

This is Larry Crowne
(aka Harry Brown, Toast of the Town)
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FADE IN

SUNRISE

Big and orange and full of hope, as sure as fate. A dawn as promising as, well, this new day...

Sun is rising over...

A flat roof that stretches to the horizon. A vast expanse. A plain of gravel-embedded tar, studded with...

HVAC units and power lines, the kind that service a huge commercial building. In fact this kind of building...

A UNIMART store. A flagship of savings; a mother lode of low, low prices. 100,000-and-then-some square feet of the Consumer Economy...

PARKING LOT

Empty thus far. A few EMPLOYEE autos arriving in their assigned slots far from the entrance. One of those cars is a old, not so vintage nor classic convertible...

KARMANN GHIA -- Belonging to...

LARRY CROWNE - A man as reliable (and predictable) as that

rising sun.

Actually, he's a Team Leader of this Unimart, dressed in his un-sexy, un-fashionable, un-flattering khaki pants and Company Polo.

Larry has had the ragtop down. He wrestles it up, locks the cover into place.

He doesn't just walk to work, but *s t r i d e s* across the asphalt field like a Sultan of Sales; a Viscount of Discount. He cheers co-workers at the start of the day, shouting encouragement, flashing thumbs up, knocking on car doors and squeezing shoulders...

DOROTHY GENKOS (PRE-LAP)

A seven-speed Mix-o-Meter Food
Processor! \$21.69!

AVERY (PRE-LAP)

Sweatpants! Two pair! \$6.69!

INT. UNIMART - DAY

The morning Circle of Sales! Employees and their wares.
Larry stands, yet to speak, ready for his moment of
pronounced enthusiasm...

TEAM LEADER #1
Fifteen foot jumper cables - 69
cents a foot!

TEAM LEADER #2
Chocolate turtles! 69 cents a
pound bag!

Go, Larry! Wave that merchandise!

LARRY CROWNE
Three-pack of men's elastic waist
mid-thigh boxer shorts! \$2.69!

FREEZE!

Words fill the screen.

THIS IS LARRY CROWNE

Hold. Hold. Hold. AND...CONTINUE.

ALVAREZ (TEAM LEADER)
Four Toby Jug beer steins - \$2.69!

TEAM LEADER #3
MP3 Player the size of a bottle
cap! *Something* and 69 cents!

TEAM LEADER #4
Duck Blind print sheets for a queen
size bed. \$7.69.

ALL
Shop UniMart! *Where United, you
save!*

Larry Crowne leads the High Fives.

MENSWEAR DEPT - LATER

Larry controlling the aisles like an Admiral at a Battle
Map... stacking a mountain of tube socks... stocking those
briefs ... hanging "Metallica" Speedos on little hangers...
helping CUBBY - a very skinny and disinterested Janitor -
clean up some baby up-chuck as the baby up-chucks again.

MOMMY

Too much mac & cheese for this
little pickle bug!

LARRY CROWNE

They do love the comfort food.
Don't you, Li'l Pickle Bug...

Imagine any duty and see how Larry gets it done...

EXT. UNIMART PARKING LOT - LATER

Larry is collecting loose shopping carts, steering them into pairs, triplets, sextuplets, then riding them into the cart pen like a Trail Boss...

LATER

That same up-chucking baby was riding on the coin-pony and up-chucked again. Larry is cleaning it all up.

A beat-up CAR with a BIG STORK PIZZA sign stuck on its roof pulls right up to the front of the store, parking in the Handicapped Space.

LARRY CROWNE

Buddy. Park there and you'll get a
ticket.

PIZZA KID

Call a cop, doof. I'm gone in
sixty seconds.

(a dozen pizza boxes)
You guys having a party?

INT. MEETING ROOM 2 - UNIMART - LATER

The BIG STORK PIZZA BOXES have been raided for slices.

A RETIREMENT PARTY is going on. A SIGN reads "Good Luck Dorothy Genkos!" The name has been printed over the last person to retire. People are cutting loose as best they can at a NO-ALCOHOL Corporate Fete.

None more than Larry. Who is organizing a MOSH PIT for DOROTHY GENKOS, an old lady. This is a fun group.

Over in the corner, though, is the Front Office Staff: COX, STRANG, ANDREWS and HURLEY (Female).

STRANG

Finally. Dotty G. and her forty-two-K a year are history. Who else would do us that favor?

ANDREWS

Wish they'd all sail off like her. Save us some grief.

STRANG

The "R" Bomb is going to do some collateral damage to this place.

Hurley is shocked!

HURLEY

"R-Bomb"? Oh my god! *Restructuring?*

COX

Separating the chaff from the wheat. Chaff is the bad stuff, right?

HURLEY

Chaff is the waste matter, correct.

When are we restructuring?

COX

Before E.O.Q. Them's our orders.
Hurley looks sick. She hates this.

STRANG

What say we drop a brick in the pond to warn the herd?

ANDREWS

How?

STRANG

Firing someone.

COX

Someone they'd never expect to be let go. To look fair. I like it.

STRANG

Like a Team Leader.

HURLEY

Team Leader?

STRANG

COX

Suggestions on who it should be?

STRANG

I say Crowne.

HURLEY

Larry Crowne?

Strang rolls his eyes.

STRANG

Who else? Avery won't retire. We
fire him, it's a law suit.

EVERY - Old. Black. Happy.

STRANG (CONT'D)

Alvarez is about to drop a kid.
She'll go part time in a week.

ALVAREZ - Heavy with child.

STRANG (CONT'D)

Crowne's pink slip will save 'da

"U" big green backwash.

COX

What Salary Tier is Crowne at?

ANDREWS

Top of the pyramid with a C.O.L.
bump at the first of the year.

COX

Sweet. We'll need Actionable
Cause, of course.

They all agree: "Yeah. Sure. Of course..."

COX (CONT'D)

How's his review record?

HURLEY

He's a candidate for Employee of
the Month. His 22nd time.

COX

Okay. So. Sluggers, gimme a
reason...

Larry has organized a Limbo Contest.

HURLEY

We could use the Limited Horizons strategy.

(explaining)

Larry will always be passed over for Management. He never went to college.

COX

You're that familiar with his record?

STRANG

She was his squeeze for a few weeks, weren't you, Vick?

HURLEY

That was before the New Employee Covenants. That you even remember...

STRANG

The memory haunts me.

ANDREWS

He'll sock us for severance.

STRANG

Big brick in the pond, though.

COX

Let's call it. Today, end of shift, UniMart bids Crowne adieu.

LARRY is dancing up a storm.

EXT. UNIMART - PARKING LOT - LATE AFTERNOON

Less cars. Fewer shoppers. Heading into the night shift.

INT. UNIMART - ELECTRONICS - LATER

Larry is the only Team Leader still on duty and sober. He is fastidious in his work.

The P.A. System blares. It's incomprehensible. He pays no attention. VASQUEZ -- a HUGE Security Guard -- comes by.

VASQUEZ

T. C. Why still here?

LARRY CROWNE
Team Leaders zone departments
before punching out. It's policy.

VASQUEZ
I mean *here* here. You just got
paged to Meeting Room 2.

The P.A. blares again. Now they can hear it -- sort of.

LARRY CROWNE
Probably to clean up after the
party.

VASQUEZ
Isn't it Employee of the Month Day?

Larry brightens. That is what it must be.

LARRY CROWNE
Speck-tack-alar.

Flushed at the prospect, Larry gives Terrorist Fist Bumps.

VASQUEZ

You're the only one around here who
deserves it. How many will this
be?

LARRY CROWNE
Ah, who's counting?

He flashes his fingers: *twenty two!*

INT. MEETING ROOM #2 - SAME

Larry Cr wne soars into the room. Cubby is cleaning up the
substantial mess. The Front Office Team has taken seats.

LARRY CROWNE
Remember how we saw "The UniMart
Way" video, Vick? You and me,
alone in this room, and look at us
now.

Hurley has a frozen face. Larry looks at Andrews' smile.

STRANG
Cubby. Make tracks.

The Janitor literally drops everything and leaves

LARRY CROWNE

I think I know what this is about.

STRANG

I don't think you do.

COX

Crowne. At UniMart, we care. So we take care. Which makes moments like these tough for all of us.

LARRY CROWNE

Sounds like you're firing me.

Larry is joking.

STRANG

I take it back.

COX

Corporate has mandated a *restructuring* in all UniMart stores. That's the word they use. I call it a pain in the *touchas*.

(then)

It is *touchas*, right? Where you get kicked?

HURLEY

Yeah. A yiddish word.

ANDREWS

Like the buttocks.

HURLEY

Touchas and buttocks. Synonymous.

COX

Hurts to get kicked back there, no matter what language you speak.

Larry now gets it.

LARRY CROWNE

UniMart is firing me...

STRANG

Crowne-ie, you did a heck of a job.

LARRY CROWNE

Why me?

ANDREWS

Who do you suggest? Alvarez?
Avery? I don't think so.

LARRY CROWNE

Why not Strang?

Strang snorts.

LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)

I've been here longer than you,
Jack. I started 21 years ago as an
Inventory Associate at the store on
Euclid.

Hurley takes over, as blank as a tax-form.

HURLEY

Seniority would preclude this
reality, Larry, but UniMart's
policy is to never *limit your*
horizons.

Larry Crowne has no idea what that means.

COX

Here's the prob: your lack of a
graduate degree will forever retard
any move up the management ladder.

STRANG

Becasue you never went to college
you're forever retarded.

LARRY CROWNE

I won't make the Front Office?

STRANG

Never.

(shows his college ring)

S. M. U. Class of '86! Go 'Stangs!

It's true.

LARRY CROWNE

I went in the Navy. Right outta
high school. Five years, and by
then...

COX

Thank you for your service to our
country, Larry. And, in total
seriousness to UniMart too

LARRY CROWNE

I thought I was Employee of the Month.

STRANG

In a way, you are.

Larry can't believe this. Nor can he move.

LARRY CROWNE

No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. I'm going to lose my house...

COX

The timing on this is always a bitch.

LARRY CROWNE

Guys. Guys. Guys. Guys. Guys.
Guys. Guys. Guys. We can fix this.
Can't we fix this?

COX

Really wish we could.

(then)

Vick? The generous severance package?

She has a folder with posted "Sign Here's."

HURLEY

Sign here. Here. Here. Initial
that. Sign here. One more. Done.

Strang finds one last piece of party pizza.

EXT. UNIMART PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Vasquez helps Larry put down the ragged top of his car.

VASQUEZ

12 jerks I'd fire before you.
May walk away from UniMart myself.

LARRY CROWNE

Stick it out. You go to college?

VASQUEZ

Couple years. Then I blew out my
knee

LARRY CROWNE

Thanks for seeing me off.

VASQUEZ

I need your apron, man.

(again)

Your apron. Says UniMart on it, so
it ain't yours.

Larry unharnesses himself from that which is not his. Hands
it over. Branded. Scorned as the one let go...

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

Thanks.

(walking away)

Goofy car, man.

EXT. INTERSECTION - LATER

Larry pulls up at a red light. From his hands-free speaker
jerry-rigged on his dash, we hear ON-HOLD Music.

RECORDED VOICE

Then, we hear the engines of SCOOTERS -- at least a dozen of
them. They surround his car -- both lanes -- and the chatter
of the riders as they scream over their engines as they AD-
"Remember, you always have a friend
at RiverBank..."

LIB where they are going next...

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD (OVER PHONE)

Laurie Gammelgaard thank you for
holding how may I help you?

Larry has to shout over the SCOOTER SQUAD ruckus.

LARRY CROWNE

I was holding for Barry Raphael in
Home and Real Estate?

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

Mr. Raphael is no longer with the
bank. How can I help you?

LARRY CROWNE

Barry is gone? I need to talk to
someone in Home and Real Estate.

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

The SCOOTER SQUAD has made their decision and peel out --
VROOM, YEOOW...

LARRY CROWNE

(reading his ATM card)
I wish! I'm Customer number 566
7878 2031 339 and I can be there in
three minutes!

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD (OVER PHONE)

As long as you are here before six,
okey dokey.

ZZZZZMMMM, BLAARREE... The scooters are gone, but Larry is
still yelling...

LARRY CROWNE

Three minutes!

INT. RIVERBANK BRANCH - LATE AFTERNOON

Larry sits at Gammelgaard's desk looking at his own records,
sipping complimentary coffee that is ghastly.

LARRY CROWNE

What happened to Barry Raphael?

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD (PRE-LAP)

Barry Raphael was harassing the
younger tellers but we are not
supposed to admit that.

(the papers)

This is some kick in the head.
Not sure what to tell you, Mr.
Crowne.

LARRY CROWNE

I m hoping not to lose my house.

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

You're carrying what on the house?

LARRY CROWNE

\$291,987.

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

Two Ninety-two K. That's trouble.
Three years ago I'd have loaned you
\$700,000, but I think you read the
papers.

LARRY CROWNE

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD No.

She gets a brochure: "The RiverBank Survival Plan!"

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD (CONT'D)

But RiverBank does have a plan for you.

(the brochure)

In a few weeks your financial base will tell us what we can do. Find new employment. Liquidate everything low on the Value Index. Stick to a budget. Clip coupons, buy in bulk, you know the drill. Then come back and we'll work with you.

LARRY CROWNE

That's RiverBank's plan for me?

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

It is Friday, Mr. Crowne...

EXT. DERBY COURT - EVENING

This is Larry Crowne's street.

This is Larry Crowne's house.

His car parks in the driveway and he steps out, taking a minute to survey what he may lose.

KIDS play down the street under a streetlight... An ELDERLY NEIGHBOR is watering his lawn with a hose... A GUY is playing with his DOG... One house always has Christmas lights. Another has a handicapped ramp up to the front door....

EXT. LAMARR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - SAME

Lamarr lives across the street from Larry, and is looking out the window as he prepares to light a scholarly looking pipe

LAMARR

Larry's home a little late tonight.

His wife, PATIENCE, is sitting at the table, pouring over catalogs..

PATIENCE

Maybe he was out on a date.

LAMARR

We'd see that on the news.

He is about to light up with a match...

PATIENCE

Don't even think about lighting
that up in my house.

INT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - EVENING

HIS UNIMART POLO SHIRT

He is holding it in his hands.

THE LAUNDRY ROOM

Larry is about to throw the thing away, but then puts it and
some fabric softener in his washer.

LIVING ROOM - LATER

Mood music plays from the Crowne Vinyl Library, a complete
wall of LP's. Alphabetized... We can see into the...

KITCHEN

Larry sits in his breakfast nook with an old laptop computer

and a pot of coffee.

An on-line job application... **Mega-Save**. Larry is entering
his data. He comes across that part of any application that
will forever be daunting to him.

Education/ College

What can he do, but enter the truth?

NONE.

More On-line Applications flash by....

