TV. To the girls' surprise it says that Melinda is not a killer but a kidnapping victim. And that Horton Jr. is alive. Both girls are stunned. The guys pay no attention to the TV.

ON THE TV: *A photograph of Melinda fills the screen.*

Jet jumps up and turns off the TV. Says she wants to hear music. She starts dancing to the music. Kyle joins her.

One of the guys puts his arm around Melinda and gets her to drink a beer. She tries to make small talk with, discusses the environment in the area.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Greer is on the Internet searching for old articles from the Minnesota Tribune. Finds an article about Jimmy Dee kidnapping baby Jet twenty years ago. He downloads the photos of Jimmy Dee and baby Jet, and hits "print."

INT. ROGER'S CABIN – DAY

The guys are getting weird, saying stuff like, *we're so far in the boonies people could get killed out here and no one would ever find the bodies.*

Melinda becomes angry when they start talking about gay bashing and says she wants to go.

Roger pushes her down in her chair. Another one locks the door. It appears the guys may be planning a little gang rape. Even Jet is afraid.

Suddenly the door is broken down and cops rush in with guns. Melinda and Jet put their hands up. They are all herded outside.

EXT. ROGER'S CABIN - DAY

There are helicopters and cops surrounding the place. Melinda and Jet think they are so busted. The cops tell the girls to get out of the way and step over by the truck. But the cops focus on the men and ignore them. They don't get it.

The overhear on the CB radio, that these guys are an underground gang of hard-core crank (speed) manufactures. The cops have been staking the place out all week, waiting for the entire group to gather. They have no idea who Melinda is. Always thinking, Jet waits until the cops are distracted, pops the clutch, rolls the truck down the hill toward the lake, and the girls manage to sneak away.

INT. TRUCK – DAY

The girls are amazed about the lies on the news. Jet realizes that these people are even more powerful than she realized. And now she could be named as the kidnapper! She yells at Melinda again for dumping the ring. Melinda yells back, *stop complaining and think of something!* Jet says, *the first thing we need to do is make you... not look like you.*

EXT. TRADING POST - DAY

Outside the building several Indians mill around. There is a sign that reads. "We Pay Cash For Your Hair".

INT. TRADING POST – DAY

Melinda is having her hair dyed by an SHOSHAUNNA, an American Indian woman.

EXT. TRADING POST – SAME

Jet leans on the car, reading a newspaper about Melinda's kidnapping. This is really bad for her. She can't handle it. She gets in the truck and takes off. Enough is enough.

INT. TRUCK-SAME

Jet is driving. Feeling guilt, she slows down and gets off the exit.

Then she looks at a sign that says something about JAIL and gets back on the freeway.

INT. TRADING POST-DAY

Shoshaunna is blow-drying Mel's hair.

INT. TRUCK

She turns a song on the radio. It's a song about a coward running away...can't face the fear...She shuts it off.

EXT. TRADING POST-DAY

Melinda comes out. She looks awesome as a redhead. Her long hair has been cut shorter, is wavy, and a bit wild.

But Jet's truck is gone. She starts to panic. Runs down the dirt road in this deserted town. Gasps. A rattlesnake slithers by. Crusty drunks outside the liquor store gawk at her. Her head starts to spin...

But there is Jet, behind her, leaning against her truck, under a tree.

Relieved, Mel climbs in the truck. Jet leans out and waves to Shoshaunna, who will pretend she doesn't know English if anyone asks about them.

CUT TO:

INT. TRUCK - DAY

The girls pass a sign reading, "*YOU ARE NOW ENTERING ARIZONA*" LOUD MUSIC BLARES on the radio.

The girls argue. Melinda is complaining about the smoking and the loud music. Jet is generally pissy about being implicated in all this.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Greer opens a file, studies ... a copy of Melinda's phone bill, with various numbers circled ... old newspaper clippings with headlines reading, "*McCluen Mother Wins Custody Battle*" and "*Ex Husband Kidnaps Baby*" with a picture of James McCluen and Baby Jeanette ... and finally, the *composite drawing of Jet. He's on to her.*

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TRUCK - DUSK

Melinda is asleep. Jet takes a drag on her cigarette, as she eyes the "empty" gas gauge. She pulls into the parking lot of a dinner house.

Still arguing, they head inside for food.

INT. DINNER HOUSE - NIGHT

Jet wolfs down her spaghetti while Melinda picks at her food.

INT. REST ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Melinda washes her hands. She stares at her reflection in the mirror. She barely recognizes herself.

BACK TO DINNER HOUSE

Jet looks around, then carefully takes a SMALL CHIP OF GLASS from her purse and pushes it into the pie.

Melinda returns to the table. Says Jet should go on without her. Jet says, *we're sisters, we stick together.*

Then Jet pulls a con, putting fake blood on her lip and glass in her food. Not only do they get a free meal, but Mel makes such a fuss they get 100 cash.

EXT. DINNER HOUSE - NIGHT

The girls climb in the truck, and pull out.

INT. TRUCK – MOVING

Jet reveals it was all a con. Melinda is angry, she doesn't like taking advantage of people.

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

Jet gets out to gas up. Melinda follows.

More fighting. They each blame each other. Jet says Melinda needs to get over herself. Forget the Bahamas, they need to pull enough cons to just get them out of the States... to Mexico. She has a friend there who can help set them up with new lives. Melinda finally agrees, but only after Jet agrees that they will keep track and eventually pay everyone back.

