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ST. ELMO'S FIRE

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THIRD DRAFT

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RED TITLES ON BLACK. The sound of a young MAN and WOMAN on a WILD CAR RIDE. At the END OF the TITLES, the sound of a sudden CAR CRASH, a WHITE INCANDESCENT FLASH of light FILLS the SCREEN. THROUGH the BRILLIANT WHITE LIGHT we --

DISSOLVE RAPIDLY TO:

1

INT. GEORGETOWN MEDICAL CENTER - NIGHT (SEPTEMBER)

1

Electric doors zip open. ALEC NEWBERRY, a handsome possessor of The Right Stuff, his beautiful roommate LESLIE HUNTER, KEVIN DOLENZ, self-styled, chain-smoking, sardonic, and KIRBO KREAGER, short, hyper, dressed like a waiter -- dash worriedly into the busy emergency room. They are all twenty-two, or barely twenty-two. Only four months out of college, they are in their freshman year of life.

Alec, Leslie, Kevin and Kirbo dash past a cubicle, where a totally naked, three-hundred-pound man paces in a daze. Past this, they find a black nurse talking with two COPS.

ALEC

Wendy Beamish and Billy Hicks?
They were in a car accident?

ELECTRIC DOORS

zip open again, introducing JULIANNA VAN PATTEN (JULES), another freshman in life, but her sleek style gives her a certain sexual sophistication. She is accompanied by her dark, interesting DATE as she joins her friends and the Cops.

JULES

They're dead, aren't they?

Everyone ignores her as Alec hands his card to the Cops.

ALEC

Officers, I'm Alec Newberry with
Congressman Langston's office.

Leslie whispers to Jules, while Alec and the Cops talk.

LESLIE

I think they're okay.

JULES

Thank God.

(beat)

Are you aware there's a three-
hundred-pound man walking around
naked?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WENDY BEAMISH, a sweet-faced, insecure preppy, emerges from a first-aid room with a bandaged forehead.

HER FRIENDS

Wendy. Oh, my God. Are you all right???

WENDY

I'm fine. It's the car my father gave me for graduation that's totalled.

ALEC

(to Kevin)

Find Billy. See if you can sober him up.

Kevin always does what Alec tells him to. Meanwhile, Wendy pulls out her Visa card and speaks to the nurse.

WENDY

How much do I owe you?

JULES

He almost killed you. Destroyed your car, and you're paying...?

LESLIE

Jules, please.

As Leslie comforts her, Wendy is looking over Jules' Date who hovers in the distance.

WENDY

Is that your date?

The naked man wanders past them.

JULES

No, that's my date!

As usual, Jules has managed to make Wendy laugh, just as the Cops approach her.

COP #1

You pressing charges?

WENDY

No.

KIRBO

I'm Mr. Hicks' legal counsel and he's not required to take any tests.

(CONTINUED)

1

CONTINUED: (2)

1

COP #1

You're a little late, Counselor.
He's in the van giving blood right
now.

The Cops start toward the electric doors as Kirbo and
Alec follow. Leslie helps Wendy with the bill. CAMERA
FINDS Jules whispering dramatically to her Date.

JULES

I'll have to be with her all night.
They don't know if she's going to
make it.

DATE

She looks fine.

JULES

Shock. She could black out at any
second... I'll call you...

Jules joins Leslie and Wendy.

LESLIE

He's cute.

JULES

Too young... and don't you both
start on your father complex
theory.

2

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER

2

Alec and Kirbo follow the Cops toward a mobile van.

KIRBO

We're dealing with a first offender
here, and since Ms. Beamish doesn't
want to press charges, whaddya say
we just let this one slide,
Officers?

They reach the back of the mobile van, where we see BILLY
HICKS, a handsome daredevil, playing his saxophone,
wearing handcuffs, for two good-looking nurses and Kevin,
who is trying to give him black coffee.

COP #1

Okay, you're under arrest.

Alec looks to Kevin for information about Billy's
condition.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

I wouldn't strike a match near his blood.

BILLY

(to Cops)

Hey, watch my sax...

(to nurses)

... You girls believe in premarital sax?

They laugh as Alec barks at him.

ALEC

Billy -- four months after graduation and you're still acting like every night's a fraternity party. Aren't you even concerned about Wendy?

BILLY

(true panic)

Wendy? Jesus, how bad is it?

KEVIN

Severe. She might have finally exceeded the limit on her father's Visa.

Billy smiles with relief as the Cops lead him toward their car.

ALEC

Will you both get serious. He's being arrested for drunk driving.

BILLY

Drunk maybe. But I don't know if you could call that driving.

Wendy, Leslie and Jules come from the hospital, just in time to see Billy being put into the cop car. Wendy rushes to Billy and they embrace.

BILLY

Sorry, babe... sorry.

WENDY

We'll be right behind you!

They all move toward Alec's car except Kirbo, who suddenly notices someone. He becomes mesmerized as he falls away from the group and starts back for the hospital.

3

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM

3

He enters and begins to pick up speed as he quickly catches up to a beautiful INTERN in a white lab coat.

KIRBO

Dale?... Dale Biberman?

She hesitates, somewhat puzzled.

KIRBO

You don't remember me.

DALE

I do, but I'm trying...

KIRBO

Kirby Kreager. You were a senior when I started Georgetown.

DALE

Kirby... It's been four years. How are you?

KIRBO

I graduated!

DALE

I always knew you would.

KIRBO

And I'm a lawyer.

(as she looks at
his waiter's duds)

I mean I'm a waiter, studying to be a lawyer... and you became a doctor... Just like you said you would.

DALE

Almost. I'm finishing my clinical.

KIRBO

Dale Biberman. I can't believe it. Do you still like Woody Allen movies?

There is a big COMMOTION at the other end of the hall.

DALE

I've got to go. Nice seeing you.

She races down the hall, joining paramedics wheeling in a large black man on a gurney. His hysterical wife runs screaming behind them.

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED:

3

Dale helps them maneuver the gurney down the hall, leaving a small black child, alone and frightened, in their wake. Dale comes running back and picks up the child. Kirbo watches, as the rest of the hospital moves in real time, but Dale, comforting the frightened child, moves in ROMANTIC SLOW MOTION. SONG BEGINS.

KIRBO

Madly in love.

4

EXT. "M" STREET (GEORGETOWN) - NIGHT

4

CAMERA PANS the preppy nightlife and drinking spots. CAMERA FINDS a group of postgrads moving into a building. One of the postgrads drops his half of a bureau and runs into the street toward Alec's old Oldsmobile.

POSTGRAD

Hey, Billy, where's the fifty you owe me...

5

OMITTED

5

6

INT. ALEC'S CAR - NIGHT

6

Alec drives while Leslie tends to Wendy between them. Billy, Kirbo and Kevin are in the back seat, with Jules on their lap.

BILLY

Alec, could you kinda burn a little rubber?

Alec turns the corner as Billy continues.

BILLY

Thanks for bailing me out.

JULES

Again.

7

EXT. ST. ELMO'S BAR - NIGHT

7

A local hangout for those primarily in their twenties. Alec parks as his gang emerges.

(CONTINUED)

JULES

When are you going to get a new car? One that truly expresses your lifestyle as the perfect couple.

LESLIE

Not everybody got recruited out of school into international banking, 'moneybags.'

ALEC

Besides... My mom and dad gave us this car. I think I was conceived in the back seat.

KEVIN

It's still sticky.

WENDY

Oh, God. Wait 'til my father hears the car is totalled.

BILLY

I'm gonna get you a new car, Wendy.

Everyone screams in disbelief as they go into St. Elmo's. Alec, Leslie, Jules, Wendy, Kevin holds the door open, but no one thanks him.

KEVIN

You're welcome. You're welcome.

A young, burned-out UNDERGRAD (CLAYTON) follows.

KEVIN

You're not welcome, Clayton. How's school?

CLAYTON

Baroque. Thank you very much. How's life after school?

KEVIN

Like getting slam-dunked against a brick wall, thank you very much.

CLAYTON

College is the last womb. Got a cigarette for a lowly undergrad?

KEVIN

If you tell me the meaning of life?

(CONTINUED)

7

CONTINUED: (2)

7

CLAYTON

Life? Life's like acne. It has
to get worse before it gets better.

8

INT. ST. ELMO'S - NIGHT

8

Young professionals, graduate students, and precocious
undergrads populate the P.J. Clarke-like bar/restaurant.
Kirbo quickly goes back to work waiting tables. Alec gets
rid of a group of rowdy undergrads sitting at two tables
pushed together. He admonishes WALLY, the burly owner.

ALEC

Wally! You let undergrad punks
at our tables???

WALLY

Relax, Alec... they've only been
there ten minutes.

ALEC

Yeah, well, we've been here for
four years.

Alec, Leslie, Jules, Wendy, Kevin and Billy (still with
sax around his neck) take their usual chairs as Kirbo
drops off a large pitcher of beer.

BILLY

Hey, I need a real drink.

Kirbo is long gone. Kevin pours.

KEVIN

Waiters are like cops. Never
around when you need one.

Kevin and Alec begin bouncing quarters from the edge of a
table into their beers -- obviously some ritual.

BILLY

Will somebody get me a screwdriver?

JULES

And a hammer.

ALEC

You know what it means to have a
suspended license for drunk driving
on your record?

*

(CONTINUED)

8

CONTINUED: (A2)

8

BILLY

Yeah, Al. It means I won't ever
be able to be a cop in D.C... Hey,
Wend, you're not angry are you?

WENDY

No, I'm not angry.

KEVIN

Never trust a woman who says she
isn't angry.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

You better call your wife, Billy.

Billy reluctantly leaves as Jules laces into Kevin.

JULES

You're the one who's so angry these days. I thought writing for the Washington Post would make you happy.

KEVIN

Writing obituaries is not writing, Jules. All my characters die in the end. I'd like to write something about the meaning of life for a change.

LESLIE

You'll get your chance, Kevin.

Alec suddenly spots TOMMY BANCROFT, an older version of Alec, across the room.

ALEC

Hey, Tommy...

(to Leslie)

Tommy Bancroft, Senator Hodges' key guy. Come on, I want you to meet him.

They leave the table as Jules turns to Kevin.

JULES

The meaning of life, Kevin, is fun, good times and a little H-U-M-O-R. Don't you enjoy anything anymore? Like girls?

KEVIN

I enjoy being afraid of Russia. It's a harmless fear. Makes America feel better and Russia gets an inflated sense of national worth from our paranoia... Excuse me, I have to call in my latest epitaphs to the death squad. The presses are waiting.

He gets up and leaves the table, passing Kirbo.

KIRBO

Did you see her at the hospital?
Dale Biberman?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (3)

8

KEVIN

Who...?

9 BILLY ON PHONE

9

BILLY

Well, honey, I kinda had a car
accident... What? Stop shouting.
I know I don't have any insurance.
Aren't you even gonna ask if I'm
okay? --

Billy adjusts a framed photo on the wall of him, Alec,
Jules, Wendy, Kevin, Leslie and Kirbo in their graduation
caps and gowns. He notices a woman's reflection in the
glass. He turns to see she is flirting with him from the
bar. He smiles back. Kevin arrives and Billy sees a
perfect way to get off the phone.

BILLY

Here's Kevin, he wants to say
hello.

He hands the phone to a more than reluctant Kevin and
moves toward the YOUNG WOMAN at the bar.

BILLY

Hey, Wally... a double screwdriver.

He joins the Young Woman who is eyeing his sax.

BILLY

So, you believe in premarital sax?

10 INT. LADIES ROOM - NIGHT

10

Leslie watches as Jules applies eyeshadow to Wendy's
bruised eye.

WENDY

Will you both give Billy a break?
He lost his job today.

LESLIE

The job Alec got for him?

JULES

You didn't give him any money, did
you?

WENDY

A little...

(CONTINUED)

JULES

I thought you were going to take definite steps to change everything in your life that is not working.

WENDY

That doesn't leave much left.

LESLIE

I better break this to Alec gently before he finds out the wrong way and destroys his political career by murdering Billy in front of fifty witnesses.

She leaves as Jules looks to Wendy.

JULES

Wendy, this is all too destructive.

WENDY

Life in the fat lane.

JULES

You're not fat.

WENDY

My thighs are fat. And no diet works. The only way to lose weight on your thighs is amputation.

JULES

You have to amputate Billy the Kid.

WENDY

I know, but I can't.

JULES

I don't get it.

WENDY

Me, either.

Billy gets cozier with the Young Woman.

YOUNG WOMAN

So, what line of work are you in?

BILLY

Me? I'm a very important drinker! So how 'bout we cut outta here?

(CONTINUED)

11

CONTINUED:

11

YOUNG WOMAN

I came with my girl friend.

BILLY

That's okay, honey. This face
seats five.

Alec appears.

ALEC

Billy, may I see you, please.

Billy follows as Leslie alerts Kevin and Kirbo.

12

INT. MEN'S ROOM

12

Alec and Billy enter.

BILLY

What's up, Al?

ALEC

May I see you over here, please.

Billy joins him. Alec grabs him and shoves his head in
the toilet.

ALEC

Why didn't you tell me you blew
another job?

BILLY

For some insane reason I thought
you'd take it badly.

Kevin and Kirbo rush in.

KEVIN

Don't drown him, he's a father.

Alec releases Billy who comes up with his hair wet and
gives Alec a major shove.

ALEC

That's right, you are a father and
when are you gonna grow up?

BILLY

Like this was real mature, Al?

They all start to laugh. Alec softens.

(CONTINUED)

12

CONTINUED: (A1)

12

ALEC

I just got pissed off 'cause I had
to pull so many strings to get you
that job.

(CONTINUED)

12

CONTINUED:

12

BILLY

Working for Senator Pomerantz was
not for me...

Billy looks at himself in the mirror.

ALEC

Sorry, Billy.

BILLY

That's all right. You couldn't
help yourself. You're an asshole.
Besides, the wet look is in.

He shakes his head, showering them with toilet water.

KEVIN

Why do they put ice cubes in the
urinals?

KIRBO

It tastes better.

13

OUTSIDE MEN'S ROOM

13

Leslie, Jules and Wendy wait anxiously, but the guys
emerge, pals forever again. Together as a group, they
join Tommy Bancroft and his pals at the jukebox singing
"I LIKE A GIRL WHO DRINKS."

14

INT. ALEC AND LESLIE'S LOFT - CLOSE ON MECHANICAL
DRAWINGS - NIGHT (LATER)

14

E

E

15

15

Leslie works at a large drafting table in their sparsely
furnished loft. She wears over-sized pajamas.

LESLIE

If we could find the money it would
be better to get the longer sofa.

Alec enters in his underwear, brushing his teeth.

ALEC

Tommy Bancroft said I could start
working on weekends for Hodges. No
pay at first, but a way toward
big dough.

They wrap themselves around each other, kissing.

LESLIE

Isn't Hodges a Republican?

(CONTINUED)

14
E
15

CONTINUED:

14
E
15

ALEC

He's a senator, and Republican
senators' aides get paid a lot
more than Democratic congressmen's
assistants.

LESLIE

(kissing him)

What happened to that Newberry
political conviction I fell in
love with?

ALEC

You want the longer sofa?

