

RAT RACE

by Andy Breckman

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CREDIT SEQUENCE- RATS IN CASINO

Our THEME SONG KICKS IN and MAIN CREDITS ROLL as we PAN ACROSS a SCALE MODEL OF LAS VEGAS: cardboard hotels, toy cars, plastic people, low-voltage lights, etc.

A TOY BUS pulls up. The door opens, and out scamper: a bunch of RATS- I mean real rodents! The Rats are wearing cute little costumes. They're dressed like tourists.

The "Rat Racers" go on a RODENT RAMPAGE: they scurry- wildly- through the set.. knocking toy cars and buses out of their way. Some chew right through a cardboard backdrop. One gnaws into a low-voltage lighting wire and- ZZZZIT!- shocks itself.

Then the RATS enter a MINIATURE SCALE-MODEL CASINO...and continue to run wild!

IN THE MODEL CASINO: Rats KNOCK OVER a blackjack table.. some Rats watch a FLASHY REVUE, featuring Sexy Dancing Rats.. some play roulette, where ONE RAT gets caught on a spinning wheel and goes flying off!.. other RATS disrupt a CRAPS game, OTHER RATS cluster around a BUFFET TABLE, eating ravenously..

Finally, a RAT grabs the handle of a SLOT MACHINE. He pulls the handle. The wheels turn. The symbols pop up- three CHEESE SLICES in a row. Jackpot! DING! DING! DING! MAIN CREDITS END.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO: A REAL SLOT MACHINE

Ding Ding Ding. Coins come pouring out. We're in....

INT. LAS VEGAS HOTEL- LOBBY- MORNING

The lobby of the biggest, most magnificent hotel-casino in Las Vegas. We PAN OVER to the reception desk. NICK SHAFFER is checking out. Late 20's. Totally straight edge. An ambitious workaholic.

The HOTEL CLERK is a young girl, which makes the following even more embarrassing...

NICK

Hi. I'm checking out. Room 1411.

HOTEL CLERK

Nick Shaffer? I have your bill right here. How was everything?

NICK

Fine. A hundred percent.

She offers Nick a COMMENTS CARD. Nick refuses.

(CONTINUED)

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HOTEL CLERK

Here's a courtesy card. If you have a comment or a suggestion..

NICK

No.. that's okay...

HOTEL CLERK

How was your luck last night?

NICK

Oh. No. I don't- I didn't gamble. I was just here for my roommate's bachelor party. I guess he's the gambler. Heh, heh.

(indicates bill)

Excuse me. What is this? 110 dollars?

HOTEL CLERK

Those are your in-room movies.

NICK

No- I didn't watch any movies...

HOTEL CLERK

(checking her computer)

Let's see. "Afro Whores".

NICK

Afro Whores?

HOTEL CLERK

You watched it, let's see, eleven times.

To make matters worse: a YOUNG BLACK FAMILY is standing nearby. They glare- murderously- at Nick, as...

NICK

No- no- wait-

HOTEL CLERK

Afro Whores, 2:30... Afro Whores, 4:00... Afro Whores, 5:30. It says this morning you watched "Saving Private Ryan" for ten minutes, then switched back over to Afro Whores.

NICK

(eying Black Family)

No! I swear! I was at a bachelor party! There were thirty people there- you can ask them! You have to delete that! I can't have that on my record!

HOTEL CLERK

This is not a record, sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NICK

It could be! Someday. When Judge Bork was nominated for the Supreme Court, they went back to see what videos he rented!

HOTEL CLERK

Okay. Fine. How many times did you watch it?

NICK

NONE! I didn't watch it! Could I speak to the manager, please.

HOTEL CLERK

She stepped away. Are you sure...?
(reading, to remind him)
"Sizzling three-way backdoor action featuring two sexy soul sisters..."

NICK

I don't need to know what it's about! I-
did- not- watch- it!
(giving in, exasperated)
All right- fine- I'll pay.

He takes the COMMENT CARD.

NICK

You know, on second thought, I think I might have a comment or two.

INT. HOTEL ROOM- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, upstairs: meet the PEAR FAMILY -- RANDY and BEV and their kids, JASON, 13 and KIMBERLY, 8. They're not the most attractive- or happy- family in America.

The Pears enter their hotel room. They're all struggling, groaning, carrying heavy suitcases...

RANDY

See? I told you we didn't need a bellboy.

BEV

Congratulations, Randy. You've avoided another tip.

RANDY

Hey, those nickels and dimes add up.

Exhausted, they drop their heavy suitcases. The kids do what kids always do in hotel rooms: they start jumping on the beds.

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JASON & KIMBERLY

I call this bed! Not fair, you got to pick last night! Go to hell, Jason! You go to hell!

RANDY

(looking around)
His and her bathrobes!
(at window)
And a nice view.

BEV

Yeah. We have a great view of rooms that have a great view.

Jason and Kimberly are jumping from one double bed to the other. They KNOCK OVER a lamp- CRASH!- but they don't stop jumping.

RANDY

Hey hey! Be careful! This isn't a Budget Inn! This is a very famous hotel. Someday you'll be able to tell your kids that you stayed here.

JASON

Jesus. I hope I'm not that hard up for conversation.

RANDY

Honey, why don't you unpack. I'm going to look around.

BEV

You're not going to the casino.

RANDY

No! No. Of course not. I just drove all the way from the Hoover Dam. I just want to stretch my legs.

BEV

Randy. You swore on your mother's eyes. We're just here to see David Copperfield. No gambling.

RANDY

Honey. I'm just looking around. I want to check out the gift shop.

Randy starts to leave. Jason and Kimberly, who are still jumping from bed to bed, COLLIDE IN MID AIR- THUD! They fall onto the floor! Randy- halfway out the door- doesn't offer to help.

RANDY

Honey, the kids need you.

INT. LOBBY- STAIRCASE

Meanwhile, downstairs: meet the CODY BROTHERS- BLAINE & DUANE. Cheech and Chong Junior. A couple of stoners. Glazed eyes. Dopey grins.

An insurance scam is in progress. Blaine glances around... then casually drops a SHOT GLASS on the floor, near the top step of a huge staircase. He crosses to Duane.

BLAINE CODY

Okay, this is it. You see the glass?

(Duane nods)

Okay. We walk across the lobby. You slip on the glass, and let gravity do the rest.

DUANE CODY

I ite eak my ecck.

Duane can barely speak. He mumbles and mangles every single word. Inexplicably, Blaine can understand him perfectly.

BLAINE CODY

That's true. You could break your neck. But that's a risk I'm willing to take.

DUANE CODY

Whhhhhhhy ont oooo oo i?

BLAINE CODY

Because, Einstein, one of us has to be a victim and one of us has to be a witness. What kind of witness would you make? I'm your own brother and I don't know what the hell you're saying. How's your tongue? Let me see.

Duane sticks out his tongue. It's recently been pierced, with a tongue stud. It's swollen and discolored.

DUANE CODY

ows it ook?

BLAINE CODY

It looks great. Much better. Okay, here we go.

(indicates security camera)

Don't forget: we're on candid camera, so make it look good.

The Brothers start to stroll.. casually.. toward the stairs. Duane nervously eyes the shot glass on the floor.

But- as they reach the stairs- TWO ELDERLY WOMEN appear and cut them off! One ELDERLY LADY slips on the shot glass, and-

(CONTINUED)

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ELDERLY LADY
WHHHhhhOOOOooooooOO!

She falls- head over heels- down the stairs! The Brothers watch, stunned. A CROWD gathers. Out of nowhere, JOHNNY COCHRAN appears.

JOHNNY COCHRAN
Excuse me. I'm a lawyer! What the hell happened here?

OTHER ELDERLY LADY
She slipped on that glass!

JOHNNY COCHRAN
Those arrogant white sons of bitches!
Ma'am, I'm going to take your case.
They're going to pay for this! They're going to pay through the eyeballs!

The Cody Boys sigh.

INT. RESTAURANT- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, in the casino's restaurant. We meet VERA BAKER. A middle age woman. Simple. Midwestern. Big Dolly Parton hair...

She's showing a baby photo to TWO SOFT-HEARTED WAITRESSES.

BOTH WAITRESSES
Awww. She's an angel.

VERA
It's the only picture I have. I've almost worn it out, from staring at it.

FIRST WAITRESS
And you haven't seen her in 27 years?

VERA
Not until today.

Vera starts to cry. The Waitresses hand her a napkin; she wipes her eyes.

VERA
I'm sorry. I cry all the time. I cry at card tricks.

SECOND WAITRESS
And she just called you, out of the blue?

VERA
No. I found her. I hired a detective. I spent every nickel I had. Is that clock right? She said ten o'clock..

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CONTINUED:

MERRILL JENNINGS enters. She appears to be a sharply dressed, powerful corporate executive, but, in truth, she's barely holding herself together...

Both Merrill and Vera are carrying flowers; it's their signal.

VERA
Merrill- ?!

BOTH WAITRESSES
Merrill? Over here! Merrill!

Merrill steps up. The Two Waitresses step back and watch the reunion, their hearts melting.

MERRILL
Vera Baker I presume.

Vera gasps. She clutches Merrill. Squeezes her hands. She won't let go.

VERA
(overwhelmed)
Is it really you? Oh my God. My baby!
Look at you.

Once again, Vera starts crying. The Eavesdropping Waitresses start crying, too. Then Merrill's CELL PHONE RINGS.

MERRILL
Excuse me. I have to take this.

Merrill abruptly breaks away, and answers the phone.

MERRILL
This is Merrill. No...
(then, quietly seething)
That's unacceptable. Tell Warren if we don't ship by Tuesday we won't be in the stores by Mother's Day and that's unacceptable so don't give me any excuses and do it- do it- just shut up and get it done.

Merrill is so tense.. so angry.. she literally crushes the cell phone.

MERRILL
(composing herself)
I'm sorry.

VERA
You broke your phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MERRILL

It's okay. I always bring one or two extras.

VERA

I can't believe you're here. I was so afraid you'd change your mind.

MERRILL

I almost did.

VERA

To be honest, I always thought that you would try to find me.

MERRILL

Why?

VERA

Well, you know. A lot of adopted children are trying to find their parents. Weren't you curious?

MERRILL

No. I already had a mother. One was enough. One was one too many.

Merrill turns to the Two Waitresses, who are still sobbing.

MERRILL

Hi. Do you think you gals can pull yourself together and bring us a drink?

FIRST WAITRESS

Oh. Sure. What would you like?

MERRILL

I'll have a gin and tonic, with a twist.

VERA

Gin and tonic, with a lemon, please.

Merrill reacts, startled. The Waitresses think it's cute; they go "Awww" again, then exit.

VERA

I suppose you have a thousand questions.

MERRILL

No.

VERA

I was so young, honey. I didn't tell anybody I was pregnant-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MERRILL

(interrupting)

Vera, Vera, I'm sure it's a heartbreaking story but I don't need to hear it. I don't want to hear it. I'm a forward-looking person. I don't dwell on the past. I'm not a dweller.

An uncomfortable pause.

VERA

So you sell cosmetics..?

MERRILL

I own the company. We're going public next year. Do you play the market?

VERA

No.. I play bingo. Do you play bingo?

Merrill sighs, and shakes her head.

VERA

And you're not married?

Merrill shakes her head no.

VERA

Lucianne said you wouldn't be married.

MERRILL

Who?

VERA

A woman I go to. A psychic. She's the one who told me to find you. She said you needed me.

MERRILL

She did?

VERA

She said you're lonely. And you're worried about money. And you have trouble sleeping.

Merrill is startled. This- obviously- is all too true.

MERRILL

Well. Who the hell isn't?

INT. CASINO BAR- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, at the bar. Meet OWEN TEMPLETON, professional NFL referee. Owen is sitting alone. He lifts his glass.

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OWEN
Live long and prosper.

He glances around. No one was listening.

OWEN
(to Bartender)
Excuse me. Miss? I'll have another.

The BARTENDER turns around. The Bartender is strange looking, with spiky hair and wispy sideburns.

OWEN
Oh I'm sorry. Heh, heh. I thought you were a woman.

BARTENDER
I am a woman.

Owen reacts, embarrassed. There's no possible graceful response.

OWEN
Aaaaaaaaaaaaa. Oh. Ah.

BARTENDER
(to Owen)
Have we met? You look familiar...

A GUY AT BAR
Yeah. You do...

OWEN
I get that a lot. I have one of those faces, heh, heh.

There's a TV in the corner, tuned to ESPN SPORTS CENTER.

SPORTS ANCHOR (ON TV)
And now for the ESPN Sports Center Loser Of The week. This week, it's a no-brainer...

A BIG PHOTO of Owen appears behind the anchor.

SPORTS ANCHOR (ON TV)
NFL Referee Owen Templeton made the biggest bonehead call in the history of football. It happened yesterday at Cowboy Stadium with the score tied 10-10, and headed into overtime. They were tossing the coin to see who would kick off. Frank, I've seen this clip a thousand times, I still can't believe it..

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They ROLL A VIDEO CLIP. An NFL game is in progress. Owen- the referee- is mid-field, flanked by TWO TEAM CAPTAINS. Owen flips the coin. It hits the ground.

OWEN (ON TV)

Heads!

Owen picks up the coin. The TEAM CAPTAINS protest!

TEAM CAPTAINS (ON TV)

NO! WHAT THE (BLEEP)!? THAT WAS TAILS!
TAILS!

Pandemonium! The CROWD ANGRILY ROARS! Owen looks down at the coin, confused.

OWEN (ON T.V.)

No... it was... hold on..

RESUME BAR: Everyone turns. Owen's stool is empty. He's gone.

INT. MAIN ENTRANCE- SAME TIME

In the lobby. Nick is leaving. He carries his bags toward the door. A friend from school, RICHIE, runs up.

RICHIE

Nick! Nicky! You're not leaving.

NICK

I'm in court on Tuesday.

RICHIE

No you're not.

NICK

Well, I work for people who are in court on Tuesday.

RICHIE

You pussy! You can't leave. It's still going on up there.

NICK

Richie, I can't. I've had two hours sleep...

RICHIE

Steve Cunningham just hired a stripper. I swear to God, she's got tits out to here.

NICK

What's she doing, dancing?

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RICHIE

Well she doesn't exactly dance. She just crawls out on stage and tries to stand up. Come on.

NICK

No. Richie, I can't. I have to get back.

RICHIE

You can't shit a shitter. You don't have to get back. You're scared. You're scared that it's going to get out of control up there, and someday you're going to be up for Attorney General and it's going to come back to haunt you.

NICK

I'm not having this conversation.

RICHIE

That's no way to live, buddy. That's- not living. That's hiding.

NICK

You're nuts.

RICHIE

Okay. Prove it. Do something. Break one rule.

There's a NEWSPAPER BOX nearby. Richie puts in a quarter, opens the door, takes out a paper. But he doesn't close the door. He indicates the pile of unsold papers.

RICHIE

(taunting)

Look. A free paper. Come on, Nick. Take one.

Nick hesitates; he can't steal a newspaper. Richie sighs.

IN CASINO- SLOT MACHINES- WITH VERA & MERRILL

Meanwhile, Vera and Merrill are each at a slot machine. Vera is dropping quarters by the handful. Merrill plays one coin at a time.

VERA

Play four quarters.

MERRILL

I'm okay.

VERA

You can't win the jackpot unless you play four quarters.

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MERRILL
Wouldn't it be quicker to just flush all
your money down the toilet?

VERA
Yeah but this is more fun.

Vera pulls her handle- CLINK CLINK CLINK- she wins a few
coins. One of them is a special gold coin.

MERRILL
What is it?

VERA
(reading coin)
"You're a winner. See Guest Services."

NEARBY- WITH CODY BROTHERS

A few feet away: Blaine and Duane are carrying a JERRY'S KIDS
jar, which they've obviously just stole from some cashier.

They take quarters from the jar. They play a slot. CLINK
CLINK CLINK- Duane wins a gold coin!

GUEST SERVICES DESK- SAME TIME

Merrill and Vera are at the GUEST SERVICES desk..

MERRILL
That's the prize? A free buffet?

GUEST SERVICES CLERK
It's not a buffet. It's a special
reception, at 10 o'clock in the penthouse
conference room...

(reading from a print out)
"where a spectacular once-in-a-lifetime
opportunity awaits you." That's all I
know.

VERA
(to Merrill)
What do you think?

MERRILL
I think it's some kind of scam.

VERA
(how exciting!)
Oooh! A scam! We'll do it!

GUEST SERVICES CLERK
I'll need to see some ID...

IN CASINO- SLOT MACHINES- WITH OWEN

Owen, the Ref, is playing a slot machine. CLINK CLINK! He, too, wins a GOLD COIN..

IN CASINO- SLOT MACHINES- WITH RANDY PEAR

Randy Pear glances around, to make sure his family isn't watching. He sneaks into the casino.

He steps up to a slot machine- pulls the handle- and CLINK CLINK- he wins a GOLD COIN too.

WITH NICK- VALET PARKING

Nick is out the door. He gives the VALET his parking ticket.

NICK

It's an Oldsmobile. Cutlass.

VALET

Yes sir. It'll be right up.

Nick waits for his car. He looks around, bored. There's a SLOT MACHINE against the wall.

Nick reaches into his pocket. He has a quarter. He shrugs. Why not? He casually inserts the quarter, pulls the lever. The wheels spin, and- CLINK CLINK- he wins. One coin. A gold coin.

PENTHOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM- LATER

A large, plush conference room, on the penthouse level. There's a buffet table. And a LARGE MIRROR against a wall...

Six racers have gathered: Randy Pear, the Cody Brothers, Vera & Merrill, and Owen. Owen is talking to Randy Pear...

OWEN

A family vacation, huh? You've got to savor these moments, am I right? Because they never come again.

RANDY

Exactly.

Merrill- impatient and annoyed- is asking everyone...

MERRILL

Do you know what's going on?

BLAINE CODY

Free food. That's all I know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MERRILL
(to the room)
Hello. HELLO! Does anybody know what
we're doing here?

Everyone shakes their heads. Nearby: Duane is at the big
mirror. He sticks out his tongue, to examine his tongue-stud.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR- BETTING PARLOR

We're in the adjacent room. It's a magnificently appointed
parlor. This is the good life: an open bar.. gorgeous
hostesses.. cigars... caviar.

Gathered are 15 HIGH ROLLERS- the richest men on earth.
Various ages, various nationalities. Some are accompanied by
BEAUTIFUL WOMEN. One Woman is by the mirror. She sees:
Duane's swollen, infected tongue just inches from her face!
She reacts, disgusted.

RESUME- CONFERENCE ROOM

Randy notices Duane's tongue-stud.

RANDY
Mother of mercy. You should sue
somebody.

DUANE CODY
i id i yseef.

BLAINE CODY
He did it to himself. He sent away for a
kit.

Nearby: Owen is explaining the famous coin-toss screw-up.
He's holding an oversize NFL commemorative coin...

OWEN
Everyone thinks we flip quarters. But
it's actually a commemorative coin. See?
You can't tell heads from tails.

Merrill is smoking a cigarette... right in Randy's face.

RANDY
Excuse me. Do you have to smoke?

MERRILL
Yes I do. I'm addicted.

Suddenly the door bursts open and another racer enters. Meet
MR. POLLINI, the MOST CHEERFUL, MOST EMOTIONAL man we've ever
met. He's a force of nature. He speaks in a thick Italian
accent.

(CONTINUED)

MR. POLLINI

Am I too late? Look, I won a coin! A gold coin!

(looking around, overwhelmed)

Dio, che gioia! Isn't it wonderful? Life! It's wonderful! Look at this room! This is a beautiful room! I am Enrico Pollini. I know what you are thinking- Enrico is a girls' name.

OWEN

No I wasn't.

MR. POLLINI

No pun intended.

OWEN

What pun is that?

MR. POLLINI

(noticing buffet table)

Food! Look at all this food! What a beautiful party! Ah! What is this?

Mr. Pollini holds up a cocktail wienie.

MERRILL

It's a cocktail wienie.

MR. POLLINI

A "wienie?" Ha ha ha! I am sorry. My English is not so good. But I am learning! No pun intended.

Pollini is grinning like an idiot, right in Merrill's face. Merrill is unamused.

MERRILL

That's it. Vera, we're out of here.

Merrill and Vera start for the door. But- before they can leave-

ST. CLAIRE'S VOICE

Excuse me.

Everyone turns. DONALD ST. CLAIRE- the legend himself- has entered the room.

ST. CLAIRE

Thank you all for coming. I'm Donald St. Claire, I own this hotel. We don't have much time. There is a meteor the size of North Carolina heading straight for earth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Everyone reacts, stunned. A meteor? Vera and Merrill rejoin the group.

MR. POLLINI
(gasping)
Gesù, che spavento!

ST. CLAIRE
It will kill everything and everyone on the planet. I've built a bunker in the basement of this casino, strong enough to withstand the blast. There's room for eight people. I've chosen the seven of you, plus me. When it's over, it'll be up to us to repopulate and re-civilize our planet.

Everyone exchanges astonished looks. Then- St. Claire laughs..

ST. CLAIRE
Heh, heh. I couldn't resist. I'm sorry.

MR. POLLINI
Ha ha ha! A joke! He made a joke!

ST. CLAIRE
Sit down. Please.

Everyone sits around the conference table.

ST. CLAIRE
Merrill, you and your mother can sit here...

MERRILL
How do you know she's my mother?

ST. CLAIRE
Alas, Merrill, there are no secrets anymore. Wait, that's not true. There is one. One secret left. And it involves all of you.

MR. POLLINI
A secret! Like a mystery!

The door opens. Everyone turns. Nick enters. He scans the room, warily. He's here against his better judgment.

ST. CLAIRE
You must be Mr. Shaffer. Curiosity got the better of you, eh? Have a seat.

NICK
I'm fine. Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Nick remains standing- defiantly- by the door..

ST. CLAIRE

You haven't missed a thing. We were just cutting to the chase.. Cut to the chase. Heh, heh. You'll laugh later.

(resuming)

As you know, the odds of winning a jackpot downstairs- or hitting a state lottery- are astronomical. One in a million. A serious person doesn't even bother. But today you have a chance to play a game where the odds of winning are one in six. One. In. Six. That's one roll of the dice.

St. Claire dramatically takes out a single die, and rolls it.

A lawyer, MR. GRISHAM, appears. Dour, rigid, an utterly humorless man. He's holding some legal documents.

ST. CLAIRE

This is my lawyer, Mr. Grisham, who, tragically, was born without a personality. Mr. Grisham is insisting that anyone who wishes to participate in our little.. experiment, must sign this waiver which absolves the casino from any damages that may occur, personal liability, blah, blah, blah.

Mr. Grisham hands Nick a form. Nick shrugs, and takes the form.

SECRET BETTING PARLOR- SAME TIME

Behind the glass: the High Rollers are sizing up the contestants, like handicappers at a racetrack. Some are consulting programs, and making notes.

FIRST HIGH ROLLER

So Claude, who do you like?

SECOND HIGH ROLLER

(indicates Merrill)

I like the one in the blue. She looks tough -- a thoroughbred.

FIRST HIGH ROLLER

Yes, but she's with her mother. That's going to slow her down.

SECOND HIGH ROLLER

Perhaps.

RESUME- CONFERENCE ROOM

Everyone's signed the forms. St. Claire resumes...

ST. CLAIRE

Exactly seven hundred miles from here is a little town called Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

NICK

Billy The Kid.

ST. CLAIRE

Very good, Nick. It's where they killed Billy The Kid.

MR. POLLINI

Very good Nick! A plus!