EXT. THE MOONSHINE - LATE AFTERNOON

The rustic tavern is tucked away on the hillside. The sign reads *"Northgate's Finest Ale"*

INT. THE MOONSHINE - EVENING

Customers drink, shoot pool, and play various bar games. Greer shows the manager, RJ, the composite drawing of Jet. RJ recognizes the faces. Says they are father and daughter but he hasn't seen them for a while. Jet's nickname was the Comeback Kid cause she could play a mean game of Liar's Dice. Tells him to try Old Mickey, who rented a house to them.

EXT. SHABBY HOUSE -- EARLY EVENING

The place is small, overgrown with weeds, and desperately in need of paint. The sign out front says *"For Rent"*.

INT. SHABBY HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Greer talks to the owner, Old Mickey, (he's old but still kicking) as he measures a boarded-up window. He has no idea where they went. Tells Greer to try Jimmy Dee's ex, Colleen Montgomery in Hillsdale.

INT. SALT LAKE MOTEL - NIGHT

Melinda sleeps peacefully. Jet paces back and forth by the open window, smoking. The wind ROARS outside.

A commercial on the TV, catches her attention; Families vacationing in the Caribbean... where the skies are always blue.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SMALL TOWN, FAMILY OWNED, GIFT SHOP - DAY

Jet slinks slyly out of the gift shop with a small purchase and sits near Melinda. She removes a BIRTHDAY CARD, a PINK ENVELOPE, and a PURPLE PEN. Jet writes the words *"sorry"* in the card, and seals it inside the pink envelope. With the purple pen she writes *"MOM"* on the envelope, and draws a heart around it.

INT. GIFT SHOP - DAY

TYLER, a nineteen-year old kid, scoots in behind the register, relieving his OLDER BROTHER, FRANK, for his break.

EXT. GIFT SHOP - DAY

Jet gives Mel their cue, "*you remind me of my old boyfriend, Skip*".

Jet slips the pink envelope under her shirt.

INT. GIFT SHOP

Jet casually selects an identical birthday day card with the same PINK ENVELOPE, taking them to the register. She writes Mom on it so the two envelopes are identical. Then she gets three twenties for a bunch of ones, and seals the twenties in the envelope.

The kid counts her ones and she doesn't have enough, just as Melinda squeals and distracts him so Jet can switch the envelopes. She gives him the dummy envelope and tells him to hold it there so she can go get more money. He gives her the ones back, but now she has the twenties (hidden in her shirt) too.

EXT. GIFT SHOP - DAY

Jet BARRELS around the corner and SMACKS right into someone.

The envelope falls out of her shirt and onto the ground.

It's Frank! Jet freezes as he reaches for the envelope. The brother thinks that Jet is shoplifting and asks her to step back inside the store. Jet pushes him, he falls backward into a planter, and the girls grab the envelope and run.

They speed away with the angry man chasing after the girls.

INT. PICK-UP TRUCK - MOVING

Jet speeds out onto the main drag. Melinda rips open the envelope and takes out the twenties. Melinda is shaking. She opens a notebook and starts writing in it. It is her book of debts. A book she swiped in the store.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEEN'S DELIGHTS - AFTERNOON

Greer sits at an elegant table, enjoying chocolate mousse. COLLEEN, a plump, bohemian woman, wearing lots of jewelry, swishes toward Greer.

She informs him that JD is in Tahoe somewhere with "Rosie Galore". And that Jimmy Dee uses a lot of aliases so he should look for her, not him.

CUT TO:

INT. WESTERN SALOON - NIGHT

Four or five people are line dancing on the floor. Melinda follows along, but keeps messing up.

Across the room, an ASIAN MAN, IN AN EXPENSIVE WHITE COWBOY OUTFIT, watches her as he smokes a fat cigar.

Nearby, Jet plays "liar's dice" with a TRUCKER, a CHUBBY COWBOY, and an OLD MAN. They have each wagered twenty dollars.

She takes them for twenty bucks each.

Melinda grabs her arm, and pulls her aside, explaining that the cowboy propositioned her, for one hundred dollars.

Jet is shocked, and says, *tell him to make it three hundred!*

INT. BUDGET MOTEL - NIGHT

Melinda enters followed by BEN YAMAMOTO, (the man in white).

She gets the money upfront and disappears into the bathroom to attend to "girl things." He starts to unbutton his shirt.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Melinda locks the door, and turns on the faucet. She climbs out the bathroom window.

EXT. BUDGET HOTEL - NIGHT

One of Melinda's high heels SMACKS Jet in the head as Melinda tries to jump into a tree. But she's scared and can't do it.

Jet wants to kill her. Finally she jumps.

Together, they sprint for the truck, jump in, and PEEL out.

INT. BUDGET HOTEL - NIGHT

Ben dances in his underwear, oblivious to what is going on and ready to party.

INT. TRUCK - MOVING - NIGHT

The girls are giddy with all the money they scored. They laugh so hard it hurts. Teenaged boys in a car, hoot at them. Melinda hoots back. This triggers another outburst of laughter. Melinda wipes tears from her eyes.

"Run, Baby Run" comes on the radio.

The girls sing along, passionately, giddy with life.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LAKE CHARLES POLICE STATION - DAY

Sergeant Gully is on the phone talking to Ranger Roger about his encounter with the girls.

INT. JAIL - SAME

Ranger Roger on the phone, says the girls were in a red pick up with *Oh Babe* plates.

INT. LAKE CHARLES POLICE STATION - DAY

Gully gives the information to an associate, SKANK to put out an APB.

But Skank slyly puts in a call to Greer first.

INT. CAFÉ- DAY

Greer at the counter, gets the call from Skank.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Ranger Roger acts like it was his duty as a ranger to report the girls. Then he tells his attorney that he better get his deal. He wants cigarettes and candy bars for giving them a lead on the bitches.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

They pull in and park. The girls hop out.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Melinda and Jet suck on Tootsie Pops, waiting, as the CHECKER rings up their groceries. Melinda checks her list. Jet goes back to get a lawn chair.

