

Making Amends

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First Draft

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

SARAH, a pretty, attractive and sophisticated twenty eight year old, is getting dressed for work. Sarah is looking over her shoulder at a shape in the bed buried beneath the covers and pillows, and smiles.

SARAH

Come on sleepy boy. Time to hit the deck.

Nothing happens. She walks over to the bed and gently removes a pillow revealing the face of a twenty nine year old man who appears to be drugged or in a coma he's so sound asleep.

SARAH

Danny? You okay?

Danny's eyes open suddenly and he leaps out of bed like he's been shot out of a gun. He drops to the floor and executes seven Marine style push ups complete with Rocky style claps. He gets tired, and does the last one very slowly. Sarah laughs, and begins to hum a rousing version of the theme to "Rocky."

SARAH

(sings)

Gonna fly now.

Danny goes crazy with this. He runs to the bathroom throwing punches and starts brushing his teeth. He is a whirlwind of activity. He splashes water on his face. He gargles. He brushes his teeth. He pees.

SARAH

You're incredible!

DANNY

(false humility)

Me?

SARAH

You're incredible. A lot of people would have just laid in bed in a depression after what happened. You've already got two job interviews lined up.

Danny holds up three fingers.

DANNY

What am I supposed to do, curl up and die because my dad fired me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARAH
Something's gonna turn up. I know it.

DANNY
Look. You throw enough stuff against the wall, something's gonna stick. That's the way I learned it--

Sarah gives him the Shh! sign.

SARAH
(kisses him)
I'm proud of you.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE - DAY

CLOSE UP - DANNY RUNNING AT FULL SPEED

Danny takes a running jump off a cliff and sails through the air, finally hitting the water with a beautiful cannonball. A group of teenagers applaud as Danny comes to the surface and lets fly with a rebel yell.

This could be a Mountain Dew commercial except for the fact that Danny is ten years older than anyone in those ads.

CUT TO:

EXT. GO-CART TRACK - DAY

Danny is expertly taking a hair pinned turn at high speed in a souped up go-cart. He leads a pack of small teenage boys.

At the last moment a twelve year old boy, KEVIN, passes Danny, sending Danny into a tailspin.

DANNY
(Scottish racing announcer
accent)
And little Al is shaking his fist at Fittipaldi. That's gonna come back to haunt him.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO ARCADE - DAY

A twelve year old kid is playing a high tech video game. Danny watches and shouts an occasional instruction.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
Hyper-space! Hyper-space!

KID
Hyper-space?!

DANNY
Hyper-space!!!

CUT TO:

INT. LAW FIRM - DAY

Danny, wearing shorts and a t-shirt, sticks his head in his friend CHARLIE'S office. Charlie is in the middle of a meeting with three men in business suits.

CHARLIE
Hey, it's the pinball wizard.

Danny smiles, a little awkward.

DANNY
You want to get something to eat?

CHARLIE
No can do. Some of us got to work for a living.

DANNY
Maybe next week?

CHARLIE
Sure, if you're free.

DANNY
Let me check with my secretary.

Danny exits. Charlie turns to the people he's meeting with, a little embarrassed.

CHARLIE
(shrugs his shoulders)
Childhood friend.

CUT TO:

INT. MASSAGE PARLOR - DAY

Danny is getting a massage from an ancient looking ASIAN WOMAN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
Mrs. Lau I think I pulled my groin.

MRS. LAU
Danny. You very naughty.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - DAY

Sarah is eating lunch with her friend, BARBARA.

BARBARA
So his dad fired him because he came up
with all these ideas?

SARAH
Yeah, he says he was really threatened by
him. But Danny isn't letting it get him
down. He has three job interviews today.

From out the window Barbara spots Danny exiting the massage
parlor.

BARBARA
Isn't that Danny?

Sarah looks and sees Danny shake the Asian woman's hand good-
bye. As he walks away she pinches his butt. He laughs, and
jokingly reprimands her for doing that.

Sarah is in shock.

CUT TO:

INT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

Danny buys a ticket to a movie called "Babes."

We reveal that Sarah and Barbara are covertly watching him
from the car.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Danny enters the apartment, no longer wearing shorts and a t-
shirt, now wearing a suit and tie.

SARAH
How was your day?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

Pretty good. I nailed the first two interviews, but the last guy clearly didn't like me.

SARAH

I can't believe you're going to lie to me like this.

DANNY

What? Okay, none of the interviews went well. I didn't want to disappoint you.

SARAH

Sounds like you could use a massage after a day like that.

Danny arches an eye-brow, flirting.

DANNY

Is that an invitation?

SARAH

I saw you coming out of the whore-house. How was it?

DANNY

What?

SARAH

Hong Kong Massage!

DANNY

Yeah. So. I don't know where you get whore-house? Mrs. Lau is a licensed massage therapist.

SARAH

Oh, so she didn't finish you off?

Pause from Danny.

SARAH

Answer me!

DANNY

That's how they end an Oriental massage. It's not like it's dirty. It's meant to relax you.

SARAH

You're like Travis Bickle. You go to massage parlors, and porno movies.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SARAH (cont'd)

You're like Travis Bickle without the violence.

DANNY

It wasn't a porno movie. It was rated NC-17. I love you. I've just been under a lot of stress.

SARAH

You didn't look that stressed at the batting cage.

DANNY

Thanks to Mrs. Lau. That's right. You should have seen me before my massage. I was just a bundle of nerves.

SARAH

Why?! Why are you like this?!

DANNY

I can change.

SARAH

No you can't. You want to know what your problem is? I'm going to lay it out very slowly so you can understand. You're a selfish...

DANNY'S P.O.V. OF SARAH

All sound disappears, except for the sound of Danny's slow breathing.

Sarah's lips move, and you can hear a humming sound, but you can not make out the words. She is only coming through in waves. Occasionally a word pops through, "communication," "water skiing," "misery." For a moment she uses salt and pepper shakers to demonstrate a point.

Danny gives up, breaks eye contact with Sarah, and starts to stare just slightly to the left of her head.

ON SARAH

SARAH

Are you even listening to me? Do you understand English?

DANNY

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARAH

What is wrong with you?! Are you just waiting for your parents to die so you can get their money?

DANNY

No. How could you say that? I'm just--

She gives him the Shh! sign.

SARAH

I am so disappointed in you.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - LATER/INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE

Danny is on the phone with his friend CHARLIE, who is wearing an expensive business suit.

DANNY

Sarah broke up with me.

CHARLIE

Why?

DANNY

I have no fucking clue. Something about a batting cage.

CHARLIE

Come pick me up. We'll get drunk.

DANNY

That's not going to solve anything.

CHARLIE

Who said it would?

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - TWO A.M.

CREDITS BEGIN

MUSIC UP: FRANK SINATRA SINGS "YOU ARE THE SUNSHINE OF MY LIFE."

DANNY is drunk, dancing by himself on an empty dance floor. He moves like a Dead Head during the 'space jam' section of the show.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The bar is empty except for Charlie, who pays the tab at the bar, and MOE, an older bartender. Charlie is also drunk.

MOE
(looking at Danny)
I'd hate to see that guy if he had three
drinks.

Charlie stumbles over to the dance floor.

CHARLIE
Are you ready man?

Lost in the music, lost in his life, Danny doesn't answer.

CHARLIE
Danny, let's ride.

They walk to the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - A MOMENT LATER

Danny's 1982 Chevrolet Suburban is the only car in the lot.

DANNY
One of the great nights.

Charlie laughs.

CHARLIE
Moe is an amazing bartender.

DANNY
Yes! Listen to that word. Bar-tender.
He who tends to the bar. That's very
sacred.

CHARLIE
Let me drive.

DANNY
Pardon me Charlie, but I was dancing back
there. You're all slumped over your bar
stool and I'm dancing to...I don't even
know what song that was.

CHARLIE
Danny! You're all fucked up! Give me
the keys!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
I drank less than you.

CHARLIE
So? Danny, you never drink. As a result
you're a fucking lightweight. Give me
the keys!

They stare at each other angrily for a long beat. Danny
starts to hand him the keys.

CHARLIE
(begins to laugh)
I had you going.

DANNY
(laughs)
No you didn't.

CHARLIE
Bullshit. You were just about to give me
your keys you fag.

DANNY
No I wasn't. As a joke maybe.

Laughing, they pile in Danny's car.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Danny is driving, Charlie sits in the passenger seat.

CHARLIE
There is no reason why driving under the
influence can't be a safe, controlled
experience. First, you set your cruise
control. Three miles over the legal
limit. Not too fast but not too slow to
raise a red flag.

DANNY
Roger.

CHARLIE
Lose the windshield wipers.

DANNY
Thank you, sir. I'll turn the windshield
wipers off 'cause it's not raining.
Then I open all the windows for proper
.. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (cont'd)
 ventilation. Letting in the elements.
 'Cause I am not afraid of the weather.
 Instead I challenge the weather to 'cause
 it to blow more softly and gently on the
 world and all its people. And it keeps me
 from falling asleep. Then I will set the
 wheel straight, and then put it on auto
 pilot. Let this baby do what it was
 designed for.

CHARLIE
 And last, just to keep you alert and on
 your toes, a little night music.

He turns on the radio as loud as it will go.

MUSIC UP: JIMI HENDRIX "ROOM FULL OF MIRRORS"

We see shots of the car weaving in and out of its lane of
 traffic.

END OF CREDIT SEQUENCE.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

Danny pulls into a driveway, and stops abruptly.

DANNY
 I guess we made it. You're alive
 Charlie. How does it feel? It doesn't
 always have to end in a horrible accident
 where we hit a school bus driving to
 Church. Sometimes everything works out
 fine. Good night my dear friend.

Charlie starts laughing.

CHARLIE
 This isn't my house.

DANNY
 Are you sure?

CHARLIE
 This is a two story house.

Danny looks at the house in front of him, an elegant picture-
 perfect Victorian house.

DANNY
 This is a two story house, isn't it?
 (sadly)
 Sarah and I dreamed of living in a house
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (cont'd)
like this. God I miss her so fucking
much.

CHARLIE
(uncomfortable)
I'll just walk the rest of the way.

Charlie exits, leaving Danny looking at the house.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - A LITTLE LATER

Danny is driving home. Music blaring. Danny whistles along. He stops at a red light. He stares at the red light. Transfixed. As he slowly looks down he sees a police car roll to a stop at the light going the opposite way. Danny slowly turns down the music. He stops whistling. He sits up straighter. Slyly, he attempts to put his seat belt on in a manner so the cop can't see.

COPS'S P.O.V. - He sees Danny trying to nonchalantly put his seat belt on.

ON DANNY - Yawns as if he's bored, and there's no problem. Danny and one of the cops make eye contact. Quickly and uncomfortably he waves at the cop.

Danny speaks under his breath, so the cop can not see his mouth move.

DANNY
(under his breath)
It's not against the law to drive home to
your wife and...two kids...after working
the late shift...at the printing plant.

COPS'S P.O.V.- of Danny in his car trying to covertly talk to himself. From this point of view he looks very odd.

CLOSE UP - ON DANNY

DANNY
That's why my eyes are red.

He looks up and at the cop. The cop points to the light. Danny sees it is green. He has no idea how long it has been green. He waves thank you to the cop.

The moment he pulls through the intersection the light turns yellow, and then red.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny continues to drive. He looks in the rearview mirror at the police car.

DANNY

Don't turn around. Don't turn around.

He sees the police car making a u-turn. His lights go on.

DANNY

You're turning around. And now I'm supposed to pull over.

Danny slams on the gas, and attempts to make his escape. He quickly makes a hard left onto a residential street.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE OFFICER'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The police officer sees Danny take off. He follows but does not increase his speed dramatically. Danny's car disappears around a corner.

POLICE OFFICER

(into his radio)

I've got a 408 headed east down Jericho Blvd. It's a grey Suburban. White male driver.

OFFICER'S P.O.V. - They drive through the residential street for a bit, then finally come upon Danny's Suburban which is overturned in the middle of the street. There are no screech marks or indications of how this occurred.

We stay with the officers as they exit their car and walk to the upside down driver's side.

OFFICER

(unconcerned)

How are we doing tonight?

We see Danny strapped in upside down, his left hand somehow pinned between the roof and the cement. It looks painful, but Danny seems hardly aware of it.

DANNY

Not that great.

OFFICER

What happened here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

I was on my way back home from work at the printing plant and--

OFFICER

Sir, that plant closed three years ago.

DANNY

I know. I'm a security guard there.

OFFICER

You're guarding the closed plant?

DANNY

That's right.

(beat)

I'm not going to bullshit you. I've been drinking. I had two beers...over dinner. I just think these roads are so slick because it hasn't rained in so long.

OFFICER

I'm going to have to give you a breathalizer.

The OFFICER leaves to get the breathalizer. OFFICER #2 stays.

DANNY

What about my hand? You'd sort of love to get some medical attention. I know you're all worried about your collar--

OFFICER #2

We've called an ambulance. Should be here momentarily.

DANNY

Can I talk to you for a second? I'm really sorry. I'm really fucking sorry. Thank God there were no kids on this street. Could you imagine what would have happened if this happened at seven in the morning?

(starts to fake cry)

I'm not a religious person, but something overturned my car, safely in the middle of the night to teach me a lesson. If you want to call it a God, then you can call it a God. There's really no need to send this to the courts when God has already taken care of it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The other officer returns.

OFFICER
Please blow into this sir.

He puts the breathalyzer to Danny's lips. Danny pushes it out of his face with his mouth.

DANNY
(indignant)
Got to get your quota, got to get your quota. I know how it works.

The officer tries again with the breathalyzer. Danny reluctantly blows into the breathalyzer.

DANNY
Congratulations, you just made it.

CUT TO:

INT. COURTROOM - MORNING - TWO WEEKS LATER

Danny stands before the judge, being sentenced. Gone are all traces of the smart ass. One hand is bandaged. The other one is in his pocket.

JUDGE
Take your hands out of your pockets when you address this court.

Danny does. He folds his arms. The judge glares at him. Danny puts his arms at his sides.

JUDGE
What do you think I should do with you, son?

DANNY
I don't know, sir.

JUDGE
Do you think you have a problem with alcohol?

DANNY
I honestly don't think so. There's no question I did that night, but in general I think my problem is--

JUDGE
I don't care what you think! You're lucky you didn't kill somebody. Do you
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUDGE (cont'd)

think if you had killed somebody you might think you had a drinking problem?

