

"IDEA IN AMERICA"

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. AIRPLANE DAY

An extreme C.U. of a red haired girl and a blond 23 year old man, SANDY, kissing. We move back to reveal that they are on a plane. The 22 year old vivacious Italian girl, named IDEA FANTI, pulls away, her eyes gleaming.

IDEA
(with a charming accent)
So, did that help you forget about the girl who broke your heart?

SANDY
(rather taken)
Oh yeah..

IDEA
Where did you say you were from?

SANDY
Mississippi. It's pretty down there.
Come visit, I'll give you a taste of real Southern hospitality.

IDEA
I'd love to but-

A STEWARDESS comes by to get their trays: Idea's chicken entree looks untouched.

SANDY
Don't you eat?

IDEA
(with a smile)
It's okay, thank you. I didn't understand it was chicken. I HATE chicken..

Idea, her mood changed, leans her head against the window and lost in her thoughts, looks outside.

FLASHBACK FANTASY:

INT. DINING ROOM, IDEA'S HOUSE ROME NIGHT

The following scene is in Italian with English subtitles.

From above we see a C.U. of a roasted chicken on a silver platter placed on a linen covered table.

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A pair of hands enter the frame and begin to dissect the chicken, carefully placing slices on a plate. The first portion is given to IDEA. She smiles and reaches to take the plate.

The other hand holding the plate doesn't let go. We follow the hand that resists: it belongs to SANDRO FANTI, Idea's father, 53, a successful industrialist, thin, strong, powerful. In italian:

SANDRO

Chicken belonging to the genus of..?

IDEA

(showing off her education)
Phasianidae. First domesticated in India circa 2000 B.C. Derived from the red jungle fowl, family of gallus. Plymouth Rock species, horny crest-

She hesitates, Sandro butts in.

SANDRO

Omeosome, ethereosome or intermediate race?

IDEA

(humiliated)
Dad, c'mon, I don't know, it's been cooked!

Idea and Sandro continue to wrestle with the plate. Idea's brother, ANDREA, 14 years old, long hair, rebellious looks, big heart, intervenes.

ANDREA

Dad, it's getting cold.

Sandro gives the plate a forceful tug. Idea loses her grip.

SANDRO

(to Idea)
You're leaving tomorrow to go to America to do research at the most famous Institute of Ornithology and can't even recognize which race-

IDEA

(hurt and angry)
I'm an ornithologist specialized in the American Bald Eagle dad, not in chickens!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SANDRO
 (disdainful laugh)
 American Bald Eagles. Utterly
 impractical. How do you expect to make a
 living for yourself studying something
 that can't even be bought, sold or eaten?

Idea's sister, ALLEGRA, 9 years old, funny, witty and pretty,
 chimes in.

ALLEGRA
 But eagles can fly, dad.

SANDRO
 (ironical)
 Really?
 (to everyone)
 If it were not for chickens and Fanti
 Poultry Industries none of you would
 enjoy the standard of life you are
 accustomed to.
 (to his wife)
 Isn't it so dear?

Idea's mother, SERENA FANTI, nods and breaks into a fit of
 coughs. She's a beautiful, sophisticated 48 year old woman,
 with a caring look, veiled by sadness.

SERENA
 Let's just enjoy our meal and wish Idea
 bon voyage, okay?

SANDRO
 You too, you know, you could have helped
 to convince her to work for our company.

IDEA
 Dad please.. Not the night before I
 leave.

SANDRO
 If you don't want to work for the company
 right away, I don't see why you can't do
 your research here at the University of
 Rome.

IDEA
 Because they don't have a Department of
 Eagles.

SANDRO
 So what? I can get them to develop one
 and I'll sponsor it for you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

IDEA

Thanks, Dad, but I don't want anything.

Idea's second brother, CARLO, 11 years old, rambunctious and funny, but in:

CARLO

Dad, Idea is not going to need anything.

(to Idea)

Tell father about all the savings you managed to put away on your own while working at the University.

Idea would have liked for this not to be mentioned. She shakes her head.

ALLEGRA

(to Idea)

Tell him.

ANDREA

Why don't you two leave her alone?

IDEA

Not big deal, I've about two thousand dollars that will keep me going until I get my first paycheck.

Sandro laughs at her. Idea is hurt.

SANDRO

About TWO thousand dollars!

Then, furious, jumps up from his seat.

SANDRO (cont'd)

Fine. "Fly the coop" but don't expect any support from me, of any kind. You're on your own, understood?

IDEA

Fine.

Idea, at first immobilized by her father's reaction, sits in silence, fighting her tears.

SANDRO

You'll never succeed there.

SERENA

Let's just hope for the best, okay?

Idea lifts her eyebrows and knocks on wood.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Andrea
(sad, to Idea)
You're going so far!

IDEA
Not far enough.

Silence. Tension. Plates and silver clink as the HELP passes the dinner around the elegant table. We start hearing the SOUNDS of the interior of a passenger plane. From above:

Idea's seat is now empty. Her family members stop eating for a few seconds to look up at the sky and wave at Idea smiling.

The AIRPLANE SOUNDS become louder.

INT. AIRPLANE DAY

An extreme C.U. of IDEA shaking her head with a smile on her lips that hides some anger. Sandy, clueless, smiles back at Idea. Idea smiles back at him.

CAPTAIN (O.S.)
Ladies and gentlemen, this is Captain Sullivan. If you look out to your left, we're about to fly over Hoover dam. We'll be arriving at John Wayne Airport in Irvine, California about twenty minutes from now.

IDEA
I can't wait to set foot in California!

SANDY
Really? But Italy is awesome! It's so..
so-

IDEA
Have you been there?

SANDY
(embarrassed)
No.

Idea laughs. He laughs too. He leans over but suddenly, she pulls away and wriggles out of her seat.

IDEA
Need to use the toilet before the
seat belts sign comes on.

SANDY
Me too, actually.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Idea goes to the toilet. Sandy follows her. She teases him but then shuts the door. Confused, he slips into another toilet.

FANTASY:

SERENA and SANDRO are sitting in the airplane seats left vacant by Idea and Sandy.

Sandro is in his office mode making notes on his computer, while reading some official reports.

Serena, sitting under a hair dryer with a green facial masque and a white POODLE, also under a hair dryer, and on her lap, is looking inside Idea's bag. They address Idea in Italian.

SERENA

Idea, you've only brought one small bag for an entire year! And no facial creams!

Serena looks up at a thoughtful Idea, who stands in the aisle waiting for Sandy to come back and take his seat.

IDEA (V.O.)

Mother, I want to start fresh. I'll buy my own things when I get there, with my first paycheck! I'm so excited!!!

We see Sandro's face lifting up.

SANDRO

Excited, always excited. Idea, you're too rambunctious. When will you learn to control yourself?

IDEA (V.O)

You're always criticizing me. And you are talking to me about control???
You've spent your whole life getting excited whenever a woman walks by you.
(to her mother)
Isn't it true, mother?

Serena shrugs as if to say: what can I do? Idea shakes her head in disapproval. End of FANTASY. The seats are vacant. Sandy comes in, joins Idea and they both sit down.

INT. AIRPORT, RENTAL CAR DESK CALIFORNIA DAY

Idea arrives at the rental car desk. A 35 year old MAN, with carrot like RED HAIR crosses her path politely nodding hello.

Idea puts down her luggage and searches through her purse and her backpack for some papers.

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IDEA

Good morning, I've made a reservation for a car.

She hands some documents to the CLERK who looks at them.

CLERK

Idea? What kind of a name is that?

IDEA

No, Ee-day-ah. It's Italian.

The Clerk chuckles.

CLERK

Well, do you have any ee-day-ah of what kind of car you'd like today?

Idea doesn't get the joke.

CLERK (cont'd)

Sorry.

(speaking slowly and louder)

What type of car would you prefer?

IDEA

A cliché car.

CLERK

Sorry, a what?

IDEA

I am in California, right? So maybe a convertible? A cliché, right?? And with GPS, iPod and iPad plugs, please. It's only for a few days, until I get organized. Then I will take the Metro to my job.

CLERK

(looks up, not sure)

And where will you be staying?

IDEA

In a hotel. Until my company helps me to find my own apartment.

CLERK

Nice company. Did they mention that there is no "Metro" in Orange County?

IDEA

Pardon?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Sandy comes up behind Idea.

CLERK

The gentleman is with you?

Idea turns and sees Sandy grinning at her. She smiles politely in return.

IDEA

Oh, no! No, I've only known him for..
 (she looks at her iPhone)
 For.. six hours. Since I changed planes
 in New York. Cute huh?

CLERK

I need to see your driver's licence and a
 major credit card, please.

Idea starts looking through her purse. Sandy comes closer.

SANDY

I don't have to be at my sister's house
 till this evening. Maybe we could hang
 out a bit?

He leans to kiss her, but Idea she pulls away.

IDEA

I'd like to, I'd love to, I'd adore to,
 BUT:
 (whispering seductively)
 I want you to remember something for the
 rest of your life..

Sandy looks at her expectantly.

IDEA (cont'd)

(still whispering)
 Once is okay, twice is a relationship.

She smiles at him ironically. He gets the message.

SANDY

(crestfallen)
 Oh..

IDEA

Listen, I know there's someone great out
 there for you!

He fakes a smile, turns and leaves, his shoulders slumping.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

IDEA (cont'd)
 (to the clerk)
 Was I too much?

CLERK
 Sorry?

IDEA
 Come?

CLERK
 Excuse me?

IDEA
 Niente. Nothing.

EXT. VARIOUS ROADS CALIFORNIA DAY

Idea, at the wheel of her American rental car, drives along some typical L.A. County roads. The RADIO blasts music.

INT. RENTAL CAR DAY

Idea hits the freeway. Happy, she snaps her fingers to the music. She leans her head out the window to inhale some American air. She feels free. Then she suddenly frowns as she looks into her rearview mirror.

FANTASY:

In the plush back seat she sees her entire family: SERENA, SANDRO, ANDREA, CARLO and ALLEGRA, all squeezed together.

SANDRO
 Idea, you come to America and land on an ugly freeway in the middle of nowhere. You don't know how to travel. When I brought you here in America, I took you to all the best places.

We see Allegra's face.

ALLEGRA
 Don't you guys remember? The first time, she didn't want to come here at all. Father insisted so much that Mother had to really push her.

We see Idea's face in the rearview mirror.

IDEA (V.O.)
 Well, now I'm here because I want to. And I'm here on my own with my own money that I saved and will prove to you-
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 (suddenly stops and frowns)
 Who the hell is THAT?

With them, making the quarters even more cramped, is a 40 year old WOMAN, blond and super sexy. Sandro has his arm around her. Serena, removing herself, looks out the window.

CARLO
 Dad's new lover. Number fifteen!

ANDREA
 Number twenty two that we know of. The rest were before we were born.

Serena starts to cough, then applies some lipstick. No reaction from Sandro who continues his fun ride.

Idea rolls her eyes, reaches up and twists the rearview mirror away. End of FANTASY. Idea turns up the RADIO to full volume.

EXT. ROADS, IRVINE CALIFORNIA DAY

Idea passes a small group of skyscrapers: the "futuristic" city of Irvine.

The deserted road takes her past several industrial parks interspersed among empty fields.

Finally, she steers her car toward a cluster of corporate buildings and stops in front of one.

EXT. CORPORATE BUILDING CALIFORNIA DAY

Idea gets out of her rental car and stares at the building. Full of optimistic enthusiasm, she reaches back into the car and pulls her diary out of her "birds watching" bag: a CAMCORDER. She holds it at arm's length and starts recording herself.

VIDEO INSERT: Idea speaks to her camcorder.

IDEA
 I've brought you with me to record eagles but also to record my new life, and I'll do it all in English! It almost seems too good to be true! I am, on my own, in America. In a moment I will walk into that building..

She pans over to the building, then back to herself.

(CONTINUED)

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IDEA (cont'd)

And begin my job as a research assistant,
charting the migration patterns of the
American Bald Eagle..

A look of concern flits across her face.

IDEA (cont'd)

I'm so happy that I feel almost scared..
It is a little scary, when your dreams
come true. What happens then? Will I
have to have a new dream? Will the old
one seem stupid?

Suddenly, she laughs and makes a face at herself in the
camera.

IDEA (cont'd)

I should just shut up! And go in there
and start my new independent life!

The camera clicks off. End of VIDEO INSERT.

Idea, folders and bag in hands, walks up to the main entrance
of the building and disappears inside.

A few moments go by. Idea comes out of the building walking
slowly, her head down, her mood dramatically changed. She
seems devastated. She stops and sits down on the hood of her
car. Sad, confused and a bit dazed, she just sits there.

IDEA (cont'd)

Merda.

She starts to cry. Heavy, sad tears run down her cheeks.

After a short while, IAN FARLEYS, a scientist in his late 30s
with a slightly nerdy and neurotic edge to him, comes out of
the building and starts walking fast towards Idea.

IAN

Ms. Fanti?

Idea turns away from him, wiping away her tears.

IAN (cont'd)

Hmm.. Ciao!

Idea does not respond.

IAN (cont'd)

I'm really sorry..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Idea crosses her arms and looks at him stonily, her lip quivering.

IAN (cont'd)
(giving her a folder)
Here, you forgot this.

Idea, angry, grabs the folder.

IAN (cont'd)
It really would have been nice to have
you here working with us.

Idea explodes.

IDEA
(ruffling her folder)
I can't believe you did this to me! All
the way from Italy for nothing! Merda!

The papers come out of the folder, get caught by the wind and scatter like a snow flurry. Ian wades into the storm, trying to gather the papers.

IAN
Please, Ms. Fanti, calm down. We're all
very disappointed that the Appropriations
Bill was voted down. We've been relying
on this grant for twenty years. It's all
just a very unfortunate turn of events.

IDEA
You could have let me know! In-cre-di-bi-
le!

IAN
We only got word of this yesterday. We
tried to find you, but you were already
on the plane from Rome.
(change of pace, with smile)
You know.. I love Rome!

Idea gives him an ironic, fake smile and begins pacing nervously, entering and exiting the frame. Ian follows her movements with his head as if watching a ping pong game.

IDEA
I can't believe this! They told me I
would start working on Monday. I came to
live here for a whole year..

She starts to cry again, uncontrollably.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

IDEA (cont'd)

What am I going to do now?

IAN

I guess you'll have to go back to Italy.
My office can make the arrang-

IDEA

Go back to Italy? It took me years to
get this opportunity. You must be
joking.

IAN

Joking? Me? Not at all! I'm a
scientist. Everyone knows we have no
sense of humor.

For the first time, Idea starts to smile at him.

IAN (cont'd)

That's better!

(pause)

Look, I really am sorry about all this.
If there's some way I could help..

IDEA

(pulling herself together)

I have so little money and I need some
time to figure out what to do next..
Maybe you could help me decide what to do
with my car situation.

IAN

Well, if you want to rent something less
expensive, I know a place nearby.

EXT. ROAD/CALIFORNIA

DAY

Idea and Ian drive past inside Idea's nice and large
convertible rental car.

IAN

You know, sometimes things happen for the
best.

IDEA

Really? You think so?

IAN

Suppose you had the job. A large part of
your responsibilities would have entailed
going to and from the lab in Tustin.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IAN (cont'd)
 Statistically speaking, the odds are that you would have been involved in an auto accident and you might have really hurt yourself..

IDEA
 (doesn't believe it)
 Ah huh.. I see.. In Italian we call this SFIGA, si?

Ian does not get it but smiles. The car leaves the frame.

After a short time lag, Idea and Ian come back through the same frame in the opposite direction. They are in a small, beaten up convertible.

IDEA (cont'd)
 I can't believe I've found this car! I always wanted to own a convertible!

INT. IDEA'S CONVERTIBLE DAY

Idea's sense of adventure has returned. She giggles at the thought of her new purchase. Ian seems full of doubts.

IAN
 I can't believe you bought it. Ex rental cars are not that safe.

IDEA
 It was an incredible deal!

IAN
 But you said you didn't have much money.

IDEA
 True, but I can sell it later or exchange it for something else. Isn't this what America is about?

IAN
 But you don't even know what you're going to do yet.

Idea slams on the brakes. The car screeches to a stop in the middle of nowhere. Ian throws his hands out to stop himself from going through the windshield.

IDEA
 I do!

EXT. ROAD CALIFORNIA DAY

The doors of the convertible are open. Idea gets out followed after a few seconds by Ian.

IDEA

I am going to get another job! Can you please help me find it?

IAN

But-

IDEA

You're an ornithologist. You must know of other facilities that could use my services. Please call someone, please.

IAN

Idea, it's not that simple.

IDEA

I beg you! I'm alone here. I have no one else to help me. And I really don't want to go back to Rome. My father will laugh at me and say "I told you so".

IAN

It's Friday afternoon, I don't think-

IDEA

Please.. And don't look that direction.

Ian gets his cell out and gets out of the car, while Idea hides behind the convertible, squats down and starts peeing.

FANTASY:

As if inside a roofless sitting room, we find Serena and Sandro, comfortably lying around on their sofas, being served tea in the middle of nowhere.

SANDRO

What the hell are you doing Idea? Just come back home.

SERENA

Sweetheart, listen to your father, after all he cares for you. And don't make us worry so much.

IDEA (V.O.)

I'm twenty two years old! I know what I'm doing!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SANDRO

(to Serena)

I'm worried, she's just an unexperienced kid. She'll never find another job there.. I'll bet everything I have on it. She should just come back home now before she hurts herself more.

Idea rubs her eyes trying to push it all away. END of FANTASY. She pulls up her underwear and joins Ian who is already off the phone.

IDEA

Anything?

Ian shakes his head and shrugs.

IDEA (cont'd)

I've to find something. I've to go.

IAN

Where?

IDEA

I don't know yet. But I've to go.

IAN

What can I do just like.. that?

(snaps his fingers)

The only other thing I can think of is this guy Thomas, he was at the center with me, also an ornithologist, and when his mother died he moved back to Arizona where his father lives. His father is a great scientist, a nematognathologist-

IDEA

Catfish?

IAN

Yeah. And I believe Thomas works on and off in Georgia at the Okefenokee facility.