Plug-It-In Center...*Education/ College -- Didn't Go*

White Front House and Home ... *Education/ College -- High
School! Go, Navy!*

Furniture Planet ... *Education/ College -- Is it necessary?*

Patterson's Appliances ... *Education/ College -- Masters
Degree. School of HARD KNOCKS!!!*

Larry stops. This may be futile. He looks about to give up. But then, he thinks.

He stands. Thinks some more...

IRONING BOARD

Unfolds like a piece of high tech assault equipment. The iron breathes hot fumes... spray starch plumes like jet exhaust.

Larry Crowne is ironing his nicest shirt and his best khakis to perfection.

He is focused. Intense. And good at ironing...

EXT. MEGA-SAVE - MORNING

Larry is with the first customers of the day, dressed to impress in those well-ironed clothes. He strides right in to the giant store.

LATER

He strides right out.

EXT. PLUG-IT-IN CENTER, PARKING LOT - MORNING

Larry is getting out of his car, putting on a good face, and heading inside.

LATER

He gets right back into his car.

EXT.. WHITE FRONT HOUSE AND HOME - PARKING LOT - LATER

Larry is driving past the front windows of the store. Resurrection Letters scream "*LOST OUR LEASE! EVERYTHING MUST GO!!!*"

INT. FURNITURE PLANET - LATER

Way back in the rear of the store, behind a false panelling a furniture store should be ashamed of, Larry has filled out another application and is waiting for someone to give it to.

A PLANET STAFFER finally shows her head.

LARRY CROWNE
How do I offer this up to
Personnel?

PLANET STAFFER
There should be a box to put it in.

Larry finds a box.

LARRY CROWNE
This?

PLANET STAFFER
No. There should be another box.

LARRY CROWNE
There isn't.

PLANET STAFFER
That's the one, then.

Larry is alone again - ignored as he applies for this job.

EXT. PATTERSON'S FAMILY APPLIANCES - GARDEN AND PATIO - LATER
MR. PATTERSON is a busy man while talking with Larry.

MR. PATTERSON

If you emailed an application,
we've got it and we'll keep you in
mind.

LARRY CROWNE
Just following up with an in-person
visit.

MR. PATTERSON
Mission accomplished.

LARRY CROWNE
You have a great location here.

MR. PATTERSON
Not with UniMart half a mile away.

LARRY CROWNE
I used to work for UniMart! I
could spill you some 411.

MR. PATTERSON
What's that mean?

LARRY CROWNE
I know their trade secrets.

MR. PATTERSON
What secrets? Traffic boosters,
loss leaders and bait and switch!

LARRY CROWNE
And I'm ready to learn new
strategies. I'll stop by again so
you can keep me in mind.

MR. PATTERSON
If you won't work Sundays, don't
bother.

LARRY CROWNE
I'll work every day.

MR. PATTERSON
That's what I already do...

Mr. Patterson goes back to work as Larry slinks away.

EXT. A RESTAURANT ON RESTAURANT ROW - DAY

Establish that this is where many restaurants are located.

EXT. RESTAURANT ON RESTAURANT ROW - SAME

Larry sits in his car. The last thing he wants to do is work
in a restaurant -- we'll find out why later on. But times
are tough, no?

Out he climbs, resigned to fate...

EXT. BACK OF RESTAURANT #1 - DAY

By the dumpster, Larry is asking a CHEF on his smoke break if
they hav op nings.

INT. RESTAURANT #2 - WALK-IN REFRIGERATOR - DAY

Now he's asking some HEAD COOK pulling cutlets.

INT. HUGE KITCHEN OF HOTEL RESTAURANT - DAY

Larry is talking to CHEF AMOS, who runs the place.

CHEF AMOS

Oh, I remember you. Larry Crowne.
I never forget anyone who quits on
me.

LARRY CROWNE

As I recall, I gave my notice and
worked all my shifts and that was
12 years ago.

CHEF AMOS

As I recall, I had to hire and
train a line cook to take your
place. Walking out doesn't happen
in a vacuum, you know.

(then)

Doesn't mean I wouldn't give you a
job again. But you've been out of
the business a long time, and look
around. I don't need you.

The place is fully staffed and rocking. Larry will not be
working here.

EXT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Larry's scooter is parked near the entrance.

INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - SAME

Larry is seated at the counter. PERRY pours him coffee as
RAUL -- the head cook -- is talking from the service window.

CARLOS and NICK are in the back.

RAUL

You come in two weeks ago I would
have kissed you on the mouth, but
Carlos and Nick, they walked in.
Best I can do? Put you at the top
of the list.

Raul goes back to work.

PERRY

Dang the timing, Kimosabe. Wish I
could help you but Raul runs the
back.

LARRY CROWNE

Not sure I could work here anyway.
The atmosphere is too pleasant and
the clientèle too A Number 1.

PERRY

Breakfast on the house. Chorizo
Scramble, right?

LARRY CROWNE

No charity today. I got things to
do.

PERRY

Like what?

LARRY CROWNE

Nothing. I was just saying that.

EXT. DERBY COURT - MORNING

The door open, the garage very tidy, as Larry moves old items
out to the lawn.

EXT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - SAME

Some things are already set up from the living room.

Larry

is raising money with a Yard Sale.

EXT. LAMARR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - SAME

Lamarr is about to pour himself some coffee when he sees a
DISASTER looming across the street. He's out like a shot!

EXT. LAMARR'S GARAGE - SAME

Lamarr comes charging out the rising door and across the
street.

LAMARR

There's been a yard sale at 1402
Derby Court since Monica Lewinsky!
That gives me a monopoly on the
location! You go yard on me, Larry
Crowne and I will destroy you.

He is now standing on Larry's lawn. Larry looks at him.

Got fired yesterday.

Lamarr sits on a for-sale chair.

LAMARR

Bloody Friday. Security sees you off, by the time Monday comes around the fired man is the forgotten man. Diabolical.

LARRY CROWNE

They said it's because I didn't go to college.

LAMARR

Smoke screen. The Man just wanted you gone.
(his yard sale)
You liquidating assets to raise cash?

LARRY CROWNE

Buying out Denise's half of the house was the worst advice, ever.

LAMARR

I told you to avoid divorce

lawyers. Get married. Stay married. Come with me.

They cross the street to Lamarr's house/yard sale.

LAMARR (CONT'D)

I'll tell you straight up - I'm not lending you money.

EXT. LAMARR'S GARAGE - SAME

This is a semi-professional operation. Boats, lamps, tools, chairs, computers -- some of it almost junk -- is for barter or sale.

Inside his garage? Clothes and books - racks and shelves.

Patience is organizing boxes of vinyl LP's.

PATIENCE

Whole box of Cha-Cha records from the Fifties. You don't have any of these, I promise.

LAMARR

He can't afford 'em. Lost his job

PATIENCE

No! UniMart just lost my business forever!

LARRY CROWNE

I love you too.

PATIENCE

Sorry, Lie-bare-eye-bee. Get a better job somewhere so you can crush them.

LARRY CROWNE

Hard to do.

LAMARR

He's going to get something better than a job.

(searching books)

An education.

He finds a East City Community College Catalog 2006. Tosses it to Larry.

LAMARR (CONT'D)

Get some knowledge and you'll be fire proof.

LARRY CROWNE

Aren't there unemployed engineers and geophysicists?

PATIENCE

Listen to my husband. Hasn't called a man boss in years. Paid off the house.

LARRY CROWNE

You won the Lottery.

PATIENCE

Picked 8 little numbers when I kept saying he was a fool. A quarter million dollars later I've shut up.

LAMARR

Lost half to taxes.

LARRY CROWNE

I'll see if there's a class in here for PowerBall 250.

LAMARR

That's half a buck for the book.

LARRY CROWNE

They give these away free.

LAMARR

They do. I don't.

INT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - NIGHT

He is alone. He is going to lose his house. He has nothing to do. He has no future. He sits on the couch. ESPN's SportsCenter is showing highlights...

INT. LARRY'S HOUSE - MORNING

He's asleep on the couch. He awakens to the very same edition of ESPN's SportsCenter showing the very same highlights.

Larry wants to shoot himself in the head. Instead, he picks up the catalog of East City College....

EXT. EAST CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE - MORNING

The sign reads "Enroll Now! \$15 per unit!"

Larry parks in one of the hundreds of empty spaces.

INT. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE - SAME

Larry is trying to make sense out of the application. An Enrollment Counsellor - DAVE BUSIK - sidles up to him.

BUSIK

Back to college, huh?

LARRY CROWNE

First time. I was in the Navy.

BUSIK

(himself)

Coast Guard. Adventure of a Lifetime.

LARRY CROWNE

Galley Mate.

BUSIK

We teach a whole track in Hotel and
Restaurant Food Preparation.

LARRY CROWNE

No. No, no. I need an all-new
career and a place to go everyday.

BUSIK

Those two things are my specialty.

HALLWAY -- walking towards Busik's cubicle.

BUSIK (CONT'D)

First thing. Bravo for choosing
East City College. Never too late
for an education. Second, you need
a jolt to the confidence machinery.

He grabs a folder...

BUSIK (CONT'D)

I am going to change your life.
(a page in the catalog)

Speech 217: The Art of Informal

Remarks, cause it's not enough to
just be smart anymore, you have to
project ease even when it ain't
easy.

LARRY CROWNE

Is this Public Speaking?

BUSIK

It's training. Job interviews will
be a breeze with the confidence
you'll get from Speech Two One
Seven.

(even better...)

And you'll spend three hours a week
with the most attractive package in
all of Academia. The Golden Girl
of East City.

(magical words)

Mercedes Tainot.

EXT. E.C.C.C. TEACHERS' PARKING LOT - MORNING

PROF. MERCEDES TAINOT is a fierce defender of literacy and
intelligence -- and *definitely* one attractive package.

headache/grogginess combo of Biblical proportions.

GPS VOICE
Please Enter your destination.

MERCEDES TAINOT
 I'm here. Shut up. Turn off!

Stepping from her sub-compact, she struggles into a pair of heels, as in this state she drives barefoot. If only her huge Thermo-cup held a hair of the dog she might not walk such a crooked mile from the parking lot to the campus.

Larry -- in his car -- screeches around a corner. He is frantically looking for a place to park, but as this is the first day of term, the lot is jammed!

He nearly hits Mercedes Tainot.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)
 Jerk!

LARRY CROWNE
 Sorry! Parking's impossible today!

MERCEDES TAINOT

Are you new to the Faculty?

LARRY CROWNE
 New to the Student Body.

MERCEDES TAINOT
 This is the Faculty Lot. We've earned degrees for these spaces. Students park on Mars.

LARRY CROWNE
 I'm going to be late for my first day of school.

MERCEDES TAINOT
 I bet it won't be the first time.

EXT. E.C.C.C. - PORTABLE CLASSROOMS

STUDENTS search for their new classrooms. Mercedes does too, among these 'portable' classrooms that have not moved in 7 years.

INT. PORTABLE CLASSROOM - SPEECH 217 - LATER

Mercedes stops at the doorway.

MERCEDES TAINOT

This is it?

P.O.V.

NINE STUDENTS sit self-consciously, including PINEDO,
DIBIASI, MACK, and CALIMERIS

Mercedes quickly does a head count.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

...7, 8, 9.

She laughs.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

My day has just been made and it's
only 8:02 in the morning!

(then)

This class...is CANCELLED!!

Mercedes explains.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

The city charter requires a minimum

of ten students per class,
otherwise it costs more to have us
here than not. Did you really want
a class at 8 AM? I didn't. Throw
out those alarm clocks!

Larry Crowne bursts through the door - panting for breath.

LARRY CROWNE

Please tell me this is Speech 217.

Mercedes drops her bag on her desk. She is crushed and hates
Larry Crowne.

She takes up some chalk, turns to the board, then writes in
large, shaky-yet-feminine script:

CARE.

She underlines it four times.

MERCEDES TAINOT

While earning a Masters in
Shakespearean Political Discourse
from Vassar, I learned to *care*.
Caring is a prerequisite for this
class I have to teach in this

(then)
(MORE)

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Participate. Show up on time.

(Larry gets a eye on that)

Care. And stay awake the 55 minutes three dawns a week I have to be here, or I will fail you and not *care*.

(a name on the board)

My name is Ms. Tainot. Not 'tie-knot'. Tay-no. You will each address the class on Wednesday. A procedure. How. To do. Something.

Pinedo has *panic* in her eyes. Public speaking terr fies her.
Dibiasi raises his hand.

DIBIASI

Ms. Tie-knot?

Ms. Tainot glares at Dibiasi. Glares and glares at him.

DIBIASI (CONT'D)

Uh, Tay-knot...Tai-bo...

MERCEDES TAINOT

Who are you?

DIBIASI

Steve Dibiasi. Friends call me Nomad. Only two days before I gotta get up and give my address? You may be dreaming.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Why are you here, Steve?

DIBIASI

Counsellor Busik said this class would change my life.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Busik. Of course...

Dibiasi's cell phone rings.

DIBIASI

I gotta take this...

Mercedes Tainot may kill this kid.

EXT. E.C.C.C. CAMPUS - SAME

INT. ECON. 1 - LATER

An actual classroom, but in sad shape. In one section sits LALA PINEDO - from the Speech Class.

Larry sees her and sits next to her, oblivious to the fact that she is cripplingly shy.

LARRY CROWNE

Look at us, in two classes in a row.

PINEDO

Yes. Hi.

LARRY CROWNE

That Ms. Tainot is something else isn't she? I'm new to this coll ge life and, I confess, she sca es e This whole place scares me.

PINEDO

Yes.

LARRY CROWNE

I woke up this morning so nervous about the first day of school. I changed my clothes three times.

We may have noticed TALIA FRANCESCO - a very stylish young student - come in and sit nearby. No notebook or anything...

LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Larry Crowne, and I'm babbling.

PINEDO

I am Lala.

DR. MATSUTANI (O.C.)

I order you to turn off all cell phones, smart phones, and any phone-like devices!

The teacher comes in - DR. MATSUTANI.

DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)

You have entered The Knowledge Zone!! Econ Prime! One textbook! (holding it up)

Written by? Ed Matsutani, PhD.

That's me! Read this book Follow

into the Promised Land!
(MORE)

DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)

(he laughs mock
maniacally)

That usually scares people. Yet
none of you have fled. A good
economic indicator.

Larry leans over to Lala.

LARRY CROWNE

I like this guy...

PINEDO

Yes...

INT. E.C.C.C. - PORTABLE CLASSROOM - LATER

Much like the other. Four students sit, waiting for class to
begin.

Mercedes has already written up on the board in *Happy Letters*

"English 40: Shakespeare As Politician. CARE! PLEASE! I
DO!!!"

But no one else is showing up.