DANNY

Maybe I should just shut up for once.

JUDGE

That's a good start. I'm going to revoke your license and give you a six month suspended sentence. During that time you will be obligated to go to Alcoholics Anonymous ninety times.

Danny stares blankly.

JUDGE

Any failure to meet the terms of this sentence and you will be sent to jail.

DANNY

Thank you, sir. I really appreciate this chance--

JUDGE

Take your own advice and shut up. Try to learn something from this.

He hits his gavel.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT - DAY

We see a weathered sixty year old man. He sits alone in the kitchen of his seedy apartment. He opens up a can of Spaghettios and Meatballs, pours it in a bowl, then puts it in the microwave. This is BUNKER McCORMICK.

The phone rings. Bunker picks it up.

BUNKER

(into the phone)

Yeah. Oh...hey Barry. What's new in your world? Uh-huh. Business has been dead. I don't know what I'm going to do. If I had it, I'd pay you. It's not like I'm sitting here chomping on cavier, laughing about the four grand I owe American Express. How 'bout this Barry, eat shit. I still haven't paid my daughter's tuition. They're threatening to pull her out of class, but I think my priority should be to pay off the international mega-corporation because

. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER (cont'd)
without my four ground they're going
under!!! Good-bye Barry!

Bunker hangs up the phone. He walks into the next room, puts on a button-down shirt, then walks back into the kitchen, takes the bowl out of the microwave and begins to eat his dinner.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUILDING - DAY

Danny rides a skateboard up to the weathered building, checking to see if he has the right address. A few people chat outside the building as others enter. Bunker talks and laughs with several people. He is a popular figure here.

Danny hesitates, then enters.

CUT TO:

INT. A.A. MEETING - DAY

The room is made up of a table, which the person who leads the meeting sits behind. All of the chairs circle the room. The meeting is full. The walls are covered with posters which contain A.A. sayings, a list of the twelve steps, etc.

Danny sits in the back wearing sunglasses, a baseball cap, and long sleeve shirt. He is wearing a Walkman around his neck. He does not appear to be paying much attention. In fact, he's reading Playboy.

The A.A. Leader calls on a thin, thirty year old man.

TODD

My name is Todd, and I'm an alcoholic.

EVERYONE

Hi Todd.

TODD

Well this has been an incredible week for me. Two years ago I decided I wanted to move to Washington, and this week I was transferred to the Home Depot in Seattle. And I just can't believe it.

Danny tunes out. He looks around the room at different people, a pretty girl, then finally on a bored hard core old-timer. It is Bunker. He winks at Danny, then points to his hand as if to say, "What happened?"

Danny mimes driving a car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bunker mimes drinking, then driving a car.

Danny reluctantly mimes drinking, driving. —

Bunker mimes crashing, then police sirens.

Danny tries to look elsewhere.

TODD

...and I got my airline ticket, and next Thursday I'm moving. This could never have happened without A.A., so...thank you.

EVERYONE

Thanks for sharing.

A.A. LEADER

(to Danny)
You, in the hat.

Everyone looks attentively at the new guy, especially the old-timer.

DANNY

Uh...me? I'm just here...listening.
Pass.

The members look disappointed.

A.A. LEADER

All right then, let's end the meeting
with a reading of the serenity prayer.

Everyone gets up and forms a circle in the center of the room. Two men next to Danny put their arms around him. The room is forming a group hug. Danny does not know what to make of this. With much hesitation, he puts his arms around the two men.

Bunker notices Danny's discomfort. The group says the serenity prayer in unison.

EVERYONE

Lord give me the strength to accept the
things I can not change, the courage to
change the things I can, and the wisdom
to know the difference.

Danny does not know the words, so he just moves his lips without speaking so as not to stick out from the group.

CUT TO:

INT. A.A. MEETING - LATER

The meeting has broken up. Everyone chats warmly. Danny walks up to the A.A. meeting leader.

DANNY

I think you're supposed to sign this.

He pulls out a green card from the court.

A.A. LEADER

Ah, a nudge from the judge. Eighty nine to go.

He signs it.

A.A. LEADER

What did you think of the meeting?

DANNY

It was...good.

He hands Danny back his card along with the A.A. Big Book, the bible for the organization.

BUNKER

What did you make of that hug?

DANNY

It was good too.

Danny heads for the door.

BUNKER

Hey, you have something on your shoe.

DANNY

Oh, thanks.

He lifts up his shoe. There's nothing there.

BUNKER

No, the other one.

Danny lifts up his other shoe, behind his ankle, and looks over his shoulder at the shoe. In this awkward, slightly effeminate pose we have the beginning of a pirouette. There's nothing on that shoe either..

Still in the pose, he turns to Bunker who is doing his best flaming queen impression.

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CONTINUED:

BUNKER
Hi-ya sailor.

Bunker laughs at his joke. Danny stares at Bunker, irritated, then walks away. Bunker gets up and heads after him.

BUNKER
Come on, don't lose your sense of humor.

DANNY
No, it was funny. You got me. I've got to remember that one.

BUNKER
What's your rush? Let me buy you some soup.

DANNY
I want to stop you before you get started here. I'm not an alcoholic. I'm just here because I wrecked my car. So you don't have to sell me on the program.

Danny leaves as quickly as possible so he won't have to talk to anyone else.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sarah has moved out. Much of the furniture, and all of the female touches, are gone. Danny sits in front of a big screen television playing video games on the enormous screen. He is surrounded by pizza boxes and trash. He does not look good.

Charlie sits uncomfortably on the couch. He leafs through the A.A. Big Book.

DANNY
Maybe Sarah's right. Maybe I have no vision. Maybe I am just a trust fund casualty.

CHARLIE
Yeah, like if her parents would give her three grand a month she wouldn't take it.

DANNY
You'd have to be a damn fool not to take it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE
(re:the book)
So, these are the twelve steps.

Charlie reads like an Orsen Welles-type announcer.

CHARLIE
Came to believe that a power greater than
ourselves could restore us to sanity.

DANNY
That's helpful, calling me insane.

CHARLIE
This is very God-dy. It sounds like a
cult.

DANNY
Oh yeah, you should see the meetings.
Whenever someone finishes speaking,
everyone says in unison,
(like a zombie)
"Thanks for sharing." It's like
Jonestown. "Keep coming back. Spread
the message. Have some more punch."

CHARLIE
Are there girls there?

DANNY
Yeah, if you like ex-crack addicts.

Danny finishes his video game.

DANNY
Look at what our court system does. They
take a fairly happy citizen, label him an
alcoholic, and then force him to join a
cult where he will interact with some of
the most fucked up people on the planet.
This is why people join militias. I feel
so much like packing up my Nintendo and
moving to Ruby Ridge, or Montana. And
Charlie, God love you for working as a
lawyer, but I'm glad I failed the bar
three times because I don't want to have
anything to do with a system that would
do this to a man.

CHARLIE
I thought you only failed twice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

I took it once without telling anyone.

CHARLIE

Big deal. J.F.K. Jr. failed a couple of times.

DANNY

Is that the one who fucked the babysitter?

CUT TO:

INT. A.A. MEETING - NIGHT

VIJAH, an Indian Man, is ranting about his problems. His accent is very thick, and hard to understand.

VIJAH

I like the Scotch and the Coke man. She tell me you got the dual personality. One moment I'm an angel, the next moment I'm the devil. And all because of the shit man.

(he mimes drinking)

I can't beat the shit man. Look at my hand.

He holds up a shaky hand.

VIJAH

The shit did that. But I've got a little surprise up my sleeve.

While still holding his shaky hand out, he mimes punching someone.

VIJAH

This fight I'm gonna win.

At this point we see Danny look over at Bunker who gives an "OKAY" sign as if to say, "He's not gonna win."

EVERYONE

Thanks for sharing.

A.A. LEADER

Gus.

He calls on a big Irish looking guy, in his forties, who has a nice open face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUS

Hi, my name is Gus and I'm an alcoholic.

EVERYONE

Hi Gus.

GUS

I don't have much to say today other than things seem to be good. I've got three years and some change.

Some people applaud.

GUS

Thanks.

(pause)

I guess I can share this. I was kind of rushing to get to work this morning. My wife gives me a kiss good-bye and says "You're my stallion." I've got a big meeting so it doesn't really sink in. Then I'm half way to work when I realize, I've got a hard on 'cause of what she said.

People laugh. Danny smiles.

GUS

That this woman who shouldn't even talk to me after the hell I put her through...that she can now think this way about me...seems amazing. And it was my participation in A.A. that made her realize that I could change. So, I feel pretty lucky today. Thanks.

EVERYONE/DANNY

Thanks for sharing.

Bunker notices that Danny is moved by the man's speech.

CUT TO:

EXT. AA MEETING - NIGHT

Bunker walks up along side Danny as he walks out.

BUNKER

I like that guy Gus. Turned his life around. Got his woman back.

DANNY

Yeah, I like that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER
Where are you going?

DANNY
No place.

BUNKER
Come on, where are you going?

DANNY
(wearily)
I'm going go-carting.

BUNKER
You like motorcycles?

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - A LITTLE LATER

Danny and Bunker on a residential street in a poor black and Mexican neighborhood. Bunker is loudly revving a loud, old, dirt-bike and shouting. Danny stands next to him holding a football.

BUNKER
Throw it! Throw the motherfucker!

DANNY
Where?

BUNKER
(insanely)
Out there! As far as you can heave the
son of a bitch!

Danny throws a bomb. And Bunker smiles at him for a second and then is off like a shot. He flies down the street, head turned upward, tracking the ball. He races under, catching it in one hand. A little black kid and his brother watch. Danny is dying laughing running down the street. It is an amazing feat for anybody, particularly this older guy on a motorcycle.

DANNY
Oh my God!

BUNKER
What a catch!

DANNY
What a catch!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER

They said it couldn't be done! They called him a mad man!

Bunker races back.

BUNKER

I believe the bet was payable immediately. No tears.

Danny takes out the money.

DANNY

You earned it.

BUNKER

Double or nothing?

DANNY

I think I've got to bet against you again.

BUNKER

I'm gonna learn you boy.

This time Danny heaves it a lot farther. Bunker races, loses track of the ball. He hits the curb and goes sailing, head over heels, past the two black kids, into a chain link fence.

The two kids run over to him. Slowly, he opens his eyes.

BUNKER

Did I catch it?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Bunker and Danny at a coffee shop. Bunker's head is wrapped and his hand is wrapped identical to Danny's.

DANNY

...so I miss her, but I think I'm kind of lost. What do you think?

BUNKER

An idiot has been running your life.

DANNY

I'd say control freak, but yeah, she could definitely be an idiot, and I need to take the reins.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER

I mean you, Danny.

DANNY

I don't see how calling me names helps anything.

BUNKER

You say you don't have a problem but you get loaded at the first sign of trouble. Your old lady says you're shut down and just moved out and now your dealing with a DUI. You're unemployed, and worst of all you've got this jaded, seen it all attitude that a kid your age shouldn't have. Where's the enthusiasm, the vitality?

DANNY

Is this tough love?

BUNKER

See what I mean? You should drop the cynicism, because it's a pain in the ass.

DANNY

But I don't drink that much?

BUNKER

You don't have to be the most fucked up guy at A.A. to need to be there. Nobody at A.A. thinks they have a problem in the beginning. Fake it till you make it.

DANNY

Do you think it might help me with Sarah?

BUNKER

Absolutely. Look at Gus the other night. People love giving addicts another chance. Geez, there's an addict on the cover of People Magazine every other week.

DANNY

I don't know--

BUNKER

Shhhh. You don't have to say anything right now. I'm gonna leave. But tonight, if you're in, if you want me to
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUNKER (cont'd)
be your sponsor, call me, let it ring
twice, then hang up. And I'll know.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bunker is asleep. The phone rings twice, then stops. If Bunker hears this we certainly don't see any acknowledgement, 'cause he doesn't budge.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUNKER'S OFFICE - DAY

Danny skateboards up to Bunker's office in a non-descript strip mall. Bunker is inspecting some suits that a Chinese guy is showing him at the trunk of an old car.

BUNKER
(to Danny)
What size are you? Forty two long?

Danny walks up.

DANNY
I don't know.

BUNKER
Here, put this in your car.

He hands him kind of a nice looking sports jacket as a very hot girl is getting out of her sports car.

GIRL
Hi Bunker.

BUNKER
If I was a cop I'd pick you up.

GIRL
Why don't you?

She gives Bunker a kiss. He doesn't seem particularly interested. Danny looks on admiringly though.

GIRL
Maybe I'll see you later. I'm getting my
nails done.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER

Alright, sweetheart. Danny, should we talk?

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S OFFICE -DAY

The office is the portrait of a hustler. A Michael Irvin poster hangs next to a framed gold record of "The Firm." There are signed footballs, basketballs, and a Ted Williams signed baseball made out to "my friend Bunker." A photo of William Faulkner. A huge calendar, with upcoming concerts and games cover the wall. A video monitor lets us see who is coming and going. A jar filled with Cuban cigars is on a desk cluttered with papers and, incongruously, six Waterford crystals of a buffalo.

Prominently featured is a dentist's office-type collage of photos of all of the people Bunker has sponsored.

BUNKER

Nervous?

DANNY

About what?

BUNKER

About speaking at the meeting. About standing up and saying you're an alcoholic.

DANNY

I don't know, Bunker.

BUNKER

I got your back ese', so give it your best shot. Odelay!

DANNY

(low energy)
Odelay.

His secretary pops her head in. She's hot.

SECRETARY

We have Rage Against the Machine tickets left?

BUNKER

Yes! Just take the orders. Carol, make sure you get that Green Bay and the over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The secretary leaves.

BUNKER

Danny, we got to make our meeting.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET DAY - DAY

Danny and Bunker walking quickly down a city street. They pass a bar. Bunker looks at it and breathes deeply, as if tempted. They walk on. A homeless man sits out front.

BUNKER

Hey buddy - how are you doing today?

HOMELESS MAN

It's cold.

BUNKER

(hands him two dollars)

Well, take care of yourself.

(to Danny)

That could easily be you or me. All these guys want is to be looked in the eye. Treated like a man. That's why they go crazy, cause everyone acts like they don't exist. You know I was the first scalper to use homeless people to wait in line. Everyone said, "What are you doing using those bums?" I said, "What is a bum? Isn't he just a person who needs a job? I'm giving them a job." Of course now everyone does it.