IDEA

Okefenokee?!?! It's the most advanced center for the breeding of the Bald Eagle in the world! I tried to apply there but then I got this job with you.. well, I THOUGHT I got it. Anyway.. Okefenokee is an incredible place! And that's where I'll go. It's a great idea, I've always wanted to go there! Thanks so much!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

IAN

Wait a minute! They've been having problems with their funding as well. Plus Thomas should introduce you. But it's Friday evening and.. Why don't you and I do something together and then-

IDEA

What's Thomas's number?

IAN

His cell number.. is.. 403.. 224 7668

IDEA

You know it by heart?

IAN

Yeah, I know all cell numbers by heart.

IDEA

(writing it on her iPhone)
You don't mind if I-

IAN

Oh not at all, please go ahead.

IDEA

Really? Sure?

IAN

Sure!

IDEA

What way is Arizona?

IAN

(now shocked)
Hmmm, that way, why?

IDEA

(kisses him)
Thanks a million, you're great! We'll keep in touch, okay?

She sincerely embraces him and then gets in her car, turns it on, starts leaving and waving at Ian, who, still under shock, just stands there, motionless.

IDEA (cont'd)

(loud)
Ciao!!!

IAN

Ciao!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

He kindly waves at Idea. He sees her convertible disappear into the distance. He then looks at the desolate space around him.

IAN (cont'd)

Shit.

EXT. ROADS CALIFORNIA SUNSET

Idea's car with a flat tire, lies along the empty road, half buried in a ditch, hood and trunk open.

Idea stands there, alone, trying to stop the few cars that go by. Finally a HUGE TRUCK pulls over. A MAN leans out of the window.

MAN

What happened, hon?

IDEA

The wheel went BANG! There is no other wheel, plus, I could not control the car anymore and-

MAN

You call THAT a car?

The man jumps down from the truck.

IDEA

Where's the closest metro stop?

MAN

What metro???

IDEA

(in Italian, really concerned)
Oh no.. poor Thomas! Why didn't he say?
I better ring him up to-

MAN

Huh?

IDEA

Is there a telephone near by? My battery just died.

(to herself in Italian)
Who am I going to call? I don't have his cell number and his office is closed.

MAN

What language was that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA
Italian.

MAN
Italian, huh? Know anybody in the mafia?

The man pulls by hand the car out of the ditch. He gets a rope and ties the convertible to his truck. Then he jumps on the truck. Idea just stands there, a bit unsure of what's going on.

MAN (cont'd)
C'mon. Jump in! What are you, chicken?

IDEA
I hate chickens.

MAN
Does that mean you're coming?

IDEA
Where?

MAN
We'll get your tire fixed, then I suggest you stop at a motel or somethin', it's getting dark, you shouldn't be driving alone at night in that thing.

IDEA
How far are we from Arizona?

MAN
Just about a hundred and eighty miles.

Idea jumps on the truck. The truck drives off dragging behind Idea's minuscule convertible.

INT. HILTON HOTEL, BEDROOM CALIFORNIA NIGHT

Close on: Idea's finger traces along her map of the eagle's migration route, going from California to Georgia. As her finger moves along the track, she pushes used room service dishes out of the way: she had lobster, cake, champagne.. We hear her talking to her mother on Skype.

IDEA (V.O.)
No, mother I have found a great car, and the job is.. wonderful! They just asked me to transfer, that's all. It will be great! It will be even a better job!

While talking, she orders on TV, pay per view Animal Planet.

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CONTINUED:

IDEA (V.O) (cont'd)

No, I'm staying at the Hilton to save money. I am broke now, but it won't be like this very soon! No! Please don't tell father anything yet-

MAINTENANCE knocks on the door. Idea opens: her iPhone adaptor gets delivered. She signs and gives a huge tip, the GUY surprised, smiles radiantly.

Idea goes back sitting on the bed, surrounded by maps, guide books, her MAC, iPod and iPad. She decides to look inside the mini bar and starts munching on some chocolate and nuts.

IDEA (cont'd)

You don't have to remind me. I know father is always right.. No, I'm almost in Arizona.. Yes, I'm meeting some scientists in Arizona and then continue on to Okefenokee, O-ke-fe... forget it, mom. What time is it here?

She looks at the clock on her iPhone. She gets a couple of soft drinks from the mini bar and tries a third one.

IDEA (cont'd)

Three here.. Yes, in the morning. I just woke up.. Mom, no one ever died from jet lag. I feel fine! Uncle Giorgio? GIORGIO WHO? Grandma's cousin's son??? He's not my uncle. He's not even YOUR uncle! Okay, okay, If I need a lawyer or a good hospital I'll call him.

She writes down an address on the iPad.

IDEA (cont'd)

Yes, I'm writing it down. I love you, too. I'll call you tomorrow.. Ciao mamma, ciao ciao.

She turns off Skype.

INT. HILTON HOTEL LOBBY NIGHT

Idea is at the check out desk in the lobby of the motel, with her one small bag beside her.

IDEA

Hi! I'm Idea Fanti, I'm checking out.

She takes off her shirt, exposing her bra, smiles, and puts on a new one. The Clerk, quite shocked, hands her the bill.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLERK

Here, Ms. Fanti.

IDEA

(looking at the bill)

Four hundred seventyfive dollars?! For THIS place? And I was only here for five hours.

CLERK

Yes, Ms. Fanti.. One hundred forty two dollars room service, plus pay per view, you also purchased an extra adaptor, and used the mini bar. And the rest is for the room and taxes.

IDEA

I'm sorry, I had no idea.. No pun intended, I promise.

EXT. HIGHWAY CALIFORNIA NIGHT

Idea is driving her car and shooting with her camcorder.

INT. IDEA'S CAR CALIFORNIA NIGHT

Idea narrates over the image of the dark road ahead flashed by her car lights.

IDEA (V.O.)

Day two, I guess.. I feel sleepy and restless at the same time.. And angry at myself. I can't believe I spent all that money. All I did was doing what I always do when I'm in a hotel with my parents. Actually this was such a cheap place in comparison.

She puts the camcorder on the dashboard and continues to speak to it as she keeps driving: we see only a piece of Idea's face: just mouth and eyes.

IDEA (cont'd)

From now on, no more expensive hotels.

(pause)

If I were a bird, I would have no need for a stupid bedroom..

Idea makes a funny face. End of VIDEO INSERT.

EXT. HIGHWAY CALIFORNIA NIGHT

Idea is driving along a deserted highway.

INT. IDEA'S CAR NIGHT

Idea cradles the camcorder on her shoulder, taping the road ahead as she listens to some music on her iPod.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD CALIFORNIA DAWN

Idea's car comes around a lit bend. Light is just beginning to show in the sky as Idea's car traverses some desert.

INT. IDEA'S CAR DAWN

The camcorder is back on the dashboard. Idea is getting a little punchy from night driving and jet lag. She leans into the lens.

VIDEO INSERT:

Idea's sleepy face appears huge and distorted, then lit up.

IDEA

Wow!

End of VIDEO INSERT. We now see what has distracted her: up ahead the sun is rising, huge, over the horizon. A big SIGN says: "Welcome to Arizona".

EXT. DESERT ROAD ARIZONA DAWN

Idea's car comes to a full stop at a crossroads. She opens the door, gets out and leans against the car. Idea watches in awe as the sun climbs higher into the sky. She blinks from the glare. When she opens her eyes she sees:

FANTASY:

Straight ahead, over the landscape, the image of the COLISEUM in Rome, is superimposed.

Her entire family appears as a tableau: with the help of a MAID, Serena puts the finishing touches on a flower arrangement set in the middle of an antique dining room table. Sandro is resting on a Corbusier chair. A beautiful SECRETARY, a brunette, sitting much too close to him, is showing him some chickens' packaging. ANDREA is playing his bass, while Allegra and Carlo are playing with a video game.

ALLEGRA

Dad has been saying that things will not work out for you there and that you'll be back soon.

Idea knocks on wood, makes the Italian "horns" gesture.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA (O.S.)

Toh! I will clean toilets if I have to,
but I will stay here.

CARLO

Dad has already arranged for a job for
you at his chicken factory.

Idea frowns.

IDEA (O.S.)

Never. And tell him to stop maneuvering
my life from there.

ANDREA

Jonathan keeps calling for you. You
shouldn't have left without saying bye to
him. He has such a crush on you.

SERENA

Remember to get enough sleep darling.
You don't want wrinkles.

SANDRO

She sleeps too much. That's where all
her silly dreams come from.

IDEA (O.S.)

I'll sleep when I want to, where I want
to and with whom I want to!

END of FANTASY. Idea, fighting her fears, slips inside her
car, puts it into gear and turns the opposite way to escape.

EXT. DESERT ROAD ARIZONA DAY

Idea's car leaves the empty crossroads and disappears into
the distance.

EXT. "VILLAS MEDITERRANEAS" ARIZONA DAY

A "planned community" of identical tract houses all with
names of Mediterranean cities: "Monaco", "Valencia", "St.
Tropez". We follow one of the many identical streets and we
find Idea's convertible, parked in front of a house called
"IBIZA".

INT. IDEA'S CAR DAY

Tight close up on Idea's face. She is sleeping soundly.

EXT. "VILLA IBIZA" DAY

A young man, THOMAS MC CADDEN, early 30s, walks up to Idea's car and knocks on the window.

INT. IDEA'S CAR DAY

Idea wakes with a start.

IDEA
(in Italian and English)
What?! Dove sono? What time is it?

Trying to get her bearings, she sits up and sees Thomas.

THOMAS
Hello, I'm Thomas McCadden, you must be Idea.

IDEA
Oh yes, ciao!
(yawning away)
Scusa, si! Hello!

THOMAS
Why didn't you just ring the bell?

IDEA
Hmm... I made it here at six a.m.

THOMAS
Six a.m.? It's four in the afternoon now. C'mon, let's get you inside the house.

EXT. VILLA IBIZA ARIZONA DAY

Idea gets out of her car, grabs her small bag and nervously looks around: each identical house and sign bear European city names.

IDEA
(ironic)
Ibiza, Capri, Mikonos! I'm back in Europe! Great!

THOMAS
(grabs her bag)
So.. how's our common friend Ian?

IDEA
Hmmm.. Great!

She follows him in the door.

EXT. MC CADDEN HOUSE, POOL AREA DAY

Idea and Thomas are sitting at the pool, relaxing, having a drink in the warm summer evening.

IDEA

I was supposed to have a job in California working for Ian, but when I got there they didn't have any money, so he suggested I'd ask you to help me get a position in Georgia, at Okefenokee.

THOMAS

I'm supposed to go there in a few weeks and I'll try to find out if-

IDEA

A few weeks???

Idea looks around and spots a door with a sign that says: "Catfish Haters Keep Out!"

THOMAS

It's my father's lab.

IDEA

Yes, Ian mentioned that your father is a renowned scientist, a catfish specialist.

THOMAS

It's true.

JOE, Thomas's father, walks out of his lab and towards them. About 60 years old, he looks eccentric, yet his eyes bear a very human expression.

THOMAS (cont'd)

Here he comes.

IDEA

Great guy!

THOMAS

How do you know?

IDEA

I don't know but I know..

Joe is standing next to them.

THOMAS

Father, this is Idea, an ornithologist from Rome, a friend of Ian Ferguson's.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS (cont'd)
 (to Idea)
 I LOVE Rome, by the way.

JOE
 Nice to meet you.

Idea looks at him persistently, with great interest.

IDEA
 (too enthused)
 Idea, please to meet you!!!

Joe smiles, gets himself a drink, refills Idea's glass and sits down.

JOE
 Italian for idea, right?

IDEA
 (delighted)
 Yes! It was my parents' "idea".

THOMAS
 Idea is passing by, she'll spend the night here with us and-

JOE
 Where are you going? To Okefenokee?

IDEA
 (surprised)
 YEAH!!!

JOE
 For what kind of position?

IDEA
 Doing field research on American Bald Eagles. They're my passion!

Joe smiles at her enthusiasm.

JOE
 Funny, you don't seem like the bird of prey type. Now, Thomas works there at times, he's a great nests specialist.

IDEA
 I heard.

THOMAS
 Not as great a scientist as my father, of course, but I try.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

IDEA
You're much younger!

JOE
That has got very little to do with it.

Some tension builds between father and son.

IDEA
Do you mind if I call my family in Rome
for a sec?

THOMAS
Please go ahead.

Idea walks a bit further away to avoid disturbing them. In the back ground we hear some Italian words.

JOE
Nice girl huh?

THOMAS
Yes.

JOE
Let's fix her dinner, how about a
barbecue?

THOMAS
I'd like to, but I told Mary I would go
over to her house and-

JOE
Mary? You guys have been together for
ten years, aren't you bored yet? Look
how lovely Idea is..

THOMAS
Okay, okay.. You were not bored with
mother though. You still miss her.

Joe doesn't react. They stay silent.

JOE
Your mother was special, not an average
woman.

THOMAS
Thank you Dad, you're always so tactful.

JOE
Go for it, have fun for once!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

THOMAS

I think she likes YOU, Dad.

JOE

What? Yeah, right.. the twenty year old stuffed version of me!

Joe and Thomas separate. Idea comes back.

IDEA

My mother thanks you both very much for the hospitality. She said you are welcome to stay at any of our houses.

THOMAS AND JOE

Prego and.. grazie!

EXT. MC CADDEN HOUSE, POOL AREA

NIGHT

Idea and Joe are having dinner on the patio. The lights from the pool give the area a liquid ambience. Nearby, a small Weber B.B.Q. is still smoking.

JOE

I'm sorry Thomas did not stay for dinner.

IDEA

(flirtatious)

But YOU are here!!!

JOE

(changing subject)

I haven't driven cross country in years. Thomas invites me often to go to Georgia with him, but I-

Joe, a bit sad, smiles at Idea and opens a lap top.

JOE (cont'd)

Georgia is quite a distance from here about four days if you don't stop much.

Idea gazes at Joe. Joe smiles politely. Idea keeps looking at him. An idea is formulating in Idea's mind. She then moves closer to Joe to look at the map on the screen.

IDEA

What route should I take?

JOE

In this season, the southern route.

(he gets up)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOE (cont'd)

I'm going to get Thomas' map, the one that traces all the routes taken by bald eagles during this season, so you can stop along your way and watch them.

IDEA

It's exactly what I need!!! My Italian map is not detailed enough.

Joe leaves. Idea smiles, waits a second, she is about to follow him but Joe comes right back with the map.

JOE

(showing it to her)

There are plenty of places where you can see bald eagles. Almost every large river bank, or lakes, rocky or wooded seashores..

Idea is really listening to him. Their bodies are close. Joe realizes it and gets up.

JOE (cont'd)

If you don't mind, I'm going back to my lab now and you can keep looking at-

IDEA

(spontaneous)

Can I come and see, just for a second?

Joe, surprised, nods and smiles.

JOE

Sure!

Joe heads toward the lab. Idea eagerly follows him.

INT. JOE'S GARAGE LAB

NIGHT

The focal point of the lab is a large water tank set in the middle of the room.

JOE

(proud)

Here, I'll show you something..

He turns the pool lights on. Idea leans over and looks into the tank. There, hidden among the weeds, swim a multitude of catfish. Two of the fish are separated from the others. They both wear little swim suits. On a leash, Joe pulls them closer to Idea.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOE (cont'd)

This one is Rex and that one there is Regina.

IDEA

Catfish??? They seem different.

JOE

I created them. They're a crossbreed of catfish and rabbits. They're stronger and tastier. It's a new species, genetically engineered but environmentally totally safe.

IDEA

(delighted)

You're completely crazy! I love it!

Idea stares at him with admiration, then smiles at him.

IDEA (cont'd)

(kidding)

Sometimes I wonder if they could genetically engineer eagles.. maybe crossbreed them with.. turtles!!! So it wouldn't be so hard to spot them!

They burst laughing. Idea gets closer to him, but he turns, oblivious to her intentions, and heads for the door.

JOE

Come on. We shouldn't disturb them. It's their time for love.

EXT. MCCADDEN HOUSE/POOL AREA

NIGHT

Joe leads Idea back to the table and pours her another drink.

IDEA

You're not like Thomas. He seems so cautious, conservative.. You seem very different.

JOE

Sometimes that's how it is in families. We don't get along that great and we don't spend much time together.

IDEA

How sad! Try change that, if you can.

JOE

It is sad. He really is a brilliant guy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA

He says the same thing about you.

JOE

(surprised)

Does he? Is that how it is in your family too?

Idea bursts out laughing.

IDEA

No! I spend way too much time with my family. I came here to get away from them! Now I'm on my own, you know.. my father has cut me off! It's his way or no way.. So it's MY way!

Joe lifts his glass for a toast.

JOE

To your American adventure! You're a brave kid! And a cool one.

IDEA

(softly)

And I find YOU completely fascinating! You're everything I would like to become!

(taking his hand)

I want to know something about you that no one else in the world knows, a secret, something I can take with me..

Joe smiles.

JOE

Well, let's see..

Idea looks at him intently. Joe thinks about it more.

JOE (cont'd)

(whispering)

I often dream of catfish, huge, enormous ones that talk to me and-

IDEA

Really? Do you believe in dreams?

JOE

No. And I don't think dreams like me much.

IDEA

But your dream came true! You're a great scientist, renowned in your field!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOE

Who told you THAT was my dream?

Before Idea can answer, he continues.

JOE (cont'd)

And you, do you believe in dreams?

IDEA

Absolutely. I think one's dreams are like lies, if one really believes them, they start to seem true.

JOE

You're awfully young to be so perceptive.

Idea blushes.

JOE (cont'd)

It's getting pretty late. Do you want to go to sleep?

Idea thinks her time has come.

IDEA

(seductive)

Sure..

Joe jumps up and heads for the house.

JOE

The guest room is right this way.

IDEA

Oh-

Disappointed, Idea follows him.

INT. MCCADDEN HOUSE/GUEST ROOM

NIGHT

Idea sits in the darkened bedroom looking out the window. Across the patio, she can see Joe standing in his lighted window looking out at the stars.

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

NIGHT

Joe, unaware that Idea is watching him, looks over at the dark window of her room.

