

THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS

Anderson/Wilson

July 27; 2000

INSERT:

A first edition copy of The Royal Tenenbaums.

On the dust jacket there is an illustration of a cream-colored note card that looks like a wedding invitation. The title of the book is engraved on the card.

The next page says Chapter One.

NARRATOR

Royal Tenenbaum bought the house on  
Archer Avenue in the winter of 1963.

CUT TO:

A five-story limestone townhouse.

NARRATOR

He and his wife had three children, and  
then they separated.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

A forty-three-year-old man in a raincoat sits at the head of a long table. He is Royal. He is surrounded by his children.

Chas is twelve, with curly hair, dressed in a black suit and a tie. Margot is ten, with a barrette in her hair, wearing a knitted Lacoste dress and penny loafers. Richie is eight, with long hair, parted on the side, dressed in a Bjorn Borg-style tennis outfit and a headband.

Chas wears a blank expression, Margot looks as if she is about to cry, and Richie has tears all over his face.

MARGOT

Are you getting divorced?

ROYAL

(gently)

At the moment? No. But it doesn't look good.

RICHIE

Do you still love us?

ROYAL

Of course, I do.

CHAS

Do you still love Mom?

ROYAL

Yes. But she's asked me to leave, and I have to respect her wishes.

MARGOT

Is it our fault?

ROYAL

Well, obviously, we've had to make some major sacrifices as a result of having children. But no, it's not your fault.

MARGOT

Why did she ask you to leave?

ROYAL

(sadly)

I don't really know anymore.

CHAS

Well, she says --

ROYAL

Let's not rehash it.

Royal hands Richie his handkerchief.

NARRATOR

They were never legally divorced.

An Indian man with salt-and-pepper hair, dressed in pink pants, a white shirt, and a white apron, brings Royal a martini. He is Pagoda.

ROYAL

Thanks, Pagoda.

INT. HALLWAY. DAY

A gallery of the children's art, done mostly in crayon, but with beautiful frames and careful lighting. The subject matter includes: spaceships, wild animals, sailboats, motorcycles, and war scenes with tanks and paratroopers.

Under the stairs there is a telephone room the size of a closet. Old messages are tacked to the walls, and children's heights are marked on the door frame.

NARRATOR

Etheline Tenenbaum kept the house and raised the children, and their education was her highest priority.

A thirty-five-year-old woman wearing a scarf around her neck and sunglasses on top of her head talks on a rotary telephone. She is Etheline.

ETHELINE

Bene, bene. Si. Grazie mille.

Etheline hangs up. There is a schedule of activities -- guitar, ballet, yoga, scuba-diving -- written on a chalkboard behind her and divided into columns labelled Chas, Richie, and Margot. Etheline changes an Italian lesson from 4:30 to 5:30.

NARRATOR

She wrote a book on the subject.

INSERT:

A copy of Etheline Tenenbaum's book, Family of Geniuses. On the dust jacket there is a photograph of the three children conducting a press conference in a room crowded with journalists. It appears to have been published in the late seventies.

CUT TO:

The press conference. Chas points to a reporter.

CHAS

The gentleman in the blue cardigan,  
please.

REPORTER

Thank you. I have a two-part question.

CHAS

Go ahead.

INT. CHAS' BEDROOM. DAY

Chas' room looks like a businessman's office, except it is very small and has bunk beds. There is a desk with an Apple II computer and an electric coffee pot on it. There is a water cooler in the corner, with a paper cup dispenser.

Chas stands talking on the telephone while Etheline brings in his lunch on a tray.

NARRATOR

Chas Tenenbaum had, since elementary school, taken most of his meals in his room, standing up at his desk with a cup of coffee, to save time.

On a shelf in an alcove there are ten cages connected together by plastic tubes. White mice with tiny black spots all over them race around inside the cages. Chas feeds one of them a drop of blue liquid from a test-tube.

NARRATOR

In the sixth grade, he went into business, breeding dalmatian mice, which he sold to a pet shop in Little Tokyo.

There are twenty-five pin-striped suits in boys' size twelve and an electric tie rack hanging in the closet. Chas pushes a button on the tie rack and the ties glide along a track.

NARRATOR

He started buying real estate in his early teens, and seemed to have an almost preternatural understanding of international finance.

There is a small weight-lifting bench and a punching bag in the corner. There is a set of exercise charts neatly drawn with felt-tip pen tacked to the wall. Chas bench-presses about fifty pounds on a set of small barbells.

NARRATOR

He negotiated the purchase of his father's summer house on Eagle's Island.

EXT. BACKYARD. DAY

A house in the country. Chas crouches in the bushes with a B.B. gun. Across the lawn he sees two younger boys with B.B. guns drop down from a tree. One of the boys is Richie, and the other has nearly-white blond hair. He is Eli.

Chas gets Richie in his sights.

ROYAL

Hold it, Chas.

Chas freezes. He looks up and sees Royal watching from the roof with a B.B. gun trained on him. Royal is dressed in khaki pants and no shirt. He has on sunglasses.

CHAS

What are you doing? You're on my team!

ROYAL

(hesitates)

There are no teams.

Royal fires. Chas screams and fires back as Royal scrambles away, laughing.

NARRATOR

The B.B. was still lodged between two knuckles in Chas' left hand.

INT. MARGOT'S BEDROOM. DAY

The walls of Margot's room are red, with little running zebras painted all over them. There is a collection of African masks hanging in the corner. Margot sits at a small metal stand, typing on an I.B.M. typewriter.

NARRATOR

Margot Tenenbaum was adopted at age two. Her father had always noted this when introducing her.

CUT TO:

A cocktail party. Royal introduces Margot to a group of elderly men in black tie.

ROYAL

This is my adopted daughter, Margot Tenenbaum.

Margot nods politely.

CUT TO:

A wall filled with bookshelves. There are thousands of books of plays. Margot takes out a copy of The Iceman Cometh.

NARRATOR

She was a playwright, and she won a Braverman Grant of fifty thousand dollars in the ninth grade.

There is mock-up of a stage set for a play that appears to have taken place in a network of tree houses on a tropical island. Margot places a tiny canoe beneath a palm tree.

NARRATOR

She was also an avid photographer.

CUT TO:

Margot's bathroom. It has been converted into a darkroom, with aluminum foil over the windows and red light bulbs over the sink. Etheline helps Margot take a fresh print from a tray of chemicals and hang it with a clothespin to a line strung over the bathtub.

All of the photographs are of Richie attempting various stunts.

NARRATOR

She and her brother Richie ran away from home one winter and camped-out in the Egyptian Wing of the Public Archives.

INT. MUSEUM. NIGHT

Richie and Margot sit at the foot of a diorama of the baby Moses being placed into the Nile. Richie has on a backpack with a sleeping bag attached to it. Margot carries a small red suitcase. They both look extremely disheveled and tired.

A single-file line of students goes past them following a museum guide. Eli is at the end of the line. He stops and stares at Margot and Richie.

RICHIE

Hi, Eli.

ELI

You said I could run away, too.

MARGOT

Just don't tell anybody you saw us.

CUT TO:

Richie and Margot sharing a sleeping bag in a chamber of a simulated pyramid in the darkened museum. They are surrounded by Egyptian statues, caskets, and vases. Margot reads a book about sharks by the light of a flashlight. Richie is asleep.

NARRATOR

She disappeared alone for two weeks at age fourteen and came back with half a finger missing.

INSERT:

A pair of knitted gloves. One finger has been clipped-off at the middle knuckle and is being sewn-up.

## INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM. DAY

Richie's room is in the attic. There is a chemistry set, a drum set, and a long shelf filled with tennis trophies. Richie sits on the edge of his bed.

## NARRATOR

Richie Tenenbaum had been a champion tennis player since the third grade.

There are thousands of miniature soldiers in formation on every available inch of space on tables, desks, and windowsills. Richie arranges a set of Red Coats into a skirmish.

## NARRATOR

He turned pro at seventeen, and won the U.S. Nationals three years in a row.

There is a H.A.M. radio set in the corner of the room. Richie sits at the console wearing a set of headphones. There is a map of the world on the wall, with colored pins stuck in different cities.

## NARRATOR

He kept a studio in the corner of the ballroom, but had failed to develop as a painter.

## CUT TO:

A ballroom with vaulted ceilings and a giant chandelier on the top floor of the house. One corner is filled with seventeen almost identical portraits of Margot looking over the top of a book with an irritated expression. Etheline helps Richie hang a new portrait among the others.

## NARRATOR

On weekends, Royal took him on outings around the city.

## EXT. STREET. DAY

Royal and Richie stand among a group of Puerto Rican men as two large, vicious-looking pit bulls with scars all over them snarl at each other. Royal yells along with the others:

## ROYAL

Vamanos! Andele!

Royal throws a fifty dollar bill into a pile of money on the sidewalk. Richie throws in a dollar.

NARRATOR

These invitations were never extended to anyone else.

CUT TO:

The second floor of the Tenenbaum house. Chas sits alone in one window staring out into space. Margot sits alone in the next window. They both look miserable.

There is a slightly run-down thirty-five story apartment building at the end of the block.

NARRATOR

Richie's best friend Eli Cash lived with his aunt in a building around the corner.

INT. APARTMENT. DAY

A two room apartment. Eli finishes making his bed and folds it into the couch. An elderly woman works at a sewing machine in the next room.

EXT. STREET. DAY

Eli walks up the front steps of the Tenenbaum house and rings the doorbell. He wears a set of house keys on a string around his neck. Pagoda opens the door. He is dressed in pajamas, slippers, and a bathrobe. He lets Eli inside.

NARRATOR

He was a regular fixture at family gatherings, holidays, mornings before school, and most afternoons.

CUT TO:

The Tenenbaum house at night. There are strings of colored lights glowing around the front door and white paper bags with candles in them on the steps.

NARRATOR

The three Tenenbaum children performed Margot's first play on the night of her eleventh birthday.

INT. BALLROOM. NIGHT

There are twenty eleven-year-olds wearing party hats. Margot, Chas, and Richie are in costumes. Margot is a zebra, Chas is a bear, and Richie is a leopard. Eli is dressed in pajamas. Royal sits at a table with them, drinking a glass of whiskey.

NARRATOR

They had agreed to invite their father to the party.

There is a small stage set across the room for a play that appears to have taken place on a ship.

CHAS

What'd you think, Dad?

ROYAL

It didn't seem believable to me.

Chas looks to Margot. She is silent. Royal says to Eli:

ROYAL

Why are you wearing pajamas? Do you live here?

RICHIE

He has permission to sleep over.

Royal shakes his head.

CHAS

Did you think the characters were --

ROYAL

What characters? It was just a bunch of little kids dressed in animal costumes.

MARGOT

Good-night, everyone.

Margot quickly collects her unopened presents from the table.

ROYAL

Sweetie. Don't get mad at me. That's just one man's opinion.

The lights go down. Royal looks across the room. Etheline stands in the doorway with a birthday cake on a tray. The candles are lit. She looks furious. Pagoda stands at the light switch. Everyone in the room begins to sing Happy Birthday. Margot walks out of the room, and the singing disintegrates.

NARRATOR

Royal had not been invited back to the house since.

Etheline blows out the candles.

EXT. ROOF. DAY

There is a large antenna for Richie's H.A.M. radio and a wooden coop with a falcon in it. The falcon has a hood over its eyes. Richie opens the coop, carefully removes the falcon's hood, and feeds him some sardines from a tin.

NARRATOR

In fact, virtually all memory of the brilliance of the young Tenenbaums had been erased by two decades of betrayal, failure, and disaster.

Richie carries the falcon on his arm to the edge of the roof.

RICHIE

Go, Mordecai.

The falcon spreads its wings and lunges into the sky.

MONTAGE:

(The names of each of our characters and the names of the actors playing them appear in large type over the following shots.)

Royal Tenenbaum sits in a chair in his hotel suite with no shirt on and a towel wrapped around his face. A woman in a white apron lifts off the towel, and Royal looks in the mirror. He is now sixty-six, with grey hair, white at the temples, worn very long in the back. He is getting a facial, and there are strips of blue cellophane covering his face. The woman quickly peels them away and begins to massage his temples. Royal lights a cigarette at the end of a six-inch holder.

Etheline Tenenbaum draws black eyeliner around her eyes in the bathroom mirror. She is fifty-eight and has long, black hair with one silver streak that runs through it. She wears a pink slip and a pearl necklace. The wall behind her is filled with African masks. She puts on a pair of horn-rimmed glasses and takes a look at herself. She starts to do her lipstick.

Chas Tenenbaum is shaving in the locker room of a boxing gym. Steam fills the air. He is thirty-six and has a small bandage over his left eye. Ari and Uzi Tenenbaum are on either side of him. They are eight and ten. They are also shaving, but with no blades in their razors. All three of them have extremely curly black hair. Chas lifts the bandage over his eye and looks at the cut underneath it. It has five stitches.

Margot Tenenbaum is at the hairdresser's with three people working on her at once. She is thirty-four. Her hair is being

dyed black, and there are little clamps and bits of foil twisted into it. She is smoking a cigarette, and she blows a puff of smoke as the hair dryer is lowered onto her head. She is holding an open copy of a book of plays by George Bernard Shaw. She is missing half a finger.

Eli Cash is in the fitting room of a clothing store having a white buckskin jacket with fringe taken in. A tailor pulls at the hem of the jacket and sticks pins in the sleeves. The tailor's helper brings Eli a cup of tea and some cucumber sandwiches. Eli picks out a sandwich. A second helper hands him a short-brimmed Stetson cowboy hat. He puts it on at an angle and stares at himself.

Raleigh St. Clair brushes his teeth with an electric toothbrush in a very small, white-tiled bathroom. He has a full, grey beard and round glasses, and he is dressed in red silk pajamas with white piping. He stops suddenly, picks up a tape recorder off the edge of the sink, and excitedly dictates something into it. He puts the tape recorder back on the sink and starts brushing his teeth again.

Henry Sherman stands in front of a mirrored wall in the vestibule of his building. He is a tall, black man, sixty-eight years old, with grey hair and a moustache. He wears a double-breasted navy blazer. He carefully folds a checkered handkerchief and tucks it into his breast pocket. There is a hand-lettered sign regarding trash and recycling taped to the wall behind him, underneath a row of mailboxes. It is signed Mr. Sherman.

Richie Tenenbaum is dressed in black tie in his stateroom onboard an ocean liner. He is thirty-two, with long hair, parted on the side, and a full beard. The ocean goes by at a fast clip in the porthole behind him. A towel on the dresser says The Côte d'Ivoire in red stitching. Richie looks at himself in the mirror. He takes out a little camera. He points it at his reflection, smiles sadly, and takes a picture of himself. He puts the camera back into his pocket and goes out the door.

INSERT:

Page 22 of The Royal Tenenbaums. It says Chapter Two.

INT. HOTEL ROOM. DAY

Royal's suite at the Lindbergh Palace Hotel. There are shelves full of law books and hundreds of spy novels in stacks on the floor. There is a set of Encyclopedia Britannica, an exercise bicycle, and a Xerox machine.

Royal lies on his stomach on a massage table getting a massage from a young Asian woman. The manager of the hotel stands in front of Royal with a piece of paper in his hand.

MANAGER

I've been instructed to refuse any further charges on your room account and to inform you in writing that you're being asked to vacate the premises by the end of the month.

The manager hands Royal the piece of paper. Royal points to the masseuse.

ROYAL

What about Meredith?

The manager looks to the masseuse.

NARRATOR

Royal had lived in the Lindbergh Palace Hotel for twenty-two years.

INSERT:

A letter typed on Lindbergh Palace Hotel Stationery. It begins:

Dear Mr. Tenenbaum,  
In light of your continuing failure to  
remit any form of payment, we have no

CUT TO:

The masseuse. She does not appear to understand English.

MANAGER

Can you pay her in cash?

Royal shakes his head. The manager hesitates.

NARRATOR

He was a prominent litigator until the mid-eighties, when he was disbarred and briefly imprisoned.

Royal goes to the window and looks out at the falling snow. He lights a cigarette.

NARRATOR

No one in his family had spoken to him in three years.

INT. RADIO ROOM. DAY

The radio room onboard the Côte d'Ivoire. There are computer terminals, shortwave radios, maps on the walls, and a crew of technicians in white uniforms. There is a mist outside the window, and an oil tanker in the distance.

The radio operator finishes typing a message into a keyboard and looks up to Richie. Richie wears a khaki suit, a striped tennis shirt, a headband, and penny loafers.

RICHIE

Read it back to me so far, please.

RADIO OPERATOR

Dear Eli, I'm in the middle of the ocean. I haven't left my room in four days. I've never been more lonely in my life, and I think I'm in love with Margot.

The radio operator looks to Richie. Richie nods.

RICHIE

New paragraph.

Richie takes a sip of a Bloody Mary.

NARRATOR

Richie had retired from professional tennis at twenty-six. His last match had been widely discussed in the media.

INSERT:

A television set tuned-in to network coverage of a tennis match on grass courts. Richie is playing an Indian player dressed all in white. A title identifies him as Sanjay Gandhi.