LESLIE

I want you.

ALEC

I'm going to buy you a red
nightgown with satin and lace.

*
*
*

LESLIE

And rubber and leather...

*

ALEC

Yeah, leather...

He opens her shirt and smothers her with love.

LESLIE

Your breath is so sweet... Wait,
let me get the babykiller.

She starts for the bathroom.

ALEC

Come on. Let's just do it. We're
getting married soon.

LESLIE

Not so soon.

*
*

ALEC

Let's take a chance... Russian
roulette!

LESLIE

And guess who has to carry the
bullet around for nine months.

*

There is a KNOCK at the front door.

(CONTINUED)

14
E
15

CONTINUED: (2)

14
E
15

LESLIE

Who could that be?

ALEC

Who else could it be... Jules, of course, afraid to stay in her new apartment alone and she's spending the night again.

16

INT. KITCHEN AREA OF LOFT - FEW MINUTES LATER

16

Jules sits drinking vodka as Leslie listens.

JULES

So this crummy welfare hospital called and remember I told you about my father's second wife. My 'stepmonster.'

LESLIE

The one who used to lock you in the closet all the time?

JULES

She gambled away all the money she got out of my father, is on her deathbed and she put me down as next of kin.

LESLIE

But what about your father?

JULES

Unreachable somewhere in South Africa with his new wife, who it turns out is only three years older than me. And if I don't reach him, guess who's going to end up paying for that old witch's funeral. Is there some insane irony to this or what?

LESLIE

I'm sure your father will take care of everything.

JULES

Sure, just like he takes care of everything else, including not showing up for my graduation.

In the background, Alec has brought in their mattress and some sheets and a pillow.

(CONTINUED)

JULES

Thanks, Alec. You're still my
Indiana Jones. Always coming to
my rescue.

ALEC

I just know better than to try and
break the umbilical cord between
two old roommates. Good night,
Jules.

Leslie kisses Jules and goes into the bedroom with Alec.
Jules takes another belt of vodka.

Dirty laundry and Woody Allen posters. Kevin sits in the
middle of the mess looking at photographs longingly. He
wears camouflage shirts, a black beret and shades --
drinks brandy and writhes in orgiastic ecstasy as he
sings along with JANIS JOPLIN.

KEVIN

TAKE IT... TAKE ANOTHER LITTLE
PIECE OF MY HEART NOW, DARLIN'...

Kirbo enters carrying his bike, and Kevin immediately
hides the photographs in a straw basket and becomes his
sophisticated self.

KEVIN

Quick, what's the meaning of life?

KIRBO

Dale Biberman.

Kevin looks puzzled as Kirbo hangs up his bike.

KIRBO

The girl I fell in love with when
we were freshmen. Remember, I met
her at that big fountain on main
campus? The one that says
'Knowledge, Art, Religion, Life'...
she was sitting on the 'Life' side
and she smiled at me.

KEVIN

You took her to one movie! That's
not love, it's infatuation!

Kirbo searches madly through records strewn on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

KIRBO

Kevin, there are several
quintessential moments in a man's
life... losing his virginity...

He yanks JANIS JOPLIN OFF abruptly.

KIRBO

... Getting married... becoming a
father.

KEVIN

Killing his roommate for removing
Janis Joplin for the soundtrack
from Manhattan???

KIRBO

... And having the right girl
smile at you. She has the whitest
teeth I've ever seen.

"RHAPSODY IN BLUE" fills the room. Kevin begins gathering
up his endless pieces of paper, notes, etc.

KEVIN

If you think I'm going to live
through another year of finding
poorly written, unmailed love
scratchings around this apartment.

KIRBO

I found her again. It's fate.
It's true love. I have her
hospital schedule!

KEVIN

Love is just an illusion created
by lawyer-types like yourself to
perpetuate another illusion called
marriage to create the reality of
divorce and the illusory need for
divorce lawyers. Did you know
there are more people in law school
right now than there are lawyers on
the planet?

KIRBO

You're just bitter, 'cause you
haven't had sex for a long time.

KEVIN

No wonder. The sexual revolution?
Who won?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED: (2)

17

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Nobody... It used to be that sex was the only free thing in the world. No longer. Palimony, alimony. All financial. Love's an illusion.

Finally having gathered up all his notes, Kevin moves toward the bedroom.

KIRBO

It's the only illusion that counts.

KEVIN

Says who?

KIRBO

Anyone who's ever been in love.

KEVIN

Love stinks.

He moves into the bedroom, closing the door on Kirbo.

18

EXT. "O" STREET (GEORGETOWN) - DAY

18

A great fall day. Young people shop and party on the busy street. CAMERA FINDS Jules, Wendy and Leslie exiting a store with their purchases. Jules is on Wendy's case.

JULES

You should have bought the red dress. Red drives men mad.

As two college guys hit on Jules she flips her red cape.

JULES

See...

WENDY

I have a mad man in my life already.

JULES

You have to put some kind of distance between you and Billy.

LESLIE

Jules is right.

Kevin and Kirbo join them.

(CONTINUED)

18

CONTINUED:

18

WENDY

It's easy for both of you. Men
are just a game for you Jules.

JULES

Trivial pursuit.

WENDY

And of course you and Alec are...

LESLIE/JULES/WENDY/KEVIN/KIRBO

The perfect couple!!!

They approach Jules' Jeep.

LESLIE

Thanks for the pressure, guys...

(to Wendy)

... Shouldn't we be finding you an
apartment?

19

OMITTED

E

20

19

E

20

21

EXT. STREET CORNER - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

21

The group picks up Alec and Billy who have just come from a small office building. Billy has made a great effort to look establishment. Alec, as always, looks like a Ralph Lauren ad. They cram into the crowded Jeep.

WENDY

How'd you do?

BILLY

I'm an official pollster, thanks to Alec.

Everyone applauds.

ALEC

(kissing Leslie)

I had to promise our first born.
Keep your nose clean and you could move up fast, Billy.

Billy is quickly pulling off his tie, unbuttoning his shirt and messing up his hair.

BILLY

You're a god, Alec.

JULES

How 'bout bloody Marys on me at St. Elmo's?

Everyone cheers except Alec.

ALEC

I gotta get back to work.

KIRBO

Since when do you work on Saturdays?

LESLIE

Since he started volunteer moonlighting for Senator Hodges.

KIRBO

What is the three-year president of Georgetown's Young Democrats doing working for a Republican?

ALEC

Moving up, Kirbo.

As most of the others boo and hiss playfully, CAMERA FINDS Billy talking to Wendy. Reaching in his pocket, he gives her a toy car.

(CONTINUED)

21

CONTINUED:

21

BILLY

I told you I'd get you a new car.
I'm goin' ultimate on this gig, Wend.
Gonna pay you back for everything...
Let's celebrate tonight.

WENDY

What about Felicia and the baby?

BILLY

Hey, come on, it's Saturday night.
Let's party out. Let's go ultimate.

Could he mean sex? Love? What she's been waiting for?

WENDY

Okay. Why can't I say no to you?

22

EXT. ATTRACTIVE TOWNHOUSE - DAY (LATER)

22

The Jeep parked, Jules lets Kevin in.

23

INT. VERY DRAMATIC APARTMENT - DAY

23

Jules and Kevin can be heard CLIMBING the STAIRS outside.

JULES (O.S.)

You haven't been here since you
helped me move in...

KEVIN (O.S.)

Oh, did you move in, too? I only
remember 800 pair of shoes.

She opens the elaborate locks and they enter.

JULES

What do you think?

KEVIN

Very subtle and very pink. Must
have cost some subtle bucks.

JULES

Why do you think God invented credit
for fabulous people like me? Fix
us a drink.

She disappears into the bedroom.

JULES (O.S.)

I knew you'd like it. You have
such sensitivity... Fix me a
vodka rocks...

(CONTINUED)

29

CONTINUED:

29

There's no one home. Sadly she walks back to her apartment. It's getting darker outside.

30

EXT. GEORGETOWN MEDICAL CENTER - DUSK

30

Kirbo, wearing a jacket, anxiously waits behind a tree, watching a car pull into the parking lot. Dale Biberman emerges. Kirbo keeps out of sight, and frantically dashes toward a side entrance to the building.

31

INT. HOSPITAL - DUSK

31

Kirbo dashes down the hall. Approaching a corner, he immediately achieves nonchalance as he "accidentally" runs into Dale at the entrance.

KIRBO

Why, Dale? How nice to see you again.

DALE

Kirby, what brings you back here? Nothing serious, I hope.

KIRBO

Oh, no... just tying up some legal loose ends for my friends...

DALE

Excuse me... I'm late...

KIRBO

Ah, funny running into you again. I noticed there's going to be a Woody Allen festival and I thought maybe we...

DALE

I don't get to the movies much anymore... I've got to go.

She is moving away.

KIRBO

Well, lunch. How about lunch?

DALE

Sure. That would be nice sometime.

She is moving quicker.

(CONTINUED)

31

CONTINUED:

31

KIRBO

Wednesday? How about Wednesday?

Dale is gone.

32

INT. ALEC AND LESLIE'S LOFT - NIGHT

32

Leslie is trying to coordinate dinner while Kevin is looking at a rendering of a complex housing unit.

LESLIE

... A whole community within itself. Right near Lockheed. Open some wine.

KEVIN

Looks like it could be put together with Leggo blocks. You design this?

LESLIE

I did all the mechanicals for one of our senior architects and I think he's going to promote me to the design staff.

Kevin is fighting with a ridiculous wine opener.

KEVIN

Maybe you could design a corkscrew that actually works. Everything in this apartment comes from Scandinavia. They don't even have wine in Scandinavia.

Naturally Leslie opens it in a flash.

KEVIN

Do you think my attachment to Alec is unnatural?

LESLIE

No, I think mine is. We've only just started to live together and he's already pushing for 'the wedding.'

*
*
*
*

KEVIN

Well, since you fell in love with a Democrat and now he's a Republican, I think all bets are off.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED:

32

Leslie burns herself and shouts.

LESLIE

How do some women do this every night of their lives and not go insane?

KEVIN

They are insane. Wives, husbands, children, love, marriage, relationship. It's all insane.

LESLIE

That's what I'm afraid of. Did I tell you that my perfect sister and her perfect husband are getting a perfect divorce?

KEVIN

I have the perfect cure. Stay away from love.

He finds the butter and puts some on her hand.

LESLIE

You must have been in love, once. You like hot peppers?

KEVIN

Doesn't Alec hate them?

LESLIE

Insurrection... Now, come on, Kevin, you must have been in love with somebody, sometime...

KEVIN

Once, in junior high. I played guitar in a group and fell in love with our singer who did 'We've Only Just Begun' as sweet as Karen Carpenter. I got high on cheap champagne and pledged my love. Next day she ran off with the bass player named Rocky and I traded my guitar in for a battered Underwood typewriter.

LESLIE

On which you will type your way to being one of the most important writers in America.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

On which I continue to turn out
obituaries and very little else...

Taking out shreds of papers and napkins.

KEVIN

I can't seem to organize any of my
thoughts into anything of any
substance.

LESLIE

Maybe you need to stop thinking so
much and fall in love again.

KEVIN

Love stinks.

The door opens and Alec arrives home.

ALEC

Hi, guys.

He kisses Leslie.

KEVIN

Rough day with the right wing,
dear?

Alec hands Leslie a red box. She opens it excitedly and
finds a black lace nightgown. She screams as Alec heads
for the kitchen.

ALEC

Try it on...

Leslie makes naughty eyes at Kevin and disappears into
the bedroom.

ALEC

Leslie has to marry me, soon.

KEVIN

Why, you pregnant? Kidding.
What's your 'marriage' hurry?

ALEC

When you have a serious
relationship, Kev, you'll find out
the problem with living together:
it's too easy.

KEVIN

Maybe for you and Leslie. You have
the perfect relationship.

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED: (3)

32

ALEC

I mean, it's too easy to get out of. You either build to something bigger -- like marriage -- or one day you could make a mistake and the person you were living with is gone.

Alec takes a bite of dinner and cringes.

ALEC

I'm going to kill myself.

KEVIN

They're only peppers, Alec.

ALEC

I can't believe what I just did. I innocently go to buy the nightgown and this amazing blonde salesgirl starts coming on to me... we wind up doing it standing up in front of a three-way mirror in the dressing room.

He lies down on the floor.

ALEC

If Leslie would just marry me, I know I wouldn't do stuff like that -- it would be a legal violation.

KEVIN

As opposed to tonight's standing violation. You think marriage is going to make you faithful?

ALEC

Yes.

KEVIN

The idea of two people spending their lives together was invented by people who were lucky to make it to thirty without being eaten by dinosaurs. Marriage is obsolete.

ALEC

Dinosaurs are obsolete. Marriage is still around.

Leslie screams from the bedroom.

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED: (4)

32

LESLIE (O.S.)

This is obscene. I love it.

Alec dashes into the bedroom. As he opens and then closes the door, Kevin sees a flash of Leslie looking absolutely ravishing in the nightgown. As they SCREAM and PLAY, Kevin, feeling very alone, stirs the burning dinner.

CUT TO:

33

EXT. BAD NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT (LATER)

33

A few hookers work the corner. FOCUS ON a BLACK HOOKER talking to passing car.

BLACK HOOKER

You want a date...? Hi... you want a date...

Kevin passes quietly and she ignores him.

KEVIN

Why don't you ever ask me if I want a date?

BLACK HOOKER

'Cause I thought you were gay.

KEVIN

Why would you think I'm gay?

BLACK HOOKER

'Cause I never see you with a girl. And you always look real strange.

KEVIN

Well, just for your information. I happen to be in love with someone but they don't know it. I guess you wouldn't understand loving someone from afar.

He takes a swig from a bottle in a paper bag.

BLACK HOOKER

Delaware's about as far as I've ever gone. Is this person a he or a she?

She takes the bottle and takes a swig.

KEVIN

It's a secret. But I guess you wouldn't understand about that, either.

BLACK HOOKER

Oh honey, lots of people come to me for love and it's a secret.

He takes his bottle back and goes home.

34

INT. VISTA WELFARE OFFICES - AFTERNOON

34

Wendy is interviewing a good-looking WOMAN with five children crawling all over her.

(CONTINUED)

34

CONTINUED:

34

WENDY

See our real purpose, Miss Chambers,
or do you prefer Ms... is to get
you off welfare and train you in a
skilled profession. Now, do you
have any interest in the janitorial
field?

WOMAN

Jus' give me my check.

WENDY

There are educational...

WOMAN

Jus' give me my check.

Wendy hands her the check.

WOMAN

You get some hot clothes, get
yourself a man... you won't be
worryin' about all this shit.

She leaves as Billy arrives in time to check her out.

BILLY

Welfare recipients are getting
better-looking these days.

WENDY

Ever feel like you're not
accomplishing anything?

Billy sits on her desk.

BILLY

I think I'm in touch with the
feeling. Let's go get a drink.

WENDY

Billy, why aren't you at work?

Billy gives her a look she knows all too well.

35

INT. ST. ELMO'S - DAY (AN HOUR LATER)

35

Wendy and Billy sit at the bar as Kirbo pours.

KIRBO

Buddy, the only extra money I
have is my savings for the most
important date of my life.