EXT. MCCADDEN DRIVEWAY

DAWN

Bag packed, Idea is ready to go. She is looking at some pix on birds studies on her iPad, when Joe walks in with a cup of coffee.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA
(flustered)
Thank you! Did I make too much noise and wake you?

JOE
Oh no, I don't like to waste time sleeping. We shall sleep plenty later.

IDEA
So true! Please say bye to Thomas. Thank him for me and remind him-

JOE
Of course! Will do. You two will meet up at Okefenokee, I am sure. Ready to hit the road?

IDEA
(in a very fresh way)
Joe.. I thought about it all night.. I would like to ask you.. Why don't you come with me? It would be fantastic!

Joe is caught completely off guard by this young girl's invitation.

JOE
Well, I really don't know what to say. I'm flattered but-

IDEA
(psyched)
We'll have a great time, talking and living the science we both love so much.. even if catfish don't fly!

Idea smiles at him encouraging, hopeful. Joe shakes his head.

IDEA (cont'd)
(sadder)
It was a stupid idea, anyway. Idea has stupid ideas.

JOE
No, it wasn't. Really. It's just that I have a lot of work to do. I've a passion of my own, you know. And Rex and Regina may be ready to spawn.

Joe opens the car door for her. Idea understands there's not much left to say and gets in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOE (cont'd)
But thanks for asking.

Idea smiles, blows him a kiss and drives off.

SPFX: We see Idea's eagle migration map. Casting an eagle's shadow, we fly over the map. The shadow swoops down, the map swells, and the map image becomes the following location:

EXT. ROAD ARIZONA DAY

From above, we see Idea's little convertible driving along a black road which crosses, perpendicularly, an immense tapestry of red earth. A typical Arizona landscape.

INT. IDEA'S CAR DAY

40 Idea has mounted her camcorder on the roof of her convertible40 to record the scenery. VIDEO INSERT: we see the landscape through her camcorder.

IDEA (O.S.)
These spaces are incredible! America is huge!!! The whole thing just here is as big as all of Italy! I love this!!! And it doesn't make me feel alone or scared..

Now we see her breast, her neck, her arm, as she tries to speak to the camera while driving.

IDEA (O.S.) (cont'd)
I have my dreams and excitement with me to fill up all voids. And I feel free.

She spins the camera around. We see the empty spaces. Suddenly, she points the camcorder toward the sky.

IDEA (cont'd)
Falcons Naumanni?! There could be a bald eagle too!!

Two dots are crossing the sky. END OF VIDEO INSERT. Idea slows down and pulls over.

EXT. ROAD ARIZONA DAY

Idea gets out of the car with a pair of binoculars, the camcorder, the iPad and a bird whistle. She scans the sky. Nothing. She whistles. Nothing. She wanders out onto the desert floor and sits down on a rock. Still nothing.

She surveys the landscape: endless, populated only by some rock formations. She walks back to her car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPFX: The eagle's shadow soars over the map to Lake Powell, Arizona. The shadow swoops down, the map swells and becomes:

EXT. LAKE POWELL ARIZONA DAY

Spectacular. A lake surrounded by majestic red canyons and rock formations. As the camera pans, we slowly discover Idea near her car, ready to walk towards the lake with her binoculars and her camcorder.

EXT. LAKE SHORE ARIZONA DAY

The place is deserted except for a vendor, STEVE, a man in his mid 40's, at a tiny mobile hot dog stand.

Idea walks to a spot quite a distance from the vendor and sits down at the lake's edge.

STEVE (O.S.)
Hot dogs, cokes, beef jerky.. Hot dogs,
cokes, beef jerky.. Hot dogs, cokes..

Idea starts searching the sky, alternating her camcorder with the binoculars. Nothing. She whistles. Nothing. Steve's voice continues off screen. Finally, with a sigh, Idea gets up and walks over to the stand.

IDEA
Good morning. Do you know if it's
possible to do some Bald Eagle watching
around here?

STEVE
Every now and then I see someone with
binoculars, but I don't know what they're
looking at.

IDEA
Thanks anyway.

STEVE
Hey, where're you from?

IDEA
Rome, Italy.

STEVE
Italy? I love Italy!

IDEA
(tired of hearing this again)
Yes? You too, eh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

I studied Italian Renaissance art in college. I know the name of every church in Florence: Santa Croce, Santa Maria Novella, San Miniato al Monte, San Lorenzo, Orsanmichele..

IDEA

I love the art work but I don't care for churches. I mean, I am not religious.

STEVE

You're from Rome and you're not religious?

IDEA

That's probably why!

Idea raises her hand to say bye and walks away.

EXT. LAKE LATER DAY

Idea is lying on the shore enjoying the peace and the incredible sight. She looks ahead, thoughtful.

FANTASY: Over the lake, the image of the VATICAN is superimposed so that it appears to be rising out of the water.

Idea sees her FAMILY MEMBERS, floating about the lake on different shaped rafts, while sipping tropical drinks. A MAID and a BUTLER, also on floats, are towing a huge antique cupboard. Idea looks at her Mother.

SERENA

It's for you, Idea. A little present from Dad and I, for your stay in America.

Angle on Idea's face, now sitting up.

IDEA (V.O.)

But, Mother, how do you expect me to- Dad.. It is not that simple to-

Sandro is having his back massaged by a red headed MASSEUSE.

SANDRO

You've always chosen the most difficult thing, Idea.

Idea, as YOUNGER IDEA, about 12 years old, is now with them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Determined, she is building a huge and complicated bird house. She refuses her father's help. Suddenly she loses balance and the house falls in the water.

SANDRO (cont'd)
And then you can't accomplish it. Isn't it so, Idea?

IDEA (V.O.)
Why do you want me to fail?
(very determined)
We'll see if I can or not!

End of the FANTASY. Idea gives a rude hand gesture to the placid lake as she pushes herself up.

EXT. LAKE SHORE HOT DOG STAND DAY

Steve is pulling pieces of plastic wrapped cardboard out of his beat up truck and lining them up along the parking lot fence. We see several paintings, emulations of the American naive painter Thomas Moran, representing different angles of the lake.

Idea walks by on her way to her car.

STEVE
Would you mind taking a look at my paintings? They're for sale!

IDEA
(caught off guard)
Oh..

Steve picks up the biggest one. He holds it up to show her and, in doing so, he blocks the view of the actual lake. The lake we see now is the one in his painting.

STEVE
This one's my best. It's also the most expensive. \$149.99.

IDEA
Umm.. nice..

STEVE
You think so? Really?

Idea does not really think so.

IDEA
American naive tradition..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

That's right! How did you know?

IDEA

My father collects art.

Steve

Here have a seat! You want a Coke? It's on the house!

Before she can answer, he thrusts a Coke into her hand and sits her down in a folding chair in front of the line of paintings.

IDEA

(not knowing what else to say)

Thank you.

Steve leaves the frame, comes back with another chair and sits down next to Idea. They sit in front of the line of paintings, in the middle of the empty parking lot, as if they were in an art gallery.

STEVE

Kind of also.. Italian Renaissance, wouldn't you say?

Idea doesn't want to lie. She smiles while nodding politely.

STEVE (cont'd)

My paintings are with a gallery in New York.

IDEA

Really? Which one? I know a few.

STEVE

Ummm.. It's called.. Genesis Gallery. It's in Chelsea. But I keep most of my work at my parents' summer house in Newport, Rhode Island.

IDEA

You're from there?

STEVE

Yes from the East coast, but I travel all the time. You know, to get inspiration for my art. In fact I'm leaving tomorrow. I'm just doing this to cover for a friend. He's an artist, too. But he hasn't been discovered yet. I feel kind of sorry for him so I took over for a few days.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

IDEA

That's very nice of you.

STEVE

You know, I'm going to Rome in a week or so. To paint. I'm going to do churches. Look, I know you're not into religion, but c'mon, just tell me the names of some cathedrals in Rome.

IDEA

Let's see.. Allora: San Pietro. San Paolo. Santa Maria del Popolo. San Carl. San Giovanni in Laterano. San Luigi dei Francesi. San-

STEVE

Do you like sailing?

IDEA

I guess so. My family sails a lot.

STEVE

I have a yacht. A hundred footer. Maybe we could go out tomorrow-

IDEA

Didn't you say that you were leaving tomorrow?

A pick up truck with another hot dog stand in tow pulls up to Idea and Steve. A woman, MARY, mid 30's and TWO YOUNG KIDS climb out.

MARY

Hey, what the hell are you doing?

STEVE

I'm trying to sell this lady a painting.

Idea smiles uncertainly.

MARY

I had three customers at the rodeo. Total. Plus, it cost seven bucks to get in. How's it been here?

STEVE

The usual.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARY

(to Idea)

He insists on selling hot dogs in this part of the lake where hardly anyone comes and when they do, they usually bring their own picnic. What can I tell you? We've been married twelve years and it's been a struggle all the way. No one is poorer than a failed artist.

Steve, guilty and embarrassed, lowers his head.

IDEA

I disagree. I think an artist is always rich, even when poor.

MARY

Good for you lady.

IDEA

Plus Steve was telling me that you get breaks. I mean, you get to go sailing in Newport. That must be nice.

MARY

Sailing? Newport?

(to Steve)

What have you been telling her?

STEVE

I don't know.. Just-

MARY

(to Idea)

Let me tell you, life isn't easy living in a trailer with two kids and two hundred dollars a week.

IDEA

I'm sorry to hear this, but at least he keeps his dream going. He's doing the best he can.

STEVE

(to Idea)

I don't like to talk to people about my troubles.

MARY

It's a perfect marriage. He makes things up, I try to make things work.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

STEVE
(to Idea)
I'm sorry.

Mary starts hooking Steve's hot dog stand up to his truck. Feeling awkward, Idea looks at the paintings. Her eyes meet Steve's.

IDEA
How much did you say it was?

STEVE
Which one?

IDEA
That one, the big one. I love it.

STEVE
The most expensive one?

Idea nods.

STEVE (cont'd)
For you, one hundred dollars.

Idea pulls a small wad of money out of her pocket and pays for the painting. Mary looks at her astonished. Idea, sarcastic, smiles.

STEVE (cont'd)
Really?

IDEA
Really.
(to his wife)
See? Sometimes if you try hard it pays off.

STEVE
Thanks. Listen, I'm sorry.

Mary is wrangling the kids into the truck.

MARY
C'mon, Steve! We gotta get to the V.A. office before three.

STEVE
Bye.

Reluctantly, Steve gets in his truck. Idea waves good bye. The two trucks caravan out of the parking lot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Idea is left alone, looking at her new painting of the lake against the lake.

INT. IDEA'S CAR NEW MEXICO DAY

Idea is back at the wheel. The music is loud. The top is down and the camcorder is remounted. She turns it on.

VIDEO INSERT: We see a sign that says: "Welcome to New Mexico". Then the camera pans toward Idea and we see a piece of her mouth.

IDEA (V.O.)
My third state. New Mexico!!!

Her iPhone rings. Idea picks up. The music stops.

IDEA (cont'd)
Hey Mom! You called me, when? I'm often in the middle of nowhere with zero reception.. No it's not dangerous. No, Mom, I haven't called uncle Giorgio yet! No, I don't need to call him. I'm fine. Mom, I swear I'm okay! I was just at a magnificent lake in Arizona! A-RI-ZO-NA! And I met a famous painter! We had lunch together and he gave me a great painting. Yes tell Dad things are going fantastic! Yes, I'll call you soon. Yes, ciao.

Music comes up. The camera turns 360 degrees and we see, roughly, the surrounding landscape.

IDEA (V.O.) (cont'd)
I feel bad to say this, but it feels so good to be away from home. And is Rome my home? Already this big, wild place seems more like where I'm meant to be..

We see Idea's nose and eye.

IDEA (cont'd)
It's so awesome here.. I would like to share it with.. An American boyfriend would be nice.. Someone who knows eagles.. A real American.. Maybe a Native American! I love Native American everything! I can't wait to meet some, and see where and how they live. All this here.. was theirs!!!

The camera turns around again and comes to rest on a shot of the road disappearing under her wheels. End of VIDEO INSERT.

EXT. ROADS NEW MEXICO DAY

Idea's car continues on its course. The earth, burnt by the sun, has a lunar look. The rolling hills around her are immersed in silence and dominated by a blue and infinite sky. This is a typical New Mexico landscape.

EXT. "BIRD" HOUSE NEW MEXICO SUNSET

Idea's convertible approaches an isolated house situated slightly uphill within an endless field. A sign near the road reads: "Birds, Live and Stuffed".

Idea pulls in the drive. The run down adobe house is covered with animal bones, New Mexico style. She stops in front of the house and gets out.

The place appears to be deserted. She starts to walk around the yard. Huge empty bird cages are littered about. She discovers another sign which says:

"Will Jones talks to the birds, like San Francis."

Idea continues on toward the back of the house. Without warning, a huge NET falls out of the sky and traps her. Off screen, menacing MALE laughter.

Terrified, Idea screams. WILL, a formidable man in his 50s, comes running out from behind the house. Still laughing, he goes to work freeing Idea from the net.

WILL

Ain't you just the most beautiful bird
Will Jones ever did catch? Let's see if
I can talk to ya'..

IDEA

(stuttering)
Hello, I'm Idea, I'm an ornithologist-

WILL

A what?

IDEA

(trying to stay calm)
An orni-- I'm interested in birds.

WILL

Are ya', now?

IDEA

I specialize in American Bald Eagles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILL
 Had one, three days ago. Then my wife,
 she-
 (shouting)
 Sarah! Sarah, come out here!
 (to Idea)
 She stuffed it.

Idea's face drops. SARAH, raw boned, mid 40's, appears behind Idea wielding a glinting carving knife. Idea trembles.

WILL (cont'd)
 Sarah, this little duckling wants to see
 an eagle. Where'd you put that one you
 were working on?

SARAH
 Well, some of it it's in the fridge and-

IDEA
 (very nervous)
 Thank you. But I'm on my way now. Plus,
 I prefer them live.

WILL
 (ominous)
 Me too..

SARAH
 We don't get too many livin' things
 'round here.

A pregnant pause. Trying to contain her fear, Idea smiles politely and starts walking, then running, towards her car. She leaps in and peels out.

SARAH (cont'd)
 I think she's foreign. Italian.

WILL
 Yeah. We should have offered her some
 cappuccino.

They walk back inside the house.

EXT. ROADS NEW MEXICO SUNSET

Idea drives along sunlit landscapes. The sunset is beautiful. We hear Idea's voice.

IDEA (V.O.)
 That was lucky. I got really scared
 though. I am REALLY on my own..

INT. IDEA'S CAR NEW MEXICO SUNSET

Idea is speaking to her camera as she drives. She readjusts it. We see the road behind her: totally empty.

IDEA (V.O.)
I'm never alone in Italy. What if my car breaks down again and.. C'mon don't be a stupid scared little girl. Maybe I should stop here get some gas and check the car oil.

EXT. TRUCK STOP, GAS STATION NEW MEXICO SUNSET

Idea pulls up at a Truck Stop. She gets out to stretch. A MUSCLE CAR with four buzz cut ARMY TYPES GUYS is fueling up. There is no one else. Idea tries to make the pump work. One of the guys approaches her. Idea jumps.

ARMY TYPE GUY 1
(helping her)
This is what you do.

IDEA
Oh thank you so much. You're very kind.
(flirting)
Are you from around here?

ARMY TYPE GUY 1
Yeah, you can say that.. and you too, right?

IDEA
(not getting the joke)
No! I'm from Rome, Italy.

ARMY TYPE GUY 1
Hmmm.. Rome, Italy.
(to the rest of the guys)
Hey guys! Come over here. She's from Rome, Italy!

The other THREE GUYS approach her. She is now surrounded by them. They check her out. She starts to feel scared again.

ARMY TYPE GUY 1 (cont'd)
Come with us, we show you some fun.

A long, uncomfortable pause. The other guys stand waiting.

IDEA
Oh thank you but-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARMY TYPE GUY 1
(menacing look)
But???

IDEA
(hiding her fear)
Hmm.. Got to go now. Ciao!!!

She's about to put the pump back, but Army Guy 2 takes it away and does it for her, and with a certain attitude. Terrified, Idea smiles, gets in her car and peels off.

INT. IDEA'S CAR ROADS NEW MEXICO DUSK

Idea is driving along, a bit shaken up. She takes a long breath, then looks at her rear view mirror and freezes: the muscle car with the four guys, is following her really close.

EXT. LAS CRUCES NEW MEXICO DUSK

Idea and the muscle car pass a sign that says: "Las Cruces City Limits". She drives really fast.

INT. IDEA'S CAR LAS CRUCES NEW MEXICO DUSK

Idea passes a strip of rundown, neon flashing motels. The muscle car pulls ahead of hers and abruptly slows down. She has to slam on her brakes to keep from rear ending them.

As they enter the town, the ARMY GUYS pull over into the lane next to Idea and start yelling at her words she can not hear as her stereo is blasting. Up ahead, a stoplight turns red.

EXT. LAS CRUCES NEW MEXICO DUSK

Anxiously, Idea waits at the light, trying to ignore the guys next to her. She looks around: the streets are empty.

As soon as the light turns green, Idea tries to speed away. Her tiny convertible is no match for their powerful machine. They pull in front of her and then drop back, calling her.

Panicking, she pulls a U turn. The Guys stay on her tail. Up ahead, the road is barricaded for construction work. A big sign points the way to a detour.

Idea looks into her rear view mirror. The Guys are right behind her. She punches the accelerator, heading straight for the road block.

At the last possible moment before crashing through the barrier, she swerves. Her little car careens onto the sidewalk and around the construction barricade.

EXT/INT. IDEA'S CAR NEW MEXICO NIGHT

Idea stops and turns around to see if the Army Guys are still behind her. The coast looks clear, but on the main drag, she can still hear the sound of their squealing tires and bass heavy music pounding from their car stereo.

Petrified, Idea pulls up the roof and locks the doors to the car. She climbs in the back seat and crams herself onto the floor. To conceal herself, she pulls Steve's painting of the Arizona lake over her head. A few seconds go by.

Suddenly her roof opens and the painting gets partially lifted up.