Gandhi serves. With a bizarre swing, Richie hits his return directly off the court and deep into the stands. He shakes his head and talks to himself. It is briefly revealed that he is barefoot.

ANNOUNCER

That's seventy-two unforced errors for Richie Tenenbaum. He's playing the worst tennis of his life. What's he feeling right now, Tex Hayward?

TEX HAYWARD

I don't know, Jim. There's obviously something wrong with him. He's taken off  
(more)

TEX HAYWARD (cont'd)  
his shoes and socks, and -- actually, I  
think he's crying.

Richie is shown waiting for the next serve with tears all  
over his face.

CUT TO:

The radio operator. He finishes typing the letter. Richie  
signs a slip of paper and hands it to him. He wraps a scarf  
around his neck and goes out the door.

NARRATOR  
For the past year he had been travelling  
alone on an ocean liner called the Côte  
d' Ivoire and had seen both poles, five  
oceans, the Amazon, and the Nile.

INT. AUDITORIUM. NIGHT

Eli stands at a podium reading from a book to a crowded  
audience. A telegram marked Ship to Shore is tucked into his  
coat pocket. His voice is quietly dramatic.

ELI  
The crickets and the rust-beetles  
scuttled among the nettles of the  
sagethicket. Vamanos, amigos, he  
whispered, and threw the busted leather  
flintcraw over the loose weave of the  
saddlecock. And they rode on in the  
friscalating dusklight.

Eli looks up. He closes his book. The audience applauds  
uproariously.

NARRATOR  
Eli was an assistant professor of English  
Literature at Brooks College. The recent  
publication of his second novel --

INSERT:

A copy of Eli Cash's latest book, Old Custer. On the dust  
jacket there is an illustration of an Indian in warpaint with  
a long, bloody knife clasped between his teeth and a yellow  
scalp hanging from his hand.

CUT TO:

Eli walking through the lobby surrounded by a crowd of  
admirers.

NARRATOR  
-- had earned him a sudden, unexpected  
literary celebrity.

Eli stands among a group of professors drinking cocktails.

ELI  
Well, everyone knows Custer died at  
Little Bighorn. What this book  
presupposes is:  
(tentatively)  
Maybe he didn't?

Eli shrugs and smiles. He goes to a pay phone in the lobby  
and places a call. He says into the telephone:

ELI  
What are you doing?

Someone gives Eli a book to sign. He scribbles his name on it  
and hands it back without looking.

ELI  
When can I see you?

INT. BATHROOM. EVENING

The bathroom of Margot and Raleigh's apartment. Margot sits  
Indian-style on the counter painting her toenails red and  
talking on the telephone. There are cotton balls in between  
her toes, and she has a towel wrapped around her.

Hot water runs full blast in the bathtub. A little black and  
white TV is tuned-in to the six o'clock news with the sound  
turned off. Margot whispers into the telephone:

MARGOT  
It's a little tricky at the moment.

Margot takes a drag off a cigarette balanced at the edge of  
the sink. There is a knock on the door. Margot does not look  
up.

MARGOT  
I'll call you tonight.

Margot hangs up the telephone. There is another knock.

RALEIGH  
Margot?

Raleigh has an English accent with a lisp. Margot answers  
without taking the cigarette out of her mouth:

MARGOT

Uh-huh?

RALEIGH

May I come in, please?

Margot puts out her cigarette. She waves the smoke away, turns on a little electric fan, and sprays perfume into the air with an atomizer. She reaches over and unlocks the door with her foot.

Raleigh cracks open the door and looks inside. He is wearing red pajamas and a camel's hair bathrobe. He seems worried and intimidated.

NARRATOR

Margot was married to the writer and neurologist Raleigh St. Clair.

INSERT:

A copy of Raleigh St. Clair's latest book, The Peculiar Neurodegenerative Inhabitants of the Kazawa Atoll. On the dust jacket there is a photograph of Raleigh -- dressed in a speedo, with goggles on top of his head -- on a beach, standing next to a Kazawa. The Kazawa stares at him curiously.

CUT TO:

Raleigh looking in the bathroom doorway.

RALEIGH

How are you, my darling?

MARGOT

Fine, thank you.

Margot blows on her toenails.

RALEIGH

You must eat something. Shall I make your lunch?

MARGOT

No, thank you.

Margot looks to Raleigh. Silence. Raleigh goes out suddenly and closes the door. Margot reaches over with her foot and locks it.

NARRATOR

She was known for her extreme secrecy.  
For example, none of the Tenenbaums knew  
she was a smoker, which she had been  
since the age of twelve.

Margot lights another cigarette.

NARRATOR

Nor were they aware of her first marriage  
and divorce in Jamaica.

INSERT:

A snapshot of a younger Margot rowing a canoe in the ocean  
with three rastafarians. She is dressed in a string bikini.

NARRATOR

She kept a private studio in Mockingbird  
Heights under the name Helen Scott. It  
looked like this:

INT. STUDIO. DAY

A small room with one wooden chair and a metal stand with an  
I.B.M. electric typewriter on it. There are posters for  
several of Margot's plays leaning against the walls. The  
titles include: Static Electricity, Erotic Transference, and  
Nakedness Tonight.

NARRATOR

She had not completed a play in seven  
years.

INT. RALEIGH'S LABORATORY. DAY

Raleigh's basement. Raleigh sits at a table in the corner. He  
wears a turtleneck shirt and a corduroy blazer with suede  
patches on the elbows. He whispers into his tape recorder:

RALEIGH

Seventeen October. Third examination of  
Dudley Heinsbergen.

There is a fifteen year-old boy in a blue fishing cap on the  
far side of the room misspelling words on a chalkboard. The  
boy has an earphone in his ear and wears Henry Aaron-style  
flip-up sunglasses. He is Dudley.

NARRATOR

Raleigh's next book was on the subject of  
a condition he called Heinsbergen's  
Syndrome.

Raleigh continues into the tape recorder at a whisper:

RALEIGH

Dudley suffers from a rare disorder combining the symptoms of amnesia, dyslexia, and color-blindness, with a highly acute sense of hearing.

Dudley turns around suddenly and frowns.

RALEIGH

There is also evidence of --

DUDLEY

I'm not color-blind.

Raleigh looks to Dudley. He hesitates.

RALEIGH

I'm afraid you are.

INT. CHAS' APARTMENT. NIGHT

Ari and Uzi's bedroom. It is perfectly neat and organized like a military barracks. There are night-lights in every socket. There are two fire-extinguishers and a large first-aid kit mounted on the wall. There is a turtle in a fish tank in the corner. Ari and Uzi are sound asleep in their bunk beds.

Chas stands in the doorway. His expression is blank. In one hand, he holds a small tape recorder. In the other hand, he holds a fishing lantern.

He turns on the lantern, which begins blinking rapidly in a strobe effect. He presses play on the tape recorder, which blasts a recording of a police siren at full volume. He yells at the top of his lungs:

CHAS

Fire alarm! Ari! Uzi! Let's go! Look alive!

Ari bolts out of the top bunk. He is shirtless and has on pajama bottoms. Uzi sits up. He looks half-asleep. Chas runs around the room, tipping over chairs and blasting the tape recorder.

CHAS

Uzi! Let's go!

Uzi gets out of bed. He has on a pajama top and underwear. Ari already has on his cleats. He grabs the turtle out of the

fish tank. Uzi wanders toward the bathroom, talking to himself.

CHAS  
Where're you going?

UZI  
The bathroom.

CHAS  
(screaming)  
You don't have time!

INT. HALLWAY. NIGHT

Ari presses the button for the elevator and waits. The apartment is extremely large and spare. It looks like a museum.

NARRATOR  
Chas' wife, Rachael, was killed in a plane crash last summer.

Chas and Uzi rush into the hallway. Chas yells to Ari:

CHAS  
No elevators! There's a fire!

INT. STAIRWELL. NIGHT

They race down the stairs. Chas picks up Uzi.

UZI  
What about Buckley?

CHAS  
You forgot him.

Uzi starts to cry.

INSERT:

A snapshot of Ari and Uzi and their mother standing in front of a small plane parked in the desert. The mother has on sunglasses, with a scarf tied over her hair. The wind blows her dress sideways, and she is laughing. The boys wear camp shorts and no shirts. Uzi is doing a karate stance.

There is a beagle looking out the window of the plane.

NARRATOR  
Chas and their two sons, Ari and Uzi, were also on the flight, and survived, as did their dog, who was discovered in his  
(more)

NARRATOR (cont'd)  
cage several thousand yards from the  
crash site.

CUT TO:

A dog's cage upside down in the desert surrounded by scraps of metal and clothing. A cloud of smoke billows in the distance.

INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT

The beagle is asleep next to the bathtub on a little bed with Buckley written across it. He looks very old and has white fur around his eyes. Chas' siren can be heard in the distance outside the window. It stops.

EXT. SIDEWALK. NIGHT

Chas, Ari, and Uzi stand on the sidewalk, looking up at the building. The street is deserted. The tape recorder has been turned off, although the lantern is still blinking.

Chas turns off the lantern and presses stop on his stopwatch.

CHAS  
Four minutes and forty-eight seconds.  
We're all dead. Burned to a crisp.

Chas shakes his head. He looks disoriented and weak.

NARRATOR  
Over the last six months, he had become  
increasingly concerned with their safety.

Uzi is still crying.

UZI  
We left Buckley.

Chas rubs his eyes and his temples. He says quietly:

CHAS  
It doesn't matter.

Chas sits down on the sidewalk. Ari and Uzi look scared. The doorman watches uneasily from the lobby.

INT. ETHELINE'S STUDY. DAY

The walls of Etheline's study are filled with Pre-Columbian art and primitive tools and weapons. There are shelves full of hundreds of bones and bits of pottery with little numbers painted on them. There are stacks of National Geographics on the floor. A human skeleton hangs on a stand in the corner.

## NARRATOR

Etheline was an archaeologist, and had overseen excavations for the Department of Housing and the Transit Authority.

The back doors are open onto the garden. Pagoda sits on a bench outside, peeling potatoes, listening to a walkman with headphones. His hair is now white.

Etheline is at her desk studying an arrowhead while Henry sits next to her. He is working on her taxes.

## HENRY

Apropos of my question re: I-40 slash I-9 adjustments.

Henry stands up. He looks very nervous. Etheline looks up at him curiously.

## NARRATOR

She taught a bridge class twice a week with her friend and business manager, Henry Sherman.

## INSERT:

A copy of Henry Sherman's book, Accounting for Everything. A caption at the top of the cover says: A guide to Personal Finance. It appears to have been published in the late sixties.

## CUT TO:

Henry looking down at Etheline.

## HENRY

It would probably be advantageous for your marital status to be legally established as single, in light of the circumstances.

## ETHELIN

What do you mean?

## HENRY

I mean for tax purposes.

## ETHELIN

(pause)

But I thought it was --

## HENRY

Etheline?

ETHELINE

Yes?

HENRY

Will you marry me?

Pagoda stops peeling the potatoes. He takes off one ear of his headphones. Etheline sets down her magnifying glass.

HENRY

I love you. Did you already know that?

ETHELINE

No, I didn't.

Henry nods calmly.

NARRATOR

Since her separation from her husband, she had had many suitors, but had not accepted a single date.

Etheline starts to say something. She stops. She looks at Henry for a minute. She puts out her hand. Henry takes it.

ETHELINE

Let me think about it, Henry.

Pagoda frowns.

INT. TELEPHONE ROOM. DAY

Pagoda places a call.

PAGODA

Hello, please. Tell Mr. Royal this is the Pagoda.

INT. ELEVATOR. DAY

Royal rides down in the elevator at the Lindbergh Palace. He is dressed in a grey double-breasted Savile Row pinstripe suit, a dark pink shirt, a red and pink striped tie, and Aristotle Onassis-style wraparound sunglasses. He smokes a cigarette.

The elevator operator has a thin, grey moustache and jet-black hair. He is Dusty. The elevator stops.

ROYAL

Thanks, Dusty.

DUSTY  
You're welcome.

INT. LOBBY. DAY

The elevator doors open and Royal strides out quickly. He crosses through the gigantic lobby. A bellboy appears at his side.

BELLBOY  
There's a call for you, Mr. Tenenbaum.

ROYAL  
Who is it?

BELLBOY  
A Mr. Pagoda.

ROYAL  
I'll take it in there.

Royal points to a little wood-panelled telephone booth in the corner.

INT. TELEPHONE BOOTH. DAY

The telephone rings. Royal answers it.

ROYAL  
What do you got?

INT. GREEK DINER. NIGHT

Royal and Pagoda sit across from each other in a booth in the window of a coffee shop.

PAGODA  
The black man asks her to be his wife.

ROYAL  
(quietly)  
No shit?

Pagoda nods.

ROYAL  
And what'd Ethel say?

PAGODA  
She thinks about it.

Royal stirs his coffee. He taps the spoon on the brim of the cup and sets it on the saucer. He drinks a sip.

ROYAL

I don't like the sound of this one damn bit, Pagoda. I mean, Lord knows I've had my share of infidelities. But she's still my wife. And no goddamn two-bit accountant's going to change that.

(pause)

It's all I've got left.

Silence.

ROYAL

There's more than one way to get at her, of course. But none of them'll talk to me, at the moment.

INSERT:

Page 50 of The Royal Tenenbaums. It says Chapter Three.

INT. HALLWAY. NIGHT

The doorbell rings. Pagoda comes into the hallway and opens the front door. Uzi is on the steps with a large duffel bag over his shoulder and a stack of coloring books under his arm. Buckley is at his side.

There is a silver B.M.W. station wagon parked at the curb with three doors and the trunk open. Chas, Ari, and a uniformed driver are unpacking suitcases, blankets, boxes, toys, clothes, boxing gloves, and a computer. The driver is Anwar.

Chas, Ari, and Uzi all wear red Adidas warm-ups.

CHAS

Give us a hand, Pagoda.

Pagoda frowns. He starts down the steps.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

There are twenty people at five card tables playing bridge. Most of them are in their fifties and sixties. They look very distinguished. Etheline and Henry are among them.

Chas, Ari, Uzi, Anwar, and Pagoda come out of the hallway and cross through the living room, struggling with all of their possessions. Pagoda carries the fish tank with the turtle in it. Buckley follows them.

The bridge players watch strangely as they pass. Chas looks back at them, but keeps moving. Etheline hesitates.

ETHELINE

Chas?

Chas stops in the doorway. Pagoda leads Ari, Uzi, Anwar, and Buckley out of the room, up the stairs.

ETHELINE

What's going on?

CHAS

(pause)

We got locked out of our apartment.

Etheline seems confused.

ETHELINE

Did you call a locksmith?

CHAS

(hesitates)

Uh-huh.

ETHELINE

(pause)

I don't understand. Did you pack your bags before you got locked out? Or how did you --

CHAS

It's not safe over there.

Silence. Etheline looks to her guests.

ETHELINE

Excuse me for a moment, please.

INT. HALLWAY. NIGHT

Etheline closes the sliding door to the living room. She and Chas stand alone in the hallway.

ETHELINE

What are you talking about?

CHAS

The apartment. I have to get some new sprinklers and a back-up security system installed.

ETHELINE

Why?

CHAS  
Because it's dangerous.

ETHELINE  
But there're no sprinklers here, either.

Chas looks up and studies the ceiling. He sighs. Etheline seems concerned. She puts her hand on Chas' arm.

ETHELINE  
Let me help you with your bags.

INT. CHAS' BEDROOM. NIGHT

Ari and Uzi sit silently on the bunk beds in Chas' room. They have dark circles under their eyes and seem exhausted. Chas comes in. He looks like a wreck, but acts incredibly cheerful, pretending not to notice how sad the boys look.

CHAS  
Isn't this great? It feels like we're camping.

Chas walks around the room examining things. He chuckles as he turns on his old electric tie rack.

ARI  
When are we going home?

CHAS  
(stops smiling)  
When it's safe.

Chas sees something across the room. He frowns.

CHAS  
Who put that in here?

There is a framed poster leaning against the wall in the corner. It is a tennis shoe advertisement with a picture of Richie holding a trophy over his head, surrounded by a cheering crowd. Chas puts it in the closet. He kisses Ari and Uzi good-night.

CHAS  
See you in the morning.

Chas goes out the door. A moment later, he comes back in.

CHAS  
You know what? I'm going to sleep in here, and that way we can all be together.

Chas spreads out a blanket on the floor and lays down. Uzi comes over and lays down next to him.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE. DAY

Royal sits on the edge of an examination table with white butcher paper on it. A young doctor on a rolling stool takes Royal's blood pressure as they talk.

ROYAL

What kind of side-effects can be expected?

DOCTOR

Well, there're a number of possibilities. Severe nausea and dizziness are standard. A certain percentage of patients may also experience seizure.

ROYAL

You mean like flopping around on the floor and everything?

DOCTOR

In some cases.

Royal nods gravely.

EXT. HALLWAY. EVENING

Etheline and Raleigh stand outside the bathroom in Margot and Raleigh's apartment. Etheline has on an overcoat and gloves. Raleigh knocks on the door.

RAELIGH

You have a visitor, my darling.

Margot answers without opening the door:

MARGOT

Who is it?

