

!THREE AMIGOS!

Screenplay by

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Lorne Michaels
Randy Newman

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Property of:
Orion Pictures

cabs11

!THREE AMIGOS!

EXT. MEXICAN VILLAGE - DUSK

We are in the small Mexican village of Santo Poco. It is a town farming town of quiet, if humble, beauty. Green trees shade a fountain in the center of the square. Vines climb the walls of the sun-bleached casas. There is a church, a cantina, a granary, and at the edge of town, a corral, in which the few cattle the town possesses are standing. Fields of grain extend outward to the surrounding desert, and in the distance we see the foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

SUPER: Mexico, 1916.

Through a series of cuts, we establish the life of the village:

-- Some of the men of the town work late in the fields as the sun sets behind them.

-- two small boys drive an ox-drawn cart laden with corn out of the fields and into the town.

-- the old women of the village are milling grain at the millstone.

-- Villagers in a thached covered area sit bent over foot-powered sewing machines making serapes.

INT. SANCHEZ HOUSE - DUSK

ss Father
THE SANCHEZ FAMILY is seated at the dinner table. FATHER is at the head of the table. To his right sits RODRIGO his fourteen year old son. Across from Rodrigo is his

Father Sanchez's (Co star) nice featured role

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late
40s, early
50s

(CONTINUED)

Rodriguez's
sister

(female lead)

strong &
beautiful

(nice
featured
role)

sister, the beautiful CARMEN, twenty-three years old. MAMA SANCHEZ approaches the table with a steaming bowl of rice and beans, puts it before her husband, and takes her place opposite him at the table. The family bow their heads in silent prayer. We are TIGHT ON THE FACE OF CARMEN, when suddenly, hearing something, she looks up with an expression of concern.

she
sends
the 3

EXT. MEXICAN VILLAGE - DUSK -

amigos a
telegram asking
them to
come to
her village
to help
them

The peasants working in the fields, look nervously toward the hills. In the distance they see a CLOUD OF DUST rising up from the floor of the desert.

ANGLE ON

the two boys driving the ox-cart. They stop suddenly and listen to the distant sound of the hoofbeats.

ANGLE ON

the women at the millstone. Fear in their eyes, they stop work and head home.

fight off
the evil

INT. SANCHEZ HOUSE - DUSK

El Guapo

Louder now, we can hear the sound of THUNDERING HOOFB-EATS. The family is moving quickly, hiding blankets, putting food away. MAMA SANCHEZ crosses herself before a crucifix.

EXT. VILLAGE - DUSK

The town is now alive with activity. The children are HUSTLED inside. Those of the animals that can be, are swooped up and carried inside the homes of their owners. The CATTLE are taken from their corral and driven INTO THE CANTINA. The peasants still in the fields run toward the village. The doors and windows are SHUTTERED AND BARRED.

EXT. PLAINS - DUSK

Outside the village, we see FIFTY ARMED HORSEMEN heading through the empty fields toward the town. Their rifles poke into the sky as they ride. Leather straps filled with bullets criss-cross their chests.

EXT. VILLAGE - DUSK

The streets of the town are silent and empty as the last door is locked and the last bolt is turned. The bandidos ride into town and assemble in the square. Dramatically,

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a mexican bandit

into the frame rides EL GUAPO, the leader of the band-
idos. He coldly surveys the empty, boarded-up town. He
gestures in the direction of the granary. A few of his
men quickly dismount and break down its doors. They
return with six or seven BAGS OF GRAIN which they throw
on the backs of their horses. El Guapo pauses a moment,
raises his rifle, and fires a shot at the bell in the
church tower. It reverberates loudly. As the sound dies
away, he speaks:

he controls the village

EL GUAPO
(to the villagers)
Buenos tardes, Senors and
Senoras. How nice of you to
welcome me once again to Santo
Poco.

Carmen & her family

(then)
Jefe!

live in -

We see JEFE, El Guapo's obsequious second in command.

He is a mean &

JEFE (Caster)
Yes, El Guapo.

brutal

EL GUAPO
Jefe, maybe they do not know we
are here.

killer

JEFE
El Guapo, that cannot be. We
made so much noise. Maybe they
are hiding in their houses.

(Lead)

EL GUAPO
Hiding from El Guapo? But why?
They must know that I mean them
no harm.

(then)
Jefe, bring them to me.

He motions to Jefe, who, along with several other bandi-
dos, dismounts. With their rifle butts, they break down
the doors of the houses, and HERD the frightened villag-
ers into the square.

EL GUAPO
(to villagers)
My friends. It is good to see
you again!
(to Father Sanchez)
Old man, you remember me?

FATHER SANCHEZ
Yes, El Guapo.

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(CONTINUED)

EL GUAPO

You have so little to offer me.
This will not do. You know how
much I have always depended upon
your generosity. Even the
clothes I wear were made by the
women of your village. And the
quality of your weaving is the
best in all of Mexico.

FATHER SANCHEZ

El Guapo, last years harvest was
very poor. We have had barely
enough for ourselves. It has
been...

JEFE

He lies El Guapo. Let me kill
him.

EL GUAPO

Jefe, Jefe. We are not animals.
We do not kill people for no
reason.

JEFE

Sometimes we do, El Guapo.

EL GUAPO

Please forgive him, he is so
excitable.

(back to Jefe)

Continue, old man.

El Guapo slowly rides up to Father Sanchez. He looks
again for a moment at Carmen.

FATHER SANCHEZ

This year will be a good har-
vest. And when it is in, we
will be happy to share with you
what we can spare.

El Guapo glares down at Father Sanchez.

EL GUAPO

What you can spare? What you
can spare?

He grabs Father Sanchez and lifts him up so they are face
to face.

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EL GUAPO

(continuing)

Can you spare the lives of your children? Of your women? What you can spare, old man? When the moon is full, we will return. Fatten your cattle and gather your crops, and pray that the harvest is good. Vamanos, muchachos!

He pushes Father Sanchez aside, and rides with his men out of town. Father Sanchez is caught among the horsemen and is KNOCKED BRUTALLY to the ground. RODRIGO, CARMEN AND MAMA SANCHEZ rush to their father's side and kneel beside him. He is helped to his feet and, assisted by Rodrigo and Carmen, walks slowly to his house. The crowd disperses, except for a few men who linger in the street, surveying the damage.

INT. SANCHEZ HOME - DUSK

They enter the house. Father is helped to his chair by Rodrigo. Carmen approaches with a glass of water which her father refuses.

CARMEN

Father...

Fatehr Sanchez, humiliated by what has happened, averts his eyes. Rodrigo is unable to watch. With tears in his eyes, he rushes outside.

EXT. STREET - DUSK

~~We see the men who remain in the street. Among them are~~

CARLOS AND PEDRO. -

villagers who share Carmen's

CARLOS

This time he will leave us with nothing.

hatred for

PEDRO

At least he will leave us our lives.

El Guapo

CARLOS

Yes. So that we can plant another crop for him next spring.

(small featured roles)

Rodrigo comes up to the men.

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(CONTINUED)

RODRIGO

Cowards! Did you not see? They almost killed my father. Why did you not stand beside him? You have guns, why do you not use them.

CARLOS

Yes, we have guns, Rodrigo. And we can use them. But not like El Guapo and his men.

RODRIGO

Then we must find men who can teach us to fight.

PEDRO

Rodrigo, you are very young. You do not understand. Our life has always been this way, and it always will be. We are farmers.

Carmen appears from the house.

CARMEN

Rodrigo is right. We must find men who can protect us.

CARLOS

And with what would we pay these men?

Carmen puts her arm around her younger brother.

CARMEN

We will find a way. We have no choice.

EXT. BORDER TOWN - DAY

We are in the town of DIABLO. It is a good deal larger than Santo Poco, and considerably more up to date. There is a telegraph office, a boarding house, a livery stable, and, about a mile from town, a train depot. The main street is dominated by a sleazy, honky-tonk bar. Carmen and Rodrigo ride down the street on a horse. Clearly, they have never been out of their little village before, and they are amazed by what they see. An AUTOMOBILE clanks by.

INT. BORDER TOWN BAR - DAY

Carmen and Rodrigo dismount and tie up their horse. They watch as several desperados enter the bar.

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RODRIGO

We will find the men we need in there.

INT. BORDER TOWN BAR - DAY

As Rodrigo and Carmen enter, activity stops, and ALL HEADS TURN TOWARDS THEM. We see a frighten tableau of the worst collection of gunfighters and desperados ever assembled in one room. Rodrigo and Carmen back out of the bar.

EXT. BAR - DAY

They stand outside the bar.

RODRIGO

Carmen, this is no place for you. I will go in myself. You wait here.

Rodrigo enters the bar. Carmen sits on a bench and watches as a car goes by. She sees a crowd of people entering a building next to the bar. The sound of a pipe organ emanates from the building. Rodrigo comes out of the bar.

RODRIGO

Carmen there are very bad men in there. They are no better than El Guapo. They will not help us. No one will help us.

CARMEN

Rodrigo, you must have faith. The holy mother will help us. Come.

She hears the sound of the organ and they join the crowd of townspeople entering the building next to the bar.

INT. CINEMA - DAY

She enters, Rodrigo following. The cinema is crowded. Above the screen is a small crucifix.

CARMEN

This is not a church.

With the organist playing in the background, she sees a title appear on the screen: THE THREE AMIGOS, and the movie begins.

-- Three horsemen, grinning into camera, ride in the Mexican countryside. They are wearing tight, black pants studded with conchos. On their heads are big sombreros.

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INTERCUT: Carmen's face, amazement.

BACK TO MOVIE

ART CARD: WE ARE THE THREE AMIGOS!

-- A wide shot of The Three Amigos.

ART CARD: WE RIDE!

-- Close-up of NED NEDERLANDER.

ART CARD: WE FIGHT!

-- Close-up of LESTER.

ART CARD: WE LOVE!

-- Close-up of LUCKY DAY.

ART CARD: BUT IN THE VILLAGE THERE IS TROUBLE

-- We see raiders, not unlike El Guapo and his men, boss because tormenting a village.

-- Close-up of the tortured face of a young woman. they demand

ART CARD: ONLY ONE THING CAN SAVE US NOW, THE THREE AMIGOS! to do import

-- Back to the young woman, her face suddenly alive with ant pictures hope.

-- The Amigos, in the same shot as before, riding challenge toward the village.

-- The bandido, with the young woman in his arms, looks their acting up toward the horizon. A look of fear crosses his face. skills.

ART CARD: OH NO! IT IS THE THREE AMIGOS! They

-- Same shot of the Amigos on horses, this time with jump at Carmen their guns blazing. offer of

-- Shot of the bandit leader. \$100,000 pesos

ART CARD: YOU WILL DIE LIKE DOGS, AMIGOS! to confront El

-- Shot of NED answering back. appear with

ART CARD: NO, WE WILL NOT DIE LIKE DOGS, WE WILL FIGHT Guapo who they LIKE LIONS! believe

is a famous
mexican star
appear with them in a movie that will
(CONTINUED)

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-- The Amigos ride into town. Four of the bandidos run, only to be lassoed IN ONE TOSS by LUCKY.

-- LESTER throws his knife. A bandido is pinned to a door, and struggles to free himself.

-- NED, draws his guns INCREDIBLY FAST, JUGGLES THEM, and fires repeatedly, shooting the pistoles out of three of the bandidos hands.

-- The rest of the bandidos mount their horses and flee.

-- An old man and the beautiful young girl approach the Amigos as the villagers look on. The old man offers up a sack of gold.

ART CARD: HERE IS THE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS WE PROMISED YOU.

-- NED takes the money, looks to LUCKY AND LESTER, then with a grin, gallantly tosses the gold back to the old man.

ART CARD: OUR PAY IS THAT JUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE!

-- LUCKY DAY reaches down and kisses the beautiful girl. She looks up at him, her face flushed with feeling. Lucky turns into the light, and we see a PROFILE OF LUCKY DAY. Posing nobly, its a shot that seems to go on forever.

ART CARD: LET US GIVE THE AMIGO SALUTE!

-- The Amigo salute: They cross their chests with their hands and then put them on their hips in a rhythmic one, two, three. They ride off into the sunset as the townspeople show their gratitude.

INT. MAKESHIFT CINEMA - DAY

The flicker of the film dies down on Carmen's face. The people begin to file out of the Cinema. She is utterly enraptured with the Amigos. Rodrigo, equally enchanted, stares at the blank screen.

CARMEN

Rodrigo, I did not know such men existed!

RODRIGO

With three men like that, El Guapo would not dare to enter our village.

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(CONTINUED)

CARMEN

We must let them know we need
them....

She looks over and sees the poster for "The Three Amigos." She walks up to the poster and she sees written at the bottom, "Goldsmith Pictures, Hollywood, California"

INT. TELEGRAPH OFFICE - DAY

Carmen is dictating a telegram to a dapper telegrapher.
He is nicely soused.

CARMEN

...The Three Amigos, Goldsmith
Pictures, Hollywood, California.

TELEGRAPHER

(writing, drunk)

Hah...me....goes...

RODRIGO

I still say we should go there.

CARMEN

No, Rodrigo. There is no time.
(to the telegrapher)

"We have seen your deeds and
think you are very great. We
can pay you one hundred thousand
pesos..."

RODRIGO

(interrupting)

A hundred thousand pesos!
Carmen, we do not have one
hundred thousand pesos. There
is not that much money in all of
Mexico!

CARMEN

Don't worry, Rodrigo. They will
refuse it. But it would be an
insult not to offer it to them.

TELEGRAPHER

...one hundred thousand pesos...

CARMEN

...one hundred thousand pesos if
you come to Santo Poco and put
on a show of your strength, and
stop the...the...the...

She searches for a word. Rodrigo supplies her:

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

RODRIGO
...evil, murdering...

CARMEN
...villianous El Guapo, so that
once again we can be a peaceful
village.

TELEGRAPHER
That'll be twenty-three pesos.

Carmen and Rodrigo exchange looks.

CARMEN
We have only ten pesos.

TELEGRAPHER
I'll give you the ten peso
version.

They dump their last pesos on the desk. They watch as
the telegrapher crosses out a number of words, stumbles
over to the key and sends the message.

TELEGRAPHER
(sending the message)
...You are very great. One
hundred thousand pesos to come
Santo Poco, put on show, stop
the...

He stops for a moment, looking at the message, then he
makes a substitution.

TELEGRAPHER
(continuing, to Carmen)
I'll put "infamous" El Guapo.

CARMEN
Infamous?

TELEGRAPER
It means murderous...evil...like
all you said. It'll save you
money.

CARMEN
Thank you.

Carmen and Rodrigo leave the telegraph office.

EXT. TELEGRAPH OFFICE - DAY

They stand outside the office.

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(CONTINUED)

CARMEN

Now we can only hope that they will come.

RODRIGO

They are probably very busy. There is so much injustice in the world.

CARMEN

They will come, Rodrigo. They have to come. These men are our only hope.

They sit outside, staring through the glass at the telegraph key, as the telegrapher sends their message.

INT. MANSION - MORNING

SUPER: HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

We are inside an elaborate Hollywood mansion. An excess of vulgar overblown furniture fills the foyer and a sweeping staircase dominates the entry. Several servants pass, including KATRINA the maid. James, the butler, he works dressed in a formal cutaway, climbs the stairs. He knocks successively on each of the three doors. for she works for the 3 Amigos

BUTLER

(at each door) in their mansion provided Forty minutes to your meeting with Mr. Flugleman. Breakfast by their studio in five minutes.

MUSIC BEGINS.

RANDY NEWMAN

(sung voice over)

LYRICS TO COME. ("THE GOOD LIFE" or "HAPPY HERE IN HOLLYWOOD, etc.)

(small roles)

The THREE AMIGOS EMERGE from their respective rooms. They are dressed to the nines, very much the Hollywood stars. Their cashmere jackets set off perfectly their beautifully starched shirts and ties. LESTER wears a glamorous hairdo, his hair waving back over his head in tight, beautiful curls. They troop down the steps, each of them attracted by a large mirror at the foot of the stairs. They stop and primp endlessly at the mirror. Lucky keeps looking at his profile; Ned checks his wardrobe, and Lester puts grotesque amounts of HAIR POMADE on his head.

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(CONTINUED)

RANDY NEWMAN
LYRICS TO COME

The song ends. The Amigos continue to primp.

LESTER

What do you think Mr. Flugleman wants to see us about?

