

EARTH:

Looked down upon by the only one who can. Zoom in to

EXT. DOWNTOWN LA - DAY

ROBERT picks up a SHINY NEW QUARTER. He admires it. He examines the clever engraved catch phrase...

IN GOD WE TRUST

Robert looks up and SMASH! A YELLOW SUV pulverizes Robert into a limp flying fetal position.

ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN REVEALING

INT. PURGATORY - ETERNITY

Purgatory is an office. Like one that sells life insurance. Everything's either black, white, or gray. The entrance resembles an office elevator.

ROBERT'S POV - A WELCOME WOMAN in white, offers him a hand.

WELCOME WOMAN

Robert Peterson, come with me...

She proceeds to lead him through rows of desks. Behind each desk is a well groomed man or woman, interviewing a subject and punching away at a keyboard.

WELCOME WOMAN

I hope your trip wasn't too turbulent. You just shot right out of your body. We almost missed you.

(suddenly serious)

It's never pretty when we have to fish your soul out of eternity...

ROBERT

You're... wait, do I know you?

WELCOME WOMAN

Ahhh... We're picked to look familiar.

They stop at an empty desk.

WELCOME WOMAN

Have a seat. Gil will be right with you.

ROBERT

Wait, Sarah? Miss?...

She's already gone.

Robert takes a seat and rubs the soar spot on his forehead. He examines the desk in front of him. Stacks of papers. A wind up toy of a ghost. BUSINESS CARDS. They read:

GIL HAVSTEAD
LIFE EVALUATION TECHNICIAN

X37925
Purgatory

Robert swallows hard. He reaches for the monitor, when SMACK!, an incoming hand gives him a school-marm slap. It's GIL Havstead. Dick Van Dyke with an attitude.

Gil hits a couple keys and his MONITOR comes to life. He reads for a second then dead pans to Robert...

GIL

Sooo, Wasn't looking both ways?

ROBERT

I'm dead, huh?

GIL

(relief)

Oh, thank god. If I have to explain to one more person that they wont be seeing their kids again. Everyone is so special, you know.

(back to work)

Your full given name is Robert Henry Lindsay?,
born August fourth, 1967, Los Angeles?

ROBERT

Yeah, but...

GIL

All right Mr. Lindsay,
(punches a couple more keys)
Looks like you're going to hell.

ROBERT

Okay... What?

GIL

It was close, but I'm afraid so.

ROBERT

Wait, I still have to...Look, I'm not finished

GIL

I'm sure death comes as quite a surprise.
However, I don't make the decisions. I just
process the numbers.

ROBERT

What numbers?

GIL

You accumulate a score card over your lifetime.
Every action is worth points. A negative score
goes to hell. A positive score goes to heaven.
Your score was negative.

ROBERT

But, I've never done anything bad.

GIL

Nothing on a global scale. No mass murders, no
forest fires, but you really racked them up in
the minor offenses.

ROBERT

Minor offenses?

GIL

Yeah, well lets see...

(reads the monitor)

In 1992 alone, you used the "F" word one
thousand and thirty two times.

ROBERT

I'm an actor. That's the year I did Mamet

GIL

Oh yes, we have a special place waiting for Mr.
Mamet.

(back to business)
In 1996, you gave only six dollars and twenty five cents to charity.

ROBERT
What about all those chocolate bars I bought from those kids going to Washington DC.

GIL
Says here, you did it for the chocolate.

Robert tries to get a look at the monitor...

ROBERT
What does that thing say?

Gil swivels the monitor out of Robert's sight.

GIL
In 1998, you cut off four hundred and ninety seven people on highways alone. In 1997, you gave three thousand five hundred and thirty six people the finger.

ROBERT
That's impossible.

GIL
One would think.
(back to the diatribe)
In the last decade you've only danced twice? At your brother's wedding and... when the Packers won the Superbowl.

ROBERT
What does dancing have to do with anything?

GIL
How can you say you appreciated life when you never danced, hmh?

BEGIN MONTAGE - The world swirls around Robert. Others around him smile. More people enter the room through the elevator...

GIL

In 1989, you kicked a dog... you hit on your cousin at your uncle's funeral... you mowed the word "asshole" into your neighbor's lawn...

Robert is losing it. Robert looks to the ELEVATOR DOORS...

GIL

...you shipped a box of vomit to your exgirlfriend...

Robert closes his eyes. Maybe he'll wake up from this nightmare...