ETHELINE

It's me, sweetie.

MARGOT

(pause)

You can come in.

A key slides from under the door to Etheline's feet. Etheline looks to Raleigh. Raleigh looks embarrassed.

## INT. BATHROOM. EVENING

Margot is in the bathtub watching a Western on her little black and white television set. Etheline sits on the edge of the tub with her coat in her lap.

ETHELINE

How are things between you and Raleigh?

MARGOT

Fine.

ETHELINE

He says you've been spending six hours a day locked in here watching television and soaking in the tub.

MARGOT

(pause)

That's not true. Maybe three hours, at the most.

ETHELINE

Well, I don't think that's very healthy, do you? Nor do I think it's very intelligent to keep an electrical gadget on the edge of the bathtub.

MARGOT

I tied it to the radiator.

Etheline examines the television set. There is a length of red twine wrapped around it and knotted to a pipe.

ETHELINE

Well, it can't be very good for your eyes, anyway.

Margot turns off the television set with her foot. She looks to Etheline. Etheline smooths-back Margot's wet hair.

ETHELINE

Chas came home.

MARGOT

(pause)

What do you mean?

ETHELINE

He and Ari and Uzi are going to stay with me for a little while.

MARGOT

(frowns)

Why are they allowed to do that?

ETHELINE

(hesitates)

Well, I don't know, exactly. But I think he's been very depressed ever since --

MARGOT

(urgently)

So am I.

ETHELINE

(pause)

So are you what?

MARGOT

(pause)

Hand me a towel.

EXT. STREET. EVENING

The front door of Margot and Raleigh's apartment building opens. Margot comes out and goes down the steps with three suitcases. Raleigh follows her. Etheline and Dudley walk behind them. Raleigh sounds desperately unhappy.

RALEIGH

But why is this bloody necessary?

MARGOT

Because I'm in a rut, and I need a change. Hang on a second.

Margot sets down her suitcases and goes into a telephone booth with graffiti spray-painted all over it. She closes the door and makes a call.

Etheline stands on the corner and raises her hand into the air. A beat-up old taxi pulls over. Raleigh waits uncomfortably outside the telephone booth. He watches Margot talking on the telephone. Dudley points at the taxi.

DUDLEY

That taxi has a dent in it.

Margot comes out of the telephone booth and picks up her bags.

RALEIGH

You're leaving me, aren't you?

MARGOT

No, I'm just going home.

Margot puts her suitcases into the back seat of the taxi.  
Dudley continues to point at it.

DUDLEY

Another dent here and another dent here.

RALEIGH

You don't love me anymore, do you?

MARGOT

I do, kind of. I can't explain it right now.

Raleigh looks crestfallen. Margot says gently:

MARGOT

I'll call you, OK?

Raleigh nods. Margot gets into the taxi. Etheline looks at Raleigh sadly.

ETHELINE

Don't worry, Raleigh.

Etheline gets into the taxi and closes the door. Raleigh and Dudley watch the taxi drive away. Raleigh has tears in his eyes. Dudley takes a bite of a graham cracker.

INT. MARGOT'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Margot goes into her room and sets her suitcases on the floor. She closes the door and locks it. She looks under the bed. She opens the door to the closet and turns on the light. She whispers:

MARGOT

Eli?

There is a rustle behind some hanging clothes. Eli looks out nervously and slowly emerges. He is dressed in white briefs.

ELI

Hello, beautiful.

EXT. SIDEWALK. DAY

The next morning. Etheline comes out the front door of the Tenenbaum house and goes down the steps. Royal suddenly appears at her side.

ROYAL

You got a minute?

Etheline looks startled. She keeps walking.

ETHELINE

What are you doing here?

ROYAL

I need a favor.

ETHELINE

No.

ROYAL

Wait a second. Listen. I want to spend some time with you and the children.

ETHELINE

Are you crazy?

ROYAL

Now, hold on, dammit.

ETHELINE

Stop following me.

ROYAL

I want my family back.

ETHELINE

Well, you can't have it. I'm sorry for you, but it's too late.

Royal hesitates for a fraction of a second.

ROYAL

I'm dying, baby.

Etheline stops. She looks to Royal.

ROYAL

I'm sick as a dog. I'll be dead in six months. I'm dying.

ETHELINE

What are you talking about?

Royal stares at her blankly. He nods.

ETHELINE

What happened?

Royal shrugs. Etheline looks stunned.

ETHELINE  
Oh, my God.

Etheline looks as if she is going to faint. Royal seems suddenly worried.

ETHELINE  
I'm sorry. I didn't know.

Etheline cannot seem to catch her breath. Royal looks around nervously.

ETHELINE  
What'd they say? What's the prognosis?  
What'd you --

Etheline begins to hyperventilate. Royal tries to calm her down.

ROYAL  
Take it easy, Ethel.

Etheline stumbles a step and Royal catches her. He looks scared.

ROYAL  
Hold on. Hold on.

ETHELINE  
(urgently)  
Where's the doctor? Let's get --

ROYAL  
Wait a second.

Royal holds Etheline by the shoulders. He hesitates. He says gently, trying to comfort her:

ROYAL  
Listen. I'm not dying. But I need some time.

Etheline looks puzzled.

ROYAL  
A month. Maybe two. I want us to --

Etheline slaps Royal hard in the face. She says furiously:

ETHELINE  
What's wrong with you?

ROYAL  
Ethel.

ETHELINE  
Go away!

Etheline turns away and walks quickly across the street.

ROYAL  
Baby. I am dying.

Etheline stops. She looks back to Royal. She can see from the look on his face that now he is telling the truth. She goes over to him in the middle of the intersection.

ETHELINE  
Are you or aren't you?

ROYAL  
(pause)  
Dying? Yes.

Silence.

INT. TAXI. NIGHT

Henry and Etheline ride through the park in a taxi. Etheline looks worried.

HENRY  
Have you told your children?

ETHELINE  
More or less.

HENRY  
And are they all right?

ETHELINE  
Hard to say.

INT. CHAS' STATION WAGON. DAY

Chas rides up front next to Anwar. Ari and Uzi ride in the back. Chas looks anxious.

ARI  
Who's your father?

CHAS  
His name's Royal Tenenbaum.

UZI  
How'd he die?

CHAS  
He's not dead yet.

INT. ELI'S CAR. DAY

A convertible Austin-Healy. Eli is in the driver's seat smoking a Moroccan-looking pipe. Margot sits next to him. She looks depressed.

ELI  
I'm really sorry, Margot.

MARGOT  
That's OK. We're not actually related, anyway.

ELI  
(holding in the smoke)  
That's true.

EXT. BOAT DECK. DAY

The Côte d'Ivoire. Richie sits under a wool blanket in a chaise longue reading a telegram with Shore to Ship printed across the top. He looks upset. A waiter stands next to him. All of the other passengers sitting on the deck are very elderly and have white hair.

RICHIE  
I'd like to send a response, please.

WAITER  
Yes, sir.

Two elderly men with white hair come over to Richie.

ELDERLY MAN  
Can we get a picture with you, Tenenbaum?

RICHIE  
(pause)  
Yeah.

One of the elderly men gives his camera to the waiter. Richie smiles briefly. The waiter takes the picture. Richie immediately looks upset again.

ELDERLY MAN  
Thanks, Champ.

RICHIE  
You're welcome.

The waiter takes out a pen and paper and looks to Richie.

WAITER  
Go ahead, sir.

RICHIE  
Dear Mom, I received your message. I'm  
coming home as soon as possible.  
(pause)  
Who do I see about that?

The waiter shrugs.

EXT. PIER 32. DAY

The entrance to the passenger terminal for the Côte d'Ivoire.  
A sign across the glass says Royal Arctic Line.

Richie stands on the sidewalk with his hands in his pockets  
as bundled-up, white-haired passengers and baggage handlers  
rush by around him. He has two small suitcases and a vinyl  
bag with a pouch on the side for a tennis racquet. There is  
no racquet in it.

A city bus stops at the corner. The door opens and Margot  
gets out. She smiles at Richie and waves. She wears a mink  
coat with a belt around it. She has on pink gloves. She walks  
across the sidewalk and stops ten feet in front of Richie as  
the bus drives away. They stand there smiling at each other.

MARGOT  
Stand up straight and let me get a look  
at you.

Richie stands up a little straighter and continues to look at  
Margot with the same smile.

MARGOT  
What's so funny?

Richie shrugs.

MARGOT  
Well, it's nice to see you, too.

Their smiles fade, and they look cold and sad. Margot goes  
over to Richie and puts her arms around him.

MARGOT  
I missed you, Richie.

Richie puts his hands in Margot's hair.

EXT. TENENBAUM HOUSE. DAY

Margot and Richie stand on the steps in front of the house. The door opens and Etheline and Pagoda come outside and hug Richie. Richie and Henry shake hands. Ari and Uzi come running out the door to hug Richie.

NARRATOR

That night, Etheline found all of her children living together under the same roof for the first time in seventeen years.

Chas watches from his window on the third floor. Richie looks up and sees him. Richie waves tentatively. Chas waves back without smiling.

MONTAGE:

Richie lies in bed reading a book called Three Plays by Margot Tenenbaum.

Margot smokes a cigarette in her bathtub and watches The Planet of the Apes on her little black and white television set.

Chas sleeps in a sleeping bag on the floor next to Ari and Uzi in their bunk beds.

Etheline sleeps sitting-up in her bed with the lights on. She has on reading glasses, and there is an open copy of a book about the Aztecs on her lap.

Pagoda sleeps on a hammock in the pantry.

Royal lies awake in the dark in his bed at the Lindbergh Palace. He stares at the ceiling.

INSERT:

Page 76 of The Royal Tenenbaums. It says Chapter Four.

EXT. STREET. EVENING

Royal gets out of a gypsy cab in front of the Tenenbaum house. He is dressed in a white bathrobe, white pajamas, and red bedroom slippers. He carries a cane, but walks across the sidewalk quickly and energetically.

Pagoda waits for him at the top of the steps. They shake hands. Silence.

ROYAL

OK.

Pagoda opens the front door.

INT. HALLWAY. EVENING

Royal comes inside. He looks at the collection of his children's art. He looks at the children's heights marked on the doorway of the telephone room. He looks at the schedule of their former activities on the chalkboard. He looks to Pagoda. He nods.

INT. LIVING ROOM. EVENING

Richie and Margot sit on the couch. Chas stands at a bookcase reading an atlas. Pagoda leads Royal into the room. Everyone looks at him. Richie smiles sadly.

RICHIE

Hi, Dad.

Royal goes over to Richie and kisses him on the cheek. He picks up a chair and sets it down in front of the couch. He sits. He looks to Chas. Chas looks back at him but does not move.

Royal looks to Richie and Margot.

ROYAL

Hello, my darlings. Richie. Margot.  
Chassie, m'boy. I've missed the hell out  
of you. You know that, don't you?

MARGOT

I hear you're dying.

ROYAL

So they tell me.

MARGOT

I'm sorry.

ROYAL

(shrugs)  
I had a good run.

RICHIE

You don't look so sick, Dad.

ROYAL

Thank you.

RICHIE  
What've you got?

ROYAL  
I've got a pretty bad case of cancer.

CHAS  
(yawning)  
How long are you going to last?

Royal looks across the room at Chas. Chas does not look up from his atlas.

ROYAL  
Not long.

CHAS  
A month? A year?

ROYAL  
About six weeks.

Royal looks back to Richie and Margot.

ROYAL  
But let me get to the point. The three of you and your mother are all I've got, and I love you more than anything.

Chas laughs quietly.

ROYAL  
Let me finish, Chas. Now, I've got six weeks to set things right with you, and I aim to do it. Will you give me a chance?

CHAS  
No.

Royal turns quickly to Chas.

ROYAL  
Do you speak for everyone?

CHAS  
I speak for myself.

ROYAL  
Well, you've made your views known. So why don't you let somebody else do some of the talking now?

MARGOT

What do you propose to do?

ROYAL

Well, I can't say, really. Make up for lost time, I suppose. But the first thing I'd like to do is take you to see your grandmother, at some point.

RICHIE

(pause)

I haven't been out there since I was six.

MARGOT

I haven't been there at all. I was never invited.

ROYAL

Well, she wasn't your real grandmother, so I didn't know you'd be interested, sweetie. Anyway, you're invited this time.

MARGOT

(blankly)

Thanks.

Richie looks to Chas. He looks back to Royal.

RICHIE

You know, Rachael's buried there, too.

ROYAL

(pause)

Who?

CHAS

My wife.

ROYAL

(hesitates)

Oh. That's right, isn't it? Well, we can swing by her grave, too.

Chas slams the atlas shut and puts it back into the bookcase. He walks toward the door. Royal extends his hand as Chas walks by. Chas slaps it away and goes out of the room. Royal says to Margot and Richie:

ROYAL

I'll be right back.

INT. STAIRWAY. EVENING

Chas is already halfway to the second floor as Royal appears at the bottom of the steps.

ROYAL

Chas?

Chas stops. He looks down to Royal.

ROYAL

May I see my grandsons?

CHAS

Why?

ROYAL

Because I'd like to finally meet them.

Chas scoffs and shakes his head.

ROYAL

Don't give me that guff.

CHAS

I think we'll pass.

Chas walks away up the stairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Royal goes back into the living room. He looks to Richie and Margot and smiles sadly.

ROYAL

I'll say good-night to you now, children.

Margot waves. Richie stands up and goes over to Royal. He hugs him. Royal looks to be on the verge of tears.

ROYAL

Thank you, my sweet boy.

EXT. TENENBAUM HOUSE. NIGHT

Royal and Pagoda come out the front door onto the steps. Royal says quickly:

ROYAL

I'll contact you in the next twelve hours and give you further instructions.

Pagoda nods. A taxi stops in front of the house. Royal's face darkens. Henry and Etheline get out of the taxi. They each carry a playbill for a play called That Rascal. Royal clamps his hand on Pagoda's arm and lets out a slow whistle.

ROYAL

Look at that old grizzly bear.

Royal licks his fingers and smooths-back his hair. He bounds down the steps.

ROYAL

Hello, Ethel! Good evening, sir. Hold the cab, please, driver.

Henry leaves the door to the taxi open.

ETHELINE

Royal, this is Henry Sherman.

HENRY

How do you do?

ROYAL

Me?

(thinks for a second)

Just dying.

Henry looks uneasy.

ETHELINE

Don't pay any attention to that man, Henry.

ROYAL

I'm just kidding. Good-night, all.

Royal gets into the taxi and closes the door.

EXT. STREET. DAY

Margot and Eli walk together down a street with trash everywhere and abandoned cars and homeless people.

ELI

Could we have dinner with your mother sometime?

Margot frowns. She looks at Eli strangely.

MARGOT

Why?

ELI

(shrugs)

Because I'd love to see her. It's been --

MARGOT

I don't think so, Eli.

Eli looks disappointed. He sighs.

ELI

How's Richie?

MARGOT

(pause)

I don't know. I'm kind of worried about him.

ELI

I don't blame you. He wrote me a letter, you know. He says he's in love with you.

Margot stops walking.

MARGOT

What are you talking about?

ELI

(shrugs)

That's what he said. I don't know how we're meant to take it.

Margot looks concerned. Eli hesitates.

ELI

Don't repeat that, by the way. It was told in confidence.

Margot nods slowly. They walk in silence for a minute.

ELI

Can I ask you something? Do you think Chas has read any of my --

MARGOT

Don't talk to me about anyone in my family for a little while. OK, Eli?

EXT. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION. DAY

A large pit twenty feet deep between two brownstone townhouses. There are workers digging, surveying, sketching, and shaking dirt through metal hand-screens.

Henry is crouched beside Etheline while she compares a bit of soil on the end of a trowel with a color chart in a handbook. Etheline is dressed entirely in denim except for a scarf over her hair. She has on sunglasses and boots.

HENRY

Have you had a chance to give some thought to that matter we discussed?

ETHELIN

I'm sorry, would you hand me the small brush, please?

Henry hands Etheline a brush from a toolbox. She dusts-off a partially unearthed skeleton.

ETHELIN

These were probably slaves.

HENRY

Did you hear what I just said?

Etheline looks to Henry. Henry says with increasing emotion:

HENRY

Etheline. I know you live with a lot of pain. And you don't like to show it. But so do I. And there are times when you have to reveal yourself. Don't you agree?

Silence. Etheline puts her hands on the sides of Henry's face and kisses him on the mouth. He looks surprised. He puts his arms around her and kisses her back.

INT. HALLWAY. DAY

Margot comes in the front door and starts up the steps. Etheline says calmly from inside the telephone room:

ETHELIN

I think I'm falling for Henry.

Margot stops. She comes back down the stairs.

MARGOT

You're kidding.

ETHELIN

No, I'm not.

MARGOT

That's amazing.

ETHELINE

What do you think of him?

MARGOT

(excited)

I think he's gorgeous.

ETHELINE

(pleased)

I'll tell you a secret. He's asked me to marry him.

MARGOT

(dreamy)

I'm going to have a father.

ETHELINE

(hesitates)

Well, I haven't accepted yet. Besides, you already have a father, sweetheart.

MARGOT

Not really. Plus, now he's dying.