As she returns, a CUSTOMER, at the end of the line, grabs her arm. He's a slimy, swarthy, guy named WILLY. He pulls her close, inundating her with stale breath. He asks the girls to join him at Joe's for happy hour across the street, and claims, "*I'm buying.*"

Jet gets an idea. Her eyes dart to the checkout girl, and back. She agrees to meet him there.

She joins Melinda at the front of the line. After the checker rings them up, Jet explains that the guy at the end of the line, is paying for their groceries. She calls out to the guy, "*it's on you, right?*"

Jet and Melinda wave to him. He says, "*yeah it's all on me girls!*" (meaning the drinks across the street).

The checker shrugs, saves the receipt, and the girls scoot out.

INT. GREER'S RENTAL CAR – SAME

Greer calls Horton Jr. He gives him the name of the Casino where the father's girlfriend works in Reno. If all else fails we find them through the father. Sooner or later, they'll be calling him.

INT. PRIVATE AIRPORT- RESTAURANT - SAME

Horton Jr. talks on his cell phone, excited by the news. *Let me know the second you find them. I'm packed and ready to hop on my plane.*

INT. GREER'S CAR- SAME

Greer: *It won't be long now...how far can two girls in a red pickup with, OH BABE plates get?*

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

The checker finishes ringing up Willy's items, cigarettes and a lighter.

CHECKER: *That'll be ninety-one dollars and ten cents.*

WILLY: *Huh?*

He's been had.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

AN UPBEAT CARE-FREE SONG, PLAYS ON THE RADIO AND CONTINUES UNDER THE FOLLOWING MONTAGE OF SCENES ...

Jet's truck passes a sign that reads "GRAND CANYAN 260 MILES." Melinda rides in back, relaxing on the lounge chair. She's wearing shades, eating grapes, and getting a tan.

INT. TRUCK

Jet talks into the CB as she the drives. We hear the trucker's voice over the CB. The truckers are helping the girls keep a look out for cops.

EXT. GRAND CANYON - DAY

Melinda leans over the rail, taking in the view of the canyon. Jet barbers for a rabbit's foot, at a souvenir stand.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Melinda drives. Jet reclines in the back. A semi-truck blasts by honking. Jet waves.

INT. BIG RIG - DAY

QUARTER POUNDER a big trucker, spots a cop car.

He signals the girls that a cop is near.

INT. JET'S TRUCK - DAY

Melinda driving. Jet in back. Mel pulls off for a road stop.

EXT. HIGHWAY

She pulls off, and into a gas station/car wash.

EXT. GAS STATION/CAR WASH

Mel comes out of the shop with new sunglasses and some goodies.

Jet's truck has been washed and they wait for the JULIO to finish wiping it down.

A rich fat woman interrupts him, screaming at poor Julio, for missing a spot and insisting they wash it again for free. She heads for the restroom.

INT. RESTROOM--SAME

Melinda enters the washroom to clean up. Washes her hands. She hears the woman grunting on the john, gets an idea. She peeks under, sees that the fat woman's pantyhose are around her ankles.

She reaches over, grabs the woman's purse from the door hanger and struts out. The woman is screaming for help but with her pants down, can't chase her.

EXT STATION--SAME

Jet has the truck running, Melinda jumps in carrying the purse. (The place is crowded with patrons so no one notices anything). As they pull out, Melinda tips the Mexican fifty bucks.

EXT. GRAND CANYON - DAY

A couple of policemen talk with the owner of the souvenir stand. Nearby, Greer sits in a WHITE RENTAL CAR, stroking his mustache and watching.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

Greer marks his road map, crossing out the Grand Canyon and circling Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

EXT. GAS STATION – DAY

A cop takes a report from the fat lady. Says he has nothing to go on, if all she saw was a white female hand. She asks Julio if he saw anything. Julio shrugs and shakes his head. His partners share a look of satisfaction with each other.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A man is hitchhiking with a gas can. His wife and child sit on their broken down car. Jet and Melinda pull over and give them all a lift. The road sign overhead reads, "*LAS VEGAS 20, MILES*".

EXT. LAS VEGAS - STRIP - NIGHT

They drop off the hitchhikers. Jet drives, as Melinda stares at the casino lights.

The rabbit's foot dangles from the mirror.

INT. FRENCH RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Dressed to the nines, Jet and Melinda dine, in a "5 star" restaurant. The CAPTAIN comes by, to refill their champagne. He asks, "*How was the chateaubriand?*" Jet dabs blood from her lip with a napkin, Melinda says, "*you don't want to know.*"

INT. JET'S TRUCK - MOVING

Melinda writes, "*Le Petite Chateau - \$280.00*" in her book of debts.

EXT. LAS VEGAS MOTEL - NIGHT

Melinda crawls out of the second story window, grabs a tree limb, swings down to the grass, and dives in the truck with Jet. She's getting good at this.

INT. PICK-UP TRUCK - DAY -(MOVING)

The girls groove with the radio, and sip milk shakes.

EXT. TRUCK - DAY

They zip past the sign, "WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA".

THE MUSIC FADES OUT.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JET'S TRUCK - MOVING

Melinda is driving. They have saved up over a grand. Mel wants to stop and see the ocean in LA. Jet's instinct is to keep moving but finally she agrees to stop and visit an old boyfriend in San Diego.

EXT. ELEGANT BEACH MOTEL - SUNSET

Jet's truck is parked in the lot.

INT. ELEGANT BEACH HOTEL - SUNSET

The girls are living it up. The ocean breeze sweeps through the French doors. Melinda is in a facemask dancing to music. Jet soaks in an indoor bubble bath Jacuzzi, with a facemask, sipping champagne, as she talks the phone to her old boyfriend and they agree to meet in an hour or two on the beach.