NED

I'll tell you one thing he's going to see us about. I want to do more "real acting" in the pictures. I want to play anger, I want to play romance, I want to play rage.

LESTER

Let me ask you something. I know my hair looks good, but does it look great?

NED AND LUCKY

It looks very good, Lester.

LUCKY

Just let me do the talking in there today. See, Flugleman fears me. He knows I'm a guy who takes what he wants, when he wants it, where he wants it, why he wants it and who he wants it.

LESTER

Huh?

LUCKY

Just don't worry about it. I know what I'm talking about.

NED

I think he'd like to hear what I have to say. After all there's only one Amigo who seems to be bringing the women into the theatre...

LUCKY

Oh sure, you bring the women into the theatre. And that's why I'm known as "The Profile?"

LESTER

You're the only one who calls you "The Profile," Lucky. You made that up.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

So? It's a thing...it's working for me. You call yourself "The Profile" long enough, pretty soon somebody else does, then everybody is....

From the dining room, a FIFTEEN YEAR OLD BOY emerges. He is WILD-EYED and very hyper. He carries a can of floor wax in one hand and a polishing cloth in the other and approaches JAMES the butler. The Amigos continue their primping.

BUTLER

Did you finishing waxing the floor?

BOY

(slightly crazed)

Yes, I've been waxing since six-thirty this morning. Can I have my Mrs. Weems now?

BUTLER

Let's check the floor first.

They go over to the dining room. There is a HIGHLY POLISHED MARBLE FLOOR. Without stepping on it, the boy picks up a TWENTY POUND CURLING STONE. He puts it on the floor. It SLIDES across the floor as though it were made of ice.

JAMES

Good work. You can have your Mrs. Weems.

He takes out a bottle of old-fashioned cure-all. The boy takes a swig and becomes curiously alert.

BOY

Can I polish some more, James?

James nods yes and the boy retreats into the dining room, polishing furiously. Lucky calls to James.

LUCKY

James, what's going on?

JAMES

Well, Billy seems to work better if I just give him a swig of Mrs. Weems every once in a while.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

James! Do you know what you're doing? There's alcohol in those things. You're getting him drunk!

JAMES

Oh no. I checked the label. There no alcohol in here at all. I was very cautious about that, sir.

Lucky takes the bottle and reads the label.

LUCKY

(reading)

Hmmm. Water, Cod Liver Oil, Mandrake root, Cocaine, Eucalyptus, Sorghum. No, everything's fine. Sorry James.

Katrina enters from the kitchen.

KATRINA

Breakfast is served.

INT. DINING ROOM - MORNING

We see the Amigos enter the dining room. They SLIDE AND SLIP across the intensely waxed floor to their seats.

AMIGOS

Ho....!

[Technical note: We will put roller skates on the Amigos and shoot them from the knees up, replacing the skate sounds with footsteps.]

The Amigos finally make it to their seats. In the background, THE BOY polishes furiously.

LESTER

(to boy)

Very good job.

NED

Excellent.

One of the servants enters the dining room carrying a tray full of food. He SLIPS AND SLIDES his way over to the table barely making it. He puts the food down at each plate, SLIDING around the floor all through the next conversation.

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(CONTINUED)

LESTER

So what are you going talk to Flugleman about?

LUCKY

A little thing called "more."

LESTER

Gee, Lucky. The studio's been pretty good to us. They let us use this house, they give us clothes...

LUCKY

What about money Lester? You notice your pockets filling up with money?

NED

They said they'd pay us more when our movies made money.

LUCKY

Look. Our movies do not have to make money. Our movies are artistic...

NED

True....

LUCKY

You have to pay for artistic.

LESTER

You sure about this Lucky?

LUCKY

Am I sure about it? Look, I'm the guy who created the Three Amigos, remember? Remember backstage at the Grease-It-Up Club, we couldn't get arrested as individuals and I looked at us, three out of work magician's assistants and said..."the three....the three..."

NED

Lester said "Amigos."

LUCKY

Yeah, but I said the "three" part. That's a very major part. Excuse me, I have to go to the kitchen.

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(CONTINUED)

He gets up and goes in the kitchen. SLIPPING AND SLIDING all the way.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

KATRINA and A CHAUFFEUR are locked in a passionate embrace. When the off balance Lucky bursts through the door, they separate quickly and he exits. Lucky walks over to Katrina. He kisses her and PUTS HIS HANDS ON HER BREASTS.

LUCKY

Katrina, last night was....

KATRINA

Yes, yes. It was.

LUCKY

Same time tonight? 11:30?

KATRINA

Yes, tonight. I love you.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Ned rises.

NED

I'll see what's keeping Lucky.

He SLIPS AND SLIDES to the kitchen door.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ned enters. They separate quickly. Lucky quickly covers.

LUCKY

...And a little less salt on my morning omelette.

KATRINA

Of course.

He exits, leaving Ned alone with Katrina. Ned walks over to her and puts HIS HANDS ON HER BREASTS.

NED

Last night...

KATRINA

Incredible.

NED

Same time tonight? One a.m.?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

KATRINA

Yes...

NED

Tonight it's your turn.

Katrina is very pleased at this.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Lucky comes back to the table, sliding all the way.
Lester gets up to go to the kitchen.

LESTER

Excuse me, Lucky.

Then, Lester enters from the foyer. Ned and Katrina break suddenly. Ned covers.

NED

(faking anger)
...and my shirts should be
cleaner, brighter and less
starch!

KATRINA

Yes sir.

Ned exits. Lester is alone with Katrina. He walks over to her and puts his hands on her breasts.

LESTER

Hmmm. They are still warm from
last night.

KATRINA

Only for you.

LESTER

Same time? Three-thirty?

KATRINA

Can we make it four?

LESTER

I'll be waiting.

A butler appears at the door. The two separate quickly.

BUTLER

The studio car is here for you.

EXT. MANSION - DAY

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Servants line up to say goodbye. The Amigos march out and enter their car.

EXT. STUDIO - DAY

We see the exterior of Goldsmith Studios. There is a billboard out front with the Three Amigo wearing tuxedos and top hats. The billboard reads, "Those Darn Amigos, featuring Miss Rene."

INT. FLUGLEMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

The studio head's office. It is a bustling command center. There are two other assistants, including MORTY and SAM. One stands beside him, the other on the phone.

FLUGLEMAN
Streamlining! That's the word today.

MORTY
Streamlining, Mr. Flugleman?

SAM
(into phone)
...streamlining. We're talking about streamlining here.

FLUGLEMAN
Those guys in New York think we sit around all day pulling our puds. They think I don't know how to run a studio? They think I don't know how to trim our sails? How to separate the wheat from the chaff?

Throughout, in the background, Sam is on the phone giving orders to streamline.

FLUGLEMAN
Streamline the art department.
Streamline the legal department.
Hell, streamline everything!

EXT. STUDIO - DAY

The Amigo's limo stops at the studio gate. There is a group of fans surrounding the car. The Amigos and the chauffeur exit the car. The fans run up to the DRIVER and ask for his autograph. The Amigos enter the studio.

INT. FLUGLEMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

The tirade continues.

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(small roles)
↓
They are Flugleman's assistants
president of Goldsmith Studios.
(featured role)
He fires the 3 Amigos when they demand better scripts

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FLUGLEMAN

Goldsmith studio is going to make people movies, Morty. Movies about people, made by people with people in them that people want to see.

MORTY

Makes a lot of sense, Mr. Flugleman.

SAM

(to phone)

...more people movies.

Flugleman's secretary NANCY enters.

NANCY

They just called from the gate sir. The Three Amigos are on their way up to see you. *(small role)*

FLUGLEMAN

We'll just be a minute, have them wait. Morty, what are we doing with the Three Amigos?

MORTY

Sandy and Irving are working on something where the Three Amigos meet Cochise.

FLUGLEMAN

Uh huh. Their last picture ...uh...

MORTY

"Those Darn Amigos."

FLUGLEMAN

That was a big mistake. Too sophisticated. Not enough of a people picture. Miss Rene was swell in it, don't you think, Morty?

MORTY

Best thing in the picture.

FLUGLEMAN

(drifting away)

She's a beautiful woman, Morty.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

MORTY

She really is, Mr. Flugleman.

FLUGLEMAN

She's going to be a big star.

MORTY

I'm sure of it.

FLUGLEMAN

You know Morty, the studio has a lot of money tied up in Miss Rene.

MORTY

She's worth every penny of it.

FLUGLEMAN

(snapping back to reality)

Morty, we got to watch the budget on this Cochise picture. This movie is the Amigos' last chance.

MORTY

We've already streamlined it. We're gonna take the boys down to Baja, and shoot the picture in eight days.

FLUGLEMAN

Great. Streamlining. That's the ticket, Morty.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

It's Flugleman's outer office. His secretary, NANCY, sits behind a desk as the Amigos enter.

LUCKY

Tell Harry the Amigos are here, sweetheart.

NANCY

Harry? Oh, you mean Mister Flugleman. He'll be with you in a moment. By the way, I've got some fan mail for you...

She hands Lucky a small stack of mail.

NED

Any for me back there, Nancy?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NANCY

Yes, Mr. Nederlander.

She hands Ned a stack too. She then pulls out an enormous stack of mail.

NANCY

And this is for you, Lester.

LESTER

(handed a big stack)
Well, Mr. Profile and Mr. "real acting," it looks like I've got the "it." The magic. The stuff that money can't buy. The public has spoken.

Lucky and Ned glare furiously at Lester.

NANCY

...and this telegram came for the Amigos.

She hands it to Lester. He starts to open it, but the office door opens and Morty calls to the Amigos.

MORTY

Mr. Flugleman can see you now.

LUCKY

And we can see Mr. Flugleman.
(then, to the Amigos)
Remember, let me do the talking.

They enter the office.

INT. FLUGLEMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

The Amigos walk confidently into the room.

LUCKY

Hello, Mr. F. Morty, Sam. Long time, no see.

FLUGLEMAN

Alright boys. Let's get down to business. Your last picture... uh...

MORTY

(jumping in)
"Those Darn Amigos..."

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

FLUGLEMAN

"Those Darn Amigos..." was not a success at the box office. We've got to get back to basics. "Shootin' for Love," "Wanderers of the West," "The Ride of the Three Amigos,"-- all the great Amigo pictures had one thing in common. Wealthy Spanish landowners who fight for the rights of peasants. It's a story a nation can sink their teeth into. We were building up an audience for you. Then came, "Those Darn Amigos" nobody went to see it because nobody cares about three wealthy Spanish landowners on a weekend in Manhattan! We strayed from the formula and we paid the price.

NED

I thought we, the Amigos, were quite good in it, but unfortunately we were forced to play second fiddle to that French cow.

FLUGLEMAN

Are you speaking about Miss Rene?

NED

Yeah. The "oops" girl.

Lester and Ned laugh.

SAM

Tell the boys about the Cochise picture, Morty.

MORTY

Sandy and Irving are working on it right now. You meet Cochise. At first you think he's a terrible guy. You fight, then you get to know him, you come to respect each other and at the end of the picture, you're friends.

HARRY

We send you boys down to Baja and we shoot the picture in eight days.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

Lucky looks over at the other two, then steps forward.

LUCKY
That'll be the day.

FLUGLEMAN
What did he say?

MORTY
He said, "That'll be the day,"
chief.

FLUGLEMAN
What?

LUCKY
I don't think you understand who
you're talking to here. We've
got a few items to straighten
out first or there might three
guys who don't really feel much
like making a Geronimo picture.

FLUGLEMAN
What the hell are you talking
about?

NED
Lucky, I think we ought to back
off.

LUCKY
(dauntless)
What we're talking about is more
"real acting" moments for Ned,
where he can show his range.
And we're talking about money.
No dough, no show, Flugie.

Flugleman's face starts to contort. Lucky winks at the
other Amigos.

LUCKY
Plus, I see a new type of movie
for the Amigos. No more of
these "people" type movies...

FLUGLEMAN
Boys, boys. Let me just say one
thing.

(screams)
IT'LL BE A COLD DAY IN HELL
BEFORE HARRY FLUGLEMAN LETS AN
ACTOR TELL HIM WHAT TO DO!

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

FLUGLEMAN

(continuing)

You know what the word nada means? In all those Mexican movies you made did you ever hear that word?

LESTER

Isn't it a light chicken gravy?

FLUGLEMAN

It means NOTHING! Zero..Zip!
It's what you're going to have when I'm through with you. You hit Harry Flugleman on a bad day.

LESTER

I'd like to continue to work for free, Mr. Flugleman.

FLUGLEMAN

Are you living in the studio mansion?

LUCKY

Yeah...

FLUGLEMAN

Well not any more your not!
Morty, move Miss Rene into the studio mansion.

SAM

(into phone)

The Amigos are out of the mansion. Miss Rene is in.

LESTER

Out of the mansion?

MORTY

They have cars and drivers too Mr. Flugleman.

LUCKY

You stay out of this.

FLUGLEMAN

Get rid of their cars.

SAM

No more cars for the Amigos.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

FLUGLEMAN

Where'd you get those coats?
From a movie?

LUCKY

Yeah, the studio gave them to
us. "Those Darn Amigos."

FLUGLEMAN

Well, we're taking them back.
Sam...

SAM

Gotcha Mr. Flugleman.
(into phone)
Get wardrobe over here, right
away. Take the Amigos' coats.

LESTER

Wait a minute, you can't take
our coats. You gave us these
coats. I love this coat.

At that moment, six WARDROBE PEOPLE come in the office
and in a flurry of activity, start removing the Amigos'
fancy coats, leaving them with only pants and shirts.

LUCKY

Hey, hang on here a second. I
think you misread who you're
talking to.

FLUGLEMAN

Misre...Get the guards. I want
"That'll be the day," and his
friends off my lot! Your asses
have just been streamlined. The
Three Amigos are history!

Sam presses a button under the desk. Six studio guards
enter the office and amidst a volley of protestation,
the Amigos are hustled out of the office.

EXT. FLUGLEMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

The Amigos exit the building still being given the bum's
rush by the guards. The Amigos are yelling at one
another.

NED

You had to do it! You had to
say it! You had to tell Flug-
leman how to make movies.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

He doesn't mean this. It's a ploy. He knows I know movies. You guys don't understand the business.

NED

I don't understand the business? I've been in the business since I was three! You're a profile all right. A profile in stupidity.

LUCKY

He's negotiating. He's negotiating.

LESTER

Well, he's doing a damn fine job of it!

LUCKY

He's good. He's real good.

NED

This is all your fault!

LUCKY

My fault? You're the one who called Flugleman's girlfriend a cow.

NED

Flugleman's girlfriend? Since when is Miss Rene Flugleman's girlfriend?

LUCKY

Since that twenty minutes between scenes 4 and 5 on "Those Darn Amigos."

LESTER

Is that what they were doing?

NED

We've lost our house, our cars, our clothes! At least I have Katrina...

LUCKY

What do you mean, you have Katrina? I have Katrina!

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LESTER
I have Katrina...

NED
(to Lester)
You don't have Katrina.
(to Lucky)
You don't have Katrina... I have Katrina.

LUCKY
I have a feeling none of us has Katrina.

LESTER
So this is what being dead is like.

They get to the gate and the six guards throw them out, right on their wazoos.

GUARD
(to guard at gate)
Mr. Flugleman said not to let them back in for anything.

EXT. STUDIO - DAY

They stand there looking angrily at one another. They look up and see the Three Amigos poster being papered over with a new Miss Rene poster. Ned turns to Lucky.

NED
Lucky Day, you are out of my life forever.

He storms off. Lester and Lucky watch him go. They are left alone in front of the studio.

LESTER
God, Lucky. What are we going to do?

(sobbing)
I loved being a movie star! I'm so good at it. It's the only thing I know. Fast cars, beautiful women, expensive restaurant, someone to do my hair! They gave me this special hair goo at the studio. I don't even know where to get it!

(suddenly calm)
Ok, here's my plan. We go back to Flugleman, throw ourselves at his feet and beg him to take us back.

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

The three Amigos begging?
Lester, we never begged in our
lives.

LESTER

I'm not talking about a lot of
begging. A little begging.
Hardly noticable. It's not
really begging if you just beg a
little.

LUCKY

Lester, you know me. Try to
picture me begging. I've always
been the leader of the Three
Amigos, even though right now my
men despise me. How would you
like to see your leader begging?

LESTER

All right. So we go to another
studio. There's plenty of
studios that would want the
three Amigos.

LUCKY

We can't. We're under contract
to Flugleman.