They reach a street corner.

BUNKER

(beat)

Give me your hand.

DANNY

What?

BUNKER

Come on. You heard me. Sometimes when you get a drink signal it helps to just reach out. And if people look at us strangely, fuck them baby!

Danny reluctantly gives him his hand. They walk together holding hands. A few people notice and kind of look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
It feels pretty good.

Bunker pulls his hand away.

BUNKER
(laughs)
What, are you going to believe everything
I say?

Danny is embarrassed.

BUNKER
(joking)
But it did feel pretty good didn't it?

CUT TO:

INT. AA MEETING - DAY

The meeting is in session. Bunker is relaxed and smiling.
Danny is uptight and nervous.

BUNKER
(stage whisper)
Your turn. Fake it till you make it.

DANNY
I'm Danny. This is my third meeting. I'm
here because--

BUNKER
You an alcoholic?

DANNY
Oh. My name is Danny and...I guess I'm
an alcoholic.

Everyone applauds. Danny is taken aback by their warmth and approval.

DANNY
In the past month I lost my job, I lost
my girlfriend. I got a D.W.I. Maybe I
belong here.

Everyone laughs at what they see as Danny stating the obvious.

DANNY
I guess an idiot's been running my life.
It's time to let someone else try.
Thanks for letting me share.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVERYONE
Thanks for sharing.

Danny sits down, smiling. Bunker nudges him like a proud father. Now it's Bunker's turn.

BUNKER
My name's Bunker. I'm addicted to chaos
and bad ideas.

EVERYBODY
Hi Bunker.

BUNKER
First time at this meeting. Hearing a lot
of good things. Charles, what you said
about feeling like shit and unhappy
because somebody cancelled and having a
hard time surrendering your will. Well
you got one year! Lighten the fuck up.

Everybody laughs and Charles nods his head yes.

BUNKER
Listen, I called A.A. in 1978 for
directions to a meeting. I made it to
that meeting in 1982. I stopped drinking
in 1985. I stopped for good in '89 and
I've got nine years, baby. Good years.
And I wouldn't trade 'em for anything.

Bunker changes gears to a more serious mode.

BUNKER
I was married to a beautiful woman a
lifetime ago. One night we were at a
party, we didn't drink much, but enough.
And on the ride home our Buick must have
swayed over the dividing line, just
clipping an oncoming car. I was wearing
a seatbelt, but my wife wasn't. She died
right there on the road. And sometimes
at night I think, maybe the other guy
crossed that line. Maybe it was his
fault. I don't remember. But that faint
possibility that it wasn't my fault is
sometimes the only thing that gets me
through the night.

The room is transfixed. Bunker knows his story's effect. He
likes telling it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUNKER

But I have a beautiful daughter who goes to Stanford, and every time I look at her I see my wife. And she lives on. And life moves on. I was thinking today about isolation. Isolation is the dark room where we develop our negative. It feels better in the light. Thanks for letting me share.

CUT TO:

INT. A.A. MEETING - LATER

The meeting has just broken up. Danny looks shaken. Bunker, however, seems totally unaffected by the tragedy he's just related.

BUNKER

You were great, buddy. How'd it feel?

DANNY

It was alright. But what about you? I'm kind of in shock from your story.

BUNKER

I'm sort of one of the best speakers around. That story has saved lives. I hear they might fly me to the A.A. convention in Hawaii to tell it. I've got a much longer version of the story where I get laughs, and make people cry. Hey, let's mix.

Many people walk up to Danny offering their support and assistance.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S CAR - NIGHT

Bunker stops his car, an old Trans AM, in front of Danny's apartment building.

DANNY

Thanks Bunker--

BUNKER

Don't say a word. Just listen. Pull that visor down.

Danny does.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER
Look in the mirror. You lookin'?

DANNY
(looking)
Yes.

BUNKER
Now say good-bye to him.

Danny looks to Bunker. Bunker nods his head.

BUNKER
That's right. 'Cause that guy's high
tailing it out of town. Replaced by a
new man...who's gonna look a lot like the
old guy, but with a few key differences.
This man is going to know happiness and
freedom. Your life is going to change in
so many ways, Danny, I promise. Fuck I
wish I was you!

He pounds the roof of the car with joy. Danny begins to
pound with him.

CUT TO:

MUSIC UP: JOHN LENNON "CRIPPLED INSIDE"

EXT. DANNY'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Danny, smiling from ear to ear, is putting bumper stickers on
the back of his car. We reveal he has placed many A.A.
bumper stickers on both the front and rear of his car. "One
Day at A Time." "Practice Random Acts of Kindness and
Senseless Acts of Beauty." "Let Go, Let God." Etc. Danny
beams as he places each sticker.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Bunker is sitting at a table alone in a very fancy
restaurant. He is wearing one of his stolen Hugo Boss suits.
This is the first time we have seen him so well groomed.

A beautiful, twenty one year old woman approaches the table
with the maitre d'. This is his daughter ROSE. When he sees
her he quickly stands up.

BUNKER
(formally)
Hello Rose.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSE
Hi Dad.

Bunker walks to her, gives her a kiss on the cheek, then pulls her chair out for her. She sits down. The maitre d' hands them menus.

ROSE
How have you been?

BUNKER
Good. How are things at your aunt's?
Does she still hate me?

ROSE
She doesn't mention you. Why can't I stay at your place?

BUNKER
You wouldn't be comfortable at my place.
(tries to change the subject)
Do you like steak? Because they've got a killer rib eye here.

He looks at his menu, leaving her unable to see his face.

BUNKER
(to himself)
What to get, what to get?

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sarah is seated. Danny paces around the room excitedly as he speaks.

DANNY
Everything you said was right. About not being involved. About living life on the sidelines. I want to get in the game, Sarah.

SARAH
And what brought this on?

DANNY
Well, you kept saying, "What is wrong with you? What is wrong with you?" And I finally realized what it was. I'm an alcoholic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARAH

What?

DANNY

I have a cunning and baffling disease.

SARAH

So, you've been going to the A.A. meetings?

DANNY

I haven't just been going. I've been soaking it up like a sponge. It's changing me. I used to be a hopeless dope fiend. Now I'm a dopeless hope fiend.

SARAH

I thought you said it was like a cult.

DANNY

(deadly serious)

It's not a cult. It saved my life. I drank to medicate myself. I was having an intimacy problem. I was "into me, you see."

SARAH

But you never really drank much?

DANNY

How much is enough, Sarah? How much? I was in a rut. But I've climbed out, and I'm ready to live.

SARAH

I don't now whether or not I believe you.

He sits down next to her.

DANNY

(proudly)

It's easy to bet against me, but why not bet on me? Do you want to know how I'm doing all this?

SARAH

How?

DANNY

Honesty, openness, willingness. That's how. I have a sponsor, Bunker. And he's
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY (cont'd)
straight as an arrow. He calls me on all
my bullshit and I love it.

SARAH
I am so glad for you.

DANNY
I'm glad for us.

She looks unsure.

DANNY
I've got a surprise for you.

He leaves the room, then a moment later rolls in on
rollerblades.

DANNY
Let's go rollerblading!

SARAH
You said rollerblading was for fags.

DANNY
Sounds like the old insecure Danny. But
the new Danny knows rollerblading doesn't
make you gay.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Bunker and Rose are eating salad.

BUNKER
You like Depeche Mode?

ROSE
Why? Do you?

BUNKER
No, we just got some tickets in. If
you'd like to go, just ask. I've got
some twelfth row center.

ROSE
I'm not a fan of theirs.

BUNKER
Let me know if you change your mind.
(long beat)
How 'bout Smashing Pumpkins?

She nods no.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSE
I'm in a golf tournament next weekend.
Maybe you can come?

She knows his answer before it comes.

BUNKER
Oh...uh, next weekend? I've got a
concert I've got to work. Maybe the next
one. There is another one, isn't there?

ROSE
Yeah.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROLLERBLADING PATH - DAY

A series of shots of Danny and Sarah skating.

*Danny is grinning from ear to ear as he rollerblades down the path. He is a beginner, but is picking it up quickly. Sarah is very good at this sport. She weaves in and out of people, bikers and dogs. Danny's glee seems to throw her. She is not sure what to make of it.

*Danny skates next to a little boy. He pretends that the boy is beating him in a race. The boy couldn't be happier. He looks to Sarah. She smiles, but is cautious to open up to this new Danny.

*They continue to rollerblade. Danny's knee is skinned. A small trickle of blood goes down his shin. We do not see the moment when this occurred.

*Danny takes Sarah's hand, and they skate hand in hand for a bit. When a skater comes the other way, Sarah lets go of Danny's hand, and discreetly does not make it available to him again.

*Danny speeds up. He goes down a hill and quickly is going way too fast. He grits his teeth, and rides out the speed until he slows down. He turns to Sarah, excited about what he survived. She smiles halfheartedly.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

Danny and Sarah pull over to the side.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
(he pulls something out)
I have a gift for you.

SARAH
You didn't have to do that. What is it?

He hands a booklet to Sarah.

DANNY
It's a coupon book. Redeemable with me,
because I'm redeemable.

She opens it. It is hand drawn by Danny. Each page has a small illustration, and a title. We see ONE FREE HIKE, ONE FREE LONG WALK, ONE FREE ROLLERBLADING AFTERNOON, ONE FREE GAZE AT THE STARS, ONE FREE TALK ABOUT GOD.

DANNY
I thought about all of the things I
resisted doing, and I'm ready to try them
now.

She stares at him, her eyes are sad, guilty.

DANNY
Use those any time you want to?

SARAH
Danny, I have to be honest with you.
This doesn't feel good.

DANNY
Sarah, I don't get it. What do you want
me to do?

SARAH
It's not my job to change you.

DANNY
You don't have to change me. A.A. is
changing me. That's what's so great.

SARAH
What you're doing is ridiculous. You're
all into this program. You're not even
an alcoholic.

Danny flinches.

DANNY
I'm not? Smile when you say that Sarah,
so I know you're kidding.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SARAH

And everything you're saying. It's just bumper sticker logic. Do you even know what all this stuff means?

DANNY

Yes I do.

SARAH

Then tell me. Really, explain it to me.

DANNY

Maybe you should go to an Al-Anon meeting if you care so much.

SARAH

I'm not going to go to an Al-Anon meeting, because you're not an alcoholic! You're just looking for an excuse for all your problems.

DANNY

Oh, I get it. You're scared of the new me, 'cause it might challenge the perfect old you. What are you going to do if you can't enable me, and caretake me?

SARAH

One day you're going to realize how little you know right now.

Danny soaks this in, then takes a beat--

DANNY

(dramatically)

Don't belittle me. I am in the fight of my life, and if I lose I'm going to wind up dead...or worse. If you don't want to support me, then maybe I should just go.

He rollerblades away.

CUT TO:

INT. MEXICAN BAR - NIGHT

A MEXICAN MAN wearing a holster filled with tequila bottles, a red sombrero and a whistle is hoisting a drunk Danny up by his feet on a large hook.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
(to Mexican Man)
Where does she get off saying that I'm
not an alcoholic!

The Mexican Man howls like a wolf, then takes Danny's head, raises it up, then pours liquor into his mouth. Then he blows on his whistle and everyone in the bar cheers.

DANNY
(gestures wildly to a group of
frat daddies)
I'll drink any of you under the table!

The Mexican Man pours another shot in Danny's mouth, which Danny wasn't ready for. He spits it up through his nose.

DANNY
Wait until I'm ready! Forget it. That's
it. Let me down.

CUT TO:

INT. A.A. MEETING - NIGHT

The LEADER of the group begins the session

Bunker sits next to an empty chair. He keeps looking to the door for Danny, who never comes.

CUT TO:

EXT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A taxi pulls up. Danny is squeezed between two Tip O'Neil looking Irishmen. They all sing an Irish drinking song, even the foreign taxi driver.

ALL FOUR
(singing)
Well it's all for me grog, me jolly,
jolly grog. It's all for me beer and
tobacco. For I spent all me tin on the
lassies drinking gin, far across the
western ocean I must wander.

DANNY
Goodnight lads! Patty, Aiden, Achbad.

A drunk Danny exits the car, which drives off. He walks to the building's patio window.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

(talks to himself)

How sober do I look, Sarah? Now you have
to face the music. You're in love with a
little old alcoholic.

From this vantage point Danny can see through the dining room into the living room. He looks in and sees Sarah, in a night gown, laying on a large chair. A romantic fire crackles.

DANNY

She's so beautiful by the light of the
fire. You're an angel, you are.

Then a completely nude man walks into the room. He is built like an Adonis. He turns, and we see his face. It is Danny's friend Charlie.

CLOSE UP OF DANNY - His eyes are clenched tightly. They open slightly just in time to see--

ON CHARLIE AND SARAH - Charlie pulls her to the edge of the chair, then flips her onto her stomach. He prepares to enter her from behind. She is quite willing.

DANNY

No!!!! No!!!!

Danny looks around. He sees a lawn chair. He heaves it at the window, hoping to make a dramatic entrance to the room. It is a bad throw. The chair bounces off the side of the brick building, and shatters into several pieces.

ON THE WINDOW - Sarah and Charlie stop what they are doing, confused by the sounds coming from outside.

Danny runs around the building, looking for an open entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. SARAH'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Danny enters in a rage. Charlie stands up, completely nude. Sarah stands a few feet behind him.

SARAH

Danny! Oh my God!

CHARLIE

It's not what it looks like.

Danny pulls out a small container of mace which hangs on his key chain, and in his drunken stupor begins to spray wildly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Everybody is maced. Charlie and Sarah run in different directions.

Danny runs to the kitchen sink and frantically tosses water into his burning eyes. He looks up to see Charlie coming at him.

CHARLIE
I'm going to kill you.

DANNY
Wait! I got maced too!

Charlie delivers a haymaker that catches Danny flush on the nose, instantly breaking it. Danny throws a valiant jab which is expertly blocked, and he is beaten senseless by his naked friend.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Danny lays in his bed in the dark. The phone rings.

BUNKER
(on answering machine)
Danny! It's your old pal Bunker.
Wondering where you are.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

There is a knock at the door. Danny slowly gets up. His face and shirt have blood on them.