CUT TO:

The door to the pantry. It is cracked-open an inch. Pagoda is poised in the dark, spying on Margot and Etheline.

EXT. COURTYARD. DAY

A concrete park with a chain-link fence around it next to a boxing gym. There are several fighters lifting weights and jumping rope. Ari does chin-ups from the top of a junglegym. Buckley lays on the cement beside him. Someone whistles from behind the fence. Ari looks.

It is Royal. He is inside a telephone booth with the door partly open, holding the receiver to his ear. He signals for Ari to come over.

Ari frowns. He slides down a fire station-type pole and cautiously goes over to the fence with Buckley. Royal hangs up the receiver and comes out of the telephone booth.

ROYAL

That's a hell of an old hound dog you got there. What's he go by?

ARI

(pause)

Buckley.

ROYAL  
(pointing at Buckley)  
Buckley. Sit.

Buckley sits. Royal looks impressed. He turns to Ari.

ROYAL  
You know who I am?

Ari shakes his head.

ROYAL  
I'm Royal. You heard of me?

Ari nods. Royal looks pleased. His expression becomes serious again.

ROYAL  
I'm very sorry for your loss. Your mother  
was a terribly attractive woman.

ARI  
Thank you.

ROYAL  
Which one are you?

ARI  
Ari.

ROYAL  
Where's Uzi?

Ari points to Uzi doing sit-ups on a mat. Royal yells:

ROYAL  
Hey!

Uzi looks up. Royal waves him over. Uzi looks across the courtyard to Anwar, sitting on a bench, reading a B.M.W. owner's manual. Royal ducks back into the telephone booth and holds the receiver to his ear.

Anwar does not look up. Royal slowly comes out of the telephone booth as Uzi approaches the fence.

ROYAL  
Uzi, I'm your granddad.

UZI  
(pause)  
Hello.

ROYAL

Sorry we haven't gotten to know each other. I don't get invited around much. What do you think about that, by the way?

(pause)

You don't have to say anything.

Royal sighs. He stares off into space.

ROYAL

Kind of a fuck you to the old man, I guess.

Royal looks back to Ari and Uzi.

ROYAL

How's your Daddy?

ARI

Fine.

ROYAL

You think so?

Ari nods.

ROYAL

I'm not so sure. How often's he got you working-out?

ARI

Sixteen times a week.

ROYAL

(shakes his head)

Do me a favor. Tell him you want to meet me.

UZI

But we just met.

ROYAL

No, we didn't.

Ari and Uzi look confused.

ROYAL

Look. I want us to have a relationship, but we're going to have to pull some strings to make it happen.

(pause)

Here's what you tell him:

INT. CHAS' BEDROOM. DAY

Ari and Uzi stand outside the bathroom door. They are both dressed in black suits. Ari says toward the door:

ARI

I bet Mom would've wanted us to meet him  
before he died, wouldn't she?

Silence. The bathroom door opens. Chas is dressed in his red Adidas warm-up. He looks out at Ari and Uzi.

EXT. SIDEWALK. DAY

Chas, Ari, and Uzi come down the front steps. All three of them are now dressed in black suits. Buckley follows them. Richie waits on the sidewalk with Royal. Royal wears a black suit, black tie, black shirt, and dark sunglasses. Anwar sits in Chas' B.M.W. parked at the curb.

Chas points at Ari and Uzi and says to Royal:

CHAS

This is Ari and Uzi.

ROYAL

Nice to meet you, boys.

Royal shakes hands with Ari and Uzi.

ARI

Nice to meet you, sir.

ROYAL

Call me Mr. Tenenbaum.

ARI

OK.

ROYAL

I'm kidding. Call me Granddad.

ARI

OK.

Royal looks to Chas and smiles. Chas does not smile. Royal looks to Etheline. She and Henry stand on the top step with Margot.

MARGOT

Take care of my mother, Henry.

HENRY

I will.

Margot hugs Henry tightly. Royal frowns.

EXT. CEMETERY. DAY

A small cemetery next to an electrical power plant. The trees are bare, and snow falls lightly over the gravestones. The city is across the river.

Royal's mother's gravestone reads Helen O'Reilly Tenenbaum (1909-1962). Epitaph: The Salt of the Earth. Royal gently places a bouquet of white flowers at the foot of the grave. There are tears in his eyes. He stands next to Chas and Richie.

ROYAL

She was a tough old broad, wasn't she?

CHAS

I wouldn't know. Excuse me.

ROYAL

Oh, that's right. We've got another body buried out here. Hang on. Take some of these.

Royal takes half of the flowers off his mother's grave and gives them to Chas. Chas walks away. Silence.

ROYAL

What do you think of this big old black buck moving in up there?

RICHIE

(pause)

What?

ROYAL

Henry Sherman. You know him?

RICHIE

Yeah.

ROYAL

Is he worth a damn?

RICHIE

I believe so. Why do you ask?

ROYAL

No reason.

CUT TO:

Ari, Uzi, and Margot standing in front of Rachael's gravestone, which reads Rachael Evans Tenenbaum (1965-2000). Uzi stares at Margot's missing finger.

UZI

What happened to your finger?

MARGOT

(pause)

It got chopped-off by an axe.

UZI

How'd it get chopped-off by --

ARI

Uzi. Shh.

MARGOT

It's OK. I'll tell you. I'm adopted. Did you know that?

Uzi shakes his head.

MARGOT

Well, I am. And I went to find my real family when I was fourteen. They live in Indiana.

EXT. FARM. DAY

A fourteen-year-old Margot stands behind a barn with a family of blond farmers. There is a mother and father and five very young children. Margot's hair is dyed black and she is dressed entirely in black, with black eyeliner and black nail polish.

FATHER

Now just set one of them hickory trunks right up top there, Maggie.

Margot sets a log sideways on top of a wood-pile. She reaches to adjust the log slightly just as the father swings an axe and chops the log in half.

Everyone looks stunned. The father stares at Margot's bloody hand. Margot looks to the father like he is an idiot.

CUT TO:

Margot, Ari, and Uzi standing together.

ARI

Did you try to sew it back on?

Margot shakes her head.

CUT TO:

Richie and Royal looking at an impressive monument in the middle of the cemetery. An inscription says: Veteran of Two Wars. Father of Nine Children. Drowned in the Caspian Sea.

ROYAL

That's a hell of a damn grave.

Richie nods.

ROYAL

I wish that were mine.

They start walking. Royal sighs.

ROYAL

It's a shame, isn't it?

RICHIE

What?

ROYAL

You probably had another good two to three years of competitive play in you.

Richie nods.

ROYAL

Why'd you choke out there that day, anyway?

RICHIE

(shrugs)

I don't know.

INSERT:

A television set tuned-in to Richie's match against Sanjay Gandhi. Richie stands at the baseline and prepares to serve.

ANNOUNCER

Tenenbaum to serve.

Richie hesitates. He looks into the stands.

ANNOUNCER

A slight disturbance in the stands.  
What's going on over there, Tex?

Margot and Raleigh, holding hands, hurry to their seats in a courtside box.

TEX HAYWARD

That's Tenenbaum's sister, Margot, and her new husband, Raleigh St. Clair. They were just married yesterday, Jim.

ANNOUNCER

Well, I guess that gives them an excuse for being late.

Richie stares at Margot and Raleigh. Raleigh kisses Margot on the neck. Richie looks to Chas, with Rachael, Ari, and Uzi. He looks to Etheline. He looks to Royal in a lonely seat up in the nosebleed section.

Richie serves suddenly, underhand, barely tossing the ball into the air. Gandhi easily wins his return. He looks confused. A murmur goes through the crowd.

ANNOUNCER

That was odd.

Richie takes off his shoes.

CUT TO:

Royal and Richie standing together.

ROYAL

Something must've fucked-up your mental game, I guess.

Richie nods. Royal kicks a pebble on the ground.

ROYAL

Maybe there's just too much friction in this family.

CUT TO:

Margot sitting alone on a moss-covered rock next to a white stone cross. Richie walks over and stands beside her.

MARGOT

I read that letter you sent to Eli.

RICHIE

(pause)

What letter?

MARGOT

The letter from the ship. The letter  
where you said --

RICHIE

Don't misquote me. That's out of context.

Margot reaches into her pocket. Richie says incredulously:

RICHIE

He gave you my letter?

Margot nods. She takes the letter out of her pocket. A pack of cigarettes falls out of her pocket onto the ground. Margot and Richie look at it.

RICHIE

You dropped your cigarettes.

MARGOT

Those aren't mine.

RICHIE

Well, they just fell out of your  
pocket.

Margot picks up the pack of cigarettes and puts it back in her pocket. She looks to Richie. She holds up the letter.

MARGOT

Anyway, you want to talk about this?

Richie looks down at the ground.

RICHIE

Not really.

CUT TO:

Royal scraping some dirt off Rachael's gravestone with his foot. He looks to Chas.

ROYAL

You still got that little B.B. in your  
hand?

Chas holds up his hand and shows Royal a little round bump in between two knuckles. Royal taps it with his finger. It moves slightly.

CHAS  
Why'd you shoot me?

ROYAL  
(pause)  
Well, that was the object of the game,  
wasn't it?

CHAS  
No. We were on the same team.

ROYAL  
Well, you sued me. Twice. And got me  
disbarred. But I don't hold it against  
you, do I?

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM. DAY

The offices of a multinational corporation. Eight businessmen in suits sit at a long table. Royal is one of them. Chas is another. A sign on the wall says Chas Tenenbaum Securities.

BUSINESSMAN  
Are you suggesting we fire your son from  
the board of directors?

ROYAL  
In so many words, yes.

Everyone looks to Chas. Chas sighs. He withdraws several envelopes from his briefcase and begins to circulate them around the room.

CHAS  
Gentlemen, I think you'll find these  
documents implicate Mr. Tenenbaum in  
income tax violations dating from 1972 to  
1988.

ROYAL  
Goddammit.

CUT TO:

Royal and Chas standing with Ari and Uzi.

ROYAL  
You think you could start forgiving me?

CHAS  
Why should I?

ROYAL

Because you're hurting me.

Chas turns and walks away. Uzi looks to Royal.

UZI

Were you in prison?

ROYAL

Not really. Minimum security. Let's split.

Ari and Uzi follow Royal as he starts across the cemetery. Royal yells to Richie and Margot:

ROYAL

Come on! Let's shag ass!

INT. RALEIGH'S LABORATORY. DAY

Raleigh and Dudley each have a set of building blocks in front of them. Raleigh's are arranged in the shape of a symmetrical cross. Dudley's are strewn out randomly. Raleigh holds a piece of cardboard vertically in between them. He lifts it and reveals his blocks to Dudley.

RALEIGH

All right, Dudley. Make yours look like mine.

Dudley studies Raleigh's blocks for a minute and slowly begins to rearrange his own. Raleigh picks-up the telephone receiver and dials a number.

RALEIGH

Hello. It's Raleigh St. Clair again. Is Margot available?

(disappointed)

I see. May I ask, did she receive my previous messages?

(more disappointed)

I see. No, that's quite all right.

Raleigh hangs up the telephone. He looks miserable.

DUDLEY

Done.

Raleigh examines Dudley's blocks. They have been arranged into the shape of a lopsided octagon with branches coming out of it. Raleigh begins to laugh quietly. He shakes his head. There are tears in his eyes.

RALEIGH

My goodness. How interesting. How  
bizarre.

INT. ELI CASH'S HOUSE. DAY

Eli walks into the vestibule smoking a joint which he keeps  
in his mouth at all times like a cigarette. He opens the  
front door. Richie stands on the top step.

ELI

Oh, my Lord. Look at you.

Eli embraces Richie. They smile sadly at each other.

CUT TO:

Richie and Eli walking into the front room of the house. It  
is furnished like a house in the English countryside, with  
antiques and potted flowers and old rugs.

RICHIE

Did you show Margot that letter I wrote  
to you?

ELI

(hesitates)

Why? Did she mention it?

Richie does not respond.

ELI

Yes, I did.

RICHIE

Eli, that was meant to be just between  
you and me.

ELI

I know. I'm sorry. Why would she have  
told you about that, I wonder?

RICHIE

Well, I would ask you the same question.

ELI

(pause)

Rightly so.

INT. STUDIO. DAY

Richie and Eli walk into the next room. Eli's wife, Sabrina,  
is painting in her studio. She is very beautiful and wears

spectacles and a white sari. She is barefoot. Classical music plays quietly on the record player.

ELI

Sabrina?

Sabrina does not look up. She seems irritated.

SABRINA

What?

ELI

Look what I found on the doorstep.

Sabrina looks to Richie. She is only mildly surprised. She has an English accent.

SABRINA

Hello, darling.

Sabrina hugs and kisses Richie.

ELI

Charlotte? Stetson? Say hello to Uncle Richie.

There are two children in the corner. Stetson is six. He works at a spinning potter's wheel, molding a hunk of clay. Charlotte is five. She is painting a set of teacups. She has a cast in a sling on her arm. They are both blond and fair.

The children do not respond to Eli. Eli does not appear to notice this, as he is in the process of re-lighting his joint.

RICHIE

How'd she break her arm?

ELI

(sadly)

I fell down the stairs with her.

Richie looks disturbed. He notices a nude, teenaged girl standing on the table. She has a deep tan, except where she wore a bikini. She is Sabrina's model, Cinnamon.

ELI

That's Cinnamon. Hello, Cinnamon.

Cinnamon looks at Eli coldly.

INT. ELI'S STUDY. DAY

Eli sits on a couch across from Richie. They are both drinking wine. There is a large zip-lock bag of marijuana on

the table. There is a large, disturbing painting on the wall of five men wearing African masks and sitting on dirt-bikes.

Silence.

ELI  
What'd you say?

RICHIE  
(pause)  
Nothing.

ELI  
Hm? What?

RICHIE  
I didn't say anything.

ELI  
When? Right now?  
(laughs)  
I'm sorry. Don't listen to me.  
(barely audible:)  
I'm on mescaline. I've been spaced-out  
all day.

Eli pours himself another glass of wine.

RICHIE  
Did you say you're on mescaline?

ELI  
I did, indeed.

RICHIE  
Right now?

ELI  
Right now, indeed.

Richie reflects on this for a moment.

RICHIE  
How often do you --

ELI  
I'm worried about you, Richie.

RICHIE  
(pause)  
Why?

ELI  
Well, actually, Margot is, for some reason. But I did find it odd when you said you were in love with her.

Richie nods.

ELI  
She's married, you know.

RICHIE  
Yeah.

ELI  
And she's your sister.

RICHIE  
(quickly)  
Adopted.

INSERT:

Page 112 of The Royal Tenenbaums. It says Chapter Five.

INT. LOBBY. DAY

The Lindbergh Palace Hotel. Royal comes in through the revolving doors. He freezes.

A large number of trunks, suitcases, and boxes are stacked and piled on four carts next to the front desk. There are also several dozen hanging garments on a rack with wheels on it. A bellboy rolls a fifth cart next to the others. The manager and his assistant appear.

MANAGER  
Good afternoon, Mr. Tenenbaum.

Silence. Royal studies his possessions. The bellboy, the manager, and his assistant watch Royal awkwardly.

ROYAL  
Where're my encyclopedias?

MANAGER  
They've been placed in storage.

ROYAL  
(shaking his head)  
Damn you. You're taking my encyclopedias.  
This is humiliating.

MANAGER

I'm sorry, Mr. Tenenbaum. Would you like some assistance with --

ROYAL

Where am I supposed to go? You're turning me into a goddamn hobo.

MANAGER

I'd be happy to make a reservation for you at another hotel.

ROYAL

You son of a bitch.

MANAGER

Frederick? Would you assist Mr. Tenenbaum, please?

BELLMAN

Of course.

The bellboy begins to roll one of the carts across the lobby. Dusty, the elderly elevator operator, appears at Royal's side. He and Royal look at each other sadly.

ROYAL

Hello, Dusty.

DUSTY

Hello, sir.

ROYAL

Spot me a quarter, will you?

DUSTY

Of course.

INT. TELEPHONE BOOTH. DAY

Royal places a call from the lobby.

ROYAL

Richie? It's your dad.

INT. DINING ROOM. NIGHT

Etheline, Henry, Chas, Margot, Richie, Ari, and Uzi sit at the table while Pagoda serves dessert. Richie is eating some grapes.

RICHIE

I think he's very lonely. Lonelier than he lets on, and maybe lonelier than he even realizes.

ETHELINE

That's probably true.

MARGOT

Have you spoken to him about this?

RICHIE

Briefly. And he agreed that --

CHAS

I'm sorry. Maybe I'm a little confused here. What are you suggesting?

RICHIE

(pause)

That he come here and stay in my room.

CHAS

Are you out of your mind?

RICHIE

No, I'm not.

(ignoring Chas)

Anyway, I think he'd be much more comfortable here than he would be in a hospital or his hotel room, and --

CHAS

Who gives a shit?

RICHIE

(steely)

I do.

CHAS

You poor sucker. You poor, washed-up poppa's boy.

Henry puts his hand gently on Chas' arm.

HENRY

All right. Let's not get out of hand.

Chas jerks his arm away.