The clock shows 3:09. MERCEDES TAINOT

What happened to the 16 sign-ups?
(nothing)
Shakespeare as I know him... is
cancelled.

EXT GAS STATION - AFTERNOON

Larry is filling up his car, watching his money go down his
gas pipe.

A body builder on a SCOOTER -- a guy we will come to know as
DELL GORDO -- pulls in to the opposite pump. He flips up the
seat, pops the pump into his scooter tank, and in seconds, is
done.

That scooter only *sips* gasoline. Off Dell goes, while
Larry's tank fills and fills and fills...

EXT. DERBY COURT - LATER

Larry is walking from his house over to Lamarr's.

EXT. LAMARR'S HOUSE - GARAGE - SAME

Lamarr, pipe in mouth, is forever arranging his goods.

LAMARR

What's cookin' Joe College?

LARRY CROWNE

Money woes. Paying for gas, getting to school.

(then)

You ever come across a moped or a scooter for sale or trade?

Lamarr stops in his tracks.

LAMARR

Come with me.

INT. LAMARR'S RUMPUS ROOM - SAME

Patience is at her home office - card table. Coupons.
Computer on eBay.

PATIENCE

Your next wife might stand smoking
that pipe in the house but your
first one says 'uh-uh!'

On the old TV on "Wheel of Fortune" (A person).

LAMARR

Passing through, woman...

Lamarr goes through the patio doors to the back yard, a space filled with even more yard sale items.

PATIENCE

Larry Crowne, been thinking about
you. Sit down here...

Larry watches Vanna White turn letters - he solves the puzzle.

LARRY CROWNE

"College Graduate."

PATIENCE

That's going to be you someday.

She's pulled up some LP's on eBay on the computer.

PATIENCE (CONT'D)

You have money in all those records. If you can part with them, they'd go for something on the eBay. I'll show you how...

From the back patio, Lamarr comes in pushing a scooter in not too bad of shape, though its windscreen is faded.

LAMARR

This what you're talking about?

LARRY CROWNE

That's a hunk of junk.

LAMARR

This is classic.

LARRY CROWNE

It doesn't work.

LAMARR

It will for eight hundred dollars.

LARRY CROWNE

Two hundred.

LAMARR

Seven hundred.

LARRY CROWNE

Two hundred.

LAMARR

Six fifty.

LARRY CROWNE

Two hundred.

LAMARR

Six thirty.

PATIENCE

Gonna be a long night with you two.

LARRY CROWNE

Forget it.

LAMARR

Larry! The secret of any negotiation is for both of us to win. Talk to me. How much do you

EXT. DERBY COURT - LATER

Larry is carrying his Flat Screen TV, wires, box and all, from his house to Lamarr's garage.

"Wing Ding Ding!" goes the scooter Lamarr has been working on with his tools. He lets it idle as he takes the TV.

LAMARR

Beautiful. I'll throw in a helmet.

(showing him)

Gas. Brake. Light's busted.

Tires are low. You'll need a special license.

Larry straps on the old, beat up crash helmet (DOT approved).

LARRY CROWNE

All I need is the open road.

Larry revs it, crashes into a hedge.

LAMARR

You break it, you bought it.

LARRY CROWNE

It still works.

LAMARR

Talking about the hedge.

COMPUTER SCREEN

Images of an EROTIC SUPER-HEROINE -- busty and hot -- and others, are being studied, and saved one after another.

EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOME - DEN - EVENING

DEAN TAINOT is a self-published author and blogger -- with a taste for this kind of stuff. Multiple copies of his own books line the shelves.

When he hears the FRONT DOOR open -- he panics.

DEAN TAINOT

Well, hey! Who's home early!

He keeps clicking away with the mouse until he's safe. Mercedes calls from the other room.

MERCEDES TAINOT

He covers his digital tracks and hops out of his desk.

KITCHEN

Mercedes is prepping the Margaritas for cocktail hour.

DEAN TAINOT

First day of term calls for a
celebration!

MERCEDES TAINOT

You'd think so.

DEAN TAINOT

What's your burden this go round?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Tap Dancing. Ping Pong. Water
Torture. And Speech at Sunrise

DEAN TAINOT

I built a Flamethrower of a posting
for WarriorWeb which, if I do say,
will feed nicely as an outline for

As the blender BLARES, husband and wife eye each other. She's
looking at him. He's smiling like a guilty idiot.

"Carrier: Second Angel." And, I
was a guest blogger on CyberShare.

Blender off. She starts pouring.

DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)

Y u don't believe me.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Why wouldn't I believe you?

DEAN TAINOT

I was composing, Mercy. That's
what *I* do all day.

MERCEDES TAINOT

You were looking at porn.

She takes a nice pull on that icy drink.

Oh fine. Thought Police. I saw
some erotica. I'm a man, I admit
it.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Took you a while.

DEAN TAINOT

It's barely porn. I'm not hiding it.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Yes you are.

She bangs her head.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Brain freeze.

DEAN TAINOT

Don't chug. Sip.

(then)

Everyone hides something.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I have no secrets from you. I share the whole miserable slate.

DEAN TAINOT

You walked in the door pissed off because -- I'm sorry -- I've

established a beach head in New

Media while you still have to teach at Vassar of the Valley. You hide that.

MERCEDES TAINOT

(serious eyes)

You look at Bra-Busters Triple-X expecting me to pretend I don't know or I don't care. I do both and don't like it.

DEAN TAINOT

It may look like I don't work hard around here, Mercy. But I *do*. I'm just a guy who's a guy being a guy when you're not around...

She walks away.

DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)

And walking away is great for a relationship...

EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOME - PATIO - SAME

It's a tiny slab, but there is a tree and a fence and a

Mercy closes the sliding door behind her and settles into her chair and into her drink. This is where she goes when she thinks/drinks.

Rap-rap-rap on the glass door. It's Dean, making one last point.

DEAN TAINOT

(through glass)

I'm a guy. Who's a guy. Being a
guy...

Mercy turns her face to the sky...

EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING

The streets are not yet crowded with traffic.

A MOTORCYCLE RIDER pilots a STATE OF THE ART STREET MACHINE:
machine helmet, leather pants and jacket, radio in the
helmet, saddlebags, windscreen. Probably a gynecologist.

INT. INTERSECTION - SAME

The cyclist pulls up right next to:

Larry Crowne, riding a scooter for the first time. Gives the

passing Rider - who couldn't care less -- a 'thumbs up!'

RIDER

How you doing...

LARRY CROWNE

Speck-tack-alar.

(then)

Nice machine. Where you headed?

RIDER

Work.

LARRY CROWNE

School. College. I'm a student.
What do you do?

RIDER

I'm a gynecologist.

LARRY CROWNE

Yeah? I'd say 'have a great day'
but that would be stating the

The light changes.

LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)

You take care.

As the Rider takes off, Larry tries to do the same, but he stalls the engine. Cars honk horns at him.

EXT. E.C.C.C. SCOOTER PARKING LOT - MORNING

Larry is trying to work the kick stand of his scooter. He is not yet practiced at the thing. Another scooter arrives.

TALIA

Where'd you get the Hot Wheels?

Talia is shaking her hair free from her helmet. Larry fails to recognize her from Econ prime.

TALIA (CONT'D)

That machine's a classic.

LARRY CROWNE

Got me here for a nickel's worth of
gas.

TALIA

You're in Matsutani's Econ with me.

LARRY CROWNE

I am?

TALIA

That class is straining my coconut.

LARRY CROWNE

It's only been one day

TALIA

Didn't know you scooted.

LARRY CROWNE

New to the sport.

TALIA

(pulls out mobile phone)
Give me your number. I'll
introduce you to like-minded
enthusiasts.

(then)

Name please?

LARRY CROWNE

Larry Crowne. With an 'e'.

TALIA

'Larry'? I don't think so. I used to be Kathleen but one day I looked in the mirror and saw a girl named Talia.

(then in her phone)

Putting you in as 'Lance'. Check your texts and we'll do us some scooting.

(then)

Gotta tell you, Lance. Tucking a polo shirt into khakis makes you look like a cop.

LARRY CROWNE

Not much fashion sense.

TALIA

I know! Gotta change that...

Larry sees Mercedes Tainot walking from the Faculty lot, and doesn't want to be late again.

LARRY CROWNE

Gotta go!

TALIA

Then get going!!

Talia watches him go. Likes him thus far...

INT. SPEECH 217 - LATER

Mercedes is at a desk in the back. Bored and, yes, a bit hungover again. You can tell by the way she takes long pulls from her Thermo-cup.

Busik is sitting in on the class, not far from Mercedes.

In front of the board that says "PHONES OFF!!" Calimeris is demonstrating an exercise for her speech.

CALIMERIS

With the push-up added, the 4-count Burpie becomes the 6-count Burpie and works out the pecs and biceps. It's an all-in-one exercise perfect for Cheerleader conditioning. The 6-count Burpie

The class is too shy to applaud though Busik claps like a fan.

MERCEDES TAINOT

We now all know how to Burpie.

Thank you.

(then)

Who's next?

No one volunteers. Though Pinedo is about to...

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Make me the bad guy.

(her roster)

Ms. Crowne?

LARRY CROWNE

You mean me?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Mr. Crowne. My bad.

Larry goes to the podium - armed with a huge stack of 3x5's.

Busik shoots him a 'thumbs up.'

He looks at Mercedes for the starting cue.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Go.

LARRY CROWNE

My presentation will be on the subject of a very particular procedure. "How to make French Toast", but I'll speak English...

Larry has used up one card. Mercedes rolls her eyes and talks to herself *in a MOVIE DEVICE* way...

MERCEDES TAINOT

M classes were once filled with earnest young *men* ready to learn all I had to teach them. Cute boys fresh out of High School who all had crushes on me from day one. Now look at my cadre. Dibiasi. Bound for jail. Mack. Treating college like another tour of combat. Crowne. If this was Hamlet, he'd be Osric in Act 5. The part that is always cut.

Larry checks on Ms. Tainot in the back. She is not talking, only listening (the *MOVIE DEVICE* mentioned above)...

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Busik, I am going to kill you. You can't suggest these saps take Shorthand or Oral Hygiene? Bring me in at this ungodly hour for 2 minutes on French toast?

Busik looks at Mercedes, signals a 'not bad, eh?' about Larry.

She is a stone face.

LARRY CROWNE

Most people think syrup comes out of a plastic bottle.

MERCEDES TAINOT

(still talking to herself)
Great. The history of the sugar maple tree now. Thank you Wikipedia.

Larry still has a dozen cards to go.

But the speech is over. MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Ah-ooo-gah! Time's up.

LARRY CROWNE

That went fast...

MERCEDES TAINOT

Breakfast may never be ready.

Larry gathers his cards. Busik gives him a 'bravo!'

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Next.

Pinedo tries to volunteer to go next...

DIBIASI

I'll go. But you aren't going to like it.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Are you clairvoyant?

DIBIASI

(holding a pack of Toaster
Waffles)

(MORE)

DIBIASI (CONT'D)

(reading)

Brown Waffles in toaster at
lightest or lowest heat setting. An
adult should supervise heating by
children. Applause please.

Mercedes rolls her head. Busik laughs out loud.

BUSIK

Simple. Direct. Informative.

INT. ECON. 1 CLASSROOM - LATER

An incomprehensible POWERPOINT GRAPHIC is projected with Dr.
M. explaining what it means. Gibberish!!

Larry is taking notes, beside Lala, when his phone vibrates.
He *flinches* to turn it off before getting into trouble.

On his phone a message: TALIA: "Scoot?"

It takes a moment for him to understand what is going on.

His phone buzzes again.
to your right"

Larry looks as instructed. He sees Talia, phone in hand,
miming riding a scooter -- you and me -- wind in our hair...

Another text: TALIA: "Lance! Look
Larry gets it. Nods okay. Turning back, he finds Dr.
Matsutani, standing over him. Palm out.

DR. MATSUTANI

Your mobile, please.

Larry hands it over.

DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)

I will return it after class if I
don't crush it first.

EXT. EAST CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE - SCOOTER PARKING LOT -
LATER

Some of the Scooter Gang have assembled as Larry and Talia
walk up. DELL GORDO and STAN are talking about today's route.

TALIA

Hey Monkey!

Dell Gordo plants a kiss right on Talia's lips. She kisses him back. Larry sinks a little.

It only figures Talia would have a boyfriend like Dell Gordo.

TALIA (CONT'D)

This is Lance Corona. Classmate and good guy, so far.

DELL GORDO

Dell Gordo. You want to ride with us?

LARRY CROWNE

Why not.

There is a beat of a stare down between Dell Gordo and Larry, but then Dell starts to snap his fingers -- SNAP...SNAP...SNAP... -- the other join in until they are all snapping fingers like the Jets vs. Sharks. Talia too.

TALIA

Snap along, Lance or you can't join the gang.

Larry, clumsily, starts snapping too. After a few bars...

DELL GORDO

Okay. You're in for a trial run. And just like that, everyone goes back to their wheels.

STAN

Not many of these '66 Wasps left around. They had low torque. How's the torque?

He means Larry's scooter.

LARRY CROWNE

I just bought it and ride around.

Someone yells "Saddle up!"

TALIA

Stan knows engines and junk.

DELL GORDO

Let's go, Sweets!

TALIA

We ride, Monkey!

Larry's heart breaks a tiny bit, suffering as he does from Talia-on-the-heart.

The squad pulls out through the cars of the parking lot with Larry trying to speed his machine along with the crowd...

SCOOT MONTAGE

They roll through town - a multi-wheeled dance troupe. Swaying... turning... slow-motion sometimes... elegant always.

They make riding look fun... being in a group a gas... rolling with the wind in your hair something you'd like to do...

UNIMART

As Larry and the Squad pass it by, Larry can't help but eye the place he once worked. He sees staffers collecting carts in the parking lot.

He misses that place...

LATER

After many shots, riders begin to peel off -- scooting done. Talia waves at Larry who guns his throttle and pulls even

with her. TALIA (CONT'D)

You good, Lance?

LARRY CROWNE

Other than school, I have nothing to do.

DELL GORDO

Let's troll Buena Vista for junk stores.

STAN

We hit those last week.

TALIA

If it was Saturday we'd look for yard sales.

LARRY CROWNE

I know where a yard sale is, like everyday.

TALIA

Lead the way.

(yelling)

Monkey! Lance knows a yard sale!

DELL GORDO

Take point!

LARRY CROWNE

Follow me, boys and girl!

EXT. DERBY COURT - LATER

The Scooters pull around the corner. Lamarr shouts.

LAMARR

We're being invaded!

One by one, the Scooters park and survey the scene. The stuff that Larry was selling is now part of Lamarr's operation, being sold 'On Consignment'. .

LAMARR (CONT'D)

Larry, what kind of thugs you get in with?

LARRY CROWNE

College buddies.