Suddenly the front door is kicked off the hinges. Bunker runs in.

BUNKER
Are you okay?

Danny looks at Bunker, his face and shirt are covered in blood, he's still drunk.

DANNY
I've got to level with you. The gig's
up. I'm not an alcoholic.

CUT TO:

INT. SHOWER - NIGHT

Bunker holds Danny's head under the shower. The blood and dirt washes down the drain.

DANNY

I'm so sorry. I've just been using you to get Sarah back. Sarah nailed me on it. She's so smart. We would have had the best kids.

He pulls him out of the shower, and sits him down on the toilet, and dries his hair with a towel.

BUNKER

Nonsense. I've been using you. I get so much out of seeing your broken nose and how fucked up your life is because then I don't have to think about my life. My money problems. Children that hate me. I get to escape into your problems.

DANNY

I was Travis Bickle tonight...with the violence. I scared myself.

BUNKER

Of course you did. You're an alcoholic and you hit bottom.

DANNY

I don't know...

BUNKER

Danny, alcoholism is the only disease on the planet that tells you that you don't have it.

DANNY

I knew when I had crabs, that's for sure.
(beat)
There is something wrong with me. Maybe that's it.

BUNKER

You want to know the great thing about hitting bottom? It's looking up, and seeing that blue sky. And every day is up and up and up and up!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny and Bunker are laying in bed together, like two children having a sleep-over party. They both look up at the ceiling as they speak.

BUNKER

Tomorrow we're gonna get serious. We're gonna get you a job. We're gonna start cleaning up your wreckage.

DANNY

Maybe if I was real with her she'd take me back.

BUNKER

Your relationships are over like boxer's retire. You just keep coming back for another beating. Did you ever think that maybe you're too good for her?

DANNY

No.

BUNKER

That's just low self esteem talking.

DANNY

But let me ask you a question, is it low self esteem if you really are a piece of shit?

BUNKER

Come on, Danny.

DANNY

No. Is it low self esteem, or the appropriate amount?

BUNKER

Danny, you won't be able to believe this now, but you're a great kid. That girl is beneath you. Your entire life is beneath you. I know it's easy to think that life is too hard to handle, and everything is set up to make you fail. But there's another way to look at it. That every moment is a gift. Every painful moment is an important lesson to be cherished. Hell, you're only twenty nine years old. You've got fifty more years on this planet. I'm sixty. I've got ten, maybe another shitty ten after

- (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER (cont'd)

that. You've got to make the most of it.
Don't piss them away like I did.

(beat)

Danny?

Danny is fast asleep. Bunker closes his eyes for a moment, attempting to sleep. A few seconds later he opens them, and stares at the ceiling. It will be quite some time before he falls asleep.

CUT TO:

INT. SWENSEN'S ICE CREAM RESTAURANT - NEXT DAY

Bunker and Danny sit in silence, wolfing down their food and drinking from their ice cream shakes. The table is covered and the food looks delicious: pancakes, eggs, bacon, pitcher of grapefruit juice, home fries, toast, English muffins with cinnamon. Bunker and Danny are in another world as they tear through the feast. Bunker finally takes a long drink from his shake.

BUNKER

How fucking great is this shake?

Danny reaches for his and drinks.

DANNY

Oh man.

Bunker and Danny return to their eating and nothing more is said. What else is there?

CUT TO:

INT. A.A. MEETING - LATER

The meeting is in progress. A beautiful, busty woman, PAM, is speaking.

PAM

I just miss it. Sometimes I still think about how great it would be to have a cold beer. I used to love how those small ice crystals used to melt onto my fingers. But I know where that leads. If you bought me a drink in a bar, I was yours.

Danny and Bunker sit up.

PAM

Next thing you know I'm waking up with somebody who's not my boyfriend, and a
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PAM (cont'd)
vague memory of this guy having his way
with me.

Danny is clearly being haunted by the memory of the scene he
witnessed the night before.

PAM
I loved sex because I thought it was the
only thing I did well. That's where I got
my self esteem. How sick is that? I had
to learn that giving great head doesn't
make me a good person.

Bunker arches an eyebrow.

PAM
But now I realize it doesn't have to be
sex or alcohol. Now it can be the shape
of an apple. Crunching into an apple,
that gets me off.

Danny turns to Bunker.

DANNY
This isn't really helping me.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROWDED SIDEWALK - DAY

Danny and Bunker are walking along. It is a nice spring day
and Bunker is enjoying it. Danny, on the other hand, appears
haggard and nervous.

BUNKER
What a day! Stay in the moment. Enjoy
the day.

An attractive older woman passes. Bunker tips his hat and
smiles. The woman smiles back. He looks to Danny, who is
lost in space.

BUNKER
Stay in the moment, Danny.

DANNY
Where?

BUNKER
Here. In the moment. Remember, when you
have one foot in the past and one foot in
the future you piss on today.
(pause)
What are you thinking about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
(practically exploding)
How the fuck can I stay in the moment if
I'm thinking about Sarah?

BUNKER
(begins speaking in a
mellifluous, hypnotic voice)
Look. Watch me. I'm in the moment.
It's all now. I'm noticing things. The
air is cool. It has a sweet, bitter
smell as it passes through my nostrils.

Danny inhales deeply through his nose.

BUNKER
Look at that luggage shop. Since 1851.
That's long time. Look at that tree in
the distance, and its powerful trunk.

Danny looks in the distance at the tree. He's relaxing.

BUNKER
Its bark looks gnarled and woody.

Danny is feeling and looking pretty serene.

DANNY
What looks woody?

BUNKER
The bark. It's gnarled and woody.

Danny, in a sleepy voice.

DANNY
It'd probably make good kindling.

BUNKER
What?

DANNY
Firewood.

BUNKER
Oh yeah, it'd make incredible firewood.

DANNY
Fires are nice.

BUNKER
They sure are. They're romantic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A cloud passes over Danny's face as he remembers Sarah's romantic fire. Bunker notices this turn for the worse.

BUNKER

And an important way to heat a house.

DANNY

I've got to get her back. Bunker grabs Danny, and forces him to sit on a bench.

BUNKER

Listen! Do you want to feel better?

DANNY

Yes.

BUNKER

It's time for you to get a job. It's time for you to make a list of all the people you've harmed, and become willing to make amends to them.

DANNY

What does that mean?

BUNKER

It means you apologize to them. If you owe them money, you pay them back. If they're dead, you do something nice to a stranger. Give a homeless guy ten bucks or something.

DANNY

So you just have to become willing to apologize if circumstances present themselves, which often times probably won't.

BUNKER

Oh, it'll happen 'cause you're gonna seek them out.

DANNY

You sort of love to let sleeping dogs lie.

BUNKER

And fester like a raisin in the sun, Danny. No way baby, once you've gotten through that list, there's no better feeling in the world. Having that clean slate. It's like, you ever walk in a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUNKER (cont'd)
bar, and there's a guy there and you
stole his coke and fucked his woman? And
you're all uncomfortable. Now you don't
have to be uncomfortable, 'cause you've
apologized to him.

Danny tries to get in the spirit of it.

DANNY
I remember, I was so smashed at
graduation, I threw an egg at some guy's
car. He was pissed.

Bunker's not very impressed.

BUNKER
(beat)
Yeah, that's basically the idea.

BUNKER
Now remember. This has got to be a
fearless inventory.

He hands Danny a legal pad.

DANNY
Fearless.

BUNKER
I've got a meeting. I'll catch up with
you later.

Bunker exits, leaving Danny staring at the lake. A moment
later Danny writes something down.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

Bunker is placing a bet on the phone as a CHINESE MAN
inspects the Hugo Boss suits seen earlier.

CHINESE MAN
I don't know about the cut.

BUNKER
It looks fantastic on you.

The secretary appears.

SECRETARY
It's American Express.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER

Take a message!

SECRETARY

They've called four times today. They want their money.

BUNKER

Tell them I'm working on it.

(to the Chinese man)

I love how a huge corporation is obsessed with me. How I'm doing. "What's happening with my career? How's the job?" They really take an interest in my life.

SECRETARY

And we got another call from your daughter's university. They said if they didn't receive the balance of the tuition they're going to pull her out of classes on the twentieth.

BUNKER

Fuck me! It's half way through the semester, but Stanford has to get on my ass. There's no compassion for the little man in this world anymore.

SECRETARY

What should we do?

BUNKER

You don't have to do fuck one. I'm the one with the problem.

She looks sad.

BUNKER

I'm sorry. How are the Stone Temple Pilots tickets selling?

SECRETARY

We sold all of them.

BUNKER

Put another two hundred on the block.

SECRETARY

We don't have anymore.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUNKER

I know. Don't worry, I'll scrounge some up. Terry might have some.

SECRETARY

I'll do it.

She exits.

BUNKER

(to the Chinese man)

So, what do you say?

CHINESE MAN

I don't like the suits.

BUNKER

You want a cable box?

CHINESE MAN

An illegal cable box?

BUNKER

No, a legal one. I work for the cable company now. Of course an illegal one.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Danny sits in a chair across from a pretty woman, TRACEY, who sits on the couch.

DANNY

I am here to make amends to you.

TRACEY

What does that mean?

DANNY

I am an alcoholic. Part of my recovery program requires me to contact all of the people I have caused harm to and apologize.

TRACEY

What did you do to me?

DANNY

I think we know.

TRACEY

No, I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

Okay, three years we met through a mutual friend. Charlie Honig. We met at a bar, and I pursued you with the sole purpose of having sex with you. I didn't listen to a word you said. I was just trying to behave in the way I thought you'd want me to behave so I could fill up the void in myself by having you. When we did have sex, I didn't even remember your name, and had to find your driver's license while you were in the bathroom to figure out what it was. I'm sorry. You don't deserve that. Nobody does.

TRACEY

Is this a joke?

DANNY

No ma'am. I'm sorry, I hope you'll accept.

TRACEY

I've never heard a man speak like this before.

DANNY

I normally wouldn't either, but I've come to realize that I look to others, often woman, to validate me with no thought as to their feelings. I need to learn to be good to myself. As soon as I do that, maybe I will be strong enough to be in a meaningful relationship. So again, I'm sorry.

She is very impressed by his honesty and vulnerability.

CUT TO:

INT. MOVIE CINEPLEX - DAY

Danny makes his amends to an usher with red hair. The kid has braces and is in the middle of his awkward phase. He seems scared.

DANNY

(intensely)

So I got out of my movie and I just walked into another. No ticket, just taking advantage of the system.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

USHER

But you had a ticket for the first one?

DANNY

But not the second. Basically I thought I was above the rules.

After a pause --

USHER

Well thanks...for owning up to that.

CUT TO:

INT. TRACEY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Danny and Tracey are having an intense sexual encounter on the living room floor.

TRACEY

Oh my God! I'm so glad you came over!

DANNY

Me too! I feel so much better.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO ARCADE - DAY

Danny is addressing a small group of the arcade regulars. A tiny Japanese kid named MOON with a buzz haircut, two burnouts with Dokken t-shirts, a fat black kid named JAMAAL and his skinny little brother DEREK all stand listening intently.

DANNY

So, I just wanted to set the record straight. Thanks.

MOON

So, you didn't drive in the Montreal Grand Prix?

DANNY

That's right.

Derek raises his hand.

DANNY

Derek?

DEREK

But you was a Navy Seal?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

No, and I was not friends with Notorious
B.I.G.

DEREK

Or Tupac?

Danny shakes his head 'no.' The group begins to rumble and shift uncomfortably. Derek is fighting to hold back tears. Finally, Jamaal speaks.

JAMAAL

I don't believe you. Man, the way you
play those games you had to be a race car
driver or something!

The group joins in, nodding their assent and saying "Yeah, you're too good."

DANNY

(genuinely moved)

Thank you, Jamaal. But no, I'm sorry
guys.

Danny sees the disappointment on their little faces. But sadly, he turns to walk away. Moon grabs him by the shirt.

MOON

So, you're not in the mafia?

DANNY

No, I am not. I have recently joined
another organization. It's called...la
cosa nostra.

The kids all "ooh" and "ah." Danny smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. TRACEY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tracey is asleep on the couch. Danny sneaks out. He walks outside.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRACEY'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT DAY

Danny walks to her front door and rings the doorbell. After a moment she opens the door, but leaves the screen door closed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

I have come here to make amends about
this morning. I am sorry. Apparently
I'm still struggling with my issues of...

She closes the door, leaving Danny standing there.

DANNY

(to himself)

The purpose of making amends is cleaning
the trash from our side of the fence.
The other person's reaction is not my
problem. I've done what I had to do, and
I feel better.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Danny walks up to the front door. A red haired WOMAN answers
the door. She speaks to him through the screen door.

DANNY

Hi Susan.

SUSAN

Danny. It's been...forever. What brings
you here?

DANNY

I need to speak with you. It won't take
long. Do you have a moment?

SUSAN

Sure. Just don't let the cat get out
when you open the door.

Danny carefully opens the screen door, then a black cat leaps
over his foot and runs down the driveway, into the street.

SUSAN

Come back Muffin!

The cat is instantly HIT BY A TRUCK.

SUSAN

(screaming in terror).
Muuufiiin!

She runs past Danny down to the street.

DANNY

Sorry...I...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny walks behind her.

DANNY
I'll...come back later.

She doesn't hear him though her tears. Danny slips away without her noticing him leave.

CUT TO:

INT. HONK KONG MASSAGE - DAY

Danny has the whole staff assembled, including Mrs. Lau.

DANNY
I have to be honest with you. I didn't have a groin injury.

MRS. LAU
Danny, you don't have to apologize for getting a massage.

DANNY
But I haven't been coming here for the last three years for 'the massage.'

Everyone leans forward.

MRS. LAU
Then why you come?

DANNY
For the treatment for the...groin injury.

They all laugh hysterically.

MRS. LAU
Danny, that's what we here for.

DANNY
Then why did I always have to go through that song and dance about the groin injury?

MRS. LAU
We don't know, Danny.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Bunker is walking briskly along an industrialized street that looks down on the waterfront, where ships are loading and unloading their cargo. Danny hurries to catch up.

BUNKER

Don't con me with those chicken shit
amends.

DANNY

Will you wait a second?

Bunker doesn't slow down.

BUNKER

Forget it. You don't want to get better.

Danny grabs Bunker's shoulder.