ARMY TYPE GUY 1
(giving her something)
Here, you forgot your wallet, you crazy
bitch.

Idea, slowly raising from under the painting, grabs the wallet.

IDEA
Oh.. Thank you.

ARMY TYPE GUY 1
Huh huh..

The Army Guy closes down the roof, forcing Idea to duck back down, and leaves. We stay on her parked car until:

EXT/INT. IDEA'S CAR PARK, LAS CRUCES DAWN

In the same shot, the light is just beginning to show in the sky over the small municipal park. Idea's convertible is the only car parked on the perimeter.

Idea's head emerges from under Steve's painting. Eyes red, hair dishevelled, she pulls herself out of her cramped hiding place.

Idea gets out of her car and stretches. She takes a deep breath and surveys her surroundings. Idea starts walking, aimlessly. She ends up in the small park nearby, where she sees:

A NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIST is setting up his easel in the park. A magnificent head dress made of eagle feathers is draped over his chair. He notices Idea walking, stopping, staring at him, and gestures for her to sit in the chair.

NATIVE AMERICAN MAN
Please..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Incapable to refuse and smiling, she accepts the invitation.

IDEA

Thank you!

NATIVE AMERICAN MAN

It'll only take a few minutes.

IDEA

Take your time!

The artist puts the head dress on Idea and starts sketching her portrait.

NATIVE AMERICAN MAN

Where are you from? Paris?

IDEA

No, Rome.

NATIVE AMERICAN MAN

Oh Rome! Wow! I am just from here, I'm an Apache, I live right outside town.

IDEA

(really enthused)

Can I see where you live? Drive by?

NATIVE AMERICAN MAN

You will probably have to drive by on your way out of here.

(analyzing her, while drawing)

You seem tired. Have you slept okay?

IDEA

Well.. Not really. I could not make peace with myself. I spent the whole day feeling scared, wasting my time.

NATIVE AMERICAN MAN

Fear.. It can destroy us. It can. In fact it did.

The sun is rising. Idea sits in silence in front of the American Indian with the feathers on her head.

SPFX: Flying across the map, we find Texas. The map swells and becomes the next location:

EXT. TEXAS ROAD DAY

Happy to be on the road again, Idea drives with her head out the car window, piercing the air with her fingers. Around her, the landscape is flat, endless: typical Texas.

INT. IDEA'S CAR TEXAS DAY

Idea feels hot, she pulls her hair up, sweating, then she points the camera towards herself and turns it on.

VIDEO INSERT: Idea's right breast and elbow gently move as she drives.

IDEA (V.O.)
It's amazing how vulnerable a woman can be.. It's true that the only difference among human beings is a difference of strength.. including physical strength.. Just like for the birds..

The camcorder falls from the seat.

IDEA (V.O.) (cont'd)
Merda!

We see her legs. Her hand comes through the frame, fumbling for the camera while she drives. The camera records the American Indian portrait of Idea. She picks up the camcorder and her breast comes into view again.

IDEA (V.O.) (cont'd)
Wow! A vulture! Vultur Monachus! I'm going to chase you!!!

The camera points upwards through the roof. A black dot crosses the frame leaving the sky empty and blue.

IDEA (V.O.) (cont'd)
If there's a vulture, there might be the Bald Eagle too..

End of VIDEO INSERT.

EXT. SAME ROAD TEXAS DAY

Idea's car is driving off road and fast into the surrounding flat and endless plain, to chase the vulture.

Idea stops. She rushes to pull out her binoculars and scans the sky. She whistles. Nothing. Idea sighs and looks around: a DERELICT HOUSE destroyed by a fire a long time ago, sits on the plain.

FANTASY:

Serena and Allegra sit in chairs on what's left of the porch getting manicures and pedicures. Allegra squirms. This is not her idea of a good time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA (V.O.)

Why the hell do you spend your time doing such stupid things?

ALLEGRA

Idea is so lucky to be out on her own.

ANDREA rides by on his scooter. Carlo plays rugby.

ANDREA

I hope nobody is going to bother her.

IDEA (V.O.)

I'm not scared!

SERENA

She is very smart, but we might have sheltered and protected her too much.

SANDRO

(reading the newspaper)

What do you think parents are for, if not for protecting their kids?

SERENA

Protect is one thing, control, another.

SANDRO

And who's controlling here, ME???

Idea covers her ears not to hear them fighting. We see them gesturing, arguing away. YOUNGER Idea is with them, also covering her ears. After a bit, she takes her hands off from her ears, so does OLDER Idea, and all seems normal again.

SERENA

Perhaps Uncle Giorgio can give her a hand.. and maybe will introduce her to a nice young man.

SANDRO

She has to marry an Italian man.

ALLEGRA

But she likes only foreign men. Her room is full of pictures of all the foreign guys she meets camping.

IDEA (V.O.)

That's right. I don't like Italian men. I've never been with one. To be with an Italian man for me, it would be like being with a foreigner!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SANDRO

We'll arrange a nice marriage when she comes back, don't you worry. We only want her good.

Idea, looks terrified.

IDEA (V.O.)

I'd rather become a nun.

End of FANTASY. Idea RUNS inside the demolished house, with all her energy.

EXT/INT. DERELICT HOUSE TEXAS DAY

As Idea enters the house, a flock of birds fly out, bursting into the sky like a feathered fire cracker. Idea tries to follow them with her binoculars and her camcorder.

IDEA

Menura superba, Fringilla coelebs..
Fantastico!!! What a sight!

She takes the binoculars from her eyes and watches the birds fly away. She's disappointed. She speaks into the camera.

IDEA (cont'd)

But never any eagles.. Maybe global warming is affecting their patterns. So sad. I've managed to record just a few birds so far. I should probably drive straight to Okefenokee, to my new job, to all the eagles there, and no more stops!

Idea runs back to her car. END of VIDEO INSERT.

She tries to drive off but the car is stuck in the sand. She gets out of the car. She tries to push it to no avail.

IDEA (cont'd)

(looks at the derelict house)
Maybe you are right to criticize me. I'm stupid. Or maybe you bring me bad luck!

Worried and terrified she stands next to the car staring out at the flat, brown expanse around her.

EXT. ROAD TEXAS DAY

Idea is walking along the road, looking for help. The road stretches out to infinity in both directions. She keeps walking.

EXT. ROAD LEADING TO DEL RIO TEXAS DAY

Still walking, Idea passes by some run down houses. She looks around. She sees some people: she is not sure but they could be Native Americans? She looks some more: YES they are. Her face drops with sadness: a poverty stricken scene.

LATER

Idea keeps walking along the road leading to Del Rio. On the other side of the road she sees a YOUNG MEXICAN GUY who is hitch hiking.

She stops for a moment to wipe the sweat off her forehead, then decides to cross the street and ask him for help.

The Mexican guy, FIDEL, is about 26 years old, with intelligent eyes and a beautiful smile.

IDEA

(walking up to him)

Hi, how are you? I've been walking for miles looking for help.. Distances in this Country are incredible!

FIDEL

Un pais de mierda.

IDEA

What did you say? I only understood "mierda"! It's like in Italian: merda.

FIDEL

Nothing, nothing.

IDEA

You're from right here?

FIDEL

Right here? No, I'm from Arizona. Around here is mostly American Indians.

IDEA

I figured.. But I had no idea they lived in such conditions. Pretty sad, huh?

FIDEL

I would say so.

IDEA

(changing subject)

Hey listen.. My car got stuck in the sand.. I hate to ask you but.. You think you could give me a hand?

EXT. TEXAS ROAD DERELICT HOUSE DAY

Car wheels spin in the sand and steadily gaining traction.
Fidel is pushing Idea's car. She is at the wheel.

IDEA
(a bit loud)
How long to Georgia from here?

FIDEL
(as he pushes the car)
Georgia? Well, first you gotta go
through the rest of Texas. Then there's
Louisiana, Alabama.. Mississippi..
Anyway, it's pretty damn far.
(pause)
So where're you from?

IDEA
Italy.

FIDEL
Must've been rough crossing the ocean in
this little thing.

Idea looks at him, not certain if he's joking. Finally the
car is ready to go.

IDEA
(yelling to Fidel)
Don't you want a ride? I'll drive
anywhere you want! You saved me!

Fidel turns, smiles and gets in the car.

FIDEL
Thanks! Let me drive, so you can take a
break and relax a bit.

Fidel gets in, Idea sits in the passenger seat and they take
off.

EXT. ROAD TEXAS DAY

Idea and Fidel are driving along another deserted, flat,
endless road: Texas never ends.

INT. ROAD TEXAS DAY

Fidel is at the wheel. Idea, relaxed, leans her head out the
window. They are listening to music through Idea's iPod's
portable speaker.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA

Hey, would you like to change your plans and travel with me to Okefenokee?

FIDEL

Going where???

IDEA

It's a place in Georgia, it's-

FIDEL

I can't. I have to be in Guadalajara in the morning. But you can drop me off at the border. It's another couple hundred miles. This road goes right to it.

IDEA

Not a PROBLEMA!

(pausa)

You know, I've never been to Mexico, but my mother says that the people there are great and that there are great spas.

Fidel, not sure, looks at her: different kinds of realities..

SPFX: Flying fast over the MAP the eagle's shadow continues across Texas. The map swells and it becomes:

EXT. VARIOUS ROADS TEXAS SUNSET/DUSK/NIGHT

Fidel and Idea keep driving. The music keeps playing. We see them laughing and talking.

EXT. ROAD/TEXAS NIGHT

Idea's car is pulled off the road. Idea and Fidel get out and stretch.

IDEA

Why do they close the border crossing at night?

FIDEL

Just to make life difficult.

IDEA

Or so that we can spend a little more time together!

FIDEL

Are you sure you want to camp out here?

IDEA

Yes! Under the stars! It's beautiful!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FIDEL

Do you have a blanket or anything?

IDEA

No, but I can use my extra clothes.

Fidel pulls a blanket out of his pack.

FIDEL

Here, you can use this.

IDEA

You have a pillow as well or a sheet?

FIDEL

A what?

IDEA

That was stupid, forget it, sorry.

EXT. FIELD TEXAS

NIGHT

Idea and Fidel have made camp in the field under the moon light. Each in their blanket are laying down. Idea has her camcorder on.

IDEA

So are you American or Mexican?

FIDEL

My parents came across the border so that I could be born American. When I was seven they got busted and sent back.

IDEA

Really?

FIDEL

Yes. It's normal.. Or maybe not.

IDEA

Where are you off to?

FIDEL

I'm just taking a break. I had enough with this Country. I am going back to Mexico for a while.

IDEA

Why, what do you think of America?

Idea's iPhone rings. She looks at the caller and sighs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA (cont'd)

(holding phone and camcorder)

Mom.. Yes.. No! There is nothing wrong. It's just that this is not a good time to talk.. Yes, I'll call you back. No! No uncle Giorgio yet, sorry! Yes, promise. Ciao!

(to Fidel)

I'm sorry, that was my mother from Rome, checking in.. So where were we.. What do you think of America, Fidel?

FIDEL

It's a great place to work.. even if lately there hasn't been so much work.. We touched the bottom with that previous asshole.. You should know something: in America you pay for the money you make.

IDEA

What do you mean???

FIDEL

Here you can make good money but then you give up living. No one has fun here. No one smiles. I don't think it's worth it. I want to go back home to fill up with some joy and love. I will be back when and if things get better.

He grabs her camcorder and points it at her.

FIDEL (cont'd)

And you, what do you think of America?

IDEA

I LOVE it! I feel an incredible sense of possibility and freedom!

FIDEL

Well for you it's different. For us.. yes, they say we could do this and that, but in reality we always end up bussing tables, taking care of rich peoples' gardens or cooking tacos.

IDEA

It's true.. In Europe is similar with those that come from East Europe.. I think that they should beg you guys to come here from Mexico. Because without you they can't function, who else would do those jobs you guys do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A moment of silence.

FIDEL
You are a cool chick.

He gives her back her camcorder.

FIDEL (cont'd)
I am starting to fade..

He lies down to go to sleep. Idea does the same. On opposite sides of the campfire, they turn over on their sides, facing away from each other.

FIDEL (cont'd)
How come you're not afraid to sleep out here alone with a stranger?

IDEA
I trust you.

FIDEL
Good night.

IDEA
Sleep well.

FIDEL
Careful with American dreams. They're dangerous.

A few seconds go by. Fidel turns over and looks at Idea maybe with the intention of.. but decides not to. A few moments later, Idea does the same thing.

EXT. FIELD TEXAS

DAWN

The sun is just beginning to rise, bathing the green field in a golden light. Fidel is still asleep. Idea's eyelids flutter open. A flock of birds flies overhead. Idea reaches for her camcorder.

VIDEO INSERT:

The birds appear as distant black dots. Then, suddenly, the image becomes darker, then refocuses and we see the upper half of a POLICEWOMAN.

End of VIDEO INSERT. Idea looks up at the Policewoman standing over her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA
(whispering so as not to wake
Fidel)
Good morning.

POLICEWOMAN
(loudly)
If you don't remove yourselves
immediately, I'm gonna issue you a
citation for trespassing.

FIDEL
(sleepy)
What's happening?

POLICEWOMAN
This is private land. Let's see some
I.D.

IDEA
Excuse me?

FIDEL
She wants to see your passport.

Idea reaches in her pocket and pulls out her passport.

POLICEWOMAN
Lemme see your green card.

Fidel's jaw clenches as he hands her his American passport.
The Policewoman eyes him suspiciously.

POLICEWOMAN (cont'd)
Where'd you get this?

FIDEL
(with attitude)
The U.S. State Department.

Frustrated that she hasn't been able to make a bust, the
Policewoman hands back their passports.

POLICEWOMAN
Get outta here. NOW.

Idea and Fidel get in the convertible, while the Policewoman
watches, and take off.

IDEA
(to the policewoman)
Ciao!!!

INT/EST. IDEA'S CAR U.S./MEXICO BORDER TEXAS DAY

We see a huge sign that says: "US BORDER". We descend to find: Idea's car stopped at the U.S. side of the border.

IDEA

You're sure you don't want me to take you across?

FIDEL

No, thank you, you'll have trouble getting back in, the lines are endless.

Fidel grabs his pack out of the back seat. He gets out of the car and leans in to say good bye to Idea.

FIDEL (cont'd)

Let's Skype, ok? And we might meet again here or in Rome. You never know!

Idea watches as Fidel gets in line to cross the border. A CUSTOMS OFFICIAL checks his papers and waves him through.

Idea spins a U-turn and gets back on the road to Georgia.

SPFX: The eagle's shadow flies across the map from Texas into Louisiana. The eagle dives, the map swells and becomes:

EXT. ROAD LOUISIANA DAY

Idea's car cruises happily, weaving back and forth over the yellow line. We hear Idea SINGING to herself with her iPod's earphones on. The surrounding delta landscape is unlike the arid wastelands of Texas: almost tropical, with thick woods and cotton fields.

INT. IDEA'S CAR LOUISIANA DAY

Idea is alone with her only companion, her camcorder mounted on the roof of the car. She turns it on and points it back toward herself. VIDEO INSERT: we see a piece of Steve's painting in the back seat.

IDEA (V.O.)

Migration.. Eagles and elks,
hummingbirds and humans moving around
like tides in the ocean.. Flowing over
borders, looking for something better..
I feel like one of them..

The image bounces as Idea's car hits a pothole. We see another part of the lake that Steve painted.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 Ouch! And I better hurry up and start my
 new job, as I'm running out of money.

Idea shows the inside of her wallet to the camcorder: it's
 almost empty!

IDEA (cont'd)
 In this country not only birds and time
 fly, but money too!

End of VIDEO INSERT. A CLATTERING of metal. Idea looks into
 her rear view mirror.

IDEA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 What was that?

EXT. ROAD LOUISIANA DAY

A piece of Idea's bumper has fallen into the road. Her car
 doesn't slow down.

IDEA
 (laughing)
 Oh, well. Less weight to carry around.

SPFX: The eagle's shadow crosses the border between
 Louisiana and Mississippi.

EXT. ROAD MISSISSIPPI DAY

Idea's car motors through the lush landscape. The air is
 dripping with humidity. It passes a sign which reads:
 "MALONE - Georgia - 252 miles".

INT/EXT. IDEA'S CAR MISSISSIPPI DAY

Idea sees the mileage sign and squeals with excitement. She
 reaches up and turns on her camcorder to grab that sign but
 it's too late.

VIDEO INSERT: For once, her face is well framed.

IDEA
 Almost in Georgia! Soon I will be at
 Okefenokee! I will see, up close, Bald
 Eagles and their young, I will have
 American friends, maybe a nice boyfriend
 too! Thomas will have already arranged
 for the new job for me. It's a good
 thing too, because I really need to make
 money.. It's never happened to me before
 to be this broke.. and relying only on
 myself..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She starts to frown, then shakes the dismal thought out of her mind. She reaches up and puts the lens cap on the camera. End of VIDEO INSERT. Idea turns and looks out the car window.

FANTASY:

A CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN LUXURY CAR cruises along next to Idea's convertible. We get closer and find Idea's PARENTS in the back seat. YOUNGER Idea rides standing up through the sun roof, her hair blowing in the wind.

Sandro rolls down his window, throws at 22 year old Idea hundreds of dollar bills, then tries to pass Idea a long piece of paper.

SANDRO

Here's a list of my American colleagues in the poultry industry.. They're all very wealthy people, and they are waiting for your call.

We see older Idea looking out the window of her car with a horrified expression on her face. Younger Idea looks at older Idea, who then looks inside the luxury car.

SERENA

I convinced Dad to buy you a house in America, wherever you like, as long as you can help him to open an American branch of his company.

SANDRO

Perhaps Uncle Giorgio can be involved as well. And by the way, I bought you a new car for when you are back in Rome.

SERENA

Aren't you happy about all this, darling? Please remember to call uncle Giorgio.

Some more dollar bills fly her way. Older Idea looks at her parents and sees them pulling inside younger Idea, who rebels.

Older Idea closes her eyes and floors the accelerator. End of FANTASY.

Idea opens her eyes. The road next to her is clear.