ST. CLAIRE

In downtown Fort Sumner is a train station. You can't miss it. As you enter the front door, there are some lockers on the left. Mr. Grisham, do you have the keys?

Mr. Grisham dramatically produces SIX IDENTICAL KEYS- each one attached to a KEY RING, with the casino's icon engraved on it.

MR. GRISHAM

(dryly)

One, two, three, four, five, six.

Mr. Grisham.. solemnly, slowly... hands out the keys.

ST. CLAIRE

Thank you. I call him Mr. Sunshine.

(resuming)

Six identical keys. They all open the same locker- locker zero zero one. Inside the locker is a red duffel bag. Inside the red duffel bag is two million dollars. In cash. In fifties and hundreds. It makes a pile about so big.

(gestures)

The first one there keeps it all. I'll even pay the taxes.

A stunned, astonished beat. St. Claire grins.

ST. CLAIRE

That's it.

Another stunned beat. It's too much to absorb.

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CONTINUED:

ST. CLAIRE

Go.

No one moves.

NICK

Why are you doing this?

ST. CLAIRE

What do you care, counselor? Go.

OWEN

You can't just pick people at random and...

ST. CLAIRE

I can do anything I want, Owen. I'm eccentric. Go.

RANDY

So.. it's like a race?

MR. POLLINI

A race! It's a race! I hope I win!

BLAINE CODY

But what are the rules?

ST. CLAIRE

The only rule is this: there are no rules. Go.

MERRILL

When you say go, you mean... "Go!"?

ST. CLAIRE

Go. Commence. Begin. You've been racing for the last forty seconds. So far Mr. Shaffer is winning, because he's closer to the door.

Still, nobody moves. St. Claire takes out a STARTER'S PISTOL.. points it at the ceiling.. and fires- BLAM!!!

Everyone LEAPS from their chairs! Some DUCK under the table. Then... one at a time... still stunned... they leave the room.

ELEVATOR BANK- MOMENTS LATER

The Racers are gathered near the ELEVATOR BANK. They're still confused. Randy Pear presses the DOWN button.

VERA

So.. what do you think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RANDY

You mean, about the..? I don't know.
What do you think?

DUANE CODY

I ink ee's uts!

OWEN

It's the damndest thing I ever heard.
That's all I know. What do you think?

During this, Mr. Pollini is preparing to run: he's stretching and squatting and breathing hard.

MR. POLLINI

It's a race! A race!

The others ignore Mr. Pollini, and continue...

MERRILL

It's some sort of joke. It has to be.

RANDY

Well, it's not very funny.

Merrill presses the DOWN button. Repeatedly. Anxiously.
Press- Press- Press.

RANDY

I already pressed it.

BLAINE CODY

What sort of jackass would just give away
two million dollars?

OWEN

Maybe it's a publicity stunt.

RANDY

What kind of publicity? He made us all
swear to secrecy!

VERA

Maybe it's a secret publicity stunt.

RANDY

(annoyed)

That's right. Maybe it's a secret
publicity stunt.

MERRILL

Look, he's just a twisted, bored
millionaire turd that likes playing mind
games. It's a power trip thing.

(CONTINUED)

DUANE CODY
ees rewing ith us, ike hen ee ead ear us
ah eteor.

BLAINE CODY
(translating)
He's just screwing with us, like when he
said there was a meteor.

MR. POLLINI
What? You mean there is no race?

RANDY
That's right, Enrico. It is joke. Big
joke.

Mr. Pollini continues to grin idiotically.

RANDY
Don't you have an off switch?

There's still no elevator. Now Owen presses the DOWN button.
Press-press. They're becoming more and more anxious...

OWEN
So.. you're not going for it?

They all shake their heads no. They all exchange suspicious
glances... sizing each other up... who's bluffing here?

SECRET BETTING PARLOR- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, the High Rollers are watching them on a BANK OF
CLOSE CIRCUIT MONITORS.

BLAINE CODY (ON MONITOR)
I play a lot of poker. I can smell a
bluff, and somebody here is bluffing.

RESUME- ELEVATOR BANK

Nick hasn't said a word. They finally notice him.

RANDY
You've been pretty quiet. What do you
think?

Nick takes out an airplane ticket.

NICK
Eleven thirty, nonstop to Chicago. I can
still make it. I'm going to be on it.

OWEN
You don't believe him?

Nick shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RANDY

Then what's he up to?

NICK

I don't know. I don't what his angle is, but there's always an angle. Donald St. Claire, people like him, make millions of dollars a day playing people like us for chumps. I'm nobody's chump.

RANDY

The kid's right. I'm not interrupting our first family vacation in three years to go on some half-assed wild goose chase.

BLAINE CODY

Me neither! My mother didn't raise any idiots.

DUANE CODY

ii hhhg ha mmam chut!

Blaine rolls his eyes; maybe mom raised one idiot.

OWEN

So.. nobody's going for it?

Everyone nods. It's unanimous.

RANDY

Well, I guess that's that. It was nice meeting you all.

(casually)

I'm going to take the stairs. My room is just two floors down.

Randy saunters.. casually.. through a door marked EXIT. A beat. Still no elevator. Owen presses DOWN again.

OWEN

It's probably stuck. I think I'll take the stairs, too.

Owen saunters.. casually.. through the EXIT door. The group watches him go.

SMASH CUT TO: STAIRWAY

Seconds later. The RACE IS ON!!

All the racers- except for Mr. Pollini & Nick- are on the stairs- running!- flying!- nearly falling!- elbowing each other out of the way!

PENTHOUSE ELEVATOR- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, Nick calmly waits for the elevator. Ding. The elevator opens. Nick steps on.

A HOTEL WAITER appears, pushing a cart of food.

WAITER

Hold the door.

NICK

Take your time. No rush.

STAIRWELL\LANDING- SAME TIME

The mad scramble continues! Blaine and Duane leapfrog-literally- ahead of the others by hopping over railings!

Blaine TUMBLES into Duane! They FALL onto a landing, dazed! The other racers CRASH into them, until there's a HUGE PILE UP. As they disentangle themselves, Owen addresses the group-

OWEN

Wait a minute. HOLD ON HERE- JUST WAIT!

They all pause.

OWEN

This is crazy! If we're all going for it, why don't we go together and split the money fifty- fifty.

DUANE CODY

ifty-ifty?!

OWEN

You know what I mean, fifty-fifty-fifty-fifty-fifty. Or whatever.

BLAINE CODY

What about that lawyer- Nick?

RANDY

You heard him! He's out of it. He's on his way back to Chicago.

MERRILL

He's right! We can work as a team. We can take our time. We can fly to Albuquerque then drive over together...

BLAINE CODY

What do you think?

Duane nods. They all nod. They smile, relieved. Then Mr. Pollini- who they all forgot about- comes BOUNDING EXCITEDLY DOWN THE STAIRS!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. POLLINI
It's a race! I'm winning! I'M WINNING!

Mr. Pollini scrambles past them, and disappears down the stairs. A beat, then- Blaine & Duane bolt away! The others follow!

SECRET BETTING PARLOR- SAME TIME

St. Claire addresses the parlor:

ST. CLAIRE
And.. they're off!

Everyone quiets, and turns.

ST. CLAIRE
There are 522 casinos in the world. Soon every Indian in North America's gonna have his own.

Everyone chuckles. Except for Mr. Grisham, who has no sense of humor. St. Claire playfully waves his hand across Grisham's face, to see if he's awake.

ST. CLAIRE
They all have one thing in common. You. They want you. They'll do anything to get you- they'll comp you rooms, private tables, girls. But gentlemen, nobody is offering you action like this! A horse race with animals that can think and plan and lie and cheat and play dirty. It's a one of a kind, once in a lifetime gambling experience! It's my way of saying: I understand men like you.. what you want.. what you need. This casino- my casino- is where you belong.

The High Rollers grin. They're having a ball.

ST. CLAIRE
As you can see, we have six strong, highly motivated contestants. We've put little transmitting devices in their key chains, so we can follow their progress..

St. Claire indicates a HUGE ELECTRONIC MAP of the southwest. There are six computer-generated SYMBOLS- each with a PHOTOGRAPH of a "Racer"- flashing on the map. At the moment, they're all clustered in downtown Vegas.

ST. CLAIRE
Pick your horse. The minimum bet is one million dollars, at three to one odds. You have ten minutes to make your choice.

EXT. CASINO ENTRANCE- VALET PARKING

Nick- who had already checked out- is first out the door.
His rental car is waiting for him.

VALET

The bags are in the trunk. Have a good trip.

INT. PEAR'S HOTEL ROOM- SAME TIME

Upstairs: Randy is frantically packing. Bev hovers nearby...

BEV

A job interview?

RANDY

Can you believe it? They called out of the blue. Thank God I checked the answering machine. And it pays twice as much as Home Depot!

As he talks, Randy is PACKING FRANTICALLY: he jams his shirts into a suitcase- with the hangers still attached.. then dumps out an entire bureau drawer.. then, in one motion, sweeps everything off a bathroom counter!

BEV

It's a real job, right? It's not another stupid scheme--

RANDY

What do you mean "another"?

Jason & Kimberly are wearing head bandages from their bed-jumping accident. Now- in the background- they're smacking each other with BIG INFLATABLE BOXING GLOVES. WHOMP! WHOMP! WHOMP!

KIMBERLY & JASON

(trading punches)

YOU'RE GOING DOWN! HAD ENOUGH? HAD ENOUGH?

BEV

You know what I mean. Pets-Dot-Com.

RANDY

Pets-Dot-Com was not a scheme, Bev! If I had the funding I needed--

BEV

Randy, nobody is going to buy puppies by mail!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RANDY

Well it's easy to say now, isn't it? I mean, in hindsight-

BEV

I was saying it then. I was screaming it! You only had one order and they were dead before-

RANDY

That was not my fault, Bev! That was UPS! They should've said something- "Sir, just a reminder, we do not deliver on Thanksgiving. These puppies might need a little extra water."

BEV

Honey, you're a dreamer. But I've told you a hundred times: we can't eat your dreams.

RANDY

Bev, I swear- !

BEV

So let me be completely clear: if this is another get-rich-quick thing, that's it, don't bother coming back!

RANDY

Honey- I swear! It's a real grown-up job!

BEV

What is it?

RANDY

(inventing)

Uh.. they make ink. For fountain pens.

BEV

And they're in New Mexico?

RANDY

Fort Sumner, New Mexico. I have to be there this afternoon.

BEV

Fine. We'll go with you.

RANDY

No!

BEV

Why not?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RANDY
(think, man, think!)
Uhhhhhhh..

BEV
I didn't want to stop here in the first
place! I don't care about seeing David
Copperfield!

Randy sputters. He's trapped!

RANDY
Fine! Then let's go! Call the valet,
have them bring the van around!

Randy turns to Jason & Kimberly, who are still trading
punches.

RANDY
Let's go! We're leaving!

JASON & KIMBERLY
But what about David Copperfield?

RANDY
Forget David Copperfield! PACK! PACK!
PACK! PACK! Give me those gloves-

Randy pulls a boxing glove off Jason. But he yanks too hard:
his arm flies back and he accidentally slugs Kimberly in the
face! THUNK! Kimberly collapses, unconscious.

EXT. CASINO PARKING LOT- WITH CODY BROTHERS- SAME TIME

The Cody Brother's car: a rusting, beat-to-shit JEEP
CHEROKEE. They peel away from the casino, tires SCREECHING!

Next out the door: Owen, our referee. He scrambles into the
next available TAXI...

EXT. GUS'S CAB- WITH OWEN- CONTINUOUS

OWEN
Airport! I'm in a hurry!

The cabbie turns around. His name is GUS- the world's
biggest Cowboys fan. He's wearing a Cowboys jersey and hat.

GUS
You got it.

RESUME- CASINO ENTRANCE

Behind them: Merrill emerges, dragging Vera. Merrill has a
cell phone. She's talking to a LIMO DRIVER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MERRILL
(into cellular phone)
We're out the door! I don't see you!
WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?

VERA
I didn't leave money for the maid.

MERRILL
It's okay, Vera.

VERA
I always like to tip the maid..

MERRILL
(fuming, barely containing her
anger)
Forget. About. The. Maid. Vera. Let's
just keep our eyes on the prize here,
okay?

Merrill she sees her limo! It's waiting in line, a few cars
back.

MERRILL
There he is! Come on!

She DRAGS her mother across the parking lot, toward the limo.

INT. WITH OWEN- GUS'S CAB- MOVING- SAME TIME

Owen is in Gus's taxi, speeding toward the airport. Gus is
wearing a Dallas Cowboys jersey that says: 33.

The CAR RADIO is tuned to a COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAME. Owen is
very emotional about the game. He reacts to the play by
play...

GUS
Throw the damn ball!
(to Owen)
You like football?

OWEN
Sure.

GUS
Did you see the Dallas game last week? It
wasn't really a game- it was an obscenity-
a crime against humanity. That
sonofabitch piece of shit referee scum!
"Heads- no, tails!- no, heads!"

Owen manages a weak, guilty smile.

INT. CASINO LOBBY- SAME TIME

Back in the casino: Mr. Pollini is racing excitedly through the lobby, suitcase in hand, dodging PEOPLE and LUGGAGE DOLLIES.

MR. POLLINI

Excuse me! It's a race!

Then.. Pollini slows down.. and.. stops. In the middle of the lobby. He doesn't fall over. He just closes his eyes. He's.. asleep! He starts SNORING, loudly.

SECRET BETTING PARLOR- SAME TIME

Upstairs: Pollini is seen on a CLOSE CIRCUIT TV MONITOR, frozen, in his trance. An Arab High Roller, PRINCE KASHOBE, reacts.

PRINCE KASHOBE

What's he doing!?

ST. CLAIRE

I think he's sleeping.

PRINCE KASHOBE

Sleeping- ?!

ST. CLAIRE

He must be narcoleptic. It's a neurological disorder. My Aunt Trudy had it. Even now and then she just nodded off.

(wistfully)

God, she had a great body. Aunt Trudy. My brother and I use to...

PRINCE KASHOBE

But.. I bet on him!!

HIGH ROLLER

I did too! I have three million dollars on him!

A BUZZER SOUNDS! The BETTING WINDOW closes.

MR. GRISHAM

I'm sorry, Gentlemen. All bets are locked in.

The Prince and the Other High Roller fume.

RESUME- LOBBY

Downstairs. Randy Pear hustles through the lobby, carrying little Kimberly.. who's still unconscious from the boxing glove incident. Bev and Jason trail behind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON

I don't want to go to New Mexico!

RANDY

You'll love it! They've got cowboys! And dude ranches!

They walk past Mr. Pollini, who's frozen in his "trance". Randy reacts, puzzled.. then shrugs, and resumes sprinting.

RACE TO THE AIRPORT- SERIES OF SHOTS

The Vegas airport- McCarran International- is just a couple of miles from the strip.

In a SERIES OF SHOTS we follow our Racers- in four separate vehicles- screaming down Las Vegas Boulevard toward the airport!

The Cody Brother's Jeep SCREECHES- weaving through traffic- onto Tropicana Avenue... followed by Gus's taxi... followed by Merrill & Vera's limo... followed by the Pear Family's minivan.

MINIVAN- MOVING- WITH PEAR FAMILY

Randy is at the wheel. It's his first high speed chase. And- of course- he can't let his family know what he's doing!

He weaves in and out of traffic. He ZOOMS past a YELLOW LIGHT- through an intersection- other cars HONK and SWERVE!

RANDY

Seatbelts! Seatbelts on!

BEV

What's your rush?

RANDY

I don't want to be late, honey. It's a chance of a lifetime.

In the backseat: Kimberly regains consciousness.

KIMBERLY

Uhhh.. what's going on..?

LIMOUSINE- MOVING- WITH MERRILL & VERA

Merrill- as always- is in control. She's on her cell phone..

MERRILL

You're not just a travel agent, Roger, you're an angel.

(hangs up)

There's one charter plane available in Las Vegas. And we just bagged it!

EXT. WITH THE CODY BROTHERS

The Cody Brothers are lost. They've pulled over! They're looking at a map.

BLAINE CODY
Where the hell is the airport?!

A 747 JET flies right above their heads. The NOISE IS DEAFENING. They're two blocks from the airport!

LAS VEGAS AIRPORT- MAIN TERMINAL

Nick- who's not even racing- is the first to reach the airport.

He checks a DEPARTURE BOARD. FLIGHT 112- TO CHICAGO- 11:30- ON TIME. He checks his watch. He has some time to kill.

EXT. AIRPORT- MAIN ENTRANCE

Out front, at the AIRPORT ARRIVAL RAMP. Gus's cab comes SCREECHING UP. Owen climbs out, and hurriedly pays Gus.

Gus is an emotional guy: he hugs Owen.

GUS
Keep the faith, man. There's always next year.

Owen rushes into the terminal. ANOTHER CABBY has been watching this.

OTHER CABBY
You know who that was?

GUS
Who?

OTHER CABBY
That was the guy- the Ref- from the game.
The coin toss.

Gus reacts, stunned- furious- anguished.

GUS
OhmyGod! You're right! That was him! I had him in my cab! And I let him get away!..
(realizing, horrified)
And I hugged him!

INT. AIRPORT BAR- SAME TIME

Inside: Nick is relaxing at the airport bar. Beer in hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He glances up and sees: Randy Pear goes running past.. followed by his family. Then Owen appears, running full tilt-dodging PEOPLE and assorted OBSTACLES. Nick chuckles.

NICK

Chumps.

Then Nick remembers: he still has St. Claire's locker key. He takes it out.. crosses to a TRASHCAN.. and tosses it away.

As he does, he notices: TRACY, a sharp, attractive young woman. She's at a table, alone, reading a biography of Charles Lindbergh. Nick crosses to her.

NICK

Excuse me. Hi.

Tracy looks up.

NICK

I'm sorry. I'm not a creep or anything...

TRACY

I'll be the judge of that.

NICK

I never do this. I swear. But I'm reading the same book.

Nick opens his travel bag and takes out the Lindbergh biography.

NICK

It's great, isn't it?

Tracy nods, warily.

NICK

Actually, I just started it. Where are you?

TRACY

He just decided to have a sex-change.

NICK

(stunned)

Who did? Lindbergh? A sex-change- ?

Tracy chuckles. She was joking.

NICK

Very funny.

TRACY

I thought so.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NICK

Well don't be too proud of yourself. I'm the most gullible guy in Chicago. Can I buy you a drink?

TRACY

I can't. I'm flying.

NICK

So? It'll relax you.

TRACY

No. I mean I'm flying, like I'm driving. I'm a pilot.

NICK

Oh. Ah. Really? Are there a lot of female pilots?

TRACY

There's at least one.

Nick has no response. An awkward, tongue-tied beat.

NICK

You know.. as soon as I walk away, I'm going to think of something great to say.

TRACY

Good. Mail it to me.

SOUTHWEST AIR- TICKET COUNTER

Nearby: Owen is buying a ticket for Albuquerque.

TICKET CLERK

Flight 115 to Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Gate 17. You'd better hurry.

Owen grabs the ticket and dashes away. Next in line: Randy Pear.

RANDY

(desperate)

Four tickets to Albuquerque!

INT. CHARTER JET- ON RUNWAY

On another runway: Merrill and Vera are in their plush, chartered Learjet. They're settling in. Vera looks around, dazzled.

VERA

This is nicer than my hotel room. Is this real leather?... this is real leather!.. and what is that- is that a refrigerator..?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Merrill turns to the TWO PILOTS.

MERRILL

What's our ETA?

CHARTER PILOT

One hour and ten minutes.

MERRILL

If you can make it in less than an hour,
I'll buy you both dinner.

CHARTER PILOT

You're on.

GATE 17- DEPARTURE LOUNGE- MOMENTS LATER

Owen reaches Gate 17. But the door is closed! He's too late! Through the window, he can see: the plane is still there!

OWEN

NO! WAIT! THAT'S MY PLANE! HOLD THE
PLANE!

Owen rushes past an AIRLINE CLERK, waving his ticket! He races down the jetway!

AIRLINE CLERK

Sir! You can't go down there!

END OF THE JETWAY- CONTINUOUS

Owen reaches the end of the movable, accordion-shaped jetway. The HUGE AIRPLANE is 50 yards away. A young JETWAY OPERATOR is at the controls.

JETWAY OPERATOR

Sir!? You're not allowed on the jetway-

OWEN

I can't miss that plane!

Owen shoves the Jetway Operator out of the way, then takes over the controls himself! He steers the jetway toward the plane!

The jetway lurches across the tarmac wildly. It lurches left- then right- then contracts- then expands...

Finally the jetway JERKS FORWARD and CLAMPS ITSELF ONTO THE COCKPIT WINDOW! As it does, the Jetway Operator is thrown forward and- WHOOA!- hits the nose of the plane!

Owen is now face-to-face with the plane's crew. He can see them through the windshield. The PILOT and COPILOT are shocked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OWEN

(tapping on windshield, waving
ticket)

I have a ticket! I'm a ticketed
passenger!

Owen hits REVERSE. The jetway backs away from the plane. As
it does, the Jetway Operator slides off the plane's nose and-
THUNK!- falls to the ground!

Owen steers the jetway back toward the plane. It clamps, in
its proper position, around the MAIN PASSENGER DOOR.

The door swings open. A STEWARDESS is there, along with a
LINE OF PASSENGERS. She mistakes Owen for the JETWAY
OPERATOR.

STEWARDESS

(handing him a manifest)

Here's the manifest. We're going to need
a wheelchair.

The Passengers start to file off, past Owen...

STEWARDESS

Thank you.. Bye bye.. Thank you.. See you
again..

Owen realizes: the plane has just landed! He sighs.

INT. GATE 17- DEPARTURE LOUNGE

Meanwhile, the Pear Family are waiting to board the plane.

KIMBERLY

Is that our plane?

RANDY

Yep. That's us.

The PASSENGERS file off. One of them is... Owen, a fellow
Rat Racer! As he walks past, Owen acknowledges Randy.

OWEN

Hey.

BEV

Do you know him?

RANDY

(nervously)

No.

INT. TICKET COUNTER

The Cody Bros. have finally found the airport. They run wildly down the crowded corridor- pushing PEOPLE out of their way!

BLAINE CODY
EXCUSE ME!- COMIN' THRU!- MOVE IT!

They reach the SOUTHWEST AIR TICKET COUNTER. There's a long line. Blaine and Duane shove their way to the front.

The Ticket Clerk looks up.

TICKET CLERK
Who was next?

BLAINE CODY

BUSINESSMAN IN LINE

I was!

I was.

BUSINESSMAN IN LINE
What?! No you weren't!

BLAINE CODY
Are you calling me a liar?

BUSINESSMAN
Yeah. Yes I am! We've been standing in line for 20 minutes!
(to the OTHERS IN LINE)
Can you believe this guy?

BLAINE CODY
(to Clerk)
Is that the right time?

The Clerk turns toward the clock. While she's turned, Duane COLD-COCKS the Businessman! THUD! The Businessman collapses.

The Clerk turns back. The Businessman is no longer visible.

TICKET CLERK
Yes it is. Who was next?

EVERYONE ELSE IN LINE
(indicating the Codys,
nervously)
Them. They were. Those two guys.

BLAINE CODY
Two tickets to Albuquerque.

The Clerk consults her computer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TICKET CLERK

Sorry. Ouch. We're completely booked.
There's nothing... there's a 4:30, but
you'd have to switch in Dallas.

The Cody Boys fume. They walk away... and huddle nearby.

DUANE CODY

ell i uess hats ii.