LAMARR

If they're college buddies why aren't they in college?

TALIA

You have any old clothes?

LAMARR

Speak to my bride inside.

Dell Gordo, Stan and the others are going through hardware, tools, appliances.

DELL GORDO

Oh man! These TV trays are too much!

LAMARR

Bargains at \$100 apiece.

DELL GORDO

For these? Are you nuts?

LAMARR

I'm joking, kid. Let's get to haggling.

DELL GORDO I
get it.
(then)
A buck apiece.

LAMARR
Ninety-nine dollars apiece. You
see how this is working?

DELL GORDO
Two bucks apiece!

LAMARR
Ninety-eight and, kid, I do this
every day.

INT. GARAGE -- SAME

Talia and Patience are putting outfits together from off the
hangers.

TALIA
Layer this... with this.

PATIENCE

Add this belt?

TALIA
I LOVE THIS! Where did you GET IT?

PATIENCE
Reeled it in like tuna from the
Atlantic.

TALIA
Diamonds in a diamond mine.
(another outfit)
Take this... under this...unbutton
that.

PATIENCE
You and I are going to spend some
time together!

EXT. LAMARR HOUSE - SAME

Larry stands alone, nothing to do as the Scooters poke about
the sale. He drifts towards his house, a forgotten man.

INT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - LATER

He is entering some of his choice, rare LP's up for auction on eBay.

DOORBELL RINGS

INT. LARRY'S HOUSE - SAME

It's Talia.

TALIA

I gotta see *Chez Lance*.

LARRY CROWNE

Entrez vous, sea food plate.

Talia enters and looks around. The decor screams out: "A man lives here."

TALIA

No sign of a woman around here for years. Drape a scarf over that

lamp and you'll soften the light.

No TV, b t vinyl disks of music?
You trying to seduce me?

She examines the record collection.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Alphabetical order. No artistic chaos for you.

She closes her eyes and picks out an LP at random.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Spin this platter, Mr. DJ?

LARRY CROWNE

Good choice.

As he puts it on, Talia drifts into the...

KITCHEN

Nothing matches, but it is well-equipped with a cozy breakfast nook.

TALIA

Breakfast nookie!
(then)

TALIA (CONT'D)

Did Denise make you breakfast in
here with a little apron and
lipstick perfectly applied?

LARRY CROWNE

I did most of the cooking,
actually.

(then)

You know about Denise?

TALIA

Patience thought she was stuck up
and seriously fleeced you.

Larry can't believe his neighbors are so loose-tongued.

TALIA (CONT'D)

So what happened there, my Lance?

LARRY CROWNE

The usual stuff between three
people.

TALIA

She must have been pretty.

(then)

Fair haired or dark?

LARRY CROWNE

Dark.

TALIA

Like me.

(then)

So? How about a demonstration?

he means 'of the kitchen'. Larry's game...

LARRY CROWNE

Stay outta my way.

VEGETABLES ARE CHOPPED

BURNERS TURNED ON

MISMATCHED UTENSILS COME OUT OF DRAWERS

A CHICKEN BREAST IS POUNDED

OLIVE OIL GOES INTO A PAN

BEER OPENED

Pizza bread. Chopped veggie salad. Lightly fried potatoes. A pounded chicken breast. Beer in a bottle.

Talia eats as Larry gets corn bread he steamed fresh and moist onto a plate.

LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)

Cooking for friends is sort of fun.
Three hundred times a day is not.

DELL GORDO (O.C.)

That corn bread I smell?

TALIA

Kitchen, Monkey!

Dell Gordo has walked into Larry's house.

DELL GORDO

Corn pone!

Dell Gordo dives in after helping himself to a bottle of beer from the refrigerator.

TALIA

Lance made all this. You should
have seen him. He was like...

Talia does a mime of Larry cooking - like a spastic drummer.

DELL GORDO

You're like Uncle Ben or something.
Stan's working on your bike.

LARRY CROWNE

He is?

Larry goes to the window.

DELL GORDO

Said the thing was a time bomb.
He's saving your life.

P.O.V.

Stan has broken down much of Larry's bike using Lamarr's tools. Lamarr is standing over him, pointing out what he thinks needs to be done. Stan is ignoring him.

DELL GORDO (CONT'D)

Let's go lift iron, Monkey. It's a
shoulders and arms day

(MORE)

DELL GORDO (CONT'D)
 Lance, raise your right hand and
 say something patriotic.

Larry does, just for fun.

LARRY CROWNE
 'We'll be right back after these
 messages.'

DELL GORDO
 You're in the Street Patrol. A
 full-time mission for beauty and
 justice.

Talia throws her arms around him and kisses him on the lips --
 no romance at all, but still...

TALIA
 That Denise. What a fool. You are
 way cooler than you appear.

She leaves. Dell Gordo lingers.

DELL GORDO

Lance. All men fall in love with

Talia. You will too, if you
 haven't already. But I love her
 the most. Know that right now.

LARRY CROWNE
Capice.

DELL GORDO
 Seriously. Don't make me keep my
 eyes on you. What's your real
 name?

LARRY CROWNE
 Larry.

DELL GORDO
 Mine's Don. Shake hands.
 (explaining how)
 Look each other in the eyes. Firm
 grips. No contest, but firm. Hold.
 Stack it.
 (then)
 One word, Lance. Peace.

LARRY CROWNE
 Peace indeed.

EXT. LARRY'S HOUSE - MORNING

NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS are in school uniforms, heading to the bus stop. Dressed for school as well, Larry kick starts his scooter, now a humming bit of mechanical perfection.

LARRY CROWNE

Speck-tack-alar.

He peels out, on his way to school.

EXT. LAMARR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW

Lamarr, and his percolator, give Larry a wave.

EXT. E.C.C.C. CAMPUS - DAY

Larry walks to Speech 217 like any other student.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH (OVERLAPPING)

Even business can break down into a
Shakespearean Five-Act Structure!

INT. SPEECH 217- LATER

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH is a former student of Mercedes with

braces on her teeth. Her name is printed in perfect block

letters behind her on the board. She is giving a polished, well-prepared "off the cuff" presentation: DYNAMIC SEMINARS PRESENTS: SHAKESPEAREAN *ECONOMICS*.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH

Act I: Inventory. What do you
sell? Act Two? To Market. Reach
your buyers. Act Three? Three legs of
accounting. Receivable.
Payable. Due. Act Four? Forward
planning. Plan to grow. Act Five?
Final Profitability. What do you
clear on bottom-line?

(then)

In other words: "To be or not to
be... in Business."

It's all nonsense, but it looks nice in PowerPoint form.

Larry is taking notes.

Calimeris has drawn her Pyramid of ideas.

Mack sleeps with his head straight up.

Pinedo is listening intently, counting the ideas out on her hands.

Dibiasi is doodling drawings of football players.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH (CONT'D)

For business, social, and self-improvement workshops, email me:
 Francestaylor-briegh@dynasem.com.

Mercedes Tainot is in the back -- her mind far from her classroom. She is preoccupied.

The applause for the speaker jolts her.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Did you notice? No script. No notes. So it can be done.

The class breaks up. Pinedo makes it a point to pick up some DynaSem brochures. Larry remains, scribbling notes.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

White, Siler and Koss, you are up

next time.

(then)

You did good, Fran. Thanks.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH

Anything for the woman who brought out the public speaker in Frances Taylor-Briegh.

(then)

I used you as a Focal Reference but you weren't there for me. What's wrong, Mercy?

Mercedes signals Frances: "Not yet", then points to Larry, still finishing up his notes.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I broke up with the Orthodontist. Now I have to get a new boyfriend and a new orthodontist. You ever do that? Get crushes on people you see every day after ignoring them and then find out they're creeps after all?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Mr. Crowne? Can you move along

LARRY CROWNE
That was a great presentation. I
learned a lot from it.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
Super.

LARRY CROWNE
Smart stuff. Super smart.

The women watch him go. As soon as he's out the door:

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
Ethel's here, Lucy. What's going
on?

MERCEDES TAINOT
When was the last time you looked
at your life and saw nothing but
fraud and desperation?

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
Mercy. You're an idol to me.
Hearing you talk like that is

crushing my dreams.

Mercy wants to take it back.

MERCEDES TAINOT
Well I'm joking *of course!!!*
She pretends to laugh. A little too much.

INT. ECON. 1 - LATER

Dr. Matsutani is diagramming on the board.

DR. MATSUTANI
If the balance on Axis A is the
same metric as Axis B you're in
deficits because of overhead,
taxes, and re-investment.
(then)
Translation? Ms. Francesco?

TALIA
Something complicated.

DR. MATSUTANI
Ms. Pinedo?

DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)

Mr. Crowne?

LARRY CROWNE

Breaking even is not making profit,
it's a theoretical assumption.
Economics abhors an assumption.

Talia is amused while sizing him up, from shoe to collar.
Bad shirt... pleated pants, too short... running shoes.

DR. MATSUTANI

Someone's been reading my book.
(then)
The Break Even Paradox creates a
new metric...

Talia makes a decision and palms her phone, punching in a
text. In a second, Larry's phone vibrates. He struggles to
get it before he gets caught with his mobile on.

TALIA: "Scoot? You/me?"

Larry nods at Talia.

Turning back, Dr. Matsutani is there again.
Larry hands him his mobile phone again.

Palm out again. DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)

I am growing tired of this game,
Mr. Crowne. Aren't you?

EXT. STREET - LATER

Larry and Talia. Scooting along like Elvis and Ann-Margret
in *Viva Las Vegas*.

EXT. SQUARE HOLE SELF-STORAGE - LATER

They swing into the complex.

EXT. SQUARE HOLE NO. 114 - SAME

Talia is unlocking the grate.

LARRY CROWNE

So what happens here?

TALIA

Re-invention. Big Boy. You ready?

LARRY CROWNE

I have no idea what that means, but
you betcha.

INT. SQUARE HOLE NO. 114 - SAME

Pitch black as the grate rolls up and open, revealing Talia,
Larry and their parked scooters.

LARRY CROWNE

Holy smokes!

The place is crammed with vintage clothes. Racks and boxes
and stacks of every fashion.

LARRY CROWNE (CONT D)

You got inventory.

She disappears in the back, rummaging around.

TALIA

I started in the smallest unit.

LARRY CROWNE

This is just sitting here? Talia!
This is unproductive capital! Sell
it on eBay.

TALIA

No one should ever buy clothes off
the internet. You have to feel the
fabric and test the drape...

LARRY CROWNE

What is all this worth?

Out she ome with an assortment of men's clothes.

TALIA

A lot to me. Try these on.

LARRY CROWNE

Where?

TALIA

Anywhere. Fashion is no place for
modesty. Strip.

He does.

LARRY CROWNE

TALIA

This is a service to humankind,
Lance. It hurts me to see a Top
Cat dressed like an ex-hockey
player. You gotta look gorgeous
from shoe to collar. Starting now.

Larry is taking off his pants just as Dell Gordo has pulled
up on his scooter.

DELL GORDO

Monkey! Thought you might be here.

TALIA

Lance! My boyfriend's here! Put
your pants on!

Larry, in fact, has his pants off.

Dell Gordo has a look in his eyes of, well, "What the fuck?"

INT./EXT. - MERCEDES' CAR -- AFTERNOON

She is driving home.

GPS VOICE

Please enter your destination.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Go to hell...

INT TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - LATER

Dean is opening take-out containers to put the food on
plates. The table is set a little too ornately. Wine. He's
Candles. Flowers.

In other words, he's making up.

Mercedes comes in through the door. Sees what's up.
being good and cute. He pours Margaritas.

DEAN TAINOT

No argument here, Mercy. Fact: I'm
a dope. Fact: My wife is beautiful
and brilliant. And I will be a
good boy from now on. Why?
Because you're right and I've
learned my lesson. Just don't be
mad at me forever. I have a
pliable soul and I pray you do too

He dangles her a fresh Margarita. She'll take it...

BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mercedes and Dean have had make up sex. It was okay.

DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)

Ah. That was nice.

MERCEDES TAINOT

It was. Yes.

DEAN TAINOT

Been thinking. If you ever want to take a whack at writing something -- say a blog a couple of times a week -- I could help you out.

MERCEDES TAINOT

How?

DEAN TAINOT

I'd read your stuff. Make comments to make it web-savvy. Pieces need

to pop, you know. Takes a little practice

MERCEDES TAINOT

Okay.

DEAN TAINOT

See? You can't stay mad at me. No reason to be mad at me...

He smooches her. Mercedes smooches back.

DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)

I'm just a guy who's a guy being a guy...

Mercedes' eyes: She didn't like hearing that...

INT. LARRY'S HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Larry -- in new, vintage clothes with his morning coffee -- is at his computer entering his financial record into a program - Ed Matsutani's SmartPlanning MoneyWorks.

He is also on his Mobile Phone -- pressing his party's extension...

DENISE

This is Denise. How can I help you.

LARRY CROWNE

Denise. Larry.

DENISE

My god. Larry Crowne. I remember you.

LARRY CROWNE

This a good time?

DENISE

Other than me being at work?

LARRY CROWNE

I'll call you later.

DENISE

I'm surprised is all. What do you want?

With checkbooks, statements, etc. Larry is looking for the bottom line.

Out it comes: In RED!

(\$887.00)

LARRY CROWNE

Well. Okay. Uh. Here's the deal.

DENISE

Spit it, Lar.

LARRY CROWNE

I'm going to miss a few months on the checks for the house.

DENISE

Okay.

LARRY CROWNE

I hoped not to, but I there it is.

DENISE

Okay. Yeah.

LARRY CROWNE

I'm sorry.

DENISE

How many months?

LARRY CROWNE

Let's start with six.

Silence on the other end.

DENISE

*That can't happen, Larry.
I'm extended. I've put a deposit
down on the first vacation I've had
in 5 1/2 years. My expenses are as
valid as yours, so I need the
checks like always. A deal's a
deal.*

He goes back to the computer, to eBay to see how his LP
auction is going.

One record is going for... \$0.75. Another: \$1.25. Another:
NO BIDS.

LARRY CROWNE

I don't have it.

DENISE

*That's not my problem. Take out a
loan on the house or something.*

LARRY CROWNE

I tried. I'm too much of a risk.

DENISE

*Oh, I'm not touching that. I don't
want to open up the whole lawyer
thing, but I will if pushed. Sucks,
doesn't it? I appreciate the
rigorous Crowne honesty, but this
can't happen.*

(then)

*These calls are monitored to
guarantee customer satisfaction, so
I'm hanging up before my supervisor
comes on...*

EXT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Establish. It's early. Few customers

INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - SAME

Raul is sitting at the counter doing his paperwork. Perry comes up to him.

PERRY
Can I smell trouble or what?

RAUL
Can you speak English?

PERRY
Those two over in booth 6...