EXT. BEACH - SUNSET

Fog obscures the view. Jet and Melinda sit, staring at the ocean. It's Forth of July reminding Mel of the day they took her mom away. The girls share an intimate moment as Jet asks Mel what their mother was like. Mel tells her. Explaining that she never felt good enough to impress her mother. Then she asks Jet what she wants to do with her life? Jet says she just wants to make it to the Caribbean someday, and lead a simple life.

A HOOT penetrates the serenity.

A jeep, packed with five guys from the band, “Whiplash,” races toward them. Driving is HAZE, the lead singer. With his long silky hair, and pretty boy smile, he's quickly becoming a heartthrob in the local rock/blues circuit. Haze wears a white tux jacket, faded Levis, and cowboy boots. In true James Bond style, Haze scoops Jet aboard the speeding vehicle. He gives Jet his jacket and they pick Melinda up.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

A small beach party is in progress. Haze and his band, are JAMMING on the back porch. There is a wild assortment of partygoers, dancing, drinking, and cooking food. Jet pokes fun at a girl with a blue Mohawk.

Melinda watches a girl named Puppy set off some fireworks. They EXPLODE over the ocean. A girl dressed in head to toe leather, named PUPPY, approaches Melinda. Shows her how to set off an M-80 or cherry bomb. She gives one to Mel. She doesn't know what to do with it so she puts it in her purse.

Haze WAILS into the mike, gyrating as he sings especially for Jet.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE DEN - LATER

Only the die hards remain. Haze is in deep “stoner” discussion with Melinda, Puppy, and a *really* skinny pseudo surf-punk, known as FATBOY.

Jet and Haze go upstairs together to make love.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Melinda stands alone on the porch, looking out at the sea.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haze and Jet are intertwined in a passionate embrace.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT - LATER

Melinda strolls down the deserted foggy beach. Someone calls to her.

A SHADOWY FIGURE approaches. But the fog's too thick to make out who it is. The fog clears for a moment ... it looks like her father.

They run toward each other, slowly, with arms outstretched. Just as they are about to touch, the fog dissipates, and his face becomes clear ... it's Horton Jr.

Melinda screams, backs up, and trips over something ... *Random's dead body*.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

Melinda awakens from her nightmare, sprawled out on the sofa, alone. Its 9:00 a.m. She climbs upstairs and knocks on the bedroom door. Jet peeks out. Mel tells her she's going back to the hotel. Jet says she'll meet her there in thirty minutes.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

Melinda crosses the street, passing the high school.

EXT. MAIN-MART - MORNING

Melinda comes out, carrying a bag of groceries. She rounds the corner to their hotel, and stops dead in her tracks.

Police cars have surrounded Jet's truck. She backs away and takes off running in the opposite direction. No one notices Melinda ... or do they?

Across the street, inside a rental car, is Greer and Horton Jr.

They pull out and make a quick u-turn.

EXT. SIDE STREET - MORNING

They pull up along side of Melinda.

Horton says, *"I told you, you were dead"*. Thinking quick, she HURLS the bottle of orange juice. It SHATTERS the window frame, causing Greer to duck, and the car to swerve.

Melinda drops the groceries, and cuts through the high school parking lot. Greer follows. She TEARS down the bleacher stairs toward the football field below.

Near the top of the bleachers, Horton Jr. gets out of his car. There's no road down this way, and with his foot still in a cast, he can't go after her. He gets back into the car.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - MORNING

Melinda RACES across the field, toward the exit, (which is directly across from Haze's house).

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

Haze REVS UP his dune buggy. Jet, still wearing his tux jacket, kisses him good-bye. He takes off. Greer's car SPEEDS by her, SCREECHING around the corner and into the high school entrance. It catches Jet's attention.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - MORNING

Melinda sees Greer speeding toward her, SCREAMS and does a quick about face.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

Jet faintly hears her sister's cry of distress. She sprints toward the high school.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - MORNING

Greer pulls along side of Melinda. Horton Jr. taunts her. Exhausted, her pace has slowed, considerably.

She staggers underneath the bleachers, breathing heavy. Greer parks. He and Jr. follow her, on foot.

Under the bleachers, Melinda has reached a dead end. Hyperventilating, she collapses against a cement pillar. Her head is spinning. *They have her trapped.*

Greer removes his gun and hands it to Horton Jr. *Okay, she's all yours.* Melinda's legs give out. She sinks to the ground.

Pretending to break down, she huddles over her purse. Slyly, she gropes around inside it.

Horton Jr. smiles and walks toward her. But Melinda WHIPS out the cherry bomb, lights it, and hurls it at Horton Jr. It BLOWS UP in his face, knocking him to the ground. The gun sprawls across the asphalt.

Greer and Melinda dive for the gun. But Jet appears and grabs it first. Greer pulls out a knife and walks toward Melinda.

Jet yells at him to drop it. He says, *sorry, I got a job to do*, starts to throw the knife at Melinda. Jet fires and hits Greer in the head.

Jet stands there, aghast, she's never killed anyone before. Melinda recovers first, walks to Horton Jr. who is hunched over in pain, and kicks him in the stomach. He winces.

Completely transformed, Melinda runs toward the rental car, barking orders at Jet. Jet follows.

Greer's face is badly singed. He curses under his breath, attempting to pick himself up.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - MORNING

Melinda and Jet leap into his car.

Melinda starts Greer's car and whips a U-turn.

INT. GREER'S CAR - MOVING

Jet asks, *who the hell were they?*

Melinda explains that they were her ex-fiancé and one of his goons.