GIL

In 1982... what the...
(taps the monitor)

The computer is frozen.

GIL

We're still running Windows.

Gil dips below his desk. As he does, Robert recognizing his chance, stands and begins a mad dash. He swerves around people. He knocks over files. He pushes past the welcome woman. Before him, a man exits the ELEVATOR DOORS. The doors begin to close. Robert drops into a baseball slide. Moments before the doors close shut, he funnels through.

Gil surfaces from his desk.

GIL

Where were we...?

Gil freezes. His eyes go wide, realizing what has happened. He reaches to the corner of his desk and hits a LARGE GLOWING RED BUTTON, game show buzzer style. The room goes dark. Red circling lights take over. Sirens blare. "We Lost One!"

As all the PURGATORIANS gather around a BIG BOARD, various LOST SOULS have wondered into a group. One YOUNG PURGATORIAN hands out BOARDING PASSES to them.

YOUNG PURGATORIAN

(as he hands out passes)

OK, heaven, heaven... here you go sir...
heaven, heaven... that's right ma'am, heaven,
heaven... down the hall, big white light, you
can't miss it... heaven, heaven...

Moments later, the lights resume, but now Purgatory has become... THE WAR ROOM. Light beams down from overhead. All the purgatorians stand in a semi circle around the BIG BOARD - a large projected screen with a terminal and a keyboard. Gil steps forward to man the console, but is stopped by a purgatorian FOREMAN. The Foreman pushes forward BOBBY JR, who is obviously his son.

FOREMAN

Gil, why don't you let Bobby Jr handle this one.

Bobby Jr gives a half-ass smile and Gil reluctantly steps out of the way. Bobby sits down in front of the keyboard, big eyed and smiling. He hits a key by accident - "BEEP!"

BOBBY

Oh, sorry...

Gil sighs.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

PARAMEDIC TWO

Screw it, he's toast.

Two PARAMEDICS pull away from ROBERT'S DEAD BODY.

PARAMEDIC ONE

Count it off. He died at eleven thirty three.

PARAMEDIC TWO

Got it.

PARAMEDIC ONE

So, you taking the wife out tonight?

PARAMEDIC TWO

Yeah, Nibblers...

PARAMEDIC ONE

Great...

Robert suddenly erupts to life. The Paramedics return with louder screams. The Paramedics push away, as Robert opens the back doors of the Ambulance and jumps out onto the

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - SAME

Robert stops in his tracks as the ambulance speeds away. He looks around confused. He proceeds cautiously.

INT. PURGATORY

BOBBY JR

I found him.

GIL

(under his breath)

Bravo...

FOREMAN

Knock him out with an ice shower. It'll melt,
no one will know what happened.

Bobby hits a couple keys and gives a thumbs up.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY

Robert is checking his pockets. Suddenly, a gentle snow fall surrounds him. He gets confused.

ROBERT

What the heck?

INT. PURGATORY

FOREMAN

Aaah, that's snowfall Bobby.

GIL

Yeah, Hypothermia might take a while Bobby.

BOBBY JR

Shut up Gil.

FOREMAN

He's on the move! Stay in the game kiddo.

EXT. DOWNTOWN, JEWELRY DISTRICT - DAY

Robert comes around a corner. As he passes a store entrance, he slams into a THIEF, carrying a bag of loot. Both men hit the ground, but the thief is unconscious. A JEWELER comes out, thanking Robert.

INT. PURGATORY

Robert's score sits idle at 285 on a computer monitor. Suddenly the words "PREVENTION OF ROBBERY" appear and his score becomes a -260. "Ding".

EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY

Robert runs into an apartment building.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - SAME

Robert climbs the stairs, goes down the hall, and slips a key into an apartment door.

INT. APARTMENT - SAME

Robert storms into his girlfriend's apartment.

ROBERT

Ashley?

He enters the BEDROOM, where ASHLEY is asleep in bed and shakes her awake.

ROBERT

Listen, hunny, I'm going away for a little while.

ASHLEY

(still asleep)

What?

ROBERT

(rambling)

Well a long while. Forever really... but we'll see each other again, I guess. Actually, that's not true. You see I didn't get enough points and I bought the chocolate for the chocolate and I never danced. So I'm going, you know, away... and I don't suppose you'll be joining me. So I think maybe we might want to see other people. I'll always remember you though and I want you to have...

Robert realizes he has nothing sentimental on him.

ROBERT

(pulling out his wallet)

... my Mastercard..