CHAS

Don't get in the middle of this, Mr. Sherman. This is a family matter.

MARGOT  
Don't talk to him like that.

HENRY  
Please, call me Henry.

CHAS  
I prefer Mr. Sherman.

ETHELINE  
Call him Henry.

CHAS  
Why? I don't know him that well.

ETHELINE  
You've known him for ten years.

CHAS  
As your accountant, Mr. Sherman, yes.  
(pause)  
All right. Henry.

ARI  
Where are you going to sleep?

RICHIE  
I'll just camp-out upstairs.

UZI  
We brought an extra sleeping bag you can use.

Chas pounds the table with his fist and says loudly:

CHAS  
I won't have my children living in the same house as that man!

ARI  
We don't mind, Dad.

UZI  
We like him.

Chas looks shocked and then revolted.

CHAS  
It's not your decision.

ETHELINE  
Nor is it yours.

RICHIE  
Look. If he doesn't --

CHAS  
(intensely)  
It's not going to happen.

ETHELINE  
I'll be the judge of that.

RICHIE  
Well, he's already up there.

Silence.

RICHIE  
I think he's asleep, because of the  
medication he's on. But I guess you can  
wake him up and throw him out.  
(pause)  
If Mom says it's OK.

Chas finishes his slice of pie. He gets up and goes calmly  
out of the room.

INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Richie's room has been converted into a makeshift hospital  
room. Royal lies on an electric hospital bed. He has an I.V.  
in his arm and a tube in his nose. There are several monitors  
and machines breathing and humming. There are numerous  
bottles of pills and medicines on the nightstand. Pagoda has  
on a surgical mask and scrubs.

Chas stands in the doorway. Richie is behind him.

CHAS  
Get out.

Silence. Royal nods.

ROYAL  
All right. Let me just collect my things.

Royal sits up on the edge of the bed. He is dressed in a  
hospital gown.

ROYAL  
Would you mind handing me my cane,  
Richie?

Richie hands Royal his cane. Royal struggles to his feet. He  
takes the I.V. out of his arm.

ROYAL

Let's see, now. Where's my suitcase?

Royal's knee gives out. He staggers a step. He grips the back of a chair and looks to Richie with a surprised expression. He collapses onto the floor. He produces a wooden spoon, which he takes between his teeth.

RICHIE

Dad?

Richie and Pagoda rush over and kneel on the floor beside Royal. Chas frowns. Richie yells out the door:

RICHIE

Mom!

ROYAL

Grab me a nambutol, son.

Richie runs to the nightstand and pops open a bottle of pills. Chas looks down at Royal.

CHAS

Are you OK?

Royal takes the spoon out of his mouth.

ROYAL

What do you care?

Richie gives Royal a pill with a glass of water. Etheline comes to the door.

ETHELINE

Oh, my goodness!

ROYAL

Pagoda. Call Dr. McClure.

CUT TO:

Forty-five minutes later. Royal is back in bed. He is being examined by Dusty, the elevator operator from the Lindbergh Palace. Dusty is dressed in a white lab coat. He checks Royal's pulse while everyone watches.

INT. HALLWAY. NIGHT

Dusty speaks with the Tenenbaums in the hallway outside Richie's bedroom.

DUSTY

His condition is stable. The attack was just a side-effect. I recommend that you push fluids and continue the cancer medication.

Dusty's beeper goes off. He looks at it.

INSERT:

Dusty's beeper. It has a digital message on it:

Smitty worked a double yesterday. Can you sub for him tonight?

CUT TO:

Dusty pushing a button on his beeper.

CHAS

Can we move him?

DUSTY

Absolutely not.

CHAS

For how long?

DUSTY

We'll have to wait and see.

INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Etheline sits next to Royal's bed. Pagoda brings Royal a cheeseburger in an aluminum foil wrapper.

ROYAL

Pagoda is in possession of a parcel that contains my will and some instructions regarding the funeral, including my epitaph, for when the time comes.

Etheline nods.

ROYAL

Proofread it for me before they carve it on the headstone, OK?

ETHELINE

OK.

ROYAL

I never did stop loving you, by the way.  
Do you believe that?

ETHELINE

Not really. I'm sorry.

ROYAL

Don't apologize. It's not your fault.

ETHELINE

I know it's not, Royal.

ROYAL

You look terrific. That dress is  
stunning.

ETHELINE

Thanks.

Royal raises an eyebrow. Etheline shakes her head and goes out of the room. Royal unwraps his cheeseburger and takes a bite. He hesitates.

Henry is standing in the doorway. He walks away.

CUT TO:

An hour later. Royal lies in bed, drinking a milkshake, reading a spy novel. Chas appears in the doorway.

CHAS

Lights out, old man.

Chas turns out the light.

ROYAL

I was going to read for a little bit,  
Chas.

CHAS

Sorry. 11:30. Lights out.

ROYAL

I'm in the middle of a sentence.

CHAS

Have to finish it up in the morning.  
Them's the rules.

Silence. Royal says in a quiet, strangely upbeat voice in the darkness:

ROYAL  
Good-night, m'boy.

Chas hesitates. He closes the door.

INT. BALLROOM. NIGHT

The ballroom on the top floor of the house. There are chairs and tables with sheets over them lined-up along the walls. Near the center of the room, there is a yellow nylon pup-tent. The room is dark except for a lamp glowing inside the tent.

INT. TENT. NIGHT

There is a boy scout sleeping bag on an air mattress on a cot inside the tent. There is a photograph of the Tenenbaum family taped to the nylon wall. There is a small table with a stack of books and some of Richie's soldiers on it. Richie lies on the cot reading a copy of Three Plays by Margot Tenenbaum.

Chas comes into the tent. Richie looks up, startled.

CHAS  
Looks like you and Dad are back together again, huh?

RICHIE  
(pause)  
He's your Dad, too, Chas.

CHAS  
No, he's not.  
(pause)  
You really hate me, don't you?

RICHIE  
(puzzled)  
No, I don't. I love you.

Chas looks disturbed by this.

CHAS  
Well, I don't know what you think you're going to get out of this. But believe me, whatever it is, it's not worth it.

RICHIE  
I don't want to hurt you, Chas. You're my brother, and I love you.

CHAS  
(gritting his teeth)  
Stop saying that.

INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM. DAY

The next morning. Royal sits on the windowsill smoking a cigarette. There is a knock on the door. Royal hesitates. He throws his cigarette out the window.

ROYAL  
Who is it?

PAGODA  
(through the door)  
I have the breakfast.

Royal looks out and sees Eli below, climbing out a window on the second floor. Royal frowns. He looks to the door.

ROYAL  
Get in here. Quick.

Pagoda opens the door. He comes in carrying a tray with a bowl of cream of wheat on it.

ROYAL  
Look at this shit.

Royal looks back out the window. Pagoda goes to his side. Eli drops to the sidewalk. He sees Royal's cigarette burning on the ground. He steps on it. He looks up to Royal. Their eyes meet.

Eli runs away. Royal shakes his head.

INSERT:

An article on Eli in the Sunday magazine section. The headline says Where the Wild Things Are. There is a photograph of Eli in the desert holding a dead rattlesnake by the tail in each hand. There is a note stapled to the top of the article. It says:

Dear Mrs. Tenenbaum, Just in case you  
missed it. Love, Eli.

CUT TO:

Margot and Etheline sitting together in Etheline's study. Margot is reading Henry's book, Accounting for Everything. Etheline is reading the article on Eli. Margot looks at it.

MARGOT  
Did Eli send you that?

ETHELINE  
(nods)  
He always sends me his clippings.

MARGOT  
(incredulous)  
What for?

ETHELINE  
I think he just likes the encouragement.  
He's done it for years. He used to send  
me his grades in college.

MARGOT  
(frowns)  
That's ridiculous.

There is a rap on the glass. Margot and Etheline look up.  
Raleigh is standing in the window. He looks miserable.

EXT. GARDEN. DAY

The backyard. Margot and Raleigh sit at a metal table  
drinking tea.

RALEIGH  
How is he?

MARGOT  
Hard to say. He looks fine, but  
apparently it's terminal.

RALEIGH  
Yes. Well, perhaps he'll pull through.

Margot shrugs.

RALEIGH  
How long do you intend to stay here?

MARGOT  
I don't know.

RALEIGH  
I'll rephrase the question. Are you ever  
coming home?

Silence. Margot says gently:

MARGOT  
Maybe not. But --

RALEIGH  
You're joking.

MARGOT  
No. But --

RALEIGH  
I want to die.

Raleigh crumples into a ball on the ground and stays there.  
Margot puts her hand on his back.

MARGOT  
Raleigh, please. For God's sake. Let's  
just --

Raleigh sits up suddenly.

RALEIGH  
Have you met someone else?

MARGOT  
(pause)  
I couldn't begin to even think about  
knowing how to answer that question.

Raleigh stands up and walks away. Margot sits alone in the  
garden.

INT. HALLWAY. DAY

Royal waits at the top of the stairs as Margot comes up.

ROYAL  
I don't like the way you're treating  
Raleigh.

MARGOT  
What are you talking about? You don't  
even know him.

ROYAL  
I've met him. And I don't think he  
deserves --

MARGOT  
Get out of the way.

Margot pushes past Royal.

ROYAL

You're two-timing him with that  
bloodsucker Eli Cash.

Margot stops. She stands still with her back to Royal.

ROYAL

It's not right, dammit. You used to be a  
genius.

Margot looks back to Royal strangely.

ROYAL

Or, anyway, that's what they used to say.

Margot nods. She goes into her room and closes the door.

EXT.. ROOF. DAY

Raleigh stands at the edge of the roof looking down to the  
ground while Richie cleans his falcon's coop.

RALEIGH

My marriage is failing, Richie.

Richie looks to Raleigh. He hesitates.

RALEIGH

I know you've always been terribly close  
to Margot, and perhaps you understand her  
better than anyone.

RICHIE

I doubt it.

RALEIGH

Nevertheless, may I confide in you?

RICHIE

(pause)

OK.

RALEIGH

I believe she's having an affair.

Silence. Richie comes out of the coop and goes over to  
Raleigh.

RICHIE

Are you sure?

RALEIGH

Yes.

RICHIE

I see.

RALEIGH

I'm utterly devastated. I don't know where else to turn. Will you advise me?

RICHIE

I don't know. What do you want to do?

RALEIGH

Well, I thought, perhaps --

RICHIE

Find the guy and get him?

RALEIGH

(pause)

Well, no. I thought we might --

Richie punches his hand through the attic window. Raleigh looks shocked. He stares at Richie's bloody hand.

RICHIE

Who do you think it might be?

RALEIGH

I don't know, at the moment.

(pause)

I believe I'll take my leave.

INT. CHAS' BEDROOM. DAY

Royal looks in the doorway to Chas' room.

There are five computers, four telephones, a Xerox machine, and a television and V.C.R. on a cart. Three secretaries make copies and take messages. Chas is on the telephone. A messenger waits for him to sign a document.

Ari and Uzi sit working with a calculator and a ledger pad at a small desk in the corner. Royal says to them:

ROYAL

Let's get some firecrackers and go to the --

Chas covers the receiver with his hand.

CHAS

What do you need?

ROYAL  
(hesitates)  
Nothing. You got them crunching numbers  
for you, huh?

CHAS  
(into the telephone)  
Buy it when it hits seventeen and three  
quarters.

INT. ETHELINE'S STUDY. DAY

Etheline sits at her desk writing numbers on little bits of pottery and recording it in a notebook. Royal stands in the garden, looking in the window. His I.V. bag hangs on a rolling stand beside him.

ROYAL  
Chassie's got those boys cooped-up like a  
pair of jackrabbits, Ethel.

ETHELINE  
He has his reasons.

ROYAL  
I know it. But you can't raise boys to be  
scared of life. You got to brew some  
recklessness into them.

ETHELINE  
I think that's terrible advice..

INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM. DAY

Royal listens to Ari over the intercom while Pagoda does yoga exercises in the corner:

ARI  
We take boxing and self-defense class.

Royal pushes a button to talk.

ROYAL  
I'm not talking about dance lessons. I'm  
talking about putting a brick through the  
other guy's windshield. I'm talking about  
taking it out and chopping it up.

Silence. Ari says over the intercom:

ARI  
What do you mean?

MONTAGE:

(Royal, Ari, and Uzi laugh continuously throughout the following montage.)

Royal, Ari, and Uzi jump off the roof of a three-story building into a swimming pool.

Royal, Ari, and Uzi race go-carts around crates in a busy warehouse.

Royal, Ari, and Uzi jaywalk through heavy traffic.

Royal, Ari, and Uzi feed breadcrumbs to a tiger in a cage at the zoo.

Royal, Ari, and Uzi ride on the back of a speeding garbage truck.

EXT. STREET. DAY

Royal, Ari, Uzi, and Pagoda are at the dogfights. Pagoda throws a fifty dollar bill into a pile of money on the sidewalk. Ari and Uzi each throw in a dollar. Royal motions to Pagoda.

ROYAL  
He saved my life, you know. Thirty years ago. I was knifed at a bazaar in Calcutta, and he carried me to the hospital on his back.

ARI  
Who stabbed you?

Royal motions to Pagoda again.

ROYAL  
He did. There was a price on my head, and he was a hired assassin. Stuck me in the gut with a shiv.

INT. CHAS' BEDROOM. DAY

The three secretaries are still at work, and Chas is on the telephone. He sees Royal, Ari, and Uzi walking by in the hallway. Royal rolls his I.V. next to him. Chas hangs up the telephone.

CHAS  
Where've you been?

Chas goes to the doorway. He glares at Ari, Uzi, and Royal.

ROYAL  
Just stepped out to get some air. How's  
the --

CHAS  
(concerned)  
What's that?

Chas points to a spot of dried blood on Uzi's forehead.

ROYAL  
Holy shit. That's not -- What is that?

Royal licks his finger and rubs away the blood.

ROYAL  
No. That's dog's blood.

Chas frowns. He looks to Royal. Royal hesitates. Chas grabs Royal by the arm and pulls him into the closet across the hall.

INT. CLOSET. NIGHT

Chas closes the door and turns on the light. There are hundreds of board games, most of which are about thirty years old, in shelves up to the ceiling.

CHAS  
Stay away from my children. Do you  
understand?

ROYAL  
(looking around)  
My God. I haven't been in here in years.

CHAS  
(screams)  
Are you listening to me?

ROYAL  
Yes, I am. And I think you're having a  
nervous breakdown. I don't believe you've  
recovered from Rachael's death.

Chas hesitates. He turns off the light, goes out of the closet, and closes the door. Royal stands alone in the dark.

EXT. PARK. DAY

Royal and Etheline walk along a path through the park. Royal rolls his hanging I.V. bag at his side.

ETHELINE

How are you feeling?

ROYAL

Oh, I'm having a ball. Scrapping and yelling. Mixing it up. Loving every minute with this damn crew.

(sincerely)

I'd like to thank you for raising our children, by the way.

ETHELINE

(surprised)

You're welcome.

ROYAL

I'm not kidding.

ETHELINE

OK.

ROYAL

You always put them first, didn't you?

ETHELINE

(shrugs)

I tried to. Lately, I feel like maybe I didn't do such a great job.

ROYAL

(steely)

I don't want to hear another goddamn word about that, Ethel. I'm the one that did it to them. Or, anyway, it's nobody's fault. The only person you neglected is yourself.

Silence. Etheline nods. She says suddenly:

ETHELINE

Well, why didn't you give a damn about us, Royal? Why didn't you care?

ROYAL

I don't know. But I'm ashamed of myself.

(pause)

I'll tell you one thing, though. You've  
(more)

ROYAL (cont'd)  
got more grit, and fire, and guts than  
any other woman I've damn met.

ETHELINE  
(laughs)  
Where'd you learn to talk like that?

ROYAL  
(smiles)  
Like what?

ETHELINE  
These expressions you use. They've gotten  
stranger over the years.

ROYAL  
I don't know what you're talking about.  
But I'll take it as a compliment.

They look at each other for a long minute.

ROYAL  
You're true blue, Ethel. You really are.

CUT TO:

Henry with two bags of groceries in his arms, watching from  
behind a stone wall above the path. He listens as Royal says:

ROYAL  
How's your love-life?

ETHELINE  
(laughs)  
None of your business.

Henry frowns.

EXT. SIDEWALK. EVENING

Etheline and Henry come down the front steps of the Tenenbaum  
house. Henry is dressed in black tie. Pagoda holds a cab for  
them at the curb.

HENRY  
I want you to talk to Royal about us,  
Etheline.

ETHELINE  
I don't think the timing's right for  
that, Henry.

HENRY

Well, I'd agree if I thought he was really going to die in six weeks. But I don't.

Etheline stops at the bottom of the steps. She frowns.

ETHELINE

I hope you're right. But I don't believe I'm going to join you tonight. I'll call you in the morning.

Etheline turns around and goes back up the steps. Henry watches her. Pagoda watches Henry. Etheline goes inside and closes the door.

INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT

Royal and Pagoda stand together in the bathroom drinking martinis and smoking cigarettes. Royal has a half-eaten cheeseburger in his hand. He looks excited.