WHAM! From out of nowhere, Horton Jr. DIVES onto the windshield! Both girls SCREAM! His face is hideous from the burn.

EXT. GREER'S CAR - DAY

Melinda CRANKS the wheel HARD, BREAKS AND SWERVES VIOLENTLY, so that Horton Jr. might lose his grip. But the door WHIPS open and Horton Jr. manages somehow, to hang on to it.

Melinda CRAMS the gear into reverse and FLOORS the gas.

SPEEDING BACKWARD, Horton Jr. is about to be SLAMMED into the goal post.

He has no choice but to jump, just before the door is RIPPED from its hinges.

INT. GREER'S CAR - DAY

Jet looks back at Horton Jr. as he TUMBLES across the green, shielding himself from the CATAPULTING door.

Melinda explains to Jet that there were police all over the hotel.
Jet is devastated. She's lost her truck.

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Melinda and Jet SPEED by a HIGHWAY PATROLMAN, parked on the side of the road. He BLARES his siren and takes off, after them.

INT. GREER'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jet takes the wheel as Melinda slides over to the passenger side.

INT. PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

The cop requests backups.

EXT. ELEGANT BEACH HOTEL – SAME

The cops are still searching Jet's truck

One cop, listening to his radio, shouts to another. *"We have two females headed South bound on the freeway. This could be our girls"*.

INT. GREER'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jet waits until she reaches 80 mph, then SLAMS on the brakes.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Jet spins a one eighty, and accelerates into oncoming traffic. The patrol car shoots past them. He slams on his breaks, turns onto the shoulder and speeds after them.

INT. GREER'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jet blasts her horn, swerving around oncoming vehicles. Melinda clasps her hands together praying. They lurch to the right violently, avoiding a bus.

Both girls scream

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Jet SWERVES onto the shoulder, still driving against traffic. The patrol car follows, gaining on them. Jet WHIPS another U-turn. The patrol car attempts the same move, but loses control, and SPINS out in front of A LUMBER TRUCK, causing it to JACKKNIFE, BUSTING the trailer hitch.

The logs SPILL out and TUMBLE across the highway, CREATING A GIANT ROADBLOCK.

Jet, ahead of the jam, SPEEDS ahead for the next exit.

The patrol car detours around the accident, PLOWING up and over the embankment. Several other patrol cars catch up, following his path.

A helicopter appears from out of nowhere.

HELICOPTERS POINT OF VIEW

It quickly gains on the girls in the speeding car. There appears to be no way out of this.

INT. CAR - SAME

Jet tells Mel to give her, her bra. Melinda unclasps it and whips it out from under her shirt. Jet loops one end around the stick shift, locking the steering.

EXT. OFF RAMP - DAY

SHOT FROM ABOVE THE HELICOPTER:

The girls speed up the off ramp, approaching a four-way intersection. Straight ahead, leads back onto the highway.

The helicopter pulls down toward them.

From the helicopter a voice booms over the speaker telling them to pull over.

They run the stop sign, SCREECHING around the corner, where they are temporarily SHIELDED FROM VIEW from the helicopter, by the massive tree.

INT. GREER'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jet has attached the other end of Melinda's bra to the steering wheel, locking it into place. She says, "jump!"

EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY

The girls LEAP out the (door-less) passenger side of the car and roll into the bushes.

HELICOPTER'S POINT OF VIEW

The (now empty) car reappears, picking up momentum as it heads down the steep windy road. The helicopter blindly takes off after it.

The patrol cars make the intersection, swinging wide to turn right ... nearly colliding with an APPROACHING VAN, which TOWS A HUGE MOTOR BOAT, behind it.

About TEN PATROL CARS BLAST their HORNS and SPEED after the rental car, which heads for a sharp hairpin turn ...

EXT. WINDY ROAD - DAY

... and PLUMMETS dramatically over the side of the cliff.

The cops SPRING out of their cars, watching, as the rental car EXPLODES INTO FLAMES.

The patrolmen assume they're both dead.

EXT. HIGHWAY – MOVING- CONTINUOUS

But the girls are safe, laying in the back of the motorboat as the unsuspecting driver tows them along in his van. Jet pulls out a pack of cigarettes, but they're squashed. Both girls are broke. They left their stash back at the hotel.

An ominous cloud swallows the sun.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - SIX HOURS LATER

It's gloomy and windy on the desolate roadside. Jet and Melinda fight to stay warm, as they hitchhike. A car approaches, but passes them by.

It starts to pour down rain. Jet has had enough and takes her frustration out on Melinda, blaming her for everything. It was her fault she got involved in this. It was her fault that she threw the ring away, it was her fault that they stopped when they should of kept going. And most of all she wants her truck back.

Melinda fights back. Wants to know why she ever stopped and looked her up anyway. Jet admits finally it was for money. And she only let her in the truck because of the ring. Jet takes off. Melinda calls to her that she's just running away again looking for those blue skies. She screams that there are no blue skies. This I as blue as it gets!

It pours down... unforgiving.

A truck pulls up.

INT TRUCK – SAME

Two drunk, red necks gawk at her from inside.

EXT ROAD-SAME

The truck takes off. Jet isn't in it.

She sits under the bus stop shelter. Melinda has no choice but to join her in order to get out of the rain.

To her surprise Jet is crying.

Jet admits that she was out of line. And that she had judged Melinda unfairly. But was jealous because Mel seemed like the fairy tale princess sister, while Jet felt like the low life white trash girl in the pick up.