He sets the MASTERCARD on her night stand

ROBERT

Charge what ever you like... although the limit is... pretty low. Bye Ashley.

Robert runs back out.

INT. PURGATORY

BOBBY JR

He's coming out onto the street.

FOREMAN

Better go to plan R.

BOBBY JR

Coming right up!

EXT. ASHLEY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Robert exits, when a swarm of insects descends upon him. Robert swats away in fear, then after a moment, pauses.

INT. PURGATORY

FOREMAN

Aaah, Bobby, those are fruit flies.

BOBBY

Oh.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY

Robert gently waves the flies away with his hand. He runs.

INT. PURGATORY

GIL

Sir, I really think I should...

FOREMAN

Give him a chance Gil.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - DAY

Robert stops at his apartment, slips in the key, and enters. He breathes in, trying to take in the whole room. Then, he picks up a large bird cage.

ROBERT

Benny, today you're going home.

EXT. ROOFTOP - SAME

Robert tries to coax Benny out of his cage.

ROBERT

You're free! Go! Into the sky!... Come on!

Benny wont leave the cage. Benny puffs up in fear.

ROBERT

You know Benny, I'm going... on a long trip. I wont be back, ever, and there wont be anyone to bring you seed and change the newspaper and play try to peck my finger. So you better learn to fend for yourself. You know... build a home, hunt your meals, or at least scavenge at carnivals and theme parks. Come on...

Robert tries to shake Benny out of the cage... No luck. A nearby weather vein begins to turn. Robert gets suspicious.

INT. PURGATORY

BOBBY JR
I found him!

FOREMAN
Get him boy!

Bobby Jr violently hits a couple keys. The computer alarms.

BOBBY JR
YES! I GOT HIM! DEAD!

Bobby Jr and the Foreman high five and hug.

GIL
Aaaah, Bobby. Wrong guy.

BOBBY JR &
FOREMAN
Huh?

The ELEVATOR DOORS "ding" and open in the background,
revealing a random guy in a yellow T-shirt.

FOREMAN
Gil. Get him.

Gil sits down, cracks his fingers, and goes to work.

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

The breeze gets stronger. Suddenly, Robert ducks behind a
roof structure as a gust of wind slams by, carrying dust
and debris. Robert steps back and lifts the bird cage.

ROBERT
Benny?

Benny's cage is empty.

ROBERT
Bye Benny. Enjoy freedom.

ROBERT'S SCORE: "DING" -223

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET CORNER - SAME

Robert, now running with a mission, stops at the street
corner. A LITTLE GIRL taps him.

LITTLE GIRL

Sir, hold my ice cream, while I tie my shoes.

Robert looks around to check his safety.

ROBERT

Sure, alright..

ROBERT'S SCORE: Jumps to -204

The girl drops to tie her shoes, but she is really slow.

INT. PURGATORY

Gil's eyes are filled with envy. He slams a couple keys.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

A TABLE FAN comes alive, blowing across the room. The breeze hits a MAKEUP MIRROR sitting on the window sill. The makeup mirror flips around creating a reflection from the sun onto

A CURVED STREET MIRROR AND A CAR'S PASSENGER SIDE MIRROR, FINALLY HITTING THE ICE CREAM CONE, WHICH BEGINS TO MELT.

LITTLE GIRL

One bunny rabbit, two bunny rabbit...

One drop of ice cream slips from the cone, slides down Robert's hand, and lands on BLUE PANELING below. Pull back to reveal a completely suped up BLUE FORD MUSTANG. Inside, the driver stares in disbelief. Suddenly, the two car doors open and ten ASIAN GANGSTERS pour out onto the street. In rapid succession they pull out switchblades, baseball bats, brass knuckles, and a hack saw.

Robert swallows hard and dashes off, chased by the GANG.

INT. PURGATORY

Gil smiles. A couple Purgatorians give him dirty looks.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - DAY

Robert turns a corner and leaps through a doorway into some store. The Vato's run by, oblivious. Robert looks at the place he ran into, realizing he's in...

INT. SALSA DANCE PARLOR - SAME

Ten elderly couples do the Cha Cha to a PHONOGRAPH. A SALSA QUEEN stops in front of Robert. She grabs Robert's hand and pulls him into a Tango position. She rests her head on his chest as she begins tugging him around the room in style.

ROBERT'S SCORE: Spirals like a slot machine, "ding, ding, ding, ding, ding..." -150, -100, -50...

INT. PURGATORY

More purgatorians are now rooting for Robert. Gil huffs.