DANNY

Hold it a second, will you? I wanna talk
to you.

Bunker stops and begins shouting. He is holding Danny's list of amends.

BUNKER

There's no way a kid gets to be your age
with that nose and the worst thing he's
done is have a few one nighters, lied to
some kids and gotten a hand job at a
massage parlor. Jesus, I did that last
week.

DANNY

I think I did pretty well.

BUNKER

Bullshit. Dig deeper.

DANNY

This is it. I'm sorry I didn't hurt as
many people as you.

BUNKER

(looks at paper)

Number eleven, stole five dollars off
your mom's dresser in sixth grade. You
know what my number eleven was? A
possible date rape.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

I'm sorry I'm not as sick as you. —

BUNKER

You're as sick as your secrets, partner.

Bunker shakes his head and starts off again. Danny watches him walk away. He starts to yell after him and then pauses obviously struggling with what he's about to say. Finally he yells.

DANNY

There's some sex stuff, you know, that kind of bugs me!

People stop what they're doing. A woman walking with her daughter hears this and crosses the street and looks at Danny. Bunker stops at this news. He slowly turns. There is a look of compassion, but Danny doesn't see it because he's looking at the ground, embarrassed. Bunker lights a cigarette.

BUNKER

Come on kid. Take a walk with me. Tell it to me straight. There's nothing I haven't heard.

CUT TO:

EXT. CARNIVAL - NIGHT

Danny and Bunker walking slowly along the midway at a carnival.

DANNY

I was at this club for a friend's birthday and this really hot, big legged girl starts dancing with me.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Three years back. Danny at Club Peanuts. Danny is dancing awkwardly by himself when a six foot Amazon woman in a slinky dress with big tits begins dancing furiously near Danny, he perks up immediately and picks up his own pace, until they're both just a blur.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny and Bunker. Danny is in a trance, staring off into the distance.

DANNY
This girl was so into me.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Danny and Amazon in a bathroom stall. The girl has pulled her top down, revealing her breasts.

AMAZON
You want some of these big titties?

DANNY
Fuck yeah.

Danny goes for her tits. The girl breaks open an Amyl Nitrate and inhales. Danny moves on from her tits and hikes up her skirt. She stops him.

AMAZON
Patience please. My, you're a little horn dog, aren't you?

She pushes Danny back hard against the stall. Danny is a little surprised by the strength and force.

AMAZON
(in a low, deep, sultry voice)
I'm a horn dog too.

She goes down on Danny.

CUT TO:

INT. CLUB - NIGHT - LATER

Danny rejoining his birthday party. He has a proud smile. A friend approaches.

FRIEND
Where's Lola?

DANNY
What?

FRIEND
The dude you were dancing with?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
What are you talking about?

Danny looks off at the Amazon woman in a corner of the club. She is surrounded by some pretty obvious transvestites. Danny makes for him. Friends P.O.V.: we see words exchanged. Danny throws a lazy, looping roundhouse that the Amazon expertly blocks, delivering a sharp jab that shatters Danny's nose.

CUT TO:

BACK TO PRESENT

Danny and Bunker. Danny is pale and looks ashamed.

BUNKER
Look, you don't know for sure it was a guy.

Danny nods, uncertainly.

BUNKER
Hey, that's what happens when we're drunk and we have our beer goggles on. I've got a few stories like that. You probably had ten drinks that night.

FLASHBACK

INT. CLUB - BEFORE THE FIGHT

Danny and the Amazon are at the bar. The Amazon nibbles on Danny's ear.

AMAZON
Give me a vodka rocks.

DANNY
(to bartender)
Vodka rocks for the lady and a ginger ale for me.

BACK TO PRESENT

DANNY
At least. Probably more.

BUNKER
See. You were so smashed you'd have tried to fuck the crack of dawn. But you should apologize for that punch you threw. That wasn't right.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER (cont'd)
(pause)
Girl or guy.

CUT TO:

INT. GNC NUTRITION STORE - DAY

Danny looks in the store. Then slowly enters. He sees what appears to be a FEMALE employee behind the counter. He walks over to her, and waits for her to finish with a customer.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE
May I help you?

DANNY
(whispering)
Are you...Shawn?

FEMALE EMPLOYEE
Excuse me?

DANNY
Are you the Shawn that hangs out at club
Peanuts?

FEMALE EMPLOYEE
No. Shawn's re-stocking over there.

DANNY
Oh. Thanks.

Danny walks to the aisle. He sees someone.

DANNY
Shawn?

A tall man with a lean, muscular physique stands up. He is dressed in jeans and a normal buttoned down shirt.

SHAWN
Yes?

Danny is surprised he is dressed like a man.

SHAWN
Do you need something?

DANNY
You don't recognize me?

SHAWN
No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

Club Peanuts. We were in the bathroom.
You didn't tell me your...

(quietly)

true sex. And I punched you.

SHAWN

That's happened a few times.

DANNY

You really seemed into me.

Shawn shakes his head, trying to remember.

SHAWN

You're not that guy I punched and head
butted on the dance floor?

DANNY

Yes! That's me!

SHAWN

I really kicked your ass.

DANNY

Well, I got some licks in...but, yeah,
you probably won the fight. But that's
neither here nor there, I'm in A.A. now,
and I am here to make amends to you. I
never should have hit you. I'm sure I
could have found a more polite way to let
you know that I felt hurt that you had
deceived me. So, I'm sorry.

SHAWN

I appreciate that.

DANNY

Man, that feels good. I was really
ashamed, but now I see that we're just
two human beings. I got violent because
I was scared. There's nothing to be
scared of.

SHAWN

Not with me.

DANNY

Isn't that funny how two people can let
things get so far out of control? It's
ridiculous.

(beat)

This is kind of a cool job.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHAWN
(sexy)
You were an amazing kisser.

DANNY
(frightened)
What's a good multi-vitamin, where you
just get everything?

CUT TO:

INT. GYM - DAY

Bunker and Danny are lifting weights. Bunker is in great
shape. Danny isn't.

BUNKER
I'm in the best shape of my life, but I
hate my skin. I've got the body of a
twenty year old and the skin of an old
man.

DANNY
What a cleansing that was. I feel
released.

BUNKER
Now you can make a real amends list.

DANNY
I already have.

Danny pulls out twelve folded up pages of legal paper filled
with amends.

BUNKER
I'm proud of you.

Bunker starts doing some curls.

BUNKER
I found you a job.

DANNY
You found me a job? Really?

BUNKER
Really. Idle hands are the
devil's...something.

DANNY
What am I going to do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER

Well, I gave it a lot of thought. What does Danny like? He likes being outside. Wants a little action. Would like to set his own hours. Likes the law.

DANNY

And you found me a job like that? You're amazing. What is it?

BUNKER

You're going to serve subpoenas.

CUT TO:

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Danny sits between two cars looking carefully at all of the people walking to and from their vehicles. A book and a LEGAL DOCUMENT sit on his lap. He looks at the document.

DANNY

(reading)

Non-payment of child support.

(self righteous)

Scum bag.

A forty year old MAN in a business suit walks into the garage. The man walks to the car next to where Danny is sitting. As he puts his key in his car, Danny runs in front of the man.

DANNY

Mr. Konrad?

MR. KONRAD

Yes?

Mr. Konrad looks up and sees Danny holding out the legal document.

DANNY

You have been served.

MR. KONRAD

Ah shit. I'm not taking it.

DANNY

You don't have to. You've still been served.

MR. KONRAD

Fuck you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny drops it on the floor.

DANNY
Have a good day.

Danny walks away.

MR. KONRAD
You can tell my wife to shove it! She's
not getting a nickel!!! Don't you ignore
me!

He follows Danny, who walks away without expression. Mr. Konrad rips up the legal document and throws the pieces at Danny's head. Unperturbed, Danny keeps on walking. Mr. Konrad runs in front of Danny, and walks backwards.

MR. KONRAD
How do you sleep at night?!

DANNY
How do you sleep at night, not paying
your child support?! You should be
ashamed of yourself.

MR. KONRAD
I should beat your ass.

With total confidence Danny pulls out a badge. Proud to be part of the system he once railed against.

DANNY
I am an officer of the court. Assaulting
me is a federal offense.

Mr. Konrad is deflated.

DANNY
You should get on your knees and thank
God tonight that I have this badge and
that I'm a recovering alcoholic because
those are the only things that are
keeping me from whipping you like a dog
right here in the street.

Mr. Konrad walks away, devastated.

DANNY
Shame on you!!

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S OFFICE - DAY

Bunker sits in his office. The front door buzzer goes off. Nobody replies to it. Bunker looks at a black and white TV monitor, and looks to see who it is. He walks out to the front.

Standing at the counter is an overweight sixteen year old girl wearing a Stone Temple Pilots t-shirt.

BUNKER
Can I help you?

YOUNG GIRL
I came for a refund.

BUNKER
There are no refunds. Sorry.

YOUNG GIRL
But they cancelled the show.

BUNKER
What show?

YOUNG GIRL
Stone Temple Pilots.

BUNKER
Bullshit.

YOUNG GIRL
No. Weiland almost overdosed. The
tour's cancelled.

BUNKER
Who the fuck is "Why-land"?

YOUNG GIRL
The singer.

Bunker starts kicking shit.

BUNKER
Fuck! Those fucking addicts will destroy
you every time!

YOUNG GIRL
Can I just get my money?

BUNKER
No refunds till I confirm this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOUNG GIRL

But it was eighty dollars. I spent all my baby-sitting money on the tickets.

BUNKER

Ah shit.

Bunker pulls some money out of his pocket, and hands it to her.

BUNKER

Don't you fucking kids listen to anyone normal like Anne Murray anymore?

He walks to the back, and sees his secretary.

BUNKER

Where the hell where you?

SECRETARY

I was in the bathroom.

BUNKER

How many Stone Temple Pilots tickets did we sell?

SECRETARY

All of them.

Bunker kicks the garbage can across the room.

SECRETARY

We'll just get our money back from Terry.

BUNKER

Terry didn't have any. I was still hunting for the tickets.

SECRETARY

We sold tickets we didn't have?

BUNKER

We've done it before. We did it on a few Cowboy's games. I found the tickets to sell in time. And the Cowboy's didn't all O.D. At least not enough of them to cancel the game.

SECRETARY

What do you want to do about Rose?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUNKER

Will you please give me a moment to think?

She exits. Bunker begins trashing his office as he screams the serenity prayer.

BUNKER

(screaming)

God give me the motherfucking strength to change the things I can, the courage to accept the fucked up things I can't and the wisdom to know the God damned difference!

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Danny stands behind a pillar watching the businessmen exit an office tower. He reads a subpoena.

A man exits the building, BILL TIMMONS. He looks left and right, then quickly heads toward a parking garage.

Danny steps out from behind the pillar and walks briskly to him.

DANNY

Mr. Timmons?

At the sound of his name Mr. Timmons wheels, hurls his coffee away and breaks into a run. Not just any run either. Mr. Timmons may be wearing a suit, he may be in his forties, and he may be a solid eighty pounds overweight, but none of these facts, however, keep Timmons from being possibly the fastest man you've ever seen. The man is a blur. Danny makes chase.

EXT. BUSY INTERSECTION - CONT.

Timmons runs straight into traffic without hesitation. He runs in between several cars, just missing being hit.

Danny reaches the intersection. He is too scared to try it. He hits the bottom on the crossing light several times.

He finally gets the WALK sign, and runs across the street. A car making a right turn almost hits him as he crosses.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUSINESS DISTRICT - CONT.

Danny chases Timmons full speed down the sidewalk. The street is filled with people who dart to get out of the way.

Timmons takes a hard right and runs down an alley. Danny follows.

At the end of the alley is a chain link fence. The heavy set Timmons amazingly takes one step in the middle of the fence and hurls himself over.

Danny reaches the fence and has to climb several steps on the fence, then struggles over the top, momentarily getting his belt hook stuck on the top of the fence.

The chase continues through a dirt filled area filled with dumpsters, and down a steep hill which leads to a highway.

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONT.

With incredible courage Timmons runs into the middle of the highway, waits for a speeding car to fly right by him, then runs the rest of the way across. Once he crosses, he heads into a forest area on the other side.

Danny runs half way, gets scared, and runs back. He tries again, then stops at the center divider. He waits awhile, then runs across the other side into the forest.

CUT TO:

INT. FOREST - DAY

On the other side of the highway are thick woods. There is no ~~fire~~ - Timmons is creating his own as he burns through the ~~leaves~~ and trees.

Danny faces him with the determination of an Olympian. Now it ~~is~~ if no city exists. This chase could be occurring at any ~~time~~ in our earth's history.

DANNY

You can't run away from your problems!

TIMMONS

Yes--I---can!!!

With ~~that~~ he jets left and runs through a small stream, and out ~~to~~ the other side. He begins to discard the pieces of ~~clothing~~ which are slowing him down. His jacket, belt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny crosses the stream, slipping in the middle.

CUT TO:

INT. MUDDY AREA - CONT.

Timmons flies through a muddy spot of land, getting muddier with each step. The two now look like two jungle warriors.

Danny runs faster and faster, making up ground.

Timmons turns right, then attempts to climb a tree before Danny sees him.

Too late - Danny sees him, and pulls him down to the ground.

DANNY

You have been served!

Danny drops the legal papers on Timmons, then sits down, trying to catch his breath. Timmons looks crushed.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - LATER

Danny and Timmons appear from out of the brush behind the alley, and head back onto the street. Their clothes are in tatters, but they look like old friends.

DANNY

I know you're trying to hurt your wife,
but you're also hurting your kid.

TIMMONS

Life can be so hard.

DANNY

Tell me about it. I'm an alcoholic. But
A.A. has really given me some answers.
Now I finally realize why I was
irresponsible. Why I couldn't get a good
job. I'm not stupid. It was the booze.
Maybe you should check out a meeting.

TIM

I don't drink that much. That's not my
problem.

DANNY

(smiles knowingly)

Really? A wise man once said to me,
"Alcoholism is the only disease on the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (cont'd)
planet that tells you that you don't have it." Some mornings I wake up and my disease is whispering, "Danny, you're not an alcoholic." But you know what? I don't believe it.

CUT TO:

EXT. LARGE SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Danny walks to the front door of an extravagant home. He rings the doorbell. A MAN answers the door.

DANNY
Hi dad.