Mel admits she had cursed Jet's name all her life, too. She remembers her dad telling her he was her princess and that she had some kind of animal in her eyes, lions or cats...and then when he kidnapped Jet she didn't understand why he abandoned her. *To make matters worse, mom left too, in a way. She obsessed over finding you and started talking to herself late at night. No matter what I did, I could never seem to quite get her attention the way the shadow of you could. I couldn't make her happy. I remember as a kid, lying there at night praying that dad would come and kidnap me too.*

Jet admits that dad is a screw up but right now, he's the only man who can maybe help them out of this mess. Melinda doesn't want to go, but complies.

A local bus RUMBLES toward them. The sign reads "Sacramento"

They get in.

EXT. VACANT HOUSE - NIGHT

The rain has let up. Jet sneaks off, with the "*HOUSE FOR RENT*" sign.

Melinda writes on the back of the sign, with a black marker.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A corvette approaches.

Melinda signals to Jet. Jet flips the sign around, and digs it into the planter stand. She has written, "VALET PARKING".

The Corvette pulls up and stops. Looking official, in Haze's tux jacket, Jet opens the door for the unsuspecting snooty driver who heads inside the restaurant.

Jet jumps in the car, picks up Melinda, and they speed off.

EXT. HIGHWAY/CORVETTE - MOVING

The girls have a full tank of gas so they're off.

INT. MANSION - DAY

Horton sits at his desk yelling on the phone, reprimanding his son. Wants to know what the hell he's doing messing around in this business?

INT. PAY PHONE – SAME

Horton Jr. tells his dad things got screwed up. Greer is dead.

INT. MANSION - DAY

Tells his son to get on a plane right now and come home!

BACK TO INT. PAY PHONE

But Horton Jr. is gone. The phone dangles off the hook. The booth is located at a gas station ... in Tahoe.

INT. CASINO - NIGHT

FIVE PLAYERS, are in the middle of a high stakes poker hand. PLAYER #1 has two queens showing.

Jimmie Dee has four hearts showing. He puts money in the pot, bluffing.

Everyone folds but Player #1.

The dealer deals the final card, face down.

Jimmy Dee draws a club, making his hand worthless.

Jet spots Jimmy Dee, and struts toward him, snagging a glass of champagne from a waitress.

Player one bets.

Jet acts like a drunken bimbo and pretends to blow Jimmy Dee's strategy by commenting on his hand.

He slaps her across the face for giving away his hand.

Then he bets two hundred.

All eyes fall on player #1. He glances at the poker-faced Jimmy Dee ... and then at Jet, holding back tears.

Player one folds. Jet helped him bluff the guys out.

Jimmy Dee throws his arm around Jet and they take off. She comments that he almost really hit her and we realize it's an old scam they've worked out to perfection.

INT. CASINO - HALLWAY

Jimmy Dee says he completely screwed with the IRS. And asks if she's seen the papers. *It's a good thing you didn't go to Louisiana. Melinda was kidnapped a week ago. and that they're offering a big reward. Why didn't we think of that?*

Jet tells him not to believe everything he reads. And shows him Melinda. He's completely shocked. Jet says we'll explain later. Right now you need to just introduce yourself.

Jet gives them some time to get acquainted.

Father and daughter stare at each other as a difficult moment passes between them.

The last time they looked into each other's eyes, Jimmy Dee was leaving her. He takes off his hat and walks toward her. There are no words right now that, so Jimmy Dee just says hi.

Melinda explains she's in serious trouble. And so is Jet. The cops are after me and Horton's family wants me dead. Jimmie's first reaction is a selfish one and Melinda gets angry thinking it was mistake to see him. She wants to go, but Jimmie gets her to give him a chance. He reminds her of the times they had together twenty years ago and how she had tigers in her eyes.

Melinda calls her dad on his shit and he admits he has screwed up with her and Jet. Tries to explain why he did what he did, and how he wishes he could take it all back. She ends up deciding to forgive him and there is a tender reconciliation.

Jet, nearby, at the bar, shakes her head. But a smile tugs at the corners of her mouth.

EXT. CASINO PARKING LOT - NIGHT.

Tyrone, the bodyguard escorts ROSIE (Jimmy's girlfriend) to the car. She's a voluptuous woman, in her late thirties.

She gives Tyrone girlfriend advice and we learn she is one sharp cookie that doesn't miss a thing.

She climbs into her Mustang and pulls out as Tyrone waves good-bye.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

As Rosie drives onto the street, headlights turn on, behind her.

Horton Jr.'s Lincoln pulls out from the curb, following.

INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Rosie glances in her rear view mirror.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jimmy Dee, Melinda and Jet sit on cushions, in a private room, eating and drinking sake.

Melinda and Jet fill him in and explain that they want him to get them phony passports and head for the Caribbean's.

He says, we'll work something out. But for now, we need to get you in a safe place. If the Horton family found you once, it won't take them long to track you down again.

EXT. ROSIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rosie parks her Mustang in the driveway of a small but maintained suburban house. Rosie goes in, and flicks on the lights. The phone is ringing.

Horton Jr. parks down the street, and watches her house.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy Dee waits on the phone.

INT. ROSIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Rosie flips on the light and answers the phone.

BACK TO JIMMY DEE

He tells Rosie he wants to put the girls up in a cabin on the lake. Thinks they won't be safe at his house.

BACK TO MELINDA AND JET

Jet tells her sister everything will be okay now. *Dad's gonna get us out of the country.*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LAKE SHORE COTTAGE – MORNING –(ONE WEEK LATER)

A secluded, cottage overlooking the lake. Foreboding clouds loom over jagged peaks, in the background.

INT. LAKE SHORE COTTAGE - DAY

Melinda has her wet hair, wrapped in a towel. She retrieves a blow dryer from her over-night suitcase. The phone RINGS, startling her. She answers it.

INT. ROSIE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Rosie is making breakfast. Her hair is in rollers and she wears a leopard robe.