*
*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

35

CONTINUED:

35

WENDY

Are you in love?

KIRBO

I'm ripped between rapture and
torture.

WENDY

I'm all tapped out from the accident
but I could probably get some from
my father...

BILLY

No more money from you, Wend. But
maybe you could help me find another
job.

WENDY

Do you have any interest in the
janitorial field?

They both smile.

WENDY

You should be playing your music,
Billy...

BILLY

I'm a family man and the rent is
due.Alec, followed by Kevin, storms into the bar and attacks
Billy.

ALEC

You dumb shit. You have to start
making passes at the women you're
supposed to be polling?

BILLY

Actually, they were the ones who
suggested another type of polin'...

He smiles as Alec grabs him.

ALEC

You're twenty-three years old.
You got a wife and kid.

BILLY

And you're a great American. Are
you new at this? Or just an
asshole?

(CONTINUED)

35

CONTINUED: (2)

35

ALEC

You're not the fraternity star
anymore. No more Billy the Kid.

Billy starts to leave. Alec follows.

ALEC

I didn't bargain for you turning
out this way.

BILLY

And I didn't bargain for you
turning into a pompous politico.
Suckin' up to Hodges. That's it,
Al, isn't it?... You've become a
Republican!!!

ALEC

And you've become a drunk.

BILLY

Oh, no, not just 'a' drunk, Big
Al. One of the great drunks!
Born, bred and diseased in the
U.S.A.

(to Wendy)

Come on...

(to Kevin)

... You with us, Kev...?

Kevin hesitates.

BILLY

Oh, I forgot, Kev. You don't do
anything Alec doesn't tell you to
do. Well, that's okay, 'cause
just remember one thing. You can
pick your friends and you can pick
your nose, but you can't pick your
friend's nose.

Billy leaves. Wendy looks at Alec and starts to laugh.

ALEC

Stay right here, Wendy.

She can't and runs after Billy.

36

INT. ALEC AND LESLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

36

They are both asleep as the PHONE RINGS. Alec pulls
himself together and speaks alertly.

ALEC

Alec Newberry.

37

INT. VAN BUREN HOTEL - BATHROOM - NIGHT

37 *

Jules, wearing a sexy dress, whispers into the phone.

JULES

Alec, it's Jules. I'm at the
Van Buren...

*

INTERCUT their phone conversation.

ALEC (V.O.)

What time is it?

JULES

Please... I'm with these Arabs...
and they've been forcing me to do
coke all night... And I only
understand a little Arabic, but
I'm sure I heard the words for
'gang bang' and 'white slavery'...
Please get me out of here... Suite
2708.

38

INT. ALEC AND LESLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (SECONDS LATER)

38

Leslie watches anxiously as Alec throws on his clothes.

*

LESLIE

You're so wonderful taking care of
all of us. I love you. I really,
truly love you.

He kisses her.

39

EXT. VAN BUREN - NIGHT (TEN MINUTES LATER)

39 *

Alec gives his car to a valet and rushes into the hotel.

40

INT. VAN BUREN - TOP FLOOR - MINUTES LATER

40 *

The elevator opens and Alec quickly finds the room and
knocks loudly.

ARAB VOICE (O.S.)

Yes.

ALEC

Open up.

After a beat, the door is opened by a sedate Arab
businessman. Alec pushes past him.

41

INT. SUITE - NIGHT

41

Four additional sedate Arab businessmen sit calmly watching MTV. Jules is pacing nervously by the bar, smoking. She fakes surprise at Alec's entrance.

JULES

Alec, what are you doing here?

He quickly grabs her and they leave the suite. The Arabs hardly notice.

ALEC

Okay, nobody make a move.

42

INT. VAN BUREN LOBBY - NIGHT

42

*

Jules and Alec walk from the elevators.

JULES

You're a real pal. My Indiana Jones. I won't forget how you came to my rescue again.

ALEC

They hardly impressed me as the gang bang type, Jules. How much coke have you done?

JULES

Shovels full. They've got barrels.

ALEC

You're just paranoid from the coke. You know sometimes I think you just make up these dramas to test me or something.

JULES

That's very interesting, let's stay up all night like the old days and discuss it.

*

ALEC

I have to be at work in a few hours.
(indicating her furs)

And where are you getting all this money from?

*

JULES

I'm a financial genius, haven't you heard?

(CONTINUED)

42

CONTINUED:

42

She goes toward the public phone.

ALEC

Who are you calling?

JULES

A systems analyst I met... very hot Jewish guy.

ALEC

What are you, the new Middle East Ambassador? It's two-thirty. Come on, I'll take you home.

JULES

And waste all this good coke!

As Jules connects with her number, Alec starts to head out of the hotel in disgust. A beautiful older woman is getting her key from the desk and crosses in front of him toward the elevators. She and Alec check each other out. He smiles. She smiles. As her elevator arrives, she changes her mind and, giving Alec an inviting smile, steps into the dimly-lit bar. Alec is torn between morality and temptation. Temptation wins as he follows the sexy lady.

43

INT. LA PETITE CHATEAU - MORNING

43

*

Kirbo, dressed in his best, enters the elegant, but empty dining room. Searching around quickly, he begins to try out various tables. He exchanges floral arrangements at one as the austere MAITRE D' approaches as Kirbo peruses a menu.

MAITRE D'

Excuse me, sir. We do not open until eleven.

KIRBO

That's all right. I'll wait.

MAITRE D'

Do you have a reservation?

KIRBO

Yes. Kreager. One o'clock. I want this table.

MAITRE D'

At that time, I will find a lovely table for you and your guest. But this is a table for four.

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

KIRBO

I'll pay double.

MAITRE D'

I'm sorry.

KIRBO

I want this table... and I'm
waiting right here.

44

INT. INTERNATIONAL BANKING OFFICE - ONE HOUR LATER

44

Jules, wearing glasses, is at work speaking on the phone
in front of a bank of computers.

JULES

You could order a nice Napa Valley
Chardonnay, unless you want to
impress her with an import.

45

INTERCUT - KIRBO IN THE RESTAURANT

45

With a phone at his table, looking at the menu.

KIRBO

Money's no object.

JULES (V.O.)

Montrechart or Mersault then --
and don't forget to smell the cork.

KIRBO

Okay and how do you say escargot?

JULES (V.O.)

Escargot. I'd stay away from them
if I were you... heavy garlic.

46

INTERCUT - INT. BANK

46

A WOMAN moves through the desks with a box of envelopes.

JULES

It's payday, thank God!

WOMAN

Jules, you're advanced on your salary
two months. I have no check for you.

KIRBO (V.O.)

Jules, I owe you.

(CONTINUED)

46

CONTINUED:

46

JULES

That's good. 'Cause I owe
everyone else.

She hangs up and follows the Woman.

JULES

I've got to pay for my stepmonster's
funeral. Then I'll catch up.

WOMAN

I'm afraid you'll have to see
Forrester Davidson.

JULES

The president of the bank?

47

BACK TO RESTAURANT

47

The Maitre D' grandly takes the phone from Kirbo's table.

KIRBO

Could you please clean up these
crumbs, waiter?

MAITRE D'

I am not the waiter. I am the
captain.

KIRBO

Aye, aye, sir.

Dale Biberman rushes into the restaurant in all her
splendor. Kirbo is extremely excited.

DALE

Sorry I'm late. Have you been
waiting long?

KIRBO

Just got here.

Kirbo beats out the Maitre D' and pulls out Dale's chair.

DALE

The food is great here.

KIRBO

I'll be having the alfalfa sprouts
and a plate of mashed yeast.

(CONTINUED)

47

CONTINUED:

47

DALE

Are you a vegetarian?

KIRBO

No... that's from Annie Hall, the movie we saw together... don't you remember?

DALE

That's funny... I thought we went to see a Mel Brooks movie.

KIRBO

No... it was Annie Hall.

DALE

Are you sure? 'Cause I don't like Woody Allen movies very much.

KIRBO

Oh, me, too. I hate Woody Allen movies.

The Maitre D' comes over to the table.

MAITRE D'

Will you be ordering any wine?

KIRBO

Of course... We'll have the...

DALE

I can't... I'm on call.

Kirbo is shot down as the Maitre D' hands Dale a menu.

KIRBO

So... how's your, uh... are you seeing anyone?

DALE

To tell you the truth, my work's so time-consuming, I don't get the chance to date, but when I do -- well, medicine's such an incestuous profession, the only people I seem to ever go out with are doctors.

The Maitre D' returns with the telephone.

MAITRE D'

Miss Biberman? Telephone.

(CONTINUED)

47

CONTINUED: (2)

47

DALE

See, they just won't let me alone.

(into phone)

Hello... Yes, yes, doctor, right away.

(hangs up)

I've got to get back to the hospital.
I'm so sorry. Maybe we can do this again sometime.

KIRBO

When?

She is gone as the Maitre D' walks over to him with his pad and speaks with exquisite, controlled sarcasm.

MAITRE D'

Have you had enough time to look at the menu?

48

INT. LAUNDROMAT - DAY

48

Kevin and Kirbo fold their laundry.

KEVIN

You cannot go to med school just to impress this girl with whom you have a fleeting infatuation.

KIRBO

This is not just an infatuation and she's not just a girl -- she's the only evidence of God I can find on this planet -- with the exception of the mystical force which removes one of my socks from the dryer every time I do laundry.

Laundry folded, they head out of the laundromat passing the drop-off "Fluff and Fold" facilities.

KIRBO

'Fluff and Fold.' I'm telling you, Kev, when I make it, that's where I take my laundry.

KEVIN

Dreamer.

KIRBO

I understand 'Fold,' but what is 'Fluff'?

(CONTINUED)

48

CONTINUED:

48

KEVIN

'Fluff' is what I write for the paper.

They leave the laundromat. Kirbo drops a sock.

49

OMITTED

49

*

50

INT. BEAMISH DINING ROOM - NIGHT

50

*

Wendy's formidable FATHER shows Billy framed greeting cards. Billy drinks heavily. Wendy worries.

MR. BEAMISH (FATHER)

We've got twenty-four 'Card-A-Terias' now. What line are you in?

BILLY

Munitions.

WENDY

He's kidding, Dad. He's a musician and a very fine one.

Wendy leaves them as she enters:

51

INT. BEAMISH KITCHEN - NIGHT

51

where her two blonde sisters (RACHEL and LIBBY) help her BLONDE MOTHER with dinner.

RACHEL

Please do not bring up moving out tonight. Daddy'll have a heart attack in front of your boyfriend.

WENDY

He's not my boyfriend.

LIBBY

There's a nice young guy working for us now. Howie Krantz.

WENDY

Libby, please.

(kissing Mother)

You're looking beautiful, Mom.

MRS. BEAMISH

(stage whisper)

I'm fat. I'm thin. I'm fat. I'm thin. I'm blonde. I'm brunette.

(CONTINUED)

51

CONTINUED:

51

WENDY

Look at it this way. You always
wanted to look like Elizabeth
Taylor... and now you do.

52

INT. BEAMISH DINING ROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS ACTION)

52

*

Billy fills his glass while Wendy's niece and NEPHEWS
watch. Wendy joins him.

WENDY

There are certain words my mother
finds too horrible to utter so
she whispers them... you'll get
used to it...

53

INT. BEAMISH DINING ROOM - NIGHT

53

Everyone is eating. Billy is drinking. Wendy's mother
is talking.

MRS. BEAMISH

Hear about Betty Rothberg?
(stage whisper)
Cancer.

One of Wendy's BROTHERS-IN-LAW speaks to Billy.

BROTHER-IN-LAW #1

The day I married Rachel, I got
three 'Card-A-Teria' franchises.
Just bought a BMW.

BILLY

(to other Brother-
In-Law)
You in the card game, too?

BROTHER-IN-LAW #2

Six franchises! We have two kids.

Mrs. Beamish addresses Billy.

MRS. BEAMISH

Where did you and Wendy meet again?

BILLY

(stage whisper)
Prison.

*

54

INT. BEAMISH DEN - NIGHT

54

Wendy's father gives her money.

MR. BEAMISH

If you'd get married and run a franchise like your sisters, you wouldn't need to borrow money.

WENDY

I have a job with the Department of Human Services, Dad.

MR. BEAMISH

That's not a job. It's killing time 'til you get married.

WENDY

I'm very committed and I think I should get my own apart...

Suddenly, one of Wendy's Nephews comes running into the room excitedly.

NEPHEW

Billy's up on the roof.

55

EXT. BEAMISH HOUSE - NIGHT

55

The entire family comes running out of the house. Billy is way on top of the three-story house, sitting above the cupola and widow's walk, his legs dangling.

MR. BEAMISH

Come down from there.

RACHEL

What, is he crazy?

MRS. BEAMISH

I knew it the minute he walked in the door...

(stage whisper)

... drugs!!!

Wendy runs inside.

56

EXT. BEAMISH ROOF - NIGHT

56

Wendy joins him.

(CONTINUED)

56

CONTINUED:

56

She sits down next to him.

WENDY

All the years we lived here and
no one ever did this.

BILLY

I used to do this at the frat
house all the time. Climb out
from Alec's room onto the roof
and play my sax.

57

EXT. BEAMISH HOUSE - NIGHT

57

Below, the family comes running out again.

RACHEL

Oh, my God. Wendy's up there with
him!

Wendy and Billy ignore them as the family screams and
runs back into the house.

58

BACK ON WENDY AND BILLY

58

E
59

WENDY

You miss school, don't you?

E
59

BILLY

Not a day does by that I don't
wish we were all back there.
Everything made so much sense
then. Our group being so
ultimate, so number one.

WENDY

Every group on campus thought
they were number one.

BILLY

But we were. Alec and me running
everything. Jules and Leslie
the hottest girls... Kevin and...

WENDY

Me having the fattest thighs.

BILLY

You being the best of us all...
Those all-nighters when we used
to talk about our dreams.

(CONTINUED)

58
E
59

CONTINUED:

58
E
59

WENDY

I was gonna save humanity.

BILLY

I was headed for New York with my sax... to become the new Clarence Clemmens. Then I met Felicia and she got pregnant, or said she was.

Wendy looks shocked.

BILLY

By the time I found out she had lied, she really was pregnant...

WENDY

Why didn't you ever tell me that before?

BILLY

No matter... I probably wouldn't have made it in New York, anyway.

WENDY

You're very talented, Billy.

BILLY

School was so damned ultimate. Everyday life... there's no way to go ultimate.

(smiling)

... But if it all gets too much
... Like just too fucking much...
You can end your life at any moment.

He dangles his feet dangerously off the edge.

WENDY

That's ultimate.

BILLY

... Don't you ever just want to die?

WENDY

Not while I'm still a virgin.

Billy looks over at her. He's amazed.

BILLY

Why didn't you ever tell me that before?

(CONTINUED)

58
E
59

CONTINUED: (2)

58
E
59

Brother-in-Law #1 arrives at the window below them.

BROTHER-IN-LAW #1

Will you get down here before
your parents have matching heart
attacks?!

60

INT. BEAMISH FOYER - LATER

60

Wendy waits in the hallway, listening to bedroom DOORS
CLOSING. Confident her parents have bedded down, she
tiptoes back into:

61

INT. BEAMISH DEN

61

where Billy is drinking heavily at the bar.