P.O.V.: Two GUYS IN SUITS.

PERRY (CONT'D)
Homeland Security. I piped their badges and everything.

RAUL
What is Homeland Security doing here...

Raul looks back in the kitchen. Carlos and Nick are prepping their stations.

Raul bolts for the kitchen. In seconds we can see him through

the Service Window.

He whispers and gestures to Carlos and Nick, who suddenly show PANIC in their eyes.

They now bolt the kitchen, out the back way.

BOOTH 6

Perry is pouring coffee for the Agents, making small talk as...

Outside the window, Carlos and Nick are fleeing for their Illegal Alien lives...

INT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - MORNING

Larry is still trying to make sense of his money woes when his phone rings...

Caller ID: "Perry's Coffee Shop Breakfast All Day!"

LARRY CROWNE

Hev

INTERCUT/PERRY'S

Perry is serving hotcakes to the Agents while Raul is on the phone.

RAUL
This is Larry Crowne?

LARRY CROWNE
Raul? Yes.

RAUL
Get your ass down here. You got a job.

LARRY CROWNE
I do?

EXT. STREET - LATER

Larry is scooting to Perry's.

INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - LATER

The place has filled with customers. Perry is jammed and behind the window, Raul is slapping orders up in a frenzy.

PERRY

We're swamped, Kimosabe. Get back there!

RAUL
You're late on your first day!

INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - KITCHEN - SAME

Larry comes through the swinging doors. He stops and takes a breath. His life has come to this. He is back in a kitchen.

What can he do, but dive in...

LATER

Larry is at the window, putting up orders and ripping slips off the wheel.

Not so much as cracking a smile, though...

RAUL
Where you learn to turn eggs like

LARRY CROWNE

The USS Coral Sea.

(then)

Boss, I don't want to quit school.

RAUL

So don't.

LARRY CROWNE

I gotta get to class before I miss the whole day. And I can't work mornings Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays.

RAUL

Soon as the rush is finished, go. I'll get my idiot brother-in-law three days a week. You take evenings. Deal?

LARRY CROWNE

Deal. When will we talk salary?

RAUL

Never. This is take it or leave

it. Don't worry. I may be tough but I'll be fair.

INT. SPEECH 217- DAY

Mack is at the podium giving a presentation with his Star Wars Action figures.

MACK

These are not toys. Nobody 'plays' with these. These are kept behind glass, so no way am I passing them around today.

Mercedes TALKS to us and HERSELF.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Wait a ding dong minute.

(counts the heads)

1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9. Someone is missing! Who cut my class?

She lets slip OUT LOUD:

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Where's Larry Crowne?!

Everyone looks at her.

MACK

Guess Larry's out today.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Anyone know why?

MACK

He didn't call me.

Ad-libs: no one knows why Larry is out.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I don't believe this! Ditching me?
He ditched me? Not okay. Larry
Crowne, you are on my Shit List.

Everyone shares looks like they've witnessed a Lover's Spat.

Speaking quietly in their seats...

DIBIASI

Sounds like Teacher has a thing for a
Teach-ee.

CALIMERIS

When you were out last week, she
said nothing. I think she has a
crush on Larry Crowne.

PINEDO

I do too.
(off their looks)
He's a nice man.

Mack speaks up.

MACK

Should I continue?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Yes. Tell us more about your man
dolls.

Mack is humiliated now.

MACK

I'm sure everyone recognizes Boba
Fett...

EXT. E.C.C.C. - LATER

INT. ECON 1 - LATER

Dr. Matsutani is in mid-lecture when Larry comes in, late.

LARRY CROWNE

(quietly)

I'm sorry I'm late, Dr. Matsutani.
May I still sit in the class?

DR. MATSUTANI

This is college, Mr. Crowne. The
only thing you can't do is smoke in
the building. Hand over your
phone.

(Larry does)

I'm going to ask a question in a
moment. I want someone other than
you to answer it - I don't care if
the silence is positively Arctic.

Larry moves to take a seat.

Talia can't believe his choice of dress. She mimes to him
"What's with the outfit?" His mime answer is unintelligible.

DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)

This brings us to a dreaded task to
every corporate entity. What is
the purpose of semi-annual re-
purposing? Anyone?

(then)

Anyone?

He waits. And waits. And waits. Matsutani stares fear into
the hearts of all but Larry.

LARRY CROWNE

(whispering)

Lala... To upload market
differences without...

PINEDO

Without mooting the quarterlies. I
know.

LARRY CROWNE

Then say it.

(she won't)

Just give the answer. You know it.
Say it.

PINEDO

Can I?

LARRY CROWNE I

insist.

Lala Pinedo clears her voice. But still whispers...

PINEDO

To up... met... es without ...ing
...terly predicts....?

No one understood that...

DR. MATSUTANI

I know what you mean, but please
share it with your classmates?

PINEDO

(loud enough)

To upload market differences
without mooting quarterly
predictions.

DR. MATSUTANI

Does this affect the Value Index?

PINEDO

No. Only the profit markdown.

DR. MATSUTANI

Someone is doing the reading!

Lala Pinedo *beams!* Larry applauds. Talia *whoops!*

EXT. E.C.C.C. - LATER

Mercedes Tainot is crossing campus when she sees Larry.
Talia is moving around his hair, showing it to a SCOOTER
QUAD HAIR STYLIST. Lala is weighing in with her opinion on
Larry's hair .

MERCEDES TAINOT

Is that Larry Crowne!?

(he stops)

You have a lot of nerve showing
your face on campus after ditching
my class!

LARRY CROWNE

I'm sorry, Ms. Tainot. I will not
miss another class, this I vow.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Vows come cheap, Larry Crowne.
You'll lead off next assignment
with three minutes on a personal
first. A story, with details, not
a laundry list or slide show. And,
as I told Dibiasi, no one wants to
hear about the first time you got
laid.

She eyes Talia with venom in her eyes.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Or the most recent.

Talia laughs out loud!

TALIA

That woman is one clenched fist of
fury.

INT. BIG BALLOON CHILDREN'S HAIR SALON - LATER

Noisy kids squirm and cry and play games as they get haircuts
from other stylists.

Larry is in a chair meant for toddlers. The Scooter Squad
Hair Stylist is cutting his hair. Talia is taking Larry's

shitty Velcro wallet and putting his stuff into a cool used
leather one with a chain.

TALIA

She must not be having any amok
lovin'.

SCOOTER HAIR STYLIST

That makes me cranky, too.

TALIA

Without a workout in the Inner
Sanctum a few times a week I can't
concentrate.

LARRY CROWNE

Inappropriate subject in mixed
company.

SCOOTER HAIR STYLIST

For girl-talk this is nothing.

LARRY CROWNE

TALIA

You you want to fix it with your teacher? Bang her.

Talia slides a photo of herself making a face into Larry's wallet, then adds a condom in its foil.

LARRY CROWNE

She's marred.

TALIA

You'd kill two birds in one bush. Nothing wrong with a campus romance. Otherwise life is what? Breakfast work, coffee, school, lunch, scoot, class, shop, talk, Mexican food, a movie, glass of wine or two then bed? That's not living.

SCOOTER HAIR STYLIST

Not without some smooching time.

TALIA

Bet she'd give you an A plus.
(then)
If you're any good...

She and the Stylist *crack up!*

EXT. RIVERBANK BRANCH - LATER

Larry pulls in.

INT. RIVERBANK BRANCH - LATER

Larry has filled out a bunch of papers and is sitting down with Laurie Gammelgaard, who offers him coffee.

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

More complimentary coffee?

LARRY CROWNE

Complimentary coffee is usually lousy.

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

I drink it all day.
(then)
So? You're back!

LARRY CROWNE

I got a job.

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

Atta Baby!

LARRY CROWNE

Perry's Coffee shop. Breakfast all day. And I'm going to school.

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

At East City. I see.

(from the papers)

Larry, this doesn't change anything.

LARRY CROWNE

I was afraid of that.

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

The interest alone will eat up your service industry salary.

LARRY CROWNE

You said come back in a few weeks.

It's been a few weeks.

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

Okay.

(then)

I will personally take this to my supervisor and fight to get you the loan you need. But you know how complimentary coffee is always lousy? Your chances are, too.

LARRY CROWNE

I can't make the payments on the house. I'm going to lose it, aren't I?

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

Stop with the gloomy puss. You're doing everything right. Hang in there. You still have a friend at RiverBank.

LARRY CROWNE

You guys are forced to say that, aren't you?

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD

THUNDER ROLLS IN THE DISTANCE

EXT. SQUARE HOLE NO. 114 - MORNING

RAIN!

Coming down in buckets. Talia has the grate up, wrapping a new outfit for Larry culled from her supply. Dell Gordo is in a rain slicker.

DELL GORDO

I think it's letting up.

TALIA

It's going to storm till next year.

DELL GORDO

We can't stay here all day. Find a raincoat and let's get a little wet.

TALIA

I do not scoot in the rain.

DELL GORDO

How you going to get to school
then, College Co-Ed Belle?

Larry pulls up in his Karmann Ghia -- top up.

TALIA

My savior! Look at your new
schmatas.

(holding boots)

And footwear!

(hopping in, to Dell)

Stay dry, sweetie!

Dell Gordo is not happy to see this.

EXT. DONUT SHOP - MORNING - RAIN

It is raining. Mercedes' car is out front.

MERCEDES TAINOT (PRE-LAP)

I got engaged to a teacher/writer
with two books in print...

INT. MERCEDES' CAR - MORNING - RAIN

The windows are fogging up. Frances and Mercedes sip take-out coffee and eat glazed rings of death.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
I never read them.

MERCEDES TAINOT
Who did? I'm *married* to an ex-teacher turned blogger with two books in print. And oh, yes, he has the libido and internet access of a 13-year-old.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
I had a boyfriend who owned every movie Sophia Loren ever made. I'd hear a DVD go into the player and knew what I was going to be doing in a half-hour.

Right next to them, Larry Crowne pulls up in his Karmann Ghia with the top up and Talia in the passenger seat.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Once more to Divorce Court to cashier a spouse, line my cloak with alimony and do myself homage.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
Othello. Act 1. Scene 1. Iago to Roderigo.

Talia jumps out and runs into the donut shop.

MERCEDES TAINOT
Why can't all my students be like you?

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
Because, as I learned in your class, I am one of a kind.

Larry rolls down his window and yells something funny to her. He never sees Mercedes or Frances.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH (CONT'D)
Hey, that guy's in your class.

Mercedes wipes fog off the window.

MERCEDES TAINOT

P.O.V.

Talia is talking to the Donut Shop Lady, selecting crullers and old-fashioned.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

And that Toy Poodle he keeps on a leash!

Mercedes eyes Larry in his car.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

That's why he's in college! To get laid!

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH

It happens.

Talia comes running out, with two coffees and a bag of donuts, hops into Larry's car and they pull out as Talia puts a ring of sweet into his mouth.

Mercedes rolls down her window and yells.

MERCEDES TAINOT

You are everything that's wrong with America, Larry Crowne!

They did not hear her.

INT SPEE H 217 - MORNING

Larry is at the podium, prepping his "Personal First" presentation as the class comes in. He is dressed as Talia styled him.

DIBIASI

Woah! Larry Crowne, I didn't know you were gay. You've gone all Project Runway on us.

Mercedes enters, eyeing Larry with residual venom. He is oblivious. She takes her listening post in the back of the room as the class goes quiet.

LARRY CROWNE

Should I begin?

Mercedes signals 'Yeah, go ahead, asshole.'

LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)

first crossing of the Equator...

MERCEDES TAINOT

(talking to herself in the *MOVIE*
DEVICE way)

Oh shut up you sleaze. Jerk.

(then)

Look at the new pants. They
actually fit. And that jacket is
'smart'. Did Busik put Larry
Crowne into Fashion for Creeps? An
old goat dressed like lamb.

(then)

Of course! It's that doe-eyed
young thing he's been wearing on
his sleeve. Dressing like he's
half his age. Give me a shotgun!
I'll pepper Larry Crowne right now!

(then)

Am I being unfair? I mean, if I
were single and some young buck
took to me, wouldn't I be inclined
to *diddly-dally*?

She looks at Dibiasi, who has snuck iPod earbuds onto his
head, is mouthing the words and playing air guitar.

The class erupts in laughter. Mercedes wasn't paying

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Youth wouldn't be the only
requirement, of course.

attention to hear Larry's bon mot.

DIBIASI

(jerking out buds)

What? What he say?

LARRY CROWNE

Unless you're looking at a chart,
you don't even know the Equator
when you cross it...

MERCEDES TAINOT

A repackaged Larry Crowne won't
fool me. Shame on you. Going
after jail bait, you criminal.
Insert Viagra joke here...

(then)

herself at you... No. Don't let
up. No, Mercy. NO MERCY!

Polite applause. Mercedes pretends she heard every word.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)
 Anyone recall anything from *that*?

PINEDO
 That Larry believed there were
 signs on posts marking the Equator.

CALIMERIS
 And that, when it's a first time,
 they make the rookies dress in drag
 and sing Abba songs?

Mercedes missed a lot of that. Everything, in fact.

MACK
 Larry worked on an Aircraft
 Carrier! Night Carrier Landings
 are the trickiest flying in world.

Mercedes is learning this for the first time as well.

MERCEDES TAINOT
 That was a memorable nugget.

PINEDO

Larry was stationed in Panama! My
 father is from Panama!

MERCEDES TAINOT
 Mr. Koss to the lectern, please.

More anecdotes come from the class about Larry's speech.
 Mercedes heard none of them...

EXT. STREET - DAY

Talia is riding alone. She slows at a TATTOO PARLOR...

INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Larry bangs out orders.

Raul sits at the butchers block, sipping coffee, observing
 his new kitchen staffer.

EXT. PERFECT SPACE - DAY

An empty store right next to the Tattoo Parlor. Talia is
 looking through the window

A hand-drawn sign with an arrow says *"FOR LEASE ENQUIRE NEXT DOOR ASK FOR MAURICE."*

Talia smiles. Her mobile rings its unique *ringtone*.

STAN: *"Scoot! Webster and Palm!"*

INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

Larry is slapping orders together at the same time he has his studies out -- trying to do two jobs at the same time

His mobile phone vibrates.

TALIA: *"Scoot?"*

He punches in

"Can't. Job."

He goes back to his studies just as another order comes up. Then his phone vibrates again.

TALIA: *"Job? Sob! Coming!"*

LARRY CROWNE

Oh crap.

EXT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Talia and the scooter gang pull in.

INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - SAME

In they pour, sizing up the place for a hangout. Talia, Stan - minus Dell Gordo -- and others sit at the counter where they can see Larry.

TALIA

Chef Corona! Steam us some corn bread?