BLAINE CODY

What do you mean that's it? I'm not
giving up. And neither are you. And
neither am I. I'll tell you one thing,
if we're not flying out of here, nobody's
flying out of here.

RESUME- GATE 17- DEPARTURE LOUNGE

The Pear Family is still waiting for their plane. Nick
happens to walk past. He notices Randy, and nods.

NICK

Good luck.

BEV

Do you know him?

RANDY

No. It's just a friendly town.

To prove it, Randy smiles at a TOTAL STRANGER who's walking
past.

RANDY

Good luck.

STRANGER WALKING PAST

You talking to me?

RANDY

(gulp)

No.

EXT. RADAR TOWER- SAME TIME

At the far edge of the airport, is a RADAR DISH atop a 20
FOOT TOWER. It's protected by a CHAIN LINK FENCE and BARBED
WIRE....

The Cody Boys back their Jeep up to the fence. Duane gets
out. He takes out some wire cutters, and begins to cut
through the fence...

EXT. RADAR TOWER- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, Duane Cody has climbed to the top of the radar tower. He's carrying the end of a WIRE CABLE, which is attached to the rear of the Jeep.

In the Jeep: Blaine is behind the wheel, waiting to accelerate and pull the radar tower down!

Duane hooks the cable onto the edge of the radar dish. Then- suddenly- the tower starts CLICKING and HUMMING. LIGHTS FLASH!

BLAINE CODY

This can't be good.

The radar starts revolving.. wrapping the wire cable around and around. Before Duane can react, he's trapped- pinned to the tower! Every revolution wraps another strand of wire around him!

DUANE CODY

AIIE! ELP! ARRGHhhHHh!

The revolving tower acts like a huge fishing rod: it "reels" the Jeep in! Blaine tries to drive away, but the Jeep is dragged- helplessly- backwards- through the chain link fence... then up, up, up... upsidedown... up the radar tower!

Duane, strapped to the revolving tower, watches as the Jeep is pulled.. up, up.. closer, closer.. straight toward him!

There's an overhang on the building. As the jeep is pulled up, it SPINS AROUND and BOUNCES violently against the building. BAM! BAM! BAM!

DUANE CODY

BANE! TOP! TOP!

BLAINE CODY

(spinning, between bounces)

I CAN'T!

The tower CRACKS and FALLS OVER, toward the dangling jeep.

DUANE CODY

AAAAAAHHHHH!

They end up with their faces just inches apart. Duane is crying, uncontrollably. In the upsidedown jeep: Blaine is crying, too.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER- SAME TIME

In the control tower: POOF!- the radar monitors go black.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER
My grid is down!

SECOND CONTROLLER
Me too. Complete meltdown!

TOWER MANAGER
Freeze everything! Every flight! Get me
central operations!

A THIRD CONTROLLER is at the window, with a pair of
binoculars.

THIRD CONTROLLER
Chief.. there's a Jeep Cherokee all
wrapped up in the radar dish.
(beat)
That wasn't there this morning.

RADAR DISH - THROUGH BINOCULARS

The radar dish in the distance, with the Jeep wrapped up in
it. The dish falls off the tower with a mighty CRA-ASSH!
Sparks fly!

INT. DEPARTURE LOUNGE- WITH NICK- MOMENTS LATER

Inside: Nick is waiting for his flight to Chicago.

ANNOUNCER (ON PA)
Attention passengers. Due to a technical
problem with our radar tracking system,
all flights are postponed until further
notice. We apologize for any
inconvenience...

Nick glances at a DEPARTURES MONITOR. Every flight-
including his- now says DELAYED.

AROUND THE AIRPORT- MONTAGE

MUSIC KICKS IN! Our Racers desperately scramble to find
alternative transportation!

- MAIN TERMINAL- WITH THE PEARS- Randy is leading his family-
frantically- toward the exit!

RANDY
Come on. Let's go. MOVE!

BEV
The bags- ?!

RANDY
Forget the bags! Let's go!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Randy is dragging Jason by the arm. Jason WHACKS his knee on a chair. Randy doesn't stop; he drags the sobbing boy through the terminal.

RANDY

Come on. Come on, the great ones play hurt.

- WITH MERRILL & VERA- ON CHARTER JET- the chartered jet is returning to the gate.

CHARTER PILOT

Sorry, Miss Jennings.

MERRILL

(clinched teeth)

It's.. okay. These things.. happen.

Merrill is so upset she rips off the arm of her chair.

- RENTAL COUNTER- the Cody Brothers are renting a car. The RENTAL CLERK examines Blaine's license, which is a dark, faded piece of cardboard.

RENTAL CAR CLERK

This is your license? Where was it issued?

BLAINE CODY

Guam.

- TAXI STAND- WITH OWEN- Owen is out front at the Taxi Stand. He scrambles into the next available cab. The cabbie turns around. It's- Gus! Gus recognizes Owen, the Ref who ruined his life.

GUS

(an icy grin)

Hello again. Where to?

OWEN

Anywhere I can rent a car without waiting in line!

- RENTAL CAR COUNTER- Back inside: Merrill & Vera are renting a car. The CLERK is wearing a big TRAINEE button.

TRAINEE CLERK

We have.. um.. a midsize Caprice...

VERA

What color?

MERRILL

We don't care about color! Give us whatever car is closest to the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The Trainee is confused. A MANAGER is guiding her...

THE MANAGER

Good. Ask her about insurance.

TRAINEE CLERK

Would you be interested in purchasing liability insurance?

MERRILL

Sure. Whatever. Just hurry.

The Trainee is the slowest typist on earth. Merrill explodes! She grabs the keys, and starts writing- in BIG BLOCK LETTERS- across the contract..

MERRILL

(as she writes)

"I.. Agree.. To.. Any.. Thing...Merrill Jennings"! Now gimme the car!

The MONTAGE ENDS as the Racers SCREECH AWAY from the airport: the Cody Brothers in their CONVERTIBLE... followed by Owen in Gus's TAXI... then Vera & Merrill in the RENTED SEDAN... then the Pear Family in their FAMILY VAN..

INT. AIRPORT BAR- SAME TIME

Meanwhile Back in the airport: Tracy is still reading her book. Nick steps up.

NICK

Okay. I got one.

Tracy looks up. She smiles warmly, happy to see him again.

TRACY

What?

NICK

A great comeback. Okay, I said: Are there a lot of female pilots? You said: There's at least one. Then I should have said: Two- if you count Lindbergh.

Tracy doesn't get it.

NICK

Because- remember? You said he had a sex-change?

Now Tracy gets it. She laughs sweetly. Nick sits down.

NICK

I'll keep working on it.
(shaking hands)
Nick Shaffer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRACY

Tracy Faucet.

NICK

Faucet? As in Farrah?

TRACY

She spells it with two T's. And her pin-up sold a lot more copies.

NICK

I would've bought yours. I would've bought two, one for my car.

Tracy blushes, flustered.

TRACY

I'm sorry. I don't take compliments very well. Thank you.

NICK

I guess you can have that drink now.

TRACY

I told you. I'm flying. I'm leaving for Roswell in five minutes.

NICK

Didn't you hear? Everybody's grounded.

TRACY

That's only for fixed wings. I'm in a chopper. We use a different system.

Nick considers this. Then- suddenly- his eyes go wide! A thunderbolt!

NICK

(babbling, mind racing)

Roswell, New Mexico? You're flying to New Mexico? You can fly. Nobody else can fly. But you can fly. And you're flying to New Mexico. And nobody else can fly...

TRACY

Yeah..? Do you need a ride?

TRASH CAN- SECONDS LATER

Seconds later. Nick is desperately, frantically rooting through the trash can, looking for the \$2,000,000 key he threw away!

Finally- YES!!- he finds it, and dashes away!

INT. PEAR FAMILY- MINIVAN- MOVING

The Pear Family is back in their minivan. Randy is driving. Fast. Very fast. Bev consults a guide book.

BEV
We're not far from Hoover Dam. That might be fun.

RANDY
No. I think we should drive straight through.

BEV
You mean all day? Without stopping?

A beat. Then-

BEV
(suspicious)
What's it called?

RANDY
What?

BEV
The company. Fountain pens.

RANDY
(inventing)
Oh. Um. "Ink Inc." Kind of clever.

The Cody Brothers ZOOM PAST in their rented convertible, waving as they pass. Randy grits his teeth, and accelerates!

INT. GUS'S TAXI- MOVING- WITH OWEN- SAME TIME

Owen is in Gus's taxi. Gus eyes him in the rearview mirror, hatefully, the way a spider might eye a fly...

GUS
Fort Sumner, huh?

OWEN
It's, like, 700 miles. You don't mind?

GUS
Why should I mind? A job's a job.

OWEN
How much you think it'll cost?

GUS
(through clenched teeth)
Why don't you just pay whatever you think is fair. I trust your judgment.

INT.\EXT. HELICOPTER- IN FLIGHT- WITH NICK & TRACY

In the sky: Tracy is expertly piloting a Sikorsky S76- the MERCEDES BENZ of commuter copters. Air speed: 170 mph.

In the cockpit: Nick has a helmet on. He looks down. They're going much faster than the traffic below. He grins. He's... winning! HE'S WINNING!

Tracy refers to a map. She's circled Fort Sumner.

TRACY

I can drop you off right there. It's a parking lot, about a mile from the hospital.

Nick nods.

TRACY

What's wrong with her?

NICK

Who?

TRACY

Your sister. You said it was serious.

A beat... while Nick invents something.

NICK

Oh. Uh.. a boating accident.

TRACY

(puzzled)

In Fort Sumner? It's in the desert.

NICK

Oh, it happened a couple of years ago. It flares up. It's.. a recurring boating accident.

Tracy tried to imagine such an injury. She winces.

INT\EXT. TAXI- WITH OWEN- MOVING

Owen is still in Gus's taxi. They've left the highway. They're in the desert, on a little dirt road.

GUS

Sales, huh? What do you sell?

OWEN

Books...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUS

Books. You like to read, huh? Do your eyes ever go bad from reading? Do they ever play tricks on you- so you're not sure what you're seeing?

Owen looks around. They're in the MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. Gus has left the road, and is driving across the sand.

OWEN

Not really. Where are we?

GUS

It's a little shortcut.

Owen looks around, uneasily. They're completely alone.

OWEN

Maybe we should stay on the highway.

GUS

Hmmmm. I say we should take the shortcut. You say we should stay on the highway.

Gus PULLS OVER and STOPS. He turns around. He grins.

GUS

Why don't we flip a coin?

Gus gets out. He opens the rear door and tries to grab Owen!

OWEN

Wait- wait- it was an honest mistake!

GUS

(exploding!)

COME HERE! YOU SONOFABITCH! Where's your whistle? I want to ram it down your throat!

Owen scrambles around the back seat.

OWEN

IT WAS A COMMEMORATIVE COIN!

(holds up the NFL coin)

LOOK, YOU CAN'T TELL HEADS FROM TAILS!

Gus has grabbed Owen's feet! He's removing Owen's shoes!

OWEN

What are you doing?

DESERT- MOMENTS LATER

A minute later. Gus ROARS away, leaving Owen behind, stranded.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Owen looks around. He's alone. Nothing but sand and rock, as far as the eye can see...

We reveal: Owen is barefoot! Gus has stolen his shoes and socks! And the sand is hot. Very hot. Very very very hot.

Owen starts hopping around, like people do at the beach. He yelps "Ow!" with every step.

OWEN
Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow!

INT. CASINO- LOBBY- WITH MR. POLLINI

Back in Vegas. Mr. Pollini- the narcoleptic- is still in the lobby, fast asleep. He's standing unobtrusively in a corner. A HUNDRED PEOPLE bustle past; no one notices him.

WITH OWEN- MIDDLE OF THE DESERT- SAME TIME

Owen- still barefoot- still stranded in the desert. He's standing on a tiny patch of shade. He eyes another shady patch, about 30 feet away. He scampers across the hot hot hot sand...

OWEN
Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow!

But he can't make it. It's too far. He turns around and scampers- Ow! Ow! Ow!- back to where he was!

BACK IN VEGAS- BETTING PARLOR

Back in Vegas. The High Rollers are watching the ELECTRONIC MAP, cheering on their "horses".

Nick's "horse" has a small lead. The others are clustered on Highway 93.. except for Mr. Pollini, who hasn't even left Las Vegas yet.

A young aristocratic BRITISH HIGH ROLLER rises.

BRITISH HIGH ROLLER
Excuse me. Have any of you stopped and thought about what we're doing?

The room goes quiet. Everyone turns.

BRITISH HIGH ROLLER
These are human beings out there! We're treating them like rats in a laboratory, watching them chasing after a tiny slice of cheese for our own demented amusement. It's an insult to everything decent and civilized in the world and I want no part of it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A beat. Then everyone realizes he's joking. The whole room EXPLODES into laughter!

A High Roller glances at the MAP. Nick's "horse" is turning! It's heading north!

HIGH ROLLER

Hey. Where the hell is he going?

INT.\EXT. HELICOPTER- IN FLIGHT- SAME TIME

Nick notices the cockpit compass indicates NORTH.

NICK

North?

TRACY

A little detour. It'll just take a minute.

Nick sighs, checks his watch...

IN THE DESERT- WITH OWEN

Owen has taken his shirt off. He's ripped it up, and wrapped the pieces around his feet. So now he has shoes.

He walks past an old BOARDED-UP SHACK, with a PILE OF GARBAGE out front. They're throwing away a CHILD'S SCOOTER. Owen stops, and considers it...

INT. RENTED CHEVY- WITH VERA & MERRILL- MOVING

Merrill and Vera in their rented a Chevy Cavalier. They're speeding east...

MERRILL

So Vera. What are you going to do with your half?

VERA

Me? Oh my. Oh no. I don't want any money. You can have it all. I'm just glad we're together. You said we'd only have a couple of hours, now we have all day.

MERRILL

Yeah. Well, if we're really blood-related, you'll take the money.

Merrill opens a bottle of pills, and pops a couple.

VERA

What are those?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MERRILL
Nothing. Tylenol.

Vera grabs for the bottle. Merrill resists.

MERRILL
Hey! What are you doing?

Vera takes the bottle, reads the label..

VERA
"Dexedrine"?

MERRILL
Give me those! You're not my moth-

VERA
These are addicting!

MERRILL
No they're not! I've been taking them
for years!

Merrill glances ahead. Traffic is backed up. A sign says:
CONSTRUCTION- EXPECT DELAYS

MERRILL
Ah shit. Hang on!

They're approaching an EXIT. Merrill SWERVES, and heads up
the ramp. She hands Vera a ROAD MAP.

MERRILL
Here. You're the navigator. Find us a
detour.

INT.\EXT. HELICOPTER- IN FLIGHT- WITH NICK & TRACY

Tracy and Nick are in Tracy's helicopter.

TRACY
I just want to say hi to my boyfriend.

Boyfriend? Nick reacts, disappointed. Tracy flies over a
row of small prefabricated houses. She hovers over one.

There's a BRAND NEW PICKUP TRUCK parked out front. And next
to it: a small Honda. Tracy reacts.

TRACY
That sonofabitch! That's Charlene's
Honda!

NICK
Charlene?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRACY

His ex-girlfriend. Or so I thought.

Suddenly, Tracy is transformed into a wild, irrational, dangerous woman- a woman possessed!

TRACY

(bitterly, mimicking Shawn)

"I swear baby, I don't even remember her phone number!"

In the back yard: Tracy's boyfriend SHAWN and CHARLENE are relaxing in a cheap, above-ground swimming pool.

Tracy's copter appears. It hovers overhead. Shawn panics! He shoves Charlene's head under the water, to try to hide her.

Tracy clutches the throttle, and veers the copter sharply downward.. as if going into combat.

NICK

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

TRACY

Don't worry about me. I'm Navy-trained. Three years, search and rescue.

NICK

I'm not worried about you. I'm worried about me.

Tracy buzzes the swimming pool! The copter-blades churn up the pool water. Shawn and Charlene panic and try to climb the pool ladder, but the wind from the copter forces them back!

TRACY

DID I COME AT A BAD TIME, ASSHOLE!

They scramble over the flimsy pool wall but in their panic they RIP DOWN THE POOL'S PLASTIC WALL and 200 gallons of water gushes out, flooding the back yard and washing them away with it!

NICK

Well. That was great.
(anxious to resume the race)
Let's get out of here.

TRACY

Not yet!

DRIVEWAY- HELICOPTER- OUT FRONT

Tracy returns to the front yard, and hovers DIRECTLY ABOVE SHAWN'S BRAND NEW PICKUP TRUCK.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IN THE COPTER: Tracy grabs a FIRE EXTINGUISHER. She opens the cockpit door, leans out, and drops the extinguisher onto the truck... like a bomb. THUNK! It hits the top of the truck's cab, denting it.

TRACY
SUCK ON THAT! CREEP!

NICK
(anxious to leave)
Bull's-eye! Mission accomplished.

But Tracy isn't finished. She reaches back, grabs the toolkit, and takes out a HAMMER.

NICK
Tracy, don't!

Tracy drops the hammer. It hits the truck! CLANG! Then she drops a HUGE WRENCH. It SMASHES the truck's rear windshield!

NICK
Well. That's it. We're out of ammo.

Tracy opens a cooler. Inside is a DOZEN BEER CANS. Nick groans.

BELOW: Shawn emerges from the house. He's carrying a gun- a western-style six-shooter.

NICK
Is that a gun?

Tracy drops a beer can onto the truck. Shawn is an AMAZING SHOT: he aims and- BLAM!- SHOTS THE CAN OUT OF THE SKY! Tracy drops another can. Shawn fires- BLAM!- and again, hits the can.

INT. COPTER

TRACY
(calling down)
HEY CHARLENE- THAT GUN IS THE LONGEST,
HARDEST THING IN THE HOUSE!

NICK
He's pretty good.

TRACY
Five time state champion. Let's see him
hit this-

There are some PAINT CANS stored in the copter. Tracy reaches back, grabs a can, and hands it to Nick.

TRACY
Open it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICK

To be honest with you, I'm not really comfortable-

TRACY

OPEN IT!

BELOW- WITH SHAWN

Shawn, gun drawn, tense, waiting for the next "bomb".

Tracy leans out of the copter with a PAINT CAN... and pours RED PAINT onto Shawn's beloved truck!

SHAWN

NOOO! TRACY! GODDAMNIT!

Shawn scrambles into his beloved truck, and ROARS away! Tracy swings the copter around, and follows him!

CHASE- COPTER & PICKUP TRUCK- SERIES OF SHOTS

Chase! Tracy flies behind Shawn's pickup.. then alongside it. The copter circles and dips and swerves. Nick clutches his seat. His expression says: "What the hell am I doing here?"

Shawn drives like a madman- wildly- down side roads- weaving through oncoming traffic. He's fast, but he can't elude Tracy's helicopter.

They RACE past a parked HIGHWAY PATROL CAR.

INT. PATROL CAR

The TWO TROOPERS watch the truck-and-copter chase go past.

FIRST TROOPER

Jeezus!

RESUME CHASE- HIGHWAY

The chase continues down a deserted stretch of highway...

Up ahead, Shawn sees: an OVERPASS! If he can reach it, he'd be protected from the copter! Tracy sees the overpass too. She flies ahead of him... then swings the copter around.

TRACY

Hang on. I'm gonna try something.

NICK

Wait- I'm sorry- did you just say "I'm gonna try something"?

(CONTINUED)

The copter hovers just twenty feet above the road. Shawn heads straight toward it! Tracy tilts the copter down, so the propeller blades become a giant fan!

The blades kick up a swirling CLOUD OF DUST, which engulfs the pickup. Shawn is blinded.

Inside the copter: the tilting is a difficult maneuver. Tracy struggles with the controls. The TEMP GAUGE is blinking RED.

In the dust cloud: Shawn swerves wildly- blindly- off the road- down a gully- and hits a telephone pole. CRASH!

The airbag inflates! Shawn's head is BANGED in the impact.

NICK

I think we killed him!

TRACY

You can't kill him. He's like a cockroach.

Their helicopter is crippled. The engine sputters... then dies.

TRACY

Uh-oh.

The crippled copter lands with a THUD, near the crashed truck. Tracy tries to reengage the engine. Nothing.

Then they HEAR, in the distance: a SIREN. They turn. The patrol car is approaching! It's only two miles away!

A panicky, stunned beat. Tracy turns to Nick.

TRACY

We just violated about 115 federal laws.

NICK

We?!

TRACY

I'm getting out of here. You coming?

Nick considers this. He shakes his head.

NICK

No. I know things look bad, but if we run away it's only going to make-

Tracy interrupts him by suddenly leaning in and kissing him- a sweet, full, wet kiss- on the mouth.

TRACY

Nice meeting you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Nick- still stunned by the kiss- watches Tracy as she rushes over to the truck. Tracy drags Shawn who's dazed and bleeding- from the truck...

Shawn stirs. Tracy rears back and PUNCHES HIM in the face!..

Nick turns. The PATROL CAR is approaching...

Tracy is starting the pickup...

Nick turns. The PATROL CAR is closer. This is it. The moment of truth.

NICK
TRACY! WAIT!

On a wild impulse, Nick scrambles from the crippled helicopter.. rushes over to the pickup.. and scrambles into the passenger side.

NICK
This is the first illegal thing I've done
in my adult life.

TRACY
How's it feel?

NICK
Awful.

INT. PICK UP TRUCK- MOVING

Tracy and Nick start to pull away. As they do, Shawn recovers and staggers toward the pickup. He sticks his head in the truck's side window!

SHAWN
GET OUTTA MY TRUCK, TRACY!

TRACY
It's my truck, Shawn. I paid for it!

Shawn notices her passenger.

SHAWN
Who's that?

NICK
(gulp)
Nobody.

SHAWN
You are nobody! Stay away from her,
nobody, unless you're tired of living!

Tracy raises the automatic side window... until it presses against Shawn's neck. Shawn is pinned! He can't breath!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHAWN

aaaaaa!

TRACY

(calmly)

Oh Shawn, while you're here, do me a favor. Charlene left a bra in the truck.

Tracy takes a woman's bra from the dashboard, and RAMS IT-violently- into Shawn's open mouth!

SHAWN

MmmMMMMMMMM!

TRACY

Could you make sure she gets it? Thanks honey.

Tracy lowers the window, releasing Shawn. He falls away from the truck. Tracy hits the gas and PEELS AWAY, kicking up dust!

EXT. HIGHWAY- REST STOP- WITH OWEN

Owen appears.. dramatically.. over the crest of a hill.. on the tiny scooter! He's exhausted. He's been scooting for miles. The little scooter wobbles and zigzags...

He reaches a REST STOP. There's a CHARTER BUS parked out front. Two middle age women- both with red hair, both named LUCY- are by the bus, talking.

FIRST LUCY

Where's the driver?

The Second Lucy indicates "he's still inside."

FIRST LUCY

Hell's bells! We're never gonna get to Sante Fe by 3 o'clock.

Sante Fe? Hmmm. Owen gets an idea.

INT. REST STOP- MEN'S ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

The BUS DRIVER- a big, affable guy- in full uniform, is washing up. Owen comes bursting in- WILD-EYED- LIKE A MADMAN!

OWEN

Oh thank God! Mister, you gotta help me! My wife is out back! She's having a baby!

BUS DRIVER

She's what- ?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OWEN
(desperate, crazed)
A baby! It's halfway out! I can see the
head! I need your jacket. For the- for
the-
(barking random, clinical-
sounding terms)
For her amniotic sack! Her amniotic
fluid- it's all gushing out! The fluid!
And the sack!