BILLY

Want some?

Wendy takes a big gulp. They are both awkward and ap-
prehensive. She turns out a lamp. So does he, but
knocks it over.

WENDY

Sssssh.

She waits, and when she realizes no one has heard the
crash, she sits down on the small loveseat. Billy joins
her and going to kiss her, knocks her glasses askew.

WENDY & BILLY

Sorry...

He goes to kiss her again and she responds. He pulls up
her skirt and starts to stroke her legs.

BILLY

What the hell is that...?

HIS POV

Her long-line panty girdle.

BILLY (O.S.)

What's that, your scuba suit...?

He laughs as Wendy is destroyed with mortification.
She gets up.

(CONTINUED)

61

CONTINUED:

61

BILLY

Hey, come on, Wend. You're allowed
to laugh when you're screwing.

Wendy is destroyed as she opens the door.

WENDY

I don't think we should see each
other, anymore.

She pulls out the money her father gave her and places it
on a nearby table.

WENDY

There's your rent money. Just
take it and go away.

She starts up the stairs. Billy comes to the doorway.

BILLY

Wend... I'm sorry...

She is up the stairs and out of sight. Billy feels
terrible. He eyes the money on the table and decides
not to take it. As he opens the front door, white light
from the moon glares INTO the CAMERA, as Billy moves into
the light, it becomes whiter, more incandescent -- he
becomes a ghostlike shape that eventually disappears and
the SCREEN becomes SHIMMERING WHITE as we --

DISSOLVE RAPIDLY TO:

62

EXT. GEORGETOWN STREET - NIGHT (FEW WEEKS LATER)

62

A ghoulish Halloween mask FILLS the SCREEN. Children run
BY CAMERA trick-or-treating, revealing the Georgetown
streets alive with mild Halloween shenanigans. Jules
comes zooming around a corner, driving her black Jeep.
She, Alec, Leslie and Kevin are in costume.

63

EXT. ST. ELMO'S BAR - NIGHT

63

Balloons and streamers fly from Jules' Jeep as she pulls
up near St. Elmo's.

A large paper banner across the window reads "LIVE MUSIC
EVERY FRI. & SAT. -- STARTING TONIGHT." CAMERA MOVES
CLOSER TO the window, where THROUGH the rowdy patrons,
some in costume, we see a trio on a small platform led by
Billy playing his sax.

64

INT. ST. ELMO'S - NIGHT

64

Kirbo is ushering Alec, Kevin, Leslie and Jules to their usual table.

LESLIE

But don't you need science credits to get into med school?

*

KIRBO

I have most of the credits from when I was going through my 'major-of-the-week' phase. All I need is Organic Chemistry which I just enrolled in for January.

ALEC

This must be some woman to turn you into a doctor, Kirbo.

*

*

KIRBO

Hey, I've been an amateur gynecologist for years.

He is gone as Jules and Leslie wave to Billy and start toward the ladies' room.

JULES

So, I went to see my boss and I thought he'd say something presidential like, 'How can I be in banking when I can't even balance my own checkbook.' But instead, he took me to dinner -- several times.

LESLIE

I was wondering why you haven't been sleeping over. Jules, I don't think you should start bopping your boss.

JULES

Too late, Leslie. You should see him -- sort of a cross between John Forsythe and Richard Gere.

*

LESLIE

An old man who doesn't wear underwear.

*

65

OMITTED

65

66

INT. ST. ELMO'S - NIGHT

66

Billy is happily playing his heart out. CAMERA FINDS Alec and Kevin at their table flipping quarters.

ALEC

Do you have an extra key to your apartment I could use tomorrow?

KEVIN

What for?

ALEC

Remember the lingerie salesgirl? She's been calling me at work.

KEVIN

Alec, you're going to have to learn to say 'no.'

ALEC

I need a reason to say no. Until Leslie agrees to marry me, I've got to grab some of the gusto.

KEVIN

You've seen too many beer commercials.

Wendy arrives, nervously, with HOWIE KRANTZ, a plump, cheerful guy, uncomfortable in his preppy clothes.

WENDY

Hi... this is Howie Krantz.

As Alec and Kevin welcome Howie, CAMERA STAYS ON Wendy, who is filled with mixed emotion watching Billy play. As she sits down slowly, Kevin speaks to her:

KEVIN

Thought you weren't coming here anymore.

WENDY

Oh, we were just passing by.

Kevin and she smile as he puts his arm around her. Alec and Howie are talking business.

HOWIE

Greeting cards. I work for one of Wendy's brother-in-laws.

(CONTINUED)

66

CONTINUED: (A2)

66

ALEC

A humongous future in greeting
cards.

Alec wickedly eyes Kevin as Jules and Leslie return.
During introductions to Howie, Jules shouts across the
room to a new arrival:

(CONTINUED)

JULES

Over here!

Kevin is watching Alec kiss Leslie, when suddenly they are joined by Jules' neighbor, RON.

JULES

Everybody... this is my friend
and decorator, Ron Dellassandro!!!
(to Kevin)
You remember Ron.

This is not Kevin's night. As Ron sits next to him, Alec's jovial mood suddenly changes.

ALEC

Oh, shit.

All their eyes move across the room, where a very sexy young WOMAN has entered with a noisy blue-collar type.

HOWIE

What's wrong?

WENDY

That's Felicia. Billy's wife.

JULES

But who is she with?

Kirbo seats them at a small reserved table.

Alec, Leslie, Jules, Wendy, Kevin and Howie all turn their attention immediately to Billy, who is playing his heart out -- until he sees FELICIA.

Felicia and blue-collar get chummier.

Billy stops abruptly and jumps from the platform.

Alec is up in a flash and headed after him.

Billy arrives at their table.

BILLY

Hands off my wife.

FELICIA

Oh, you finally remembered. Where were you this past week?

Alec arrives.

(CONTINUED)

ALEC

Billy...

BILLY

I said, take your goddamn hands off
my wife.

Blue-collar just smiles. Billy throws himself on top of him, slugging. Felicia screams. Alec tries to stop them. St. Elmo's watches as Billy and blue-collar beat the shit out of each other. Blood flows. Wally, the owner, arrives with a baseball bat.

WALLY

Get him outta here.

Alec, Kevin and Kirbo get Billy moving toward the door.

FELICIA

Yeah, get outta here... you no-
good shit.

Felicia is hurling insults at Billy as she tends to blue-collar. Alec and the others drag Billy past Leslie and Jules, who look to Ron, who has been hiding behind them with a hand in front of his face.

RON

I just had my nose done.

WALLY

You're fired, Billy.

(to band)

You, too. Out, all of you.

Wendy is dying, as she watches them take Billy out.

WENDY

He's bleeding.

FELICIA

Get outta here, Billy. Get outta
my life!!!

Alec, Kevin and Kirbo are dealing with Billy's rage. Patrons and friends begin to gather and watch.

(CONTINUED)

67

CONTINUED:

67

BILLY

I shoulda had a vasectomy at birth.
You ever have boys, do 'em a favor
and get 'em neutered at birth.
Knock up some slut and you're the
one who's really fucked. Fucked
for life. I hate that bitch!!!

He pushes his friends away as he lunges into the street
to make a grand gesture of marching away. Suddenly blue-
collar comes charging out of the doorway and kicks Billy
in the back. Billy goes down as Felicia jumps on him.

FELICIA

Goddamn you, Billy. You shit.

There is pandemonium as Felicia and Billy pummel each
other. Alec grabs Billy, while Kevin and Kirbo restrain
Felicia. As the young couple are being dragged away
from each other, suddenly Felicia cries out to her man.

FELICIA

Billy...

BILLY

(melting)

Baby...

They break away from the friends who are restraining
them, and rush to each other in the middle of the street.
Only the very young and the very drunk can get away with
this. They collide in sexual frenzy.

68

IN CROWD

68

Wendy watches, filled with emotions as Leslie and Jules
stand on either side of her.

LESLIE

You just go ahead with your evening
with Howie.

JULES

Yes. No matter what he looks like.

Leslie glares at Jules, but Wendy starts laughing.

69

INT. ALEC AND LESLIE'S LOFT - NIGHT (AN HOUR LATER)

69

Felicia puts ice packs on Billy's face. Leslie and Kevin
make coffee.

(CONTINUED)

69

CONTINUED:

69

FELICIA

This is all my fault.

BILLY

No, you married a loser and you better face it.

FELICIA

Don't say that.

BILLY

Alec's known it for a long time. Haven't you, Big Al?

ALEC

You're just running away from responsibility, and it's catching up with you, just like I said it would.

FELICIA

I'll get a job.

BILLY

I won't have you working.

ALEC

Listen to me, Billy. There's a hot-shot Korean in town. Big money. He needs a gopher. I don't know, for some reason I think you might be perfect for each other.

FELICIA

Alec. You've been so good to us.

ALEC

But if you blow this one, Billy...

BILLY

I'm not gonna blow this one, Alec ... I'm gonna do ultimate by everybody...

(starting to cry)

... I almost lost my wife tonight ... and my little baby... Jesus...

Felicia starts to cry as she holds him.

70

INT. ALEC AND LESLIE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

70

Alec joins Leslie and Kevin.

(CONTINUED)

70

CONTINUED:

70

LESLIE

Still want to get married?

ALEC

Leslie, that is not a marriage
in there. That is a mistake.

LESLIE

And who's this Korean hot-shot?

ALEC

A business acquaintance.

She leaves with the coffee.

KEVIN

Speaking of business acquaintances,
you still want my extra key?

71

EXT. KEVIN AND KIRBO'S NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER

71

Kevin walks with his thoughts. He approaches the Black
Hooker on her usual corner.

BLACK HOOKER

Hey, secret love, you want a date
tonight?

KEVIN

What would you say the meaning of
life is?

BLACK HOOKER

Got fifty bucks? I'll show you
the meaning of life.

KEVIN

I don't pay for sex.

BLACK HOOKER

Oh, you think if you get some
girlfriend, or maybe a wife, you
ain't gonna pay? Oh, you'll pay
... but you won't ever be sure
you're gonna get it. Now with me,
you pay, but you get it, and you
get it good!

KEVIN

Food for thought. Food for
thought.

He walks toward his apartment.

72 EXT. DALE'S BUILDING - EXTREME CLOSEUP - NIGHT 72
"DALE BIBERMAN" typed on an apartment registry.

73 EXT. BUILDING - WIDER SHOT - NIGHT 73
Kirbo agonizes, paces and finally rings the bell.

DALE (V.O.)
Yes...?

Kirbo cannot bring himself to speak.

DALE (V.O.)
Hello.

Kirbo is dying to speak, but can't. He quickly charges out of sight.

74 EXT. DALE'S BUILDING - NIGHT 74
Dale opens her second-story window and looks out. She searches the night and is about to close her window when a sudden flash gets her attention.

75 EXT. ALLEY 75
Hidden by the night, Kirbo has just snapped Dale's picture. He charges down the alley and leaps on his bike.

76 EXT. DALE'S BUILDING 76
puzzled and pissed, closes her window.

76A INT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY 76A *
On screen "MANHATTAN." Woody talks into a microphone.

WOODY (V.O.)
An idea for a short story, about um, people in Manhattan who, uh, who are constantly creating these real, uh, unnecessary neurotic problems for themselves 'cause it keeps them from dealing with, uh, more unsolvable terrifying problems about, uh, the universe.

(CONTINUED)

76A

CONTINUED:

76A *

AUDIENCE

Kirbo and Kevin watch.

KEVIN

Not just in Manhattan, Woodman.

Kirbo quickly pulls out his camera and snaps a picture of the screen.

76B

INT. LAUNDROMAT - LATE DAY

76B *

Kirbo and Kevin do laundry.

KEVIN

You can't keep ringing doorbells and running away, calling her and hanging up. What are you afraid of?

KIRBO

Rejection. Total and devastating. As long as she hasn't rejected me, there's hope.

KEVIN

I have lived with a secret obsession many years myself. However, I realize the other person has no interest in me -- so I pursue my career which is going even more unsuccessfully.

KIRBO

Who are you in love with?

KEVIN

I don't have to share everything with you...

(grabbing laundry)

My underwear is enough. Kirbo, if you must pursue this narcissistic mortification, that you have decided to call love, then you must ask her out on a proper date. Like a young god. Like Alec, our leader, would.

KIRBO

Alec has balls. He sees things with his balls. A ball's-eye view so to speak.

Having taken their stuff out of the dryer they leave.

(CONTINUED)

76B

CONTINUED:

76B *

KIRBO

'Fluff and Fold,' buddy. Soon as I get some dough, I'm goin' 'Fluff and Fold.'

76C

EXT. STREET - DAY

76C *

They move through the busy street together passing some double Dutch champions.

KEVIN

You'll go fluff and fold, someday. Whereas I will still be writing obits. I can't even come up with a decent piece for the paper to show my editor.

*
*

KIRBO

I can't help you with your writer's block -- until I see that look in Dale Biberman's eyes. The look that says she knows I'm the one for her.

KEVIN

Kirbo, what about all the other women you were going out with?

KIRBO

They weren't women. They were practice.

KEVIN

You'll never catch me making a fool of myself over a beautiful woman. I know what they're really made of. Watch this.

(to approaching
beautiful girl)

What's the meaning of life?

BEAUTIFUL GIRL

Leave me alone.

KEVIN

The defense rests.

They disappear into their building.

77

INT. VISTA SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

77

Bums, bag ladies and the less fortunate are getting meals.

(CONTINUED)

77

CONTINUED:

77

Wendy is advising a street youth as she supervises the whole operation. Suddenly, Leslie and Jules arrive.

WENDY

Hi.

JULES

We came to take you to lunch.
La Petite Chateau. One o'clock.

WENDY

I can't leave here and go to La
Petite Chateau. Ladies, please,
let's have a little perspective.

LESLIE

Well, we could eat here.

78

LUNCH LINE - MINUTES LATER

78

The girls drag metal trays through the line.

JULES

Campbell's mushroom barley. How
chic.

They are joined by MYRA, a bag lady, and several other
regular patrons.

WENDY

This is Myra. Myra, Jules and Leslie.

LESLIE

How's Howie?

WENDY

I wouldn't say my father is trying
to bribe me, but he offered me a
Chrysler Le Baron convertible if
I'd get engaged to Howie.

JULES

Have you fucked him yet?

WENDY

Jules!!!

JULES

You haven't? Listen, get engaged.
Get the car. Fuck him and if you
don't like it, break the engagement.

They put their trays down at a table.

(CONTINUED)

JULES

Well, no sense beating around the bush. Wendy, we came to see you because we're both worried about you.

WENDY

No, Jules, that was the scam that Leslie and I worked out because we were worried about you.

JULES

Moi? Your were worried about moi?

LESLIE

We were worried about you and this affair with your boss.

JULES

Forrester is the greatest...

LESLIE

Forrester is married...

JULES

Leslie, this is the Eighties... I bop him for a few years -- get his job when he gets caught with his hand in the vault. I become a legend -- do a black milk ad, but get caught in a sex scandal. Retire in massive disgrace -- but write a huge bestseller and become the star of my own talk show.