ROYAL

She said that?

Pagoda nods. Royal snaps his fingers.

ROYAL

We got him on the ropes.

INT. KITCHEN. DAY

The next morning. Henry stands at the counter reading The Wall Street Journal. He has on reading glasses. Royal comes into the kitchen eating a cheeseburger. Henry looks at him blankly. Royal sits on a stool.

ROYAL

Can I ask you something, Hank?

HENRY

(pause)

OK.

ROYAL

Are you trying to steal my woman?

HENRY

(pause)

I beg your pardon?

ROYAL

You heard me, Coltrane.

Silence.

HENRY  
Coltrane?

ROYAL  
What?

HENRY  
Did you just call me Coltrane?

ROYAL  
No.

HENRY  
You didn't?

ROYAL  
No.

HENRY  
(pause)  
OK.

ROYAL  
But if I did?

Silence. Henry waits for Royal to continue.

ROYAL  
You wouldn't be able to do anything about  
it, would you?

HENRY  
You don't think so?

ROYAL  
No, I don't.

HENRY  
(raising his voice)  
Listen here, Mr. Tenenbaum.

ROYAL  
You want to talk some jive?

Henry hesitates. He looks puzzled.

ROYAL  
I'll talk some jive with you.

Royal stands up. He yells:

ROYAL  
I'll talk some jive like you never heard!

HENRY  
(angrily)  
Would you, really?

ROYAL  
Right on!

HENRY  
Sit down, sir.

ROYAL  
What?

Royal starts doing a little dance in front of Henry.

ROYAL  
What'd you say?

HENRY  
(seething)  
I said --

ROYAL  
Oh, I heard you.

HENRY  
(yelling)  
Sit down!

Royal stops dancing.

ROYAL  
I want you out of my house.

HENRY  
This is not your house..

ROYAL  
Don't play semantics with me. I want your  
raggedy ass --

ETHELINER  
What's going on here?

Henry and Royal look to Etheline. She stands in the doorway.

ROYAL  
Nothing.

Royal goes to the refrigerator and opens it. He takes out a jar of peanut butter and a jar of grape jelly. Etheline looks to Henry. Henry walks out of the room.

INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM. DAY

Henry goes into Richie's room and takes a bottle of Royal's pills off the nightstand. He goes back out of the room.

INT. TELEPHONE ROOM. DAY

Henry reads the label on the bottle of pills while he places a call.

HENRY

Hello. I'm calling in regards to a Dr. McClure. Yes. At Colby General. The name of the patient is Royal Tenenbaum.

INT. STAIRWAY. DAY

Henry goes up the stairs with a cold, determined look on his face. He has the bottle of pills in his hand.

INT. BATHROOM. DAY

Pagoda combs his hair in the bathroom. There is a knock on the door. Pagoda opens it. Henry stands in the hallway. He stares at Pagoda.

HENRY

How much is he paying you?

Pagoda looks scared.

INSERT:

A television set tuned-in to an interview show. The host is a tall, distinguished-looking man in his fifties. He is Peter Bradley. Eli is his guest. They sit at a round table lit at the center of a pitch-black room.

ELI

Well, I grew up with the Tenenbaum family, you know.

PETER

They've come on hard times, haven't they?

Eli nods.

CUT TO:

Richie's room. Margot and Royal are watching Eli on television.

ROYAL  
Bullshit. Change it.

MARGOT  
Shh.

The door opens. Richie comes into the room. His hand is wrapped with bloody bandages. Margot looks concerned.

MARGOT  
What'd you do to your hand?

RICHIE  
Nothing.

Richie goes into the closet. Margot looks to Royal. Royal frowns. Richie starts to drag a large trunk out of the closet. Margot says more insistently:

MARGOT  
What happened, Richie?

RICHIE  
Nothing.

Henry and Pagoda come into the room. Henry goes over to the intercom and presses a button on it.

HENRY  
Etheline? Would you mind coming up here for a minute, please?

Royal looks at Henry suspiciously.

ROYAL  
What's cooking, Pops?

HENRY  
You'll see.

ETHELIN  
(on the intercom)  
OK.

INSERT:

Eli's interview on the Peter Bradley Show.

PETER  
Now, your previous novel --

ELI  
Wildcattin'.

PETER  
Right. Not a success. Why?

ELI  
Hm. Well, Wildcattin' was written in a  
kind of obsolete vernacular, much like  
the --

Eli freezes. He looks quickly across the room.

ELI  
Holy shit.

PETER  
(looking around)  
What?

A look of sheer horror crosses Eli's face. He braces himself  
against the edge of the table. Peter looks concerned.

PETER  
Are you all right?

ELI  
(pause)  
No.

Peter hesitates. Eli jerks free of his microphone, stands up,  
and walks off the set. Peter Bradley looks stunned.

CUT TO:

Everyone watching in Richie's bedroom. They also look  
stunned.

ROYAL  
Son of a bitch. What the hell kind of way  
to act is that?

RICHIE  
(pause)  
He's on drugs.

MARGOT  
(worried)  
I'm going to call him.

Margot goes to the telephone. Etheline and Chas come into the  
room. Chas is eating a sandwich. Ari, Uzi, and Buckley follow  
them.

HENRY

Hold on a minute, please.

Henry steps in front of the television set and turns it off.

HENRY

Pagoda has something to say.

Everyone looks to Pagoda. Silence. Pagoda looks worried. He turns to Royal and points at him.

PAGODA

He has the cancer.

HENRY

(angrily)

No, he doesn't.

Royal sits up. Henry stares at Royal.

HENRY

I know what stomach cancer looks like. I've seen it. And you don't eat three cheeseburgers a day with french fries when you've got it. The pain is excruciating.

ROYAL

How would you know?

HENRY

My wife had it.

Silence. Royal pulls out his I.V. and the other tubes that are attached to him. He goes into the bathroom and closes the door. Henry turns to Etheline.

HENRY

Not only is there no Dr. McClure at Colby General, there's no Colby General. It closed in 1974.

Chas crushes his sandwich in his hand.

PAGODA

Ah, shit, man.

ETHELIN

But why would he --

Chas slams his hand against the bathroom door as hard as he can. He sits down on the bed and picks up the phone. He places a call.

CHAS

Yes. Can you send a taxi to 111 Archer Avenue? Right away, please. Thank you.

Chas hangs up. Royal comes out of the bathroom. He is fully dressed in a suit, and he is zipping-up a small leather bag. He picks-up one of his bottles of pills off the nightstand and leaves the rest. He looks to Pagoda.

ROYAL

I guess we're back on the street, pal.

Etheline looks to Pagoda. She frowns. Pagoda looks uneasy.

ETHELINE

Were you a part of this?

HENRY

Of course, he was.

ETHELINE

(to Royal)

Was he?

Royal hesitates. He looks to Pagoda and says regretfully:

ROYAL

Time to come clean. No more lies.

Pagoda stares at Royal bitterly. Chas shakes his head.

CHAS

You're a sick old man.

MARGOT

Not as sick as he looks.

Royal looks in the mirror. There are dark circles of eye make-up on his face. He removes it with a cotton ball and cold cream.

ROYAL

I do have high blood pressure.

Royal swallows one of his pills. He walks to the door with all of his possessions. He turns and stands in front of everyone.

ROYAL

Look. I know I'm the bad guy on this one, but I just want to say that the last six days have been the best six days of, probably, my whole life.

A strange, sad look crosses Royal's face.

NARRATOR

Immediately after making this statement,  
Royal realized that it was true.

INT. HALLWAY. DAY

Royal comes out of Richie's room with his suitcases. He walks  
down the hall. Etheline says after him:

ETHELINE

Why'd you do this to us, Royal?

Royal stops and looks back to Etheline.

ETHELINE

What was the point?

ROYAL

(pause)

I thought maybe I could win you back. Or,  
anyway, I thought maybe I could get rid  
of Henry and keep things status quo.

ETHELINE

But we hadn't spoken in seven years.

ROYAL

(surprised)

Had it been that long?

ETHELINE

Yes.

ROYAL

(shrugs)

Well, I just didn't want to give you up.  
Plus, I was broke, and I got kicked-out  
of my hotel.

ETHELINE

(pause)

You're a bastard.

ROYAL

I know.

(pause)

It's funny. I never missed them before. I  
never missed my family, all these years.  
I'm being honest with you.

ETHELINE  
That's very touching.

ROYAL  
But I think I'm about to.

Etheline stares at Royal angrily, with tears in her eyes.

ETHELINE  
Good-bye, Royal.

Royal turns and walks away.

INT. STAIRWELL. DAY

Chas stands at the bottom of the stairs and watches Royal come down the steps with his suitcases. Royal stops in front of him.

ROYAL  
Take it easy on those boys, Chassie. I  
don't want this to happen to you.

Chas hesitates. Royal walks past him and goes out the front door.

EXT. STREET. DAY

Richie and Royal stand on the sidewalk. Royal's suitcases are beside him. Margot and Henry stand at the top of the steps, in the front doorway.

ROYAL  
You know, Richie, this illness, this  
closeness to death. It's been very  
profound for me. I feel like a different  
person. I really do.

RICHIE  
Dad. You were never dying.

ROYAL  
(smiles)  
But I'm going to live.

Richie shakes his head. He turns away and goes up the steps, past Margot and Henry, into the house. Royal and Margot look at each other. Royal points to Henry.

ROYAL  
He's not your father.

MARGOT

(pause)

Neither are you.

Margot closes the door. Royal puts his hands in his pockets. He stares into space. He begins to cry. A taxi pulls over to the curb. Royal waves to the driver.

The front door of the house opens. Royal looks back. Pagoda comes down the stairs with two suitcases. He looks furious.

ROYAL

How you doing, pal?

Pagoda drops his suitcases on the ground.

PAGODA

You son of a bitch.

Pagoda's teeth flash as he goes over to Royal and stabs him with a pocketknife. Royal screams. He clutches his side. He falls on the ground.

ROYAL

Goddammit! That's the last time I get knifed by you! You hear me?

Pagoda helps Royal to his feet. He collects his suitcases. Royal leans on Pagoda as they get into the taxi. Royal says to the driver:

ROYAL

The 375th Street Y, please.

INSERT:

Page 198 of The Royal Tenenbaums. It says Chapter Seven.

EXT. 375th STREET Y. DAY

A huge building that looks like a castle. A sign next to the door says 375th Street Y.

INT. 375th STREET Y. DAY

An extremely small room with a low ceiling and a single bed. Royal stands in front of a mirror while Pagoda stitches-up the knife-wound in his side. He holds a bottle of iodine in one hand and a box of bandages in the other.

ROYAL

Everyone's against me.

PAGODA

You can't blame them, man.

ROYAL

I know. But, dammit, I want to be loved  
by this family.

Pagoda pours some iodine on a cotton ball and applies it to  
Royal's knife-wound. Royal grimaces.

ROYAL

How much money you got?

PAGODA

I don't have.

ROYAL

(frowns)

What do you mean? You're broke?

Pagoda nods. Royal looks furious.

ROYAL

You got to be kidding me. How're we  
supposed to pay for the damn room?

Pagoda looks up at Royal coldly. Silence.

ROYAL

All right. We'll figure something out.

EXT. BRIDGE. DAY

A footbridge over the river. Margot waits in the middle of  
the bridge. Eli walks toward her from the opposite bank. His  
face is smeared with dirt and traces of paint. His clothes  
look severely dishevelled. He stops a few feet away from  
Margot.

ELI

I'm not in love with you anymore.

MARGOT

I didn't know you ever were.

ELI

Let's not make this any more difficult  
than it already is.

MARGOT

OK.

ELI  
OK, what?

MARGOT  
OK, I'm not in love with you, either.

ELI  
(pause)  
I know. You're in love with Richie. Which  
is sick and gross.

MARGOT  
Do you send my mother your clippings?

Eli hesitates.

MARGOT  
And your grades in --

ELI  
Please, stop ridiculing me.

Eli turns away and looks sadly out at the river. Margot goes  
over and stands beside him. Eli shakes his head.

ELI  
You never gave me the time of day until I  
started getting good reviews.

MARGOT  
Your reviews aren't that good.

ELI  
But the sales are.

CUT TO:

A second bridge, two hundred yards away. A large man in a  
coat and tie takes photographs of Margot and Eli with a  
telephoto lens.

INT. PRIVATE DETECTIVE'S OFFICE. DAY

A small room on the thirtieth floor of an office building:  
Raleigh, Richie, and Dudley sit across a desk from the large  
man in the coat and tie. He is a detective.

DETECTIVE  
How much do you already know, gentlemen?

RALEIGH  
Very little, I assure you.

## DETECTIVE

Would you like to examine the report?

## RALEIGH

We would, rather. Yes.

The detective hands Raleigh a manila folder. He opens it and begins to read. Richie looks over his shoulder.

## MONTAGE:

Margot at age twelve buys a pack of cigarettes. She smokes one in an alley next to some trash cans while she reads a fashion magazine.

(In each of the following images Margot smokes a cigarette.)

Margot climbs out the window of a girls' dormitory. She carries a small suitcase. She shimmies down the gutter and runs across the lawn.

Margot dances with a torch in her hand among a group of rastafarians in Jamaica. There are dogs and goats running around and fighting. One of the rastafarians holds out a stick and Margot jumps over it.

Margot fishes off the back of a fishing boat with three elderly Mexican men. Margot laughs as one of the men helps her reel-in a blue marlin three feet long.

Margot stands in a pool of water facing a young tribesman in New Guinea. He has on warpaint and wears a large tusk in his nose. Margot kisses him on the mouth.

Margot opens a window and looks out at the Eiffel Tower. She wears a bra and a slip. A topless girl appears next to her, eating a croissant. The girl puts her arms around Margot's waist, and Margot runs her hands through the girl's hair.

Margot sits in a make-up chair at a television studio. Peter Bradley comes up behind her and puts his hands down her shirt. Margot smiles at him mischievously.

Margot makes-out with: a blond teenager in the back seat of a taxi, a skinny guy with a mohawk on a city bus, a tough-looking Irishman on the deck of a ferry, and Eli in a deserted subway train going full-speed at night.

## CUT TO:

Raleigh turning to the last page of the report. He closes the folder and looks to Richie. Richie looks stunned. Silence.

RALEIGH

She smokes.

DETECTIVE

Yes.

INT. BASEMENT. DAY

Royal, Pagoda, Dusty, and the manager of the hotel sit at a table in the laundry room of the Lindbergh Palace. The manager is reviewing a typewritten document.

MANAGER

All right. Everything seems to be in order.

(looks to Royal)

I'll contact you in the next twenty-four hours.

ROYAL

I appreciate that. Which way are you leaning, by the way?

MANAGER

(pause)

I'll inform you of my decision at the appropriate time.

ROYAL

I get it.

(to Dusty)

Put in a good word for us, Dusty.

DUSTY

I already did.

INT. RALEIGH'S LABORATORY. DAY

Raleigh lies face-down on the couch with his head buried in the cushions. Dudley walks over to him with a box of building blocks. He says quietly:

DUDLEY

You want to play some word games or do some experiments on me or anything?

Raleigh answers without moving. His voice is muffled.

RALEIGH

No.

Richie walks by in a bathrobe. He carries a pair of scissors. He goes into the bathroom, closes the door, and locks it.

INT. BATHROOM. DAY.

Hot water runs full blast in the shower and the sink. Richie stands in the mirror. He holds a pair of scissors in his hand. He has clipped-off his beard and moustache.

He opens the medicine cabinet and takes out a can of shaving cream and a straight razor. He covers his face with shaving cream. He picks up the razor. He looks back in the mirror. He pushes his hand back through his hair, takes a deep breath, and says quietly:

RICHIE

I'm going to kill myself tomorrow.

Silence. Richie slices the razor deeply, four times, along his left forearm. Blood goes everywhere. He switches hands with the razor and slashes his other wrist. He sits down on the floor.

CUT TO:

The bathroom door slamming open. Dudley bursts into the room. He looks horrified. The floor is flooded with water and blood. Richie is slumped in the corner with his shower cap on and shaving cream all over his face.

Dudley screams hysterically.

MONTAGE:

Three paramedics race down a corridor pushing Richie in a gurney. Raleigh and Dudley run beside them. They are covered with blood.

Etheline hangs-up the telephone and runs into the hallway. She throws open the closet door and grabs her coat.

Henry comes out the front door of his building and runs down the steps. He raises his arm to hail a cab.

Chas, Ari, and Uzi hold on as Anwar weaves the B.M.W. in and out of traffic. Buckley has his head out the window.

Margot bursts through the doors of the emergency room. She looks around frantically. She sees Dudley. She rushes over and grabs his arms.

MARGOT

Where is he, Dudley?

DUDLEY

(pause)

Who?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM. DAY

Everyone is gathered around Richie in his hospital bed. His arms are covered with bandages. A doctor gives him an injection and says to Etheline:

DOCTOR

He'll probably sleep for several hours,  
and then I'll come back to check on him.

Etheline nods. She has tears all over her face. The doctor leaves the room. Margot holds Richie's hand.

MARGOT

How do you feel?

RICHIE

Fine, thanks.

ETHELINE

Are you in any pain?