The Bus Driver reacts to the disgusting-sounding terms. He
nervously starts stripping. He hands Owen his jacket.

OWEN
And your pants!

BUS DRIVER
My pants- ?

OWEN
For the placenta! And her labia! Hurry!
For God's sake!

The panicky Driver continues to strip.

OWEN
And I need your hat!

BUS DRIVER
What for?

OWEN
(inventing)
The vaginal.. after.. gunk.

BUS DRIVER
The vaginal after-gunk?

Owen nods. The driver gulps, and hands Owen his hat.

EXT. REST STOP- OUT FRONT- SECONDS LATER

Seconds later. Owen emerges from the Rest Stop, wearing the
BUS DRIVER'S UNIFORM, which doesn't quite fit.

The TWO LUCYS are still out front. Owen hurriedly leads them
onto the bus...

OWEN
Let's go ladies. All aboard! We're on
our way!

INT. CHARTER BUS- CONTINUOUS

Owen and the Lucys board the bus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FIRST LUCY

What happened to Marty?

OWEN

Marty.. had to go home. Family emergency. My name is Owen. I'm your new driver.

Owen is in the driver's seat. He looks around, baffled. It's like a jet cockpit: a hundred strange knobs and dials.

First Lucy addresses the group...

FIRST LUCY

Shhh. Listen. This is Owen. He's our new driver. Everyone say hello.

Owen turns. The bus is filled with 30 LUCILLE BALL LOOK-ALIKES! All with red hair, pulled back. And Lucy eyelashes. And fluffy, flowery Lucy dresses. And they all have name-tags that say: LUCY.

And they all speak in Lucy's familiar whine-drawl...

ALL 30 LUCYS

HELLO OWEN.

Owen recoils. It's like a science fiction movie.

FIRST LUCY

Our next stop: the third annual I Love Lucy Convention in Sante Fe, New Mexico! What do you say?

ALL THE LUCYS

BOB-A-LOOOOOOOOOOO!

Owen manages to close the door and starts the bus. The gears GRIND. The bus backs up, then jerks forward. And they're off.

INT. BACK IN VEGAS- BETTING PARLOR

Back in Vegas. The BIG MAP continues to track the Racers...

The HIGH ROLLERS are bored. These guys will bet on anything. They have a BOX OF ASSORTED CHOCOLATES and are betting on what's in each piece. One of them bites into a piece, and holds it up.

HIGH ROLLER

Coconut. Who had coconut?

SECOND HIGH ROLLER

I did.

Everyone pays the winner STACKS OF HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS!

EXT. SIDE ROAD- WITH NICK & TRACY- MOVING

Nick and Tracy speed down a side road in the pick-up truck.

TRACY

I said I'd get you to Fort Sumner, and I will. You'll just be a little late, that's all. My word is my bond.

NICK

Your word is your bond?

TRACY

That's right, counselor! I have a slight problem with my temper. I admit that. But I'm a very dependable person...

EXT. WITH SHAWN- SAME TIME

Back at the helicopter crash sight. It's now a crime scene: THREE PATROL CARS are on sight. COPS are taking pictures, writing reports, etc.

Shawn wanders away from the cops. He glances around the disabled helicopter. He finds a map. Tracy has circled FORT SUMNER, NEW MEXICO. Shawn's eyes narrow...

INT. CASINO- LOBBY- WITH MR. POLLINI

Back in Vegas. Mr. Pollini- the narcoleptic- is still asleep. He's standing in the lobby.. snoring.. unnoticed. GUESTS and HOTEL STAFF walk past him...

INT. MINIVAN- WITH PEAR FAMILY- MOVING

The Pears are back on the road. They pass a VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE.

JASON

That's the kind of car I'm getting.

BEV

Don't count on it.

JASON

Why not?

RANDY

Because the Volkswagen Beetle was designed by the Nazis during World War Two. Your mom and I wouldn't be comfortable driving around in one.

JASON

So? Don't drive it. I will.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIMBERLY
Dad, I have to go.

RANDY
No you don't.

KIMBERLY
Yes I do. I really do.

RANDY
We just stopped!

KIMBERLY
I couldn't go. The bathroom was too gross.

RANDY
Can't you hold it in?

KIMBERLY
I can't! It's an emergency!

They approach an EXIT SIGN with a RESTAURANT symbol.

BEV
There's a restaurant.

RANDY
That could be three miles off the highway, honey. Then three miles back. We'd lose five minutes.

BEV
So what?

They ZOOM past the exit. The family GROANS!

THE WHOLE FAMILY
Dad! STOP! PLEASE! Randy! STOP!

RANDY
Jason, look around. Is there an empty jar back there?

BEV
Randy, she's a girl. Girl's can't just go in a jar...

RANDY
You're right. I'm sorry. Jason, we're going to need a jar and a funnel.

KIMBERLY
I don't have to pee! It's number two!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

During this, Randy sees: the Cody Brothers ZOOOM past in their rented convertible. Randy accelerates. He's not stopping for anything.

RANDY
Sorry. I can't stop.

KIMBERLY
(squirming, she's in agony)
Daaaad! I'm prairie-doggin' it!

RANDY
What the hell does that mean?

JASON
You know, like when a prairie dog sticks his head in and out of the ground?

BEV & RANDY
(disgusted)
Oh God!

LONG SHOT- VAN- HIGHWAY

The minivan speeds down the highway, at 80 miles an hour. A side window opens. A figure emerges.. covered by a blanket.

At first we can't tell what it is. Then we realize: it's Kimberly's backside! Sticking out of the speeding van. The blanket flaps around in the wind. We get glimpses of her legs.

INT. VAN- MOVING

Inside: Kimberly is leaning over- half in, half out of the van. She's covered with the big blanket, for privacy.

KIMBERLY'S VOICE
(from under blanket)
I HATE YOU I HATE YOU!

RANDY
Nobody look! Nobody's looking, honey!
Just relax, baby. Take your time.

BEV
(to Randy)
At least get in the slow lane.

RANDY
It's kind of like a history lesson. This is how the pioneers relieved themselves in the covered wagons.

JASON
That's bullshit dad!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIMBERLY'S VOICE
(from under blanket)
I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS! I HATE YOU!

Randy TURNS ON the radio. He CRANKS IT UP. ROCK MUSIC
BLARES.

RANDY
I'M TURNING ON THE RADIO, HONEY. SO
NOBODY CAN HEAR YOU. JUST TAKE YOUR
TIME.

HIGHWAY SHOULDER- MOMENTS LATER

The Pear minivan's been pulled over. A STATE TROOPER
approaches the van. In the background: a SECOND COP is
wiping shit off the cruiser's windshield.

The Trooper steps up. Randy smiles, weakly.

RANDY
(innocently)
How fast was I going?

LUCY BUS- MOVING- SAME TIME

They're showing an old I LOVE LUCY episode on the bus's
monitor. The 30 Lucys have memorized the show. They recite
it, in unison-

LUCY SHOW AND ALL THE LUCYS
"WAAAGGHH! All I wanted to do was meet
Richard Widmark- is that a crime?" "No,
but breaking into his hotel room is!"

In the driver's seat: Owen is in Lucy hell.

PICKUP TRUCK- BACK ROAD- WITH NICK & TRACY- MOVING

Nick & Tracy are still on the back roads, speeding through
Arizona...

NICK
So how did you and Quick Draw MacGraw
ever hook up?

TRACY
At a surprise party for my cousin. Shawn
was a wreck. He had just broken up with
Charlene...

TRACY & NICK
(in unison)
OR SO WE THOUGHT!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICK

I don't get it. You and Shawn. What did you have in common?

TRACY

For one thing, we were both in love with Shawn. I thought he was the first honest guy I'd ever met.

Nick is consumed with guilt. He considers Tracy.. and makes a decision.

NICK

Let's stop, and get some coffee. I have to tell you something...

INT. BACK IN THE CASINO- LOBBY- WITH MR. POLLINI

A QUICK SHOT of Mr. Pollini, back in Vegas, still fast asleep..

INT. WITH PEAR FAMILY- MINIVAN- MOVING

The Pear Family speeds through Arizona. They pass a sign: DON'T MISS THE BARBIE MUSEUM! 10 MILES.

KIMBERLY

A Barbie Museum!?! Can we stop?

RANDY

No. We have a plan. We're going to stick to the plan.

KIMBERLY

Please Daddy! Please! Please! Please!
IT'S NOT FAIR! WE NEVER STOP ANYWHERE I
WANT TO!

RANDY

I'm sure Jason doesn't want to stop at a Barbie Museum. Heh, heh.

JASON

I'll stop anywhere. I'm wiggling out back here.

Bev looks at Randy, pleadingly.

BEV

Honey, the kids need a break. Just ten minutes.

RANDY

Maybe on the way back.

BEV

Stop the car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RANDY
No.

BEV
Stop the car.

RANDY
No.

Bev grabs Randy's head and head butts him! THUNK!

BEV
STOP THE CAR!

Randy is dazed; the minivan swerves and careens across the road!

RANDY
All right. Fine. Ten minutes.

KIMBERLY
Wow. I can't believe it! The Barbie Museum!

SMASH CUT: THE "BARBIE" MUSEUM

It's... A NAZI MUSEUM! It commemorates Klaus Barbie, the notorious SS Officer.

It's a large room, cluttered with swastikas and Nazi memorabilia. A SKINHEAD TOUR GUIDE indicates a statue of Klaus Barbie.

SKINHEAD TOUR GUIDE
Klaus Barbie- sometimes known as "the Butcher of Lyons". Let the Jew revisionist talk about the death camps and the so-called crimes against humanity. This museum is lovingly dedicated to the Klaus Barbie nobody knows: the husband, the devoted father, the wine connoisseur and three-time ballroom dancing champion..

The Pear Family listen, stunned. They're afraid to move.

EXT. BARBIE MUSEUM- SAME TIME

Outside: the Cody Brothers are cruising past the museum. They notice: the PEAR'S MINIVAN in the parking lot!

DUANE CODY
ey, hat's he uy!

Blaine pulls into the parking lot, tires screeching! Parked nearby: a vintage Mercedes Benz, in a roped-off display area.

RESUME- NAZI MUSEUM

Inside: the tour continues. The Skinhead Guide indicates some photos of Barbie riding with Hitler.

SKINHEAD TOUR GUIDE

Barbie joined the SS in 1935, where he soon became one of the Fuhrer's favorite young officers.

JASON

Can we go?

BEV

Shh. Walk. Very slowly...

SKINHEAD TOUR GUIDE

Here we see him riding in Hitler's touring car, the very same car which is on display outside, in our courtyard...

The Pears nervously... casually.. shuffle toward the door.

SKINHEAD TOUR GUIDE

You're leaving?

The Pears freeze. Gulp.

RANDY

Ah.. yeah.. we're running late. We have a 4:30 book burning.. then we have a Christening of one of our many white Christian non-Jewish friends...

The Pears are near a skinhead gift shop. It's filled with NAZI MEMORABILIA and FRAMED PHOTOS OF HITLER and KKK SHEETS and other WHITE SUPREMACIST SOUVENIRS. Kimberly brightens.

KIMBERLY

Oh! A gift shop!

RANDY

(dragging her away)
Come on!

EXT. BARBIE MUSEUM- PARKING LOT- CONTINUOUS

The Pears emerge from the museum. They scramble- frantically- back to their van.

RANDY & BEV

Get in! Get in! Don't look back!

The family reaches the van, and stop. The hood is up. Some wires are sticking out. They've been sliced!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEV

Oh my God. Oh my God. They've been cut!

JASON

Now what?

Randy looks around. He sees something. He gets an idea.

HIGHWAY- HITLER'S MERCEDES BENZ- MOVING

Minutes later. Randy and his family have stolen HITLER'S TOURING CAR! It's a vintage 1935 Mercedes Benz, in mint condition. There's a little NAZI FLAG on the back. Fluttering in the breeze.

They're racing east. Bev, Kimberly & Jason are still in shock.

JASON

I can't believe it. You just stole Adolph Hitler's Mercedes Benz!

RANDY

Hey, Hitler had it coming. What goes around comes around.

KIMBERLY

They're gonna be pissed.

RANDY

They're always pissed, honey. They're Nazis! It's like their job.

JASON

Yeah, but now they're pissed at us.

RANDY

Well what did you want to do? Huh? Hang around the bunker until Triple-A showed up?

(To Bev)

When we get to Fort Sumner I'll call them and work something out.

BEV

Sure. Maybe we can invite them to Jason's Bar Mitzvah.

BACK ROAD- WITH MERRILL & VERA- MOVING

Merrill and Vera are hopelessly lost. They approach a strange woman, sitting by the road with a big a cage. In the cage is a dozen squirrels. A crude handprinted sign says: SQUIRRELS \$2.00.

Merrill stops the Chevy. Vera rolls down her window.

(CONTINUED)

SQUIRREL LADY

Squirrel?

MERRILL

No. Thank you. We're looking for the interstate.

SQUIRREL LADY

Uh-huh. I get a lot of that, because of the detour.

(to the squirrels, baby-talking)

They lost their way. Now they can't go home. Boo hoo hoo.

(resuming, to Merrill & Vera)

Are you sure you don't want one?

MERRILL

We're sure. Thank you.

SQUIRREL LADY

They make crackerjack pets. I taught this one to shake hands. He's not for sale, though.

(rattling the cage)

Hey! Who wants to go home with the nice ladies?

She talks in high-pitched SQUIRREL VOICES, while trying not to move her lips, like a bad ventriloquist...

SQUIRREL LADY

"Me! Me!" "Pick me!" "Don't be afraid. I don't bite!" "What's your name, pretty lady?"

VERA

(flattered)

Vera.

MERRILL

Ma'am. We're really not interested.

SQUIRREL LADY

I'm not talking to you. I'm talking to Vera. What about Bucky? He loves to climb trees and eat nuts.

Vera indicates a comatose SQUIRREL in the corner.

VERA

What's wrong with him?

SQUIRREL LADY

Her.

(CONTINUED)

VERA

Her.

SQUIRREL LADY

Oh, she's just depressed.

(lifting Depressed Squirrel)

Hey Cordelia, do you want to go home with the pretty ladies?

(in a SQUIRREL VOICE, high pitched, very depressed)

"I don't care. I'm just so tired.."

(as herself, whispering)

Half price.

VERA

(tempted, to Merrill)

What do you think?

MERRILL

(exasperated)

Ma'am. We don't want a squirrel. All we want is some help. Do you or do you not know where the interstate is?

SQUIRREL LADY

Of course I do. I'm not retarded.

(as the Squirrel)

"Tell them about the shortcut!"

(as herself)

Oh yeah. There's a dandy shortcut. It'll bring you right to exit 14- save you thirty miles.

Merrill and Vera exchange excited looks.

SQUIRREL LADY

Listen carefully. You go straight down here exactly 1.8 miles...

MERRILL

(writing it down)

One point eight...

SQUIRREL LADY

You'll see an old red barn. Make a left. Go 5.4 miles, up a big hill. You'll see two big white rocks. There's a little dirt road on the right. It'll take you right there.

MERRILL & VERA

Thank you very much... Good luck...

SQUIRREL LADY

Here. Take some nuts. In case you see a squirrel.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The Squirrel Lady hands them a paper bag filled with nuts. It says I (HEART) SQUIRRELS.

As Merrill and Vera drive away, the Squirrel Lady clicks on a BOOMBOX and sings the Alvin and the Chipmunks classic "Witch Doctor"...

EXT. HIGHWAY- WITH THE CODY BROTHERS

TWO ARIZONA PATROL CARS- sirens blaring!- are chasing the Cody Brothers! The brothers zoom past a sign: WELCOME TO NEW MEXICO.

The cops have to break off the chase, and let them go. The Cody Brothers pull over.

DUANE CODY
oify-ops-inew-excio-abba-or!!!

BLAINE CODY
What?

DUANE CODY
(calmly, slowly, but still
unintelligible)
oify ops in ew excio abba or.

BLAINE CODY
You're right. They're gonna notify the
state cops here for sure. We're screwed.

DUANE CODY
Here are oo of us, aybe ee ould eperate.

BLAINE CODY
You're right! Duane, you're a genius!
There are two of us. If we steal a car
and separate- we double our chances of
getting through!

Duane takes out the \$2,000,000 locker key.

DUANE CODY
on ey.

BLAINE CODY
(stumped)
You're right. Only one key.

INT. DEXTER'S HARDWARE STORE- WITH CODY BROTHERS

Moments later. The Brothers are at a local hardware store called DEXTER'S HARDWARE. A sign says: keys made- while-u-wait.

They're making a copy of the locker key. The key-copier is an alcoholic named LLOYD. Disheveled. Blood shot. Wasted.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LLOYD

Uh, just one copy? Because, uh, you get a second one for half price...

BLAINE CODY

(reading Lloyd's name-tag)

Just one, Lloyd. And hurry.

Lloyd has a bottle hidden under the counter. He sneaks a sip. The Brothers ignore him, and confer...

BLAINE CODY

Now you remember where we're going?

DUANE CODY

ort umner ew exico.

BLAINE CODY

Right. Fort Sumner New Mexico. The train station. Locker number 0-0-1.

DUANE CODY

ero ero ooon.

Lloyd switches on the key copying machine. He seems oblivious, but he's actually eavesdropping, hanging on every word...

BLAINE CODY

Rule number one: discretion. Don't talk to anybody.

DUANE CODY

I won I romise.

BLAINE CODY

I mean anybody. We're talking about two million dollars. In cash. People would kill us to get their hands on that key...

(impatiently, to Lloyd)

Come on come on- it's only one key!

Behind the counter: Lloyd is switching keys!! He discreetly pockets Blaine's locker key.. Then takes two new uncut keys off the rack, and attaches the key-chain to one of them.

LLOYD

Here you go. That's a dollar fifty.

Lloyd nervously hands the two uncut keys to Blaine.

BLAINE CODY

Pay the man.

Duane pays Lloyd, as Blaine absently juggles the uncut keys. Lloyd eyes him nervously. Will he notice the switch? But Blaine pockets both keys, without noticing anything.

HARDWARE STORE OFFICE- SECONDS LATER

Lloyd bursts into the store's office and grabs his coat. There are a DOZEN PEOPLE there, waiting. His BOSS. His FRIENDS. His WHOLE FAMILY.

LLOYD
Mom? Uncle Morty? What are you doing here?

LLOYD'S MOM
It's what they call an intervention, sweetheart.

UNCLE MORTY
We love you, Lloyd, but we hate what you're doing to yourself.

Lloyd doesn't even stop. He ignores them all. He's looking for his keys...

LLOYD
Actually Mom.. Uncle Morty.. This isn't a good time for me. Hank, I need to borrow the truck. Where are the keys?

UNCLE MORTY
Lloyd, your Grandma Winnie flew in all the way from Boston..

GRANDMA WINNIE is 110 years old.

LLOYD'S MOM
Lloyd, we're all here because the drinking has got to stop!

LLOYD
Right. Whatever. Here they are.

Lloyd crosses to Grandma Winnie. She's sitting on his coat.

LLOYD
(loudly, annoyed)
Excuse me.

Lloyd grabs the coat, knocking Grandma over.

LLOYD
Catch you later!

Lloyd rushes out- SLAMMING the door behind him.

INT.\EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD- WITH MERRILL & VERA- MOVING

Vera & Merrill are following the Squirrel Lady's directions. They're on a deserted dirt road. They approach a RED BARN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VERA

There's the red barn!

MERRILL

1.8 miles exactly. All right, Squirrel Lady.

INT. HIGHWAY DINER- WITH NICK & TRACY

Nick & Tracy are sitting in a diner. Nick has just told her everything- the race, the money, etc. He's spread a road map out on the table. And he's holding the \$2,000,000 key.

TRACY

The Donald St. Claire? The billionaire?

NICK

It sounds crazy, I know. But I think it's on the level. But here's the thing: we have to decide- yes or no- right now. Look...

(indicates map)

We're here. If everybody else had to drive the whole way, I figure we still have a three hour head start.

TRACY

So you're proposing..?

NICK

We form a corporation, right now. Shaffer & Faucet Inc. If we win, we split everything fifty-fifty. Here. You can even keep the key.

He hands her the key. His hand lingers on hers.

NICK

What do you think?

TRACY

I.. I don't know what to think. I'm in shock. Three hours ago I was sitting at the airport. I had a job. I was reading my book.

NICK

My grandfather used to say "Good things take time. Great things happen all at once".

Tracy thinks. She considers Nick. She considers the map. And the key. Their WAITRESS arrives with their food.

TRACY

We'll take that to go.

WITH OWEN- LUCY BUS- MOVING- SAME TIME

Owen is driving the Lucy Bus. SOME LUCYS are gathered around him. They're all yammering on and on about The Lucy Show...

FIRST LUCY

But I guess my favorite episode- if I had to pick a favorite- would be episode 34, when Ricky thought he was going bald...

OWEN

Ladies.. Lucys. Stay behind the line.

FIRST LUCY

Do you remember that one? When Ricky wouldn't take his hat off? And then Lucy bought him that special ointment..?

OWEN

No, I must've missed that one. It sounds like a masterpiece.

THIRD LUCY

Oh Lucy, I love your dress.

FOURTH LUCY

Why thank you Lucy. And I love your dress.

One of the Lucys is smoking a cigarette.

OWEN

Ma'am? Lucy? You have to put that out.

Smoking Lucy tosses her butt out the bus window. The butt flies back into the bus! It gets caught in Another Lucy's hair! Her hair starts smoking!

LUCY SITTING NEARBY

LUCY! YOUR HAIR!

LUCY WHOSE HAIR IS BURNING

Well thank you. I couldn't decide whether to keep it up or...

LUCY SITTING NEARBY

NO! IT'S ON FIRE!

LUCY WHOSE HAIR IS BURNING

WHAT? WWHHHAAAAGGH!

ALL THE LUCYS panic! They try to put out the fire by repeatedly smacking the hair-burning Lucy with their purses! WHACK! WHACK!

SOME LUCYS are SCREAMING at Owen-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VARIOUS LUCYS
WAAAGGHH! FIRE! THERE'S A FIRE! STOP
THE BUS!

OWEN
We're not stopping. Stop screaming. Just
put it out.

ANOTHER LUCY has an idea! She takes a COAT and THROWS IT
OVER the Burning Lucy to smother the fire! Instantly, the
coat catches fire! Now they have a burning coat!

VARIOUS LUCYS
THE COAT! FIRE FIRE FIRE! WAAAGGHH!

They play "hot potato" with the burning coat.

ANOTHER LUCY
THE BATHROOM! THERE'S A SINK!

Various Lucys try to open the bathroom door. But it's stuck!
THEY PULL ON THE DOOR WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT!

VARIOUS LUCYS
OPEN UP! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

INSIDE THE BATHROOM- SAME TIME

But the Lucy Who's In The Bathroom is also pulling on the
door! So both sides of the door are being pulled!

LUCY IN BATHROOM
IT'S STUCK! WHHHAAAGH!

Finally the bathroom door is RIPPED OFF ITS HINGES, which
sends FIVE LUCYS sprawling! Another Lucy is holding the
burning coat.

LUCY HOLDING BURNING COAT
I DON'T WANT IT! WAAAGGHH!

VARIOUS LUCYS
THE TOILET! PUT IT IN THE TOILET!

They manage to jam the coat into the toilet. Instantly, the
toilet GURGLES and BELCHES and starts to overflow! Water
begins flooding the bus aisle.

Owen swerves... which causes a big box of detergent to fall
off the upper rack! It falls into the water. Trouble ahead.