Danny enters.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Bunker sits. Danny paces around excitedly, drinking from an orange juice container.

BUNKER
Danny, I need to talk to you about something.

DANNY
Shoot.

BUNKER
It has to do with money. Everyone wants to be self sufficient. To be able to stand up on their own two feet, and never have to reach out for help...

DANNY
Wait. Stop right there. I know where you're going with this.

BUNKER
Good.

DANNY
I spoke to my father today and I gave back my trust fund.

BUNKER
What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

I loved that job today. And it made me realize something. I have been on adult welfare, and it de-motivated me. I told my dad, I don't care if I'm homeless, don't give me a nickel. Those days are over.

BUNKER

So, you have no money?

DANNY

No, but I have something better. Pride in my work. This job is perfect. I'm part of something. The system. The system that found a home for me in A.A.

BUNKER

I'm glad.

DANNY

I feel like a superhero, delivering these subpoenas. A lot of these things go to these guys who don't pay their child support. I'm doing something positive for these poor women who are abandoned by these dead-beat dads.

BUNKER

You know some of those dead-beat dads have some sad stories.

DANNY

(firmly)

Then don't have kids. Grow up. I'm telling you, this confirms it for me. I am going to get my shit together so one day I can be a great dad. That's my new goal. I'm going to work the steps - hard. I'm not going to give my neuroses to my kid. Not me.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

An older female TEACHER stands at a lectern. We see Rose seated in the middle of the room.

TEACHER

Please be seated. Before we get started, is Rose McCormick here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Confused, Rose stands up.

ROSE
Yes, ma'am.

TEACHER
May I speak with you for a moment? There
is an issue concerning your tuition.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S OFFICE - DAY

A depressed Bunker sits, his head in his hands.

SECRETARY
Rose is on the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Danny lies in bed. The phone rings. Danny presses the
speaker-phone.

DANNY
Hello?

BUNKER
I'm thinking about killing myself.

DANNY
Who is this?

BUNKER
It's your sponsor.

DANNY
Bunker?

BUNKER
Yeah.

DANNY
Why?

BUNKER
'Cause I'm a dead-beat dad. I just wrote
a suicide note.

DANNY
Wait a second. You just wrote a suicide
note. What does it say?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER

"To whom it may concern. I don't really expect--" I don't want to read this.

DANNY

Come on, Bunker. Just read it.

BUNKER

(sighs deeply)

"anyone to understand--" No, I don't want to. It's too depressing.

DANNY

What, is it really dark?

BUNKER

Yes, it's dark. It's a fucking suicide note. Of course it's dark.

DANNY

I'm coming over.

BUNKER

I'll be dead before you climb on your skateboard.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUNKER'S HOME - DAY

Danny quickly skateboards up to the building.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Danny rushes inside. He looks around the house. He fears finding a mortally wounded body or a hanging corpse. He sees nothing.

He discovers a suicide note. It is very long, at least sixty pages. He reads for a while, then realizes he doesn't have the time to finish.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S CARPORT - DAY

Danny enters Bunker's car port from a side door. The one car garage is filled with fumes. Bunker sits inside of his car, staring off into space.

Danny nonchalantly gets in the car, and sits next to Bunker.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bunker revs the accelerator a bit, then sighs wearily.

BUNKER

Sometimes the best thing you can say
about life is you can end it anytime you
want.

DANNY

That's bullshit.

BUNKER

(mumbles)

I thought it was kind of funny in a
morbid way.

DANNY

Yeah, it was so funny I forgot to laugh.
Listen, I want to know --

Bunker raises an eyebrow in disbelief.

BUNKER

So funny I forgot to laugh? I haven't
heard that in a while.

DANNY

(angrily)

Will you cut the ping pong talk. Tell me
what the fuck is going on. And stop
shining me on.

BUNKER

Can't a guy talk about killing himself
without you getting all on his ass
wanting to know why? I can't give you
every reason why.

DANNY

Just give me one reason and stop acting
like a jerk. You big baby.

BUNKER

I can't pay my daughter's tuition!
Alright! Satisfied!? I'm a dead-beat
dad, like those fools you chase every day
at work.

Danny takes a beat then jokes--

DANNY

Poor me. Poor me. Pour me a drink.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Bunker puts the pedal to the metal. It's scary. The car sounds like it will slip and drive through the wall.

DANNY

Well, college tuitions are really, I think, out of control.

Bunker nods, then stops.

BUNKER

They came and jerked her out of class. It makes me feel so goddamned low and embarrassed to let her down. She's so smart. She's really on the fast track. All I ever wanted to do was support her dreams, and stay out of her way. I don't want to mess up her life any more than I already have.

BUNKER

Good-bye, Danny.

Bunker starts revving the engine hard again.

Danny looks at Bunker, then raises his hand and presses the button on the garage door clicker. Then he opens the electronic windows on the car. The carbon monoxide cloud sails away. Bunker glares at Danny.

BUNKER

Jesus Christ. It took me twenty minutes to get that cloud going.

Danny pulls down Bunker's visor, which has a mirror on it.

DANNY

Look. Say good-bye to the old Bunker. 'Cause there is a new, less suicidal Bunker coming to town to take his place.

BUNKER

Please, don't use my words against me.

DANNY

No, I'm using them for you. You know what the best part of hitting bottom is? It's looking up, and seeing that blue sky. And then every day is...

Bunker takes a beat, then--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUNKER
(starts punching the roof)
Up and up and up!

DANNY
And up and up and up!

Both are furiously beating the ceiling.

CUT TO:

EXT. DANNY APT. - DAY

Bunker is dragging his ass home from a long day at work. He sees a note on Danny's door in Danny's handwriting.

CLOSE UP: ON THE NOTE

Dear Bunker,

If you wouldn't mind meeting at 5422
Devonshire Drive, I would appreciate it.
Been getting some drink signals.

Your Pal,
Danny

Bunker rushes to his car crumpling up the note, as he does an incredibly agile, acrobatic jump into his convertible.

CUT TO:

EXT. KIND OF INDUSTRIAL STREET - DAY

Bunker hurries along, studying the crumpled note. He stops in front of a warehouse. The sign reads -- Ski and Games.

CUT TO:

INT. SKI AND GAMES - DAY

Bunker enters the place and looks around. It is an indoor snow skiing place with bowling, video games, etc.

The place is filled with kids screaming and in one part of the cavernous place he sees a banner proudly proclaiming 'Times Man of the Year Bunker McCormack! A proud Member of the McCormack Family Since 1939.' Danny wearing a coat and tie, signals for the band to begin which it does, playing a jubilant version of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow!" Danny has filled the party with balloons that say 'Bunker!' The

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

party is catered by men and women in tuxes carrying trays of scrumptious appetizers.

The guests are maybe a mix of homeless guys, AA guys, girls. It looks to be quite a party and Danny beams as he goes to the microphone, relishing his role as Emcee. Bunker smiles as Mrs. Lau escorts him over. There is a drum roll.

DANNY

Hey, it's great to be back at Ski and Games. This is my three month anniversary with that guy right there. Bunker McCormack! A man with a plan, at least until he gets benched. A guy that's been charged many times but never convicted. A great man. A great friend. A great, great sponsor. And a great Dad. That's right! I've got the proof. Rose come on out. That's right - Rose McCormack, a great daughter!

The band burst into "When the Saints Come Marching Home!" as Rose walks out. Bunker looks panicked as he tries to maintain a smile.

CUT TO:

INT. SKI AND GAMES - LATER

An uncomfortable Bunker and Rose with a jubilant Danny shouting to be heard over the band playing Paul Simon's "Mother and Child Reunion."

DANNY

I tracked her down!

Bunker nods with a fake smile plastered on his face. Danny sees Bunker is a little uncomfortable.

DANNY

Come on. Hug! Let's see some hugs.

Danny pushes them together. Danny whispers loudly into Bunker's ear. This is a nightmare for Bunker.

DANNY

Don't worry about the tuition stuff. She's fine with it. I talked to her. She knows you're doing your best. You just came up a little short this year. Big deal. She's happy to take the time off. She's going to get a job as a waitress. Everything's great. Loosen
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (cont'd)

up. It's a party! I said shake, rattle
and roll!

Danny dances off. Bunker and Rose stand looking at each
other, smiling uncomfortably.

BUNKER

You look great.

ROSE

Thanks. So do you.

BUNKER

Thanks.

(pause)

I want you to know you don't have to
worry about next year. I'll have the
money and --

Rose, hesitates, then hugs her dad. Bunker looks scared.

ROSE

I'm not worried.

Danny is standing off in the distance looking as happy as
we've seen him. Bunker sees Danny as his daughter hugs him.
Danny gives him the thumbs up, then shrugs as if to say "this
is so beautiful." Bunker smiles a smile we've never seen
before. His eyes are cold. Oblivious, Danny points to his
heart.

ROSE

Danny's been telling me all about your
adventures together.

BUNKER

Really?

ROSE

Sounds like you guys have a lot of fun.

BUNKER

Why do you say that?

ROSE

That's just what Danny says. He thinks
you're Christmas.

Bunker looks out at Danny, who is leading whatever that dance
is where everybody is going in a line. His eyes narrow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUNKER

He said that? No kidding. I think he's Christmas too. Will you excuse me for a second? —

ROSE

Alright.

Bunker walks to the bar and gets a Coke. He needs a breather.

ON ROSE

Danny walks over to Rose. They begin to talk and laugh.

ON BUNKER

Drinking his Coke, watching Danny talk to Rose in a relaxed, casual way in which he has certainly never been able to do.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - LATER

Rose gives Danny a ride home.

ROSE

I don't think he liked seeing me. He seemed uncomfortable.

DANNY

What are you talking about?

ROSE

Basically if you're not in A.A. my dad doesn't have time for you.

DANNY

Trust me. I've gotten to know your dad pretty well. He didn't like seeing you - he loved it.

ROSE

Why do you think he left early?

DANNY

I think for exactly why he said. He'd had too much fun for one night.

ROSE

Thanks for tonight. That was really great what you did for my father.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

It's nothing compared to what he's done
for me.

Rose leans over and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Danny comes in. Bunker is watching TV with no sound.

DANNY

(takes off his coat and tie)
Bunker, wow, Rose is really on the fast
track. So smart. And funny too. She's
definitely inherited your irreverent
sense of humor. God she was making me
laugh.

BUNKER

Oh, she's a great kid.

DANNY

Was there a little tension there between
you two? Rose was worried that you
seemed a little uncomfortable.

BUNKER

Danny, I'm a parent. I was in parent
mode.

DANNY

That's what I was telling her. "Fathers
and daughters."

BUNKER

So, what's the word on the street with
Sarah?

DANNY

Sarah? Sarah from the past? I wouldn't
know, because I have a new address, 10621
Totally Present.

He sticks out his hand for a high five from Bunker, who
reluctantly obliges. Danny heads into his room to hang up
his clothes.

BUNKER

Thanks for the party. It was much
appreciated.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (OS)

De nada.

BUNKER

Do me a favor, don't call her.

Danny comes to the doorway.

DANNY

Who?

BUNKER

Rose...you know, just because you're in recovery and you're not supposed to start any new relationships till you've been sober for a year.

DANNY

Did you just make that up?

BUNKER

Why? Are you planning on calling her?

DANNY

Jesus Bunker, what's going on?

BUNKER

Nothing. Just don't call her.

DANNY

Fine.

Danny goes in his room and shuts the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Danny is skateboarding along, coming home from work. He's gotten kind of good on the skateboard. We see him do a few tricks, a bunny hop, jumping on and off the sidewalk etc., etc. All this while holding a carton of milk, which he drinks from. Something catches Danny's eyes as he nears his apartment. He stops.

On Danny's P.O.V. we see Rose, sitting at Danny's door, petting her dog Blue, watching Danny. She waves shyly. Danny and Rose are separated by about forty yards.

DANNY

Hey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSE
Hey. (pause) It's Rose.

DANNY
Yeah, I know. How's it going?

ROSE
Fine, thanks. Are you coming up?

DANNY
Yeah.

Danny finally moves. Skating over as he nears the stairs we see him do his best trick yet where he flips the skateboard up over his head and catches the board as it spins through the air with his left hand.

ROSE
Wow. That's pretty snazzy.

Danny acts nonchalant.

DANNY
What's that?

ROSE
(mimes his trick)
With the skateboard.

DANNY
Oh yeah. That little flip deal. Take a look at this one.

Danny hands her his milk, backs up about ten yards and skates toward her hard, executing a loud spin top. The dog freaks out and hurls himself at Danny, biting his forearm. Blood trickles down from his arm.

ROSE
Oh my God. Blue! No!

She pulls Blue away, who snarls. Danny stands cradling his bleeding arm.

ROSE
Did he get you?

DANNY
Yeah he got me.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Danny, with a band aid on his arm, and Rose walk briskly along the ninth hole of a beautiful golf course. Danny carries her clubs and looks out of place with his pale legs and decidedly un-golf dress, especially next to Rose - she looks like Grace Kelly in her blue windbreaker, white skirt and tan legs.

DANNY

Do you like your name?

ROSE

Not really. It's such a grandmother's name.

DANNY

Well, what about Rosie?

ROSE

Yeah. I don't know. I'm kind of used to Rose.

DANNY

They both sound pretty to me.

Rose stands over her ball and looks at the yellow pin about two hundred yards away.

ROSE

What do you think, maybe a five iron?

Danny hands her a five iron and steps back and looks at the pin as Rose prepares to hit.

DANNY

Boy, that's a long way away.

Rose stops and looks at Danny. But Danny keeps looking into the distance. Rose swings and hits a good shot.

DANNY

Look at that ball go! Boy, you sure can hit it.

ROSE

Thanks, Danny. My dad never even played golf. But he loved the idea of having a kid who did. He thought of golf as making it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

Well, he's right. You're in college. You're on the golf team. You can whack the shit out of the ball. What could be better?

ROSE

Do you want some sunscreen for your legs?

Rose hands him some lotion which he begins to lather on his skinny white legs.

DANNY

Your legs sure are tan. Mine aren't designed for this weather.

ROSE

They look okay to me.

CUT TO:

INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Danny sits in a chair. Rose sits on the bed.

ROSE

So tell me about my dad.

DANNY

He's great...you know he's a good guy.