EXT. ROAD OCEAN SPRINGS MISSISSIPPI SUNSET

Idea passes a sign that says: "Welcome to Ocean Springs". There are some small businesses and modest, scattered houses.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She pulls up to a small store with a sign that reads: "GAS, GROCERIES, SUNDRIES, BEER, BAIT, OBJECTS D'ART BOUGHT AND SOLD". Idea gets out and enters the store.

INT. STORE/OCEAN SPRINGS SUNSET

The store is crammed with all the items mentioned on its sign. Food, fishing tackle, "objects d'art", cheap knickknacks, dubious antiques and mass produced paintings.

Idea looks around for something to eat. It's all packaged junk food. She picks up some day-glow foil wrapped cookies. The label says: "Granma's Best. All Natural!"

IDEA
(reading the ingredients)
Itoricine, colors A and V, preservatives
Ificis..

She is next to the OLD LADY at the counter.

IDEA (cont'd)
Do you sell anything fresh, like a piece
of fruit or some bread, maybe some brie?

OLD LADY
Brie??? What you see is what we got,
Ma'am.

Idea sighs.

IDEA
I'll have a bottled water and those Ritz
crackers, please.

OLD LADY
That'll be four eighty.

Idea pulls out her wallet and hands the Old Lady her last twenty dollar bill.

IDEA
Here you go.
(in Italian)
Gli ultimi venti dollari.

OLD LADY
Huh?

IDEA
My last twenty dollars.

She starts munching on the crackers while the Old Lady makes change.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

On the background, on a big TV screen: the same MAN with carrot red hair we saw before, is being interviewed. Idea gives a glance at the TV.

IDEA (cont'd)
 (picking up an old tea cozy)
 Do you buy these things or just hold them
 for other people until they get sold?

OLD LADY
 Oh no, Ma'am, we buy 'em outright.

IDEA
 I'll be right back.

Idea exits and enters with the painting of the lake she bought from Steve.

IDEA (cont'd)
 Are you interested in buying this by
 chance?

OLD LADY
 (appraising the painting)
 Oh no, dear, this would be too much for
 us. It's an original! But there is a
 lady up the road, who collects fine art,
 they say she is a bit strange, but she
 might want to buy it.

IDEA
 Can we call her up, right now?

EXT. MANSION OCEAN SPRINGS DUSK

Idea's car pulls up to an elegant, yet crumbling, mansion on the Mississippi river surrounded by lush southern vegetation.

She gets out and walks to the front door carrying Steve's painting. She knocks. A maid, MIMI, opens the door.

MIMI
 Can I help you?

IDEA
 Hello. I am the person recommended by
 the old woman that works in the antiques
 store down the road. She said the lady
 that lives here is very interested in
 buying art.

MIMI
 I'm sorry. The lady of the house is out
 at the moment-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WOMAN'S VOICE (O/S)
NO, I'M NOT!!!

Mimi purses her lips and opens the door for Idea to enter.

INT. MANSION OCEAN SPRINGS EVENING

Carrying Steve's painting, Idea walks into the entry hall. It's very grand, but musty, and filled with a great variety of dust covered art.

The lady of the house, LEE, floats into the room. She is a delicate looking woman, in her mid 50s, with an air of extravagance and sophistication.

LEE
Welcome!

IDEA
Hello.

Lee's eyes go right to the painting in Idea's hands.

LEE
What an incredible painting! American naive! Obviously, the work of a genius!

IDEA
I'm glad you think so. Would you be interested in buying it?

LEE
Absolutely. It could be an incredible discovery.
(holding the corner of the painting)
Let's see, since it's an unknown artist.. Will you accept two thousand five hundred dollars?

IDEA
Wow! Yes! Fantastico! Great! Awesome!

Idea reaches out to shake hands on the deal, forgetting that she's holding the other end of the painting. It crashes to the floor. A moment of tension. Idea checks to make sure it isn't damaged. Everything seems to be under control. They both smile.

LEE
Where's that lovely accent from?

IDEA
Rome, Italy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEE
 How fun! Italy!
 (turning away and yelling)
 Mimi!!!
 (to Idea)
 I absolutely LOVE Italy.

IDEA
 Have you been there?

LEE
 Why, yes. Of course!

Mimi appears in the doorway.

MIMI
 Yes, Madame?

LEE
 The young lady..
 (to Idea)
 What's your name?

IDEA
 Ee-day-ah.

LEE
 Idea is staying with us for dinner.

Idea's looks confused, uncomfortable.

IDEA
 Actually, I should maybe get on with my
 journey..

INT. DINING ROOM LEE'S HOUSE NIGHT

Mimi serves dinner to Idea and Lee. Lee is in formal attire.
 Idea wears her usual clothes.

Lee picks up an ear of corn and starts munching it off the
 cob. Idea eats hers with her knife and fork. Her eyes
 wander to a portrait on the wall of a man in his 50s, dressed
 in an elaborate uniform. Lee notices Idea staring at the
 portrait and bursts into tears.

LEE
 (sobbing)
 My poor husband..

IDEA
 I'm sorry. I didn't-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEE

The bath should have had no snakes, no snakes, NO SNAKES!! And the apricots have left. THE APRICOTS!!!

Mimi comes rushing in with a steaming drink. Lee grabs it and gulps it down. Idea watches the scene, not sure what's going on. Lee composes herself and all is quiet once more.

LEE (cont'd)

My husband was Lieutenant Governor of the State of Mississippi. We were together for twenty six years. I lived the life of a respected socialite. Since he passed on, I've been forgotten.

Lee starts to cry quietly. Mimi keeps serving the meal as if nothing was out of the ordinary. Not knowing what else to do, Idea resumes eating.

LEE (cont'd)

We loved each other so much.. He had three little beauty spots in a line down the middle of his neck.

IDEA

It's sad to lose the ones we love.

LEE

(suddenly bright and girlish)
Do you have a boyfriend?

IDEA

Kind of, back in Rome, but he's not Italian. I'm open to something new, you know. Here in America..

(giggles)

It's a good way to learn a new country!

LEE

Absolutely.. Have you ever tried cocaine from the White House? It's the best cocaine in the entire world.

Idea, shocked but amused, shrugs.

IDEA

No, I don't like drugs. They slow me down, they make me feel.. normal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEE

(sharply)

We were talking about your plans here in the States. What have drugs got to do with the price of eggs?

IDEA

(perplexed)

I'm sorry. I must have misunderstood.

(trying to be on the same page)

I'm on my way to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia. It's a swamp area where there's the biggest breeding compound for Bald Eagles in the world. And, as I'm traveling, I'm looking around America.. which I find to be stupendous!

LEE

How interesting! A young girl all the way from Italy, here alone, chasing after the American eagle!

(louder)

Mimi, prepare the guest room for Idea.

IDEA

Oh no thanks, I must really keep going.

LEE

Nonsense. Now, tell me why you have such an interest in the Bald Eagle?

IDEA

Two reasons. One, I love birds. I'm an ornithologist. And second, I chose the Bald Eagle because it doesn't exist in Italy and-

LEE

Escape, escape, escape.

Idea is impressed by Lee's dead on intuition.

INT. GUEST ROOM LEE'S HOUSE NIGHT

Idea is getting ready for bed. All around her, the walls are hung with paintings of the deceased Lieutenant Governor. The atmosphere is a bit spooky. She looks around again. Then she hears some footsteps approaching her room. She opens the door and peaks through:

FANTASY:

Sandro and a WOMAN are walking in the corridor arm in arm and are about to enter a room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOUNGER Idea is standing in the same corridor in her nightgown ready to go to sleep in her room.

Older Idea looks at them.

SANDRO

Idea, it's dangerous to stay with people you don't know. Plus you're wasting your time with that weird woman.

IDEA (V.O.)

I am not wasting my time! I'm here to do business! Lee has bought the painting and has been very hospitable.

SANDRO

Hospitable? She seems a bit unstable, to say the least!

IDEA

She might be a bit "unstable" but at least her and her husband have really loved each other, not like you and mother, always fighting and cheating. I prefer it here, a million times!

SANDRO

See? You do enjoy luxury after all, don't you? You seem perfectly comfortable in her mansion.

We see Idea's serious expression.

IDEA (V.O.)

Here I won't have to pay such a high price for it, Dad. I won't have to do what you say all the time and feel suffocating.

SANDRO

That's right, you're on your own now.

IDEA (V.O.)

Good. That's exactly what I wanted: to be left alone.

As he lets the Woman into the room and is about to close the door he winks at Young Idea and puts his finger to his lips to signal to her to keep the secret. Then shuts his door. Young Idea remains standing there for a second, then enters her room. The corridor is now empty. End of FANTASY.

Older Idea closes the door, takes a long breath and sits down, trying to contain her emotions.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A sudden knock at the door startles her.

IDEA (cont'd)
(jumping)
Yes?

The door opens slowly and Mimi comes in with a tea tray.

MIMI
I thought you might like some tea. I
make camomile for Miz Lee every night.
It helps her to sleep.

IDEA
Poor lady, she still seems very attached
to her husband and somewhat still under
shock.
(looking at the walls)
To have all these portraits of him does
not help.
(romanticizing)
Theirs must have been such a tender
marriage. He loved her a lot, right?

MIMI
Loved her? The man was a monster. He
kept her locked up in this house for
twenty six years, beating her, abusing
her.. He made her go nuts.

IDEA
(shocked)
No?!

MIMI
I swear on my dead husband's soul.

IDEA
Oh, I'm sorry. Yours too?

MIMI
But mine was a real gentleman. You know,
Miss, if I were you, I wouldn't stick
around here. You'd be better off getting
on with your trip.

IDEA
But I have to wait till the morning now
to say bye and collect my money for the
painting!

MIMI
As you like, Miss. It is not up to me to
interfere.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Mimi turns and leaves the room. Idea plunges inside her bed and pulls the covers up. She stays still for a while. Then she comes up for air, rubs her eyes, turns off the lights and goes to sleep.

EXT. GARDEN LEE'S HOUSE DAY

The neglected garden overlooks the river. Lee sits at a table having breakfast.

Idea walks in staring at the river.

IDEA
Good morning!

LEE
Hello! Did you sleep well?

IDEA
Very well, thank you. I would love to take you out for breakfast to thank you for your hospitality before I take off.

LEE
I'd love to!!!

IDEA
Great!

LEE
If the secretaries were better cooked, maybe the house would have one huge chandelier from Venice, Italy.

Idea stares at Lee in disbelief. Is it the language barrier?

IDEA
Sorry? My English is not that good-

Idea's iPhone rings and she starts speaking in Italian to her mother.

IDEA (cont'd)
Mother! Guess what? No, I'm not in Miami and NO, I haven't called uncle Giorgio yet. I'm in Mississippi staying at this beautiful mansion. Yes, big enough. Yes, smaller than ours, yes. The lady of the house is very nice and-

Mimi arrives and, trying not to interrupt Idea too much, gives her a piece of paper to read.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIMI

(whispers)

Sorry Miss. Please read this and read it over here.

IDEA

(nods to Mimi)

Mother, where was I? Oh yes, this lady is extremely generous and-

(her mouth drops as she reads)

She is paying me a few thousand dollars for a.. for a.. consultation on some birds she has. Yes, absolutely, tell father! No! Just tell him!

(putting down the paper)

Mother, I have to go now. No, then I leave for Okefenokee. O-ke-fe-no-kee: Otranto, kappa, Empoli.. Forget it mom. I'll call you when I get there. Promise.

Idea hangs up, puts the paper in her pocket and walks up to Lee.

IDEA (cont'd)

Mothers..

LEE

You mean, fathers!

Once again, Idea is struck by Lee's uncanny intuitions.

LEE (cont'd)

Bring me back those pearls, do you understand me Mimi?

Idea turns around to see if Mimi is there, but there is only her.

IDEA

Lee, it's me.. Idea, not Mimi.

LEE

I know you're Idea. What would you like for lunch?

INT. GUEST ROOM LEE'S HOUSE DAY

Idea is in her room. She briefly goes into the hallway.

IDEA (O.S.)

(very quietly)

Mimi.. Mimi..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Idea comes back with Mimi. She gives her the paper and sits down.

IDEA (cont'd)

Poor Lee. I better go right now.

Idea starts packing.

MIMI

I told you last night that you should have kept going.

IDEA

Well, I'm leaving now. Give me the money she owes me, please, as they're in your custody, I'm sure just like Lee is.

MIMI

There is no money. I only receive a monthly allotment for the food and household expenses. She's basically a prisoner.

IDEA

A prisoner? But in the paper they only say she is seriously affected by a mental disease.

MIMI

Yes, I know, but she is not allowed to leave the house. Her husband ruined her and married her for her money on top of it.

IDEA

Bastard.

MIMI

But there was some justice.

IDEA

That's right, he dropped dead!

MIMI

More justice than that.

(whispering)

She killed him.

Mimi's lips close tightly with satisfaction. Idea is speechless.

EXT. ROADS MISSISSIPPI DAY

Idea is back on the road, driving along, listening to her iPod, pointing forward her camcorder, to record the green landscape around her and the great Mississippi river.

EXT. PICNIC AREA MISSISSIPPI SUNSET

Idea is sitting on a picnic table in a picnic area along the river. She is devouring a hamburger. She talks to the camcorder as she eats.

VIDEO INSERT:

IDEA

I feel really American right now.

(to the lens)

Here, a REAL hamburger! I have never eaten one before!

(playful)

What a weirdo that Lee woman.. A prisoner, a killer.. I was lucky to get out of there in one piece.

(changing mood)

A prisoner, penniless, trapped in a dream world.. Poor lady.. What makes me think I'm any different? I have no money either and I'm a prisoner too, of my family's expectations and distrust. So sad..

End of INSERT. A flock of birds fly up over the picnic area. Idea rushes to observe the birds in flight with her binoculars.

IDEA (cont'd)

Wow.. How beautiful!

Then she eyes a PARK RANGER cleaning up the picnic area.

IDEA (cont'd)

They are Fringilla coelebs, mostly dark in their pectoral areas.. Beautiful, right?

The Park Ranger, unaware, does not respond.

IDEA (cont'd)

And these are the Acanthis Cannabina! They usually live on islands.

The birds disappear in the sky. Idea looks down. Even the Park Ranger is gone. Idea looks towards the river:

FANTASY:

Idea sees her FAMILY picnicking by the river at dusk.

SANDRO

So, where are these thousands of dollars
this crazy lady was supposed to give you?

SERENA

Be kind to your daughter, she is trying
really hard, don't you see that?

SANDRO

I gave her twice that much when she
turned twenty.

ALLEGRA

And she donated it to the World Wildlife
Fund.

IDEA (V.O.)

Shhh, don't tell him.

SANDRO

She doesn't know what she's doing.

IDEA (V.O.)

Yes I do. I don't experiment with
animals, kill them, package them and make
money off them like you do at that stupid
factory of yours!

SERENA

I miss her. She's so full of life, she
fills the house with her energy and-

Allegra nods.

ANDREA

True mom. I miss her too.

CARLO

But at least she is not here to borrow my
iTouch all the time!

IDEA (V.O.)

You all look like a bunch of chickens,
all victims under his spell. Never react
or rebel. He's a dictator, that's what
he is!

Idea seems really angry. A few seconds go by. End of
FANTASY

INT. IDEA'S CAR MISSISSIPPI NIGHT

Idea drives along a dark country road. She shivers in the damp night air as a few RAIN DROPS splatter on the windshield. She seems cold and tired.

EXT. ROAD MISSISSIPPI NIGHT

As the RAIN starts coming down hard, Idea pulls over to close up her roof. It's a losing battle. The canvas is full of holes and the frame won't close tightly. Idea starts to cry in frustration as she is drenched by the pelting RAIN. Then she gets in and leaves.

INT. IDEA'S CAR ROAD MISSISSIPPI NIGHT

Idea, tears in her eyes is driving under a small umbrella. She turns on the camera. VIDEO INSERT: we see her red eyes. The aperture opens as wide as it can. Idea's hair and eyes appear grainy and murky. Occasional passing cars illuminate the image, making it clear and sharp.

IDEA

Who can I call? Oh yes! That guy on the plane was from Mississippi! Merda, I don't have his number.. Merda!
(annoyed, grabs the camera)
I'm turning you off.

She turns off the camcorder. End of the VIDEO INSERT. She stops the car. She thinks for a moment, feeling defeated. Then she grabs her iPhone and dials. It rings and rings.

IDEA (cont'd)

(shouting over the pounding rain)
Hello? Hello! No one answers?

It rings some more.

IDEA (cont'd)

Someone should be home.. it's the middle of the night there.

She hangs up, feeling lost and alone. Idea turns on the camcorder:

IDEA (O.S.) (cont'd)

I've changed my mind.. I turn you back on.

VIDEO INSERT: her hands on the wheel are fairly well framed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA (cont'd)

What a stupid idea anyway. Father would have been too happy to hear I was homesick and in trouble. He would have reproached me and made me feel worse.. Mom would've started with the "go see Uncle Giorgio" thing..
 (she dries her face)
 Stupid asshole car!

She puts the car into gear and gets back on the road.

IDEA (cont'd)

What am I going to do now? I have six dollars left. I'm hungry, this horrible puddle of a car needs gas and I'm still a day away from Okefenokee.

More tears well up in her eyes. Frustrated, she smudges them away.

IDEA (cont'd)

Merda!

End of VIDEO INSERT. She stops at a light. In the background are brightly colored lights and throngs of people.

IDEA (cont'd)

(smiling with hope)
 Where the hell am I?

She leans out her window to ask directions but there are too many people walking by and her voice gets lost.

IDEA (cont'd)

Excuse me? Hey! Where am I? Can you please tell me if this is the right road to Georgia? Excuse me, sir?

Idea stops along the curb.

EXT. ROAD CASINO BOATS MISSISSIPPI NIGHT

Idea steps out of her car. On the river, alongside the road, are several gaily decorated steam boats. She looks around, surprised. The rain has stopped.

Suddenly Idea sees two GUYS carousing along the slick side walk speaking English with heavy foreign accents.

IDEA

Hey!

The TWO GUYS walk up to Idea's car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUY 1
(heavy accent)
I'm sorry we are not from here.

GUY 2
I'm sorry.

IDEA
You're from Europe, right?

GUY 1
Yes, why! I'm from Norway.