WENDY

Silly of us to be concerned.

JULES

And besides, Forrester suggested some fabulous alternatives for my stepmonster...

WENDY

That's another thing. You seem obsessed with this woman's dying. It's creepy.

JULES

Well, it turned out that cremation is almost as expensive as the non-torch method -- so if I don't find a cheaper solution -- I'll probably end up...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

78

CONTINUED: (2)

78

JULES (CONT'D)

(sotto)

... like one of these bag ladies.
Of course, I'll have alligator
bags...

She looks at her watch.

JULES

Oh, I've got to meet Forrester.

LESLIE

Jules, you haven't touched your
food.

JULES

Who'd want to? I think this was a
wonderful talk, don't you? Nice
meeting you, Myra.

Jules is gone in a neurotic flurry. Leslie and Wendy are
worried.

79
thru
84

OMITTED

79
thru
84

85

EXT. GEORGETOWN CANAL - DAY

85

Wendy and Leslie walk together.

LESLIE

The senior architect I've been
assisting is going to promote me to
the design staff.

WENDY

That's so great.

LESLIE

Yeah, it worked out really well.

WENDY

That's great. So I guess that
means marriage now, huh?

LESLIE

It scares me. My sister lived with
her husband for five years before
they got married. And now it's over.
They loved each other so much, but
somehow it just disappeared.

(CONTINUED)

85

CONTINUED:

85

WENDY

You can't say that. You're not your sister. You and Alec were made for each other.

LESLIE

I love Alec. I do, but I just don't think I'm ready for the big step.

WENDY

Seen Billy?

LESLIE

I was wondering how long it was going to take until you asked.

WENDY

It's like stopping smoking. I can go as long as I can and then I just have to have a hit.

LESLIE

Alec's got him working for some Korean gangster, and I actually think Billy is doing a great job.

WENDY

Great. Great.

86

EXT. ATTRACTIVE GEORGETOWN HOUSE - DAY

86

A limousine arrives and a female CHAUFFEUR opens the door for KIM SUNG HO, a well-dressed Korean.

87

INT. ATTRACTIVE TOWNHOUSE - DAY

87

Kim enters looking over some mail.

KIM SUNG HO

Billy?

KITCHEN DOOR

A house boy, sensing what's going to happen, ducks back.

88

INT. HO TOWNHOUSE - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

88

ROCK and ROLL BLASTS as Kim Sung Ho opens the bathroom door, revealing Billy in the marble Jacuzzi with a naked blonde and a bottle of vodka.

(CONTINUED)

88

CONTINUED:

88

Everyone is shocked to see everyone.

BILLY

Ah... I thought you were comin'
back Thursday.

89

EXT. GEORGETOWN STREET - NIGHT

89

Dale Biberman, dodging the RAIN, leaves her building and gets in her car. CAMERA FINDS Kirbo, across the street, watching. He jumps on his bike and follows.

90

EXT. FASHIONABLE BROWNSTONE - NIGHT (FEW MINUTES LATER) 90

A carpark helps Dale into the house with an umbrella. CAMERA FINDS Kirbo, who looks in the window of the brownstone.

91

INT. FASHIONABLE TOWNHOUSE - HIS POV - NIGHT

91

Dale enters and talks animatedly with two attractive young men. The party is filled with attractive yuppies.

92

INT. FASHIONABLE BROWNSTONE - PARTY - NIGHT

92

Dale continues talking with the men as the CAMERA MOVES THROUGH the party TOWARD her. The CAMERA is Kirbo. Although we do not see him, we hear people talking to him.

VOICES

Excuse me... Sir...?

The CAMERA (Kirbo) STOPS as Dale looks up from her conversation. She is pleasant, but slightly stunned.

DALE

Kirby... How are you?

We see Kirbo now, soaking wet and in pain.

KIRBO

I'm obsessed. Thank you very much.

93

INT. DALE'S CAR - NIGHT (TWENTY MINUTES LATER)

93

Dale drives, Kirbo next to her, his bike on the trunk. It has stopped raining.

(CONTINUED)

DALE

What's going on?

KIRBO

I'm going to be a doctor.

DALE

That's not what's going on.

They pull up in front of her building and get out of the car.

KIRBO

Why did you tell me you had to work tonight? Why did you lie?

DALE

I didn't want to hurt your feelings.

KIRBO

I'm obsessed with you, Dale. I have been for four years.

DALE

But you don't even know me.

KIRBO

I know. But I'm obsessed by my fantasy of you.

Dale realizes this man needs some help.

INT. DALE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (MINUTES LATER)

Kirbo is actually entering Dale's apartment. A shrine.

DALE

I'm very average... full of flaws...

She gestures toward her sloppy bedroom.

DALE

I'm a slob... can't even make a bed straight... You ready for more...

(indicating magazines
on a coffee table)

... I steal People magazine from my dentist's office.

She then goes into the tiny kitchen and picks up a large garbage bag.

(CONTINUED)

94

CONTINUED:

94

DALE

Here. Watch. Dale Biberman takes
out her own garbage.

She opens the apartment door as her roommate, JUDITH,
arrives home with a bad cold.

DALE

Here's my roommate, Judith. She
hates me.

JUDITH

I hate her.

Judith disappears into the bedroom as Dale puts out the
garbage. Kirby sits for a moment alone, stunned. Dale
returns.

DALE

And here's the worst of all...
When I first decided to be a
doctor, I thought it was because
I wanted to serve people. But
now, well, I'm beginning to get
this funny feeling that what
medicine's really all about is
money... You want some coffee?

KIRBY

It's money, isn't it? That's what
you're trying to tell me. It's
'cause I don't have any money!
Thank you for being so honest.

He gets up and leaves.

DALE

Kirby?

95

EXT. GEORGETOWN CAMPUS - DAY

95

CLOSE ON Billy as he walks across the campus and even-
tually stops.

96

HIS POV - HIS OLD FRATERNITY HOUSE

96

A few young men stop their activities when they see
Billy. Others join. TROY, an undergrad big shot,
arrives.

TROY

The man. The myth. The legend.
The one and only Billy the Kid!

The guys all cheer as they surround Billy.

Billy plays football with the younger students. He seems happy and home at last. As the others run toward the opposite side of the grounds, Billy looks to Troy.

TROY

Like old times, Billy-Boy.

BILLY

You know I've been thinkin', Troy
... I'd like to get some kind of
job maybe on campus... you know
work with the students or the
fraternity. Maybe coaching or
something.

TROY

We could use somebody like you
around, Billy.

BILLY

(encouraged)

Really?

TROY

Yeah. We need somebody to get us
some good drugs.

Billy realizes there is no place for him here either. He looks up to see Felicia and the baby. He gives the football to Troy and slowly walks across the field.

BILLY

Hi, babe...

There is a long pause.

FELICIA

'Member Ray Slater? He was the
guy I was goin' with before I met
you?

BILLY

Felic...

FELICIA

He came to see me, Billy, and he
still wants to marry me. And he'd
take good care of Melody and I
could probably get an annulment.

BILLY

Don't give up on me. Please,
baby.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

97

CONTINUED:

97

BILLY (CONT'D)

I know it's been rough on you.
But I'll get the right job soon.
I'll change... I swear it. No
women, no booze... You won't
believe how ultimate I'm gonna
go...

He holds her and she wants to believe him badly.

98

INT. KIM SUNG HO'S TOWNHOUSE LIBRARY - DAY

98

Kim Sung Ho paces the elegant room.

KIM SUNG HO

I work out of my house. You must
be available twenty-four hours a
day. Complete discretion and
loyalty. Five hundred dollars a
week.

We now see he is talking to Kirbo.

KIRBO

I'm your man, Mr. Ho.

KIM SUNG HO

Your scholastic record is very
impressive, why would you be
willing to leave law school for
essentially a gofer's position?

KIRBO

I don't feel it has any relevancy
in the world I want to go into.

KIM SUNG HO

Which world is that?

KIRBO

The 'real' world. Besides, did
you know that there are more
students in law school than there
are practicing lawyers?

99

EXT. GEORGETOWN MEDICAL CENTER - DUSK

99

Winter is on the way. Dale gets out of her car. As she
starts for the hospital, a limousine pulls up. Kirbo is
sitting in the back.

(CONTINUED)

KIRBO

Hi, Dale.

DALE

Kirby. What are you up to?

KIRBO

I was hand-picked as special
attache to Kim Sung Ho. You know,
the famous Korean entrepreneur?

He quickly holds up a newspaper with Kim on the cover.

DALE

What about medical school?

KIRBO

I have to grab my huge financial
opportunities while I can. It's
all about money, isn't it, Dale?

DALE

Well, good luck.

KIRBO

I'm giving a little party Saturday
night at Kim's house.
(handing her card)
I'd really like to see you there.

DALE

Well, thank you, Kirby. I'll try...

She smiles sweetly and runs off as Kirbo sits back and
talks to the female Chauffeur.

KIRBO

She'll be there. You see her
face when she saw this car?

CHAUFFEUR

Mr. Ho catches you having a party
in his house Saturday night.
You'll be out on the street.

KIRBO

He won't be back until Sunday...
remember, there's an extra hundred
bucks for you and Kenny to shut up.

Kirbo proudly drops his laundry off.

KIRBO

Fluff and Fold!!!

101 EXT. LAUNDRY

101

The Chauffeur waits as Kirbo comes proudly out of the laundry. The neighborhood Black Hooker looks it all over as Kirbo pulls away grandly.

102 EXT. ALEC AND LESLIE'S - SATURDAY NIGHT

102

Traffic, people. The smell of fun and sexual contact in the air. Party MUSIC PLAYS.

103 INT. ALEC AND LESLIE'S LOFT - NIGHT

103

Leslie hangs out the window calling to someone below.

LESLIE

We'll be right down.

Alec comes from the bedroom getting dressed.

ALEC

June first!

LESLIE

Honey, I just got promoted. I'm going to have a lot more responsibility. I'm sure it's the right time.

ALEC

Looking at my big picture agenda, I want to be playing softball with my firstborn in about four years.

LESLIE

Do you realize that over half the marriages today end in divorce.

ALEC

And the other half don't.

LESLIE

My six-year-old niece asked me today why everyone's father doesn't live in a separate house like her father does. I don't want us to become another divorce statistic in Newsweek.

ALEC

Look at my parents. My father may not come home with a raging hard-on, anymore, but they're happy.

(CONTINUED)

103

CONTINUED:

103

LESLIE

Your father sits around playing chess while your mother talks to him constantly. But he's not listening.

ALEC

That's probably why they're happy.
(he grabs her)
Leslie, let's stop living together
... get married and start really
living together!

LESLIE

Sweetheart, please. Let's not talk about it tonight. This party means a lot to Kirbo. The floor's filthy again.

ALEC

Just pick a date, any date...

She opens the door as he grabs a nearby can of white spray paint, and sprays the floor white again as they back out through the door.

LESLIE

There are some things we have to work out first.

104

INT. ALEC'S LOFT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

104

Leslie locks the door as Alec sets the spray can down and they disappear down the Victorian stairwell.

ALEC

Okay. Okay. Like my mom always says, 'Don't get a hard-on'...

LESLIE

And like my mom always says...
'Marriage makes two people one.
But you never know which one.'

ALEC

Yeah, and like my pop says, 'The way to woman's heart is to saw her in half.'

105

EXT. ALEC AND LESLIE'S LOFT - STREET - NIGHT

105

They emerge from the building to find Wendy and Howie in Wendy's brand new white Chrysler LeBaron. Alec and Leslie make a big deal about it as they get in.

LESLIE

So, does this mean you're officially engaged?

HOWIE

Yes.

WENDY

No... It just means I'm officially thinking about it.

ALEC

What is this? Howie, didn't you always think women were dying to get married?

HOWIE

Not to me.

106

INT. KIM SUNG HO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

106

Kirbo, in his underwear, is looking through his employer's impressive closet. As he moves in front of a mirror, we see Kevin watching him from the bedroom.

KEVIN

Does Alec know you're doing this?

KIRBO

I told him I had Kim's permission. Should I go for the formal tux, or the velvet smoking jacket, I-do-this-all-the-time look?

KEVIN

You've left school, put yourself into debt, lied to Alec who got you this job in the first place -- and all for a woman who doesn't seem to be interested in you.

KIRBO

When she sees me in this setting and realizes my potential, which she has always secretly known about me, the veil will be stripped from her eyes and she will give herself to me tonight.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

106

CONTINUED:

106

KIRBO (CONT'D)

Perhaps in that very bed you are
sitting on. Is the cummerbund
out of style?

KEVIN

Well, excuse me, buckeroo. But I
think you're a fool.

KIRBO

Perhaps, but a well-dressed fool.

*

107

INT. KIM SUNG HO'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

107

SHOTS of party beginning: Alec, Leslie, Wendy and Howie
arrive. Other guests arrive, including some regulars
from St. Elmo's, undergrads and old schoolmates. Billy
enters and seeing some old frat brothers goes nuts.
Wendy watches him painfully.

KEVIN

holds court for the undergrads.

KEVIN

The best advice I can give you
undergrads is to fail. Failure is
a virtue in today's society. Human
error is a badge of honor. If
you're the alcoholic child of a
celebrity, you can blame them and
earn a year on the best-seller
list. If you're a celebrity, your
mistake will earn you a People
magazine cover. It's post-
Watergate morality. Take
responsibility for your mistakes
and make a quick buck while you're
at it.

ALEC

Then Sully snuck the pizza
waitress into the showers...

They start screaming with laughter.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY

And the fat chick Sandy met on a plane. Alec and me pretended to be renting agents. She wound up taking on the whole house...

Everyone laughs as Alec looks to Billy seriously.

ALEC

I'm not getting you any more jobs, Billy...

BILLY

You know, Al, you're so perfect. Such a young god... I'll bet you were sproutin' pubic hairs at the age of three.

Jules redoes Wendy's makeup as Leslie watches.

WENDY

Jules, your hands are shaking.

JULES

Thin blood.

LESLIE

How's Forrester?

She drops the makeup.

JULES

Oh, shit.

Wendy and Leslie are worried.

LESLIE

How's your stepmother?

JULES

Hanging on, the old witch. At least it gives me a chance to funeral-shop. Did I tell you I found this place in California -- 'The Neptune Society.' They'll wrap her up and throw her to the sharks for five hundred dollars... But I have to ship the body all the way out there... Excuse me.

Wendy and Leslie look to each other. Kirbo nervously dials the phone.

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: (2)

107

KIRBO

Ah... by any chance did Dale
Biberman get called in on
emergency duty tonight?... No?

He hangs up and tries her home number. It's busy.

108 EXT. BACK OF HOUSE - NIGHT

108

Wendy steps out to get some air. Billy is fooling around inside the house, when he notices her through the window. Their eyes meet, Wendy quickly looks away and moves down the back steps. In a few seconds Billy comes out onto the back porch.

BILLY

So how you doin'? Still living
at home?

WENDY

Yeah, how about you?

BILLY

Felicia hasn't kicked me out yet.

WENDY

You been playin' your sax?

BILLY

I hocked it to pay the phone
bill... You forgiven me yet for
bein' such a horse's ass?

WENDY

There's nothing to forgive. In
fact, I should thank you... It
helped me grow up a lot and see
how stupid I was...