RICHIE

Not really.

CHAS

Why'd you try to kill yourself?

ETHELINE

Don't press him right now.

Silence.

RICHIE

I wrote a suicide note.

MARGOT

(pause)

You did?

RICHIE

Yeah. Right after I regained  
consciousness.

Everyone looks slightly confused.

CHAS

Can we read it?

RICHIE

No.

CHAS

Could you paraphrase it for us?

RICHIE

I don't think so.

CHAS

Is it dark?

RICHIE

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

ETHELINE

All right. That's enough. The doctor said to let him sleep. Can we get you anything, Richie?

Etheline looks to Richie. He is asleep with his mouth open and one of his bandaged arms hanging off the side of the bed.

INT. WAITING AREA. DAY

The corridor outside Richie's room. Etheline sits next to Henry. Henry fills out some insurance forms. Ari and Uzi sit on Chas' lap. Margot sits next to Raleigh. Raleigh stares into space.

RALEIGH

You've made a cuckold of me.

Everyone looks to Raleigh and Margot. Silence.

MARGOT

I know.

RALEIGH

Many times over.

MARGOT

I'm sorry.

RALEIGH

And you've nearly killed your poor brother.

ETHELINE

What's he talking about?

MARGOT  
It doesn't matter.

RALEIGH  
She's balling Eli Cash.

HENRY  
(uneasy)  
All right, Raleigh. Let's not --

RALEIGH  
May I have a cigarette?

MARGOT  
(pause)  
What?

RALEIGH  
Shall I repeat the question?

MARGOT  
You don't smoke.

RALEIGH  
(bitterly)  
I bloody well know that.

Raleigh stares at Margot in silence. Margot sighs. Everyone watches as she reaches into her pocket and takes out a pack of cigarettes. She gives one to Raleigh. He puts it in his mouth.

RALEIGH  
And a light, please?

Margot takes out some matches and lights Raleigh's cigarette.

RALEIGH  
Thank you.

Raleigh stands up and walks away, down the hall, out the door. Silence. Margot lights a cigarette for herself. Etheline looks disturbed.

ETHELINE  
How long have you been a smoker?

MARGOT  
(pause)  
Twenty-two years.

ETHELINE  
Well, I think you should quit.

Margot nods.

EXT. STREET. NIGHT

A gypsy cab stops in front of the hospital. Royal and Pagoda get out and walk quickly into the building. They are both dressed in hotel elevator operator uniforms.

INT. HOSPITAL. NIGHT

Royal speaks anxiously to a nurse at the registration desk. Pagoda stands behind him.

ROYAL  
Richie Tenenbaum, please.

NURSE  
Your name?

ROYAL  
Royal Tenenbaum.

The nurse looks down at her registration book. She frowns. She looks back to Royal.

NURSE  
I'm afraid visiting hours are over, sir.

ROYAL  
(hesitates)  
Why? What does it say there? They don't want me?

NURSE  
I'm sorry. I have to refer you to Dr. Burroughs. He'll be in tomorrow afternoon.

Silence.

EXT. SIDEWALK. NIGHT

Royal and Pagoda stand in front of the hospital. Royal points to the edge of the roof. He sounds desperate.

ROYAL  
I think if we shimmy up that gutter and jump across the window ledge we can pry open the ventilation shaft and --

PAGODA  
There he is, man.

Pagoda points to Richie standing on the corner trying to hail a taxi. He is dressed in surgical scrubs and bedroom slippers. His arms are covered with bandages. Royal looks puzzled. He calls out:

ROYAL

Richie?

Richie looks to Royal and Pagoda. He hesitates.

RICHIE

Hey.

ROYAL

Where're you going?

RICHIE

Why are you dressed in bellboy uniforms?

Royal looks down at his uniform. He looks back to Richie. He shrugs.

ROYAL

We landed an elevator operating gig over at the Lindbergh Palace, if you can believe it.

INT. GREEK DINER. NIGHT

Richie, Royal, and Pagoda sit at a booth in the window of a coffee shop. Royal looks exhausted and uncomfortable.

ROYAL

I have to say, you don't look half bad for a suicide.

RICHIE

Attempted suicide.

ROYAL

But I'm surprised they let you out so quick. I would've thought you'd lost some blood.

Richie shrugs. Silence. Royal frowns.

ROYAL

You're going A.W.O.L, aren't you?

Richie nods. Royal sighs.

ROYAL

This suicide business is the most goddamn pointless thing you've done yet, Richie.

Royal looks upset. Pagoda puts his hand on Royal's shoulder. Silence.

RICHIE

So you're an elevator operator now.

ROYAL

(quietly)

Yeah. We just started, but we'll get a bump when we join the union.

RICHIE

What made you decide to do that?

ROYAL

Well, we're broke. But, in answer to your question, I guess I'm trying to prove I can pay my dues and what-not.

(pause)

I just hope somebody notices.

Richie nods. He stands up.

RICHIE

Well, I think I'll be heading home.

ROYAL

We'll ride with you, OK?

RICHIE

No, thanks.

ROYAL

(concerned)

Well, listen. Are you going to be all right?

RICHIE

Yeah.

ROYAL

Well, when can I see you again? You want to shoot-up to the dogfights this weekend?

RICHIE

I don't think so, Dad.

ROYAL

(pause)

I guess I deserve that.

Richie nods. Silence.

ROYAL

Take care of yourself, OK?

RICHIE

I will.

Richie walks away.

INT. BUS. NIGHT

An old city bus with trash on the floor and graffiti spray-painted on the walls. Richie sits in the back row and rides downtown.

INT. TAXI. NIGHT

An old gypsy cab with torn seats and a piece of cardboard taped-over over a broken window. Royal and Pagoda sit in the back seat and ride uptown.

INT. BALLROOM. NIGHT

The ballroom on the top floor of the Tenenbaum house. Richie walks in and sees the lamp glowing inside his tent. Margot calls out from inside:

MARGOT

Who's there?

Richie does not respond.

MARGOT

Hello?

Richie looks at the eighteen paintings of Margot hanging on the wall in the corner. He walks to the tent at the center of the room.

INT. TENT. NIGHT

Richie looks into the tent. Margot is sitting on the floor next to a record player smoking a cigarette. She has a Rolling Stones record in her hand. She looks startled.

RICHIE

What are you doing in my tent?

MARGOT  
(hesitates)  
Just listening to some records.

Margot puts out her cigarette. She seems worried.

MARGOT  
I thought you were supposed to be in the hospital.

RICHIE  
I checked myself out.

MARGOT  
Well, shouldn't you be on some kind of suicide watch or something?

RICHIE  
(pause)  
Probably.

Richie goes into the tent and sits down Indian-style in front of Margot. Margot sighs. She puts on the Rolling Stones record. It plays quietly.

MARGOT  
How many stitches did you get?

RICHIE  
I don't know. You want to see?

Margot nods. Richie unwraps one of the bandages. His arm is covered with jagged, criss-crossing stitches and dried blood. Margot looks stricken.

MARGOT  
That looks horrible.

Richie nods. He wraps the bandage back around his arm.

RICHIE  
Are you and Raleigh going to get back together?

MARGOT  
I doubt it.

RICHIE  
How about Eli?

MARGOT  
No. I don't know what we were doing together, in the first place. Sometimes I  
(more)

MARGOT (cont'd)  
think maybe our family did more damage to  
him than we did to each other.

Richie nods. Margot sighs.

MARGOT  
To tell you the truth, we mostly just  
talked about you.

RICHIE  
(surprised)  
You did?

MARGOT  
Yeah. I guess that was the attraction, if  
you know what I mean.

Silence. Richie says quietly:

RICHIE  
I have to tell you something.

MARGOT  
What's that?

RICHIE  
I love you.

MARGOT  
(sadly)  
I love you, too.

Richie kisses Margot on the mouth, and she kisses him back.  
She puts her hands on the back of his head. Richie pulls away  
from her and looks into her eyes.

RICHIE  
I can't stop thinking about you. I went  
away for a year, and it only got worse. I  
don't know what to do. I'm sorry.

MARGOT  
It's OK. Let's lie down for a minute.

Richie lies down on the cot. Margot lies next to him and puts  
her arm around his shoulder. She smooths-back his hair. They  
listen to the music for a minute. Margot says quietly:

MARGOT  
Why'd you do it?

RICHIE  
(pause)  
I don't know. It's hard for me to answer.

Margot nods. She looks at Richie's boy scout sleeping bag.

MARGOT

This is the same sleeping bag from when  
we went to the museum, isn't it?

Richie nods. Margot starts crying. Richie looks worried.

RICHIE

Don't cry, Margot.

Margot smiles. She kisses Richie's hand.

MARGOT

If we were from a normal family, none of  
this ever would've happened.

RICHIE

Probably not.

MARGOT

We're brother and sister, you know.

RICHIE

Not by blood.

Margot gets up and goes out of the tent. Richie sits alone  
for a minute. Margot looks back into the tent.

MARGOT

I think we're just going to have to be  
secretly in love with each other and  
leave it at that, Richie.

They look at each other for a long minute.

MARGOT

OK?

RICHIE

OK.

MARGOT

Don't run away from me again.

RICHIE

I won't.

Margot goes out of the tent.

INT. KITCHEN. DAY

The next morning. Richie sits at the counter while Etheline makes some hot chocolate. Etheline wears a bathrobe.

RICHIE

I think I've been alone too much, Mom.

ETHELINE

I agree. But now you're going to stay with us for awhile, right?

RICHIE

Right.

Etheline pours two cups of hot chocolate. She sits down next to Richie.

ETHELINE

I think maybe we can all help each other a little bit now, don't you?

RICHIE

I hope so.

Etheline puts her arm around Richie's shoulder. Richie drinks a sip of his hot chocolate.

INT. ELEVATOR. DAY

The elevator at the Lindbergh Palace. Royal is dressed in his elevator operator uniform. He takes three well-dressed businessmen down to the lobby. The doors open. One of the businessmen hands Royal a dollar as they walk out into the lobby.

ROYAL

Thank you, sir.

Royal sees Richie standing in front of the elevator. Royal looks surprised. He hesitates.

ROYAL

Going up?

RICHIE

Yeah.

Richie steps into the elevator.

ROYAL

What floor?

RICHIE  
It doesn't matter.

ROYAL  
Right away.

Royal closes the doors and pulls a lever. The elevator goes up. Royal stands with his back to Richie.

ROYAL  
What brings you to these parts, Richie?

RICHIE  
I need your help with something.

ROYAL  
(turns around suddenly)  
What'd you say?

RICHIE  
I said --

ROYAL  
(excitedly)  
You got it!

Royal grabs a walkie-talkie out of his pocket and shouts into it:

ROYAL  
Pagoda! Let's hit it!

RICHIE  
I didn't mean right this second.

Royal throws the lever on the elevator and starts back down to the lobby, full-speed.

ROYAL  
What's the situation? We got another casualty?

RICHIE  
Yeah.

INT. ELI'S STUDY. DAY

Eli sits on the couch in his study working on a jigsaw puzzle of the Beatles crossing Abbey Road. Two Middle Eastern men are chopping-up yellow powder on the table. Electronic music blasts from the stereo.

There is a knock on the door. Everyone looks up. Silence.

ELI

Yes?

The door opens and Richie looks inside. Eli and the Middle Eastern men stare at Richie. Eli has yellow powder on his nose. He says awkwardly:

ELI

Hey, Richie.

Richie walks into the room. Royal and Pagoda follow him. They are dressed in their elevator operator uniforms. Eli looks confused and uneasy.

RICHIE

We want to take you to get some help.

Royal looks to the Middle Eastern men.

ROYAL

Would you excuse us, please?

The Middle Eastern men hesitate. Pagoda points to the door. Sugar and the Middle Eastern men leave the room.

RICHIE

Where's Sabrina?

ELI

(pause)

They went back to England.

Richie nods. He sits down next to Eli. Royal and Pagoda sit across from them.

RICHIE

Are we still friends?

Eli seems embarrassed and hurt.

ELI

What do you mean?

RICHIE

Are we?

ELI

Of course. I can't believe you would ask me that.

RICHIE

It doesn't matter. I heard about you and Margot.

Silence. Eli gets up and goes over to the window. He looks out at the backyard. Richie goes over and stands next to him. Eli looks deeply depressed.

ELI

I'm sorry. I don't know what to say.

RICHIE

You don't have to say anything.

ELI

(pause)

I always wanted to be a Tenenbaum, you know?

Richie nods. Eli looks to Royal. Royal nods and says quietly:

ROYAL

Me, too. Me, too.

ELI

But it doesn't mean what it used to, does it?

Richie shakes his head. Eli opens the window, reaches out, and picks a dead leaf off the branch of a tree. He looks to Richie.

ELI

Listen. I really appreciate you coming over here. I recognize that I have a problem, and I want to get better. It means a lot to me that you would do this. Let me just get my things.

Eli goes into the bathroom and locks the door. Pagoda goes over to the window and looks out. He sees Eli running down the fire escape.

PAGODA

There he goes.

Royal and Richie rush over to the window. They watch Eli drop to the ground, run into the street, and hail a taxi. He has on socks but no shoes.

INT. ICE CREAM PARLOR. DAY

A room decorated like a birthday cake. Every booth is filled with divorced fathers and their young daughters. Margot sits across from Royal. Royal is dressed in his elevator operator uniform. A waiter stands next to them.

ROYAL

I want to order some ice cream for my daughter, please. What would you like, Margot?

MARGOT

I told you. Nothing. I only have five minutes.

Royal looks frustrated. Margot sighs.

MARGOT

I'll have a butterscotch sundae, I guess.

The waiter nods and walks away. Royal leans across the table and says urgently:

ROYAL

Can't somebody be a shit their whole life and want to repair the damage? I mean, I think people want to hear that.

MARGOT

Do they?

Royal nods. Silence.

MARGOT

You probably don't even know my middle name.

ROYAL

(pause)

It's a trick question. You don't have one.

MARGOT

. Helen.

ROYAL

(surprised)

That was my mother's name.

MARGOT

(sadly)

I know it was.

EXT. SIDEWALK. DAY

Royal stands on the sidewalk in front of the Tenenbaum house. He is dressed in his elevator operator uniform. He has bunch of white flowers in his hand. He throws a pebble at a window on the third floor.

Ari looks out the window. Royal smiles. Ari opens the window. Uzi appears beside him. Royal calls up to them:

ROYAL

Anybody feel like grabbing a couple of burgers and hitting the cemetery?

Chas appears between Ari and Uzi. He looks down at Royal. Royal looks nervous.

ROYAL

Hey, Chassie. Let me give you my new pager number.

Chas closes the window.

CUT TO:

Royal putting his bunch of flowers on Rachael's grave. He stands alone with his hands in his pockets. He walks away.

EXT. STREET. DAY

Etheline and Henry come down the front steps of Henry's building. Royal is waiting at the bus stop on the corner, next to a small, Mexican man in a windbreaker and a tie. Royal has a large envelope in his hands. Etheline and Henry look at him warily.

ROYAL

I got you something, Ethel. Actually, I made it.

Etheline and Henry go over to Royal. Royal hands Etheline the envelope. She looks to Henry. Henry shrugs. She opens the envelope. It contains a sheaf of typewritten documents.

ETHELINE

What's this?

ROYAL

A divorce.

Etheline looks to Royal. She says quietly:

ETHELINE

From you?

ROYAL

Yes.

Royal looks to Henry. Henry does not know what to say. Royal motions to the Mexican man.

ROYAL  
This is Sanchez. He's a notary public.

HENRY  
(hesitates)  
Hello.

SANCHEZ  
Hello, sir.

ROYAL  
If you'll just sign here, please, Ethel.

Royal hands Etheline a pen and points to a dotted line.  
Etheline signs.

ROYAL  
And here.  
  
Etheline signs.

ROYAL  
And initial here.  
  
Etheline signs. Royal hands the sheaf of documents to Sanchez. He puts several stamps and notations on it. A city bus approaches from the next block.

ROYAL  
Here comes my bus. Thanks, Sanchez.

SANCHEZ  
You're welcome.

ETHELINE  
Are we divorced?

ROYAL  
Almost. Sanchez just has to file the papers.

Royal signals to the bus driver.

ROYAL  
I love you, Etheline. And congratulations, both of you.

Royal puts out his hand. Henry shakes it.

HENRY  
Thank you, Royal.

Royal smiles. He turns away suddenly, runs to the bus, and jumps inside. He looks back to Etheline. He yells:

ROYAL

Take back Pagoda, will you?

Etheline hesitates. She nods. The door closes. Etheline and Henry stand watching with Sanchez.

INT. ELI'S CAR. NIGHT

Eli drives through a tunnel at top speed in the middle of the night. He has on sunglasses, and he is covered with grass and dirt. Electronic music blasts from the stereo. He looks lost and sad.

CUT TO:

Page 230. It says Chapter Eight.

INSERT:

An invitation to Etheline and Henry's wedding in the garden at the house on Archer Avenue. It is nearly identical to the invitation on the cover of the first edition of The Royal Tenenbaums.