LESTER

Well if we're under contract to
him, he's got to pay us then!

LUCKY

No. He's only got to pay us if
he uses us.

LESTER

He only got to pay us if he uses
us, he doesn't want to use us,
and we can't go anywhere else.
Who negotiated that deal?

LUCKY

(contrite)

Seemed like a good deal at the
time.

LESTER

Lucky...

(suddenly screaming)

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO FOR
FOOD?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY
Lester, you know me. What am I?

LESTER
Huh?

LUCKY
What did I call myself before I came up with the "Mr. Profile" thing?

LESTER
Oh yeah. You're a renegade maverick.

LUCKY
What kind of a renegade maverick?

LESTER
Uh...a renegade maverick...who cares.

LUCKY
That's right. A renegade maverick who cares about his men. So just let me think about this. We need a plan. A classic Lucky Day plan. A big plan. A good plan. The kind of plan that makes all other plans seem like...uh...

LESTER
Not plans?

LUCKY
That's right. Excuse me.

Lucky gets up and walks away. He thinks. Lester, in the background, discovers the TELEGRAM in his pocket. He opens it and casually reads it.

ANGLE ON LUCKY

LUCKY
Maybe we could hunt frogs in the bayou...
(silence)
Lester?

He turns and sees Lester passed out of the sidewalk. The telegram is in his hand. Lucky runs over to him and slaps him to. Lester indicates the telegram. Lucky reads it.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

...A hundred thousand pesos.

LESTER

That's a lot of money, isn't it?

LUCKY

A hundred thousand is a lot of anything.

LESTER

Who's this El Guapo guy?

LUCKY

I don't know. Must be some big actor down there. El Guapo...El Guapo...oh yeah. I think I've heard of him.

LESTER

Yeah. The name's familiar. Kind of. What's in-famous mean?

LUCKY

It means he's more than famous. He's in-famous. It's like immortal. He's not mortal, he's immortal.

LESTER

This could be our way back. With that kind of money, we could buy out of our contract. Or if we score real big in Mexico, Flugleman would have to take us back.

LUCKY

We've got to get Ned....a hundred thousand pesos....

Lucky stands in front of the studio and yells up at it.

LUCKY

(continuing)

Ok Flugleman! You know what this is? It's an offer! They want the Amigos to perform in Mexico for more money than you ever paid us for all our pictures put together! You may have knocked me down once, but it'll take something a lot bigger than you to knock me down again!

(CONTINUED)

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(CONTINUED)

A midget, or something, slams into Lucky and flattens him.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Lester and Lucky knock on the door of a modest bungalow in Hollywood. An elderly woman answers.

LESTER
Mrs. Nederlander, is Ned here?

MRS. NEDERLANDER
Haven't you boys done enough to Neddy today?

*Ned's mother
(very small role)*

LUCKY
We want to talk to him about a job.

MRS. NEDERLANDER
He's upset. I don't think it's a good idea.

LESTER
It's very important, Mrs. Nederlander.

MRS. NEDERLANDER
Oh, all right.
(calling)
Ned, Lester and Fuckhead are here to see you.

They enter the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mrs. Nederlander escorts them in and goes to get Ned. The walls of the parlor are filled with pictures and momentos of Ned's days as the child star, Little Neddy Knickers. There is a picture of Little Neddy sitting on Teddy Roosevelt's knee, and one of them of Babe Ruth. Lucky and Lester have never seen the Nederlander parlor before and are either impressed, stunned, awestruck maybe -- take your pick.

LESTER
Lucky, this place is like a shrine to little Neddy Knickers.

He looks at a photo.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LESTER

(continuing)

Gee, he was a cute little fellow.

Ned enters.

NED

I've saved a hundred and eighty dollars and I'm going to go to barber college. I've already told my mother.

LUCKY

What? You mean you'd quit show business? Not you, Ned.

Lucky takes out the telegram and brandishes it in front of Ned.

LUCKY

Ned, we have an offer.

LESTER

A great one.

LUCKY

A personal appearance. In Mexico. One show. A hundred thousand pesos.

Ned perks up a little, then appears to lose interest.

NED

No, I don't want anything more to do with you guys. I promised my mother.

LUCKY

Listen, Ned. I was watching "Those Darn Amigos," You made a real acting breakthrough. You're starting to be able to grin. Remember two years ago you couldn't grin in front of the camera? Well, you're grinning up there now. The movies need that.

LESTER

They must love us in Mexico, Ned. This is our chance. A hundred thousand pesos and it's only a personal appearance.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LESTER

(continuing)

We go down, fire our guns in the air, put on a little show with this El Guapo guy and we're home in three days.

NED

Who is this El Guapo?

LESTER

Only the biggest actor in all of Mexico. The guy's practically in-famous.

LUCKY

Practically? He's is in-famous.

LESTER

This could be a big revival for the Amigos.

LUCKY

We could be international stars.

NED

(impressed)

International stars....

Ned thinks about it.

NED

If I come back, I want a bigger share of the money.

Lucky looks frustratedly over at Lester, who is no help.

LESTER

It'll have to come out of your end Lucky.

Lucky grudgingly accepts.

NED

All right, I'm in.

LESTER

Great. We can be on a train tomorrow morning for Mexico. We pick up our hundred thousand dollars and we're back in four days.

(CONTINUED)

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EXT. AMIGO MANSION - DAY

The three of them knock at the door of their old house.
James the butler answers.

for the 3 Amigos
JAMES
May I help you?

LUCKY
James, it's us.

JAMES
Yes, it is. But I'm afraid Mr.
Flugleman left orders that you
were not to enter the house.

LESTER
We just want our stuff. Our
clothes.

JAMES
Everything of yours is the
property of the studio.

NED
James, we don't have a change of
clothes!

JAMES
That's not my concern, Master
Ned.

NED
James! For old times' sake.
You've known me since I was
Little Neddy Knickers. We're
practically family.

JAMES
I'm sorry Master Ned.

He emphatically slams the door. The Amigos bang on it.
From above, the window opens and Miss Rene, the new
resident of the mansion, pokes her head out. *plump*

MISS RENE
What the hell is going on out
there?

LESTER
Miss Rene... We came to...

*the star of the 3
amigos last
film -- she's
untalented &
basically unattractive*

(CONTINUED) *(small
1 p. typed)*

(CONTINUED)

MISS RENE

You came to shit, boys. I'm
living here now; Harry wants it
that way.

LUCKY

We need our clothes; our Amigo
costumes.

RENE

You're too late. They came and
got everything this afternoon
and took all your junk back to
the studio. Now buzz off. I've
got a big scene tomorrow. I'm
still working...

She laughs at them and shuts the window.

EXT. STUDIO WALL - NIGHT

Illuminated by a streetlight, Lester and Ned creep
around outside the studio wall. The Amigo poster has
been replaced by a Miss Rene poster.

LESTER

Are you sure it wouldn't be
easier to go to Flugleman and
just ask him for our Amigo
Costumes?

NED

Flugleman hates us right now,
thanks to...

He gestures above his head.

NED

(continuing)

He's not going to give us our
costumes. Lucky's right, this is
the only way.

A ROPE falls into the shot from above. We start hearing
ODD BIRD CALL sounds from above. They take no notice of
them.

LUCKY

(from above)

Tweet, tweet...

LESTER

(not noticing)

I don't know. This is illegal.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

Not if you're stealing costumes
that fit only you. Besides,
think of the money. A hundred
thousand pesos...

LUCKY

(like a crane)

Whoop...whoop...

The bird calls, which had grown increasingly more weird,
have now stopped. Lucky has given them up and just yells
down at Lester and Ned.

LUCKY

Come on, come on.

NED

Ok, ok.

He starts to climb the rope.

MONTAGE

The three of them in silhouette DASH across the rooftops
of the buildings, and LOWER themselves to the ground on a
tree branch. It's the first time we see them in action.
Not bad, there's a certain clumsy grace to it, but
they're not the three guys you want to save your town.

EXT. STUDIO GROUNDS - NIGHT

They hide behind a building as a studio guard passes
them.

LUCKY

There's the wardrobe building.
We'll go across one at a time,
ok?

Ned and Lester nod approval. Then, they all dash simul-
taneously. HALF WAY OUT, they realize their mistake and
Lucky orders them back to where they started from.

LUCKY

I said one at a time.

NED

You were looking right at me, I
thought you meant me first.

LESTER

When you two went, what was I
supposed to do, stand here?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

I'll go first.

LESTER

Who should go second?

LUCKY

I don't care. You two work it out.

He darts off around the corner and safely makes it to the wardrobe entrance. He turns to look back where Lester and Ned should be coming from. They don't come. After a lengthy stare, Lucky dashes back. He finds Lester and Ned still behind the building.

LUCKY

What's are you doing?

LESTER

We're still working it out.

LUCKY

Goddamn it. We'll go as a clump.

He dashes out, alone, and the rest follow ONE AT A TIME. They arrive singularly at the wardrobe department.

LESTER

Sorry, I didn't know what you meant by clump.

NED

I didn't hear you at all.

LUCKY

Forget it. Ned, try the window.

He does. It's open. They climb in.

INT. WARDROBE DEPT. - NIGHT

Rows and rows of costumes hang on racks. The Amigos sneak down the aisles searching for their costumes.

LESTER

I found it!

LUCKY

The costumes?

LESTER

My hair goo. This is where they keep it. God, this must be my lucky day.

(CONTINUED)

NED

Keep searching for the costumes.

They search the room for their costumes.

NED

Lester, see if you can find the guns.

LUCKY

Here they are.

LESTER

Hey, here's some blanks.

LUCKY

Take the whole box. We're going to need them for the show.

NED

There they are.

We see from his POV the Amigo costumes hanging on a rack. They are illuminated slightly and they appear to glow in the darkness of the wardrobe room. The Amigos approach them reverentially.

NED

My God, they're so beautiful.

LESTER

I never thought I see them again.

LUCKY

Let's get 'em, boys.

MUSIC COMES UP. They march toward the costumes. A hand goes in a glove. A hat goes on a head. They begin to change into their costumes. Lots of close-ups of their spangly conchos and sombreros. We see a shot of Lucky and Ned tightening Lester's corset. Finally, they stand, fully dressed, as the Three Amigos.

NED

I must admit, it feels pretty good.

Ned twirls his guns with a flourish. Suddenly, there is the SOUND OF GUARDS.

GUARDS

Hey, what's going on in there?

There is a pounding on the door.

(CONTINUED)

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LUCKY

Let's go, Amigos!

The instrumental introduction to The THREE AMIGOS song begins. As the guards pound on the door, the Amigos slip out the window into the early morning light. Lucky leads, Ned close behind, Lester carrying the box of blanks. Lucky peers around the corner of the wardrobe building. He sees a swarm of guards.

LUCKY

This way.

The three take off in the opposite direction. They move quickly through the studio, the guards in hot pursuit. Something about having their costumes on makes them work better together.

EXT. MOVIE SET - MORNING

On the studio lot, a movie is in progress. On the set, Miss Rene is seated in the well of a catapult dressed as Marie Antoinette. Flugleman and Morty approach watching the action.

FLUGLEMAN

She's very nervous about this scene.

MORTY

The great ones always are.

The director, the leading man and several crew members fuss around her, talking down the shot.

DIRECTOR

Okay, here's the scene. You leap in from the window, Cliff and Pete will light the fuse to the catapult, you leap up and save Miss Rene...You push her to safety over here. Then the empty catapult goes off and we cut.

She has a MISS RENE
(Brooklyn accent)
Make sure you get it right.

She spots Flugleman across the set.

MISS RENE

(continuing)

Hi Harry!

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

The set SPRINGS TO LIFE at the mention of the word Harry. Harry looks embarrassed.

FLUGLEMAN

She belongs up there Morty.

MORTY

She's our biggest star, Mr. Flugleman.

There is quiet on the set. The director yells action. The leading actor leaps onto the set. But before he can save Miss Rene, The AMIGOS run through the set. Ned notices the position Miss Rene is in and cannot pass up the opportunity. He grabs the sword out of the leading man's scabard and SLICES THE ROPE. She is CATAPULTED over Flugleman's head, through a set wall and onto a backdrop which breaks her fall and probably several bones. The Amigos keep on running, laughing as they go. They evade the guards and deftly SCALE the walls of the studio. They stand atop the wall and wave their sombreros at the frustrated guards.

INT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

The Amigos are at a train station in downtown Los Angeles. They are still dressed in their outfits, and people stare at them curiously.

ANGLE ON NED

He is buying their tickets at a wicket.

NED

Three tickets to Diablo, Mexico, please.

ANGLE ON LUCKY

He is sending a telegram.

LUCKY

(dictating telegram)
..."Amigos arriving mid-week.
Expect deluxe accommodations,
poolside, car if possible.

ANGLE ON LESTER

He is looking a map of Mexico on a wall.

LESTER

Hey, I found Santo Poco. It's right near the Valley of the Living Death.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

ANGLE ON NED

Still at the ticket wicket. He has purchased the tickets and writes in a note pad.

NED
(entering it)
Tickets, Diablo. Eighteen
dollars.

INT. TELEGRAPH OFFICE - DAY

Close-up of the telegraph key finishing a message. The operator hands the telegram to the waiting Carmen. She reads the message, and shouts exuberantly to Rodrigo.

CARMEN
Rodrigo, the Three Amigos are
coming!

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

A train makes its way across the desert.

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

We are tight on a family of DIGNIFIED MEXICAN PEASANTS who are laughing at something. The camera reveals what it is they are laughing at. NED, LUCKY AND LESTER, sit opposite them, still dressed in their black spangled outfits. Chickens and goats wander the car untethered.

NED
I still don't understand the
point of wearing our costumes on
the train. Why don't we wear
regular clothes and when we get
down there change into our
costumes?

LUCKY
(put out)
They are expecting the Three
Amigos to get off the train,
not three hambones in street
clothes! There might be press
people, there might be people
who want our autographs, photo-
graphers...we don't know how big
this thing is.

NED
When do we get paid?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

I'm sure after the show.

NED

We should get half before and half after.

LUCKY

We'll see when we get down there.

LESTER

Hey Lucky, what are you going to do with your share of the money?

LUCKY

(musing)

Oh, I don't know. Maybe get me a big car or a whole new wardrobe. Become Mr. Big.

LESTER

I'd blow it all on one big vacation. I'd breeze into the islands and buy everybody drinks. They'd think I was a big shot.

NED

I would help all the unfortunate people in the world that I could. See that they have food and clothing.

Lucky and Lester are guilty.

LUCKY

Oh yeah, I would help the unfortunate people too. I would buy them a big car and a new wardrobe.

LESTER

Oh yeah, when I said I would spend it on drinks and vacation I was just kidding. Unfortunates all the way.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The train puffs across the desert.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Lester, Lucky and Ned sleep uncomfortably in one seat.

INT. TRAIN - MORNING

It is morning. The Amigos are stirring. Lester has his hair in curlers.

LESTER

Excuse me, is this Diablo?

CONDUCTOR

Yes, it is.

LESTER

Thank you.

Lester begins to remove the curlers from his hair. The train grinds to a halt.

LUCKY

Ready boys? Let's give the folks a thrill.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

The train pulls out of the station to reveal the Amigos. All three twirls their guns. We see from their POV that no one is watching them.

NED

I'm sure glad we wore our costumes.

Suddenly, a WWI biplane noisily flies over their heads.

LESTER

What is that?

LUCKY

It's a plane.

NED

That's not just any plane. It's a Tubbman 640. I flew one in "Little Neddy Goes to War." Well, I didn't really fly it, my stuntman did. But I watched him.

LESTER

What's it doing here?

NED

I think it's a mail plane.

(CONTINUED)

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LESTER

How can you tell?

NED

Didn't you notice its little balls as it flew over?

As Ned laughs, the other two Amigos think about this joke for about a minute. They never get it. Finally, they holster their guns, pick up their box, and head towards town. We hear the SOUND OF THE TRAIN disappearing in the distance. As the train fades, the sounds of FLIES, SNAKES AND SCORPIONS become audible.

INT. BORDER TOWN BAR - DAY

We see the same faces we saw here earlier when Carmen and Rodrigo visited it. Suddenly, from outside, we hear the SOUND OF AN ENGINE. The room shakes and the startled bandidos look up toward the door. Two bandidos open the swinging doors and we see the WWI BIPLANE which has rolled to a stop in front of the cantina.