GUY 2
I'm from Greece, and you are.. Italian,
right? I speak some Italian: Ciao!

IDEA
Great! Yes! Born and raised in Rome!

GUY 2
I LOVE Rome!

GUY 1
What a coincidence! We are here totally
by chance.

IDEA
Me, too! I got lost in the rain.

GUY 1
Park the car. Let's go for a drink.

IDEA
Umm... I can't. I'm travelling on a
tight budget.

GUY 2
So were we until we won two hundred
dollars at the casino.

IDEA
Casino? Where?

The Guys point toward the river. For the first time Idea sees the reason for all the bustling activity. The river boats are FLOATING CASINOS.

IDEA (cont'd)
That's why there are so many people and
lights.. Just like in Las Vegas!

GUY 1
Have you been there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

IDEA

Nope.

They all start laughing.

GUY 1

Then come with us! Let's go back to the casino.

IDEA

Fantastic, but, do they charge to get in?

GUY 2

No way! And we just met this guy there, he's a boss, a big shot. He is Italian. He can do anything for us if we need it.

IDEA

Davvero? Fantastic. Let's go!

Idea parks the car and walks away with the Two Guys towards the boats.

INT. CASINO BOATS MONTAGE NIGHT

The TRIO is at a crap table betting away. Idea rolls the dice. Hard eight. The CROUPIER announces the winning number and Idea jumps up and down. The two Guys try to keep her under control.

Idea's luck is hot. The two Guys keep betting on her. They're winning serious money. Idea puts all her chips on snake eyes. The Guys try to stop her. It's too crazy. Idea shoos them away and rolls.

Snake eyes! Idea laughs wildly and collects an armful of chips.

Idea and the Guys are at the cashier's cage watching as the WOMAN counts out Idea's winnings. One, two, three.. six, seven, eight.. TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS!

Exhilarated, the Guys and Idea start toward the exit of the casino with their arms around each other and lightly kissing.

TWO MEN, mid 40s, TEODORO, a low brow Roman and RODOLFO, the typical Florentine, both too eccentric and loud, approach them.

TEODORO

(heavy Italian accent)

Hey guys, you still here? Got the girl?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUY 2

Idea, this is Teodoro, the Italian guy I was telling you about.

TEODORO

(flirting)

How are you little darling?

GUY 1

Idea is Italian.

IDEA

Salve.

Some of the following exchanges will be in Italian with English subtitles.

TEODORO

Ah, e lo potevi di' subito.
(you could've said right away)

RODOLFO

Sembrava un'americana.
(she looked American)

TEODORO

Si, de Kansas City.

RODOLFO

Ciao. Piacere, Rodolfo.

IDEA

Ciao.

TEODORO

E che ce fai qui nel Mississippi?
(and what're you doing in Mississippi?)

IDEA

Sono ornitologa, sto seguendo-
(I'm an ornithologist, I follow the-)

TEODORO

Sei che???
(a what???)

IDEA

Ornitologa, studio gli uccelli.
(an ornithologist, I study birds-)

TEODORO

(to Rodolfo)

Davvero? Gli uccelli?
(really? birds?)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RODOLFO
 (to all of them)
 Come upstairs for a drink, if you like,
 let me show you what we do with birds.
 We are shooting a film-

IDEA
 A film???

GUY 1
 What film?

TEODORO
 "Birds of Fire"

Idea and the Two Guys follow the TWO MEN. We see them disappear among the slot machines while talking away.

INT. SUITE HOTEL CASINO NIGHT

A super suite turned into a cheesy movie set. On a bed of feathers, a semi naked BLONDE is repeating the same sex scene over and over next to some HOT STUD. The crew and the director act as if making a regular film, but this is definitely a porn.

Idea stands behind the scenes next to the guys, while Teodoro and Rodolfo are comfortably lounging, keeping an eye on the masterpiece they are producing, and they talk to Idea.

TEODORO
 Please sit down, prego.

The BLONDE stops and turns, bothered by his noise.

THE DIRECTOR
 Shushhhhh. Please!!!

TEODORO
 Sorry. Scusa cara.. Scusa!

RODOLFO
 Champagne?

IDEA
 Grazie!

TEODORO
 And some chicken wings, please.

IDEA
 (her face drops)
 Not for me, thank you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUYS

Thank you, Graziiii.

Rodolfo gets up to get the champagne. The two guys move a bit closer to watch the Blonde. Idea stays and sits down.

TEODORO

Allora, spiegami un po' che faresti?
(so, explain to me what you do)

IDEA

Sto cercando un nuovo lavoro per fare
ricerca sull'aquila reale d'America e
studiarne le-
(I'm looking for a new job to do research
on the American Bald eagle and-)

TEODORO

Stai a secco e devi trova' qualcosa per
anda' avanti e studia' sti uccelli.
(you're broke, you need something to keep
you going while studying these birds)

IDEA

Be' si..

TEODORO

E che problema c'e'! Ci penso io.
Vediamo che posso fare..
(and what's the problem? I'll take care
of it. Let me see what I can do..)

IDEA

Grazie!

TEODORO

Domani mattina verso le nove, passa qua.
Chiamiamo il direttore del Museo di
Scienze Naturali di Miami che e' un mio
amico. Io ho una casa la' conosco tutti.
(tomorrow morning come by at 9. We'll
call the director of the Museum of
Natural Science in Miami. He's my
friend. I've a house there, I know
everybody)

IDEA

Grazie, sarebbe stupendo. Ma come-
(thank you, that'd be great but how-)

Rodolfo, the room service waiter with the champagne and the chicken wings on wheels, and the two guys step in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TEODORO

(to everyone)

Tonight, if you like, you can be all my guests here at the hotel casino.

(to Rodolfo)

Sai a Miami chi potrebbe dare una mano alla signorina?

(you know who in Miami could help her?)

RODOLFO

Ciquita, il cubano.

(Ciquita the Cuban)

TEODORO

Giusto, that's right.

Idea, not sure, while sipping her champagne, looks at them devouring the chicken wings like hungry animals while glancing at the sex scene. Idea looks repulsed. To make it even worse, Teodoro holds a chicken wing at her face.

From afar we hear the Blonde screaming with pleasure.

THE DIRECTOR

Cut!

Teodoro and Rodolfo look in that direction and clap.

TEODORO

Very good!

RODOLFO

Bravi!!! Excellent!

Idea gives out a fake smile, to be kind and polite.

INT. HOTEL ROOM/CASINO

NIGHT

VIDEO INSERT:

Idea is behind the camera. The two guys are passed out on their bed. Idea's bed is empty. Idea pans to Guy 2.

IDEA (V.O)

That is Adones.. But not really.. He is not that handsome..

(swinging the camera)

And this is Karl, Norwegian. Very cute. I like him MUCH better!

Idea pans from Karl to Adones.

IDEA (cont'd)

Greeks are too similar to Italians.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Then back to Karl.

IDEA (cont'd)

But I could never do anything tonight. I feel totally turned off. Plus I am sick of aerobics. That's what sex is without love! In fact I feel like leaving right now, but I have no choice, I need to play all my cards and meet that Teodoro pig in the morning.

Idea points the camera at the mirror as she makes pig like faces and sounds. END OF VIDEO INSERT.

INT. HOTEL CASINO

EARLY MORNING

Idea slips out of the hotel room carrying her travel bag and the bag with her money. She looks at her watch: 9 am. She gets inside the elevator.

INT. SUITE HOTEL CASINO

EARLY MORNING

No one has gone to sleep yet. The set is in real chaos and the Blonde and Teodoro are having a nasty argument. Wigs and costumes are thrown about the room by her, hysterically so.

TEODORO

You cost me an arm and a leg, you bitch. I give you jewelry, filet of beef with green pepper corns, I pay for your nails every fifteen minutes and you.. you-

BLONDE

(getting really mad)

And guess what, I'm an ACTRESS, a SAG actress!

Idea walks in, not sure of how to approach the situation. Rodolfo sees her but does not greet her. He whispers something in Teodoro's ear. Teodoro briefly looks at Idea and then gestures to Rodolfo as to say: what the hell is she doing here?

Idea tries to wave at Teodoro to get his attention but to no avail. Suddenly, the Blonde storms out of the room cursing both men:

BLONDE (cont'd)

You sons of a bitch, you bastards, you- I'm out of here! I'M HISTORY!!!

Their working relationship is obviously over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Idea, stands there, totally put off by the whole thing, but waiting for her turn. The two men, too wrapped up in what just happened, don't even acknowledge her. They slip back deep inside the room, leaving her behind. Irritated, Idea leaves.

EXT/INT. CASINO

DAY

Idea storms out of the casino boat, ready to get her car and leave town.

Suddenly she hears some Italian voices. She turns and sees: Teodoro and Rodolfo talking loud to each other while waiting for the Valet to pull up their limo.

TEODORO

E che facciamo ora senza sta' attrice?
(what are we gonna do with no actress?)

RODOLFO

Abbiamo sempre trovato una soluzione..
(we have always found a solution)

Rodolfo looks down, then away and finds Idea waiting to cross the street. Something crosses his mind..

Waving at her, from behind their huge limo that just pulled up, he yells at Idea, trying to stop her.

TEODORO

Hey bella! Scusa! hey!

Idea finally turns, sees him waving at her and resentfully walks towards him.

TEODORO (cont'd)

Lascia sta 'ste aquile reali, e' tutta una perdita di tempo. Sei nel Paese dell'opportunità. Vero Rodo'?
(give those eagles up, it's a waste of time. You're in the land of opportunity. Right Rodo'?)

RODOLFO

Verissimo.
(very true)

TEODORO

Perche' non vieni a fare un film con noi, guadagni un po' di soldi, magari ti piace. Ti faccio fare una bella parte..
(why don't you come and make a film with us, can make a little money, you might like it, I'll give you a great part..)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TEODORO (cont'd)
 (a Rodolfo)
 Che film facciamo la settimana prossima?
 (What film are we making next week?)

RODOLFO
 Buchi Neri nello Spazio.
 (Black Holes in Space)

TEODORO
 Ah guarda, una delizia..
 (ah, yes, delightful..)

When Teodoro turns toward Idea, she is already gone and no where to be found.

SPFX: The eagle's shadow flies across the map of Mississippi towards the East side of the State. The eagle dives, the map swells and becomes:

EXT. HIGHWAY MISSISSIPPI DAY

Idea is driving along. Her camcorder is mounted on. She is talking to it.

IDEA (V.O.)
 What a bunch of phonies.. Why did I even believe him for a second? And thank goodness I did not sleep with that guy Karl.. Sometimes, I think, as a girl, you find yourself in bed screwing a man you think you want just because he's the only man, or you screw the one you don't want, just because it would take too long to explain why you wouldn't!

INT. IDEA'S CAR MISSISSIPPI DAY

With a big smile on her face, Idea touches the money she won which is piled on her front seat. Her camcorder is pointed away from her.

IDEA
 I can't believe this is mine! About ten thousand dollars! Now I don't have to ask anyone for anything. Not even that super wealthy uncle Giorgio!

She turns the camcorder and points it to her mouth.

VIDEO INSERT: She holds the money with her teeth for just a moment and then smiles, happy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 I never had so much money! It feels so
 different! And yet nothing has really
 changed!

She turns off the camera. End of VIDEO INSERT. She grabs
 her iPod, blasts some music and keeps driving.

FANTASY:

Almost glued to her windshield we see her parents' faces,
 while they are sitting on her hood. Idea smiles triumphantly
 and waves at them the hundred dollar bills.

IDEA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 See??? I proved you all wrong!

She smirks, happy. End of FANTASY. Idea looks ahead at the
 road and keeps driving.

SPFX: The image of Idea's car on the road swells and becomes
 the map where the eagle's shadow crosses the border passing
 from Mississippi to Alabama. The map swells and becomes:

EXT. ROAD ALABAMA DAY

Idea's convertible passes a sign that says "Welcome to
 Alabama". Idea is almost standing up as she drives. She
 grabs her camera and points it to the vast landscape ahead.

IDEA
 Alabama!!! Let's look at it!
 (turns her camcorder around)
 But no stopping in Alabama! I really
 want to get to Okefenokee! O-ke-fe-no-
 kee.. it sounds like a magic word. It
 must be a Native American name. Those
 are the most beautifully sounding ones.

Idea sits back down. Puts the camera down. The car
 continues into the shimmering morning light.

EXT. HIGHWAY GEORGIA DAY

Idea's car is parked on the shoulder. She is standing in the
 middle of a two lane highway looking all around her 360
 degrees, first with the binoculars, then with her camcorder.
 She completes her circle and ends on a sign that says:
 "Welcome to Georgia".

IDEA (V.O.)
 No eagles yet but hey.. I am in Georgia
 now! I've travelled over two thousand
 miles, and I am independently wealthy!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Idea stops the camcorder, grabs her iPhone and makes a call.

IDEA (cont'd)

Hi mom! Mom? Can you hear me? Oh hi Dad, what are you doing answering mom's cell? Oh, she is? No, don't wake her up.. Yes, all is great! I made ten thousand dollars! No, on a great job here in.. Oh thank you Dad, a condo at the beach??? One for each of us? You don't have to buy me anything else, I got all I need! Yes, it's a great job! I start tomorrow. No, not sure yet when I'll come back, no. Gotta go Dad, yes, ok. Love you too. Ciao!

(to herself, surprised)

"Love you too"???

Idea stretches her arms into the wide horizon ahead and takes in all the fresh air that she can. She is happy.

EXT. VALDOSTA GEORGIA DAY

Idea's car heads for a giant suburban mall.

INT. VALDOSTA MALL GEORGIA DAY

Idea is already loaded down with bags as she approaches a sporting goods store. Idea enters the store.

INT. SPORTING GOODS STORE VALDOSTA DAY

Idea grabs a shopping cart and heads directly to the camping department. As she starts loading her cart with gear, she notices a great looking guy: MARK, early 30s. A scientist who has suppressed a long time ago his spontaneity and passion and is now a bit too anal retentive, always trying to control himself and his surroundings. He is methodically folding and putting away some merchandise that he has just looked at. Idea tries to catch his glance without success.

IDEA

(getting close)

Excuse me, you work here, yes?

MARK

(kind but reserved)

Actually no, I don't. Sorry.

IDEA

(not letting go)

You are putting things away, so I thought you worked here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mark smiles and starts testing out bird calls. He blows into another whistle.

IDEA (cont'd)
 (taking the opportunity)
 Aquila chrysaetos. The Golden Eagle.

Mark looks up at her, surprised.

MARK
 Wow.. How do you know?

IDEA
 I'm an ornithologist and I specialize in eagles.

MARK
 Well, you've come to the right place.

He takes his whistle and heads for the counter. Idea throws a few more things in her basket and follows him. She gets in line behind him and pulls a wad of cash out of her pocket.

IDEA
 (to Mark, feigning helplessness)
 Excuse me. I am not from this country. Could you help me?

MARK
 Uh, sure. Where are you from?

IDEA
 Rome, Italy.

MARK
 I love Rome, and all things Italian.

IDEA
 (very sexy)
 Really?

MARK
 Yeah! So what do you need to know?

Idea holds up a hundred dollar bill.

IDEA
 How much is this in euros in these past few days?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARK

(looking in his cell)
Let me see.. it keeps shifting every day,
but a Ben Frank is worth a hundred bucks.

IDEA

Ben Frank? What does it mean?

MARK

Benjamin Franklin. You know, the
Declaration of-

Idea starts laughing and butts in.

IDEA

Of course! Benjamin Franklin said that
the Bald Eagle was a bird of bad moral
character and should not have become
America's national bird. He recommended
the "honorable" turkey instead.

Mark chuckles as he pays for his whistle.

MARK

It's 1.23 to the dollar today, by the
way. Enjoy your stay.

Idea gives out a radiant smile. He exits the store, foiling
Idea's plans to continue flirting with him. The CASHIER
finishes ringing up Idea's purchases.

CASHIER

(to Idea)
Two thousand, seven hundred and eighty
seven cents is your total.

Idea is still watching Mark passing in front of the store's
window. Mesmerized, Idea comes back to reality.

IDEA

(to the cashier)
WHAT? Come???

Shocked, she pays, grabs her bags and starts to follow him.
She runs, just passing him.

IDEA (cont'd)

Hi!

But one of her bags gives in at this very instant.

Mark sees her trying to pick up her scattered items from the
floor, and decides to help her. He starts folding neatly her
things.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

IDEA (cont'd)
Well.. Thank you! Grazie mille!

MARK
(with a big smile)
You're very welcome. Prego!

IDEA
(a bit embarrassed)
I.. I.. I did need a change of clothes
for sure! I had brought almost nothing
with me. But maybe I went too crazy and
bought too much!
(pause, sexy)
Do you ever do whatever pleases you, with
no restrain?

Mark stands there, taken, but obviously much too nervous.

IDEA (cont'd)
Do you need to pee?

Mark, shocked beyond belief, looks at her, totally intrigued.

IDEA (cont'd)
(giggling)
You are moving all the time, so I thought-

MARK
I am in a hurry, actually.

IDEA
Me too. Going to a place I have always
wanted to go to. You want to know which?

MARK
Not necessary, but always do whatever
pleases you. IF YOU CAN, that's to say.

IDEA
(enchanted, looks at him)
Really?

MARK
(trying to resist her)
Nice talking to you. I better go now.

IDEA
Yes, me too. So, I walk with you to the
exit. Do you mind?

Mark is somewhat hesitant, yet overwhelmed by her ways.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MARK

Hmmm.. No, of course not.

INT. BEDROOM MOTEL GEORGIA NIGHT

Idea and Mark are making wild love. He seems to have finally let go, even if at times we see that something is on his mind

LATER:

Idea and Mark are relaxing in each other's arms. But Mark seems still a bit nervous and feeling awkward. He gets up to straighten a couple of paintings on the wall in front of him. Idea, totally enamored, sits up looking at him with admiration, and waits for him to come back. Then she goes back into his arms.

IDEA

I had dreamt to make love with an American man, in an American bed, ever since I started my trip.

MARK

Well, I'm glad I've served the purpose.

IDEA

Don't be silly!
(softer and a bit shy)
Actually.. it felt very strange-

MARK

Strange?