INT.\EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD- WITH MERRILL & VERA- MOVING

Vera & Merrill are still following the Squirrel Lady's
directions. They're high in the mountains...

INT. CASINO- LOBBY- WITH MR. POLLINI

Back in Vegas. Mr. Pollini, the narcoleptic, is still sleeping in the lobby. TWO LITTLE KIDS notice him...

LITTLE GIRL

Hey mister. Are you dead?

She shakes Pollini. He wakes up with a Frankenstein-ish snort!

MR. POLLINI

Thank you! I'm up! Excuse me, I'm in a race!

Mr. Pollini checks his watch, and cheerfully resumes the race! He hustles across the lobby.. through the main entrance..

EXT. CASINO- STREET- CONTINUOUS

Mr. Pollini emerges from the casino. He dashes across the VALET PARKING AREA and into the street.

MR. POLLINI

TAXI!

He doesn't see: a DELIVERY VAN screeching up from the other direction. The vans says LIFELINE MEDICAL SERVICES. It hits Pollini and- WHAMP!- sends him flying!

The driver, ZACK, a very intense, very nervous young man, hops out. He ignores the injured Mr. Pollini and checks the van's fender for damage.

Then JOHNNY COCHRAN- who, we remember, is a casino guest- sticks his head out of a TENTH STORY WINDOW.

JOHNNY COCHRAN

(calling down)

I SAW THE WHOLE THING! STAY THERE! I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!

ZACK

Oh Shit! Johnny Cochran.

Zack quickly helps Mr. Pollini to his feet.

ZACK

Hey buddy, are you okay? You look great! You don't want to report this, do you?

Mr. Pollini is dazed. And bruised.

MR. POLLINI

Taxi...

(CONTINUED)

ZACK
(anxiously, looking around for
Johnny Cochran)
You don't need a taxi. Come on. Where
are going? Maybe I can drop you off.

MR. POLLINI
Fort Sumner, New Mexico...
(remembering, grins)
I am in a race!

ZACK
Fort Sumner. No shit. I'm going to
Austin, Texas. You're right on the way!

Zack and Pollini climb into the van.

ZACK
But I gotta warn you: I gotta get there
by 7 o'clock tonight or it's my tit in
the ringer. So I'm gonna be hauling ass.
I hope that's okay.

Mr. Pollini grins.

INT.\EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD- WITH MERRILL & VERA- MOVING

Vera and Merrill are still following the Squirrel Lady's
directions.

VERA
There they are! Two white rocks! Turn
right, turn right!

MERRILL
I see them, Vera.

They make a SHARP TURN. Immediately, the road goes downhill.

VERA
Careful...

The angle of descent becomes STEEPER. It's almost a free
fall! Merrill can't stop!

VERA
Slow down!

MERRILL
I.. can't!!!

They hurtle down the mountain, out of control! They pass a
small, handpainted sign. It says: YOU.

A second later, they pass another sign: SHOULD. Another
sign: HAVE. Another sign: BOUGHT. Another sign: A. Another
sign: SQUIRREL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Merrill and Vera exchange horrified looks! It's the Squirrel Lady's revenge!

At the bottom of the mountain is: a mound of rocks and dirt, forming a ramp. The chevy hits the "ramp" at 200 mph- and is airborne! They go flying through the air!

VERA

We should've bought a squirrel.

The Chevy lands- crashhh!- on...

PILE OF CARS

A pile of twenty other cars. Some are new. Most have been there for years. They're old, rusting. A stunned beat.

A SKELETON springs out from another car! Its clutching a paper bag, full of nuts. The bag says: I (HEART) SQUIRRELS.

WITH OWEN- LUCY BUS- MOVING- SAME TIME

CLOSE UP - OWEN, driving the Lucy Bus. The detergent has mixed with the overflowing toilet water, creating SUDS!

We STAY TIGHT ON OWEN'S FACE. The suds continue to creep into frame.. behind him.. around him. We DON'T SEE the Lucys, but we HEAR them PANICKING and SLOSHING AROUND!

VARIOUS LUCY VOICES

OPEN THE WINDOW! STOP THE BUS!
WAAAGH! I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP!

OWEN

(muttering, to himself)
Two million dollars. Two million dollars.

PICKUP TRUCK- WITH NICK & TRACY- MOVING

Nick & Tracy are now a team. Nick is driving. Fast. Tracy is at his side, map in hand.

Nick finishes a sandwich. He tosses the crust away, but he misses the trash bag and it lands on the floor.

TRACY

All right. In five miles you're gonna see signs for Route 6. We're gonna take that south for about 30 miles...

Nick yawns. He's exhausted.

TRACY

Are you okay?

(CONTINUED)

NICK
Yeah.. yeah.. I'm fine.

They pass a GAS STATION.

NICK
We need gas.

TRACY
We'll make the next one. I know this truck.

INT. BACK IN VEGAS- BETTING PARLOR

Back in Vegas. The BIG MAP continues to track the Racers.

At a table: SOME HIGH ROLLERS are playing Monopoly. One of them lands on a property.

HIGH ROLLER
St. James Place... with four houses...
eight hundred dollars.

We now see: they're playing with real money! The High Roller counts off EIGHT ONE-HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS.

St. Claire joins them.

ST. CLAIRE
You know what I'm gonna do? I just decided. I'm gonna put a hotel on Boardwalk.

HIGH ROLLER
You're not even playing.

ST. CLAIRE
Playing what?

HIGHWAY- CONVERTIBLE- WITH CODY BROTHERS- MOVING

Meanwhile, the Cody Boys are speeding east...

BLAINE CODY
Okay little brother. You steal a car.

DUANE CODY
i onna ry oo ind a aguar.

BLAINE CODY
I don't care, as long as it's fast. And I'll meet you in Fort Sumner. Oh- don't forget your key..

Blaine holds up the newly-copied locker key. They notice: it's.. blank. Uncut! He takes out their other key. It's uncut too!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They've been screwed! Blaine hits the brakes! Together they explode! They both BANG ON the dashboard!

DUANE CODY
 uther-ucking astard hit ockucker!

BLAINE CODY
 You said it.

At that moment, they look up and see: the key copy guy! Lloyd is driving past in the DEXTER HARDWARE STORE van.

DUANE CODY
 HERE EE IS!

Blaine hits the gas! Peels out!

HIGHWAY- CONTINUOUS

The Cody Boys pull up alongside Lloyd! They try to FORCE HIM OFF THE ROAD! Lloyd swerves... recovers... and accelerates!

EXT. PICKUP TRUCK- WITH NICK & TRACY

A quiet stretch of highway. As Nick predicted, the pickup truck has run out of gas. It sputters and rolls to a stop.

Twenty yards away: a POLICE CAR is parked. The STATE TROOPER BEHIND THE WHEEL is fast asleep.

SAME- MOMENTS LATER

Tracy and Nick are squat-walking... toward the parked POLICE CAR. Nick is carrying a metal bucket. They're siphoning gas!

NICK
 This is wrong. This is so wrong...

TRACY
 Shhh!

NICK
 God is going to smote us! We're gonna get smote.

TRACY
 Shhh. We're siphoning gas. It's not a smoting offense.

Tracy inserts the hose into the Cruiser's gas tank. She sucks on it to get a flow going.

NICK
 This shouldn't be turning me on, should it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DURING THIS, BEHIND THEM: Nick & Tracy left the pickup door open. A WILD RABBIT, hopping around, sniffs the sandwich that Nick dropped. The rabbit nibbles, then hops, unseen, into the truck..

Meanwhile, the gas-siphoning continues. Suddenly-

STATE TROOPER

What are you doing?

The Trooper is standing on the far side of the Police Car. Nick quickly turns around, and straddles the metal bucket. Tracy is standing in front of the siphon-hose. So, from the COP'S POV, it LOOKS LIKE NICK IS PEEING INTO THE BUCKET.

To complete the "picture": the gas trickling into the metal bucket sounds exactly like a guy peeing.

TRACY

Pit stop.

The Trooper nods. Nick's "peeing" continues. He appears to be peeing a river. Tracy explains...

TRACY

20 cups of coffee.

STATE TROOPER

What's with the bucket?

NICK

I never pee on the ground. I don't believe in it. It's the only planet we have.

The trooper takes a step forward and inadvertently steps on the siphone-hose, which abruptly cuts off the "peeing". Nick pretends to "zip up".

NICK

Well, I guess that's it.

Then the Trooper steps off the hose, and the "peeing" resumes!

NICK

I guess not. Heh, heh.

STATE TROOPER

Do you smell gas?

NICK

(waving his butt)
Sorry... That's me.

Suddenly Lloyd's HARDWARE VAN goes ZOOOOMING PAST.. followed by Blaine and Duane Cody in their convertible!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STATE TROOPER
Son of a bitch!

The Trooper scrambles back into his Cruiser and PEELS AWAY!

NICK
When you get to hell, save me a seat.

CHASE!- WITH CODY BOTHERS & STATE TROOPER

The Trooper catches up to Blaine and Cody. Then- suddenly- the Cruiser begins to sputter and slow down!

STATE TROOPER
Empty?!

The Codys speed away, laughing and waving!

INT. LIFELINE MEDICAL VAN- WITH MR. POLLINI & ZACK- MOVING

Zack and Mr. Pollini are in the Medical Van. Zack is driving fast. Very very fast. He's weaving in and out of traffic.

ARETHA FRANKLIN is on the radio.

ARETHA FRANKLIN (ON RADIO)
CHAIN CHAIN CHAIN, CHAIN OF FOOLS...

Pollini is cheerfully singing.. a completely different song.

MR. POLLINI (SINGING)
R-E-S-P-E-C-T FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO
ME. RESPECT, JUST A LITTLE BIT....

Zack can't stand it. He CLICKS OFF the radio. Pollini stops singing. A beat.

MR. POLLINI
Look at us go! We are zooming!

ZACK
I told you, I have to haul ass...
(mischievously)
You know what I got back there?... A
heart.... A human heart.

Mr. Pollini gasps.

ZACK (cont'd)
Some lucky bastard in Austin Texas is
waiting for it. They would've flown it,
but the airport's closed down.

They ride silently for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZACK (cont'd)
You wanna see it?

MR. POLLINI
See what?

Zack grins mischievously. He indicates the HIGH-TECH MEDICAL COOLER.

MR. POLLINI
Are we allowed?

ZACK
We'll just take a peek. One peek... What could happen?

Mr. Pollini is unconvinced.

ZACK (cont'd)
It's a heart. It needs fresh air. It's been locked up in that cooler for seven hours.

MR. POLLINI
Are you a doctor?

ZACK
Practically!

CHASE!- CODY BROTHERS VS. LLOYD- SERIES OF SHOTS

Elsewhere: the Cody Brothers are still chasing Lloyd! The two vehicles WEAVE WILDLY in and OUT of traffic!

Lloyd SWERVES- across two lanes of traffic- and takes an exit. He zooms past a sign: BALLOON FESTIVAL - 3 PM.

HOT-AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL- CONTINUOUS

A balloon festival in progress. A GROUP of BALLOONING ENTHUSIASTS are watching a DOZEN MULTI-COLORED HOT AIR BALLOONS inflate... then gently lift off... like petals in the wind.

Lloyd reaches the end of the parking lot. He SCREECHES to a stop and scrambles out and sprints toward the festival! The Cody Boys are right behind him!

A balloon is ready to lift off. Its PILOT is unhooking the anchor-ropes. Lloyd grabs the Pilot and throws him aside!

Lloyd unhooks the anchor-rope, then scrambles into the basket just as it lifts off! But he's unhooked the wrong end of the rope, so the balloon has a LONG ROPE dangling down, with a BIG LOOP on the end...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Blaine and Duane come running up. They leap up and try to grab the dangling rope, but it's just inches out of their reach!

RESUME- CHASING THE BALLOON- SERIES OF SHOTS

Lloyd glides over the desert in his stolen balloon. He's cruising low, at about 30 feet...

The balloon is powered by a PROPANE TANK. Lloyd doesn't know how to work it. He fiddles with the controls, trying to go higher. He looks down and sees: the Cody Brothers- in their convertible- chasing the balloon!

There's NEVER BEEN A CHASE LIKE IT! IN THE SKY: the balloon floats over CREEKS and ACROSS ROADS!

ON THE GROUND: the Cody Boys follow him relentlessly! They barrel across the CREEK and CRASH through a FENCE..

The rope- hanging from the balloon- dangles near the convertible! Duane tries to grab it. He climbs out.. onto the front hood, but can't quite reach it.

The rope drifts back toward Blaine, who's driving. Blaine CLICKS ON the car's CRUISE CONTROL. He grabs the rope. He wraps it around his arm, for leverage...

Meanwhile, in the balloon: Lloyd finally finds the right valve on the propane tank. The furnace ROARS ON! The balloon lifts higher, which yanks Blaine from the driver's seat!

WHOOOA! Blaine is airborne! He's carried away, helplessly, above the speeding convertible! The convertible- now driverless- locked into cruise control- barrels across the open plain!

Duane- the moron- is still on the hood, facing forward! He doesn't realize Blaine is no longer driving!

DUANE CODY
TOP EE AR! TOP EE AR!

On the bottom of the screen, we SUPER the translation: STOP THE CAR! STOP THE CAR!

In the balloon: the propane tank flickers OFF again. As Lloyd frantically tries to fix it...

The balloon dips lower. Blaine is dragged along, just above the ground.. right into a HERD OF COWS! He bumps into cow after cow after cow! It sounds like this: THUD! MOO! THUD! MOO!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Finally, Blaine untangles himself from the rope and drops to the ground. He looks up, dazed, and sees: the convertible! Heading straight for him!

Duane is still riding on the car's hood. He sees: Blaine- who he assumed was still driving- in the field, ahead of him!

DUANE CODY

bane?

BLAINE CODY

STOP!

The runaway convertible is heading straight for him! Blaine turns! He runs from the car! He can't dodge it- he's surrounded by cows. Panicking, he grabs the balloon's dangling rope and- once again- is lifted into the air! The car- with Duane still on the hood- drives under him!

In the balloon: Lloyd fixes the propane tank again. The FURNACE kicks on! The balloon lifts higher, carrying Blaine with it!

As it rises, the rope-loop snags the hind leg of a very unfortunate COW. The cow is suddenly lifted up, from the herd, by its rear leg!

UPSIDEDOWN DANGLING COW

MOOOooooOOOOOOooOOOOoo

IN MIDAIR: Blaine grabs the dangling cow, and hangs on for dear life.

IN THE BALLOON: the extra weight tips the passenger basket! Lloyd is "spilled" out of the balloon-

LLOYD

WHHOA-- !

And falls.. onto the dangling cow! He and Blaine scramble for a better grip: they grab the cow's udders, ears, head, etc.

BLAINE CODY

Gimme the key! I WANT THAT KEY!

ON THE DANGLING COW: Lloyd & Blaine Cody trade wild kicks and punches! Blaine reaches into Lloyd's pocket, and finds the key!

Blaine slips. As he falls, he grabs one of the cow's udder!

UPSIDEDOWN DANGLING COW

MOOOO!!!

The utter sprays milk into Blaine's face, like a squirt gun! Blaine sputters, then lets go, and falls...

SMALL POND- CONTINUOUS

He lands- SPLASH!- in a small, shallow pond!

He looks around. Once again, the convertible is heading right toward him, with Duane still riding the hood!

Blaine dives underwater, just as- SPLASH!- the convertible lands in the pond.

LUCY BUS- MOUNTAIN ROAD- MOVING- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, Owen is driving the Lucy Bus through the mountains...

Suddenly- the FLYING COW and LLOYD appear, dangling, upsidedown, directly in front of the bus! Owen is stunned. The 30 Lucys see the cow too. They all stare, open-mouthed.

Above them, in the balloon: the furnace is jostled, and KICKS BACK ON. The balloon starts rising fast...

Lloyd and the cow fly away. Then Owen realizes: in all the excitement, he's driven OFF THE HIGHWAY!! The Lucy Bus careens down a mountain, bouncing over rocks and hills, out of control!

The Lucys are thrown back and forth! Luggage spills from the overhead racks!

ALL THE LUCYS
WAAAGGGHHHHH! WAAAGGGHHHHH!

EXT. SMALL POND- WITH THE CODY BROTHERS

The Cody's convertible is sitting in the shallow pond.

Duane- on the hood- is watching the balloon float away. From this distance, he can't tell who's dangling from the rope. He assumes it's Blaine.

DUANE CODY
(wailing)
bane! bane!

During this, Blaine comes bubbling up from the water, covered with MUD and GUNG. He looks like the CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON.

BLAINE CODY
Duane!

Duane turns- sees the "creature"-

DUANE CODY
AAAAGHH!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Duane recoils. SPLAT! He falls into the water.

BLAINE CODY
It's me! It's me!

DUANE CODY
BANE? BANE!!

The brothers embrace, like long-lost lovers! Blaine triumphantly holds up the locker key!

BLAINE CODY
I got the key!

INT. CASINO- A HOTEL SUITE

Back in Vegas. In a magnificent private suite. Mr. Grisham is there, sitting alone. He looks very uncomfortable.

There's a KNOCK on the door. Mr. Grisham answers. It's VICKY, an attractive, upscale working girl.

MR. GRISHAM
Hello.

VICKY
Hi. Are you Harold?
(Grisham nods)
I'm Vicky. Aren't you going to invite me in, Harry? Or we could just party out here in the hall.

MR. GRISHAM
Yes. Of course. Come in.

Mr. Grisham nervously ushers her in. Vicky looks around.

VICKY
Not too shabby. Where are you from, Harry?

MR. GRISHAM
I'm from here. Las Vegas.

VICKY
Local boy makes good. So, Harry, what can I do for you?

MR. GRISHAM
Here's what I want. We both get naked...

VICKY
So far so good.

(CONTINUED)

MR. GRISHAM

Except we're both wearing sailor hats.
Then we get in the jacuzzi which is
filled with Pepto Bismo, then I clip your
toenails while you give me an enema.

VICKY

Pardon me.

MR. GRISHAM

(repeating, nervously)

Naked.. jacuzzi.. Pepto Bismo..
toenails.. enema. How much would that
cost?

VICKY

Jeez, honey. You've got quite an
imagination.

MR. GRISHAM

How much?

VICKY

Well, let's see. A party like that...
fifteen hundred.

Suddenly THREE HIGH ROLLERS appear! They've been hiding in
the kitchen and behind the sofa.

FIRST HIGH ROLLER

Fifteen hundred! Who had fifteen
hundred?

SECOND HIGH ROLLER

(consulting a list)

Carlton had thirteen fifty. He's
closest.

The High Rollers laugh and pay off the winner.

HIGHWAY- WITH PEAR FAMILY- HITLER'S MERCEDES BENZ- MOVING

The Pears are cruising east in Hitler's touring car. Jason
has found an old harmonica, and is playing it: WAAaaaA-
WAAaaaA!

RANDY

Where'd you get that?

JASON

I found it behind the seat.

Jason resumes blowing: WAAH- WAH- WAAAAH!

RANDY

Jason! You can't play that! Give me
that!

(CONTINUED)

Why? JASON

RANDY
Because it's Hitler's harmonica! You
can't play Hitler's harmonica!

JASON
Why not? You're driving his car.

RANDY
I'm not putting MY MOUTH on the car! I'm
not SUCKING on the dashboard! I'm not
getting his GERMS!

BEV
I don't think Hitler played harmonica.

RANDY
How do you know?

BEV
I just can't picture it. Have you ever
seen a photograph of Hitler playing
harmonica?

RANDY
They wouldn't release a photograph like
that! They had a whole propaganda
machine. They burned all the harmonica
pictures!

Jason- defiantly- continues to play. WWaaaAA-WaaaaAA! Bev
finds some sunglasses in the glove compartment. She puts
them on.

BEV
You think Eva Braun would mind if I
borrowed these?

EXT. HIGHWAY.

A piece of pipe falls off an overloaded junk truck. Zack's
medical van heads right for it!

RESUME MEDICAL VAN

Suddenly the van hits the pipe. BUMP! The heart pops up, out
of the container! It falls on the floor. It rolls under the
seat.

MR. POLLINI & ZACK
WAGGH! OH SHIT! THERE IT IS! DON'T
STEP ON IT!

Zack and Mr. Pollini look around the floor of the van.

EXT. PETRIFIED FOREST- WITH VERA & MERRILL

Elsewhere: Merrill and Vera are now on foot. They're in New Mexico's petrified forest. It's an amazing, other-worldly place, filled with towering, multicolored fossils..

Merrill tries her cell phone. There's no signal.

VERA

Look at those rocks. It's like another planet.

MERRILL

Yeah. A planet without cellular phone relay stations or people in cars who might PICK- US- UP.

Once again, Merrill struggles to control her temper. She cracks another cell phone.

MERRILL

(teeth clenched)

Damn. We should have bought a squirrel.

VERA

Lucianne said I was going on a long journey.

MERRILL

The next time you see her, tell her I'm impressed.

VERA

I hope I don't see her too soon. She died two weeks ago in a plane crash.

Merrill starts to laugh.

MERRILL

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Your psychic died.. in a plane crash?

VERA

It wasn't just her. It was a whole convention. There were 84 psychics on board.

Now Merrill is in hysterics!

MERRILL

84 psychics... got on this airplane.. and it crashed?

VERA

What's so funny?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Merrill is laughing so hard, she has to sit. She sits on a rock.

MERRILL

And not one of them said "Hey- excuse me-
I think I'm getting a bad vibe here!"

Vera finally gets it. She sits beside Merrill. She laughs too.

VERA

You're right. They must've been so
embarrassed, as they..

Finally, their laughter subsides. A beat.

VERA

I love how you laugh.

MERRILL

(startled)

I- I can't believe you said that.

VERA

What?

MERRILL

It's just that my mother-
(catching herself)

Regina, always hated my laugh. When I
was eleven she actually taught me how to
laugh differently.

Merrill fights back tears.

MERRILL

She was- we had a lot of rules... it was
like living in a cult.. a small cult with
just two people: me and mom...

The tears come. Merrill weeps like a little girl. Vera puts
a comforting arm around her. They are, for the first time,
mother and daughter.

EXT. HIGHWAY. MEDICAL VAN

The van is swerving wildly back and forth across the highway.

INT. MEDICAL VAN- WITH MR.POLLINI & ZACK .

No one's watching the road! Zack and Mr.Pollini are searching
on the floor for the heart they dropped. All we see is Zack's
hand on the wheel and Mr. Pollini's feet sticking up.

MR. POLLINI (V.O.)

Here! I found it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZACK (V.O.)
No! No! That's an apple!

EXT. WITH THE LUCY BUS- SIDE ROAD

The Lucy Bus has come to a stop, on a deserted dirt road. One tire is completely flat. Owen is changing it. First Lucy sticks her head out.

FIRST LUCY
O-wen! O-wen. What are you doing?

OWEN
It's a flat tire. Stay on the bus.

First Lucy clamors off the bus.

FIRST LUCY
You're turning it the wrong way.

OWEN
(annoyed)
I know what I'm doing. Please get back on the bus.

SECOND LUCY
My brother's a mechanic. Maybe I can help!

ALL THE OTHER LUCYS step off the bus, nagging and criticizing...

ALL THE LUCYS
As long as we're stopped, maybe we should check the oil. That's a good idea. Where's the engine?

The Lucys are everywhere! They start wandering off. Owen has to run around- like a sheep dog- and "herd them" back to the bus.

OWEN
LUCY! LUCY! STAY ON THE BUS! You're not helping.

Some Lucys start playing with the HYDRAULIC JACK. Others start removing the LUG NUTS. They're driving Owen crazy.