ANGLE ON THE DOOR

A smallish, nattily attired European man with a hankerchief tucked into his sleeve, gets out of the plane and enters the saloon. He is THE FRENCHMAN. All eyes turn to him. He walks calmly across the room. A group of gunslingers chuckle at him under their breath. The Frenchman takes note of their derision. The Frenchman is wearing PEARL-HANDLED SIX GUNS.

FRENCHMAN

(to bartender,
French accent)

Do you have any wine?

BARTENDER

Just tequila.

The Frenchman nods. The bartender sets him up. He takes a sip of his drink and sets the drink down carefully on the bar.

FRENCHMAN

(whispers to bartender)

I am looking for a man called El Guapo. Do you know this man?

BARTENDER

Perhaps, Senor.

speaks w a French accent

He supplies El

Guapo w/ blackmarket

guns (featured role)

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

From behind, a bandido challenges the Frenchman.

BANDIDO
(imitating his accent)
Do you have any wine?

The Frenchman again takes silent note of the insult. But he continues talking.

FRENCHMAN
El Guapo will be anxious to see me. I have something he wants.

BANDIDO
(taunting)
Where'd you get the pretty little guns, Senor.

The Frenchman again ignores the insult.

FRENCHMAN
(to bartender)
I am meeting some friends of mine here. They are coming in on the afternoon train. When they arrive, tell them to wait.

BARTENDER
How will I know them?

FRENCHMAN
(to bartender)
You will know them.
(ominous)
You will most certainly know them.

BANDIDO
Hey, honey. Come on over here and sit on my lap. I want to show you something.

ZING! In a motion almost invisible to the naked eye, the stranger DRAWS HIS GUNS and SHOTS his tormentor down, mercilessly. In another part of the room three other men begin to draw on the Frenchman. He turns and SHOTS THEM DOWN.

FRENCHMAN
(French accent)
Anyone else with a comment?

Silence.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

FRENCHMAN

(continuing)

Some friends of mine will be coming here. I hope you will show them more courtesy than you have shown me. They are not as kind-hearted as I am. Bonjour.

He walks slowly through the room and out the door. We hear the SOUND of the plane taking off. The startled bandidos clear away the bodies.

EXT. BORDER TOWN STREET - DAY

WAVES OF HEAT come off the street. The SUN BEATS DOWN on the Amigos. We see the Amigos walking down the street. Eventually, they pass the bar where the Frenchman dealt with the gunslingers.

NED

God, I'm thirsty.

LESTER

This looks like a nice place.
Let's go in here.

INT. BAR - DAY

The bar doors swing open and the Amigos enter. The bandidos stare at them. Are these the men the Frenchman warned them about?

CLOSE-UP

Ned's pearl-handled guns.

ANGLE ON THE BANDIDOS

The desperados, particularly in light of the guns Ned is wearing, are certain that these are the men the Frenchman warned them about. They give them plenty of room.

ANGLE ON THE AMIGOS

They look around the bar at the array of sinister faces.

LESTER

(whispering)

Looks like someone's been down here with the ugly stick.

The Amigos head toward the bar. As they do, all eyes are on them. The Bandidos move nervously out of their way,

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

(to bartender)

Excuse me, we're not Mexicans.
We're from out of town. Could
you tell us where the big hotel
is?

BARTENDER

There is no big hotel here.

NED

Oh great. No big hotel. I
could kill somebody.

The bandidos react. Some move away from the bar.

LUCKY

Well, whatever the best hotel in
town is...

BARTENDER

There is no hotel in this town.
You can take a bath at Mrs.
Gomez'. It's just down the
street.

The bartender leans over the bar and whispers conspira-
torally.

BARTENDER

(whispers)

Excuse me. You are the...
(he winks at them.)

The Amigos blush, and exchange knowing glances with each
other.

AMIGOS

Yes...yes we are...nice to meet
you... etc.

BARTENDER

We have heard of you.

LUCKY

(smug)

No kidding.

BARTENDER

I have a message for you. The
Frenchman says to wait here. He
has gone to see El Guapo.

LESTER

(to Lucky)

Who's the Frenchman?

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY
Probably the producer's
boyfriend.

NED
Did he say how long he'd be
gone?

BARTENDER
He said just to wait here.

LESTER
Well, if we've got time to kill,
I'll have a beer.

BARTENDER
We have no beer. Only tequila.

LESTER
What's tequila?

BARTENDER
It's like beer.

LESTER
Is it fattening?

BARTENDER
(never heard the concept)
Fattening?

LUCKY
Forget it. If it's like beer
we'll have some.

NED
It's not even noon yet.

LUCKY
Relax, Ned. Three tequilas.

The bartender puts a bottle of tequila and three small
shot glasses on the bar.

BARTENDER
That'll be ten pesos.

LUCKY
Pay the man, Ned.

Ned removes his boot and takes out a wad of bills. The
bandidos eyes bulge. Ned writes in a notepad.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

(under his breath)
Ten pesos, drinks, Diablo.

LESTER

Oh come on, let's have decent
size glasses.

BARTENDER

Sure, sure, Amigos. Enjoy
yourselves, but try not to get
into too much trouble, okay?

He laughs and puts up three man sized glasses, and our
boys take them to a table. The bandidos in the bar
scatter nervously, clearing a table for them.

LUCKY

(watching the commotion)
Boy, it's like these guys had
never seen movie stars before.

NED

Give them a break. People get
very nervous around celebrities.

They gulp down their man sized glasses of tequila. There
is no reaction from the Amigos, who assume they are
drinking nothing stronger than beer. The other bandidos
in the bar are amazed.

NED

That's an odd taste.

LUCKY

Probably watered down.

LESTER

Another?

NED

Just one more. I'm really
thirsty.

They down another glass.

NED

There's something about this
place. Everyone is so grim.

LUCKY

(slightly tipsy)
Ned, They're just intimidated.
They've only seen us on the big
screen. We're like gods to
them.

(CONTINUED)

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ANGLE ON THE BANDIDOS.

CLOSE-UPS of frightened bandidos staring at them.
CLOSE-UPS of the Amigos staring back, smiling.. Finally,
the tequila taking effect, Lester speaks.

LESTER
(throwing back another)
Hey, you don't have to be afraid
of us. We're just folks like
you. Relax.

He spots a piano in a corner.

LESTER
(continuing)
Ned, go on over to the piano.

NED
(also tipsy)
Lester, I haven't played in...

LESTER
Come on boys, let's do a little
something for the folks. It'll
loosen these guys up.

After some coaxing, Lucky stands up and addresses the
crowd.

LUCKY
Okay.
(to crowd)
We're gonna do a little "But-
tercup," but remember we're a
little rusty, so bear with us.

Ned goes over to the piano.

NED
Okay. Okay.
(now seated)
Ready when you are.

He runs his fingers over the keys. Lester walks over to
a bandido and SQUEEZES HIS FACE into a smile.

LESTER
This will bring a little smile
to your face.

LUCKY
(to bandidos)
Don't join in till we tell you.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED
This B flat is dead. I'll have
to play around it.

LESTER
Come on, Lucky. Just like we did
in the old days.

Lucky counts it off.

LESTER, LUCKY AND NED
(singing)
MY LITTLE BUTTERCUP
HAS THE SWEETEST SMILE
MY LITTLE BUTTERCUP
WON'T YOU STAY A WHILE

They dance around the cantina.

COME WITH ME,
WHERE MOONBEAMS PAINT THE SKY
AND YOU AND I MIGHT LINGER
IN THE SWEET BY AND BY

The bandidos force a smile. Ned whispers "They're loving
it."

LUCKY, LESTER AND NED
(continuing)
O LITTLE BUTTERCUP
WITH YOUR EYES SO BLUE
DEAR LITTLE BUTTERCUP
YOU'RE A DREAM COME TRUE
YOU AND I,
WILL SETTLE DOWN
IN A COTTAGE BUILT FOR TWO
DEAR LITTLE BUTTERCUP
SWEET LITTLE BUTTERCUP
MY LITTLE BUTTERCUP
I LOVE YOU

LESTER
Come on, everybody.

NED
(continuing)
MY LITTLE BUTTERCUP
HAS THE SWEETEST SMILE

On "smile," Ned points to a section of the audience who
sings it alone.

LUCKY
(continuing)
MY LITTLE BUTTERCUP
WON'T YOU STAY A WHILE

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

On "While," he points again to a section of the crowd who sings it alone.

LESTER
(continuing)
YOU AND I,
WILL SETTLE DOWN
IN A COTTAGE BUILT FOR TWO
LITTLE BUTTERCUP
I LOVE YOU

They finish. The desperados don't know what to make of what they've seen.

EXT. STREET - DAY

It is still the height of the day. The Amigos still heavily drunk from their tequila, stride down the street discussing their triumph.

LESTER
What'd I tell you?

LUCKY
Yeah, they loved us.

NED
(drunk)
Normally I don't like beer.

They turn a corner.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Carmen is waiting inside the church. Rodrigo runs in.

RODRIGO
Carmen, Carmen. The Three
Amigos! I saw them at the
cantina!

They get up and race out into the street.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Rodrigo and Carmen rush up to the Amigos.

CARMEN
(approaching them)
You are the Three Amigos.

LUCKY
Yes, we are.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

CARMEN

Gracias Dios.

She kneels in the dust, and kisses the hand of each Amigo in turn. Rodrigo reverentially kneels and picks up Ned's guns and hands them back to him.

CARMEN

(continuing)

I have prayed for this and my prayers have been answered. We have waited so long for someone and now you have come.

LUCKY

(to Ned)

I told you we were big down here.

CARMEN

We are here to take you to Santa Poco.

NED

Senorita, may I say on behalf of my colleague and myself, that the simple peasants of Santo Poco will get more than their money's worth from the Three Amigos.

Rodrigo and Carmen exchange smiles.

LUCKY

(continuing)

Let's ride!

CARMEN

Where are your horses?

EXT. MEXICAN DESERT - DAY

The Three Amigos, ALL SITTING ON ONE HORSE, are being led by Carmen and Rodrigo, who ride in front of them.

DISSOLVE

The five still ride slowly through the desert wasteland, all jammed onto the horse.

-- They pass three or four bleached cow skulls.

-- We see a close up of a rattlesnake.

-- a scorpion snaps its stinger.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY
Sure is pretty country.

LESTER
Sure is.

He is jammed on the horse between Lester and Lucky.

NED
Excuse me Lester, you're sitting
on one of my testicles.

DISSOLVE TO LATER

A desert sandstorm BLOWS DUST in the faces of the Amigos.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF SANTO POCO - DAY

The five stop outside the village and dismount. They are
COVERED WITH DUST.

CARMEN
That is our village.

NED
Let's get rid of some of this
dirt.

They begin to pat the dust off them. VOLUMES of dust
poof off them, until they are standing in a DENSE CLOUD.

EXT. SANTO POCO - DAY

The five of them enter the village. The Amigos are
waving at the crowd like they were in the Rose Parade.
The villagers line the street, and STARE BACK solemnly
and silently, as they watch as the Amigos ride by.

LESTER
Whew, looks like a tough crowd.

INTERCUT THE GRAVE FACES OF THE WARY CROWD

Rodrigo goes over to Pedro.

RODRIGO
(whisper)
These men are the Three Amigos.
They will protect us from El
Guapo.

PEDRO
El Guapo will chew them up and
spit them out like flies.

(CONTINUED)

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INT. SANCHEZ HOME - NIGHT

The Three Amigos are having dinner in the Sanchez home. The atmosphere is a bit restrained. Carmen is wearing a dress and for the first time we see how really beautiful she is. Lucky takes notice of her. Plates are being passed. The Amigos and the family eat in silence, a bit at a loss for what to say to one another. Ned breaks the silence.

NED

Sure is nice to have a home
cooked meal.

Mama Sanchez beams at Ned. They all continue to eat. The door opens, and CARLOS the baker and PEDRO enters. Carlos has a little boy in tow. Pedro is carrying three serapes.

PEDRO

These three serapes are gifts to
you. They are sewn by the women
of our village. They are the
finest serapes in all of Mexico.

CARLOS

I have brought this loaf of
bread for your guests.

He hands Father the loaf of bread.

FATHER

Thank you.

The Amigos adlib their thanks. Carlos and the little boy stare at the Amigos. The Amigos stare back. The little boy shyly walks over to Lester and looks up at him.

LESTER

Hi.

BOY

Senor, may I have your watch
when you are dead?

The Sanchez family are aghast. The Amigos are merely
confused.

CARLOS

Pablo! Come we must go.

He grabs the little boy by the hand and pulls him away
from Lester.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

CARLOS

Forgive him, Senors. He is not
used to strangers. Goodnight,
Emilio.

He leaves.

LESTER

Funny little kid.

NED

I'll say.

We now notice that at each window of the room, a group of townspeople has gathered to catch a glimpse of the Amigos. At one of the windows, a group of young girls are looking at Lester, giggling and gesticulating, powerfully impressed by his hairdo. Father Sanchez clears his throat and rises.

FATHER

Senors, welcome to Santo Poco.
While you are with us, please
think of this as your home. For
what you are about to do for our
village, I salute you!

They all toast.

LESTER

I'm beginning to really like
tequila.

LUCKY

(to Carmen)

Well, I sure am looking forward
to meeting this El Guapo.

Carmen and Rodrigo look at the Amigos and then proudly at each other.

INT. AMIGO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The light of the full moon streams across the faces of The Three Amigos as they lay in a tiny single bed. We pan across their faces.

LESTER

What a nice bunch of people.

LUCKY

They really are.

NED

That Mama Sanchez really a
wonderful cook.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LESTER

(to Lucky)

You sure spent a lot of time
talking to Carmen.

LUCKY

(defensive)

I had to find out what we're
supposed to do.

NED

What are we supposed to do?

LUCKY

She's a little hazy on the
details, but as far as I can
figure, El Guapo is coming in a
day or two. He rides in and
acts like he owns the place.
He'll have about forty or fifty
other actors with him.

NED

Hmmmm, big production. And then
what?

LUCKY

She wants us to do pretty much
what we did in "Shootin' for
Love."

LESTER

That was a good movie.

NED

They all were, Lester.

LUCKY

Yeah, they sure were.

Ned and Lester close their eyes and go to sleep. Lucky, restless, looks at the moonlight coming through the window. He hears Carmen singing softly in the distance. He is drawn to the balcony. He peers down and can see Carmen bathing, dimly illuminated by the moonlight. He tries not to look but can't help himself. Her voice drifts gently up to Lucky as she sings.

[CARMEN SONG ABOUT HEROIC MEN TO COME. LUCKY USES GREAT SKILL HANGING UPSIDE DOWN FROM THE BALCONY TO SEE HER BATHE. POSSIBLY HIS FEET HOOKED OVER THE BALCONY AND HIS BODY STICKING STRAIGHT OUT.]

EXT. SANTO POCO - MORNING

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

The town wakes up. The rooster crows, the animals stir. We see the bell in the church tower, being rung by a peasant. It resounds throughout the village.

INT. AMIGO'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Lucky and Lester are startled out of bed by the bell. Lester has on his ever-present hairnet.

INT. MAMA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Ned, wearing an apron, helps Mama in the kitchen. He is cooking like an expert, kneading tortillas and tossing them on the stove. Mama listens sympathetically to him.

NED

And then when I was sixteen I
was too old to be Little Neddy
Knickers so mother and I went to
Virginia and that's where I meet
Lucky....he was still in the
Navy then...

Lester enters from the room above. He wears his hairnet and robe. This is clearly too early for him.

MAMA

Buenos Dias, Senor Lester.

LESTER

Buenos Dias, Mama Sanchez.

MAMA

Huevos?

LESTER

(waving)

Huevos to you too.

He sits at the table and Ned efficiently pours him a cup of coffee.

EXT. MEXICAN DESERT - DAY

Alone in the desert, three of EL GUAPO'S MEN pass around a tequila bottle. They are liquored up good and are looking for trouble. They finish the bottle.

FIRST BANDIDO

(throwing the bottle
against the rock.)

Let us go get some more tequila.

(CONTINUED)

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SECOND BANDIDO

El Guapo said to wait here.

THIRD BANDIDO

By the time he is here, we will be back.

FIRST BANDIDO

(drunk and disorderly)

We will go down to Santo Poco;
they will be glad to see us.

They laugh, mount their horses, and gallop off.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

Carmen and several other young women are gathered at the well, giggling and firing questions at Carmen.

JUANITA

...So what sort of men are these Amigos?

CARMELITA

Did you meet them in Diablo?

ROSITA

I like the big one....

They all giggle.