BILLY

How stupid you were to be caring
about a loser like me. I agree
with you wholeheartedly.

They both pause for a beat.

WENDY

You have a lot of talent, Billy.

BILLY

So you still a virgin?

(CONTINUED)

108

CONTINUED:

108

WENDY

That's none of your business.

Wendy quickly goes back into the house. Billy spits at the moon.

109

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

109

Kirbo is shouting at an operator on the phone.

KIRBO

Emergency break in!... Operator!
... That's right... What do you
mean she won't release the
phone??? Did you tell her I'm
giving a party for her???

110

INT. DEN - NIGHT

110

Jules is doing coke with Kim's female chauffeur.

111

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

111

Alec, deep in his cups, clinks bottles loudly.

ALEC

Quiet. Big Al has an announcement.

Everyone more or less quiets down. Kevin TURNS DOWN the STEREO, but not without SCRATCHING the record.

ALEC

On June first, Leslie will do me
the long-awaited honor of becoming
my bride. You're all invited.

Everyone rushes to Leslie, who is stunned.

LESLIE

Alec, you're drunk.

Alec is already accepting congratulations, and passing out cigarettes like cigars, as Leslie grabs him.

LESLIE

Alec, may I speak to you please...

She leads him toward the kitchen as he shouts back:

(CONTINUED)

111

CONTINUED:

111

ALEC

Hey, Howie... how 'bout we make
it a double wedding?

They pass Kirbo who dashes out of the kitchen franti-
cally. He finds Wendy.

KIRBO

Can I use your car?

WENDY

No.

KIRBO

Wendy, please, this is the most
important thing in my life...

WENDY

It's brand new.

KIRBO

Trust me.

112

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

112

Alec and Leslie talk as the servants pretend not to
eavesdrop.

LESLIE

You just want a yearly Christmas
card with the Newberrys in front
of the fireplace..

ALEC

You're just afraid to commit.

LESLIE

You don't have to slow down your
career to help raise them.

ALEC

Jesus Christ, will you just for
once not make the reason you
won't marry me your fucking career!

LESLIE

All right then, what will we do
about your extra-curricular love
life?

ALEC

What extra-curricular love life?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

112

CONTINUED:

112

ALEC (CONT'D)

What did Kevin tell you?

LESLIE

Nothing.

ALEC

What?

He dashes back into the --

113

INT. LIVING ROOM

113

where people are dancing and cavorting. Quickly finding Kevin, Alec punches him with all his might. Kevin goes flying. People shout as Kevin lands against the stereo, taking several thousands of dollars' worth of porcelain, jade and flowers with him. Leslie runs to Kevin's aid.

ALEC

What'd you tell her?... Little buddy... little traitor. Huh, what'd you tell her?

LESLIE

He told me nothing. It was just a hunch... until now.

Alec filled with guilt and remorse becomes angrier. Alec realizes that everybody in the house is watching him. He must save face.

ALEC

Leslie, I want you out of the apartment tonight.

Alec marches out the door. The place is a wreck.

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

113

BILLY

Hey, everything's cool. It's not
a party 'til something gets broken.

114 EXT. DALE BIBERMAN'S BUILDING - NIGHT

114

Wendy's car still running, Kirbo buzzes Dale's bell and
shouts up to her second-story window:

KIRBO

You better get off the phone and
open this door!

Suddenly the window above him opens and Dale's roommate
Judith appears angrily.

JUDITH

Are you the maniac trying to cut
in on my line?

KIRBO

Where is Dale?

JUDITH

She went skiing.

KIRBO

What???... Where???

JUDITH

Why should I tell you?

KIRBO

Because I'm not responsible for
what I'll do to you if you don't.

115 EXT. KEVIN'S NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT (LATER)

115

Kevin and Leslie walk together silently. Kevin sees they
are approaching his neighborhood Black Hooker. He
proudly takes Leslie's arm. He'll show her who's gay.

BLACK HOOKER

You think you ain't gonna pay?
You'll pay.

116 INT. KEVIN AND KIRBO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

116

Usual mess. Kevin enters and quickly starts to pick up.

(CONTINUED)

LESLIE

I haven't been here for a long time.

KEVIN

It's still the same. Small and ugly... but then again it's small and ugly. Are you sure we shouldn't find you some nice lady-like hotel?

LESLIE

No, I'll be fine here for tonight ... as long as I'm not putting you or Kirbo to any trouble...
(notices something)
... What are you doing with a coffin?

We now see that a long coffee table which has always been covered with junk is indeed a black coffin.

KEVIN

That's not how you're supposed to ask. You're supposed to be a young lady who is very impressed with my mind. Having come from a deep Hungarian film and getting cozy over a brandy, she says... 'Is that... a coffin...?' And, then I say, 'Yes, it's my coffin' ... 'Your coffin,' she would gasp, her interest in me growing by leaps and bounds. Then I would sit back stroking her arm and say 'Yes, I figured we're going to spend a long time in the ground together so I've made friends with it... I've gotten drunk on it... rolled joints on it ... Even made love on it many times!' It's a prop for affect.

LESLIE

Does it work?

KEVIN

How would I know?

LESLIE

Well you better not let Jules see it. She'll steal it for her stepmother. Are these relatives of yours?

(CONTINUED)

116

CONTINUED: (2)

116

She holds up a beautiful photograph of a very beautiful distinguished family.

KEVIN

No, that's more effect.

He opens a straw box, obviously filled with his most personal possessions and extricates a photograph of a very ordinary family.

KEVIN

You remember my family.

LESLIE

So I've wandered into a real woman trap here, haven't I?

KEVIN

Except you're the first woman I've ever been able to get up here. And I've blown all my props already... So how about some brandy?

Kevin searches for clean glasses in the debris that passes for a kitchen, Leslie finds photos and political cartoons in his straw box. Eventually, she finds a photo of herself, and then another -- followed by dozens more. Kevin has an entire homage to her in his secret stash. He comes back with the brandy to find her looking at the photos.

LESLIE

Am I part of your props?

KEVIN

(painfully; sweetly)

No... you're the real thing.

He quickly starts pouring the brandy as Leslie looks at Kevin, almost for the first time.

117

EXT. WEST VIRGINIA FREEWAY SIGN - NIGHT

117

It is starting to snow.

118

INT. WENDY'S CAR - NIGHT

118

Kirbo drives frantically. As snowflakes begin to hit the windshield, he grabs for the windshield wiper. Not knowing how it works, he forces it the wrong way. The handle comes off in his hand.

125

INT. KEVIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

125

MUSIC PLAYS. Much brandy has been had.

LESLIE

Alec was the first. There were other guys, in high school, boys -- but he was the first love of my life. I always wondered if Alec and I hadn't ended up in the same dorm -- well, I guess I would have just found someone else. And so would he.

KEVIN

Alec had the luck of geography. Whatever we say about Alec we'll regret tomorrow.

LESLIE

What do you think about our relationship as an outsider?

KEVIN

Oooo -- dangerous question. *

(big slug)

Sometimes I think I just hang around with you and Alec 'cause, well, since he introduced me to you... *

LESLIE

Kevin. *

KEVIN

... And I think the reason I'm not interested in other women... is 'cause I... *

LESLIE

(tears of joy)

Kevin. All this time right in front of us. How could I have been so blind? *

KEVIN

Leslie, we won't even remember this tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

LESLIE

It is tomorrow.

There is a mad moment of hesitation and then Kevin and Leslie smash into each other's arms.

KEVIN

I love you... I've always loved you.

They kiss madly, passionately. They fall to the floor in a frenzy. Leslie pulls Kevin's hair.

KEVIN

Aaaaah. Ouch...
(as she stops)
... No, I love it. I love it!!!

Leslie grabs onto the large throw rug as they roll around the floor. Somehow as they roll and turn, the rug gets wrapped around them. Leslie tears at his shirt, as he yanks her sweater off. Kevin fights madly with the back of Leslie's bra. He is going berserk trying to find the clasp.

LESLIE

No... it's in front.

With a flick of her hand she undoes her bra and opens up the wonders of paradise to her old buddy. They kiss madly again as they roll in the rug.

126 SHOTS OF CLOTHES ALL OVER THE ROOM

126

Leslie and Kevin fuck on the floor, on the coffin, in the shower. All over the apartment.

127 EXT. SNOW-COVERED PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE - NIGHT

127

The worst turnpike in the world. Kirbo swerves on the slushy lanes. Fortunately he is the only car on the road.

KIRBO (V.O.)

Dear Mr. Iacocca... Recently, in a life and death situation, I had the bad luck to use one of your so-called luxury cars...

Finally, he sees a large sign reading: "SEVEN SPRINGS."

119 EXT. VERY ORDINARY BLUE COLLAR NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT 119

Jules' Jeep (with vinyl doors for the winter) cruises down the middle of the cold, quiet street.

120 INT. JEEP - NIGHT 120

Jules, in a fur coat, is driving Billy home. They both are moving kind of slow, having had too much of everything.

JULES

Which one is yours? I always forget.

BILLY

So do I. You wanna go someplace?

He points to a house. Jules stops the Jeep.

JULES

Do I. I've had a shit day.

BILLY

I've had a shit year.

JULES

Where do you want to go?

BILLY

The bars are all closed. How 'bout your place?

JULES

We're going to my place. Good.

She STARTS up the JEEP.

BILLY

Jules, you've really grown up into a fine-looking woman.

JULES

I don't feel very fine-looking.

BILLY

I've been meaning to ask you something all night. What do you have on under that skirt?

JULES

You should know.

(CONTINUED)

120

CONTINUED:

120

BILLY

Come on -- Gimme some of those
beautiful lips.

Jules needs some attention. The hot couple kiss. He
immediately goes for the gold.

JULES

Billy... enough!

BILLY

Who says?

JULES

I say.

BILLY

Yeah, well, I bet you really won't
have so much to say with me in
your mouth.

He kisses her wildly as she pushes him away aggressively.

JULES

I'm serious, Billy. No!!!

He grabs the keys from the ignition as the CAR DIES.

JULES

Billy!

Holding her off with one hand, he shoves the keys into
his underwear and then sits back grinning.

BILLY

Come and get 'em.

JULES

You shit!!!

She attacks him, biting his hands, his neck and his
chest. Billy shrieks with laughter and pain.

121

EXT. JEEP - NIGHT

121

He tumbles out of the Jeep, onto the street, laughing and
shouting. Jules tumbles right after him, belting, pinch-
ing, biting. As she goes to kick him, Billy slides
between her legs and looks up under her skirt.

BILLY

Ultimate...
(echo)
... Ultimate!!

(CONTINUED)

121

CONTINUED:

121

She sits down on his chest, undoes his pants and gets her keys. Fed up with all, she heads back to the Jeep.

JULES

I really needed you tonight.

BILLY

Well, just get back in the Jeep and assume the missionary position.

JULES

You break my heart. You break everybody's heart.

She drives off in the Jeep. Billy fumbles with his pants and then turns toward his house. Felicia, holding their baby, stands watching from the porch. Obviously having seen most of this, she silently goes back into the house, locks the door and turns out the light. Alone, drunk and bewildered, Billy starts moving away from the house realizing he has no place to go.

122

INT. WENDY'S CAR - NIGHT

122

Kirbo is still driving frantically, but, without the windshield wipers, snow is building rapidly on the windshield.

123

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

123

Kirbo, with one hand on the wheel, hangs out of the car using his left hand to wipe off the snow. It's cold.

KIRBO

Shit... Goddammit...

124

INT. CAR - NIGHT

124

He searches the dashboard frantically.

KIRBO

Heater. Where's the defroster???

He rams and jams every button and knob in sight as he weaves dangerously on the freeway. Eventually one of the levers comes off in his hand.

KIRBO

Dear Mr. Iacocca... I recently had the misfortune of using one of your, so-called, new luxury cars in an emergency situation. So much for American enterprise!

128

EXT. SEVEN SPRINGS SKI RESORT - NIGHT (LATER)

128

Kirbo tries to stop the car in front of a cabin, but it slides further than he had planned and almost hits it. Getting out and trudging through the snow, in his party clothes, he bangs on the door.

MAN (V.O.)

Who is it?

KIRBO

Is Dale Biberman in there?

MAN (V.O.)

Who wants to know?

KIRBO

Kirby Kreager! And who the hell are you?

The door swings open and there stands GUY, a handsome thirty-year-old wrapped in a blanket. Dale comes from the bedroom, fastening a man's robe and staring at Kirby in disbelief.

DALE

Kirby? What are you doing here?

His entire world has collapsed. He can't swear, shout or cry -- he can only dash toward the car frantically. Falling in the snow once or twice, he eventually jumps into the car and tries to peel out, but it just spins in the snow. Meanwhile Guy has put on heavy boots and comes running out to the car where Kirby stands on the gas to no avail.

DALE

Kirby, stop. Come inside.

He ignores her maniacally as he keeps desperately trying to get out of there.

GUY

You've got no skid chains or snow tires. You've got no traction.

Kirbo ignores them.

DALE

Kirby, please!

GUY

You're not gonna get out of here tonight. You better come back inside.

(CONTINUED)

128

CONTINUED:

128

KIRBO

I'll stay in the car.

GUY

(yelling at Dale)

He wants to stay in the car.

DALE

He'll freeze!!!

She begins pulling on her boots as Guy tries to reason with Kirby.

GUY

People have died out here.

KIRBO

Leave me alone. I'm not your responsibility!

Dale has joined them.

DALE

By driving up here, you've made us responsible for you. Now come inside.

129

INT. CABIN - NIGHT (MINUTES LATER)

129

Kirbo sits in front of the fire wrapped in a blanket. Guy goes back into the bedroom as Dale finishes making a bed for him on the sofa.

DALE

Your clothes should be dry in a few hours.

KIRBO

He's a doctor, isn't he?

DALE

Here are some pajamas.

KIRBO

You expect me to wear his pajamas?

DALE

We'll talk in the morning.

She joins Guy in the bedroom and closes the door. Kirbo is left with the pajamas and his desperate anguish.

130 INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - NEAR DAWN

130

The room is destroyed as Leslie and Kevin lie on the floor blissfully in each other's arms. They hear the front DOOR OPEN.

KEVIN

Kirbo?

ALEC (O.S.)

No, it's Alec.

Kevin and Leslie look at each other frantically.

KEVIN

(whispering)

I gave him a key.

131 INT. LIVING ROOM

131

Alec, miserable, hungover, having walked all night in the cold, shuffles around the living room.

ALEC

I'm only gonna ask you this once.
Did you tell Leslie about my
screwing around?

132 INT. BEDROOM

132

Kevin looks to Leslie as they wonder how to handle this.

KEVIN

No.

133 INT. LIVING ROOM

133

Alec has found a beer.

ALEC

I believe you. I want you to know that I believe you and, Kev, I'm sorry I hit you. Shit, how'd she find out? How long has she known? I've been thinking all night about school... How sex was always a barometer, especially at the fraternity. The more women you got, the more of a man you were... or thought you were... I thought I was.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALEC (CONT'D)

Shit, my whole life at school
revolved around sex... even after
I fell in love with Leslie. I
always had to be doing better than
the next guy... I had my rep. Big
Al... It all started as a game...
I...