THREE LUCYS are examining the flat tire.

FOURTH LUCY
Maybe we can patch it up.

FIFTH LUCY
With what?

(CONTINUED)

SIXTH LUCY

I know! I have some gum! Here!
Everybody chew.

All the Lucys take sticks of gum and start chewing. One Lucy takes four or five sticks, until her mouth is jammed full. She gnaws on the huge wad, until- she STARTS GAGGING!

GAGGING LUCY

Ak! Ak!

Gagging Lucy turns blue!

FIFTH LUCY

Someone! Do the Heimlich Maneuver.

FOURTH LUCY

I'll do it! I've done it a hundred times.
I used to work at sizzler.

Fourth Lucy gets behind her and performs the Heimlich Maneuver. It works: Gagging Lucy spits out the gum- right into the open mouth of Fifth Lucy! Now she starts gagging!

Owen turns. Another Two Lucys are bouncing the SPARE TIRE.

OWEN

Wait! No! Put that down.

The Lucys drop the tire. It bounces away.. down a hill.. then sails off a distant cliff. It's gone forever. Owen sighs.

Two Other Lucys appear, with another tire.

LUCY WITH TIRE

Why can't we can use this one?

OWEN

Where did you get that?!

LUCY WITH TIRE

From the other side.

As if on cue, the ENTIRE FRONT OF THE BUS COLLAPSES, into the dirt. A beat.

LUCYS

WWAAGGGHHHH! We're stuck! We're stuck
here forever!

All 30 Lucys start sobbing. Owen is overcome. He starts crying too. Real tears. The Lucys comfort him....

FIRST LUCY

Don't feel bad, Owen. It wasn't your fault.

(CONTINUED)

SECOND LUCY

We'll tell the company. We won't let them fire you.

OWEN

I'm no bus driver...

THIRD LUCY

Don't say that.

OWEN

(trying to confess)

I'm not! I'm not a bus driver...

FOURTH LUCY

Don't be so hard on yourself.

FIFTH LUCY

Who's the greatest bus driver? OWEN!
OWEN!

The Lucys start chanting "OWEN! OWEN!" Owen hides his head.

OWEN

No. Listen! I don't work for the bus company. I needed a ride to New Mexico, so I stole this uniform. Look- it doesn't even fit!

Finally, the Lucys understand. They stop crying. They're mood changes. They're pissed off.

FIRST LUCY

You're... not a bus driver?

SECOND LUCY

He ruined our whole vacation!

The 30 Lucys surround Owen, menacingly. Owen gulps.

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN DESERT- WITH MERRILL & VERA

Meanwhile: Merrill & Vera are still lost. On foot. They find a small, rundown WOODEN SHED. Merrill calls out:

MERRILL

Hellooo...?

They cautiously open the door...

INT. SHED

An unholy mess. A single, unlit room. Dirt floor. Cluttered with papers and clocks and books and bomb-making materials...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VERA
My guess: bachelor.

DIRT ROAD- WITH OWEN & THE LUCYS- SAME TIME

Owen is running down a deserted dirt road. He glances back. The 30 LUCYS are running after him; an angry mob of redheaded women!

EXT. MILAGRO, NEW MEXICO- MAIN STREET- MOMENTS LATER

Owen enters a sleepy little desert town. A banner says: MILAGRO, NEW MEXICO- CENTENNIAL PARADE. Main Street is lined with TOWNSPEOPLE and VENDERS and MUSICIANS, waiting for a parade...

Owen glances back. The THIRTY ANGRY LUCYS are still after him!

He turns a corner. He sees: a FLATBED TRUCK, which has been converted to a FESTIVAL FLOAT. It's blanketed with flowers and ornamental lights. Its engine is idling. There's no driver. Perfect! Owen climbs into the cab, and DRIVES away...

As he drives away, the 30 LUCYS appear!

FIRST LUCY
THERE HE IS!

The Lucys start down the street, after the the float. Suddenly a BUS appears and cuts them off. The bus says: DIRECT FROM HAVANA! MAMBO-MANIA!

There are 30 men on the bus- all well-groomed, middle-age Cubans. They all look like Ricky Ricardo. The Rickys stick their heads out the bus windows. They speak in thick Cuban accents.

FIRST RICKY
Hello ladies. We saw you running down the street.

SECOND RICKY
Somebody's got some espaining to do!

The Lucys giggle and swoon; they're in love.

HIGHWAY- PARADE FLOAT- MOVING- MOMENTS LATER

Meanwhile, Owen flees town! He ROARS down the highway in the parade float.

He doesn't realize: there's an OLD MAN on THE BACK OF THE FLOAT! The old man is in a rocking chair which has been secured to the truck. A sign says: JEREMIAH DUNTWOOD- OUR OLDEST LIVING RESIDENT- 103 YEARS OLD.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The truck picks up speed. Old Mr. Duntwood thinks the parade has started; he manages to weakly smile and wave.

INT. MEDICAL VAN- WITH MR. POLLINI & ZACK- MOVING

Meanwhile, Mr. Pollini and Zack have found the human heart. Mr. Pollini is putting it back in the container.

ZACK

Turn it around. Don't force it. Wait, wait, what's that?

MR. POLLINI

(picking things out of the heart)

It's a nickel! And a quarter! Lucky duck!

ZACK

Just close the box!

MR. POLLINI (cont'd)

And a ball point pen! Can I have it?

EXT. HIGHWAY.

Another pipe falls off the same junk truck.

RESUME MEDICAL VAN

BUMP! Again, the heart pops loose!

POLLINI & ZACK

AH! Ah! Get it! OH NO!

Mr. Pollini tries to catch it, but the heart is too slippery. It POPS out of his hand and.. flies out the window!

INT. WOODEN SHED- WITH MERRILL & VERA

Merrill & Vera are still in the grimy wooden shed. Merrill has found some strips of stringy, dried out meat. She's eating some.

MERRILL

It's not bad. It sort of reminds me of food.

During all this, Vera's been doing what Moms do: cleaning up. She's made neat piles of papers, put stuff away on shelves, etc.

MERRILL

What are you doing?

VERA

I'm just cleaning up. No big deal. Do you see a vacuum?

(CONTINUED)

MERRILL

Vera, it's a dirt floor.

Merrill looks around. For the first time, she notices: the books on Marxism.. the manifesto.. the explosives.. the shipping material. She gulps. It's a Unabomber's cabin!

MERRILL

Oh Jesus. Vera, you know who lives here?

Just then, the door opens.

THE BOMBER

What are you doing?

The ladies turn. There's a man at the door. Thick glasses. Scruffy hair. Brilliant.. unstable. We'll call him THE BOMBER.

THE BOMBER

Private property.

MERRILL

I know. I'm sorry. We were lost. We're just leaving.

(anxiously)

Come on, Vera.

The Bomber looks around, warily.

THE BOMBER

What did you do?

Vera- who has no idea they're in danger- answers cheerfully..

VERA

I straightened up a little. Force of habit, heh, heh. Now at least you can see your desk.

Vera indicates a manuscript on a desk. A thousand handwritten pages.

VERA

I put your book over there. I have to be honest. I read a little of it, and- whooo!

(gestures "way above my head")

I don't even understand the title: "Soon, A Cleansing". Do you have a publisher?

THE BOMBER

It will be published, in its entirety, in the Wall Street Journal.

VERA

Oh good. I'll get a chance to finish it.

(CONTINUED)

THE BOMBER

I appreciate your help. You're name is Vera, right? I didn't get your sister's name..?

VERA

Sister. Bless your heart. This is my daughter, Merrill. She owns her own cosmetics company, which is why she never married.

MERRILL

Vera-

VERA

Actually, you two have a lot in common. You both enjoy gardening..

THE BOMBER

Gardening?

VERA

I just assumed. I saw all that fertilizer out back.

MERRILL

(nervously)

Like I said, we were just leaving...

They start for the door. The Bomber closes it. They're trapped.

THE BOMBER

Stick around. Stay for lunch.
(indicates the meat-strips)
Do you like coyote?

MERRILL

(eyes narrowing, firmly)

Vera, we have to go. Remember- we have that appointment in Fort Sumner?

VERA

(babbling, still the innocent)
She's right! We're in sort of a hurry.
Very nice meeting you. Oh, by the way, I reset your clocks-

THE BOMBER

What clocks?

VERA

Up there.

The Bomber reacts, horrified! He turns and begins to frantically defuse the bombs! Merrill grabs Vera and drags her out the door.

EXT. DESERT- MOMENTS LATER

Moments later. Merrill and Vera are a half mile away, walking. Behind them, in the distance, we can see the Bomber's shed.

VERA

I know it's not a mansion but at least he owns his own house. Would it kill to smile and try be friendly..?

MERRILL

Just keep walking!

VERA

You're almost 30 years old. It's time to start being a little realistic about men..

MERRILL

Mom! For God's sake, he was psychotic!

Behind them, the Bomber's shed explodes! From this distance it's just a puff of smoke and a muffled "boom"! Vera stops.

VERA

Did you hear that?

MERRILL

What?

VERA

Don't you realize what just happened?

(beat)

You called me Mom.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- AUSTIN, TEXAS

Meanwhile, in a hospital in Texas. A frail-looking HEART PATIENT is in bed. His concerned WIFE is there.

DOCTOR

Mr. Corcoran, you're a very lucky man. We found a heart. It's A-B negative- a perfect match.

The PATIENT and his WIFE joyfully clutch each other!

WIFE

It's a miracle!

EXT. A FIELD- WITH MR. POLLINI & LLOYD- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, 400 miles away: the Medical Van has pulled over. Mr. Pollini and Zack are looking for the heart they dropped.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They're searching in a FIELD OF TALL GRASS, next to the highway.

ZACK

Check over there. Maybe it rolled.

A friendly, scruffy STRAY DOG appears.

MR. POLLINI

Hello doggie. You want to play? Fetch!

Mr. Pollini throws a stick. The Dog goes running off after it.

ZACK

I'm a dead man.

MR. POLLINI

Don't worry, my friend. We will find it.
I have lost my heart many times before.
Ha, ha, ha.

During this, the Dog returns with something in its mouth. It's.. the heart!! Mr. Pollini doesn't notice; he takes the heart from the dog and tosses it away.

MR. POLLINI

Fetch! Good doggie.
(resuming, to Zack)
Here is what I think: we should...

Pollini notices: blood on his hand.

MR. POLLINI

Oh no! Dio che confusione!

ZACK

What?

MR. POLLINI

The dog! He has the heart!

The Stray Dog is standing a few yards away. Mr. Pollini & Zack approach the dog... slowly.. calmly..

MR. POLLINI & ZACK

Drop it. Drop the heart. Good doggie..

The dog hesitates.. growls.. then runs off with the heart! Mr. Pollini and Zack run after it!

HIGHWAY- WITH NICK & TRACY- MOVING

Tracy still driving. Next to her: Nick has leaned his seat back and covered himself with a jacket. He's asleep.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

In the backseat: the RABBIT appears, and starts hopping around...

Up front: Nick is sprawled out, hands behind his head. The rabbit hops under his jacket.. and crawls up his leg... and nuzzles Nick's crotch!

Nick stirs. He feels something caressing his crotch. He ASSUMES IT'S TRACY, GIVING HIM A HAND JOB! He grins. He leans back. He moans.

NICK
Mmmmmmm. Oh yeah...

Tracy glances over. What's he moaning about?

NICK
Wanna pull over?

TRACY
Why?

Nick figures: she wants to fool around while she's driving.

NICK
Okay. But be careful.

TRACY
I'm always careful.

The rabbit continues to wriggle and nuzzle. Nick stiffens.

NICK
Oh baby.. Oh Tracy.. thank you.. thank you..

TRACY
(confused.. but pleased)
You're welcome.

NICK
Slow down.

TRACY
Why?

NICK
Make it last.

TRACY
What about the race?

NICK
Right now I couldn't care less. You're the most fantastic woman I've ever met...

They PASS a sign: FORT SUMNER- 40 MILES.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TRACY
We're almost there.

NICK
(misunderstanding, in ecstasy)
Oh yeah! We're almost there... Oh Tracy!
I think I love you..

Love? Tracy reacts, shocked.

TRACY
You don't waste time, do you?

NICK
Look who's talking.

Tracy smiles. She's turned on, too. Exhilarated, she starts DRUMMING on the steering wheel. With both hands.

Nick listens to the drumming. A puzzled beat. He opens his eyes and sees both of Tracy's hands. Then.. he lifts the end of his jacket. The rabbit sticks its head out.

NICK
AAARRRRGGGHHHHHHHHHHH!

Nick flails around, scaring Tracy to death!

TRACY
AAARRRRGGGHHHHHHHHHHH!

Tracy is startled and loses control of the pickup! It SKIDS off the highway.. down a ditch.. and CRASHES into a pole!!

SPLIT SCREEN- HOSPITAL ROOM / ZACK AND MR. POLLINI.

ON ONE HALF OF THE SCREEN, we see: the Heart Patient, in Texas, clutching his Wife's hand...

HEART PATIENT
Darling, I've been thinking. When I get the new heart, everything's going to be different. I'm going to spend more time with you and the kids...I'm going to sell the company and give the money to charity. I want to devote my life to the poor and feeding the homeless. I want to build schools in Africa..

While on the OTHER HALF OF THE SCREEN we watch...

ZACK & MR. POLLINI- CHASING DOG

The Scruffy Dog still has the heart in its mouth! Zack & Mr. Pollini are chasing it across an open field!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The dog runs under a fence. The guys climb over it. The dog scampers up a hill. The guys stagger after it.. (etc.)

MR. POLLINI

Wait. Wait. We're scaring him. If we stop, he'll stop.

They stop running. But the dog doesn't stop. It continues tearing away, full speed, over a hill. A beat. Then Zack and Pollini start running again...

HIGHWAY- HITLER'S MERCEDES BENZ- WITH PEAR FAMILY- MOVING

Meanwhile, the Pears continue east. They pass a VW BEETLE- the type of car they lectured Jason about earlier.

JASON

(playfully, to BEETLE DRIVER)
YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED, DRIVING AROUND
IN THAT! HOW DO YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT?

In the front seat: Randy is admiring the Mercedes...

RANDY

It's a beautiful car, isn't it. That's real mahogany. You don't see that anymore.

Randy removes a SMALL CYLINDER from the dashboard.

RANDY

I wonder what this is?

BEV

It's a cigarette lighter.

RANDY

I don't think so...

Randy touches the cylinder with his middle finger. We HEAR-SSssssSS!!- flesh burning! It is a cigarette lighter.

RANDY

OW OW OW OW!!

Randy tosses the lighter aside, and sucks on his burned finger. He waves it around. Just as he's waving his middle finger around, an ALL-FEMALE BIKER GANG rides past. These are tough gals. Weathered. Their leather jackets say SHE-DEVILS.

The Lead Biker glances over. She thinks Randy is giving her the finger! She gives Randy the finger! Randy realizes the misunderstanding.

RANDY

NO! I BURNED MY FINGER!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bev tries to help: she extends her middle finger!

BEV
HE BURNED HIS FINGER!

RANDY
Honey, you're not helping.

The Lead Biker signals. The OTHER BIKERS surround the Mercedes! They take out pipes and chains and POUND on it! WHAM! WHAM! Randy and the Family are terrified!

RANDY
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THIS IS HITLER'S CAR!

Randy weaves all over the road! Tires SCREECH! The attack continues until a TRUCK approaches, in the westbound lane! The TRUCK BLASTS its HORN! The Bikers- who are in the truck's lane- have to SWERVE out of the way!

The Bikers careen- wildly- off the road- down an embankment- and- SCREECH! WHOA! CRASH!- wipe out and fly off their Harleys!

HITLER'S MERCEDES- WITH THE PEARLS- CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, the Mercedes SWERVES and BOUNCES wildly. The cigarette lighter- which is still red hot- bounces off the dashboard and flies- PLOP!- into Randy's mouth!

RANDY
YOW OW OW OWWWWWW!

Randy spits out the lighter! His tongue is burnt! Kimberly is holding a CHOCOLATE MILKSHAKE. Randy grabs it and sloppily gulps it down, leaving a little chocolate mustache on his upper lip.

During all this, Randy loses control of the Mercedes. It careens wildly- off the highway- and CRASHES through a big wooden fence!

OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE- VFW HALL- CONTINUOUS

They're behind a LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION HALL.

An outdoor presentation is in progress. A HUNDRED ELDERLY VETERANS- in full uniform- are gathered. A banner says:

"AMERICAN LEGION SALUTES VETERANS OF WWII."

The Mercedes SCREECHES to a halt just behind the podium.

BEV
Tell them what happened! Tell them to call the police!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Randy rushes up to the microphone. His speech is still garbled from the tongue-burning.

RANDY
ECCH GRADRAT! ARGUT! MEIN DRAGULPH!

He sounds LIKE HE'S SCREAMING IN GERMAN! He gestures excitedly, just like Hitler! And the milkshake on his lip looks like Hitler's mustache. And he's standing right in front of Hitler's Mercedes, complete with waving Nazi flag. To the Elderly Veterans, it looks as if ADOLPH HITLER HIMSELF IS ADDRESSING THEM!

RANDY
ECCH GRADRAT! ARGUT! MEIN DRAGULPH!

The Veterans watch, horrified. ONE VETERAN takes out a 50-year-old pistol and- BLAM!- fires at Randy, just missing him.

ELECTRIC FENCE- WITH ZACK & MR. POLLINI

Elsewhere: remember the LITTLE DOG who was carrying the human heart? It tried to climb an ELECTRIC FENCE and got electrocuted.

We're sensitive about how we shoot it: we just see the sign "DANGER- ELECTRIC FENCE" and the dog's fried tail, still smoking.

Zack and Mr. Pollini approach the carcass. Zack reaches out of frame, and retrieves the heart. The two men examine it...

ZACK
(anxiously)
What do you think?

MR. POLLINI
What are those holes?..

ZACK
I think they were there..

Zack tries to clean the heart. He wipes it on his shirt. He indicates a FLESHY DANGLING GLOB.

ZACK
What's that?

MR. POLLINI
I think that's part of it. See, it's connected..

Zack pokes the heart. He reattaches a ventricle.

ZACK
(suddenly unraveling)
What am I doing?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZACK (cont'd)
I can't show up in Austin with this!
Look at it! It's gonna leak like a
sieve! The guy's gonna live for, like,
two minutes and-
(as a flatlining heart monitor)
Beeeeeeeeeeeeeeep!
(then, an idea)
A drifter!

MR. POLLINI
A drifter?

ZACK
(crazed)
We find a drifter. We kill him and cut
out his heart! Nobody'll miss him,
right? He's a drifter! An invisible
man. It's a perfect plan!

MR. POLLINI
Okay Zack, now you are giving me the
freak out.

ZACK
But where am I going to find..?

Zack focuses on Pollini. But Pollini is oblivious...

ZACK
(probing, casually)
Enrico. Where did you say you were from?

MR. POLLINI
Me? I am from Napoli.

ZACK
And your family? They're still there?

MR. POLLINI
No. My papa, he is dead. And my momma.
All gone. What about you, Zack?

ZACK
Any family? Kids?

MR. POLLINI
No, I am alone. Why do you...?

Zack's eyes narrow, icily. Pollini catches the look.

MR. POLLINI
(pointing)
Look! A drifter! Let's kill him!

When Zack turns to look, Pollini takes off the other way!

There are train tracks in the distance. An AMTRACK PASSENGER
TRAIN is passing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Mr. Pollini- in an incredible (and perhaps SFX-enhanced) BURST OF SPEED races, on foot, across the field, after the train! Pollini catches up with it and hops on!

Zack starts to chase him along the fence, but quickly gives up.

ZACK

Son of a-

Zack trips, and accidentally brushes the electric fence. ZZZZAAAPP! He's shocked! He's thrown a few feet. He sits up, dazed, and looks at the heart in his hand. It's.. beating! Ba-bump.. Ba-bump..

HIGHWAY- PARADE FLOAT- WITH OWEN & MR. DUNTWOOD- MOVING

Meanwhile, Owen ZOOMS down the highway at 80 miles an hour.

On the back of the float: 103-year-old Mr. Duntwood- terrified- clutches the chair, hanging on for dear life!

MR. DUNTWOOD

Stoooooooooop!

He manages to get up. He grabs a pole. The END OF THE BANNER is next to his face. The wind makes the banner flutter... which slaps his face- like a jackhammer- a thousand times a minute!

He manages to grab another pole. The motion of the truck sends him TWIRLING- helplessly- around and around! He's thrown from bar to bar. He looks like an OLYMPIC GYMNAST!

The truck makes a sharp turn! The 103-Year-Old man barely hangs on, with his legs!

MR. DUNTWOOD

AAARRGGGHHHH!

INT. BACK IN LAS VEGAS- BETTING PARLOR

On the BIG ELECTRONIC MAP: the "horses" move- in a big cluster- toward Fort Sumner. The High Rollers are CHEERING WILDLY!

HIGH ROLLER

Here they come! They're all within 50 miles!

ST. CLAIRE

It's the final lap!

In the background, another bizarre bet is in progress: MR. GRISHAM and FOUR HOTEL MAIDS are dangling from a curtain rod. They're falling off, one by one. FOUR HIGH ROLLERS watch, intently.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ST. CLAIRE
Mr. Grisham..?

MR. GRISHAM
(straining, hanging from
curtain rod)
Sir?

ST. CLAIRE
I'm told the airport is back on line. Why
don't you take the Lear jet and scoot on
down to Fort Sumner. You can give us a
play by play from the finish line.

MR. GRISHAM
Yes sir.

A beat. Grisham can't hang on. He falls - THUD! Which
leaves ONE DANGLING MAID - the winner!

WINNING HIGH ROLLER
Yes! That is one spunky little
chambermaid!

The other High Rollers pay off the winner.

HIGHWAY- CONVERTIBLE- WITH CODY BROTHERS- MOVING

The Cody Boys are in their convertible. Duane is driving.
They pass a sign: FORT SUMNER- 15 MILES. Yes! They made it!

DUANE CODY
FORT SUMNER! EEE ADE IT!

They high-five each other! Another convertible pulls up
alongside, with TWO PRETTY GIRLS.

The GIRL IN THE PASSENGER SEAT has pierced her body in 40
places: lips, ears, etc. Duane smiles. The PIERCED GIRL
smiles back. Duane opens his mouth and shows her his tongue
stud. She opens her mouth. She has a tongue stud too.

The PIERCED GIRL pulls back her hair, revealing: her ears
have multiple piercings. Duane is in love. He rises,
keeping one hand on the wheel, and lifts his shirt. He has a
navel-ring.

The GIRL lifts her T-shirt. We SEE HER FROM BEHIND; all we
see is are glimpses of long swaying chains that are hanging
from her chest. We HEAR them RATTLING & SHAKING.

Blaine and Duane stare at her, amazed. Duane takes his eyes
off the road and drives off the highway!

BLAINE & DUANE CODY
AAARRGGH!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Codys BOUNCE down an embankment and SMASH-CRASHHH!- through an old wooden fence. Suddenly they're in the middle of a-

EXT. MONSTER TRUCK RALLY- OUTDOOR RACETRACK

A Monster Truck rally! In progress! They're on a muddy racetrack, surrounded by massive, roaring "MONSTER TRUCKS"- pickup trucks fitted with HUGE ENGINES and 6-FOOT-TALL TIRES.

The Monster Trucks tower over them, like dinosaurs in Jurassic Park!

BLAINE & DUANE CODY
GO! TURN! GO! THAT WAY!