CARMEN

All I know is, they are like no other men you have ever seen. If you did not know, you would think they are like children.

*friends of
Carmen
(very
small
roles)*

INT. AMIGO'S ROOM - DAY

Lucky, Lester and Ned are getting into their Amigo outfits.

NED

I still think they should give us part of the money now.

LESTER

Ned, it's a town. Towns do not run away. We'll get the money. Let's hear your speech.

NED

I know my speech.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

Do it then.

He speaks in a dull, flat monotone.

NED

(rapidly)

All right, all right. "Wherever there is injustice you will find us, wherever there is suffering we'll be there...blah, blah, blah..." then El Guapo says, "you will die like dogs," and I say, "we will not die like dogs, we will fight like lions."

LUCKY

Great! Great! Now that's what you should be worrying about, not the money.

EXT. MEXICAN DESERT - DAY

The FIVE BANDIDOS ride toward the town, blood in their eyes.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

The girls are still at the well, chattering about the Amigos.

ROSITA

Which one do you like best, Carmen?

She blushes and retrieves her bucket from the well.

CARMEN

How can you think of such things when these men are about to risk their lives tomorrow...

Something causes her to look up. It is the dust stirred up by the bandidos in the distance.

JUANITA

...Madre Dios!... Bandidos! Bandidos!

CARMEN

Sooner than expected. I must warn the three Amigos.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

She drops her bucket in the street and runs toward her home. The other girls SCATTER fearfully to alert the town.

GIRLS
(shouting)
Bandidos...!

Men DROP what they are doing. Someone RINGS a dinner triangle. The doors and windows are SHUTTERED. The street is EMPTYING rapidly.

EXT. AMIGOS' ROOM - DAY

Carmen shouts up to the Amigos' room.

CARMEN (v.o.)
They are coming! They are coming!

LUCKY
(leaning out the window)
Who?

CARMEN
El Guapo and his men.

LUCKY
Already? Be down in a minute.
(then, to the Amigos)
Jeez. I think we've got to do the show now.

LESTER
Oh, great. I thought we were gonna get a rehearsal.

NED
Obviously not.

LUCKY
So what. They've probably done it a million times and we know what we're doing.

LESTER
It's going to take me at least a half hour to get ready.

LUCKY
We haven't got that long. Ned, you know your lines?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

I know 'em. I know 'em.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The drunken RAIDERS, still riding, GET CLOSER to the town.

INT. AMIGO BEDROOM - DAY

Ned and Lucky look on in frustration as Lester fusses with his hair and his outfit, polishing each concho in turn. He struggles with a shirt that is sewn onto his underwear to keep it tucked in.

INT. DESERT - DAY

The bandidos are even closer to the town.

EXT. SANTO POCO - DAY

We see the peasants of the village, peering from behind doorways, looking nervously toward the riders.

INT. AMIGO BEDROOM - DAY

Lucky looks out the window toward the riders.

LUCKY

Looks like there's about five of them.

NED

Perfect. They tell us fifty and now there's five. They'd better not try to cut our money.

LUCKY

Are you ready?

LESTER

Let me get my sash.

Lester dilly-dallys with his sash.

EXT. SANTO POCO - DAY

The drunken bandidos are in the center of town. They fire a couple of random shots in the air.

FIRST BANDIDO

Are you going to bring us some tequila or do we have to come get it.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

INT. SANCHEZ KITCHEN - DAY

The Amigos are downstairs peeking out at the bandidos.

LUCKY

Hey these guys are pretty good.

NED

Are you kidding? They doing every cliché in the book.

LUCKY

Let's give 'em about thirty more seconds.

ANGLE ON THE BANDIDO

FIRST BANDIDO

If I have to go into the Cantina someone is going to die.

ANGLE ON THE AMIGOS

LUCKY

Ok, Amigos we're on. Ned, big smile. Lester, just relax and have fun with it.

ANGLE ON THE BANDIDOS

FIRST BANDIDO

Where's our tequila? We are waiting.

EXT. SANCHEZ DOOR - DAY

The Amigos, in full regalia, SOMERSAULT into the courtyard, and do a SMALL SHOW. Lester drops a feather and Ned draws before it hits the ground, etc. Then they walk boldly into the square, mount their horses, and pose heroically before the five bandidos. The bandidos stare at each other. Lucky breaks rank and approaches them.

LUCKY

Well, you dirt eating pieces of slime. You scum-sucking pigs. You son of a motherless goat.

He looks back at the other Amigos and gives a self-congratulatory wink.

FIRST BANDIDO

Son of a motherless goat?

(then)

And who are you?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

(stepping forward,
joining Lucky)

Wherever there is injustice you
will find us, wherever there is
suffering we'll be there...
uh...shit.

(forgets his line)

Uh....

Lester walks up to cover for him.

LESTER

...wherever liberty is threat-
ened you will find...The...

ALL THREE

...THREE AMIGOS!

ANGLE ON THE BANDIDOS

The bandidos are staring, dumbfounded by the whole per-
formance.

ANGLE ON THE AMIGOS

They ride around firing their guns in the air, shouting,
"ARRIBA, ARRIBA, ARRIBA!"

ANGLE ON THE BANDIDOS

They continue their blank stare, mouths agape.

SECOND BANDIDO

Who are these monkeys?

FIRST BANDIDO

I don't know.

SECOND BANDIDO

Should we kill them?

FIRST BANDIDO

Maybe we should tell El Guapo
what we have seen.

The bandidos turn and ride away!

ANGLE ON THE AMIGOS

LUCKY

Nice show.

NED

Damn it. I forgot my line.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LESTER AND LUCKY
Forget it...I don't even think
they noticed.

QUICK CUTS

- The doors and windows of the town open slowly.
- The townspeople begin to emerge from hiding.
- Carmen walks proudly toward the Amigos.

ANGLE ON THE TOWNSPEOPLE

They are awestruck. No one has ever challenged the
bandidos before.

ANGLE ON THE CARMEN'S FATHER

He gazes respectfully at the Amigos.

FATHER
(under his breath)
Viva Amigos.

RODRIGO hears him; he picks up the chant.

RODRIGO
Viva Amigos!

The rest of the town catches on to the chant.

TOWN
Viva Amigos! Viva Amigos!

ANGLE ON THE AMIGOS

The chants continue under the dialogue.

LUCKY
They're really starved for
entertainment around here.

NED
I'm telling you, I've been in
this situation before. Ask for
the money now while they're
excited.

LESTER
They seem to really like us.

ANGLE ON CARMEN AND RODRIGO

They approach the three.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

CARMEN

You were magnificent.

RODRIGO

You have done it!

LUCKY

We were okay.

From the church tower, a villager rings the bell loudly.

VILLAGER

Fiesta!

The town responds.

TOWNSPEOPLE

Fiesta! Fiesta!

EXT. FORTRESS - DAY

El Guapo lives like a king in an enormous mission he has commandeered. It was built by the Spanish a hundred years earlier. Presently, he is engaged in his hobby, taking "art" photographs of semi-nude women in Turkish harem outfits. He takes it very seriously and composes the tableau as though he were a great artist. Jefe is in the tableau dressed as a Sultan. The three bandidos who faced the Amigos talk to El Guapo.

EL GUAPO

And then what happened?

BANDIDO

They they got on their horses
and rode around firing their
pistoles in the air.

EL GUAPO

Jefe! The sword! Hold the
sword higher! Remember you are
a Sultan.

JEFE

The sword is so heavy, El Guapo.
How long do I have to stand like
this?

EL GUAPO

Until I am satisfied.

BANDIDO

And they called us scum sucking
pigs.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

EL GUAPO
More frightened, girls.

The girls oblige.

BANDIDO
What should we do El Guapo?

EL GUAPO
Tomorrow I will ride to Santo
Poco and blow their heads off.
(then, to Jefe)
Hold it, Jefe! That's perfect.

He squeezes the bulb and the flash powder goes off.

EXT. SANTO POCO - NIGHT

The fiesta is in progress. A MARIACHI BAND is playing. People are dancing, and the town is truly happy for the first time in many years.

QUICK CUTS

- A circle of girls dancing in rhythm.
- people drinking wine from sacks.
- women high-stepping in Mexican dresses.

ANGLE ON LESTER

Lester is dancing with three of the village belles. He picks up Pablo and dances with him. Women look at him romantically.

ANGLE ON NED

Ned is dancing with MAMA SANCHEZ. His technique is impeccable.

NED
You are a wonderful dancer, Mama Sanchez.

MAMA
So are you, Senor Ned. I'll bet your mother taught you.

NED
She did! How did you know.

ANGLE ON LUCKY

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

He is standing with Carmen showing off and trying to look important.

LUCKY

...and then the horse kicked me right in the face and for months you could see the shape of the horseshoe on my forehead. And that's how I got the name Lucky.

Their eyes meet. Lucky looks up at the moon.

LUCKY

(continuing)

...It's a full moon tonight.

CARMEN

Yes, soon you will meet El Guapo.

LUCKY

Meet El Guapo? Wasn't that him today?

CARMEN

Oh no.

LUCKY

Is he here at the fiesta tonight.

CARMEN

Oh no!

LUCKY

Oh, I get it...a big shot.

CARMEN

Oh Lucky, you are so brave.

She suddenly hugs him. Carmen's girlfriends look on and giggle.

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

It is later that night. The Amigos, make an entrance on the makeshift stage, ready to perform for the crowd.
SCENE TO SET UP SINGING TO COME.

ALL AMIGOS

WE ARE THREE BRAVE AMIGOS,
THREE HAPPY AMIGOS,
THEY SAY WE ARE BIRDS OF
A FEATHER;

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

AMIGOS

(continuing)

WE'RE HAPPY AMIGOS
NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES,
THE ONE, TWO AND THREE GOES,
WE'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER.

WE'RE THREE HAPPY CHAPPIES
WITH SNAPPY SERAPES,
YOU'LL FIND US BENEATH OUR
SOMBREROS,

WE ARE BRAVE AND WE'LL SAY SO
WE'RE BRIGHT AS A PESO,
WHO SEZ SO, WE SAY SO,
THE THREE AMIGOS!

OH, WE HAVE THE STARS
TO GUIDE US,
GUITARS HERE BESIDE US,
TO PLAY AS WE GO;
WE SING AND WE SAMBA;
WE SHOUT "AY, CARAMBA,"
WHAT MEANS AY, CARAMBA?
OH YES, I DON'T KNOW.

OH, THROUGH FAIR
OR STORMY WEATHER,
WE STAND CLOSE TOGETHER
LIKE BOOKS ON A SHELF.
GOOD PALS THOUGH WE MAY BE,
WHEN SOME LATIN BABY
SAYS YES, NO OR MAYBE,
EACH MAN'S FOR HIMSELF!

LIKE BROTHER TO BROTHER
WE'RE ALL FOR EACH OTHER,
THE THREE BRAVE AMIGOS,
FOREVER, WE'LL STAY.

The Amigos are joined by the villagers in this joyous celebration, as it grows to bacchanalian proportions.

INT. AMIGO'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The Three Amigos, hangover written all over their faces, are asleep in their little bed, still wearing their Amigo outfits. The church bell CLANGS LOUDLY, but this time it keeps ringing.

LESTER

Next time we come here I'm going
to ask for a different room.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

Suddenly, Rodrigo bursts into the room.

RODRIGO

(confident)

Amigos! El Guapo himself is here...with all his men! Just outside the village! I have your horses waiting. You must ride against him now!

He hastily exits.

NED

What is he talking about?

LUCKY

Uh, I forgot to tell you. We got another show to do.

Lucky walks to the window and looks out. El Guapo and his fifty men stand at the edge of town.

LESTER

(hung-over)

Great.

NED

(nodding yes)

Let's get it over with.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

The Amigos exit the house. The villagers watch intently as the Amigos mount their horses.

LUCKY

Let's go.

They ride slowly toward El Guapo and his men. El Guapo rides slowly toward them. We see Carmen with her friends.

JUANITA

(to Carmen)

They are so brave.

ANGLE ON THE AMIGOS

They ride confidently toward El Guapo.

ANGLE ON EL GUAPO

He and Jefe stare menacingly at the Amigos.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

The two factions stand face to face in the village square. Lucky speaks directly to El Guapo.

LUCKY

Well, you dirt eating piece of
slime. You scum-sucking pig.
You son of a motherless goat.

The slow burn from El Guapo.

EL GUAPO

Who are you?

NED

(his best per-
formance)

Wherever there is injustice you
will find us. Wherever there is
suffering we'll be there.

(he leans into
El Guapo and
whispers to him.)

Tell us we will die like dogs.

EL GUAPO

What?

NED

Tell us we will die like dogs.

El Guapo looks over at Jefe and shrugs his shoulders.

EL GUAPO

You will die like dogs.

NED

No! We will not die like dogs,
we will fight like lions because
we are...

ALL

THE THREE AMIGOS!

The bandidos stare curiously. The townspeople let out a
big cheer. They give the AMIGO SALUTE, draw their guns
and fire into the air.

ALL

Arriba! Arriba! Arriba!

This time, they ride in circles around El Guapo and his
men, shouting maniacally and doing tricks on their
horses. The bandidos stare curiously.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

EL GUAPO

(to Jefe)

They amuse me. Just kill one of them.

Jefe takes his rifle, sights over his arm and shoots Lucky. Lucky takes a tremendous tumble off his horse. The other two Amigos stop their horses and ride over to the fallen Lucky.

LESTER

(to El Guapo)

Hold it! Hold it!

Lucky is clutching his arm in pain.

LESTER

(continuing)

Jeez, Lucky. You okay?

NED

What happened?

LUCKY

I don't know.

He's got a little blood on his hand. He looks over at Jefe, whose rifle is still pointed at Lucky. Lucky walks over to Jefe and grabs his gun from him.

LUCKY

(continuing)

Give me that!

He opens the rifle and dumps real bullets into his hands. He turns back to Ned and Lester.

LUCKY

(continuing)

Oh great. Real bullets.

(then, to El Guapo)

You're in a lot of trouble for this.

He gets a LONG NASTY LOOK back from Jefe, making him realize the truth. He walks back to the other Amigos, and with a big smile on his face, speaks through clenched teeth.

LUCKY

(continuing)

It's real.

LESTER

What?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

It's real.

NED

You mean...?

LUCKY

Yes. They're going to kill us.

Lester starts to cry.

NED

(crying too)

What am I doing in Mexico...?

Lucky starts to cry too.

LUCKY

(crying)

I've been shot already.

LESTER

What are we going to do?

NED

Well, we're not going to get paid that's for sure.

LUCKY

(crying)

Let me talk to him man to man.

He goes over to El Guapo and speaks to him.

LUCKY

(continuing)

On behalf of the Three Amigos, I'd just like to say we're very, very sorry and we're going to go home now. See, there's been a big misunderstanding.

LESTER

See, we're not gunmen; we're movie stars.

EL GUAPO

Movie stars?

LUCKY

Yeah. Actors. Entertainers. We sing and dance.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

Yeah. You know...

They do the first verse of "My Little Buttercup." We see the stares of El Guapo and his men, and the blank faces of the disappointed townspeople. They finish and stare at El Guapo. El Guapo breaks the silence.

EL GUAPO

Don't you want to die like dogs?

LESTER

If there's any way of avoiding that part we'd be very, very much in your debt.

EL GUAPO

El Guapo only kills men, he does not kill crying women. So go, you big movie stars...

The Amigos nervously mount their horses and slowly ride to the edge of town. The towns people avert their eyes as they pass.

ANGLE ON THE SANCHEZ FAMILY

-- Carmen has a tear in her eye.

-- Rodrigo is devastated.

-- The father shakes his head forlornly.

ANGLE ON THE TOWNSPEOPLE

We see their disappointment.

EL GUAPO

Faster!

He fires his pistole into the air. The Amigos flee like frightened rabbits, and the bandidos laugh as they watch them go.

BACK TO EL GUAPO

EL GUAPO

(shouting)

People of Santo Poco. You are very foolish to bring men to try to stop El Guapo. You have hurt me.

JEFE

Do we kill everyone?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

EL GUAPO

No Jefe, we do not kill the hens
before they lay the eggs.

(pointing)

You see Jefe, the harvest is not
yet in. If we kill everyone, we
will have to gather the crops
ourselves.

He looks to the towns people and sees Carmen in all her
beauty. He rides over to her.

EL GUAPO

(continuing)

Buenos Dios, Senorita.

He takes off his hat; she averts her eyes.