INT. SALSA DANCE PARLOR - DAY

Robert swings the dance queen towards the back door. He spins her out, then lets go, and slips out the back.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - SAME

Robert steps out. He looks in one direction. An ELECTRICAL WIRE snaps to the ground and dances around, spraying sparks. Robert shrugs. "It ain't that bad". Suddenly, the wire ignites a pool of gasoline, creating a WALL OF FIRE.

Robert turns to go the other way, but the GANG blocks the mouth of the alley and begins to close in.

INT. PURGATORY

Gil celebrates with a clenched fist.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY

Across from Robert, a teenage girl opens her window and a half naked guy jumps out. Once clear, Robert dashes forward and jumps into...

INT. TEENAGE GIRL'S BEDROOM - SAME

Robert lands in the teenage girl's bedroom on the floor. The TEENAGE GIRL is opening her bedroom door for her mother.

TEENAGE GIRL

I told you mom, there's no one in here...

Robert runs by.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - DAY

Robert exits the apartment building and runs round a corner. He spots a BOOM BOX playing "La Vida Loca". Robert kicks it dead.

ROBERT'S SCORE: Jumps to -6

INT. PURGATORY

Purgatorians cheer. Gil pulls at his hair.

INT. APARTMENT DOOR - DAY

The DOOR opens, revealing MANNY, Robert's dad. Big hug.

ROBERT

Dad, I need to talk to you right now.

MANNY

Wait, I'll make smoothies.

INT. MANNY'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Manny and Robert drink their smoothies.

ROBERT'S SCORE: Jumps to -1 "Drinking Smoothies".

Robert looks up at his dad, searching for the right words, then just comes out and says it...

ROBERT

Dad... I'm going to hell.

MANNY

How many times did I tell you? Those credit cards will kill you? First they suck you in with their frequent flyer miles. Then...

ROBERT

No, dad, I've done some bad things.

MANNY

Little bad things or big bad things?

ROBERT

Little bad things.

MANNY

(reassured)

Oh.

ROBERT

A lot of little bad things.

MANNY

Bobby, We all do a lot of little bad things. That's how we learn. Talk about bad things. I dropped you once when you were a baby.

ROBERT

You what?

MANNY

I was trying to change your diaper and watch the game. They fumbled the ball... I fumbled you.

ROBERT

You fumbled me?

MANNY

It wasn't a long drop.

ROBERT

You fumbled me.

MANNY

Sure, but I brought you to the park after.

ROBERT

Oh, thanks dad.

MANNY

Have you done anything like dropping a baby?

ROBERT

No.

MANNY

You haven't done so bad...

Robert smiles.

ROBERT

Dad, I have to leave town.

MANNY

I'm going to miss you boy. Will you call me?

ROBERT

I don't think they have phones where I'm going.

MANNY

You're not in trouble are you?

ROBERT

No. I'll be fine.

MANNY

Good. You make me proud.

ROBERT

Thanks dad.

They hug.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET — DAY

Robert exits his father's apartment building with a look of closure. Nearby a HOMELESS MAN extends a Styrofoam cup.

HOMELESS MAN

Spare some change?

ROBERT

Sorry. I don't have anything.

But just then, something catches Robert's eye. Something shining in the street. He walks to the center of the road and picks up a QUARTER, when WHAM! — He is hit by the same YELLOW SUV from the beginning.

INT. PURGATORY

Gil explodes with victory.

GIL
YES! I GOT YOU!

He jumps out of his chair and moves to the ELEVATOR to await Robert's arrival.

EXT. DONTOWN STREET — DAY

Robert's dead body lays on the street, when "*shing...*" the quarter bounces by.

INT. PURGATORY

The purgatorians look around sad, when they begin to notice what's happening on the big board.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET — DAY

The quarter continues to miraculously bounce across the street, as if with some sort of plan.

INT. PURGATORY

Robert now notices too... His smile begins to fade.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET — DAY

The quarter bounces up onto the curve, takes one more odd bounce, then lands directly into the HOMELESS MAN'S STYROFOAM CUP. We zoom in, to read the words "In God We Trust."

INT. PURGATORY

The Purgatorians cheer. Robert seethes in anger.

Behind them, the ELEVATOR OPENS, revealing Robert. He takes a look around. He's about to say something when the doors close again automatically.

We tilt up to the little arrows above the elevator. The UP ARROW TURNS ON.

FADE TO BLACK.