The others pretend to be grumpy diners: *Feed us! What's a Reuben Sandwich? Where's my Sanka!*

LATER

Up comes order after order. Burgers. Hot beef sandwiches. Turkey clubs. Greek Salads.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Woman on deck!

Raul looks up from his Spanish Language Newspaper.

RAUL

You can't come in here.

TALIA

I'm a friend of Lance's.

RAUL

No Lance works for me.

Talia hops up to sit on a butcher block.

RAUL (CONT'D)

This is my kitchen and I am the boss.

TALIA

Is he, Lance?

LARRY CROWNE

Raul's my boss, yeah.

TALIA

Rah-ool. Rhymes with ya-cool. Are ya' cool, Raul?

RAUL

Sure I'm cool. Tough but fair, too.

TALIA

As boss, do you make up the menu?

RAUL

N . But I do the purchasing.

TALIA

Is that a tough but fair job?

RAUL

It makes me crazy, you kidding? But it's gotta be done every day or guess what? No food. I'll show you how much I gotta do...

And just like that, Talia has seduced another man.
telling her the secrets of purchasing orders

L
a
r
r
Y
p
u

s fries into the deep fryer.

Raul is

LATER

Talia is with Perry at the register. She's seduced him now, as he goes over the menu and what sells more than ever.

PERRY

Breakfast all day, see. From Corn Flakes to popovers. We make the best Chicken Fried Steak outside of a truck stop.

TALIA

Can Lance take a break?

PERRY

Who?

TALIA

The artist formerly known as Larry. I need his expertise.

PERRY

(calling)

Lance.

Perry signals to Larry then to Talia and makes a talking gesture.

BOOTH - LATER

Larry and Talia sit. She has her notebook out -- sketches and ideas and forms...

LARRY CROWNE

Square footage at this price is a bargain.

TALIA

Maurice says I'm saving his life by renting the space.

LARRY CROWNE

(writing)

This is your Matsutani Delta Number. You net this every month, you cover overhead, and the rest is profit.

TALIA

You sure?

LARRY CROWNE

Chapter four.

TALIA

You make it sound so simple!!

Talia is so excited she grabs Larry and showers his forehead with kisses.

Appearing out of nowhere: Dell Gordo.

LARRY CROWNE

(bolting)

Well, back to work!

EXT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY - PARKING LOT - EARLY EVENING

Dean is opening the car door for Mercedes, putting on the class act for a night out.

He laughs at a feeble joke we can't hear. The guy is trying.

LATER - NIGHT

They come right out the same door. They've argued and drank all through the meal. Dean carries extra cheesecake home in a dessert box. And, oh, they've been drinking.

DEAN TAINOT

Work my ass off all night trying to
get f i in' smile out of you!

MERCEDES TAINOT

I'm smiling...

DEAN TAINOT

Like The Joker after three Apple
Martinis.

MERCEDES TAINOT

If they help, they help.

DEAN TAINOT

We can't even have a Date Night
now? You can't even chillax for
one meal?

MERCEDES TAINOT

"Chillax?" Did you use the word
"chillax?" That come from your
Bloggers Thesaurus?

INT. CAR SHOT - MERCEDES' SEVEN-YEAR OLD CAR - NIGHT

GPS VOICE

Please Enter your destination.

MERCEDES TAINOT

You lie to me, Dean. Every day.
You. Lie. To. Me.

DEAN TAINOT

You looking for a whole new man,
Mercy? I'm the jerk who has to
transform into Ultraman to make you
happy? No. I like myself, Mercy. I
put up with you and complain about
nothing.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I'm not complaining. I'm stating
the truth. I teach while you
pretend to work.

DEAN TAINOT

I had three postings today alone.
FogCaster, SkyScan, and
ParsecTwelve.com

MERCEDES TAINOT

Those weren't postings. They were
comments.

DEAN TAINOT

Hey, Booze-illa, who are you to
judge me?

(then)

I know what's *really* pissing you
off. I like big titties. And you
don't have any.

Yeow. A line has been crossed. A big, ugly line has just
been crossed. Even Dean knows it.

DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)

Maybe I should take that back.

MERCEDES TAINOT

LET ME OUT OF THIS FUCKING CAR!!!

EXT. INTERSECTION - CONTINUOUS

A young couple -- call them JANET and TONY -- have been on
their first date. It's gone well.

JANET

As soon as I saw you, I said, "I want to go out with that man."

TONY

What did you say when I asked you out?

JANET

I said "Yes." You were there, remember?

TONY

I saw you and I thought "I would be a lucky guy if she'd go out with me."

JANET

Yes you are.

TONY

Honestly, this is about as good a first date goes, isn't it?

JANET

Disaster looms on most first dates, but I'm talking to you like you're a friend I want to make out with.

TONY

Hold that thought.

Dean and Mercy pull up beside them in their car.

Mercedes is out of the car before it even stops.

DEAN TAINOT

I take it back. I take it back.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Drive, asshole! Drive away!

DEAN TAINOT

I've been drinking, too.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Drive straight til you hit a cliff on the coastline!

DEAN TAINOT

You win! I'm letting you win!
Everything you say is right and

WIN!

MERCEDES TAINOT
 LOSER! I MARRIED A LOSER!!! With
 a tiny dick! Tiny dick LOSER!

DEAN TAINOT
 Screw you, you washboard!

MERCEDES TAINOT
 Oh, chillax!!!

GPS VOICE
Please enter your destination.

Dean screeches off into the night. Mercedes picks up a rock and hurls it at him.

MERCEDES TAINOT
 I'm throwing rocks at my own car !!
 Janet and Tony are aghast - silent - in shock.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)
 The jerk who just deserted me? My
 husband of 4 friggin' years!

She stomps off into the night. Janet and Tony don't know what to do with each other now.

EXT. BUSINESS STREET - LATER

Mercedes is walking home. It's a bit longer than she would like. She comes to a bus stop and studies the route. She sits and removes her shoes.

MERCEDES TAINOT
 I loved these shoes once. Stupid
 shoes.

She sits at the stop, about to cry. Then she sort of does cry, for so many reasons.

In the distance, we hear...

The ROAR of SCOOTERS. Then here they come. A night-time 'Scoot'.

All the REGULARS go by. Somewhere in the mix are Larry and Talia.

Talia is just able to turn her head and see Ms. Tainot at the bus stop. She slows.

TALIA

Lance! Chick alert!

Larry is beside her. They stop.

TALIA (CONT'D)

You are not going to believe how
Fate meets cute!

She u-turns and Larry follows her, confused.

BUS BENCH

Mercedes wonders who these Mock Wild Ones are that pull up to her.

LARRY CROWNE

Ms. Tainot?

MERCEDES TAINOT

No.

He takes off his helmet.

LARRY CROWNE

Larry Crowne.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Jesus Christ.

TALIA

And I've been calling you 'Lance'.

LARRY CROWNE

Do you need a ride? Hop on.

MERCEDES TAINOT

And bust up your romp in the glen
with Bambi?

TALIA

Hey. Bambi was a boy.

LARRY CROWNE

I was heading home.

(to Talia)

Right? We're done scooting?

TALIA

Not me. I love riding in the
night. Magic happens.

(to Lance)

Away Talia scoots to catch up with the gang.

MERCEDES TAINOT

What do men see in irritating free
spirits?

Mercedes starts walking.

LARRY CROWNE

Seriously. I offer you a ride.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Seriously. I don't want one.

Larry shuts off his scooter, pushing it along with his feet

LARRY CROWNE

I've yet to give anyone a lift on
this but I think I can get you home
with a scraped elbow, worst case.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I am walking, Crowne, as *thoughts*
black boil up from my soul. Major

consequences sure to follow.

You'll read about them on
Parsectwelve.com.

LARRY CROWNE

An attractive woman like you
walking alone is a dumb idea.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I need a man flirting with me right
now like I need a dog crapping on my
lawn. I'm hoofing it.

LARRY CROWNE

In those shoes?

Mercedes ponders her shoes. He's got her. She stops.

MERCEDES TAINOT

A man who notices shoes.
(giving up)
All right. I'll be your Cycle
Slut.

LARRY CROWNE

Put this on.
(his helmet)
Strap your legs round my engine and

MERCEDES TAINOT

It won't be a terrible thing if you
kill us both.

LARRY CROWNE

Ain't you a ball of fun?

Larry kick starts the scooter and off they go -- slowly.

IN MOTION

MERCEDES TAINOT

Are you really going to go this
slow?

LARRY CROWNE

I do want to survive this night.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Fine. I have time to window shop.
Oh look, a sale on tires at
AutoUSA. And here comes a mailbox.
I've never noticed their perfect
design and color scheme. This is

so slow a cat could knock us over.

EXT. INTERSECTION - MINUTES LATER.

Here they come at the speed of a lazy cow. Mercedes is
singing "Sixteen Miles on the Erie Canal".

EXT. STREET - RIDING SHOT - LATER - ON THE SCOOTER

Larry shouts over his shoulder.

LARRY CROWNE

Where am I taking you?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Down to Portola and left to
Havenhurst. Havenhurst to Palermo.
Right on Palermo till I yell stop.

LARRY CROWNE

I may use this as a presentation in
class.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Try it and you'll flunk.

I am joking.

EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - SAME

Larry shuts off the motor. Mercedes is half asleep. She doesn't remember to take off Larry's helmet.

LARRY CROWNE

Unit 114.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Thanks for the ox-cart ride.

Like a sleepwalker. Stands at the Alarm Pad.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

I can see the Alarm Pad. I know the code. But my hands aren't working.

(then)

Help me.

LARRY CROWNE

You don't want to give me your pass code.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Just hold my hand up to the numbers. I'll manage from there.

Larry takes her hand and guides it to the pad.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Look away now.

(he does)

Two two two two. Pound.

Larry heard every word.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Where's my purse? Oh yeah. My car. The key please? It's buried in that plant.

Larry digs out an Altoids tin. Rattles it.

LARRY CROWNE

This it?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Why I think it is!

LARRY CROWNE

I'll get the door for you

Larry opens the door, reaches in, turns on the light.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Take one step inside and I call security.

Larry steps away from the door.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

And forget this ever happened.

LARRY CROWNE

What?

MERCEDES TAINOT

This whole sorry chapter tonight.

LARRY CROWNE

What?

MERCEDES TAINOT

You passing up Gidget for a flat old coot like me.

LARRY CROWNE

What are you talking about?

MERCEDES TAINOT

What, you have no short-term memory?

Larry has been trying to be polite.

LARRY CROWNE

When I say 'what', it means I get it and have already purposefully forgotten everything. Call it irony.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Sarcasm. Irony is when Gallant lands in the drunk tank while Goofus scoots me home.

LARRY CROWNE

Goodnight, Ms. Tainot.

She doesn't move, but flashes her ring finger.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Mrs. I'm Mrs. Tainot. Can you not see that?

LARRY CROWNE

I assumed you preferred Ms

MERCEDES TAINOT

When we presume we make a pretty
pair of asses of me and you or
something like that.

(then)

Why aren't you married?

LARRY CROWNE

That's a long story and it's late.

(then)

My helmet?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Help yourself.

She sticks her neck out. If this were a movie, they might
kiss right now.

Larry pauses. Mercedes looks at him. He's not a bad looking
guy. He starts to undo the helmet strap.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

I noticed something on the ride.

LARRY CROWNE

What

MERCEDES TAINOT

You smell good.

It may

LARRY CROWNE

Thanks.

He gently removes the strap and helmet from her head.
be a bit sexy. Her hair tumbles out.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Do you have a crush on me? Single
student. Unattainable teacher. It's
common.

Larry has no idea what to say.

LARRY CROWNE

We all have crushes on you. Even
the gals.

MERCEDES TAINOT

You want to make out with me, you
can. I know I'm not a third rate
Audrey Hepburn wanna-be but I still
got moves

Come on, Gramps. Take this ride.
(MORE)

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

My spouse won't be home for 3 to 5 years.

Larry ponders this moment for as long as he can. He shouldn't, of course. But, damn. She is Mercedes Tainot.

Bang.

It's a pretty good whammy kiss. Makes her splay her arms and everything.

Larry pulls back. After a bit, though. She could have kept at it, too.

LARRY CROWNE

Wow...

MERCEDES TAINOT

Pretty dang good. I still got it, no?

LARRY CROWNE

Yes, you do..
(then)

In you go.

(Mercedes goes in)

Close the door.

(she does)

Lock it!

Larry hears the sound of the bolt. He walks away.

INT. TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - SAME

Mercedes leans against the door. What did she just do????

LARRY CROWNE (O.S.)

Goodnight, whoever you are!

MERCEDES TAINOT

Whoever I am...

EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - SAME

Larry wistfully starts his bike, looking back at the door. He will not forget that kiss or this night. He drives off.

EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - MORNING

A TAXI is pulling up. Out of the back, Dean, looking like he

He pays the cabbie, pissed off about everything. Then his world gets much more complicated.

P.O.V.

All his possessions, stacked up in front of the door. On the top of the heap, his computer. Turned on and showing porn

DEAN TAINOT

Oh, Jesus Hell and tomorrow...

(then)

Mercy!!!

EXT. E.C.C.C. TEACHERS' PARKING LOT - MORNING

Mercy feels terrible, stepping from her car, brutally hungover.

As she straightens up, her eye catches...

LARRY CROWNE

On his scooter. Heading towards the Scooter parking.

She *smiles* -- a rare thing on a morning like this but the memory of last night warrants it. She heads in that

direction.

EXT. E.C.C.C. CAMPUS - SAME

Mercy is trying to 'accidentally' run into Larry, but is caught by surprise when..

He is walking right towards her. Oops. That would be uncomfortable. She DUCKS behind a pillar.

Still wanting to 'bump' into the man who kissed her last night, she circumvents his path, stalking Larry like a birdwatcher tracks a blue-tailed swallow.

Hopping behind a tree, Mercy's SHOE gets caught in some mud. Bending down, a branch catches her sweater and RIPS a seam. Stepping onto the pavement, the tree branch SMACKS her in the head.

Still, she keeps an eye on Larry. And pursues...

BENCH AREA

Staying out of his eye line, Mercy navigates her way around to the other side of the Bench Area and preps her appearance before making a 180 degree reverse, guaranteeing a 'Meet' with Larry.

Then she sees her.

TALIA

Sitting with others, greeting Larry with laughter and hugs and hoots. Talia is announcing to all how she left Larry with a drunken teacher last night, with her arm around his waist and affection in her eyes.

MERCY

Is crushed. For the obvious reasons she still can't understand. She was hoping to have Larry to herself for a minute or two.

TALIA AND LARRY

Amid the others...

TALIA

Oh, come on! I left you all set up! What went down?

LARRY CROWNE

Epilog. School today.

TALIA

Lance! A Betty on your Scooter after midnight? Holding on, her arms around you, pressed against your back, is a license to at least cop a feel.