Kevin gingerly comes from the bedroom in a robe.

KEVIN

Ah... I kind of have company.

ALEC

Oh Jesus... I'm sorry... I never
thought. Who is it?

KEVIN

Alec...

ALEC

That fat chick from the party?
You and the fat chick...

KEVIN

Alec, I'll call you later.

Alec capitulates and leaves the apartment. Kevin relaxes
just as Alec pops back in.

ALEC

Just tell me if it's the fat
chick...

The bedroom door opens and Leslie appears wrapped in a
sheet.

ALEC

No. No. No... wait a minute...
I don't believe it. This could
not be real. There is no way
this is happening.

LESLIE

It happened, Alec.

ALEC

Not Kevin. Little fuckin' Kevin.
My little buddy. No way, Jose.

LESLIE

He didn't do it alone, Alec.

(CONTINUED)

133 CONTINUED: (2)

133

Alec moves toward Kevin with murder as his intent. Kevin takes a stand.

KEVIN

I know that if we fight, you're going to win. But I'm warning you, I will use every bone in my body, every lamp in this room to make sure I inflict as much damage as possible on you before you bring me down.

Kevin prepares for the fight.

ALEC

You're both pathetic. I don't want to see either one of you again, ever. You understand me? You see me on the street, you see me at St. Elmo's, just pretend you don't know me.

On his exit, Alec takes a lamp and throws it against a Woody Allen photograph on the wall. Kevin and Leslie look at each other, uncertain of what they have done.

134 EXT. GEORGETOWN - SUN

134

rises.

135 EXT. KIM SUNG HO'S TOWNHOUSE

135

A taxi delivers Mr. Ho to his front door.

136 INT. KIM HO'S HOUSE - DAY

136

Mr. Ho enters to find a big mess from the party and Wendy and Howie asleep in the living room.

KIM SUNG HO

Where's Kirby Kreager?

WENDY

He took my new car.

137 EXT. SKI LODGE - MORNING

137

Guy is heating up the block of Wendy's car with a couple of hair dryers on long extension cords. He shouts toward the open door of the cabin.

(CONTINUED)

137 CONTINUED:

137

GUY

It's thawing... and the roads
look pretty clear.

138 INT. CABIN - DAY

138

Dale is doing dishes -- Kirbo hasn't touched his breakfast. He looks suicidal and possessed.

DALE

I'm sorry. I had no idea it had
gone this far.

KIRBO

I gave up school... and my job
at St. Elmo's... and you never
even knew about it. It's kind
of funny, isn't it?

Dale sits down next to him.

DALE

The reason I didn't know... is
because all of this happened
between you and you. I could
never participate because I
never knew what was expected of
me. Love isn't like this, Kirby.
It's mutual and reciprocal.

Guy yells to them from outside.

GUY (O.S.)

Okay, she's starting... You better
get out of here before it starts
snowing again.

139 EXT. CABIN - MINUTES LATER

139

Guy sits in Wendy's CAR making everything HUM. Dale
escorts Kirbo.

DALE

Drive carefully.

Guy gets out of the car.

GUY

Wait a minute... I've got to get
a picture of you old college
chums...

(CONTINUED)

139

CONTINUED:

139

He goes into the cabin. Dale sees Kirbo's pain.

DALE

I don't really know you well...
but you seem like a fine person
... and I want you to know that
I'm flattered by all of this and
deep down, I'm sure for a long
time, I'll wonder if maybe
this somehow isn't my loss.

She kisses him gently on the cheek. He is about to sink into more pain when suddenly he grabs Dale and kisses her with all the passion he has for her. When he releases her she is dazed. Something has definitely happened.

GUY

Smile.

They turn to face Guy and his Polaroid camera. After he takes their photo, he hands it to Kirbo who hands it to Dale and quickly gets into the car.

GUY

Aren't you going to wait for it
to develop?

Kirbo drives off quickly.

REARVIEW MIRROR

Dale gets smaller and smaller.

IN DALE'S HAND

The Polaroid picture becomes clear of Kirbo and Dale.

MIRROR

She is smaller and smaller.

KIRBO

A kind of win fills his senses.

140

INT. WENDY'S CAR - HIS POV - DAY

140

The mirror, the Polaroid, the snow, the sun, they fuse together in a brilliant, incandescent white light that FILLS the SCREEN. In this glow we rapidly --

DISSOLVE TO:

143 CONTINUED:

143

MR. BEAMISH

Love comes later. Marriage,
family, the family business --
children carrying on the parents'
traditions... that's what...

WENDY

Dad, I have my own work, and I
want to get my own apartment.

MR. BEAMISH

All right, keep your job 'til you
get pregnant. Howie is a fine
boy. You don't need your own
apartment.

WENDY

I don't love Howie, Dad. I love
Billy!

MR. BEAMISH

Billy on the roof? Let me tell
you something, he's a drunk and
a lowlife. How could you love
such a person?

WENDY

He's talented and confused and
he's not a lowlife. And I love
him because he's alive! He's the
most alive person I've ever known.

MR. BEAMISH

When he looks at you, all he sees
is my money. He doesn't give a
damn about you...

Wendy has started to cry.

MR. BEAMISH

I'm warning you, young lady. You
marry him -- no 'Card-A-Terias'!

Wendy is overcome with grief.

WENDY

I hate you, Dad. I really hate
you now.

She rushes from the counter grabbing her coat.

144 EXT. STREET - DAY

144

Wendy rushes into the street crying.

(CONTINUED)

141 EXT. CAPITOL HILL, GEORGETOWN, ETC. - DAY
(LATE NOVEMBER)

141

SHOTS of lunchtime in D.C.: Clerks, pages, government employees of all description leave work and venture forth for the lunch ritual.

142 EXT. UNDERPRIVILEGED NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

142

Wendy leaves the Welfare office and hurries down the street. She comes to the window of a modest coffee shop and looks inside. Her father is waiting for her.

143 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY (MINUTES LATER)

143

Wendy and her father sit at a counter FACING the CAMERA. They finish ordering as the waitress leaves them.

MR. BEAMISH

Some place this is. Your car fixed?

WENDY

I got a personal letter from Lee Iacocco... they fixed everything for nothing.

MR. BEAMISH

Good... so you like the car?

WENDY

It's a great car, Dad, but I can't keep it. I don't feel right about driving a car like that and working with people who can't afford to eat.

She finds the keys and hands them to him.

MR. BEAMISH

Keep the car... you and Howie are going to need it.

WENDY

I'm giving Howie back, too.

MR. BEAMISH

Wendy, listen to me. You think I wanted to marry your mother? I was pressured into it. She was pressured into it.

WENDY

I don't love Howie.

(CONTINUED)

Eventually, Mr. Beamish comes running after her.

MR. BEAMISH

Wendy...

Wendy keeps running. A BAG LADY from the soup kitchen, crosses her path.

BAG LADY

Hi, Wendy.

Wendy ignores her as she keeps running. Mr. Beamish suddenly gets a cramp in his leg.

MR. BEAMISH

Wendy... Wait. Oh, my God, my leg!

Wendy continues running and crying as YOUNG STREET TOUGHS run past her.

STREET TOUGH #1

Don't worry, Wendy... we got the old pervert covered.

Wendy keeps running, but then looks back. The Street Toughs are giving her father a hard time as he puffs, wheezes and deals with the pain in his chest and his leg. Wendy can't stand it. She shouts at them.

WENDY

That's my father. You leave him alone... that's my father!

She runs over to them and shoos the Toughs away. Still crying, she guides her father toward a stoop.

WENDY

Sit down, Daddy... sit down.

They sit down, both still very emotional. After a moment, Mr. Beamish takes a torn greeting card from his pocket. It has a very sexy woman on it.

MR. BEAMISH

See this... A feminist came into the Pennsylvania Avenue store this morning -- called me a 'sexist' and a 'pig' and tore the card up. I said 'Listen, we got naked men on cards, too, with their pee-pees hanging out... It's fair! We got men and we got women!'

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MR. BEAMISH (CONT'D)

(crying)

And she spit in my face.

WENDY

Daddy, I'm sorry. I'm sorry I
said I hated you...

MR. BEAMISH

That's okay. I'm sorry about
Howie. You don't have to marry
anybody you don't want to marry
and if you want to move out, well,
move out... But listen...

He starts to get up with her help.

MR. BEAMISH

... Don't judge your mother and
me so hard... and the way we
raised you and your sisters.
There's no training to be a parent,
you know. You're learning every
day on the job.

They start back toward the restaurant.

WENDY

There's no training to be me
either, Dad. I'm learning on
the job, too.

He hugs her as they walk back into the restaurant.

Leslie enters carrying several empty cardboard boxes.
She shakes off her many emotions and tries to efficiently
gather her things. Beginning with record albums, she
accidentally knocks an ashtray to the floor.

LESLIE

Shit.

As she picks up the broken pieces, the door opens from
the bedroom. Alec appears, looking horrible, in his
bathrobe.

LESLIE

I especially took off work because
I thought you wouldn't be here.

(CONTINUED)

ALEC

I'm sick.

LESLIE

What's wrong?

ALEC

Just sickness...

(noticing an album)

... Hey, you can't take The Pretenders' first album. That's mine.

LESLIE

I bought it.

ALEC

You did not!!!

(in concession)

You can have all the Billy Joels. Except for 'The Stranger.'

LESLIE

I'm taking 'Thriller' and Mahler's Ninth.

ALEC

Kevin is so fond of Mahler.

LESLIE

I've moved in with Jules.

ALEC

How nice. Roomies again...

(grabbing albums)

... No Springsteen is leaving this house. But you can have all the Carly Simons.

LESLIE

You got those for me on Valentine's Day. When there were still valentines around here.

ALEC

You ran out on this relationship. You take the consequences.

LESLIE

I didn't run out on anything. You ran out.

ALEC

You fucked Kevin!

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED: (2)

145

LESLIE

You fucked many!

ALEC

Nameless, faceless many!

LESLIE

(sarcastically)

Oh, I feel much better now.

Alec angrily grabs another album from her.

ALEC

You're not taking The Police so
just forget it!

LESLIE

I didn't 'fuck' Kevin. I was
confused and angry... and I care
for him deeply.

ALEC

No more albums! That's it... Get
your clothes and give me the keys.Leslie reluctantly hands him the keys and moves toward
the bedroom closet slowly.

LESLIE

I don't believe this is happening
to us.Alec sits down angrily on the new sofa, clutching his
albums.

ALEC

Wasted love. I wish I could get
it all back.

CUT TO:

146 EXT. GEORGETOWN STREETS - CLOSEUP - LESLIE - LATER 146
AFTERNOONDealing with her emotions, she drives Jules' Jeep through
the Georgetown streets. The back of the Jeep is filled
with her clothes, etc.

147 EXT. JULES' BUILDING 147

Kevin is waiting on the doorstep with flowers, champagne,
and a stack of newspapers.

(CONTINUED)

147

CONTINUED:

147

As Leslie pulls up, he greets her by pressing a newspaper against the windshield. After a moment, she focuses on a small article entitled: "THE MEANING OF LIFE"; OBSERVATIONS BY KEVIN DOLENZ.

LESLIE

You did it!!!

148

INT. JULES' APARTMENT - DUSK

148

Leslie's stuff is still in boxes. Kevin fixes a fire as Leslie re-reads his article, sipping champagne.

LESLIE

God, this is so exciting. Your first byline...

KEVIN

I'm sure I'll be back doing obits tomorrow.

LESLIE

Oh, no. You're going to really attract some attention with this...
(laughing)

... Did somebody actually say 'I believe in the golden rule, whoever's got the gold makes the rule'?

KEVIN

Sort of. Leslie, I couldn't write anything of any meaning until you.

He kisses her warmly.

LESLIE

Kevin.

He aggressively gets on top of her, and feeling the excitement and the champagne kisses her madly. The front door opens and Jules appears breathless.

JULES

Don't you two ever use a bed?

Leaving the door wide open, she races through the apartment. Kevin continues to madly attack Leslie when Ron, carrying packages, arrives at his door across the hall. He and Kevin exchange a look as Ron goes inside.

LESLIE

Let me show Jules your piece.

(CONTINUED)

148

CONTINUED:

148

She grabs a paper and starts for the hall. She stops for a moment as she sees Jules, using her long pinky nail, deftly take a couple of pops of coke. Unaware that Leslie is watching, Jules starts back down the hall.

LESLIE

Kevin has his first byline.

Jules is so stoked she can't focus.

JULES

Wonderful. Brilliant... Ha ha...
'Tract Housing in Maryland'...

LESLIE

No, it's the other piece... Jules...

JULES

Got to fly. Forrester, the magnificent animal, is waiting. Did the hospital call? Is my stepmonster dead yet?

LESLIE

Jules, I'd like to meet him.

JULES

I'll have him wave up to you.

She is out the door in a flash as Leslie moves toward the window.

LESLIE

Doesn't she seem out of control to you?

KEVIN

Since the day I met her.

They look out of the window.

149

EXT. STREET - THEIR POV

149

Down below Jules jumps into a small dark Mercedes, helped by a slightly nefarious-looking hunk. They wave to Leslie.

150

INT. APARTMENT

150

KEVIN

Who's that?

(CONTINUED)

LESLIE

Jules' boss and lover...
International banking seems to
be getting sexier.

KEVIN

Speaking of which...

As she closes the window, Kevin attacks her again.

LESLIE

Kevin, I've been thinking.

KEVIN

Me, too, and I don't like to count
my cornish hens before they hatch,
but I do think I'll be getting a
raise. And I was thinking we
could get a place together.

LESLIE

Kevin.

KEVIN

I know it's fast. But I also know
I love you.

LESLIE

I don't think you do love me.

KEVIN

What?

LESLIE

I mean we love each other as
friends. But... Kevin, you were
sitting on all these incredible
feelings... all tied up in that
box with my pictures, in desperate
need of a love affair. And me...
well, I needed to break the Alec
habit... and it's only natural I
would turn to you in my confusion.
But this doesn't feel real. It
feels manufactured.

KEVIN

It's me, isn't it?

LESLIE

Are you kidding? You're a little
miracle.

(CONTINUED)

150 CONTINUED: (2)

150

KEVIN

But not a big miracle like Alec.

LESLIE

Oh, Alec was the big miracle for a long time... But I think I'd like to try life without any miracles for a while.

Kevin realizes how serious Leslie is.

KEVIN

Well, having your first byline, and losing the love of your life in the same night has a certain 'The Gods must be laughing at me' feeling.

LESLIE

I'm not the love of your life.

KEVIN

Who says?

LESLIE

I say.

KEVIN

But you're a girl, what do you know?

Leslie embraces him with deep friendship.

151 INT. MOVIE THEATER

151

Kevin and Kirbo are watching the end of ANNIE HALL.

On screen, Woody says goodbye to Diane Keaton.

WOODY (V.O.)

I realized what a terrific person she was and how much fun it was knowing her and I thought of that old joke, you know, this guy goes to a psychiatrist and says, 'Doc, uh, my brother's crazy. He thinks he's a chicken,' and the doctor says, 'Well, why don't you turn him in?' And the guy says, 'I would, but I need the eggs.' Well, I guess that's pretty much how I feel about relationships.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

151 CONTINUED:

151

WOODY (V.O.)