EL GUAPO

(continuing, to Jefe)

You see, Jefe. A rose can bloom
in the desert.

JEFE

(excited)

I know, El Guapo. Just the
other day when I was in
Sonora...

EL GUAPO

Jefe!

(then to Carmen)

You see, Senorita. I have the
soul of a poet, but I am
surrounded by imbecils.

Suddenly, he SWOOPS HER ONTO HIS HORSE. She screams and
struggles to escape.

EL GUAPO

The town is yours, muchachos,
Jefe! Santo Poco is no longer
under my protection.

Then the bandidos ride through the town like barbarians,
shouting and firing their pistoles and torching some of
the buildings.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

The Amigos are hiding up in the hills above Santo Poco.
They have built a small campfire. They are standing
looking at the village far below. They can see the light
of the fires.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

SCENE TO COME, LESTER TAKES CARE OF LUCKY'S WOUNDS.
FRIEND SONG TO COME.

EXT. SANTO POCO - DAY

The Amigos ride shamefully back into town. The town has taken a terrible beating. Remnants of fires still burn, broken doors lie in the street. Lucky is wearing a tourniquet. A mother with her child sees the Amigos and turns away. LESTER sees the little boy, Pablo. He gives him a wave, but the boy FROWNS and ducks inside a building.

LESTER
Jeez, this is awful.

EXT. SANCHEZ HOME - DAY

They knock on the door of the Sanchez home. Father opens the door. Mama stands behind him sobbing.

NED
We're real sorry about what happened.

LESTER
We'll just get our things and go.

FATHER
(coldly)
There is nothing of yours here.
El Guapo has taken everything.

LUCKY
Hmmm, that's rough. Well, we're gonna go back to Hollywood now. I guess I should say goodbye to Carmen.

FATHER
El Guapo has taken her too.

He closes the door on them. They turn away and see RODRIGO.

NED
Shit. Our money's gone. My mother's gonna kill me. She always told me, "never leave your money in the dressing room."

LESTER
Ned, you know I never liked your mother.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

I know Lester, but that woman
sure knows show business.

LUCKY

How can you guys talk about
money when Carmen's been kid-
napped?

Lester sees Rodrigo.

LESTER

Rodrigo!

Rodrigo sees them and takes off running. Lester sees him
and chases after him. He sees Rodrigo enter a BARN and
Lester ALONE, follows him in.

INT. STABLE - DAY

Lester enters the stable, and though he sees no one, he
knows Rodrigo is in there.

LESTER

Rodrigo, I know you can hear me.
Right now you probably feel that
we've let you down. And in a
way, maybe we have, especially
since your town is ruined and
your sister's been kidnapped.
Rodrigo, listen to me. You're
very young and someday you'll
learn that people aren't always
what they appear to be. We're
not killers, and that's what you
people need.

There is silence from Rodrigo.

LESTER

(continuing)

Don't you think we'd like to
help?

(silence)

Hey, maybe we can help! Go to
the police or something. What do
you say?

(more silence)

You lead us back to the train
station and we'll go to the
police. Lucky's a great talker.
You'll see. We'll get some
action.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LESTER

(continuing,
still silence)

...well, maybe we'll do more than that. I don't think El Guapo knows who he's dealing with here. We're the three Amigos. He has gotten us mad! Yeah. And when the three Amigos are mad, look out, brother! We'll rescue Carmen ourselves. We don't care what the odds are. Three against fifty? That's nothing to us.

At that moment, NED AND LUCKY enter the stable with Rodrigo, who is looking downcast.

NED

We found him. He was hiding across the street in the storehouse.

LESTER

(surprised)

Oh.

(then, to Rodrigo)

Rodrigo, there's no way three men can defeat fifty.

LUCKY

We told him already.

All three look sympathetically at the boy. There's a long pause. Rodrigo begins to cry.

LUCKY

Could I talk to you boys for a second?

He takes Ned and Lester aside.

LUCKY

(continuing)

You see that crying boy over there.

NED AND LESTER

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

In no way should you let that sight affect our decision to get out of here as soon as possible. Remember, we're talking about real bullets aimed right at our heads. We're talking about a man who would just as soon slit our throats as pass wind.

NED

I guess so. What do we do about him?

LUCKY

I'll talk to him. You go see if you get the horses.

Ned and Lester pass Rodrigo shamefully as they go.

EXT. BARN - DAY

They are sitting on their horses.

NED

Lester, Lucky's right. We don't know anything about fighting bandidos.

LESTER

We did in the movies.

NED

This ain't the movies, Lester. Damn it. I hate that guy for taking my money.

At that moment, Lucky comes out and walks slowly across the street and gets on his horse.

LESTER

(to Lucky)

Musta been hard.

LUCKY

Not as hard as it's gonna be. I told him we'd save his sister.

Ned and Lester cheer. Rodrigo bursts out of the barn on horseback. He yells to the Amigos.

RODRIGO

(giving the Amigo
salute)

Follow me, Amigos!

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

The MUSIC SWELLS and the four of them ride off heroically.

EXT. EL GUAPO'S MISSION - DAY

We see a courtyard where many pinatas hang from open beams. El Guapo looks slightly depressed. One of the bandidos is wearing Ned's dressing gown. Some of the Amigos possessions are near El Guapo. El Guapo sits with Jefe, finishing his breakfast. El Guapo pushes his plate away. The obsequious Jefe anticipates El Guapo's every need.

EL GUAPO

You know Jefe, ten years ago if the people of Santo Poco had dared to bring in men to help them, even such monkeys as those, I would have destroyed the town and slit the throats of everyone there. Today I am forty years old and I am not the man I was.

JEFE

...and tonight we celebrate, El Guapo!

EL GUAPO

I do not feel much like celebrating.

JEFE

But the men will be disappointed...

EL GUAPO

Then I will celebrate. But I will not enjoy it.

JEFE

More huevos, El Guapo?

EL GUAPO

No, Jefe. I have lost my taste for huevos.

JEFE

More coffee, El Guapo?

EL GUAPO

Yes, Jefe. I will have more coffee.

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JEFE

Conchita! More coffee for El Guapo. Pronto!

CONCHITA, a sexy camp follower, enters and pours coffee for El Guapo. As she pours she leans over, exposing her cleavage. Jefe leers at Conchita.

she works for El Guapo

(small role)

JEFE

El Guapo, could I have a moment of your time?

she's his mistress

EL GUAPO

Of course, Jefe.

JEFE

El Guapo, will you be using Conchita tonight?

EL GUAPO

No Jefe, I have other plans tonight.

JEFE

So you will not be using Conchita tonight?

EL GUAPO

No.

JEFE

So, in a way, you might say that Conchita will be "free" tonight?

EL GUAPO

In a way.

JEFE

So, I was thinking...

EL GUAPO

Yes...

JEFE

That since you are not using Conchita tonight, I was wondering if Jefe, that's me, might with your generous permission, use Conchita myself.

El Guapo takes out his gun and loads it. Jefe reacts nervously.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

EL GUAPO

Jefe, When I am not wearing my pants do you want to wear my pants?

JEFE

Why no, El Guapo.

EL GUAPO

When I am not smoking my cigar, do you want to smoke my cigar?

He points the gun at Jefe and backs him up.

JEFE

No, El Guapo.

EL GUAPO

So why would you treat a woman differently then you would treat my pants or my cigar?

JEFE

You know, El Guapo, as it was coming out of my mouth I was regretting it.

EL GUAPO

You know Jefe, my mother was a woman.

JEFE

Oh really?

EL GUAPO

And you were just saying that you would treat my mother no different than you would treat my cigar.

JEFE

But there's a big difference between your mother and a cigar.

EL GUAPO

You're saying my mother is not like a cigar?

JEFE

El Guapo, I think you're mad at something else and you're taking it out on me. Perhaps because today you are forty?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

EL GUAPO

So you would prefer to sleep
with my pants than with my own
mother!

JEFE

El Guapo, please!

INT. CARMEN'S CELL - DAY

Conchita enters her cell. We see Carmen chained to the
wall.

CONCHITA

Tonight, is El Gaupo's birthday
and you are to be El Guapo's
woman.

CARMEN

I would sooner die.

CONCHITA

I would not mention that to him.
Let me prepare you for the way
El Guapo makes love. Carmen, do
you know what foreplay is?

CARMEN

No.

CONCHITA

Good. Neither does El Guapo.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

The Amigos ride across the desert.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The Amigos and Rodrigo come upon a fork in the road.
There is an old man digging.

RODRIGO

Old one, where are we?

OLD MAN

That is a good question my son.

He laughs and continues digging.

NED

Come on. Let's get out of here.
This guys nuts. He reminds me
of my uncle Ernie.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

What are you doing out here in
the middle of the desert?

(to the others)

As if I give a shit.

OLD MAN

Sometimes it is difficult for an
old man to live among others...

NED

Let's clear out.

LUCKY

No, wait a minute. Why?

OLD MAN

Gas.

RODRIGO

Old man, do you know El Guapo?

OLD MAN

I know him. He and his men rode
through here early this morning.

LUCKY

How do we find him?

OLD MAN

He has gone to the old mission
where he lives.

NED

Where is it?

OLD MAN

It is just beyond those
mountains.

LUCKY

Can we get there through that
valley?

The old man shakes with laughter.

LESTER

What are you laughing about?

OLD MAN

You do not understand. That is
the valley of the living death.
No one can go there and survive.
You must take that path around
the mountains...that is the path
El Guapo took.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

He indicates another path.

OLD MAN

(continuing)

It will take one full day.

RODRIGO

(stricken)

We don't have that much time.
Tonight El Guapo will take my
sister.

NED

He'll take her all right.

LESTER

Gonna take her for sure.

LUCKY

What do you mean, take her?
What are you talking about?
Take her where?

LESTER

You know, take her...take her.
You know.

LUCKY

No, I don't know. What are you
talking about?

Ned comforts Rodrigo as Lester takes Lucky aside and
explains "take her" to him. We don't hear much, but we
do hear the following words:

LESTER

(whispering)

...pokey-pokey...hide the
salami...the meat sword...

LUCKY

(continuing)

Damn it. I wanted to do that.

(then)

We've got to get there in time.
We've got to go through that
valley.

OLD MAN

Here's what you must do. When
you ride through the valley you
will hear by voices. They are
your own impure thoughts and
they will tempt you. Do not
listen to them.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

Yeah sure, we won't listen.

OLD MAN

If you survive, you will come upon the Singing Bush.

LESTER

Singing bush...uh huh...

OLD MAN

There you must summon the Invisible Swordsman...

LUCKY

Invisible Swordsman...yeah.

OLD MAN

Each of you must fire one shot into the air and the swordsman will appear. It will be very dangerous.

LUCKY

Danger? We laugh at danger, don't we fellows?

They all give a WEAK, SNIVELING LAUGH, and ride down the road.

EXT. VALLEY OF THE LIVING DEATH - DAY

We see the Amigos and Rodrigo as they ride slowly through a dark high-walled canyon. STRANGE SOUNDS ECHO through the air. ODD FLYING BIRDS fly across the canyon. The sky is blood red.

RODRIGO

This is the Valley of the Lost Souls. Now remember, if you hear voices, you're not supposed to pay any attention. It is only evil tempting you.

NED

(disbelieving)

Evil? Tempting me? Give me a break.

They ride a little longer. Then:

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

VOICE

(eerie)

Neeeeeed....Little Neddy
Knickers....

NED

Yeah?

He looks over at Lucky and Lester. They shrug their
shoulders. It wasn't them. Ned listens to the voice.

VOICE

Ned, it's Harry Flugleman.
You're the talented one...You
could be a big star. Why waste
your time with these guys?

NED

(to Lucky and Ned)

He's right.

LUCKY

No Ned. It's the voice of Evil
...tempting you...!

CARMEN'S VOICE

Lucky...Lucky...come over the
cliff...I'm waiting for you... I
want to make love to you.

LUCKY

It's Carmen.

CARMEN'S VOICE

...I'm going to let you touch my
bunny...

LESTER

It's not really her, Lucky.

VOICE

Meow...meow...

LESTER

Oh my God!

VOICE

Meow...meow...

LUCKY

Who is it, Lester?

LESTER

It's my little kitten, Biffy.
From when I was a kid. She came
back...she came back!

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

No Lester, it's a trick.
Everyone cover their ears.

They cover their ears and ride toward the end of the canyon. As they ride we various voices, including El Guapo. Some of the voices are saying things like: "Ned, you're the star, not these other schlumps." "Lucky, you wouldn't even have to marry me..." "Lester, it's me, Tweeky, your parakeet..." etc.

DISSOLVE TO LATER

The Amigos are sweating, walking their horses. They look like they're on their last legs. They stop next to a rock.

LESTER

It's too hot. We're going to die. This desert never ends.

LUCKY

It must be a hundred and forty out here.

LESTER

The old man was right. Let's face it, we're dead men.

In the background, we hear in the distance, a highly spirited little ditty, a la "Zippity Doo Dah," being sung by a lilting male voice.

NED

What's that?

LUCKY

The singing bush!

They walk up a rise and see a miraculous sight. It's a lush rain forest, and sitting at the edge is A SINGING BUSH.

SINGING BUSH

(singing)

OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY THIS IS
OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY,
I'M SO HAPPY TO BE HERE
WHAT MORE CAN I SAY?

He stops singing.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LESTER

Excuse me, are you the singing bush?

SINGING BUSH

(singing)

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME,
I LOVE TO SING ALL DAY,
IN A MOST DELIGHTFUL WAY...

LUCKY

Let me talk to him. Excuse me,
are you the singing bush?

SINGING BUSH

(singing)

I AM THE SINGING BUSH...

NED

(louder)

Excuse me..!

SINGING BUSH

(unstoppable)

JUST A SINGING BUSH
I SIT HERE IN THE SUN AND SING
FOR EVERYONE...

NED

Excuse me!

The bush CONTINUES in the background for the rest of the scene.

LUCKY

Forget it. My guess is, this is
the singing bush.

LESTER

Let's go summon the invisible
swordsman.

NED

Invisible swordsman. I can't
believe I'm doing this.

They walk a distance away from the singing bush.

RODRIGO

You must each fire one shot into
the air and the invisible
swordsman will appear.

They draw their guns. With much concern, Lucky points

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(CONTINUED)

his weapon skyward and FIRES into the blue. Then, Lester FIRES his pistol into the air. NED doesn't point his weapon in the air, but casually fires off to the side. WE HEAR A LOUD "OW" followed by a thud. We see the indentation in the mud of a man holding a sword. Lucky and Lester crowd over the indentation, looking horrified.

LUCKY

Ned, I think you killed the
invisible swordsman...

Lester picks up an invisible hand feels the pulse and drops the hand back in the mud (The SINGING BUSH is still chirping happily in the background).

LESTER

He's dead all right.

NED

Well, he's invisible, how am I
supposed to know where he is?

LUCKY

You were supposed to fire up.
We all fired up.

RODRIGO

Now we'll never find El Guapo's.
He was the only one who could
show the way. We must go back.

Suddenly something attracts his attention.

LUCKY

Can I talk to you guys for a
moment?

NED

Sure...

He takes them aside. He points to about ten smiling Aztec type natives looking at them.

NED

They look pretty friendly...Hi!

He waves at the Indians, and the Indians wave back!

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

The Indians carry Ned and Lucky and Rodrigo on an ornate platform borne on their shoulders. Lester is ahead on a separate platform. There is food and flowers and other garlands spread around them. The Indians SING MERRILY IN A FOREIGN TONGUE.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

(to Lucky)

Obviously they think we're Gods.

LUCKY

Look, we go to the banquet, let
 them worship us for a while take
 their gifts and then we get them
 to take us to El Guapo's.

(to Indian)

You know the way to El Guapo's?

The Indian smiles back.

INDIANS

(singing)

NACHA POUCHA TACKA

WACHA NODE POUCKA SETE...

SUBTITLES: OH MIGHTY VOLCANO, WE'RE SO HAPPY TO LIVE
 UNDER YOUR SPEW

INDIANS

(singing)

POUCHA NACHA TACKA

NODE WACHA POUCKA SETE...

SUBTITLES: OH MIGHTY VOLCANO, WE KNEEL BEFORE YOU WITH
 OUR HUMBLE OFFERINGS OF UGLY PINK FLESH

The Amigos smile at the Indians.

INDIANS

(singing)

WACHA POUCHA NACHA

NODE POUCKA SETE...