LARRY CROWNE

If we had ended up making out, you still wouldn't hear it.

Talia slugs him. All in play...

MERCY

Convinced Larry is gossiping about last night, Mercy backs away from the scene, and slinks away toward her class.

INT. SPEECH 217 - DAY

Mercedes is in the back, wearing the darkest glasses allowed a teacher in a classroom, hiding the fact that Mercy is looking at Larry.

Larry is listening to Lala with delight.

PINEDO

Seeing them -- the Northern Lights,
the Aurora Borealis -- should have
been beyond me, but I was a little
girl in Coach class still awake, a
window seat, a moonless night
somewhere over Greenland with a
shimmering curtain of emerald,
gossamer light dancing just for me.

(then)

That is something I will remember
forever.

The SPEECH is over. The class erupts in applause for Lala, who has hit a home-run. Foremost of the fans, Larry, who rises in applause for the once quiet classmate.

Then the applause is over.

The teacher says nothing. DIBIASI

That was a knockout speech, Lala.
Made the news. Caused riots
downtown. School's out til 2019.

The students look at each other, shrug their shoulders, and head ou .

MERCEDES TAINOT

Mr. Crowne? A moment please?

CALIMERIS

Why doesn't she just throw herself
at him?

PINEDO

This is bordering on harassment
now.

DIBIASI

Quiet down. I'm watching the TV
show...

MACK

Why doesn't this ever happen to me?

MERCEDES TAINOT

I need a few moments alone with Mr. Crowne thank you.

DIBIASI

Move along folks. Privacy's a right in this great nation of ours.

MACK

You want I should close this door, lock it, and barricade it so you won't be disturbed??

We hear them cackling like geese in the hall.

LARRY CROWNE

How are the Triplets? Groggy, Puffy, and Grumpy.

He means the hangover.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Last night was a confluence of too many things happening in too short

a time span.

LARRY CROWNE

Last night? Let's see, what was I doing? Studying some. Working some. Can't recall. I've forgotten everything that happened last night as best a gentleman can.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I had no right to judge you or your relationships. Date who you want.

Larry has no idea what that means.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

But what happened last night -- between adults -- was inappropriate. If gossip were to circulate, the problem could be more than just embarrassing. My status as a professor could be tarnished.

LARRY CROWNE

I wouldn't want that.

MERCEDES TAINOT

happened before.
(MORE)

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

With parking attendants. Strangers at parties when I've had a bit too much of the demon rum. This was the first time with a *student*.

(then)

I hope the entire thing will be forgotten.

Larry has just had his feelings hurt by his teacher.

LARRY CROWNE

Sure. Nothing happened. At all.

MERCEDES TAINOT

So there will be no bravado among you and your pals?

LARRY CROWNE

None.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Thank you, Mr. Crowne.

LARRY CROWNE

I'd better scurry along to Dr.

Matsutani's class. I hope I don't have this same conversation with him.

Larry leaves - a good mood ruined...

Mercy watches him go. What is going on behind those dark glasses?

EXT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Larry and Lamarr are sitting on the curb, watching kids play down the street. They run back and forth in front of them with a soccer ball.

They both have pipes, with Lamarr showing him how to light up.

LAMARR

Puff. Don't suck. Then... relax.

(then)

See? Works.

LARRY CROWNE

I have to sell my car.

Put a new top on it.

LARRY CROWNE

If I could afford a new top I could afford to keep it.

LAMARR

What's the job paying you?

LARRY CROWNE

Half my UniMart salary.

LAMARR

You're down, Larry Crowne. Down as dirt.

LARRY CROWNE

I'm looking back on the year Denise left as the good old days.

LAMARR

Hang in there, neighbor.

LARRY CROWNE

Everyone keeps saying that.

LAMARR

I was in the same spot. Look what happened.

LARRY CROWNE

The odds of two people on the same street winning the lottery are worse than one person on the street winning the lottery.

LAMARR

I read how the universe is expanding, Larry, taking us along with it. That is a wild concept to grasp, but what it means is, we all have to hold on tight sometimes to get to where we're going to be.

LARRY CROWNE

(the pipe)

This thing must be making me dizzy. What?

LAMARR

Keep your grip. You'll be okay. It's like the wife always says...

Shoppers pull up to Lamarr's Yard Sale. The WIFE has a

LAMARR (CONT'D)
 A woman with a measuring tape?
 That's money in my pocket.

A ball flies in and hits Larry smack in the head, sending his pipe flying.

EXT. UNIMART - PARKING LOT - DAY

Hardly any cars. Shopping carts are herded into their corral by... former Team Leader Larry Crowne.

INT. UNIMART MAIN ENTRANCE - SAME

Larry stands where he was once king.

P.O.V.

The place *looks different*. Shabby. Unkempt. Understaffed.
 He recognizes no one.

AISLE

No one is there to help Larry pick out two 'For Sale by Owner' signs. And, he can't help it: he straightens out

some messed up racks and shelves.

REGISTER

Vasquez - Security - is gone, replaced by Cubby -- the former Janitor who is now the skinniest SECURITY GUARD in history.

Larry slides the signs for purchase. Manning the thing?
 Vicky Hurley. Not looking good

HURLEY
 'ind bargains today?'

LARRY CROWNE
 Vick? How you doing? Larry Crowne.

Hurley looks at him. She looks tired. And stupid in her Cashier's Apron.

HURLEY
 Larry. Hi.

LARRY CROWNE
 Why are you on the Register?

HURLEY

Management Execs are now required
to put in 8-hour shifts on the
floor. Every day. No overtime.
No bonus. Just more hours. Cash or
UniMart Bargain Card? Like you
have one of them.

LARRY CROWNE

Cash. No receipt.

Hurley is robotic.

HURLEY

You got out of here just in time...
'Thank you for choosing UniMart,
where united we *blah blah*.'

EXT. A PARK - DAY

Trees. A picnic table. And Mercedes Tainot writing
individual words on pages of a steno book.

After each word, she folds each page many times and puts it
in a basket.

Up walks Dean Tainot, who looks neither happy nor cheerful.

DEAN TAINOT

Hi.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Thanks for coming.

DEAN TAINOT

No notice. No preamble. Just an
email and a google map.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I knew you'd be on the computer.
(then)
Working...

DEAN TAINOT

Point made.
(then)
So. What up.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Are we making a mistake here?

DEAN TAINOT

MERCEDES TAINOT

Point made. We could change things. We could start right now.

DEAN TAINOT

We could. Why should we?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Because we have history, Dean. But first, my thoughts... I've got to address drinking. I should be able to comprehend and respond to both sides of our conversations. And the morning shower should be refreshing, not a hangover cure.

DEAN TAINOT

I'd like that too.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Really?

DEAN TAINOT

You're not a pleasant woman after a

few glasses. Mornings with you are to be survived.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Okay. Now, you.
Dean is caught short.

DEAN TAINOT

I see. I'm what this is all about.

MERCEDES TAINOT

There are plenty of items on the relationship agenda but let's start here.

DEAN TAINOT

You're talking about *you* but you really mean *me*.

(then)

I am not yelling or begging or saying *you* have to stop doing anything. So you don't get to either.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I'm not saying that.

DEAN TAINOT

We've both been here before. Why prolong the process? White flag! I give up. This ain't working.

(then)

I'll sign papers and checks, see if there's enough for a cool sports car as a reward for the last few years and eventually I will be fine and you will too. But I am never once going to look at myself as another poor divorced guy who could still be married if only he had done the *mea culpa* bit for all his faults.

(then)

I just now came up with that, and it is going to be my next posting.

He pulls out his Blackberry and makes a note to himself.

DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)

I don't think there is anything else to talk about. Do you?

Mercedes looks at him. She has been a fool...

EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOME - PATIO

Mercy -- Margarita pitcher handy -- is still writing words on paper, and drinking. Alone. Not good.

EXT. E.C.C.C. PARKING LOT - MORNING

The sign reads "FINALS WEEK: ENROLL FOR SPRING QUARTER."

INT. SPEECH 217 - MORNING

She is in the front of the class with a small box. Hungover?
A bit, yes...

MERCEDES TAINOT

Here I have surprise topics.
Friday, in a Lightning Round, you must wax on that topic for 2 minutes without pause, repetition, or lack of charm. No notes. One visual aid.

(then)

Ms. Pineda Draw

Ms. Pinedo pulls a paper from the box.

MS. PINEDO

'Potatoes?'

MERCEDES TAINOT

Spuds. Can't wait.

Dibiasi draws a paper.

DIBIASI

'Disraeli'? What is that?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Who is that?

DIBIASI

It's a guy from Disrael. I'm done.

Now it's Larry's turn. He shyly draws a paper -- a bit uncomfortable in class since the recent events.

LARRY CROWNE

'Consumerism'.

MERCEDES TAINOT

That's supposed to say 'Communism.'

LARRY CROWNE

The handwriting is loopy. Looks like 'Consumerism'.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Fine. 2 minutes on Consumerism.

Calimeris picks. Hers is loopy, too.

CALIMERIS

'Malpity Hoople.'

(then)

What's this say?

MERCEDES TAINOT

No idea. Just pick another.

INT. ECON 1 -- LATER

Dr. Matsutani is going on. Larry is looking for Talia, who is not in class.

DR. MATSUTANI

(his book))

At the end of each chapter is a study guide. Master those and you will have mastered my book. Master my book and you will take over the world.

He laughs demonically.

DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)

By now you should be laughing with me.

Larry can't believe Talia is not there...

EXT. TALIA'S NEW STORE - LATER

Larry scoots up. She is inside arranging a "Coming Soon!" window display. Dell Gordo, Stan, and the Squad are all inside building shelves and racks.

She comes out of the store.

TALIA

You digging what you see?

LARRY CROWNE

You missed Matsutani's class.
Review for the final.

TALIA

I'm done w th college.

LARRY CROWNE

What? Why?

TALIA

Because I'm going into business.

LARRY CROWNE

Talia. Don't be a fool. Stay in school. Don't throw away your education.

TALIA

And don't drink and drive or do drugs and quit smoking and eat vegetables. I don't. I stopped. I did. I do.

LARRY CROWNE

TALIA

Pretty much. Oh, look. Maurice gave us free tattoos. I wanted something in Japanese so check this out.

She shows it to him, just above her butt-crack. It's two Japanese characters.

TALIA (CONT'D)

That one says 'courage'. That one says 'spirit'. Courageous Spirit.

Dell Gordo knocks on the window as Larry has his hands on his gal's butt... "What's this, Lance??"

LARRY CROWNE

Japanese characters go the other way and that says *Soy Sauce*.

TALIA

Oh shut up.

LARRY CROWNE

It does. Soy sauce. Soy. Sauce.

Quitting school is for dopes.
It does, actually say *Soy Sauce*. He is starting his scooter.

TALIA

Be here for our Grand Opening!

LARRY CROWNE

Might not make it. I have finals!

OPEN SKY

Larry comes into frame, with a hammer and stake.

EXT. LARRY'S HOUSE - DAY

He is pounding the FOR SALE sign into his front lawn.

Laurie Gammelgaard pulls up her new VW Bug with a COUPLE in the back seat. They get out and Larry nods as he waves them to the door.

He remains on the lawn, looking at his neighborhood -- the kids, the dogs -- Lamarr across the street.

It's all over...

EXT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Frances and Mercedes have pulled up in her car.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
This place anonymous enough?

MERCEDES TAINOT
As long as alcohol's out of my
grasp.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
They have good pie, they say.

MERCEDES TAINOT
Great. Sugar can replace tequila
in my bloodstream, my thighs, and
the folds in my neck.

They pass a car prominently parked - Larry's Convertible
Karmann Ghia with a sign on its windshield: "FOR SALE BY
OWNER."

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH (PRE-LAP)

So. You're a mess.
INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - SAME

They sit in a back booth where she would never see Larry.

MERCEDES TAINOT
Yep.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
You'd think leggy blondes like us
would be impervious, right?

At that moment, Larry Crowne happens to come out of the
kitchen to help himself to a cup of coffee.

Mercedes sees him just as Perry comes up with menus.

PERRY
Ladies. Bring an appetite?

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
The mark of a restaurant is their
Key Lime pie.

Mercedes is surprised to see Larry in a chef's hat.

PERRY

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
No Key Lime?

PERRY
Cream pies I got.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
Boston Cream?

PERRY
Boston Cream? Key Lime? Lady,
you're killing me here.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
Phooey. Peach. Peach pie.

PERRY
Ma'am?

MERCEDES TAINOT
I'll have the French Toast.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
French Toast?

MERCEDES TAINOT

(on the menu)
Breakfast all day.

Perry leaves to put in the order.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)
You won't believe how far I fell on
the Hooch-o-meter.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
I have seen it happen a time or
two.

MERCEDES TAINOT
I kissed a boy.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
When, third grade?

MERCEDES TAINOT
One of my students.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH
You *Hoor*.
(then)
Gimme the *friggin'* details! He's
not a minor is he?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Older than me.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH

Hugh Hefner in your class? What went down?

MERCEDES TAINOT

He sort of... rescued me. And... he smelled nice.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH

He a fireman who bakes bread?

MERCEDES TAINOT

I wanted to be kissed so asked if he wanted to and he did.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH

Bold. Who is he?

KITCHEN

Perry slides over a plate of French Toast -- with one bite out of it. Larry looks up from his Econ. 1 Textbook.

PERRY

You're slipping, Larry.

(the toast)

Lady says it's not French Toast as she knows it.

LARRY CROWNE

She's insane.

PERRY

Take it up with her.

Larry heads out of the kitchen.

PERRY (CONT'D)

No shouting, okay? This is a family friendly establishment.

BOOTH

Here comes Larry, not yet seeing Mercedes.

LARRY CROWNE

Frances Taylor-Briegh. You have a problem with your order?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Knock Larry over with a feather.

LARRY CROWNE

Mrs. Tainot.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH

(to Mercedes)

The student of yours!?

MERCEDES TAINOT

This is Larry Crowne.

LARRY CROWNE

There's no way in creation I screw
up French Toast.

MERCEDES TAINOT

It was fine, actually.

(then)

I wanted to see if it was really
you cooking back there. And say,
howdy. Howdy doody.

During the following, Frances is trying to get a whiff of
Larry -- to find out how he smells.

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Ready for the final?

LARRY CROWNE

You'll be the judge of that.

There is a beat of silence.

LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)

So, your meal is satisfactory?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Absolutely.

LARRY CROWNE

Would you let my boss know so I
don't lose this job?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Yes indeed.

LARRY CROWNE

Shall I prepare you another batch?

MERCEDES TAINOT

No. Thanks.

LARRY CROWNE

Then I will return to my station..

Mercedes watches him go.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH

You kissed the cook...