IDEA

Yes.. I mean I felt as if my soul was glued to yours, as if I had already known you.. I really like you! I know it's a bit sudden but-

She kisses him passionately. Mark pulls away a bit.

MARK

I like you a lot too, but I have to tell you something.

IDEA

Something good or bad?

MARK

Something that-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA

(stopping him with kisses)
Let's not ruin this moment with too much
talking. It's so beautiful right now!!!

MARK

You're a crazy girl, aren't you?

IDEA

No!!! Why? Because I fall in love with
love? Don't you?

More kissing. Then Idea springs up and leaves the bed.

IDEA (cont'd)

Got to pee.

She leaves the door opened and as we hear her peeing, we stay with Mark, close to his face, to his wondering eyes, to his uncomfortable core. He's trying to decide what to do next. He's about to use his cell, then puts it down. He lines up his things on the side table, making order.. Idea storms in.

IDEA (cont'd)

(kissing him all over)
Did you miss me?

MARK

Yes, I think I did, actually.

IDEA

GREAT!!!

She hugs him with passion. They resume their embrace. Then slowly, they close their eyes to sleep.

IDEA (cont'd)

(whispering)
What do you say if tomorrow we went for a
ride some place together?

Mark is already fast asleep. Idea snuggles in his arms.

INT. BEDROOM MOTEL GEORGIA DAY

Idea is waking up to an empty room. Mark is gone. Next to her, lies a small NOTE. Idea grabs it and reads it:

"Idea, sorry for getting so caught up by your beautiful free spirit and for leaving without saying good bye. You're great fun. I wish you a very fulfilling trip in this country. Lots of good luck, take care. And who knows, we might meet again in Rome! Ciao, Mark"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA
 (really sad)
 Right! I don't even know your last name!

Idea puts down the note and sinks her face into Mark's pillow.

EXT. ROAD GEORGIA DAY

Idea drives through the fecund Southern landscape: magnolias, Spanish moss, sparkling brooks.

INT. IDEA'S CAR GEORGIA DAY

Idea rotates her camcorder while she drives. VIDEO INSERT: we see trees, sky, more trees and then Idea's eyes and hair blowing in the wind.

IDEA
 That guy.. I really liked him, I should have come across less casual maybe? What an idiot I am! Why not have the guts to say "stay with me, I've the feeling this is something special.."

She laughs to herself.

IDEA (cont'd)
 But maybe it's good that he's gone. Love is a wild thing. It can steer you to a direction you never imagined before and I might have gotten off course and-

Suddenly she screams and jerks the camera around just in time to catch a sign that reads: "OKEFENOKEE 30 MILES"

She rotates the camera again. We see a piece of sky and then, coming up from below, Idea's face.

IDEA (cont'd)
 Thirty miles from Okefenokee! I can't wait! All those baby Bald Eagles I'll be able to see and touch!

End of VIDEO INSERT.

EXT. OKEFENOKEE NATIONAL PARK GEORGIA DAY

Idea's car passes a sign: "Welcome to Okefenokee National Park". Squealing with delight, she drives past it toward the Research Center at the edge of the primeval swamp. It is a magical place. She parks her car and runs inside.

INT. OKEFENOKEE RESEARCH CENTER DAY

Idea runs up to the WOMAN at the reception desk.

IDEA
(breathless)
Hi, my name is Idea Fanti. I'm the
ornithologist from Rome, Italy,
specializing in Bald Eagles, friends of
Dr. Thomas McCadden, who called to-

WOMAN
Oh, yes. Dr. McCadden did call Dr.
Hobart regarding your arrival.

IDEA
How kind of him! I knew he would come
through! They are really nice people,
him and his father.. I can't wait to
start working here! I have come all the
way from California, after arriving first
from Rome.

The WOMAN is touched by Idea's exuberance and enthusiasm.

WOMAN
Why don't you go and speak to Dr. Hobart,
he's the one in charge here. He's in
that room right across.

IDEA
Thank you! Thanks a million. Grazie!

Idea walks away from the reception desk toward the open door
of Dr. Hobart's office.

INT. DR. HOBART'S OFFICE DAY

Just as Idea is about to walk in, she freezes:

Sitting behind his super organized and clean desk, is DR.
MARK HOBART. The same MARK she just slept with.

IDEA
(radiant smile)
It's you!

MARK
(blank stare)
Pardon me?

IDEA
It's me!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Finally, Mark recognizes her.

MARK
Oh, my God..
(paranoid)
How did you find me?

IDEA
(pretending)
I looked all over America, called
everyone and..
(now serious)
It's a coincidence, you silly! I can't
believe it too!

She approaches him to kiss him. He moves back, terrified.

IDEA (cont'd)
Aren't you happy I'm here?

MARK
See??? I knew it, never do irrational
things, never deal with what cannot be
applied later to your own reality.

IDEA
Excuse me? What? Che dici?

MARK
(worried, but in control)
Welcome.. What is your name?

IDEA
Eedayah Fanti.. And you are Dr. Mark
Hobart: the man who is going to make my
dream come true! The man who is going to
give me a job doing field work with the
American Bald Eagle!

MARK
Hold on a minute!

IDEA
(flirtatiously)
Aren't you the boss around here?

MARK
Well, yeah, I'm in charge of operations
and research but-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

IDEA

Then give me a job working for you! I'm super qualified, I have credentials from the University of Rome and our common friend Thomas McCadden-

MARK

Oh, yeah.. So you are the girl he called me about. You know, he's supposed to be here in a couple of days or so.

IDEA

Great. I had a job all set up in Irvine, California at his research center. But they lost their funding so Ian suggested I came here. When would you like me to start working?

(super sexy)

You won't regret it..

Idea holds out her hand to shake. But Mark is using his to line up some note pads on his desk and when he finally reciprocates, she doesn't let go.

MARK

Listen, Ms. Fanti..

(finally getting his hand back)

Irvine isn't the only center to have its budget cut. We're working under the same pressures here. So I'm afraid that there's no way I could offer you a paying position.

IDEA

Then I'll volunteer! I just won ten thousand dollars at a casino!

MARK

Ten thousand dollars? That's a lot of money! And you won it?

IDEA

You see? I'm lucky and clever, all at once! You MUST let me work here.

Mark laughs, unable to resist her enthusiasm.

MARK

You're some passionate person, huh? Alright, alright. We do have one space available. But on a volunteer basis only, understand? Like an internship.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

IDEA
Yes! Anything! Perfect! Fantastico!

MARK
Come on, I'll show you around.

He comes out from behind his desk. Idea moves in very close to him.

IDEA
(sexy voice)
It's going to be a pleasure working with you, Dr. Hobart.

EXT. FIELDS RESEARCH OKEFENOKEE CENTER DAY

A group of FIVE ASSISTANTS, with the finest and newest equipment are doing some radio tracking.

Idea and Mark walk up to them.

MARK
(almost whispering)
Morning. Where are the others?

ASSISTANT 1
(quietly)
Out on the barge.

Idea gets closer to see what they're doing.

IDEA
(full volume)
Hi! My name is Idea, how are you?

The group shushes her. Mark takes her by the arm and leads her away.

IDEA (cont'd)
Maybe I could help them?

MARK
Yes, but you have to keep your voice down. See up there?

Idea looks up and sees THREE SCIENTISTS sitting silent and motionless in the branches of a dead tree.

MARK (cont'd)
They're making behavioral observations.

IDEA
(with irony)
Of me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mark shakes his head and smiles.

IDEA (cont'd)
Just joking..

MARK
You're funny.

IDEA
Could I climb the tree and see what they're doing? Maybe I finally get to see a Bald Eagle! I've been waiting so long!

MARK
Not now. Come with me.

They keep walking towards the swamp area.

EXT. SWAMP OKEFENOKEE CENTER DAY

Idea and Mark arrive at the swamp. Out on the water they see a boat with another group of THREE ORNITHOLOGISTS and FOUR ASSISTANTS equipped with nets, ready to do banding.

Idea and Mark jump in a boat. Mark pilots them up to the group.

MARK
How are we doing this morning?

FEMALE SCIENTIST
Nothing yet. We've been here since five a.m. We found these eggs though.

Idea leans over to see as one of the Assistants unzips a thermal container. Inside are three eggs.

FEMALE SCIENTIST (cont'd)
They were under those logs over there. Probably knocked out of that tree. The nest was badly damaged. I'm afraid our poacher may be back.

IDEA
Poacher?!

MARK
Yeah, if we didn't have enough problems with funding and pollution and so forth, we also have to contend with sickos who think it's fun to kill eagles.

Idea looks as though she's about to cry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA

I can't believe it.

MARK

This is Dr. Idea Fanti, an ornithologist from Italy. Idea, this is Dr. Wiggles and her group. They're studying the effects of pesticides on the eagles' breeding habits.

IDEA

I heard really bad news about this-

DR. WIGGLES

Well, yes. Pesticides used in agriculture get into the rivers and are absorbed by the fish. When the eagles eat the contaminated fish, it interferes with their calcium metabolism and produces thin shelled, often infertile, eggs.

IDEA

It's disastrous.

(to Mark, softly)

I would LOVE to work with this group!

MARK

We'll see.

(to the group)

Remember, we're meeting in the reading room at noon. Bring all notes and data.

GROUP

Yes. Sure. See you then.

Mark turns the boat around and heads back toward the shore.

IDEA

What are they going to do with those eggs?

MARK

Unfortunately, that's another one of the problems we have here. We need a new incubator and-

IDEA

Are you saying that those little baby eagles may not.. That's awful! I thought here you had every possible tool one can-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARK

We're going to try to get some "tools" today. Some government guys are coming by the center to take a look around and decide if they can part with some of the taxpayers' money.

IDEA

They have to!

Mark shakes his head.

MARK

It seems that a lot of those guys think putting some kind of scifi umbrella shield in outer space is more important than preserving the National symbol.

IDEA

(shaking her head)

It's so very sad.

(taking his hand)

You and I must change this, don't we?

INT. MEETING ROOM OKEFENOKEE RESEARCH CENTER DAY

Some MEN IN SUITS, followed by several SCIENTISTS, file out of the meeting room in silence leaving Mark and Idea sitting at the long table alone. The atmosphere is heavy and they both look depressed.

MARK

I've given this place everything I got. Another two years and the most exhaustive study on the Bald Eagle ever done would be complete.

IDEA

So, make it work. You can do it.

MARK

What's that? Some pragmatic Italian philosophy?

IDEA

No! It's everyone's philosophy! Let's get it done! The American way!

MARK

It's not that simple.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA

It's not that difficult. You just have to raise money from other sources.. like me for example!

MARK

Like you???

IDEA

Yes. I will buy you a new incubator. Not a big one, but-

MARK

(dubious)

A new incubator would cost around seven thousand dollars.

IDEA

Done! I still have that much from my winnings. I'll give it to you guys. But then, you'll have to give me food and board in return.

MARK

But are you really sure?

IDEA

Yes! Very sure!

MARK

Deal.

IDEA

(moving very close to him)

Should we seal it with a kiss?

Mark is taken aback. He starts gathering his papers, in his usual ways, avoiding eye contact with her.

MARK

(flustered)

Idea, this is business.

INT. BAR NEAR OKEFENOKEE CENTER NIGHT

In a corner of the old country bar, a MAN is singing the blues. Listening to the music, Idea, Mark and the Research Center Group are drinking at a table nearby.

DR. WIGGLES

(proposing a toast)

To Idea and her kind generosity!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ASSISTANT 1

And to her love and dedication to the
American Bald Eagle!

IDEA

Thank you!

ASSISTANT 2

From all of us at the Okefenokee Center.
Thank you so much! Graziiii.

IDEA

(toasting)

GraziE! Thank you to you all for having
me here and a special thanks to Mark
because I believe he is going to make me
the happiest girl in the world!

Idea looks at Mark seductively. Mark is embarrassed.
Everyone else exchanges looks of surprise.

MARK

(flushed)

I only said she could stay here as a
volunteer apprentice with room and board.

The Blues Man starts into another song.

ASSISTANT 3

Anybody wanna dance?

Everyone except Mark and Idea gets up and heads for the dance
floor. Idea scoots closer to Mark who shifts nervously in
his chair.

IDEA

What's wrong? Don't you like me anymore?

MARK

Yeah, I do. I really do. It's just that-

IDEA

What? We're going to be working
together. We might as well-

She leans over and kisses him. He tries to pull away.

MARK

It's not professional.

IDEA

So what? I'm a volunteer!

She kisses him again. This time, his resistance is less.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARK
Besides I have been trying to tell you
something.

She kisses him some more.

IDEA
(the heat is on)
Oh yes?

But she shuts him up by kissing him. He stops resisting
entirely.

MARK
Come on. Let's get out of here.

EXT. MARSH OUTSIDE BAR OKEFENOKEE NIGHT

Idea and Mark make out on the grass under the soft moon
light. Music from the bar wafts across the marsh. Idea
comes up for air.

IDEA
(sighing)
I can't believe this-

MARK
Shhh.. I don't want anyone to hear us.

IDEA
Why?
(whispering)
Look at the sky. The eagles are out
there somewhere close and I'm here with
you. I don't desire anything else. How
often does it happen to you to desire
nothing else?

MARK
Never. Right now, for example, I desire
to go back to my room.

IDEA
Me too, to your room.

MARK
Idea, I can't.. I-

IDEA
Shhhh-

She kisses him hard again to stop him from talking. We get
so close that their hair becomes a patch of swirling
moonlight.

INT. MARK'S ROOM OKEFENOKEE CENTER NIGHT

Idea and Mark are still kissing, but now they are in bed in Mark's room, which looks perfectly in order and super organized. They've just finished making love.

IDEA

I've never felt so close.. there's something special about you.

MARK

Slow down, Idea. Please slow down. I feel I'm hit by a hurricane.

She sits up and makes the sound of a hurricane and kisses him some more with great passion. Then she slows down and caresses him. He grabs her and kisses her tenderly.

MARK (cont'd)

Tell me some words in Italian.

IDEA

Like which?

MARK

Birds.

IDEA

Uccelli.

MARK

Legs.

IDEA

Gambe.

MARK

Breast.

IDEA

Seno.

MARK

Lips.

IDEA

Labbra.

MARK

Beautiful.

IDEA

Bello.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARK

No, I meant your lips are beautiful and I want to kiss them.

He fulfills his desire. Idea sighs happily.

IDEA

You know, I really like you and you are American!

MARK

Well, you can only get 50% more American than me.

IDEA

What do you mean?

MARK

I'm half Seminole Indian.

Idea quivers with excitement.

IDEA

An Indian???

It's almost too much for her. She gets up and goes to the open window, gazing at the moon.

IDEA (cont'd)

It's too good to be true!

MARK

What?

IDEA

The whole thing. I am so happy!!! Smell the air.. It smells so sweet.. It must be the sage. The American Indians used it a lot.. Why don't you come here to smell the night with me.

MARK

(getting a little nervous)

Do you always stand in front of windows naked?

IDEA

No! Only now, with you! And for you!

MARK

(ironic)

Oh yes?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

IDEA
Yes! YES!!!

She jumps back into bed and attacks him with kisses. He surrenders again.

INT. MARK'S ROOM OKEFENOKEE NIGHT

Idea is sleeping alone in Mark's bed. An ALARM rings harshly. She wakes up with a start and reaches out to shut it off.

She looks around and sees that Mark is gone. There's a note on the night stand.

IDEA
Oh no.. Not again!

She picks it up and reads, huffing and puffing:

"Idea, Sorry about setting the alarm for so early. I wanted to give you time to get back to your own room before the sun came up. We shouldn't have done what we did last night, but I'll explain it to you later.."

IDEA (cont'd)
(folding up the note)
I better start collecting them!

EXT. FIELDS RESEARCH OKEFENOKEE CENTER DAWN

The rising sun streaks the sky with pink, gold and purple. Idea is sitting high up in the dead tree. We hear her speak as she waits, looking alternatively through her camcorder and the binoculars, for an eagle to fly by.

IDEA (V.O.)
If I could only stop time right now.. I'm totally falling in love and-

Suddenly a bird passes over her. She grabs her camcorder and points it to the sky.

IDEA (V.O.) (cont'd)
The first sign! I will see an eagle today! And with Mark it'll be perfect! I knew I would find it all in America! My family will be so surprised and so proud of me! Speaking of whom.. I'm so happy that I even forgot to call home!

EXT. SWAMP OKEFENOKEE CENTER DAY

Idea, a lab coat on, is finally interacting with some SCIENTISTS. They are monitoring bird sounds through headphones.

SCIENTIST 1
The first pair should be lighting just before sunset.

IDEA
(whispering)
I can't wait to see them.

SCIENTIST 2
We're going to start banding at three, if you want to help us.

IDEA
Yes, of course! Only.. When is Mark coming back? I miss him a lot!

A few glances are exchanged among the group.

IDEA (cont'd)
(innocently so)
What?

SCIENTIST 1
Oh nothing.

SCIENTIST 2
He should be back soon. He went to pick up the incubator.

IDEA
Perfect!

Behind them, a couple of ASSISTANTS are embracing. Idea sees them and giggles.

IDEA (cont'd)
Them too, huh? It must be this place!

EXT. OKEFENOKEE RESEARCH CENTER SUNSET

Mark's car pulls up to the Research Center. An ASSISTANT helps him unload the crate containing the new incubator.

Idea comes running out of the building just as Mark gets back in his car and spins it around to leave the park.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDEA
 (to the Assistant)
 Where is Doctor Hobart going now?

ASSISTANT
 To see his wife and kids. It's Friday evening.

Idea's face drops. Fishing in his pocket he hands a note to Idea.

ASSISTANT (cont'd)
 He left this for you.

She grabs the note as in slow motion and then watches Mark's car disappear into the red sunset.

The Assistant goes back inside the building with the incubator.