The tiny convertible fishtails around the track, dodging MONSTER TRUCKS and ALREADY-CRUSHED CARS and MUDPITS! In the stands: 200 CHEERING FANS think they're part of the show!

EXT. GARAGE- VAUGHN, NEW MEXICO- WITH NICK & TRACY

In Vaughn, New Mexico, about 40 miles from Fort Sumner. Tracy's pickup truck- damaged in the legendary rabbit incident- has been towed to a LOCAL GARAGE.

They're out front, talking to a burly, condescending MECHANIC. Nick- still exhausted- is stretched out on a bench...

MECHANIC
I understand. I speak English. You're in a rush.

TRACY
No, not just a rush. It's life or death!

MECHANIC
Whatever. Listen, sweetheart, there's nothing we can do today. There's a crack in your radiator, which is the tank in the front of the engine-

TRACY
I know what a radiator is!

NICK
(from the bench, eyes closed)
Is there someplace we can rent a car?

MECHANIC
Yeah. Albuquerque.

TRACY
Then we're going to have to patch it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MECHANIC

Patch it? With what?

TRACY

Sand and tire sealant! You mix them together- it makes an adhesive that should hold for a couple of hours! We only have 30 miles to go!

MECHANIC

Sand? We don't have any sand.

TRACY

Hello? You're in a DESERT!

MECHANIC

Are you a mechanic?

TRACY

Are you?

INT. HIGHWAY REST STOP- WITH PEAR FAMILY- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, Randy and his family are in a highway rest stop...

Randy and the kids are still in shock from their battle with the Biker Gang. Randy is sweating.. and shaking.. and breathing hard.

BEV

Is everybody okay?

(to Randy)

Are you okay?

RANDY

(suddenly breaking down)

There's no Ink Inc.

BEV

What...?

RANDY

(babbling)

There's no job! It's a race! We're racing! Donald St. Claire put two million dollars in a locker and I'm trying to get there first.

(crying)

I DON'T WANT TO WORK AT HOME DEPOT!!

EXT. MONSTER TRUCK RALLY- WITH THE CODY BROTHERS- SAME TIME

Back at the Rally. The Cody Brother's convertible is being CRUSHED- totally flattened- by a Monster Truck!

The MONSTER TRUCK DRIVER climbs down from his cab.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONSTER TRUCK DRIVER

Jesus! Oh my God! I'm so sorry! I
 didn't see you!

The Driver rushes over to the squished convertible. It's...
empty! The Cody Brothers are gone!

A beat. Then the driver HEARS: his Truck starting up!
 Blaine & Duane Cody are in the cab! They're stealing the
 Monster Truck!

MONSTER TRUCK DRIVER

Hey! HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

Blaine Cody- at the wheel- steers the Monster Truck off the
 track, CRUSHING a couple of cars along the way. They SMASH
 through the wooden fence, and rumbles away, toward the
 highway...

RESUME- PEAR FAMILY HIGHWAY REST STOP

Randy has just told his family the whole story...

BEV

Donald St. Claire- the Donald St. Claire-
 gave you a key?

RANDY

Right. Me and five other people.

BEV

Why?

RANDY

I don't know. Maybe that's how he gets
 his kicks...

(leaning in, excitedly)

Here's the thing, we still have a shot.
 We hit a snag or two, but maybe everybody
 else did too! We're only 35 miles away!
 It's worth a shot but we have to leave
now!

The family doesn't respond. They all glare at Dad.

RANDY

Come on! What do I always say? No guts,
 no glory!

JASON

You never say that.

RANDY

Well I'm saying it now. Come on. Let's
 take a family vote. Who wants to go for
 the gold?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Randy eagerly raises his hand. A beat. No other hands.

RANDY
Don't you want to be rich?

KIMBERLY
Dad. I took a dump on Interstate 40 at
70 miles an hour...

JASON
We stole the Nazi-Mobile..

BEV
We got assaulted by a biker gang.. you
did your impression of Adolph Hitler in
front of the local American Legion...

KIMBERLY
If they could shoot straight they
would've killed us all!

RANDY
So? It's been an adventure!

KIMBERLY
It's been a living hell!

RANDY
Well adventures are never fun while
you're having them.

JASON
Dad, what we want... is to be normal.

They all nod. They want to be normal. Randy sighs.

RANDY
Okay, okay. I understand. Excuse me.

NEAR CASHIER- MOMENTS LATER

Randy walks toward the men's room. He passes a shelf of
MEDICAL PRODUCTS and TRAVEL AIDS. They sell SLEEPING PILLS.
Randy reacts. Hmm. Sleeping Pills...

RESUME- BOOTH

Five minutes later. Randy reappears, suddenly very cheerful.
He's carrying THREE CHOCOLATE MILKSHAKES.

RANDY
Hi! Miss me? Heh, heh. Just to show
there are no hard feelings.. chocolate
shakes all around.

(CONTINUED)

BEV
Are you okay?

RANDY
I'm fine! I'm disappointed, but I'm an adult. We'll return the Nazi-mobile, fix the van, go back to Vegas and see David Copperfield.
(nervously, indicating the milkshakes)
Everybody drink up. Heh, heh.

EXT. GARAGE- VAUGHN, NEW MEXICO- SAME TIME

At the garage. Nick is still on the bench. He's fallen asleep.

He wakes up. Looks around, groggily. Tracy and the truck are gone. He turns to the Surly Mechanic.

NICK
Where's my friend?

MECHANIC
She plugged up the radiator- which I still don't think is gonna hold. And she took off.

NICK
Just like that?! Didn't she say anything?

MECHANIC
Yeah. She said not to wake you.

Nick reacts, stunned. Stung. Betrayed.

NICK
I'm an idiot! I'm an idiot! To trust her. To trust anybody!

He throws a tantrum! He starts KICKING things- the bench- a car- a trashcan! KICK! KICK!

NICK (cont'd)
Why? Why?

Nick starts crying; real tears.

During this, a car pulls up. It's a Ford Taurus. The driver gets out. The first thing Nick sees are: cowboy boots. It's-

NICK
Shawn?!

Tracy's ex-boyfriend- now dressed like his idol, Clint Eastwood- swaggers, outlaw style, toward Nick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHAWN
Well, well, well. Mr. Nobody.

NICK
The name is Nick.

SHAWN
You like the car? It's a rental. I have
a truck, but my ex-girlfriend borrowed
it. Oh, that's right. You were there.
(beat)
Where is she?

NICK
I was just wondering the same thing.

SHAWN
Oh. Well. Let's try to find her
together.
(threatening)
Get in.

NICK
No thanks.

Shawn opens his long cowboy coat, revealing: his six-shooter,
stuck into his waistband.

INT. HIGHWAY REST STOP- WITH PEAR FAMILY- SAME TIME

Back at the rest stop. Randy is sitting with his family- who
he's TRANQUILIZED WITH SLEEPING PILLS. Bev and the kids are
slumped over, dazed, semi-conscious. They're drooling.

RANDY
Well, let's get going. Back to Vegas.

Bev and the Kids try to rise. But they can't move; they're
too drugged out.

BEV
(weak, mumbling)
I'm sorry.. I'm just so tired...

RANDY
Okay, we'll go one at a time. I'll take
Kimmy, then come back for you.

Randy stands a couple of menus up, to hide Bev and Jason.
Then he drags his daughter out the door...

EXT. PARKING LOT- CONTINUOUS

Randy drags his drugged-out daughter across the parking lot.
As he approaches the Mercedes- the SHE-DEVILS Biker Gang
appears!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Randy cowers. The Bikers surround the Mercedes. They take out pipes and chains and start to demolish the car. CRASH! CRUNCH!

RANDY
Hey! HEY!

The She Devils turn. And glare. Randy gulps.

SHE DEVIL LEADER
Next time maybe you'll think twice before you give a lady the finger. Didn't your mother teach you any manners?

RANDY
No- listen- I tried to explain- I burned my finger-

The She Devil Leader is an angry, hard woman. She HITS the Mercedes again. CRUNCH! Then-

SHE DEVIL LEADER
What makes you think you can just flip me off for no reason? Because I'm a woman?

RANDY
What? No!

SHE DEVIL LEADER
Is it because I'm a woman on a big ugly motorcycle?

RANDY
(nervously, babbling)
No! It's a beautiful dyke.
(so nervous he can't say "bike")
Dyke. Dyke! It's a beautiful dyke.
It's a beautiful Harley Davidson ...dyke.
Wait. B.. ike. It's a bike.

INT. RESTAURANT- MOMENTS LATER

Randy is back inside, surrounded by his knocked-out wife and knocked-out children.

Outside: the She Devils are demolishing the Mercedes. CRASH! CRUNCH! They smash the windows. They slash the tires.

Randy watches, helplessly. He's trapped. Stranded.

EXT. WHITES SANDS, NEW MEXICO- TEST SIGHT

White Sands, New Mexico: an endless expanse of hard, flat clay. We're at a RESEARCH TEST SIGHT. A couple of tents. A Portajohn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

In a FOOD TENT: a CATERER is relaxing, sipping a beer..

Merrill and Vera come staggering up. Their faces are caked with dust. They look like something out of Lawrence Of Arabia.

CATERER
Mother of mercy. Where did you come from?

Merrill and Vera are too tired, too parched to speak. They point.

CATERER
Car trouble?

Merrill and Vera manage a weak nod.

CATERER
Sit down. Here. Have a drink.

He offers some them cold beer. The ladies sip, gratefully.

VERA
(weakly)
We.. should've.. bought a squirrel.

Merrill notices: some ENGINEERS and REPORTERS are huddled around an experimental, bullet-shaped VEHICLE. A rocket car.

MERRILL
What's going on?

CATERER
A bunch of rocket scientists from LA.
They're about to break the land speed record.

A rocket car? Vera and Merrill exchange an excited look.

INT. HIGHWAY REST STOP- WITH PEAR FAMILY- SAME TIME

Randy is still stranded at the Rest Stop. He's in the booth with his tranquilized family. They're sprawled out, slumped onto the table and each other. Randy tries to hide them by standing menus up in front of them, as if they're deciding what to order.

A WAITRESS has been waiting.

WAITRESS
You decided yet?

RANDY
No. We're still thinking...

A TRUCK DRIVER named LIONEL- enters. He has a map.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIONEL

Excuse me. I'm looking for Fort Sumner.

PARKING LOT- MOMENTS LATER

Moments later. Randy has bummed a ride. He's dragged his wife and children out to the parking lot.. and is cramming them into the truck's tiny cab. It's a two-seater, with a tiny sleeping compartment behind the seat.

LIONEL

Are they all right?

RANDY

Oh yeah. It's been a long day.

Randy is determined to squeeze them all in. In their drugged-out state, Bev and the Kids are as limp as rag dogs.

LIONEL

Friend, I don't think there's room.

RANDY

We'll make it! We'll be fine!

Bev & the Kids keep tumbling out. Randy catches them and forces them back in. It's like packing a giant suitcase. They end up crammed in, folded over, upsidedown. Asses in each other's faces. Lionel hands Randy a rag.

LIONEL

They're drooling on the seat.

Randy wipes the drool off the seats and his wife and children.

EXT. GARAGE- VAUGHN, NEW MEXICO- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, back in the garage. Tracy has returned. She's holding a big fast-food takeout bag.

TRACY

He left?

The Mechanic is distracted; he doesn't even look at her.

MECHANIC

Yes ma'am. He looked sorta pissed off.

TRACY

I was gone ten minutes! I just went down the street to get us some dinner. Where'd he go?

MECHANIC

He started hitching. Some cowboy stopped. They seemed to know each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRACY
(startled; to herself)
A cowboy? Shawn- ?!

MECHANIC
Yeah. That's what he called him- Shawn.

HIGHWAY- PICKUP TRUCK- WITH TRACY- MOVING

Moments later. Tracy races down the highway. She scans the road anxiously, looking for Nick and Shawn.

TRACY
Stupid! Stupid! It's all my fault...

Now it's Tracy's turn to cry (all the Racers have been taking turns crying). She's sobbing.

TRACY
Nick.. I've killed him.. I'm so sorry..

She passes a weather-beaten sign: VISIT AUTHENTIC WILD WEST TOWN. Then, hand-painted underneath: CLOSED.

Tracy stops. She considers the sign. She has a hunch. She turns, and drives toward the Ghost Town...

EXT. CEMETERY- PARADE FLOAT- WITH OWEN & MR. DUNTWOOD

Owen ZOOMS down the highway in the stolen parade float. On the back: 103-Year-Old Mr. Duntwood grabs the LONG WHITE BANNER and instantly gets hopelessly wrapped up in it! He LOOKS LIKE THE MUMMY!!

Owen RUMBLES past a CEMETERY. As he turns, Mr. Duntwood flies off the float and lands- THUD!- in a freshly-dug grave!

A MEMORIAL SERVICE has just ended. Some MOURNERS are walking away. Then they HEAR...

MUMMIFIED MR. DUNTWOOD
I'm.. alive! I'M ALIVE!

The Mourners turn, and see: Mr. Duntwood crawls from the grave.. still wrapped up like The Mummy..

MUMMIFIED MR. DUNTWOOD
I'M ALIVE! EVERYBODY LOOK! I'M ALIVE!

The MOURNERS shriek! Half of them collapse!

WIDOW
Earl.. ?!

EXT. DESERT- TEST SIGHT- WITH VERA & MERRILL

A PRESS CONFERENCE is in progress. TWO TEST DRIVERS- wearing NASA-style jumpsuits- are talking to some REPORTERS. They stand at a podium, in front of the rocket car...

TEST DRIVER

The vehicle- which we call the Silver Bullet- represents three years of R & D, which was conducted at the California Institute Of Technology...

During this, Merrill and Vera appear behind him and PRETEND TO BE SPOKESMODELS! They improvise a series of elaborate Vanna White- ish gestures: gracefully pointing out parts of the vehicle...

The Reporters react, a little baffled.

TEST DRIVER

(unaware of Vera and Merrill)

She's powered by a turbojet engine- the same engine that's in the F4 Phantom Jet. The body is one piece kevlar composite. The wheels are solid billet aluminum.

During this, Vera and Merrill get into the rocket car.. still smiling and gesturing, as if it were part of the presentation. The rocket car is cramped. It's like a space capsule.

PRESS SPOKESMAN

Are there any questions?

REPORTER

Dr. Kleever, what is the land speed record now?

TEST DRIVER

742 miles per hour.

PRESS SPOKESMAN

Anything else?

Vera is in the driver's seat. She CALLS OUT:

VERA'S VOICE

How do you start it?

TEST DRIVER

Good question. There's a green lever between the two seats, which engages the primary thruster.

Suddenly the car's jet engine ROAR TO LIFE! The test Drivers react, alarmed! FLAMES shoot out 70 feet from the huge tailpipe! And the ROCKET CAR bursts forward!

ROCKET CAR- WITH VERA & MERRILL- REALLY MOVING!

Vera and Merrill hurtle across the desert. 430.. 440.. 450 miles per hour! From THEIR POV "we" rocket across the open desert like a cruise missile! Plunging into canyons.. swooping up hills..

EXT. GHOST TOWN- WITH NICK & SHAWN

A hundred miles away. It's "High Noon" time...

Shawn has brought Nick to the deserted ghost town. They're on a classic "old west" Main Street: a line of dreary, ramshackle wooden storefronts.

SHAWN

I've been in competitions. Won a slew of real pretty trophies. But I always wondered what a real showdown would be like. You can use this one. I cleaned it for you.

Shawn opens the trunk of the Ford. He takes out a six-shooter and a holster.

SHAWN

Smith & Wesson Scofield 45. You're in good company- Jesse James preferred the Scofield. Shoots smooth and straight.

NICK

Shawn, this is not going to happen! This is crazy! We're two adults!

SHAWN

Do I hear clucking? Did somebody bring a chicken into my town?

Shawn tosses Nick the gun and holster. Nick lets it fall.

SHAWN

Now pay attention.

Shawn teaches Nick classic quick draw technique: he draws his gun, in slow motion...

SHAWN

Draw the gun straight up, like this. Don't twist it. Then fan the hammer back with your off hand- that's your left hand- while you pull the trigger. Everybody talks about gun control..

Shawn shows off: he expertly twirls his gun- tosses it- catches it backhand!- juggles it!- bounces it off his foot!- twirls it some more- then spins and fires! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

100 yards away: there's a rope strung across the street, with FOUR ORNAMENTAL LANTERNS hanging from it. Shawn hits all four.

SHAWN

That's gun control.

ROCKET CAR- WITH VERA & MERRILL- REALLY MOVING!

Meanwhile, Vera and Merrill hurtle across the desert. Faster-faster! 640... 650... 700 miles an hour!

In the cockpit: the G FORCES contort their faces. Vera's mascara and lipstick and make-up melt and run freakishly across her face.

MERRILL

Why.. the.. long... face?

TEST SIGHT- SAME TIME

Back at the test sight: the DRIVERS and ENGINEERS monitor the stolen rocket car on their equipment.

ENGINEER

745...!

TEST DRIVER

That's the record.

ENGINEER

They're gonna hit Mach 1.

EXT. GHOST TOWN- WITH NICK & SHAWN

Shawn has brought a plastic EGG TIMER. He winds it up. He puts it down. We can hear it TICK.. TICK.. TICK...

SHAWN

Tick tick tick. When it goes ding, we draw.

Shawn assumes a classic showdown stance: feet spread, hands out..

SHAWN

(grinning)

I know what you're thinking. I can read your mind. You're regretting you ever met her.

From somewhere, Nick summons his nerve.

NICK

No. Never.

The egg timer TICK.. TICK.. TICKS. Shawn and Nick tense.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Then.. the ground SHAKES. RUMBLE RUMBLE. An earthquake?
Then- just as the timer DINGS- the rocket car comes BLASTING THROUGH!

It doesn't come up the street; it cuts across sideways. It BLASTS THROUGH a store- like a bullet through cardboard- then SHOOTs across the street between the two startled "gunslingers"- then RIPS through the opposite building!

It's here-and-gone in less than a second. Shawn is so startled he spins and falls and BLAM!- fires wildly!

NICK
What the hell- ?

A beat. Then.. the SONIC BOOM. The concussion hits the town like an invisible explosion! The whole town collapses! The old wooden stores on both sides of the street IMplode and CRASH! Nick and Shawn are thrown to the ground.

TEST SITE-SAME TIME

The DRIVERS and ENGINEERS are celebrating!

DRIVERS AND ENGINEERS
THAT'S MACH ONE! WE DID IT!

WITH THE ROCKET CAR

A "Matrix"-ish moment: Merrill and Vera glance out the window and see the BULLET that Shawn fired, flying alongside the car! It's moving at exactly the same speed they are- so it looks like it's just floating, suspended in the air!

RESUME- GHOST TOWN

CHUNKS OF WOOD and GLASS rain down on Main Street. A SECTION OF WALL falls and- CRUNCH!- crushes Shawn's rented Taurus.

Some falling debris hits Shawn in the leg. His gun goes flying. He's hurt.

Then- like the Cavalry- Tracy suddenly appears in the pickup truck. She SCREECHES to a stop next to Nick.

TRACY
(cheerfully)
Hi. Need a lift?

Nick hops into the back of the truck. Tracy ROARS away!
Shawn watches them go.

SHAWN
Fine. Keep the truck.

ROCKET CAR- WITH VERA & MERRILL- MOVING

The rocket car hurtles across the desert. Vera & Merrill look up and see: they're heading straight for a CLIFF!

Yikes! Vera hits a button labeled DRAG SHOOT. THREE SMALL PARACHUTES emerge from the back, and instantly inflate.

The vehicle shimmers and starts to slow. But will it stop in time? They skid.. wildly... toward the cliff's edge. But- no! They don't stop in time! They skid OFF THE CLIFF.. into space!

Now they're FALLING! The ground rushes toward them! Vera panics and instinctively yanks on the EMERGENCY BRAKE! Miraculously- it works! The car stops, abruptly, in mid-air!

They both stare- relieved.. astonished- at the brake lever.

MERRILL
What did you do?

VERA
I pulled the brake.

MERRILL
Good thinking.

EXT. CLIFF

We now see: the parachutes have caught on an overhanging rock. The rocket car dangles, two feet off the ground, by the cords.

EXT. HIGHWAY- MONSTER TRUCK- WITH CODY BROTHERS- MOVING

The Cody Brothers- in the Monster Truck- rumble toward Fort Sumner. They tower over OTHER CARS.

They're stuck behind a SLOW-MOVING COMPACT CAR.

DUANE CODY
oo aroun! ass him!

BLAINE CODY
I can't.

Blaine gets an idea. He throws a switch. The pick-up cab rises- hydraulically- until it's 14 feet in the air! Then they drive over the pokey compact car.

The Brothers LAUGH and slap each five! They they see: they're heading straight for an OVERPASS! Oh shit. They're too high!

DUANE & BLAINE CODY
AAAGGGHH!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Codys duck! The cab hits the overpass, which slices off the roof. So now they're driving a MONSTER TRUCK CONVERTIBLE!

HIGHWAY- PARADE FLOAT- WITH OWEN- MOVING

Owen is in the stolen parade float. He passes a POLICE CAR, going the other way. IN HIS REARVIEW MIRROR: Owen sees the POLICE CAR turn around, and turn on its siren.

Owen gulps. He sees, up ahead: a partially-hidden service road. Owen turns- tires SCREECHING!

PARK- CONTINUOUS

Owen kills the engine. It works! The Cop races past! Owen exhales, relieved. He restarts the truck, but he can't move. His rear tires are stuck in a GIANT MUDDY SINKHOLE.

He looks around. A LITTLE BOY is fishing. Nearby: his bicycle is leaning against a tree.

COUNTRY ROAD- WITH VERA & MERRILL- SAME TIME

Nearby: Merrill and Vera are on foot again. On a deserted country road. They walk past a sign: FORT SUMNER- 2 MILES.

They stop. There's a corral. And in the corral: a horse.

ON TRAIN- WITH MR. POLLINI

On the Amtrack train. Mr. Pollini is sitting, excitedly rubbing the \$2,000,000 locker key.

TRAIN CONDUCTOR
FORT SUMNER NEXT.

PICKUP TRUCK- WITH NICK & TRACY- MOVING

Tracy's radiator-patch has finally given out. The truck is overheating. The engine is BILLOWING SMOKE! It's slowing down!

TRACY
(to the truck)
Come on baby. One more mile. Just one more mile...

HIGHWAY- TRUCK- WITH PEAR FAMILY- MOVING

Randy and his still-unconscious family, crammed into the truck. The truck is crawling... like molasses.. at 10 miles an hour...

RANDY
Is this the best we can do? I could walk faster than this!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIONEL

So could I. So could anybody. We're pulling a seven tons of concrete. Up a hill.

Bev wakes up. She looks around, groggy, confused. What's she doing crammed into a truck?

RANDY

Hey, honey. How'd you sleep?

FINAL LAP- SERIES OF SHOTS

ALL OUR RACERS are all together, on the same road. They jockey for position. Up ahead: they can see downtown Fort Sumner!

But- for different reasons- they're crawling at 10 miles an hour!

> Merrill and Vera are both on the horse they found, which- we now see- is a sagging, tired old mare. It CLIP-CLOPS sadly up the road...

> Randy Pear & Family, in the GIANT TRUCK, crawling along...

> Nick & Tracy are in the overheating pickup truck. It crawls up the road.. rattling and smoking...

> Owen is on the KID'S BICYCLE, which is decorated with BASEBALL PENNANTS and BASEBALL CARDS in the spokes. It's way too small for him. And one tire is flat. He's peddling furiously...