You know they're totally irrational and crazy and absurd and... but I guess we keep going through it because, uh, most of us need the eggs.

152 EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

152

Kevin and Kirbo walk away from the theater advertising the "WOODY ALLEN FESTIVAL."

KIRBO

I don't think I need the eggs anymore. Dale Biberman gave me enough cholesterol for a lifetime. You were right all along... Love stinks.

KEVIN

I've had second thoughts. Intimacy is dangerous and shattering... but ultimately necessary.

KIRBO

But, Kevin, I used to wait outside her house, ring the bell and then when she'd come to the window I'd run away. Just to get a glimpse of her.

KEVIN

The night Leslie gave me the kiss-off, I fucked a black hooker three times.

KIRBO

Not Naomi, from our corner?

KEVIN

Naomi from our corner.

KIRBO

I think you better go to the doctor and get some shots.

KEVIN

I used a rubber. She put it on me with her mouth.

153 EXT. ST. ELMO'S - NIGHT

153

They stop as they reach St. Elmo's. Looking inside, they see Alec at his usual table.

154 INT. ST. ELMO'S - THEIR POV

154

Alec is playing his old quarter game, but with Tommy Bancroft and his new political friends.

155 EXT. ST. ELMO'S - NIGHT

155

KIRBO

I always thought we'd be friends forever.

KEVIN

Forever got a lot shorter suddenly.

They move on, passing a sign on the door: "WAITER WANTED." Kevin points to it.

KIRBO

No, as soon as I get back in school, I'm going to work part-time for a law firm. Did you know there are as many people in law school as there are practicing lawyers?

KEVIN

Sounds familiar.

KIRBO

How'd she put the rubber on with her mouth?

156 INT. LARGE GLAMOROUS INTERNATIONAL BANKING OFFICES - DAY 156

A well-dressed female executive secretary looks disturbed as she enters a formidable office. She returns with a distinguished GENTLEMAN in a grey suit. He approaches Leslie who is waiting anxiously.

GENTLEMAN

Yes, may I help you?

LESLIE

I want to see Forrester Davidson Jr.

GENTLEMAN

I am Forrester Davidson Jr.

Leslie is shocked and even more confused.

LESLIE

Well, there must be some mistake. I've come to see Julianna van Patten and they told me she doesn't work here anymore.

157 INT. SENATOR HODGES' HEADQUARTERS - AFTERNOON (NOVEMBER) 157

Busy. Active. Alec is on a phone and talking to co-workers at the same time. He looks up to see Leslie, very shaken, waiting across the room. He is immediately angered, but eventually gets off the phone and joins her.

ALEC

Did you forget one of your albums?

LESLIE

I'm sorry to bother you here.
It's Jules. After she left for work this morning, the finance company came and took away all her furniture, her Jeep, everything they could get their hands on... I couldn't reach her so I finally went over to her office. Alec -- she was fired three weeks ago! All this time, she's been pretending to go to work every day ... and pretending to be still having this affair with her boss. And she's been doing a lot of coke ... Well, anyway, I confronted her at the apartment, and at first she denied everything, but then she went crazy -- and now she's locked herself in the apartment and she won't let me back in... I'm really worried about her.

Alec hesitates angrily.

LESLIE

Alec, please. I need your help.

158 INT. JULES' APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - HALF-HOUR LATER 158

Alec knocks on the door with Leslie.

ALEC

Jules, open the door.

Leslie puts her key in the door.

159 INT. JULES' APARTMENT - CLOSE ON DOOR - DAY (LATE) 159

Dead locks and a heavy bolt prevent it from opening.

LESLIE (O.S.)

She's in there.

(CONTINUED)

159 CONTINUED:

159

ALEC (O.S.)

Jules, come on. Just open the door.

160 INT. JULES' APARTMENT

160

The main room is empty and dark, except for Jules, who sits on the floor dressed only in a thin T-shirt and bikini pants. Thin, tired, no makeup, this is a different Jules than we have seen before. Freezing winds shoot through the open window.

161 INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY

161

ALEC

Jules, remember my junior year when I went cold turkey on cigarettes? You sat up with me all night in the commons room feeding me emergency carrots...?

No answer.

LESLIE

Jules, if you don't let us in, we're going to have to call the police.

There is a beat and then Jules speaks from the depths of hell.

JULES (O.S.)

I'll throw myself out the window before they get through the door.

LESLIE

Not my greatest ploy.

ALEC

Jules, remember the time I flunked art history and I was trying to drink myself to death...

Kevin and Kirbo come dashing up the stairs breathlessly.

KIRBO

How is she?

LESLIE

She just threatened to throw herself out the window.

Kevin and Alec have a moment of awkwardness.

LESLIE

The fire escape!

162 EXT. JULES' BUILDING - LATE AFTERNOON 162

Alec, Kevin and Kirbo climb up the fire escape. They arrive at the second floor to find burglar proof grill-work locked in place, but the windows are still wide open.

163 INT. APARTMENT - THEIR POV 163

Through the iron bars they see Jules.

164 EXT. FIRE ESCAPE 164

ALEC

Jules, what are you doing? You'll freeze...

He stops.

KEVIN

To death. Exactly!

The three young men start tearing at the bars frantically.

165 INT. HALLWAY 165

Leslie pounds on the door.

LESLIE

Jules, you're really scaring me now.

166 EXT. JULES' FIRE ESCAPE - LATE AFTERNOON 166

Alec, Kevin and Kirbo cannot budge the bars.

KEVIN

The whole country is falling apart, but these five bars are made perfectly.

ALEC

We need something that cuts through metal.

KEVIN

Or an experienced thief.

KIRBO

I'll find Billy.

Kirbo dashes down the fire escape.

KEVIN

I was kidding.

(CONTINUED)

166 CONTINUED:

166

KIRBO

Billy's working at the big Chevron station on Michigan. He must have a hacksaw or something...

Kirbo takes off on his bike as Alec looks at Kevin.

ALEC

Billy is working in a gas station???

KEVIN

He needed the money.

Suddenly, Alec and Kevin become aware that they are alone.

ALEC

I saw your article.

KEVIN

Yeah, well, yesterday's editorial achievement is today's garbage wrapper, right...?

Kevin tries to laugh charmingly. Alec tries to laugh along with him, but suddenly rage returns.

ALEC

You little shit!!!

He grabs Kevin. Kevin tries to fight back, but Alec is so overpowering he pushes Kevin up to the railing of the fire escape, and then pushes him over. Kevin hangs upside down as Alec holds him by his legs. Dozens of scraps of paper fall from his pocket.

Leaning out the apartment hallway window, Leslie sees them.

LESLIE

Alec, no!!!

167 INT. JULES' HALLWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

167

Leslie runs screaming through the hall and down the stairs, passing Ron Dellassandro who is just coming home from work.

RON

What's happening???

168 EXT. JULES' FIRE ESCAPE - LATE AFTERNOON

168

Kevin, still hanging upside down, tries to hang on to Alec. Papers continue to fly.

KEVIN

My notes!

ALEC

You won't need any more notes on the meaning of life.

KEVIN

(upside-down,
straining)

I'm kinda betting on you not doing it, Al... think of your political career.

Leslie runs into the alley underneath them.

LESLIE

Alec, stop it!

She frantically starts climbing the fire escape.

LESLIE

Alec!!!

BACK TO ALEC AND KEVIN

ALEC

After all I've done for you.

KEVIN

I feel I've done a lot for you, too, Al... so pull me up and we'll call it even.

ALEC

What you did for me was take the woman I was going to marry.

The woman he was going to marry arrives frantically onto their landing. She struggles with Alec.

LESLIE

Alec, stop it right now!

Below them, Billy and Kirbo pull up in a Chevron tow truck. Billy, wearing Chevron coveralls, jumps out with an acetylene torch in hand, shouting.

BILLY

Looks pretty ultimate up there...

(CONTINUED)

168 CONTINUED:

168

He helps Kirbo, who is struggling with a two-wheeler dolly holding a large tank of oxygen and acetylene.

LESLIE, ALEC AND KEVIN

KEVIN

You think this is helping Jules?

With Kevin's life still in his hands, he suddenly remembers Jules.

169 INT. APARTMENT - THEIR POV

169

Looking back inside, he sees her still in the same position, freezing.

170 EXT. FIRE ESCAPE

170

He slowly pulls Kevin onto the fire escape.

LESLIE

Are you all right?

Kirbo tries to get the dolly up the fire escape with Billy.

KIRBO

Hey! Help.

Kevin goes down the fire escape to help him, leaving Alec and Leslie alone. Leslie kneels by the window with her hands on the iron bars and speaks to Jules.

LESLIE

Oh, my God. Jules, please, it's so cold.

ALEC

Very noble how you ran up here to save your lover.

LESLIE

He's not my lover. Jules, listen...

ALEC

Bullshit.

LESLIE

I have never lied to you once since the day I met you... you cocky shithead.

(CONTINUED)

170

CONTINUED:

170

Alec knows it's the truth.

LESLIE

Hang on, Jules. We all love you.

She has been holding onto the bars with her bare hands, but the bitter cold makes her wince as she removes her hands. Alec is overwhelmed with feelings as he takes her hands and holds them to his mouth, breathing warm breath onto them. Much emotion passes between them.

LESLIE

Your breath, your breath is so sweet.

ALEC

Leslie, I'm sorry. I'm so profoundly sorry.

Kirbo and Kevin arrive. Billy races down the alley.

KIRBO

Blowtorch, anyone?

ALEC

Give it to me.

KEVIN

Do not hand him a blowtorch!

Kevin takes the torch and goes for the bars. SPARKS and fire fly. Suddenly there is a PHENOMENAL POUNDING from inside the apartment at Jules' front door. It stops everyone on the fire escape.

171

INT. JULES' APARTMENT

171

The POUNDING jolts Jules.

172

EXT. JULES' HALLWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

172

Billy pounds on the door as Ron watches nervously.

BILLY

(friendly)

Jules, it's Billy. Open the door.

(no reply)

Okay, Jules... Open up the goddamn door, or I'm coming right through it.

No reply. Billy spots a large metal fire extinguisher at the end of the hall.

178 CONTINUED:

178

LESLIE

You want some coffee, Ron?

Ron enters tentatively and joins them as JULES and BILLY start SHOUTING and LAUGHING LOUDER.

RON

You know, until today I thought gay people were nuts.

179 INT. UNIDENTIFIED APARTMENT - NIGHT

179

Billy sits on the floor playing his sax soulfully.

WIDER ANGLE

REVEALS it's Wendy's apartment. It is partially painted and a large ladder stands in the room. A small wing chair has fabric swatches on it. Cartons, books, etc. Wendy sits on the floor watching Billy.

WENDY

Then what happened?

BILLY

That was it... We came out of the bedroom and had coffee with everybody.

WENDY

You saved her life.

BILLY

Let's not get dramatic.

WENDY

So, when did you get so sane?

BILLY

When I realized how insane I've been all this time tryin' to be like Alec and Leslie... and you and Kevin... I'm not part of this post-college Georgetown life; marriage and jobs. Felicia and Melody'll be better off without me.

WENDY

Did she get remarried already?

BILLY

Three or four weeks...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

179

CONTINUED:

179

BILLY (CONT'D)

I was thinkin' of hanging around tryin' to be one of those in-the-neighborhood dads... but it would just confuse everybody... especially me. New York'll suit me fine, if somebody'll let me play sax.

(indicating apartment)

This is great.

WENDY

I'll tell you what's great. Last night I woke up in the middle of the night and made myself a peanut butter and jelly sandwich... and you know it was my kitchen, and my refrigerator and my apartment ... and it was the best peanut butter and jelly sandwich I've ever had in my life.

They chuckle together and then they become more serious.

WENDY

So you're goin', huh...?

She picks up his sax and blows a few comic notes.

BILLY

So, are you still a virgin?

WENDY

Why is my sexual status so important to you?

BILLY

Have I abused our relationship too much? Or could I be so bold... as to ask you for a going-away present...?

Wendy is moved.

CUT TO:

180

WENDY

180

Lying on the floor of her bedroom. Only a candle lights the room. Billy's face comes INTO FRAME and they kiss, tenderly at first and then more passionately. Wendy looks beautiful and she and Billy are filled with a tenderness and love that can only exist from the years they have shared together.

The SAX BUILDS as the wonder of the two young lovers builds.

DISSOLVE TO:

181

EXT. BUS TERMINAL - NIGHT

181

A large bus pulls out as Leslie stands at a coffee vending machine. Alec approaches.

ALEC

Need someone to blow on your hands?

She smiles, but shows him her gloves. As she searches for change in her pockets, Alec stops her and puts his own coins in the machine. He presses buttons as he talks.

ALEC

Did you know that I always wanted to make you coffee? I tried once -- when you were in the shower -- but it didn't turn out right, so I threw it out and cleaned everything up so you wouldn't know. I don't like doing things I'm not good at -- like making coffee and saying I'm sorry...

He looks at her sincerely as he hands her the plastic cup from the machine.

ALEC

Leslie, I'm sorry.

They exchange a tender glance, and then Leslie takes a sip from the steaming cup.

LESLIE

Alec, this is soup.

ALEC

What?

LESLIE

This is soup.

Alec's nervousness turns to embarrassment as they both start to laugh. Old feelings surge.

LESLIE

I love you.

They look at each other for a moment.

LESLIE

We need time.

ALEC

I know.

(CONTINUED)

181

CONTINUED: (A1)

181

Kirbo comes running over.

KIRBO

The bus is leaving.

Alec and Leslie join him and they quickly move to where Jules, Kevin and Wendy are saying goodbye to Billy who has his suitcase and sax. A bus waits.

JULES

'Bye, baby.

She hugs him expansively. Billy next kisses Leslie and shakes hands with the guys at the same time. Wendy waits until last and then they embrace emotionally.

(CONTINUED)

181

CONTINUED:

181

She whispers into his ear.

WENDY

Go ultimate.

Billy smiles at her as she fights tears.

BILLY

I'll keep in touch.

WENDY

(laughing)

No, you won't.

He wants to say more to all of them, but the bus is waiting and he hops on it. The door closes and the bus backs out of the terminal. Billy stands near the driver and waves out at them.

HIS FRIENDS

watch him pull away.

BUS

As it pulls backward, we can see Billy with his friend's reflections on the bus's windshield SUPERIMPOSED OVER him. The bus's headlights flare INTO the CAMERA. The images of all of them mix with the white, hot GLARE SUPERIMPOSED OVER this, for a brief second we see IMAGES of them all from past, from school, from St. Elmo's, etc.

The SCREEN GOES totally WHITE with incandescent brilliance as we --

~~FADE OUT.~~
~~QUICKLY DISSOLVE TO:~~

182

EXT. STREET - ST. ELMO'S - NIGHT (LATER)

182

Alec, Leslie, Kevin, Kirbo, Wendy and Jules walk together slowly.

WIDER SHOT

Coming upon St. Elmo's, they stop. Looking in the window...

183

INT. ST. ELMO'S - THEIR POV

183

They see their old tables filled with younger students, led by Clayton, the undergrad.