ROSE

Is that it? "He's a good guy?" Come on Danny. What does he like to do? Does he have a girlfriend? What is he like with women? Does he have sex with them?

DANNY

Rose! Come on, I feel a little uncomfortable talking about all that stuff.

ROSE

Now you're interesting me. Don't tell me - the most robotic shut down person in the world has this wild, crazy side?

DANNY

He's not robotic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSE

Here's my imitation of Bunker.

(stiff manner)

Hello Rose. How are you?

DANNY

Listen, I wish girls liked me as much as they like your dad. They're crazy about him. Your dad's like a Marlon Brando-type, flying along on his Kawasaki, catching footballs, bird dogging chicks.

Rose laughs at this image.

ROSE

He has a motorcycle?

DANNY

You've never seen his bike. You've got to see it.

ROSE

What are you guys, like, best friends?

DANNY

He's my best friend. If I'd met your dad ten years ago I'd be a self-made millionaire right now. Or a Senator. Or a captain of industry.

Rose starts to laugh.

DANNY

I'm serious.

ROSE

I can't see why a girl wouldn't like you as much as my father.

DANNY

I can. Remember my lousy skateboarding trick? That's as good as it gets.

ROSE

What did you think of me when you dropped me off the other night?

DANNY

I thought you were very nice. I hoped I'd see you again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ROSE

Ask me what I thought.

DANNY

What did you think?

ROSE

I thought two things. Do you want to know what I was thinking when you were saying good-bye, or as I watched you walk away?

DANNY

You watched me walk away? I think I want to know that.

ROSE

I thought, "I'm going to fuck that guy."

Danny is taken aback.

DANNY

You really thought that?

ROSE

Yeah.

DANNY

And in that thought you used that word? You didn't even think "make love"?

ROSE

No. Does that shock you?

DANNY

Well, you are in college. I guess that is an experimental time.

She leans in and kisses him.

CUT TO:

EXT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - DAY

The door is open three inches. The chain is still on. Danny apologizes to two sets of eyes on the other side of the door. They belong to Sarah and Charlie.

DANNY

(to the crack in the door)
That's when I knew my life was
unmanageable. I was like Kurtz in
Apocalypse Now, just a madman living
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (cont'd)
beyond the rules of society. Who carries
mace?!

SARAH
You don't have it now, do you?

DANNY
No, I...

He puts his hands in his pockets. Charlie and Sarah get
scared and slam the door shut.

DANNY
No...wait.

They open the door an even smaller crack. Danny pulls his key
chain out of his pocket which now has no mace on it.

DANNY
Look, see.

Feeling safer, they open the door a hair more.

CHARLIE
I'm sorry I hit you.

DANNY
No problem. At the time that was the
worst moment of my life, but now I
realize it was a turning point. It was
the best thing that could have happened
to me.

SARAH
I'm glad for you.

DANNY
Good luck to you guys. You make a great
couple. Take care.

Danny exits. The door closes.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - DAY

Bunker's POV from behind a tree. He smokes a cigarette.
Danny is dropping Rose off. It's a rainy day and Danny holds
an umbrella for both of them as they dodge puddles on the way
to her house. Rose kisses Danny lightly on the cheek and
disappears inside. Danny stands there for a moment. Rose
opens the door again and gives him another kiss and then
closes the door. Danny closes the umbrella and walks back

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

out into the rain, letting it come down on him. Bunker has no expression on his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Bunker waits on Danny's doorstep, soaking wet, as Danny pulls up.

DANNY
(incredibly cheerful)
When is this rain going to let up?

BUNKER
Come on. I want to go to a meeting.

DANNY
Now?

BUNKER
Yeah now. Or do you have some place you have to be?

DANNY
No. I always have time for a meeting with my sponsor. Sobriety comes first. Right?

BUNKER
Right.

CUT TO:

INT. A.A. MEETING - DAY

Danny is speaking at a meeting.

DANNY
I am so happy. New job, new attitude. Promises were made, and promises were delivered. Bunker, when we first met you asked me if I wanted what you had. And my disease told me, "There's nothing you want from this old geezer."

Everyone laughs.

DANNY
But today I look you in the eye and say, "Yes." Emphatically, unequivocally and immediately, "Yes."

He looks down at Bunker, who does not look happy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
"Getting sober." Thanks.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S CAR- DAY

Bunker and Danny driving. Bunker turns the music up painfully loud and drives with his eyes fixed straight ahead. Danny is sitting uncomfortably, and after a moment turns down the music. Bunker immediately turns it up full blast again and stares coldly at Danny, daring him to turn it down. Danny almost has to shout to be heard.

DANNY
What's going on?

Bunker looks at Danny and then just shakes his head. Danny looks at Bunker for a moment and then they both stare out the front window. Bunker drives on, finally coming to a bridge over a pond. As they cross the bridge Bunker finally breaks the silence.

BUNKER
Ever hear of Chappaquidick?

DANNY
If this is about missing that meeting the other day, I'm sorry.

Bunker pulls the car over to the shoulder.

BUNKER
Great friends of world history: Kane. Judas. Sammy 'the Bull' Gravano. And now we add a new name to the list - Danny the snake.

DANNY
What are you talking about?

BUNKER
Did you kiss her?

DANNY
Who?

Bunker laughs maniacally.

BUNKER
"Who?" he says. Leave her alone. She's the one thing in my life I did right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

You barely talk to her.

BUNKER

Maybe that's the point. Maybe that's why she's doing so well.

DANNY

She's not doing so well. She needs you. You're her father.

BUNKER

So you won't stay away from my daughter?

DANNY

I just want to get to know her. I like her. Maybe if you talked to her, she wouldn't be so into me.

BUNKER

Don't lecture me about fatherhood.

DANNY

Maybe you need a lecture.

Bunker pulls over. They both get out.

BUNKER

I'm a good enough of a father to know I don't want her to waste one second with a trust fund dipshit who's greatest accomplishment is the second highest score on the Galaga video game at 7-11!

Danny is stricken.

DANNY

So all that stuff, "Danny you're a great guy," "I believe in you," "Danny you can beat this disease"?

BUNKER

I said that because I thought you were an alcoholic.

DANNY

What are you talking about?

BUNKER

Danny, you're not an alcoholic. You're just a bad friend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

(outraged)

I don't have to stand here and listen to this!

Danny turns to walk away.

BUNKER

And to think I crashed that motorcycle just to keep your mind off drinking for a few hours. What a waste.

DANNY

You know what, Bunker, I didn't kiss your daughter. I fucked her because I'm an alcoholic, and that's what we do!

Bunker picks up a piece of gravel and hurls it at Danny, narrowly missing him.

DANNY

Dead-beat dad!

Danny scrambles down the embankment as Bunker runs to his car.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROSE'S AUNT'S HOME - DAY

Bunker screeches his car to a stop. He runs to the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bunker and Rose are speaking. Bunker keeps pacing to the window to look for Danny.

BUNKER

I'm going to tell you something. You can take it or leave it. I trust your judgement.

ROSE

Please, tell me.

BUNKER

I know you and Danny have hit it off. But you should know--he was bragging that he has been with transvestites. He can not hold down a job. His own father

- (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER (cont'd)
fired him. He cavorts with young children in a way I find borderline inappropriate. He is a liar, and a thief, and sickest of all, he's been masquerading as an alcoholic. Do with that what you will.

ROSE
Why would anyone pretend to be an alcoholic?

BUNKER
(points to his head)
He's sick and stupid.

ROSE
Get out.

BUNKER
What?

ROSE
Don't use that coded B.S. with me. "I trust your judgement." "Do with that what you will." You wouldn't be here if you trusted my judgement. You don't want me to see your friend.

BUNKER
I worry about you.

ROSE
Suddenly you care. I can go out with whoever I want to. Where were you when I went out with the football player who cheated on me with half the school? Or when I was dating my drama teacher? You didn't even know because you never call me. Unless of course it interferes with your life.

BUNKER
Rose.

ROSE
Just go, dad.

CUT TO:

INT. ROSE'S ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

Danny is speaking to Rose. Danny is standing. Rose is seated.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

I'm just so uncertain about what I'm doing and the idea of bringing another person into that uncertainty, I don't know if I'm ready to bring someone into that. And the guilt that would accompany that if I let you down.

ROSE

What are you talking about? We've known each other for a week. You talk like we've had this long relationship. For you to talk like this. It's crazy.

DANNY

That's just it. I am crazy.

ROSE

My dad put you up to this.

DANNY

No he didn't.

ROSE

Yes he did. He doesn't want you to see me.

DANNY

What do you think, that I just do anything your father says? Your father says break up, so I break up.

ROSE

Yes.

DANNY

I can't believe you said that. If that's how you think, maybe we should just forget it.

ROSE

I can't believe this. My father's an asshole and so are you.

DANNY

What are you getting so worked up about? You said it yourself, we've only known each other for a week.

ROSE

My dad is a psychopath.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

That's not a nice way to speak about your father.

ROSE

And you're just like him. You're more than happy to disengage from any real connection, just like him.

DANNY

Rose, I'm an alcoholic. I have a lot to work out before I can start a relationship. I'm supposed to wait a year.

ROSE

Danny, I've been around alcoholism my whole life. You're not an alcoholic. You may be fucked up. Gullible. Dim-witted. Lonely. And blind to the fact that the best thing that ever did happen to you and ever could happen to you is walking away.

She walks out of the room, leaving Danny alone.

CUT TO:

INT. A.A. MEETING - NIGHT

Danny and Bunker both attend, but sit on opposite sides of the room. The meeting ends. Danny is approached by a soft, gentle looking sixty year old man. Although we can do not hear the conversation, we can see that Danny is agreeing to let him be his new sponsor.

Danny looks over to Bunker. Agitated by this, Bunker walks over to a young, hard core looking drug addict and asks to be his sponsor, then looks back at Danny.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Bunker sits across from his new sponsee JOSH, a weathered looking kid who has a pierced nose, and numerous tattoos.

BUNKER

Josh, alcoholism doesn't run in my family, it gallops.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

What the fuck does that have to do with me?

BUNKER

I'm just trying to let you know I understand.

JOSH

What do you understand? You did a little blow during a Bee Gees concert in the seventies. I'm hooked on crank!!! My life is an endless nightmare from which I can not escape.

BUNKER

See, you admitted you have a problem. That's a huge step. Congratulations.

JOSH

Fuck you old man.

BUNKER

That's not you talking, it's your disease.

JOSH

No, it's me.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Bunker is preparing the couch for Josh to sleep on.

BUNKER

You can kick this thing. And you know how you're gonna do it? I'll tell you how. Honesty, openness, willingness.

JOSH

(very quietly)

I am going to strangle you tonight.

Bunker is not sure what he just heard.

BUNKER

What did you say, Josh?

JOSH

I said I was going to strangle you tonight.

(CONTINUED)

BUNKER
I'll yell for help.

JOSH
That's where the pillow comes in.

BUNKER
You've got a dark sense of humor don't
you Josh?

CUT TO:

INT. AL MELLOW'S APARTMENT - DAY

Danny sits across the kitchen table from his new sponsor, an effeminate looking sixty five year old man named AL. Danny is eating a banana.

AL
I don't think he should have been making
up his own steps.

DANNY
I think he truly was trying to make the
program better.

AL
I think Bill W. and Dr. Bob knew what
they were doing. We should all just try
to follow it.

Danny finishes eating a banana.

DANNY
Where's your garbage?

Danny finds a garbage compactor.

AL
No, don't put it in there. I take my
banana peels and put them in a sealed
baggie, then I freeze it. Then next time
I go to the supermarket I just toss it in
the dumpster.

DANNY
Why can't I just toss it in the garbage
compactor?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AL

I don't like to put food in there, 'cause then it gets stuck on the top of the compactor, so what I do is...

He gets up and shows Danny.

AL

...put newspaper on top of the garbage, this way when it gets all squished, the compactor doesn't get all dirty. But the banana's are for freezing.

DANNY

That's smart.

AL

Let's talk some more about step three. That has always been my favorite step.

CUT TO:

MUSIC UP: LOU RAWLS SINGS "IF I COULDA WOULDNA SHOULDA"

SEPARATION MONTAGE

EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

Danny rollerblades by himself.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Bunker drives his motorcycle, deep in thought.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Bunker speaks with a homeless man.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Danny walks over to a homeless man.

DANNY

(sweetly)

How are you doing today, buddy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The homeless man gets up and explodes, screaming at Danny.

HOMELESS MAN
Don't condescend to me motherfucker! I —
killed twenty seven men in Vietnam!!!

Danny runs away.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Bunker is laying in bed with a prostitute.

PROSTITUTE
That's seventy five bucks.

BUNKER
Could I hook you up instead?

PROSTITUTE
What do you got?

BUNKER
Sheryl Crow.

PROSTITUTE
What section?

BUNKER
Front of the mezzanine.

PROSTITUTE
Forget it.

BUNKER
How 'bout floor seats, twenty second
row?

PROSTITUTE
All right.

He gets the tickets out of his pants and hands them to her.
She exits.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S LOFT - NIGHT

Danny is cleaning up. He finds Bunker's old suicide note. He sits down and reads it with a wistful, bittersweet expression.

CUT TO:

INT. A.A. MEETING - NIGHT

Danny sits with his new sponsor, Al. He looks melancholy. He glances across the crowded room and sees Bunker with his new sponsee, Josh. Bunker turns and sees Danny looking at him. Danny quickly looks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Bunker's new sponsee Josh is holding a football. Bunker takes off on the motorcycle. Josh throws a perfect spiral into the back of Bunker's head, then begins to scream.

JOSH
I want drugs!!!

END OF SEQUENCE

CUT TO:

INT. A.A. MEETING - NIGHT

The meeting has ended. On the way out, Danny, Bunker, Josh and Al are suddenly face to face.

BUNKER
Danny.

DANNY
Bunker.

BUNKER
How are you doing?

DANNY
Fantastic. Al has taught me so much.
You?

BUNKER
Never felt better. Josh is a wonderful
kid. We really relate to each other.
Maybe it has something to do with the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER (cont'd)
fact that we're both really alcoholic
drug addicts.

Josh turns to Bunker.

JOSH
You're not a drug addict. I was on angel
dust the other night and you didn't even
notice.

BUNKER
Clam it, Josh.

JOSH
Is this the guy who banged your daughter?

Bunker grabs Josh by the shirt.

BUNKER
You shut your mouth!