> Behind the truck: the Cody Brothers are in their MONSTER TRUCK CONVERTIBLE. They could go faster, but they can't pass the truck...

Their slow-motion race is blocking traffic! CARS and TRUCKS HONK and GO AROUND! KIDS on tricycles pass them! PEOPLE on the sidewalk are walking faster!

TWO LOCAL KIDS sit on a fence, watching the Racers crawl past.

LOCAL KID

This parade sucks.

BACK IN VEGAS- BETTING PARLOR

On the BIG MAP: the "horses" don't seem to be moving.

HIGH ROLLER

They've stopped.

ST. CLAIRE

No. They're still moving.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

St. Claire hits a button, and the FORT SUMNER SECTION of the map is magnified. Now they can clearly see the "horses" moving... slowly.. down Main Street, jockeying for position.

RESUME RACE- SERIES OF SHOTS

The slow-as-molasses final lap continues. Up ahead, they can see the TRAIN STATION. It's only three blocks away! Owen, in frustration, hops off the bike.. and starts to RUN!

IN THE TRUCK: Randy watches Owen run past.

BEV

You can run faster than him!

Randy beams! Bev is giving him her blessing! Randy hops down from the cab and STARTS RUNNING!

Soon ALL THE RACERS are stopping their vehicles or climbing off their horse and are running! So now it's a footrace!!

TRAIN STATION- FORT SUMNER- SAME TIME

CLOSE UP of Locker 001- the two million dollar locker. WE PAN OVER to SEE: the train approaching the station. Mr. Pollini is already on the steps. He hops off, and runs toward the station!

Mr. Grisham is in the train station, talking into a CELL PHONE.

MR. GRISHAM (INTO PHONE)

It's Pollini! Eugene Pollini! He's on the train! He's pulling into the station!

INTERCUT WITH: VEGAS BETTING PARLOR

Grisham's "play by play" is broadcast on a SPEAKERPHONE. The HIGH ROLLERS are on their feet, CHEERING and APPLAUDING!

The High Rollers who bet on Pollini wave their winning tickets! They LAUGH! They DANCE AROUND!

ST. CLAIRE

What do you know. Rip Van Winkle pulled it off. Heh, heh. You gotta love a long shot.

RESUME- TRAIN STATION- FORT SUMNER

Pollini races across the lobby!

MR. GRISHAM (INTO PHONE)

Here he comes! He's holding the key... he's at the locker..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Pollini reaches the locker. He inserts the key. Mr. Grisham steps up.

MR. GRISHAM

Mr. Pollini. Well done, sir. I want to congratulate you, on behalf of Donald St. Claire and the casino..

Grisham extends his hand. But Pollini doesn't respond. Pollini has FALLEN ASLEEP AGAIN! He's standing at the locker, with his key inserted in the lock, snoring blissfully.

MR. GRISHAM

Mr. Pollini..?

BACK IN VEGAS- BETTING PARLOR

The High Rollers wait, breathlessly, for the official word. Who won?

ST. CLAIRE (INTO PHONE)

Mr. Grisham. Is it over? Mr. Grisham?
Hello?

But Grisham doesn't answer.

BACK IN FORT SUMNER- MAIN STREET- SAME TIME

It's not over yet! The Other Racers stagger down Main Street, HUFFING and WHEEZING. They finally reach the train station...

TRAIN STATION- CONTINUOUS

At the door: the Racers bottleneck! They elbow each other savagely!

THE RACERS

I WAS HERE! HEY- LOOK OUT- COMIN'
THROUGH!- OW, THAT'S MY HAIR!

PANDEMONIUM! They scramble! They claw across the waiting room! They all have their locker keys out!

Then they see: Pollini, ahead of them, already at the locker. They all pause. Then they HEAR... snoring.

They realize: Pollini is.. asleep! The Racers SURGE FORWARD again! They pull Pollini's key from the lock and all frantically try to insert their key!

CLOSE UP: the FIVE KEYS fighting for position. They frantically stab each other. It's like a miniature five-way sword fight!

Finally Blaine Cody inserts his key! He opens the locker!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DUANE CODY
EE ID IT! EE ONE! EE ONE!

BLAINE CODY
(so excited he mumbles too)
EE ONE! EE ONE!

But the locker is... empty! The Rat Racers gather around. A stunned beat. Pollini wakes up.

MR. POLLINI
Did I win?
(peering into locker)
That's a very empty locker.

Vera glances out a window and sees: Grisham, carrying a duffel bag, sprinting toward the parking lot!

VERA
Look! It's that lawyer!

PARKING LOT- WITH MR. GRISHAM

Grisham is stealing the money! He's carrying a DUFFEL BAG with a ST. CLAIRE CASINO logo. He climbs into a rented convertible...

The Rat Racers run across the parking lot, like an angry mob, WAVING and SHOUTING!

ALL THE RAT RACERS
HEY! STOP HIM! STOP THAT MAN!

BACK IN VEGAS- BETTING PARLOR

Grisham's CELL PHONE is still ON. St. Claire and the High Rollers listen, as...

VARIOUS RACERS (THROUGH PHONE)
HEY! GRISHAM! COME BACK HERE! THAT'S
OUR MONEY!

ST. CLAIRE
Grisham? Goddamnit Grisham!

FIRST HIGH ROLLER
Donald? What's going on?

SECOND HIGH ROLLER
So it's a scratch? Nobody wins.

ST. CLAIRE
Bullshit! I'll tell you what it means-
it means it's not over! We're going into
extra innings!
(grimly, into phone)
Carla, call the airport!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ST. CLAIRE (cont'd)

Get my other Lear ready! Grab your drinks, gentlemen. We're going to New Mexico.

(to a BARTENDER)

Gordon, stay here. Keep your eye on the board, and tell us where they're going.

BACK IN FORT SUMNER- MAIN STREET- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, Mr. Grisham is driving away. He unzips the duffel bag and sneaks a peek. It's filled with CASH! Two million bucks.

A BLOCK AWAY: the Rat Racers chase after him... until they stop, exhausted. They watch Grisham drive away.

RANDY

(sighs)

Welcome to Home Depot. Yeah, we have that. Aisle 8, next to the lug wrenches.

WITH GRISHAM: driving away. He laughs, and waves.

MR. GRISHAM

So long suckers! Heh, heh.

Then- from above-

COW

MOOOOoooOOOo!

Grisham looks up. The COW- which has been dangling from the hot air balloon all day- is FALLING FROM THE SKY!

Grisham watches it fall, stunned. THUD! The cow falls right on top of him. The COW ends up sitting upright, its hoofs on the steering wheel! It LOOKS LIKE IT'S DRIVING!

Mr. Grisham is pinned under the huge bovine; we see his arms and legs flailing around! He's still holding his cell phone. The COW leans in and eats the cell phone! The cow tries to chew it, but the phone gets lodged in its gum...

The cow-driven car continues to drive away. Suddenly- THUD!- Lloyd- remember him?- falls from the sky, onto the hood! Lloyd is still hanging onto the rope, which is still dangling from the hot air balloon.

Lloyd notices the cash-filled duffel bag. He grins. He quickly ties the duffel bag to the dangling rope, then grabs the rope himself..

But before he can get away, Grisham recovers and grabs Lloyd's leg! Grisham pulls him back into the car! The two men struggle wildly, KICKING and THRASHING!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As they they struggle, they KNOCK INTO the COW, who's still "driving". The frightened cow BUCKS and HITS THE GAS! The convertible ROARS AWAY, down Main Street, into the sunset...

Meanwhile, the hot-air balloon- now unmanned- floats away... with the money bag dangling from it!

WITH THE RACERS

A block away: the floating duffel bag dangles near.. tantalizingly near.. the Rat Racers. They all leap up, frantically. It's just inches out of their reach!

The Cody Brothers try a circus-act maneuver: Duane interlocks his fingers, and tries to hoist Blaine up.

DUANE CODY

Aee-Oop!

But Blaine goes flying wildly askew, landing- THUD!- on Mr. Pollini! Meanwhile Randy has little Kimberly on his shoulders..

RANDY

Grab it! Grab it for daddy!

But the balloon sails away... higher.. higher.. into the sky. They watch it go. Then Nick notices: an OPEN-AIR, DOUBLE-DECKER TOUR BUS, parked nearby. It says: BILLY THE KID TOUR. He turns to Tracy...

NICK

The bus! Let's take it!

TRACY

(stunned)

You want to steal a bus?

NICK

(he's a man possessed)

Yes!!

Nick and Tracy run toward the bus. All the Other Racers follow.

LIMOUSINE- WITH ST. CLAIRE & THE HIGH ROLLERS

St. Claire and the High Rollers listen to the sounds of someone chewing on the cell phone and the occasional "MOOOOO."

BALLOON\TOUR BUS- SERIES OF SHOTS- CHASE!

The runaway balloon- with the dangling money bag- floats away... higher.. higher... toward the far horizon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE TOUR BUS is in pursuit! All the Racers are on the upper "open" deck. They're pointing at the balloon, and SCREAMING! "That way!" "LEFT! LEFT! "Over there!"

Owen- who's on lower deck, driving- speaks through the TOUR BUS'S LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEM...

OWEN (THROUGH LOUDSPEAKER)
I see it, I see it. You people are worse
than the Lucys...

EXT. HIGHWAY

The Tour Bus races past Mr. Grisham's convertible, which has been pulled over by a STATE TROOPER.

The State Trooper approaches the car. He sees: Grisham and Lloyd, in the back seat, grinning, embarrassed. And behind the wheel.. a COW! The Trooper reacts.

STATE TROOPER
What the hell's going on?

Grisham's cell phone is still in the cow's mouth. So it looks like the cow is talking!...

ST. CLAIRE'S VOICE (THROUGH
COW)
Do you have any idea who you're fucking
with? Nobody screws with me, do you
understand, you low-life back-stabbing
sonofabitch!

The Trooper reacts, stunned.

PRIVATE JET- WITH ST. CLAIRE & THE HIGH ROLLERS

Meanwhile, St. Claire's jet has hit some heavy turbulence. The cabin is SHAKING and SHUDDERING violently.

The HIGH ROLLERS are getting sick. They're clutching air-sickness bags. They're turning green. Finally, one of them bends over and- BA-RRRAAWWRP!- throws up.

STEWARDESS
Is that it?

HIGH ROLLER
That's it. Thank the captain. Tell him
he can level off now.

We now realize: they were betting on who would barf first. The HIGH ROLLER WHO BARFED opens his wallet and pays off the Others.

DISSOLVE TO: BALLOON\TOUR BUS- SERIES OF SHOTS- NIGHT

THE RUNAWAY BALLOON: the sun has set. In the balloon basket: the PROPANE TANK finally runs out of gas and- WHOOSH- turns off.

OPEN DECK OF TOUR BUS: the Racers are still in pursuit...

BEV

It's lower! It's coming down!

MERRILL

Okay, so we agree: it's a tie. Right?
Everybody gets an equal share...

RANDY

(counting heads)
So that's two million dollars divided by
four.. five..
(pointing to Bev)
Six..

DUANE & BLAINE CODY

Whoa, whoa! Oooo! Oo ay!

RANDY

What?

BLAINE CODY

You just counted your old lady!

RANDY

I think she deserves something. She ran
the race like everybody else!

THE OTHER RACERS

No! No way! Forget it!

QUICK CUT: LOWER DECK- DRIVER'S SEAT

We reveal who's driving the Tour Bus. It's.. Mr. Pollini!
He's awake. For the moment.

RESUME- UPPER DECK

OWEN

Look, six of us got the gold coins. So
that's six equal shares. There's no
other way.

RANDY

Who made you the referee?

VERA

As a matter of fact, he is a referee!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RANDY
Yeah- a lousy one!

OWEN
IT WAS COMMEMORATIVE COIN!

BLAINE CODY
Fine. We divide it six ways. But what about expenses?

NICK
Your expenses?

BLAINE CODY
That's right! Duane and me totaled our jeep!

DUANE CODY
aa a entalk ar!

BLAINE CODY
And a rental car! Who's going to reimburse us for that?

THE OTHER RACERS
No way! Bullshit! That's your problem!
(etc.)

DURING THIS, BEHIND THEM: the Bus gradually veers off the highway! It never slows down. It cruises smoothly.. down an embankment.. across another road. CARS HONK and SWERVE out of their way! But the Racers are so distracted they don't notice...

TRACY
Look, we all have expenses! I lost my job!

BLAINE CODY
(indicates Tracy)
Who the hell is she?

MERRILL
Wait! Shhh! SHUT UP! Listen!

Everyone shuts up. They listen. Over the bus's LOUDSPEAKER, they HEAR a familiar sound: SNORING.

NICK
That sounds like...

VERA
Who's driving the bus?

OWEN
That Italian fella- what's his name? The guy with the sleeping disorder.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Now- finally- the Racers look around and see: they're off the road!

ALL THE RACERS
AAARRRGGGHH!

PANDEMONIUM! The Racers SCRAMBLE down the bus's narrow, circular stairway, trying to reach Pollini! They bottleneck; they can't all fit!

The Runaway Tour Bus barrels- blindly- across an open field, past a sign: FESTIVAL PARKING. It CRASHES through a wooden fence...

EXT. OUTDOOR ROCK FESTIVAL- PARKING LOT- CONTINUOUS

The bus hurtles across a PARKING LOT. We get glimpses of GENERATORS and TENTS and DRESSING ROOM TRAILERS...

In the Bus: Tracy reaches the driver's seat. She shoves Pollini aside! She takes the wheel and SLAMS ON THE BRAKE!

The Bus SKIDS WILDLY. It spins! It SKIDS up a LOADING RAMP. It CRASHES through a fence!

EXT. OUTDOOR FESTIVAL- BACKSTAGE AREA

We're behind a huge WOODEN STAGE. We hear MUSIC. An OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL is in progress.

The Tour Bus CRASHES through a fence! PEOPLE SCREAM and SCRAMBLE out of its way, as it finally SKIDS to a halt.

Randy staggers off the Bus, followed by the Others..

RANDY
(pointing, thrilled)
There it is!

The Racers turn. The balloon is landing nearby. They rush-excitedly- wildly- toward the balloon. They're all looking up, not looking where they're going. They TRAMPLE OVER PEOPLE and FOOD TABLES! They SCRAMBLE up some stairs...

STAGE- CONTINUOUS

They're on a huge platform. The balloon lands nearby. The Racers converge on it!

VARIOUS RACERS
OH YEAH! COME TO MOMMA! HOW SWEET IT IS!

They reach in and grab the duffel bag! They're like animals- a pack of hungry wolves! They all TUG and YANK and CLAW!

BLAINE CODY: I GOT IT! I GOT IT!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VARIOUS RACERS (cont'd)

OWEN: I JUST WANT TO SEE! LET ME SEE!

MERRILL: LET ME HOLD IT!

BEV: NOBODY TAKE ANYTHING UNTIL WE COUNT IT!

The tug-of-war continues until- RRRRRIP!- the duffel bag tears open, revealing: the prize. Two million dollars, in cash.

Then- suddenly- a SPOTLIGHT hits them. The Racers turn.

A MAJOR ROCK STAR- to be named later- appears. Behind him: a HUGE ARENA filled with 10,000 SCREAMING FANS! It's a ROCK CONCERT. And they're on stage!!!

A FAMOUS BAND that has been on stage, playing, stops, mid-song.

JASON

(naming the Rock Star)

Holy shit. It's _____- ?!

ROCK STAR

That was one helluva entrance!

(to a PROMOTER, offstage)

Was this planned? Nobody tells me anything.

(resuming, to the Racers,

indicates the money)

What do we have here?

The Racers are too stunned to speak. Or move.

ROCK STAR

How much is it?

VERA

(stunned, softly)

Two million dollars.

ROCK STAR

Oh my God! That is fantastic!

(into microphone, to the crowd)

It's two million dollars!!

The CROWD CHEERS! Although the Racers don't realize it, this is a BENEFIT CONCERT! They're standing beneath a BIG ELECTRONIC TOTE BOARD. A HUGE SIGN says: FARM AID 2000.

The racers assume everybody's cheering their good fortune; they all WAVE and SMILE and acknowledge the CHEERS.

MR. POLLINI

We talked it over. We decided to share all the money.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ROCK STAR
(misunderstanding)
Well, we're glad you did.

The CROWD CHEERS again.. which baffles the Racers.

ROCK STAR (cont'd)
It's just great to know there are people
like you out there. You're an
inspiration.

MERRILL
Well, I wouldn't go that far...

ROCK STAR
So what's the story? Are you, like, old
friends..?

OWEN
No. We just met this morning.

ROCK STAR
Wow. That is amazing! And when did you
decide to do this?

VERA
This morning. At 10 o'clock.

Again, the CROWD CHEERS. The Racers still don't understand
why..

NICK
To tell you the truth, I almost didn't
come at all. But then I met Tracy...

More cheers. Tracy waves to the crowd.

NICK (cont'd)
We'll be leaving now. Sorry to
interrupt.
(to the crowd, embarrassed)
Uh.. rock on. Whatever.

TWO UNIFORMED GUARDS appear with a cart. They start to
collect the cash. The Racers- confused- resist.

ROCK STAR
We just want to thank you again, from the
bottom of our hearts. Let's check the
tote board and see where we are...

MORE CHEERS! The BAND plays a TRIUMPHANT FANFARE. The huge
tote board adds 2 million dollars to their GRAND TOTAL
OF...\$9,526! So now we have \$2,009,526!

Finally a few of the Racers turn and see the TOTE BOARD. One
by one, they realize: it's a benefit concert.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

They exchange stunned, frightened looks. Except for the Cody Brothers, who are the last to catch on and are still basking in the applause...

EXT. FESTIVAL GATE- SAME TIME

Outside: the High Rollers pull up in a caravan of STRETCH LIMOUSINES.

RESUME- CONCERT

On stage: the Racers are still refusing to hand over the money; they clutch the duffel bag, protectively.

ALL THE RACERS

No. No no no no. No. No. No no no.

MERRILL

There's been a misunderstanding. This is our money...

VERA

You have no idea what we've been through...

The Racers all start GESTURING and TALKING AT ONCE!

RANDY PEAR & HIS FAMILY (OVERLAPPING): We stole Hitler's car! Look, this is the Furor's harmonica!

DUANE CODY (OVERLAPPING): hen ee wallo ee! ey oo ee ad oo ake im uke!

BLAINE CODY (OVERLAPPING): What the hell were we supposed to do? He stole the damn key!

MERRILL & VERA (OVERLAPPING): It wasn't a car- it was more like a cruise missile! I mean we were flying!

OWEN (OVERLAPPING): I was surrounded by Lucys! There must've been a hundred of 'em!

MR. POLLINI (OVERLAPPING): The dog was chewing on the heart!

During this, the Racers look around. They see: TV CAMERAS, trained on them.. the HUGE CROWD.. and a POOR FARM FAMILIES, seated near the stage...

A POOR FARM FAMILY steps up, with his WIFE and hungry, tear-stained CHILDREN. The Racers fall silent.

POOR FARMER

I'm just a poor farmer. Never been much good with words. But I just wanted you people to know that we're never gonna forget what you've done for us here today. It's not just the money. You've given us more than money.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

POOR FARMER (cont'd)

You've given us back our faith.. faith in the basic goodness of people.

FARMER'S WIFE

You're like the twelve disciples! God bless you all!

The Racers sigh. Nick tosses his share- a FEW STACKS OF BILLS- onto the cart. Then the Other Racers- Owen, Merrill, Vera, Mr. Pollini and Randy- all sigh and toss their shares into the cart.

RANDY

It's tax deductible, right?

There's only one holdout -- the Cody Brothers'. They stubbornly clutch their money.

BLAINE CODY

Forget it! These chumps can do what they want with their share, but this money is going home with us! Period. End of story.

Duane notices: the PIERCED GIRL, who he flirted with earlier. She's in the crowd, near the stage.

DUANE CODY

Ey! Ii's oo!

The Pierced Girl smiles. She climbs onto the stage, and crosses to him. They embrace.

DUANE CODY

Ii idn hink I ev ee oo agai!

PIERCED GIRL

Oo are oo onderuu. Iving awl oney. Is onderful.

The Pierced Girl embraces the Farm Family; it's her family.

PIERCED GIRL

Oo aved oo arm!

Duane melts. He takes his share.. and his brother's share.. and adds it to the pile.

St. Claire and the High Rollers arrive in the wings, huffing and puffing. Nick gets an idea.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NICK

(stepping up to the microphone)
Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to introduce the real star of tonight's benefit...a man of great imagination, the man who says "spare nothing" when it comes to satisfying people's wildest dreams -- I can honestly say that none of us would be here tonight if it wasn't for him...

St. Claire shakes his head, gesturing: "Please- I don't want any attention." But the SPOTLIGHT finds them.

NICK (cont'd)

MR - DONALD - SINCLAIR!!!

The CROWD GOES WILD! The ROCK STAR applauds. St. Claire has no choice: he walks on stage and acknowledges them.

ROCK STAR

I see you've brought some friends with you...

The High Rollers recoil, but the SPOTLIGHT finds them, too.

ROCK STAR

(indicates a HIGH ROLLER)

Hey, that's Herman Richter- he owns my record company! Hey Herm! Whoa! Look who's here! It's the Fortune 500!

The CROWD CHEERS! Reluctantly, the High Rollers wave.

NICK

(to the crowd)

Listen up. These men didn't have to be here tonight. They could be kicking back on the Riviera or in Vegas, blowing their money on some meaningless, idiotic bet...

The High Rollers and St. Claire exchange embarrassed looks.

NICK (cont'd)

But they heard about the terrible floods you've had this year, and all the farms and homes that were lost, and they just couldn't stay away. Am I right?

The High Rollers are trapped. The POOR FARM FAMILIES are weeping for joy.

ROCK STAR

So what are you pledging? How much?

The High Rollers gulp. A long beat. Finally...

(CONTINUED)

ST. CLAIRE

(nervously)

Ah, we don't have an actual, definite figure...

NICK

(leaning into the microphone)

He's being modest. Can I tell them Donald?

(to the crowd)

Mr. Donald St. Claire and his partners want you- and the millions of people watching at home- to know they plan to match whatever you raise tonight!

Before St. Claire can protest, the CROWD GOES INSANE! CHEERS! MORE FIREWORKS! St. Claire looks nervously at the Tote Board, which now reads \$2,124,675. He heaves a sigh of relief. Suddenly, the TOTE BOARD explodes with FLASHING GRAPHICS as the numbers start to climb rapidly.

ROCK STAR

OH MY GOD! DID YOU HEAR THAT!? AND WE JUST OPENED THE PHONE LINES!! WE MIGHT HIT OUR FINAL GOAL BEFORE THE END OF THE FIRST SONG!!

The Tote Board has already reached over SIX MILLION and is still climbing at an exponential rate.

ST. CLAIRE

(nervously, to a roadie)

What is your final goal?

ROADIE

25 million.

The High Rollers glare at St. Claire. St. Claire staggers.

ROCK STAR

Let's get this concert started! One Two Three-

The ROCK STAR and BAND break into song- SOME ROCK CLASSIC . Duane and his new girlfriend are at the mike for a solo.

DUANE CODY AND PIERCED GIRL

(SINGING)

IKE A AND OO IPSEE EE OO OWN HE IHAY!

Randy, Bev, the kids, Owen, Mr. Pollini, Blaine Cody, Nick, Tracy, Vera and Merrill join in, dancing and singing along. And, we hope, everyone in the theater and everyone at home and everyone around the world is singing, too.

THE END