SUBTITLES: WE'LL TEAR THEIR INTESTINES FROM THEIR WRITH-
 ING BODIES. AND WE'LL PUT THEIR LIVERS ON A STONE AND
 SMASH THEM. WE'LL RIP THEIR STINKING WHITE HEARTS FROM
 THEIR BREASTS AND PUT THEM ON A POINTED STICK...

SOLO INDIAN

(merrily)

NODE POUCKA SETE...

SUBTITLE: I LIKE TO EAT THE EYES!

Ned nods cheerfully at the solo Indian. Ned starts to
 sing with them, the Indians smile at him.

 TO COME, CARMEN AND EL GUAPO SCENE WHERE HE THREATENS
 HER.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

EXT. INDIAN CAMP - DAY

On a cliff, overlooking El Guapo's, the Amigos and Rodrigo are buried from their necks down in a pit of sand. Only their heads are visible. The Indians dance around them ominously.

LESTER

They say this is good for your skin.

LUCKY

And we were almost to El Guapo's.

LESTER

What do you figure those jars of honey are for?

LUCKY

Where?

LESTER

Over there by those jars of red fire ants.

RODRIGO

They're going to pour the honey over our heads and then the ants will eat our flesh.

LUCKY

That'll be the...

He stops himself.

LUCKY

(continuing)

Gee, today probably will be the day.

LESTER

Honey on my hair?

NED

I'm really sorry you have to die like this, Rodrigo.

RODRIGO

I don't mind. I've had fourteen very full years.

LESTER

Honey on my hair?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

The tribe continues to chant ominously. Suddenly the drums stop and the chief, wearing a boars head and ass mask, walks out and faces them.

CHIEF
(GIBBERISH)

NED
What is he saying? It's all a
bunch of mumbo jumbo.

The chief hears "mumbo jumbo," laughs, then all his men say "mumbo jumbo" and laugh too. He then instructs his men to open the jars of honey.

LUCKY
(to Chief)
I may as well tell you, if you
harm us, I will make the sun go
away. Do you understand. Dark.
Black. No sun. Understand?

The chief looks up at the sun, understanding.

NED
(to Lucky, under his
breath)
What are you talking about?

LUCKY
Listen, it worked in "The Amigos
and the Aztec Curse." It's worth
a try.

Suddenly the sun BEGINS TO DARKEN; there is a TOTAL
ECLIPSE! The Amigos look at each other amazed.

LUCKY
Oh, my God.
(to chief)
There you are, chiefy! I
darkened the sun! And things
are going to get worse if you
don't get us out of here!

The chief stops in his tracks and looks up at the sun,
then back to Lucky.

CHIEF
(to Lucky)
Eclipse.

He orders the Indians to advance with the honey. They
pour it over Ned's head, then Lucky's, then Rodrigo's.

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Then they start toward Lester. His loathing of this possibility is unbridled.

LESTER

No...not on my hair. I didn't
come this far to ruin my do.

He starts to shake uncontrollably. Screaming.

LESTER

(continuing)

No! No!

Suddenly, as the honey pot nears his head, he POPS UNDERGROUND AND DISAPPEARS! As the Indians reach for the others, they each start shaking, POP UNDERGROUND and DISAPPEAR.

INT. MINE SHAFT - DAY

We see them sliding rapidly down a tunnel.

EXT. MINE SHAFT OPENING - DAY

From a sheer rock face with a mine shaft opening, the Amigos and Rodrigo are DUMPED onto a pile of sand. Slowly they get and check themselves to make sure everything is working.

LUCKY

What was that?

RODRIGO

There are old mines all over
this area. We must have dropped
into one.

NED

Where are we?

RODRIGO

These I think are the Gato
Blanco Mountains. There was
much mining done here. El
Guapo's camp is nearby.

LESTER

Lucky, how did you know an
eclipse was coming.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LUCKY

I can smell an eclipse coming a mile away. There's a special aroma an eclipse gives off. It's a gift I have for sniffing out natural phenomena before they happen. Earthquakes, tidal waves, tornados...

He is STRUCK BY LIGHTNING. He gets up, slightly shaken.

LUCKY

(continuing)

...floods, hurricanes. Anyway, we better get to El Guapo's.

RODRIGO

I don't know which way it is from here.

Suddenly, from overhead, the FRENCHMAN'S PLANE flies over them and begins its descent somewhere in the distance.

NED

It is the Tubbman 601 we saw in Diablo.

RODRIGO

He must be going to El Guapo's.

They march off toward the plane.

INT. EL GUAPO'S CAMP - DAY

There are a pair of large gates being opened to admit a band of peasants bringing a large pinata for El Guapo. Jefe is guiding the operation.

PEASANT

This pinata is a gift from the people of Puerto Rosa.

JEFE

What a beautiful pinata! El Guapo will be pleased. Take it into the storeroom and put it with the others.

EL GUAPO

Jefe! Has the Frenchman arrived yet?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JEFE

Not yet, El Guapo. But many presents have been coming for your birthday.

EL GUAPO

The Frenchman has the only presents I want.

JEFE

He will be here El Guapo. But I think you will like your other presents too.

EL GUAPO

Oh yes?

JEFE

Oh yes, El Guapo. I have put many pinatas in the storeroom. Each of them filled with surprises.

EL GUAPO

Many pinatas?

JEFE

Oh yes, many.

EL GUAPO

Would you say I have a plethora of pinatas?

JEFE

A what?

EL GUAPO

A plethora.

JEFE

(mulling it)

Oh yes. You have a plethora.

EL GUAPO

Jefe. What is a plethora?

JEFE

Why, El Guapo?

EL GUAPO

(rising anger)

Well, you told me I have a plethora and I just would like to know if you know what a plethora is.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

EL GUAPO

(continuing)

I would not like to think that a person would tell someone he has a plethora and find out that that person has no idea what it means to have a plethora.

JEFE

(thinking hard,
then,)

Does it mean "many?"

EL GUAPO

(surprised)

Yes. Tell me, Jefe, how did you know?

JEFE

Just very lucky, I guess.
Forgive me, El Guapo. I know I do not have your superior intellect and education, but could it be that once again you are angry about something else and are looking to take it out on me?

EL GUAPO

Like what, Jefe.

JEFE

Well....and forgive me, El Guapo, but could it be that you are turning forty tonight, and you are thinking that you might not be so much of a man after that?

EL GUAPO

No, Jefe.

JEFE

Could it be because Carmen chooses to sleep in her cell instead of with you?

EL GUAPO

Jefe, You do not understand women. Carmen will come to me when she is ready.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JEFE

Why do you not just take her?
When you want cattle you take
the cattle. When you want food
you take the food. When you
want a woman you just take the
woman. Why do you not just take
her?

EL GUAPO

You cannot force open the petals
of a flower. When the flower is
ready it opens itself up to you.

JEFE

When do you think Carmen will
open up her flower to you?

EL GUAPO

Tonight or I will kill her.

The Frenchman's plane flies over the mission. El Guapo
looks up.

EL GUAPO

There is the Frenchman now.
Right on time. We must make him
welcome.

EXT. EL GUAPO'S MISSION.

The Amigos and Rodrigo pause in the hills outside El
Guapo's camp. They look down on his castle and see it
for the first time. On the road below, they see the
peasants carrying a pinata to El Guapo's.

LESTER

My God.

LUCKY

It's looks impregnable.

NED

Believe me. Nothing's
impregnable. Ask Lester about
that waitress at Nat's diner.

RODRIGO

We've got to figure out a way to
get inside.

Lucky is in deep thought.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LESTER

Lucky, those walls are twenty-five feet high. There's three guards at every post. There's no way we can get in.

NED

I think Lester's right.

LUCKY

We're going to have to use our brains.

NED AND LESTER
(sighing)

Shit.

LUCKY

I have a plan.

INT. COURTYARD - DAY

The Frenchman and his two henchmen stand before El Guapo. Jefe opens a crate.

JEFE

Here are the guns, El Guapo.

Jefe shows the guns in the back of the buckboard.

EL GUAPO

You have lived up to your promise. You will be my guest at the celebration tonight. A little party my men are throwing for me.

We hear a voice offscreen.

VOICE

Open the gates!

All eyes turn toward the gates. They open and we see THE GIANT PINATA outside the mission. Standing next to it, is Rodrigo and also Ned, who is disguised as a peasant.

EXT. MISSION WALL - DAY

Lucky sneaks alongside the mission wall, leaping over obstacles as he goes.

INT. COURTYARD - DAY

Rodrigo and Ned, stand next to the pinata which has now

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been brought into the courtyard. They hide their faces beneath their sombreros. Jefe has been speaking to them.

JEFE

It is a gift from the people of Santo Poco.

EL GUAPO

What a pinata!

JEFE

It is the biggest one yet.
Shall I put it in the storeroom,
El Guapo?

EL GUAPO

Why? Let's put it up right now.
Hoist the pinata!

JEFE

Hoist the pinata!

Several bandidos attach ropes to the pinata in preparation for lifting into the air.

NED

(to Rodrigo)

Hoist the pinata?

FRENCHMAN

What is this pinata?

EL GUAPO

In our country, it is a custom on someone's birthday to fill a pinata with treats. Then the birthday boy, that's me, is blindfolded and tries to break open the pinata with a stick and when he does, candy falls down all over his head.

The bandidos prepare to hoist the pinata. Ned and Rodrigo exchange looks.

EXT. MISSION WALL - DAY

Lucky scales the wall in his inimitable Lucky Day style.
This will be funny.
(TALK TO STEVE)

INT. COURTYARD - DAY

Rodrigo and Ned watch in terror as the pinata is being hoisted to the sky.

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ANGLE INSIDE THE PINATA

With each turn of the winch, we see a escalating look of bewilderment on Lester's face.

ANGLE ON THE PINATA

The CAMERA STAYS WITH THE PINATA as it rises higher and higher into the courtyard. Finally it stops, very high up and is adjacent to the indoor third floor balcony. AT THAT MOMENT, when everyone's eyes are on the pinata, Lucky, his back to the crowd, comes over the wall and begins to slowly lower himself into the middle of a bandidos. Their eyes turn to Lucky.

ANGLE ON LUCKY

He works very hard at avoiding the guards above him and lowers himself expertly down the wall. He does not know he is being watched by fifty bandidos. With a flourish he LEAPS into the center of the crowd, turns and sees that he is surrounded.

LUCKY

(pointing to El Guapo)
Seize him!

The bandidos seize Lucky.

ANGLE ON NED

He mutters under his breath.

NED

Great plan...great plan.

He backs out of the courtyard and disappears into a hall.

ANGLE ON EL GUAPO

He approaches Lucky.

EL GUAPO

So, we meet again, Amigo.

LUCKY

I have three demands. One, that you stop harrassing the people of Santo Poco. Two, that all the land of Mexico be redistributed equally among the peasants and a system of proportional government be established, consisting of three separate but equal branches:

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LUCKY
(continuing)
a legislative, an executive and
a judicial. Three...

El Guapo puts his hands around Lucky's throat and picks him up. Lucky speaks in a high, strangled voice.

LUCKY
(choked voice)
...that the girl Carmen be
returned to me intact.

EL GUAPO
Why you come here? You don't
belong. Now we have to kill
you. Take him away.

They drag Lucky off. The Frenchman looks at Lucky, as if there were something familiar about him.

EL GUAPO
(continuing, to
Frenchman)
Now you understand why I need
your guns.
(to Jefe)
The other two Yankees cannot be
far away. They are annoying
little flies. Swat them for me.
Come Frenchman, now you will
enjoy the hospitality for which
El Guapo is famous. You men,
hoist the rest of the pinatas.
Music!

Bandidos bring out many colorful pinatas and begin to raise them to the ceiling. The courtyard comes to life and the mariache band begins to play. Conchita and the bandido girls dance and sing to the music.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Two bandidos drag Lucky down a hallway, past cells holding prisoners.

LUCKY
(to bandidos)
...See under my system you would
not be under the thumb of El
Guapo...you would be free to
determine your own destiny...
you see, under a strong federal
system...

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

CARMEN (V.O.)
Lucky...!

He looks over and sees Carmen in one of the cells.

LUCKY
Carmen!

CARMEN
Lucky, thank God you're alive.
I thought you'd be dead by now.

LUCKY
Why would you think I was dead?

CARMEN
I don't know. I just thought
you'd be dead.

They drag him off.

LUCKY
(to Carmen)
Don't worry, I have a plan.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

El Guapo's birthday is in progress. The pinata swings precariously above the party.

INT. MISSION - DAY

A lone guard sits with a rifle across his knees, drinking beer. Ned, gun drawn, sneaks up behind him to knock him out. Ned unable to commit to hitting him hard enough to knock him out, dances around behind him, making tentative passes with the gun at the bandidos head. Finally he hits him and knocks him out.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

The girls still dance to the music. The Frenchman and El Guapo are enjoying themselves. Jefe, ever alert, scans the ramparts for other Amigos.

INT. CELL - DAY

Lucky stands in the middle of the cell. Chains are attached to his hands and feet. The chains go through the wall, back across the ceiling and are attached to a winch opposite him. One of the bandidos starts to crank the winch. Lucky, protesting, is pulled toward the wall and finally is elevated several inches above the floor, hanging by his arms and legs. The bandidos put the key to his chains on nail opposite him.

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BANDIDO
(referring to the key)
Come and get it....

They laugh and exit.

INT. MISSION HALL - DAY

Ned, DRESSED IN THE BANDIDO'S CLOTHES, makes his way down a hall.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

The party continues. We see the pinata swaying gently over the courtyard. Ned, appears at the balcony near the pinata. He surveys the courtyard below. We see the array of ropes that support the many pinatas that have been hung from the ceiling.

ANGLE ON NED

NED
(going over to the
pinata)
Lester?

LESTER'S VOICE
(from the pinata)
Ned...? Is that you?

NED
Yeah.

LESTER (V.O.)
Where am I? It felt like I was
being lifted up.

NED
Amazing.

LESTER (V.O.)
Should I get out now?

NED
I would wait.

LESTER (V.O.)
Is Lucky in?

NED
He's in all right.

LESTER (V.O.)
So far everything's going
perfectly.

(CONTINUED)

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NED

Almost.

LESTER (V.O.)

So when should I get out of the pinata?

NED

When they lower it forty feet.

LESTER (V.O.)

Okay.

ANGLE ON COURTYARD

A melange of merriment. Suddenly, we hear:

LESTER (V.O.)

(screaming)

WHEN THEY LOWER IT FORTY FEET?

The activity stops, all the bandidos look around curiously, wondering where the voice came from, then resume their partying.

INT. CELL - DAY

Lucky, attached to the wall, is struggling against his bonds. We see the winch straining against his tugs.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Ned slips in and out among the bandidos, trying to get the door through which Lucky was taken. The song has finished and the bandidos sit at a long banquet table. Jefe rises to speak.

JEFE

A toast to El Guapo!

All the bandidos rise. Ned, moving through the crowd, is forced to pause and raise a glass.

JEFE

Today he is...

He gets a glare from El Guapo.

JEFE

(continuing)

...thirty-three years old. On behalf of myself, and the rest of the boys, we chipped in and got this gift.

(CONTINUED)

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He hands El Guapo a wrapped gift.

EL GUAPO

(to the Frenchman)

What can you say about such men?

He unwraps the gift and produces a garrish short-sleeved shirt.

JEFE

It is a sports shirt from
America!

El Guapo loves it. He gives Jefe a hug.

ANGLE ON NED

He is jostled by cheering bandidos.

INT. CELL - DAY

Lucky is tugging against his bonds and is starting to make headway! The winch gives a little. Lucky, still attached to his chains, gets several feet away from the wall, but the winch resists and BOOM!, he gets snapped back to the wall.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

El Guapo, who is now wearing his new shirt, is making a big speech to his men. Ned has been moved very near to him.

EL GUAPO

My men, my compadres. What we
have done, we have done
together. I know each one of
you like I know my own smell.

He goes over to one of the men.

EL GUAPO

(continuing)

Carlos, we fought together the
Priests of this mission. Pedro,
we crushed the Federales on the
plains of Oaxacha.

He looks Ned dead in the eye.

EL GUAPO

(continuing)

And you....

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

He's stuck.

NED

...uh...Jose.

EL GUAPO

Jose. Together we...

NED

...burned the village...

EL GUAPO

...burned the village and...

NED

...slaughtered the cattle.

EL GUAPO

...slaughtered the cattle...

NED

...of many small villages.

EL GUAPO

...of many small villages. WHO
THE HELL ARE YOU?