She tells her she's going to pick her up and take her to the airport in a couple of hours and that everything's been worked out.

BACK TO MELINDA

Melinda asks if they got the passports?

BACK TO ROSIE

Steals a quick glance out the window.

She says yes and reconfirms the address where Melinda is staying.

INT. HORTON JR.'S CAR

Horton Jr. is eavesdropping on their phone conversation, WITH A PHONE TAPPING DEVICE.

He writes down her address. *Gottcha.*

EXT. ROSIE'S HOUSE

Horton Jr. starts the car and SCREECHES around the corner.

EXT. LAKESHORE COTTAGE - DAY (TEN MINUTES LATER)

A car pulls slowly up, into the shadows, and parks.

Through the bathroom window, Melinda can be seen, getting ready.

INT. BATHROOM

Melinda finishes blow-drying her hair. She wears a simple dress. She tries to put on mascara, but her hand is shaking.

INT. BEDROOM

She crosses to the dresser. Puts on her sweater. She starts to put on her earrings, but drops them, suddenly.

IN THE REFLECTION OF THE DRESSER MIRROR, is Horton Jr., lying on the bed, behind her.

Their eyes lock in the mirror. Every muscle in Melinda's body tenses.

Horton Jr. lies on his back, with a pint of whiskey. His muddy boots, soil the quilt.

Slowly, deliberately she turns and walks toward him, then BAM! She grabs her suitcase and makes a beeline for the door. But Greer's too quick.

She SCREAMS as he carries her, CLAWING AND KICKING toward the bed. Her belongings FLY OUT of her suitcase as he THROWS her down, pinning her on the bed. She's helpless. But now that Horton Jr. finally has her, he hesitates. Melinda senses something. Self doubt? Fear?

Melinda taunts him. Asks how he found her.

He brags that he had a friend working for Gully the Sergeant on the case. He told me how to bug the phone. He's been listening to every conversation.

Melinda asks him what he wants.

Horton says he wants what he always wanted... and since she took away his manhood, he can do it to her with his gun if he has too. He gets her to strip... at gunpoint. She's trembling with fear. She gets him to admit that he set up Random years ago, then killed him in cold blood, on Harper's bridge. He says now he can kill her and it will all be blamed on the alleged kidnappers. Basically, his dad will print whatever they want to print...*my poor little victim. That's all you'll ever be ... a victim. Just like your mother. She went crazy because dad "took" her whenever he wanted, just like I'm going to take you now.*

He puts his gun down on the nightstand and leans over her.

Melinda screams *Now!*

Everything happens at once.

Melinda kicks his gun and it flies across the room...

The door crashes open as Gully and his men storm in...

Just as the gun hits the floor and FIRES ...

Grazing the first cop, stalling them just long enough for ...

Horton Jr. to GRAB Melinda around the neck and back into the open closet behind him. His *powerful hands wrap around her throat into a death grip*.

The cops can't shoot. Only Melinda is exposed to them. Horton's powerful fingers dig firmly into her neck, choking her ... just enough for emphasis.

Sergeant Gully tells him to give it up.

But Horton Jr.'s crazy and will kill her just for fun.

The men obey.

Horton Jr. orders everyone out.

Gully backs out.

Horton Jr. retrieves his gun and puts it to Melinda's head. He maneuvers toward the front entrance. He FIRES A ROUND through the door, for insurance. We hear SOMEONE FALL TO THEIR DEATH BEHIND THE DOOR.

Using her as a shield, he KICKS opens the front door.

EXT. CABIN

Horton Jr. keeps Melinda held tight up against him as he slides along a brick wall toward his car.

He yanks her hair for emphasis, and Melinda winces. Gully is across the lot. He holds both hands up...cooperating in full.

Horton Jr. makes it to his car with Melinda.

Jet stands on the other side of his car, dangling his car keys.

Horton Jr. yells for her to throw them.

Melinda notices that "look" in Jet's eyes. Something is up.

Behind Horton Jr., Melinda sees her father, hiding inside Horton Jr.'s car.

She winds up to throw the keys, giving the old "cue" *You remind me of my old boyfriend, Skip*.

Jet throws the keys. They fly through the air in SLOW MOTION.

Horton Jr. reaches out for them ... loosening his grip on Melinda.

She ducks out of the way, as the car door WHIPS open SMACKING Horton Jr. in the back, sending his gun spinning.

Jimmy Dee DIVES out of the front seat and lands on top of Horton Jr. The two men roll in the dirt.

Jet gets the gun. SIRENS BLARE as more cops pull in.

Jimmy Dee SLAMS Horton's face with punches, until the cops manage to pull him away, and apprehend Horton Jr.

Jet throws her coat around Melinda and helps her toward the cottage.

As the cop car pulls away we see Horton's intense bloody face looking to Melinda. He blows her a kiss.

Jimmy Dee and Rosie exchange a hug. They talk with Gully who agreed to give them this chance to set up Horton Jr. if the girls turned themselves in.

They shake hands.

He says, *You did the right thing, Jimmy Dee.*

Jimmy Dee says, *Yeah, well, it's about time.*

Melinda and Jet walking towards the cabin.

MELINDA (VO)

And so that's pretty much what happened. See when Jet had asked Jimmy Dee, the flakiest, live-by-the-seat-of your pants, take what you can get, screw unto others as you have been screwed yourself, grifter in Reno to help us con our way out of the country, he had surprised us by doing the unthinkable, the most risky thing he'd probably ever done, and yet somehow the most obvious...he'd called the cops.

INT. POLICE STATION – DAY

Shot of Gully sitting in a dark office, smoking. The clock reads 3 in the morning.