(then)

I got a whiff. He smelled like
bell pepper.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Look at the men in my life.

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH

Blame it on the booze... and
collect yourself.

(then)

You *hoor*...

MERCEDES TAINOT

That's my problem. I'm a drunken
hoor.

KITCHEN FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH

That ends... right now.

(then)

Check please?

Larry comes back through the door, humiliation wracking his face. He tosses the French Toast down the disposal.

INT. TAINOT TOWNHOME - LATER

Mercedes and Frances are ATTACKING the house with vacuums, cleaners, and fortitude.

BOOKS on Shakespeare and Shaw go on shelves where Dean's tomes used to rest. Computer wires are not even untangled, just chucked.

KITCHEN

The cupboard is open. Where there was once booze go coffees and teas.

MUSIC is playing as these girlfriends reconstruct Mercy's life...

EXT. LARRY CROWNE'S CUL-DE-SAC - NIGHT

The street is empty. Larry is on his scooter, riding around and around and around the block that he will soon leave.

He can see his NEIGHBORS through the open windows -- KIDS bouncing on a couch...A QUARTET OF OLD FOLKS playing cards and laughing... a MOVIE playing on a big TV.

This was Larry's street...

CUT TO:

SUNRISE

EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - MORNING

Mercedes exits the door, crisp, clean -- like we've never seen her in the mornings. See the way she holds, not clutches, her Thermo-Cup?

EXT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - MORNING

He's wearing a zipped up jacket. Kids and dog-walkers pass as his scooter starts pronto, he is off...

The FOR SALE sign on his lawn has an addition: *IN ESCROW*

INT. SPEECH 217 - LATER

On the projected computer screen: A portrait of DISRAELI.

Dibiasi is giving his speech, but we are hearing Mercedes...

MERCEDES TAINOT

What a difference from day one. I must be a better teacher than I thought.

(then)

Dibiasi is nailing it. Calimeris stopped up-talking. Lala you can't shut up. Mack spoke about Australia for three minutes and mentioned kangaroos only twice. And Larry Crowne...

Larry is listening to Dibiasi, wearing what was once his UniMart polo, with his nametag and everything. Compared to the man he is now, that polo looks out of place..

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

I was tough on him. But he learned fast. How he connected the Circle of Sales to the expanding universe is impressive as hell. I'll never forget about the Value Index now. He gave a *perfect* speech.

(then)

And... He's polite. Instead of fighting me off that night, what does he do but kisses me one and then all but tucks me in. What kind of guy does that to a loopy tramp like me? He could have ravaged me. I misread this guy and if I had a brain I'd find a way to steal him away from that cutie pie and keep him for myself. I wonder if he'd like that, if he would... What did I just say?

(then)

What did I just say about Larry Crowne?

The class has stopped. It seems that Mercedes just said that last bit out loud and everyone heard it. The women eye each other. The men stifle laughs.

DIBIASI

Nothing. And I was just wrapping up here.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I'm so sorry. Please go on.

DIBIASI

Larry? It okay if I get to my climax and denouement?

Larry nods.

DIBIASI (CONT'D)

Thank you... If it was the romance novelist in him that made Victoria the Queen become such a pal, chalk it up as another brick in the legacy of Ben Disraeli -- Earl of Beaconsfield - Educator - and Prime Minister of Great Britain. Not bad for a Jewish guy, huh?

Dibiasi is done. Applause.

PINEDO

Not so much as a bump, Nomad!
Why'd you go last?

DIBIASI

Fourth quarter dramatics.
(then)
Not that it mattered to my Speech
professor...

MERCEDES TAINOT

Congratulations all of you.

MACK

Who's the MVP, Mrs. Tainot? Can we
vote?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Not me, I have to stay objective.

MACK

I say... Lala!

They all say Lala! It's unanimous! They start chanting her
name. "La la! La la! La la!" -- embarrassing her.

Larry sits her down in her chair and gets the other guys to
pick her up like she's the bride at a wedding.

It's a spontaneous party that Mercedes has to back out of.

As she leaves, she looks back long enough to see Larry Crowne
leading a parade around the room.

INT. ECON. 1 - LATER

Everyone is taking the final.

Dr. Matsutani. Looking around the class. Using his hands
like a pair of binoculars.

Lala is using a thesaurus and dictionary to polish answers.

Larry is finished. He walks up to Dr. M. and hands in his
Blue Book.

DR. MATSUTANI

The first to finish. No surprise.

Dr. Matsutani hands Larry his confiscated phone. Larry
leaves.

INT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - KITCHEN

The final utensils are going into a box. Larry is doing this part himself.

He sits for a moment -- in the breakfast nook -- surveying his kitchen, what was once his.

Mack comes in with a box of his LP's.

MACK

This is the last of them. Damn,
you have a lot of records.

LARRY CROWNE

Priceless at a buck apiece.

EXT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - LATER

His furnishings are out on the lawn. Lamarr and Patience are looking them over. Mack and Dibiasi are putting the last of his things into Mack's huge SUV and Larry's car.

PATIENCE

A two-bedroom apartment and you
don't have room for your furniture?

LAMARR

Selling this futon-sofabed? All
those years across the street and
you've learned nothing.

(then)

What's the minimum you'll take for
this stuff?

LARRY CROWNE

You'll get me top price.

LAMARR

You did learn.

DIBIASI

Pizza at last!

LARRY CROWNE

Here's lunch as promised!

The BIG STORK PIZZA GUY pulls up in a different car but the same sign.

LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)

STRANG

Son of a cock. Larry Crowne.

The Pizza guy is none other than Jack Strang.

LARRY CROWNE

Jack Strang. Wow. *This* is irony.

STRANG

Two extra large. One Salad Bucket.
Box of Frosty Cinnamon Eggs. Sixteen-
fifty.

Larry hands him the coupon and a Twenty.

LARRY CROWNE

Jack. I need two bucks back.
Times are tough.

STRANG

Tell me about it.

LARRY CROWNE

Ah. Forget it. Keep the change.

Strang leaves. Larry watches him go.
him. It almost was.

STRANG

I appreciate it.

That could have been

INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Raul and Perry are talking when they see Mercedes Tainot
enter.

RAUL

My next wife just walked in.

Perry looks.

PERRY

I love this business sometimes.
(greeting Mercedes)
Something told me you'd be back.

Is Larry Crowne working today?

KITCHEN

Larry is arranging his station.

PERRY

Larry, your Speech 217 teacher has a question about the menu.

Larry can see her. She looks gorgeous.

RAUL

Go ahead. I'll take the window even though I'm the boss of the whole kitchen.

BOOTH - LARRY'S HQ - LATER

Mercedes is having coffee.

MERCEDES TAINOT

There's Larry Crowne. Are you allowed to sit?

(he does)

Where does Perry get his coffee?

LARRY CROWNE

I add chicory and a bit of vanilla. Trick I picked up in the Navy.

MERCEDES TAINOT

You're probably wondering why I stopped by. Well, it's to tell you your grade for Speech 217. You killed on the final and have an A. Way to go!

She offers him a Terrorist Fist Bump. With the hand that no longer has a wedding ring on it...

MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Actually, everybody got an A, but you got the special A where I tell you in person.

LARRY CROWNE

Didn't expect that. Thanks, Mrs. Tainot.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Class is out. Call me Mercedes. Or Mercy, for short.

(then)

So. Just wanted to congratulate you. Your girlfriend will be thrilled.

LARRY CROWNE

MERCEDES TAINOT

No. I meant the... never mind.

(then)

Which classes are you going to ace next term?

LARRY CROWNE

This has turned into a full time gig. Out of necessity.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I hope you continue your education. Back at East City. You've made such a good start.

LARRY CROWNE

I'll have to see.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I got Speech 217 moved to 10 AM, thank God. Who knows what I'll hear with the extra sleep.

LARRY CROWNE

My first class in college ever.

And I get an A. Gotta be the teacher.

They look at each other.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Should get going.

(then)

You don't know anything about car devices, do you?

LARRY CROWNE

Cars not much. Devices some.

They rise.

EXT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - PARKING LOT - SAME

Mercy is opening her door, starting her car.

GPS VOICE

Please enter your destination.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Oh be quiet.

That's a MapGenie.

MERCEDES TAINOT
It is Hellspawn.

LARRY CROWNE
In my old job, I'd have steered you
to a Vortex unit. The MapGenie
interface is clumsy and the menu
needs too many inputs.

He is reaching into the car, across her to tap the unit.

MERCEDES TAINOT
It was working fine. Then I think
I pressed too many buttons.

LARRY CROWNE
Ah. The Auto On Feature is
engaged. Menu. Select. Features.
Auto Voice. Select. Change? Yes.
On. Off. Done? Yes. Save. Back.
Back. Back. Exit.

While he was doing that, Mercedes was smelling what she could
of Larry. She liked it. She looked at his neck, his ears.
And smelled him.

LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)

How long was this broken?

MERCEDES TAINOT
Seemed like years and years.

LARRY CROWNE
All better now. Should be able to
find your way.

Nothing to do now but say goodbye.

They hear a pounding.

Raul is at the window inside the cafe, signaling the break is
over.

LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)
My Boss. Back to work.
(then)
Thanks for the good news...

INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - SAME

Perry greets him at the door.

PERRY

Kimosabe, holding off til after school to woo the teacher is the move of a class act.

Larry turns to watch Mercedes drive away.

EXT. E.C.C.C. PARKING LOT - MORNING

The sign says "New Term Beginning! \$20 a unit! Ask about Financial Aid!"

Did you notice? The cost of an education just went up...

INT. PORTABLE CLASSROOM - DAY

Mercedes has just written "*Care*" next to "*Welcome to Shakespeare!!*" up on the board. She turns. And does a quick head count.

Only 6 students are enrolled. She's going to lose this one, again.

Clumps up the wooden steps are heard...

Calimeris, Mack, Pinedo, and Dibiasi come tramping in. Twelve

students now.

DIBIASI

(on his phone)

I gotta get off, Baby, or I'm in hot water with Professor Tai-bo...

Mercy does a Shakespearean dance of joy.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Is Larry with you?

CALIMERIS

Um, no. Should we track him down and drag him in here?

Mercedes does her best to hide her disappointment.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I... Seeing you all... I just thought...

(then)

Choose a seat and lets get started!

The four smile at each other...

PINEDO

Carrying a torch for Larry til it
burns her hands...

EXT. E.C.C.C. CAMPUS - LATER

Mercedes is walking to another building, another class.

She may not realize it, but she is looking for Larry Crowne.
Busik is busy chatting her up. Seriously chatting her up.

BUSIK

All the excitement of first day of
term, I don't want to go back to my
empty apartment. Do you? I need a
drink and some talk and some wind-
down time. Don't you?

DR. MATSUTANI (O.C.)

Ms. Tainot?

She turns.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Dr. M.

DR. MATSUTANI

Larry Crowne is taking six units
from me, devouring the material
like a starving man.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Larry's enrolled?

DR. MATSUTANI

He's continuing his education and
tells me it is because of you.
That your class changed his life.

Mercedes finds herself smiling -- beaming...

MERCEDES TAINOT

Larry said that about me?

BUSIK

Oh yeah! I put that guy in your
class. So technically, I changed
his life.

MERCEDES TAINOT

He is a good student

DR. MATSUTANI

And handy on a scooter.

(then)

Is there any chance you would
consider having drinks with an
older faculty peer who holds a PhD
in Economics?

MERCEDES TAINOT

Well, no. No offense Dr. M.

DR. MATSUTANI

The rumor is you are newly single
and I was just taking a shot.

Mercy looks right at Busik.

MERCEDES TAINOT

News travels fast.

Busik pretends he knows nothing...

BUSIK

If you're going out, I'm not doing

anything.

DR. MATSUTANI

Have you ever been to Hooters?

BUSIK

For the spicy wings, yes!

EXT. E.C.C.C. TEACHERS' PARKING LOT - LATER

There is a note on Mercy's car. She takes it.

*"To test your MapGenie: 4225 Harbor Blvd. 2nd floor. An 'A'
student."*

Her breath catches in her heart...

EXT. MERCEDES' CAR - LATER

Mercedes is driving.

GPS VOICE

Right Turn.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Got it Turning right

GPS VOICE

Your destination is ahead on the right.

MERCEDES TAINOT

It is? That was a breeze. Thank you.

EXT. TALIA'S NEW STORE - SAME

Open for business with bunting and everything. Talia is eating take out sushi and reading the soy sauce packet. She is trying to check out her ass-crack tattoo to see if it really does say 'Soy Sauce'.

Mercedes has arrived. Talia sees her and comes out.

Lamarr is around. Patience, too.

We might notice that Dell Gordo and Larry now dress exactly alike, as we've seen the same jacket once on Lance Corona.

TALIA

I love that blouse with that skirt
but I'd show more leg if I were
you.

MERCEDES TAINOT

I'm Mercy Tainot

TALIA

Bambi Romp in the Glen. Looking
for Lance?

MERCEDES TAINOT

4225 Harbor?

TALIA

This is 4227.
(pointing)
4225. You'll see the stairs.

The tattoo parlor. Larry's scooter is right in front. As she goes.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Little higher heels'll get you wolf
whistles.

EXT. TATTOO PARLOR - STAIRS TO UPPER FLOOR

Music is playing. A nice view is revealed as Mercy arrives on a nice little porch. On a little table sits a potted plant. In the potted plant is an Altoids tin.

Mercy gives it a rattle. In the tin, a brand new key.

Mercy takes the key. Slides it into the lock and slowly opens the door.

The music gets louder. She can't see much into the tiny flat, but she can make out...

Larry, arranging the last of his stuff.

Mercy stands at the door until he sees her.

When he does, he says nothing. But steps to her and smells her - her neck, her hair.

MERCEDES TAINOT

Did you tell Ed Matsutani taking my
class changed your life?

LARRY CROWNE

Yes.

MERCEDES TAINOT

How?

LARRY CROWNE

I met you.

That's it.

They kiss. Damn fine whammy kiss.

INT. LARRY CROWNE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

No larger than the nook of his old house. Breakfast is being served.

The most beautiful woman ever to wear a bathrobe has made French Toast and is settling into the Breakfast Nook.

Larry Crowne has his hair all on one side of his head -- post-Afternoon-Of-Amok-Loving. His arm shows a Navy tattoo that may be old or new...

Mercy Tainot glows in and out. She slides next to him, close to him. The meal is perfect.

EXT. HARBOR BLVD. - LATER

Mercy is still in her robe, riding on Larry's scooter, back and forth in front of the Parlor and Talia's store.

Larry is having coffee, sitting on the steps, watching her ride back and forth.

She is getting good.

Talia and the gang spill out of the store to watch her.
Hoots and laughter.

Larry uses his robe as a matador's cape, Mercy as he bull.
As she passes under his flaring cape...

THE END