EXT. STREET. DAY

Ari, Uzi, and Pagoda stand in front of the house with Buckley, receiving the wedding guests. They help people out of their cars, give them programs for the ceremony, and direct them to the front door.

There are about fifty guests. They are all in black tie. Half of them are black and half are white. Among them are: the driver Anwar, the elevator operator Dusty, the hotel manager, the tennis player Sanjay Gandhi, the notary public Sanchez, the masseuse Meredith, Chas' secretaries, and the private detective.

Royal gets out of a gypsy cab. He smiles at Ari and Uzi. He hugs Pagoda and kisses Ari and Uzi on the tops of their heads. He looks around. He whispers:

ROYAL

I got you some jawbreakers.

Royal hands Ari and Uzi each a large purple and green-striped jawbreaker. They hide them in their jackets.

INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM. DAY

A twenty-one-year-old black Navy midshipman helps Henry finish tying his bow-tie. The midshipman is Walter. Henry studies his tie in the mirror.

HENRY

It's slightly uneven.

Henry unties his knot and starts from scratch. Richie cracks open the door and looks into the room.

RICHIE

Henry?

HENRY

Come in, Richie.

Richie comes into the room.

HENRY

Richie Tenenbaum, this is my son, Walter Sherman.

WALTER

Hello.

RICHIE

Nice to meet you, Walter.

Richie and Walter shake hands. Chas comes into the room.

RICHIE

This is my brother, Chas.

WALTER

Hello.

CHAS

(looks to Henry)

So you've been married before.

HENRY

Yes. I'm a widower.

CHAS

Oh, yeah. I forgot.

(pause)

You know, I'm a widower myself.

HENRY

I know you are, Chas.

## INT. ETHELINE'S BEDROOM. DAY

Margot looks out the window at the guests arriving on the street while Etheline finishes her make-up. Margot has a white plastic inhaler in her mouth.

ETHELINE

What are you chewing on?

MARGOT

My nicotine inhaler. It's supposed to help me quit.

ETHELINE

Is it working?

MARGOT

No.

ETHELINE

(pause)

How do I look?

Margot looks to Etheline. Margot smiles.

MARGOT

You look beautiful.

## EXT. STREET. DAY

Royal stands on the front steps. He looks down at Ari and Uzi tying Buckley's leash around a pole. He holds the door open for two elderly women.

ROYAL

Good afternoon, ladies.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Thank you.

Royal hears someone's tires squeal around the corner. He looks down the block. Eli's car whips through the turn onto Archer Avenue.

## INT. ELI'S CAR. DAY

Eli's face is covered with Apache war-paint. He is dressed in black tie. He wears a distracted smile. He downshifts and punches it.

A car door opens about fifty yards in front of him. He veers towards it and clips it, snapping off his side-mirror. He holds up a fist in the air. He sees a telephone booth on the

other side of the street. He swerves and taps it, snapping off his other side-mirror. He whistles strangely.

Eli sees the Tenenbaum house ahead. His eyes narrow. He steers toward the house. He floors it. He whispers:

ELI

Here I come.

Ari and Uzi appear on the sidewalk. Eli panics. He cranks the wheel. His car skids, hits the curb, and goes into a spin. Eli screams.

Ari and Uzi freeze and stare at the car sliding out of control directly at them. Royal jumps over the side of the steps, grabs Ari and Uzi, and dives over the railing with them. Buckley is still chained to the pole.

Eli's car smashes into a mailbox, runs over Buckley, and slams into the front of the Tenenbaum house. Eli is hurled from the car, through a window, into the house. Mail goes everywhere.

INT. ETHELINE'S ROOM. DAY

Etheline rushes over next to Margot at the window.

ETHELINE

What was that?

MARGOT

Eli just crashed his car into the front of the house.

ETHELINE

Oh, my God.

INT. STAIRWELL. DAY

Chas sprints down the stairs three at a time. He falls and bangs against the wall. He gets back up and keeps running.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Eli sits on the floor, barefoot, covered in glass and debris. He is bleeding from a head wound. Several guests help him stagger to his feet. They look alarmed at his appearance, particularly the war-paint.

ELI

Where are my shoes?

Dudley finds one of Eli's shoes in the fireplace. He hands it to Eli. Eli puts it on.

EXT. SIDEWALK. DAY

The wedding guests quickly begin to come out the front door and gather around the smashed car. Chas runs down the steps. He yells:

CHAS  
Where are you?

Royal stands up among the rubble, holding Ari under one arm and Uzi under the other. Chas runs over to them.

ROYAL  
They're OK, Chas.

Royal sets Ari and Uzi down. Chas grabs them. He examines them.

ROYAL  
It's OK. They're safe.

ARI  
Dad, they ran over Buckley.

CHAS  
They did?

Chas looks to Royal. Royal nods. He looks to the car.

ROYAL  
I think we lost Buckley.

Ari and Uzi start to cry. Eli appears in the broken front window of the house.

ELI  
Did I hit anybody?

Everyone looks to Eli.

ELI  
Is everybody OK?

Eli sees Chas staring at him. Eli hesitates. He darts away from the window. Chas bolts up the steps, banging his way through the crowd.

ROYAL  
Chas! Wait!

INT. HALLWAY. DAY

Chas bursts into the house. He screams:

CHAS

Eli!

The guests panic as Eli jumps over a couch, knocks over a chair, and ducks into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN. DAY

Pagoda looks up from a tray of canapés he is preparing. He does not appear to notice Eli's strange appearance and injuries. He holds out one of the canapés to him.

PAGODA

This is the quail's egg.

Eli takes it quickly. Chas smashes open the door. Eli body-checks him and breaks out of the room. They slam past the priest and knock him down the basement stairs. The wedding guests scream and yell and try to break it up or get away.

Eli slips out the back door and sprints into the garden.

EXT. BACKYARD. DAY

Eli runs to the back wall and tries the gate. It is locked. Chas tackles him hard. Chas grabs him by the arm, swings him around, and slams him against the wall. Eli yells. People rush into the backyard. Richie runs outside.

RICHIE

Chas! Don't!

Richie tries to pull Chas off Eli. Chas elbows Richie in the face. Richie falls backwards into the bushes. Chas picks up Eli and tries to throw him over the wall. Eli scratches and clutches.

ELI

Help! Please!

Chas yells insanely. He throws Eli over the wall.

Chas turns to look at everyone watching him. They look stunned. Chas breathes heavily. Richie sits up in the bushes. He has his hand over his eye.

RICHIE

Chas?

Chas hesitates. He climbs over the wall.

## EXT. NEIGHBOR'S YARD. DAY

Chas lands in the flower bed, next to Eli. Eli is stretched-out on his back. He and Chas look at each other. Chas lays down in the flower bed. He seems drained. It is very quiet. They both stare up at the sky.

ELI  
Did I hit the dog?

CHAS  
Yeah.

ELI  
(pause)  
Is he dead?

CHAS  
Yeah.

ELI  
(pause)  
I need help.

CHAS  
So do I.

Walter looks over the top of the wall, down at Chas and Eli. They look up at him. Walter looks back behind him and says to someone:

WALTER  
Go around to the other side!

## EXT. SIDEWALK. DAY

Henry and Royal run around the corner and up the steps of a neighbor's house. Royal knocks on the front door. They wait. Royal looks to Henry.

ROYAL  
I'm sorry, Henry. This is bullshit. It's  
a goddamn circus.

Henry smiles. He puts his arm around Royal's shoulder. Royal hugs him. The door opens. A small Asian woman in a kimono looks out at them.

ROYAL  
Can we get into your backyard, ma'am? We  
got a couple of boys out there.

EXT. SIDEWALK. DAY

Raleigh and two paramedics roll the priest on a gurney to the ambulance. Raleigh holds the priest's hand.

PARAMEDIC

I think he may've broken his ankle.

RALEIGH

That's not terribly serious, is it?

(to the priest)

Do you have an alternate?

The priest shakes his head.

EXT. SIDEWALK. DAY

There are two police cars, an ambulance, a tow truck, and a fire engine in front of the house. Eli is being questioned by a police officer. His war-paint is smeared, and there are several bandages on his head and arms. He looks very upset.

ELI

At which point I apparently lost control  
of the vehicle, smashed it into the  
house, and killed that poor dog.

The police officer studies Eli's driver's license.

POLICE OFFICER

You're Eli Cash.

ELI

(pause)

I am, indeed.

POLICE OFFICER

You wrote Old Custer and Wildcattin'.

ELI

(pause)

You know my work?

Royal stands among a group of firemen with a dalmatian.

ROYAL

I think he's part mutt. What kind of  
papers you got for him?

One of the firemen shrugs. Royal points at the dalmatian.

ROYAL

Sparkplug. Sit.

The dalmatian sits. Royal looks impressed.

Raleigh and Dudley stand next to each other wearing firemen's helmets. Dudley laughs crazily.

RALIEGH

What's so funny, Dudley?

DUDLEY

You look great!

Henry and Walter survey the scene from the smashed-out living room window. Walter points to the rubble.

WALTER

But these aren't structure-bearing elements, Dad.

HENRY

It doesn't matter. It's still best to file it under force majeure, and recoup the deductible.

Richie walks among the agitated wedding guests with his hand over his eye. He goes over to Margot. Margot looks concerned.

MARGOT

What happened?

RICHIE

Chas elbowed me in the face.

Richie takes his hand away from his eye. His eye is scratched badly and looks terrible. Margot frowns.

MARGOT

Can you see out of it?

Richie covers his good eye to test his bad eye. He nods.

Ari and Uzi try to look at Buckley under Eli's car as several firemen and tow truck drivers attach straps and chains to the wheels and axle. Etheline goes over to them.

ETHELIN

You boys come over here with me.

ARI

But Buckley's still under there.

ETHELIN

I know, but there's nothing we can do for him.

Etheline looks to Pagoda standing in the front door.

ETHELINE

Pagoda? Bring out some cake for Ari and Uzi.

Royal walks the dalmatian over to Chas.

ROYAL

I got you a new dog for the boys.

Chas looks at the dalmatian. He looks back to Royal.

CHAS

What's this?

ROYAL

I just bought him.

CHAS

You did?

ROYAL

Yeah.

(pause)

I'm sorry I let you down, Chas. All of you. I really am. I've been trying to make it up to you.

Silence. Chas nods. Royal holds out the leash. Chas takes it.

CHAS

What's his name?

ROYAL

(quietly)

Sparkplug.

CHAS

(pause)

Thank you.

ROYAL

You're welcome.

Chas suddenly starts crying. He stares at the ground.

CHAS

We've had a rough year, Dad.

ROYAL

I know you have, Chassie.

Royal puts his hand on Chas' head. Chas looks to Royal and takes a deep breath. He nods. Royal watches as Chas takes the dalmatian over to Ari and Uzi and talks to them quietly for a minute. Etheline stands beside them.

Uzi pets the dalmatian. Ari takes the leash. Etheline looks to Royal. She smiles. Pagoda comes down the steps with the wedding cake and sets it on top of a trash can.

CUT TO:

All of the wedding guests and firemen eating slices of the wedding cake. Everyone looks confused and disoriented. Royal stands next to Henry and Etheline at the top of the steps. He turns suddenly and addresses the entire party:

ROYAL

May I have your attention, please? Can I have your attention for a moment?

Everyone quiets down and looks to Royal.

ROYAL

I'm, obviously, not an ordained minister or a justice of the peace. Or even a licensed attorney, at this point. But since Father Petersen's on his way to the emergency room, and we already cut the wedding cake, I'd like to go ahead and try to do this, if I may.

A murmur goes through the crowd. Etheline looks to Royal curiously. Royal says to her:

ROYAL

Just stay with me.

(to the crowd)

We're here to celebrate the marriage of Henry Sherman and Etheline Tenenbaum.

Now, I married Etheline myself once, several years ago. And I lost her, for a number of reasons. And I guess you could say I lost everything, if you want to be heavy-handed about it. But I must say,

(to Etheline)

I'm glad to be here. I'm very happy for both of you.

Etheline and Henry smile, although they seem puzzled. Royal looks to Richie, Chas, and Margot standing together in the back of the room. Chas has his arm around Richie's shoulder. Richie has a black eye. Margot has her inhaler in her mouth.

ROYAL

Anyway.

(quickly)

Etheline, do you take Henry to be your husband, to have and to hold, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, from this day forward, as long as you both shall live?

ETHELINE

(laughing)

I do.

EXT. GARDEN. DAY

Ari, Uzi, and Chas watch Royal throw dirt onto a grave in the backyard. They have tears in their eyes. The dalmatian lies on the ground next to them.

NARRATOR

Royal dug a hole for Buckley behind the garden shed, and buried him in a canvas duffel bag.

Chas hands Royal a bottle of scotch, and Royal takes a drink.

ROYAL

All right, boys. Say a prayer.

Ari begins, with a jawbreaker in his mouth:

ARI

Dear Lord.

INT. OFFICE. DAY

Henry and Etheline stand side by side in front of a judge in a small office with green carpet and an exercise bicycle. Henry has his left hand raised and his right hand on a bible.

HENRY

So help me God.

The judge holds the bible out to Etheline. She puts her hand on it.

NARRATOR

Etheline and Henry were legally married forty-eight hours later, in judge's chambers.

## INT. THEATRE. NIGHT

A stage set for a play that appears to take place in a network of tree houses on a tropical island. A father introduces his daughter to a group of native tribesmen.

FATHER

This is my adopted daughter, Elaine  
Levinson.

The house is sold-out. Royal sits in the front row with the other Tenenbaums. He laughs quietly and shakes his head. The rest of the audience is silent.

NARRATOR

Margot's new play, The Levinsons in the  
Trees, was produced at the Cavendish  
Playhouse.

Margot watches from the back of the theatre with her inhaler  
in her mouth.

NARRATOR

It ran for just under two weeks and  
received mixed reviews.

## INT. AUDITORIUM. DAY

Brooks College. Raleigh and Dudley sit onstage at a table in  
front of an audience of students. Raleigh takes a question.

STUDENT

Can he tell time?

RALEIGH

Oh, my Lord, no.

Dudley shakes his head emphatically.

NARRATOR

Raleigh and Dudley went on a lecture tour  
to eleven universities in the promotion  
of their new book.

## INSERT:

A copy of Raleigh's new book, Dudley's World. On the dust  
jacket there is a yearbook photograph of Dudley with his  
Henry Aaron-style glasses flipped-up. His expression is  
almost impossibly blank.

EXT. HOSPITAL. DAY

A resort compound on the high plains. Eli practices with a lasso in front of several young addicts. He has stitches on his forehead.

NARRATOR

Eli checked himself into a rehabilitation hospital in North Dakota.

A tall, skinny, Native American man in his late forties walks over to Eli. He and Eli are dressed in matching deerskin jackets. Eli points to him.

ELI

This is my sponsor, Runs with Two Horses.

INT. 375th STREET Y. DAY

An indoor tennis court. Richie stands in the middle of a group of children dressed in tennis clothes. Ari and Uzi are among them. Richie demonstrates the continental style of grip to them. Richie has a white gauze patch taped over his eye.

RICHIE

Laver used it. You know who Laver is?

Uzi steps up to the service line on the other side of the court. He bounces a ball and gets ready to serve.

NARRATOR

Richie started a program teaching competitive tennis to eight to twelve-year-olds at the 375th Street Y.

Uzi hits a fast serve to Richie's forehand. Richie fires his return full-speed straight down the line. Uzi watches it race past him.

EXT. STREET. DAY

Royal, Chas, Ari, and Uzi ride on the back of a speeding garbage truck. They are all laughing.

NARRATOR

Royal had a heart attack at the age of sixty-eight.

INT. AMBULANCE. DAY

Royal is strapped onto a gurney with tubes sticking out of his arms and an oxygen mask on his face. Chas sits beside

him, holding his hand. The ambulance races full-speed up the wrong side of the street.

NARRATOR

Chas rode with him in the ambulance, and was the only witness to his father's death.

Royal appears to be smiling underneath his oxygen mask. He looks up at Chas. Chas puts his hand on Royal's cheek. Royal closes his eyes.

NARRATOR

In his will, he stipulated that his funeral take place at dusk.

INSERT:

Page 258 of The Royal Tenenbaums. It says Epilogue.

EXT. CEMETERY. DAY

Snow falls lightly, and the sky is getting dark. Everyone in the family is gathered around as Chas, Richie, Henry, Raleigh, Eli, and Pagoda lower the casket. They are all bundled-up in coats and scarves. They step away from the grave.

Henry stands next to Etheline. She takes his arm. Pagoda wears Royal's sunglasses. Tears stream down his face. Margot has her arm around Raleigh's shoulder. She smokes a cigarette. Richie stands next to Eli. He throws a white flower into the grave. The priest is on crutches.

Chas looks to Ari and Uzi standing a few yards away. He nods. Ari and Uzi fire several shots into the air with Chas' and Royal's old B.B. guns.

Royal's gravestone sits in a wheelbarrow next to a pile of dirt. It reads Royal O'Reilly Tenenbaum (1932-2001). Epitaph: Died tragically rescuing his family from the wreckage of a destroyed sinking battleship. The priest reads this and frowns.

They all stand at the grave in silence for a minute before they turn away and walk to their waiting cars.