Jefe approaches him and pulls off his hat.

JEFE

It's another one of the gringos.

Jefe takes Ned's guns. The Frenchman looks curiously at Ned.

EL GUAPO

What is happening around here today? Are gringos falling from the sky? Are all my guards asleep? Take this monkey away...Put him with the other yankee maricon.

JEFE

Yes, El Guapo.

They start to haul him away. The Frenchman steps forward.

FRENCHMAN

Wait a minute. I know who this man is.

EL GUAPO

You do?

(CONTINUED)

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FRENCHMAN
(approaching him)
Yes. It is Ned Nederlander.

EL GUAPO
Who?

FRENCHMAN
(to Ned)
You are my favorite star of the
silver screen.

NED
(bursting with relief)
Well....!

FRENCHMAN
In France the cinema is very
popular. I have seen all your
films. Including when you were
known as little Neddy Knickers.

NED
Ah yes...that was a long time
ago.

FRENCHMAN
(to crowd)
It was this man who inspired me
to learn the art of the quick-
draw. I looked up to this man.
I studied his every move. It
was my dream to be as fast as
Ned Nederlander. I practiced
every day, for hours and hours.
He was a god to me.

NED
It's always nice to meet a fan.

FRENCHMAN
But then I heard about movie
tricks. Trick photography. I
was crushed.

NED
I never used trick photography!

FRENCHMAN
That is impossible. No one is
as fast as you appear to be.

NED
I am that fast.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

FRENCHMAN

We shall see.

NED

Happy too. Anyone have a watch?

JEFE

I have a watch.

FRENCHMAN

No watch. As you Americans say,
we play for keeps. Give him
back his guns.

We cut on Ned's frightened look.

INT. CELL - DAY.

Lucky is again straining against his bonds. He pulls on his chains, trying to get to the winch which is across the room. He walks stiff-legged, like the tin man.

LUCKY

(moving forward, talking
in rhythm with his steps)
Gonna make it...Gonna make it...
(moving backwards)
Never make it...never make it...
(moving forwards)
Gonna make it...Gonna make it...
(moving backwards)
Never make it...never make it...
(moving forward)
Gonna make it...gonna make it...

This time he reaches the winch and hangs on.

LUCKY

(continuing)

MADE IT!

A smile of triumph is on his face. He relaxes for a moment and is immediately thrown back against the wall, and splatters against it, like an insect on a windscreen.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

The bandidos have made room for the gunfight that is about to take place between the Frenchman and Ned. They are handing Ned a gunbelt and guns.

NED

You don't understand. I don't
shoot at people. It's against
my upbringing. Call it eti-
quette. Whatever.

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FRENCHMAN

I have waited years for this moment.

INT. CELL - DAY

Lucky again struggle toward the winch. This time he is near it. He strains. Finally he snags the rotor. Alternately, he wins, the winch wins. As the winch pulls, his leg rises in the air. As he pulls, the leg goes down. The winch pulls, his other leg goes up. At last, after much effort, he pulls the pin on the winch and releases the spring. He goes to the key on the wall and releases himself. He is free!

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

The gunfight continues to develope. The Frenchman parades around, PRACTICING HIS FAST DRAW. He is fast. Real fast.

NED

(surveying his guns)

What kind of guns are these?

He examines a huge pair of "manly" guns.

JEFE

Those are men's guns. Not like them sissy guns that you wear.

FRENCHMAN

Enough! Put on your guns.
Let's go!

Ned reluctantly straps on the guns.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Lucky races down the hall. He breaks into Carmen's cell and frees her.

LUCKY

Don't worry, I have a plan.

CARMEN

What is it?

LUCKY

First the three of us have to get inside the mission.

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CARMEN

That you've done. What's the second part of your plan?

LUCKY

Well, we don't really have a second part, because we didn't expect the first part of the plan to work. Sometimes you can over-plan these things.

They race out.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

The Frenchman and Ned stand twenty paces apart. The Frenchman determined. Ned scared to death.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ned and Carmen race down the hall, looking for Ned and Rodrigo. At last, they emerge at the top of the balcony, adjacent to the pinata that hides Lester.

LUCKY

Lester?

LESTER

What's going on?

Lucky looks down in the courtyard. He sees the impending duel. He is dumbstruck.

ANGLE ON NED

He sweats.

ANGLE ON THE FRENCHMAN

He doesn't sweat. Suddenly he draws. But NED IS FASTER! Ned fires; the Frenchman is struck. The recoil from the big guns sends Ned FLYING BACK into the crowd. The guns fly from his hands. One of them, sails up into the air and LUCKY GRABS IT. El Guapo sees the dead Frenchman and his anger rises.

EL GUAPO

I've had enough of these yankees!

He draws his gun and points it at Ned.

EL GUAPO

Viya con Dios, Amigo!

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El Guapo prepares to fire. But, from the balcony,
Lucky's VOICE IS HEARD.

LUCKY
(holding one of
the Frenchman's rifles)
Not so fast, El Guapo. Or
you'll be catching a bullet.

El Guapo looks up. Lucky has the drop on all of them.

LUCKY
(continuing)
So you thought you could out-
smart the Amigos. Well, not
this time. You have met your
match.

LESTER (V.O.)
What's going on?

LUCKY
Don't worry about a thing.

He steps onto a rope which is secured by a lever at the
edge of the balcony, (logistics to be solved by art
department). He is intending to lower himself on the
rope down the the floor of the courtyard.

LUCKY
(to El Guapo)
You think you are above the law,
but no one is above the law...

He kicks free the lever securing the rope. But instead
of descending, HE RAPIDLY ASCENDS TO THE CEILING. It is
the rope tied to Lester's pinata. The Pinata plunges to
the floor and breaks open. JEFE DRAWS HIS GUN.

JEFE
I'm sick of these yankees too!

Jepe aims at Lester. Lester sees him and jumps out of
the broken pinata. The rope supporting Lucky is now
WEIGHTLESS, and Lucky hurtles to the ground, but his fall
is broken as he LANDS ON JEFE. El Guapo sees the disas-
ter. At that moment, THE GATES SWING OPEN AND RODRIGO
CHARGES IN WITH FOUR HORSES.

EL GUAPO
(indicating Lucky)
Shoot him!

The bandidos raise their rifles and aim at Lucky.

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Rodrigo rides past the ropes holding the pinatas and SLASHES THEM with a knife. The pinatas fall on the bandidos. In the confusion, The Amigos and Carmen mount up, and they ride right through the center of the courtyard, their guns blazing.

EL GUAPO

(shouting)

After them!

The bandidos mount up and ride after them.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The five of them ride.

LESTER

We'll never make it. They're gaining on us.

NED

I know what to do. Stay with me.

They ride off into a clump of trees.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

We see the bandidos, lead by El Guapo, looking for the Amigos.

EL GUAPO

We have them now. They rode into that field.

Suddenly, the FRENCHMAN'S PLANE, with Ned at the controls and the rest of them hanging on for dear life, comes FLYING TOWARD THEM.

LUCKY

(shouting down)

So long, El Guapo!

EL GUAPO

I'll see you in Santo Poco.

The plane bounces across the desert.

EXT. SANTA POCO - DAY

The peasants, doing repairs to their town, are disturbed by a sound they have never heard before. They look up, and POINT to a little speck in the distance. After a few moments, the airplane BOUNCES into the main street of

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Santo Poco. The whole town surrounds the plane. Carmen stands on the wing and quiets the crowd.

CARMEN

El Guapo is on his way. He will be here by tomorrow.

The crowds reacts in fear. We hears crys of "This time he will kill us all, etc." Lucky QUIETS THE CROWD.

LUCKY

Some day the people of Santo Poco will have to face El Guapo. You might as well do it now.

He steps up on the wing.

LUCKY

(continuing)

In a way, all of us have an El Guapo that we have to face some day. For some, shyness might be their El Guapo, for others, lack of confidence might be their El Guapo. For us, El Guapo is a big dangerous guy who wants to kill us. But as sure as I'm sitting on this horse the people of Santo Poco can conquer their own personal El Guapo who also happens to be the actual El Guapo. Thank you and good morning.

NED

(to crowd)

He was struck by lightning.

FATHER

But how can our small village defend itself against so many?

LESTER

By using the skills and talents of the people of Santo Poco! This is not a town of weaklings! We will turn your skills against El Guapo. Now what is it that this town really does well?

CARLOS

We can sew.

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(CONTINUED)

LESTER

Sewing! There you go. If only we'd known that earlier.

NED

Hey, it's a start. You turn those sewing skills against El Guapo and you've got something.

LUCKY

Ned, Lester, do remember our film, "Amigos, Amigos Amigos?"

LESTER

Quiet, someone might hear you.

LUCKY

Remember what we did in that picture?

NED

Jeez, do you think it would work?

LUCKY

It's our only hope. Here's how it works.

The townspeople gather round.

EXT. SANTO POCO - MORNING

We see the bell in the church tower and hear it ringing loudly.

INT. SANCHEZ HOME - MORNING

We are in the Amigos old room. They are in their bed.

NED

I hope this plan works, Lucky.

LUCKY

I hope so too, Ned.

LESTER

I hope so too.

NED

Me too.

LUCKY

Me too.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

LESTER

I really hope so.

LUCKY

Let's just say, it better work.

NED

Yeah, it better.

LESTER

Yeah, it really better work.

LUCKY

Let's get goin'.

LESTER

Lucky, I just remembered something.

LUCKY

Yeah.

LESTER

It didn't work in the movie.

EXT. SANTO POCO - DAY

In a series of cuts, we see The Amigos, in peasant clothing, and several townspeople doing tasks around town, preparing for the upcoming fight. Lester and three peasants turn over some wagons. Lucky is jumping from roof to roof with several others as they test the roofs for support and check out vantage points. Rodrigo prys open a box and hands Ned a gun. Ned spins the chamber and looks approvingly. Lucky looks off in the far distance and sees a dust cloud raised by El Guapo and his men. The Amigos exchange glances and head for the Sanchez home.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

El Guapo and his men ride toward the town.

EXT. SANTO POCO - DAY

The Amigos, alone in the center of the square, mount their horses, check their weapons, and ride out to the edge of the empty town.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

El Guapo rides up several hundred yards outside Santo Poco and raises his hand for his men to stop.

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ANGLE ON THE AMIGOS

They ride out slowly to meet El Guapo and his gang. Lots of tension here.

EL GUAPO

Where is the girl?

NED

You can't have the girl and if you ride into town you will have to deal with the three of us.

EL GUAPO

(to his men)

You hear that? If we ride into town we will have to deal with the three of them.

El Guapo's men make sarcastic farting noises.

NED

Sometimes three can fight like fifty if their cause is just. We will no longer allow you to treat these people like dirt beneath your feet.

EL GUAPO

The people? The people? Do you think they will help you? They are like sheep. They run at the first sign of danger.

NED

El Guapo, if you enter this village you will never leave it alive.

They men laugh mockingly.

NED

All right. We'll be waiting.

The Amigos turn their horses toward the town and ride back.

ANGLE ON NED

NED

(to the Amigos)

Boy, I haven't gotten laughs like that in a long time.

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ANGLE ON EL GUAPO

He and his men laugh loudly and cock their weapons.

BANDIDOS

They are crazy...We'll burn this town to the ground...etc.

El Guapo, his back toward the town, yells at the Amigos.

EL GUAPO

Hey, you Amigos...!

He turns, but the Amigos are gone. The town is empty.

EL GUAPO

(continuing, yelling
into the empty town)

Adios, Amigos!

(then, to his men)

Let's go muchachos!

They ride into the town.

EXT. SANTO POCO - DAY

El Guapo and men stop in the center of the square.

EL GUAPO

Where are you, my friends?

Suddenly, from a rooftop, the Three Amigos stand up, a gun in each hand, and let fly a hail of bullets on El Guapo and his men. Four or five bandidos fall to the ground.

ANGLE ON JEFE

JEFE

There they are, El Guapo!

The bandidos turn and fire wildly at the roof where the Amigos were, but it is too late. They are gone. Suddenly, from another roof, almost magically, the Amigos appear again and fire into the crowd, downing several of them.

JEFE

Now they are over there, El Guapo!

El Guapo and his men fire into the new site. But again it is too late, the Amigos are gone! El Guapo's men scatter. But a door bursts open and the Three Amigos fly across the square, guns blazing, and hit a few more of his men, and then disappear into another door.

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ANGLE ON EL GUAPO

EL GUAPO

They went in that door!

Five of El Guapo's men run toward the door. But before they can get there, The Amigos appear from behind the buckboard. More gun fire. Several of the bandidos run up to El Guapo.

BANDIDO

El Guapo! They are everywhere!

Several bandidos throw down their guns and flee!

EL GUAPO

Come back you cowards!

Many of his men have fallen, and some have run away. El Guapo runs to the center of the square, his guns firing. He sees the Amigos in one place and fires. The Amigos are gone! He swings and fires at them somewhere else. They are gone again! Finally, El Guapo himself is hit and falls to the ground. The rest of his men run away. The fighting is over.

ANGLE ON THE AMIGOS

Lester, Lucky and Ned approach El Guapo, who is laying up against the water trough. Lucky bends down to him.

EL GUAPO

How did you do it? I never saw such fighting. You were everywhere. The great El Guapo is no more, defeated by only three men.

LUCKY

Well, not exactly three, El Guapo.

We see from El Guapo's point of view, blurry at first, but then more focused. He sees Three Amigos approach him, then from a different direction, three more approach him. Then another three, then three more. It is the townspeople, dressed as Amigos.

LUCKY

(continuing)

More like a hundred and thirty-three.

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The town is filled with villagers dressed like the Amigos.

ANGLE ON EL GUAPO

EL GUAPO

Oh, that was some good trick.

(pained grimace)

Come closer, I have something to tell you.

Lucky leans in and El Guapo SHOTS HIM in the foot.

EL GUAPO

(continuing)

That was a good trick too.

El Guapo bellows a laugh and dies. Lucky hops around holding his foot.

EXT. SANTO POCO - DAY

The Amigos are on their horses in the center of the square, surrounded by the townspeople. The people show a respectful admiration. They carry flowers and occasionally a peasant places a rose on a saddle or lays it in front of the Amigos path. We see cuts of the faces of the peasants: a tearful Mama Sanchez, Rodrigo looking on proudly at the Amigos, and the three pinata peasants. The CHILD who Lester befriended rushes up to him and speaks to him.

CHILD

I'm going to miss you, Senor Lester.

LESTER

I'm going to miss you too, Pedro. Here, I want you to have my watch.

He gives the boy his watch. The boy looks at him worshipfully.

ANGLE ON RODRIGO

He rushes up to Ned.

RODRIGO

I want to go with you! I want to go with you!

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

NED

No, Rodrigo. There is still much to be done here. Your village needs you and your family needs you. We are men without homes; we were meant to wander.

RODRIGO

You will always have a home here with us in Santo Poco, Senor Ned.

NED

Thank you, Rodrigo.

From the crowd, CARMEN emerges and approaches Lucky. He leans down and speaks to her.

CARMEN

Will you come back to Santo Poco, Lucky?

LUCKY

When our work is done here, I will return.

LESTER

What work?

CARMEN

I will be waiting.

He kisses her. SUDDENLY, THE CROWD GASPS. It is FATHER SANCHEZ, who emerges from his house. He hobbles over to the Amigos, holding out his bag of "gold."

FATHER

You have done what you said you would do. Long will the memory of the Three Amigos live in the hearts of the people of Santo Poco. We are proud to give you this gold.

NED

Here, I'll take that.

Ned has a big, broad smile. He looks over at Lucky and Lester, tosses the bag in the air a couple of times.

NED

(continuing)

Our reward is that justice has been done!

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He TOSSES THE BAG OF GOLD BACK to Carmen. He looks at Lucky and Lester and they smile at each other. Father Sanchez opens the bag and pours out WASHERS.

FATHER

You were right, Carmen. They did not take it.

LUCKY

Adios, my friends!

They give the AMIGO SALUTE, then turn their horses toward the horizon.

LUCKY

(continuing)
...and remember, wherever there is injustice you will find us...

LESTER

Wherever there is suffering, we'll be there!

NED

Wherever liberty is threatened, you will find...

Their horses rear up!

ALL

THE THREE AMIGOS!

The MUSIC SWELLS, and they ride off as the townspeople cheer them. They stop outside of town and look back and salute with their sombreros. Then, they ride off into the setting sun.

EL ENDE

(CONTINUED)