MELINDA (VO)

It didn't take Sergeant Gully long to figure out which of his men was feeding information to Horton Jr...

A young shifty eyed cop with a flashlight breaks in to find Gully waiting for him. He's caught red-handed.

MELINDA (VO)

And once Michael Skank was faced with a jail term, it took him even less time to switch over to our side.

INT. BUGGING DEVICE STORE-DAY

Shot of Horton Jr. purchasing some bugging equipment.

MELINDA (VO)

Skank prompted Horton Jr. in the fine art of tapping a civilian phone...

INT. JIMMY-DEES – DAY

Rosie talks onto the phone. She peeps out the window.

MELINDA (VO)

Which allowed us to dictate the exact time and location, Horton Jr. would play into our hand.

ROSIE'S POV THROUGH THE WINDOW

She watches as Horton Jr. pulls out.

INT. COTTAGE – SAME

Melinda paces in the room, she's scared but determined.

MELINDA (VO)

I insisted on going through with dad's plan, despite the risk. Somehow I knew I was going to beat the Horton's at their own game and clear my name, and Random's name, even if I died doing it.

EXT. STREET – DAY

A newspaper boy sells papers. The Headline shows a picture of Horton Sr. in handcuffs. The headline Reads “HORTON FAMILY DISGRACE UNRAVELED”

MELINDA (VO)

Once the story broke the feds conducted a thorough investigation on the Hortons and unturned more dirt than one could ever imagine...including a stifled \$250,000 life insurance settlement that mom had left for Jet and I.

INT. RENO STRIP CAFE – DAY- (SIX MONTHS LATER)

MELINDA (VO)

After paying off the IRS for dad, this just barely covered our court costs and left us flat broke again. And now with the local cops on to us, we had to lay low on the scams, which meant the ultimate horror of all horrors... straight jobs.

Melinda waits for Jet to get off work. She's dressed as a blackjack dealer. Jet comes out, seething, carrying her waitress tunic.

JET

I hate this stupid ass job. I quit. I gotta get out of this God forsaken, hellhole of a town.

She heads for a cashier, cashing in her paycheck for chips.

MELINDA

Well, let's get some dinner. I promised Rosie I'd get you out of here with your paycheck in tact.

JET

Fuck my paycheck. It's not enough for cat food, let alone a plane ticket.

The cashier gives her three hundred and fifty dollars in chips.

MELINDA

At least, we're making an honest living here.

Jet heads for a Roulette table. The dealer has all ready spun the wheel.

JET

Honest? This is a casino, sweetie. Who do you think your boss is, Abe Lincoln? Face it. We are slaves to manufactured Mafioso maggots, and we're just... better than that, okay?

She puts all of her chips down on black.

MELINDA

What are you doing? That's your entire paycheck!!
You can't play all of it!

JET

I believe I just did.

It comes out black.

JET

There we go.

MELINDA

Okay, you doubled your money. Come on.

JET

I say we go for a little "De ja Vu".

Jet let's the money ride.

MELINDA

Jet!

Too late, he spins the wheel.

MELINDA

I can't watch.

JET

It's all good baby, all good.

Black again.

MELINDA

Okay, that's fourteen hundred dollars!! That's enough for two weeks in a resort hotel and your frigg'en first class plane ticket.

She thinks about it.

JET

Gonna need one for you, too.

MELINDA

Oh, God.

The ball spins....and spins... onlookers come over to watch the outcome.

JET

This is it. We're outta here. This is it. We get black, we are in a taxi and on the plane to the Tropic's by happy hour.

(to Melinda)

You with me? Hey! You with me...?

MELINDA

(unable to resist)

Come on...

CLOSE ON BALL.

It lands on red.

Jet doesn't say a word. She grabs her waitress smock and heads out.

MELINDA

(to herself)

Every week. She leaves broke. Every week.

EXT. RENO STRIP -SAME

Melinda runs after her.

MELINDA

You are just a stubborn little mule.

JET

And you are a whining nag with tits.

MELINDA

You just threw away a week of work.

JET

So what?! We're throwing away our whole lives in this place. We were famous outlaws, Melinda. We were Tigers Eyes and the Comeback Kid. We are not waitresses and black jack dealers. We just...aren't.

She walks off down the road. Melinda pauses...smiles. Runs after her.

MELINDA

Hey.

JET

What? Gotta light?

MELINDA

Here.

(hands her a lighter)

So...you really blew your money back there... for me?

I mean you want me to go with you that bad?

JET

Evidentially, yes. It's not the first mistake I've made.

Jet shelters the lighter from the wind to light her cig. Melinda stares at her and gasps.

MELINDA

Huh! What's that?!

JET

What's what?

MELINDA

In your ear. There's something...

She reaches into her ear...

MELINDA

...in here. Unbelievable.

Melinda is holding the *diamond engagement ring in her hand*. Jet is confused for half of a second, then her eyes light up with a combination of shock, anger and complete admiration.

JET

No fucking way.

Melinda takes off running, laughing her ass off, passing rows of Pawn Shops.

MELINDA

(calling out)

Where am I ever going find a pawnshop in this town?

Ha ha ha ha ha!

JET
No mother fucking way!

MELINDA
Ha ha ha ha!

JET
No mother fucking way did you keep me in the dark this
whole fucking son of a bitch time!

MELINDA
Hey! I was afraid you'd saw off my finger in my sleep.
So when you heard that splash in the river...it was a rock.

JET
(with total respect and admiration)
You little bitch whore! That was six months ago!!

MELINDA
You know what they say about whipping out the engagement ring...
Timing's gotta be just right.

THE CAMERA CRANES OUT

As the girls jump up and down laughing and hugging!

CAMERA PANS up and up until it reaches the blue, blue sky.