JOSH
Take your hands off me.

BUNKER
I'll do what I want to do you sleaze bag.

Bunker releases him.

JOSH
(to Bunker)
You're fucked in the head.

Josh storms off.

DANNY
Is that the step where you call your
sponsee a sleazebag and grab him by the
throat? That must come right after the
one where you tell him you're his friend
but you don't really mean it.

Bunker is stung.

AL
You ready Danny?

DANNY
Yeah.

AL
You want to stop off at Swensen's and get
a shake.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

No. Too many bad memories.

Al and Danny exit. Bunker is left alone.

JOSH (OS)

Let's get the fuck out of here!

CUT TO:

EXT. ROSE'S AUNT'S HOUSE - DUSK

Bunker rings the front doorbell. Rose's aunt answers the door.

BUNKER

May I speak with Rose, please?

ROSE'S AUNT

She doesn't want to speak with you.

BUNKER

Could you please give her this?

He tries to hand her an envelope, which she refuses.

ROSE'S AUNT

She said don't accept any more money.

BUNKER

What about her tuition?

ROSE'S AUNT

She's not going to go to Stanford anymore. She's enrolling in community college.

Bunker looks as though he has just been hit by a sledge hammer. This is the worst news Bunker could possibly have heard. The aunt, seeing this, tries to throw Bunker a bone.

ROSE'S AUNT

I hear they have some pretty good teachers.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Danny sits with Al. He is upset from his encounter with Bunker.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AL

Are you sure? Maybe you should think about it.

DANNY

No, I'm not going to go to any more meetings. I've done my ninety. It's time to head back to civilian life.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Bunker parks on the street, then walks toward the entrance of the building. A blood curdling scream comes from somewhere up above. Bunker doesn't even look up.

JOSH

Aaaaaaahhh! . Aaaaaahhhhh!

We see Josh standing on a balcony ledge, holding a bottle of Jack Daniels, ready to jump. He sees Bunker. His screams intensify.

BUNKER

(non-chalantly/without looking up)

Evening Josh.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Bunker enters. As the screaming continues he puts his keys on a side table, then looks at a picture of his daughter on a mantle.

JOSH

I can't take it anymore! Live with this on your conscience mother-fucker!

Bunker walks over to Josh, takes the bottle of Jack Daniels out of his hand.

BUNKER

Jump.

Bunker drinks it like it's water. Josh looks scared.

Bunker sits on the couch, and takes another swig from the bottle. Josh walks over to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUNKER

Cut the drama. How long did you sit on that ledge waiting for me to come home? You're a fucking lightweight.

Confused, Josh comes down from the ledge.

JOSH

I'm a lightweight?

BUNKER

You think you're such a hard core addict. You're a pussy. I'll show you how we do things old school.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO ARCADE - NIGHT

It is closing time. Danny is the last person playing video games. A sixteen year old employee waits for Danny to finish his game.

EMPLOYEE

Sir, I have to lock up.

Danny messes up, and his ship is killed.

DANNY

Are you happy? Now you can go home.

Danny mopes out of the arcade.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Bunker, now wearing a Scottish kilt, is now playing 'quarters' with Josh, and two of Josh's friends, a large black man named DAVE, and a Hispanic man with a ZZ TOP style beard named RONALD.

Bunker puts a glass on the far side of a very long table, then bounces it four feet across the table and into the mug.

BUNKER

Drink bitch.

Ronald drinks.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Now in full Forrest Gump ping-pong mode, Bunker, with eyes closed, ricochets a quarter off the ground, against the wall, and into a glass sitting on a chair.

Josh, Dave and Ronald are forced to drink.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Bunker bounces a quarter into the air, it lands on the edge of a shot glass. Bunker makes a gun gesture with his hand and points it at the quarter.

BUNKER

Pow.

The quarter falls off the edge, and lands in the glass. Bunker blows on his finger, then drinks the shot.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ronald runs across the room carrying a mug filled with beer. Bunker spits a quarter out of his mouth, and it somehow lands in the mug.

Bunker screams like an animal. Ronald and Dave high five him. Josh just stares.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Josh has stretched the phone cord into the bathroom's shower. He speaks in a low whisper.

JOSH

(whispering)

Rose? I'm really worried about your dad. I've never seen him like this. He's really scaring me. He's been drinking.

We hear a roar. Something is smashing against the door.

JOSH

Oh my God. Come over quick. And bring that guy you were banging.

CUT TO:

INT. ROSE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rose is holding the phone. She hears a door being knocked off its hinges. The phone goes dead.

ROSE
Hello? Hello?

OPERATOR RECORDING
If you would like to make a call, please
hang up.

CUT TO:

EXT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Danny races down his driveway to Rose, who is impatiently waiting in her Volvo. She hardly even waits for Danny to close the door before she guns it.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Danny straps on his seat belt as a teary Rose shifts gears.

DANNY
(like a Doctor rushing to
surgery)
Brief me. What do we know?

ROSE
(pretty calm)
I think he might be having a breakdown.
My aunt told him I'm going to go to
community college.

DANNY
Rose! Stay calm! What else?!

ROSE
Dad's drunk!

DANNY
Goddammit. Fucking Josh probably has a
knife to his throat forcing him to drink.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dave and Ronald are holding Josh, who has a grapefruit on his head. Across the room Bunker points a bow and arrow at the grapefruit.

BUNKER

Guess who I am now? One hint. First name is William.

JOSH

For God's sake I don't know. William Tell?

Bunker lets it fly.

BUNKER

No. Burroughs!

CUT TO:

INT. ROSE'S CAR - NIGHT

ROSE

Josh called terrified from Dad's. I think Dad might be hurting Josh.

DANNY

Trust me. Josh is fine. What else?

ROSE

Oh God. I don't know. It sounded like an Earthquake was hitting.

DANNY

Can't this thing go any faster?!

Rose comes to a stop sign.

DANNY

Run it! What else did Josh say?

ROSE

He thinks dad is going to kill himself. He wrote a suicide note!

Danny visibly relaxes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

A suicide note. Slow down. I don't want to get us killed.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Josh is still being held by his friends. An arrow is stuck to the wall. Bunker loads up another arrow.

JOSH

(breaking down)

I think I've hit bottom. This is my bottom.

Bunker laughs.

BUNKER

You ain't hit bottom. Here's bottom.

He releases the arrow, which flies into the wall several feet above Josh's head.

JOSH

Oh Christ. I'm never going to do drugs again.

CUT TO:

INT. ROSE'S CAR - NIGHT

DANNY

It means a lot to me that you had an emergency and you thought to call me.

(pause)

Rose, I want to apologize. I told your father that you and I had... made love. Because he said I wasn't an alcoholic -

ROSE

Danny, for God sakes - later.

Rose is still stressed and doesn't even seem to hear Danny as she screeches to a halt in front of Bunker's apartment building. She opens her door.

DANNY

Do you think you could ever forgive me?

ROSE

Danny, yes. Let's go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
Okay, let's talk him down.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Rose and Danny approach Bunker's door. There is an eerie silence. It's quiet. Too quiet.

DANNY
Bunker? You there? Put your pen down.
Come on, open the door.

Danny bends down to listen. There is a muffled sobbing.

DANNY
He sounds like he's in bad shape.

The door opens. It is Josh, alone and covered in tears. Danny instantly grabs him by the shirt and throws him up against the wall.

Rose picks up Bunker's suicide note.

DANNY
What did you do to Bunker?!

JOSH
(sobbing-incoherent)
Me? He.

DANNY
Goddammit! You crazy fucking drug fiend!
What are you on, PCP?

Rose sees something outside the window.

ROSE
(indicates the window)
Danny.

They look out the window and sees Bunker stagger to his car.

DANNY
Oh shit, he's going mobile.

MUSIC UP: THE WHO "GOING MOBILE"

CUT TO:

INT. ROSE'S CAR - NIGHT

Danny is now driving. Rose sits in the passenger seat. They follow Bunker's car, which is tearing down the street, weaving left and right.

DANNY

Oh no. I saw him tonight. I could see it in his eyes. He was being an asshole, but his eyes were pleading 'help me.' And I iced him. A.A. is supposed to be drunks helping drunks, not drunks abandoning drunks.

Rose grabs a thick stack of papers off Danny's lap.

ROSE

What's this?

DANNY

His suicide note.

Rose looks through the enormous note.

ROSE

All of this?

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S TRANS AM - NIGHT

Bunker is hunched over his steering wheel, roaring down the street. His expression grim as he adjusts his rearview mirror to see Danny losing ground behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. ROSE'S CAR - NIGHT

ROSE

We're never going to catch him.

DANNY

Hold on!

Danny grits his teeth and swerves off the road, taking a shortcut across a field. A huge dust cloud is stirred up.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

We see Danny and Rose emerge from the field totally airborne, nearly sideswiping Bunker.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S TRANS AM - NIGHT

BUNKER

Kid's got guts. Alright road warrior,
but can you do this?

CUT TO:

EXT. FREEWAY - NIGHT

Bunker turns off his lights, and drives the wrong way down a one way street. This would be very scary if the street wasn't so well lit and if there were any cars coming the other way.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Bunker's car flies full speed into a parking garage. Rose's car follows.

CUT TO:

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Bunker's car drives up to the roof. Once on top he slams on the gas and drives as if he's going to fly off the roof and kill himself.

Rose's car reaches the top just in time for them to witness this.

Just when it appears Bunker is at the point of no return, he seems to get an idea, and slams on the break. The car screeches toward the edge of the roof. When it reaches the edge it is going about ten miles an hour. It hits the guard rail, but does not go through. Bunker throws it in reverse and heads down the parking garage. Rose's car follows.

CUT TO:

INT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Rose's car is stopped near the exit of the parking garage. There is no sign of Bunker's car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSE
Where is he?

DANNY
Did we lose him?

They look around. They drive to the other side of the parking garage.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNKER'S TRANS AM - NIGHT

The car is stopped and Bunker is looking through his rearview mirror. He calmly smokes a cigarette. When Danny's car finally appears he flicks his cigarette and starts off again.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE STREETS - NIGHT

Bunker's car flies down the road. It stops at the edge of a field. Bunker gets out and starts running as fast as he can.

CUT TO:

INT. ROSE'S CAR - NIGHT

ROSE
What is he doing?

DANNY
He's probably going to leap into the river.

Danny and Rose exit the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER FRONT FIELD - NIGHT

Bunker runs incredibly fast. Danny and Rose follow.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER FRONT BUILDING - NIGHT

Bunker runs into a run down building. Danny and Rose follow him.

CUT TO:

INT. BUILDING HALLWAY - NIGHT

Danny and Rose run through the building, opening doors, looking for any sign of Bunker.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Danny and Rose enter the room to discover that it is an A.A. meeting. The room is half filled with about twenty people.

A.A. MEMBER

And I've been sober for nine months, and I keep wondering. When is my life going to get better?

Bunker stands up.

BUNKER

Gentlemen, lend me your ears.

Everyone looks at Bunker. He is a mess. The man who was speaking sits down.

BUNKER

My name is Bunker M. The M. stands for McCormick. I'm an alcoholic. It's been ten minutes since my last drink. I had nine years. That's a lot of God damned chips.

He tosses a ton of A.A. chips out at the crowd, and falls. He struggles to his feet waving off a man who gets out of his seat to help him. Bunker is smiling. He has a scratch down his forehead where blood trickles down over his eye.

BUNKER

I am hammered. I dreamed about being this drunk for two decades. Well, this is it.

(soaks in the feeling)

I guess I wasted a lot of time dreaming. I don't know what I'm doing here. Not just here in this room, but here on this planet. God damn I've hurt a lot of people. Rose, did you know I liked Sinatra?

Rose begins to walk to her father.

ROSE

Come here Dad, please. It's okay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bunker motions for her not to come to him yet.

DANNY
(gently to Rose)
Let him talk.

BUNKER
Ever year me and a friend used to go see Sinatra. We'd get front row seats, and rent tuxedos. One time we even sat next to Dan Rowan. The guy from Laugh-In. And Sinatra would sing, and he'd look down, and it was like he was singing just to us. He'd look at me like I, more than anyone else in that hall, understood what he was singing about. Those were great nights. And I never brought you, Rose. I wish I had. I wish I had done a lot of things.

(loses composure)
God I miss your mother.
(he can't speak for a moment)
I'm sorry for it all. Rose, Danny...
(points to a stranger)
this guy. Chances are I've done something to you, too. I'm so sorry.

Rose goes to him. They hug. Who knows if Bunker's ever hugged her like that before.

They sit down. He hides his eyes from her. She takes his hand, and holds it as the meeting continues.

ROSE
(whispers to Bunker)
We could go see Tony Bennett. He's still pretty good.

BUNKER
I'd love that.

Danny stands awkwardly off to the side, a little uncertain of whether or not he should join them, if he is a part of this. Finally, he sits down across the room from Bunker and Rose's reunion.

CUT TO:

INT. REHAB CENTER LOBBY - DAY

Bunker fills out entry forms on a couch in the sparkling clean lobby of this fancy rehab center. Rose and Danny sit across from him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bunker finishes the form, then they all stand up. Bunker turns to Rose.

BUNKER

Rose. As soon as I get out of rehab we're going to figure out how to get you back to Stanford.

ROSE

Dad, we'll take care of it. You just get strong.

They hug and kiss good-bye. Bunker turns to Danny.

BUNKER

You going to meetings?

Danny is hesitant. Bunker's last words on this subject were, "You're not an alcoholic."

DANNY

Yes. Does that bother you?

Bunker and Danny stare at each other in silence.

BUNKER

You're as much an alcoholic as I am.

Danny is clearly moved.

DANNY

You don't have to say that.

Bunker and Danny hug.

BUNKER

(holds back tears)

Maybe you can be my sponsor when I get out?

DANNY

You've completed me.

Bunker tears up.

BUNKER

Go on. Beat it.

Danny steps away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUNKER
I'll see you in thirty days.
(to Rose)
Rose, keep an eye on Danny.

Bunker smiles.

JOSH (OS)
Move your tits, old man.

We reveal Josh standing at the entrance to the ward.

JOSH
(smiling)
You want top bunk or bottom bunk?

BUNKER
Hold your horses, fucker.

Bunker waves good-bye and then puts his arm around Josh and they head inside.

Danny and Rose leave the rehab center together.

THE END