Idea just stands there, motionless, looking at the void left by Mark. Tears roll down her cheeks as she reads the note, which in fact, is read by Mark:

MARK (V.O.)
 "Idea, your energy and liveliness are both irresistible and hard to come by. I've enjoyed seeing you go after your dream, so hard and passionately, that I could not interrupt you and bring you to reality. But I do have a reality and unfortunately it doesn't match yours. I tried to explain this to you a few times, but you didn't want to listen. I did enjoy you very much, as you remind me of a free spirit I let go of long ago, but after last night, I think it would be better, given my family situation, if we didn't see each other or work together anymore. Let it just be like a beautiful dream. For both of us. A big kiss, Mark."

Idea folds the note and continues to cry. Then she turns around and slowly walks away among the trees.

INT. IDEA'S ROOM OKEFENOKEE CENTER DUSK

Her room is like Mark's but a bit smaller and emptier. Idea is sitting on her bed, crying. Near her, Idea's smiling face on the portrait done by the Native American.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Idea is trying to Skype home. She tries to fight her tears. It rings and no one picks up. She tries to call on her iPhone instead, and waits for a while.

IDEA

Alice? Where've you all been? I also called the other day and no one answered. Yes, I know it's very late there, but I really need to talk to Mom.. A holiday? Where? Everyone? To Shanghai???

Without me? Oh.. business and pleasure mixed together.. that's typical of Dad. The real holidays he spends with.. With-

She starts crying again. Then sighs.

IDEA (cont'd)

Nothing.. All is great! Then tell them..

She takes a deep breath, trying to stem her tide of tears.

IDEA (cont'd)

Tell them I miss.. No, tell them to get screwed!

She hangs up and in a bit of a tantrum, crying, throws the phone on the bed. She pauses, then gets up and exits.

EXT. OKEFENOKEE RESEARCH CENTER DUSK

Idea walks sadly, toward the swamp: the mirror of her dreams. She looks ahead.

FANTASY: Against the edge of the Okefenokee swamp, we see a small portion of Shanghai as if floating over the pond. On its bank we see: paper lights, Oriental people walking by, then a large RICKSHAW, with her family on board, rides by.

SANDRO

I'm sure Idea would have loved to be with us right now.

ANDREA

I think so too Dad.

CARLO

She's fine in America. She's having a blast.

SANDRO

I hope so. I hope it's not going to be too hard for her there all alone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Idea is angry and sad all at the same time.

IDEA (V.O.)
Well, it hasn't worked out so well, has it? You wanted me to fail, so there.. Happy now?

SERENA
She does worry me a bit.

SANDRO
I trust her intelligence though. She'll find a way.

ALLEGRA
I miss her. Look! She'd love that!

We see a CHINESE WOMAN, selling all kinds of small and colorful birds inside little wooden cages.

SERENA
Oh yes, look at all those birds!

SANDRO
Let's stop and buy her some.

Idea looks surprised and then smiles.

IDEA (V.O.)
Thanks Dad.

Sitting on the swamp's edge, she sees: Sandro finding a wounded bird and bringing it, in his hands, to Young Idea.

SANDRO
Look, it's a baby Grey Finch!

Sandro and Young Idea together are fixing the broken wing of the little bird. Young Idea runs to get an old video camera to record the little bird that starts moving.

Older Idea smiles. Young Idea is gone. Back to the initial part of the FANTASY:

Older Idea looks at her family on the RICKSHAW then at her mother.

IDEA (V.O.)
Mother, how do you manage to put up with all of father's escapades? Do you love him very much or you have simply given up?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MOTHER

Sweetheart, remember father's almost fatal accident at work? Maybe when one is scared of death, one tries to fend it off.. Nothing better than younger women for this.

IDEA (V.O.)

Mother, you would not believe what happened to me: I had sworn all my life I would never go with a married man and-

Mother's knowing smile quiets Idea who remains standing still for a few seconds, absorbed in thought.

Sandro takes out his mobile phone and dials.

SANDRO

Giorgio, yes, yes it's me.. Idea is coming to visit you in a day or two.. She's fine but.. Exactly. Take good care of her, okay?

Idea smiles.

IDEA (V.O.)

I think I'll leave right now.

SERENA

Tell him we'd love to meet him one day and he's welcome to any house we have!

IDEA (V.O.)

I'll tell him Mom.

Idea smiles again. End of FANTASY. Idea resumes walking toward her room.

INT. IDEA'S ROOM OKEFENOKEE CENTER NIGHT

Idea hangs her lab coat and leaves it behind staring at it for a second. Then gathers her things, and she checks out the room with her camcorder, finally pointing it at herself.

IDEA

Here we are. The burial of dreams.
(with irony, into the lens)
Here ends the lucky trip of Ms. Bad Luck.

EXT. ROAD OKEFENOKEE RESEARCH CENTER NIGHT

Idea's convertible, is leaving the Research Center behind. After a short while, another drives up towards the Center. The driveway is narrow. The two cars stop side by side.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOE
(loud from his car)
Idea! You made it!

THOMAS
How are you?

IDEA
Joe! Thomas!

JOE
Guess what?

Idea turns away and starts crying. Then she pulls herself together and gets out of the car.

EXT. ROAD OKEFENOKEE RESEARCH CENTER NIGHT

A flashlight illuminates a water tank that lies next to a parked car. Inside we can see TWO BIG CATFISH and some SMALLER ONES.

JOE (O.S.)
Look, Rex and Regina with their spawn!

We pull back to reveal, Joe, Thomas and Idea next to their cars.

JOE (cont'd)
(embracing Thomas)
What do you say? Another happy family!

Idea, sad, looks down, then bursts into tears. Joe holds her.

JOE (cont'd)
Mark has called Thomas and apologized.
Idea, I've listened to your advise. See?
Thomas and I did take some time to talk
and be together. So now, why don't you
listen to mine and go home to your
family? You can always come back.

IDEA
I can't, they'll think I'm a fool.

THOMAS
If things don't look good right now,
there's no point in forcing them just to
show off.. what good does that do?

IDEA
I guess you're right but-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOE

He IS right.

IDEA

Well.. I've no choice now anyway, no job, no money left. Mark thinks it's best if we don't-

THOMAS

He never mentioned he was married?

IDEA

No.. Why didn't he say it right away?

THOMAS

He told me he tried to tell you but-

JOE

Sometimes we don't want to hear..

IDEA

Everyone lies anyway!

(smiling a bit)

I do that too at times..

JOE

Listen, the world will always be waiting for you, learn from your eagles. The fledglings have to try many times to learn to use their wings.

THOMAS

So, where you're going now?

IDEA

I'm going to find this super rich uncle Giorgio that no one in my family has ever met.. I guess I should.. Maybe it's a good idea after all.

THOMAS

Are you sure that's what you want to do?

IDEA

No.

JOE

You will be, soon.

She embraces them.

IDEA

I will Skype you guys!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She gets in her car.

IDEA (cont'd)
I'm so glad I got to see you both again!
Thanks again for everything. Ciao!

JOE
Bye.

THOMAS
Drive safely.

Idea puts it into gear and takes off in a cloud of dust.

EXT. ROAD GEORGIA DAWN

Idea's car powers along dark roads through deserted landscapes. In the east, the sky is beginning to show a pale light.

INT. IDEA'S CAR GEORGIA DAWN

Idea is at the wheel. Her sad eyes are focused straight ahead. The landscape no longer holds any interest for her.

Her camcorder is on her lap. She turns it on, puts on the dashboard and points it toward herself. Tears start to flow again, but she fights them back as she starts to speak.

VIDEO INSERT: Only her reddened and wet nose is visible.

IDEA
Merda. Nothing lasts. Nothing, ever.
Especially if it's any good.

The camera gets pointed toward the blue sky where there are a few light clouds.

IDEA (cont'd)
Now everything is mixed up.. Even the
sky reminds me of that asshole!

End of VIDEO INSERT.

SPFX: The image of Idea's car and the road swell, then become a road on the map. We follow it across the border between Georgia and Florida, then the map swells and becomes:

EXT. ROAD FLORIDA DAY

Idea's car passes a sign that says: "Welcome to Florida". We see some typical Florida landscape and Idea driving along.

INT. IDEA'S CAR FLORIDA DAY

The camcorder is still on. It trembles as the car passes a big hole on the road. Idea readjusts it and turns it around toward her mouth and that's all we see.

IDEA

Why do only the most feared nightmares always come true? Do I live my life to prove myself wrong? To punish myself for my desires? Maybe in my subconscious, I still want to obey my parents and prove them right.. Now I feel like a stupid little girl, rushing to ask this uncle Giorgio guy for help.. I hate myself! How do other people do it? How does one become free? Are dreams and freedom the same thing?

She slows down and pulls into a gas station. End of INSERT.

EXT. GAS STATION FLORIDA DAY

Idea gets out of the car. The ATTENDANT, a handsome young man with a heavy Southern accent, walks up to her.

IDEA

Please fill the car up with regular and can you also check the oil and water?

ATTENDANT

Sure. Where're you from?

IDEA

(fed up with that question)
Here. Florida.

He shrugs, doubtful, then finishes filling the tank.

ATTENDANT

That'll be fourtyfive seventy-nine, please.

Idea looks in her wallet: not much left. She hands him the money, gets out of her car and stands staring out at the flat, empty landscape. The wind blows her hair. The Attendant comes back with some small change. She goes to sit in her car.

IDEA

How far to Miami from here?

ATTENDANT

Far.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Idea turns on the engine and drives off.

EXT. ROAD FLORIDA DAY

Idea's car passes through verdant agricultural fields. The sky above is gloomy.

EXT. HIGHWAY MIAMI FLORIDA DAY

Idea passes a sign that says: "Welcome to Miami". The outskirts look very specific to that city: water, bridges, palm trees. Then suddenly, Miami city comes up and it's a very pretty sight.

INT. IDEA'S CAR MIAMI STREETS DAY

Idea is going through Miami. She looks down at a map, comparing it to Giorgio's address written on her iPad.

VIDEO INSERT:

The camera tracks along a graceful street lined with palatial mansions.

IDEA (V.O.)

It must be here.. One of these villas..
Wow! They are huge!

Idea starts to smile.

IDEA (v.O.) (cont'd)

Okay, so I'll get a little help from Uncle Giorgio. He's so rich, anyway! And then I can look for a job in Miami, and certainly not through that Teodoro guy, that imbecile I met at the casino. I can look into another ornithology center.. and find an apartment and.. a new guy. A FREE one! Life starts everyday says Dad!

She looks around to see that the road has now taken her into a very poor neighborhood. End of VIDEO INSERT.

IDEA (cont'd)

But this can't be the-

We see more low income homes and small stores.

EXT. MIAMI STREET SHOPS DAY

Idea's car pulls up to a row of humble shops. Idea gets out and looks at her iPad. She looks up and sees a sign: "GIORGIO'S SHOE REPAIR".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Her jaw drops. She stands by her car staring at the sign, trying to make sense of it all.

Not knowing what else to do, she crosses the street and peers in the door to the shop. A friendly voice calls out from inside.

GIORGIO (O.S.)
Come on in, Miss! Please.

INT. GIORGIO'S SHOE REPAIR MIAMI DAY

Idea enters the shop. In the back at a work bench GIORGIO, 60's, with a charming and expressive face, is repairing shoes. His cobbler's hammer is about to pound in a heel.

IDEA
Hi. Are you Giorgio?

GIORGIO
(no trace of an Italian accent)
That's me! Giorgio's Shoe Repair. Why do you ask?

IDEA
Oh, nothing.. Nothing at all, just curious.. How are you?

GIORGIO
Can't complain. What can I do for you?

IDEA
Oh, well..

She takes off a shoe. She hands it to him.

IDEA (cont'd)
I was wondering if you thought these shoes are worth repairing.

GIORGIO
Italiana?

IDEA
(in Italian)
Yes. From Rome.

The conversation goes back and forth between Italian and English.

GIORGIO
Italy, Italia! I haven't been back since I was five. My parents were from Rome.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIORGIO (cont'd)

We still have relatives there. Maybe you even know them.. Fanti.

Idea starts to answer, then decides not to reveal who she is.

IDEA

I doubt it..

GIORGIO

Italy is a big country. Not as big as this one, of course. See, my parents were used up aristocrats, no money, just the name. So they brought us here when we were children but they died young.

IDEA

Oh.. You have brothers?

GIORGIO

One brother who went back to Italy. He's a lawyer in Rome. He's a busy man right now, defending the heads of all the corrupted political parties. Anyway, he went back and I stayed.

IDEA

And then?

GIORGIO

And then, here I am. Giorgio's Shoe Repair. Not exactly what I dreamed of but..

Lost in thought, he examines Idea's shoe.

GIORGIO (cont'd)

When you come to America, everyone expects you to become a millionaire, but it's a place like any other.. as hard as any other. So, as I didn't quite succeed as they all expected, I cut my self off from the rest of the family in Italy because I felt ashamed.

IDEA

You should go and visit them sometime! Italians are not very judgmental. Plus didn't you try and fight for your dream?

GIORGIO

Oh yeah.. Sometimes things don't go the way you want them to. It's no one's fault. Not mine, not my parents' nor anyone else's.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GIORGIO (cont'd)
It's just life, this great mystery, to
which we all have to surrender.

IDEA
You're all alone here then. Don't you
miss your roots?

GIORGIO
I have them with me. You can't escape
them. You may think you can, but you
never do. Every trip is a trip home.
The home we have inside ourselves. You
can't escape it and it doesn't make sense
to try. But to learn to live and be
happy in that home, now that makes sense!

Idea is looking at him in wonderment.

IDEA
(pensive)
Every trip is a trip home..

GIORGIO
That's right.

Idea thinks.

GIORGIO (cont'd)
Anyway, give me the other shoe. Let me
see what I can do for you.

IDEA
Actually, maybe it's better I keep them
the way they are for now. But say, do
you know where the airport is?

GIORGIO
Sure. You just get on the highway up at
the next light and-

IDEA
No, actually never mind. How much would
it be for a taxi from here to the
airport?

GIORGIO
From here? About fifty, sixty dollars.

IDEA
Can you call one for me, please? I don't
have my cell with me.

GIORGIO
Sure thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

He reaches for his phone.

IDEA

One more favor.. Can you give me sixty dollars for my car, that convertible outside there? I've gone cross country with it. It rides great.. It misses a bumper but..

Giorgio puts down the phone and looks at the car through the window.

GIORGIO

That car there? Only sixty dollars?

IDEA

Yes, I can't take it with me to Rome!

GIORGIO

Well, if you really need to get rid of it.. Maybe I'll finally get around to getting a driver's license and I won't have to repair my own shoes so much!

EXT. GIORGIO'S SHOE REPAIR MIAMI DAY

Idea opens the car door and gets her bag, her binoculars, her camcorder, the Native American's portrait and gives the car keys to Giorgio. He counts out three crisp twenty dollar bills and hands them to her as the taxi arrives.

Idea gives Giorgio a little hug. Then she turns and opens the door.

FANTASY: Holding the door open, Idea lets in the car, one by one, her PARENTS and her SIBLINGS who were standing there, motionless. End of FANTASY.

Idea hops in the empty taxi and waves to Giorgio. Giorgio waves good bye to Idea until the taxi has disappeared.

Then he turns to his new car and, with the corner of his apron, gives it a little shine.

INT. AIRPLANE MIAMI DAY

Idea is settled into her seat as other PASSENGERS continue to board. Lost in her thoughts, she barely notices the attractive MAN WITH CARROT LIKE RED HAIR, that we have already seen. His name is COLIN, is 28, and is sitting down next to her. After getting situated he addresses her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLIN

It's always exciting to go to Rome, isn't it?

Colin smiles at her, she smiles back, but tries to avoid any conversation. She leans her head against the window.

FLASHFORWARD FANTASY:

INT. DINING ROOM IDEA'S HOUSE ROME NIGHT

The sound of the jet taking off. We see Idea's family having dinner in their home. All of the sudden, Idea walks in with her bag. She's just arrived from America. Everyone stands up and goes to embrace her.

ALLEGRA

Look at her!

CARLO

Hey, you're back!

IDEA

Here I am!!!

SERENA

Idea, my darling, welcome back home!

IDEA

And yes I did meet uncle Giorgio! But I did not want to be a burden to him and-

ANDREA

(enthused, butts in)
About time! We missed you.

SANDRO

My courageous child, you did try hard, didn't you?

He embraces her with understanding.

SANDRO (cont'd)

What's the plan now, huh?

Idea smiles. The airplane sounds become louder.

INT. AIRPLANE MIAMI DAY

Idea's smiling eyes. She turns them. She sees Colin entering some data in his portable computer and the image of a BIRD sectioned off with numbers and symbols. Idea curious, looks at him and a bit at his computer screen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLIN

(turns the computer toward her)
Please.. Go ahead. You can look. It's called the Upupa Eops. Native to the Ohio Valley. Natural enemy to a certain type of destructive beetle. I'm speaking at a conference in Rome. My name is Colin, by the way.

IDEA

Idea, nice to meet you.

COLIN

Idea.. Idea.. It sounds familiar. Wait a minute..

He takes a piece of paper from his pocket.

COLIN (cont'd)

Idea Fanti, ornithologist graduated from the University of Rome, specialized in Bald Eagles-

IDEA

That's me!

COLIN

No way?! A colleague of mine's father, Joe McCadden, a catfish specialist, gave me your name to look up in Rome for-

IDEA

You mean Joe knew I would go back to Rome? How did he know, I didn't know myself!

COLIN

He knew, and he also said that you would love to be back here and work in America.

IDEA

He said that? He's right! How does he know!

COLIN

He's a very special man.

IDEA

He really is.

COLIN

You know, I did try to call your Italian cell a few times but-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

IDEA

Really? Well.. Here we are now! And actually.. You know, you look somewhat familiar, but I can't recall why.

COLIN

Really? We've never met before.

IDEA

I know..

COLIN

Anyway, I'm the head of the Department of Ornithology at the University of Miami. I'm going to be looking for researchers in Europe who might be available for travel and work in the States.. Young ornithologists like yourself who are familiar with the grey Finch, aka the European Fringuello, with red wings.

IDEA

I LOVE the grey Finch with red wings!!!

Idea's mood changes completely. She's ready to dream again. And her dream this time will come true. Their voices fade out as she and Colin talk on and on.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY MIAMI DAY

Idea's jet takes off from the runway.

SPFX: The jet slowly changes into A BALD EAGLE flying free through the American skies.

THE END